

Tena koutou katoa
 Ko Ngai Tahu te iwi, me Ingarangi me Kōtirana te whakapaparanga mai
 Ko Takitimu te waka
 Ko Takitimu nga maunga
 Ko Aparima te awa
 Ko Te Whanga nui a Tara te whenua tupu
 Engari, ko whenua o Wurundjeri Woiworrung o nga tangata Kulin te kāinga
 Ko Talitha au
 Tena Tatou katoa

That is my mihi in Maori that acknowledges the Maori/English heritage of my mothers' line, and my fathers' Scottish side.

I'm naming the mountains and rivers of the bottom of the South Island, this story follows the pathway of water from the high ground in the mountains down to the sea, recognising this catchment as ancestor, acknowledging the ancestors of these lands, and myself as a visitor, here in Wurundjeri country.

I am manuhiri (a guest), ngamatiji (a non-indigenous person).

The Maori word for land (whenua) is also the word for placenta.

In both Maori and Wurundjeri Woiworrung deep memory stories - soil was taken and shaped in the figure of a person and divine breath gave earth life in a new form. We are shaped from earth, we are shaped by earth.

It is from this intersection of cultural identities and belief that I wish to make a submission today.

On my mothers side, it was my great-great-great-great-great grandparents who first "Came Free" to Australia. In the male line, **Thomas Bates** was 18 years old in 1790 and a Private in the 102nd Corps on Foot. when he sailed here with Second Fleet on board the Neptune, a convict transport ship. Thomas Bates became a Drummer in the New South Wales Corp and Served at Norfolk Island, Hobart and Port Jackson.

In the female line, Michael Griffin sailed with his family including daughter **Anne Griffin** in 1791 from England on the Britannia with the 102nd Regiment on Foot bound for the Penal Colony of Port Jackson, Australia. His sons also joined the army and his daughter Lydia "married twice, firstly to John Benn, a wealthy land-owning ex-Convict and secondly to John McDonald who was also an ex-Convict who later became very wealthy. There are several areas in the Hawksberry region named after these two men: "Benton" and the "McDonald Valley".

A son of Ann and Thomas Bates, **Nathaniel Bates** moved to New Zealand where I was born several generations on.

I want to name this colonising legacy. To acknowledge that my ancestors making home here came at the cost of others' homes. To acknowledge, and apologise for, the price of success and wealth attained by my ancestors coming at the cost of devaluing the lives, and ways of life, of the peoples of the Eora Nation.

I am deeply moved and humbled by the patience, grace and hospitality shown to me as a Settler here by the invitation to Listen and do better. I hope, and commit, to faithfully live my life in such a way that forwards the arc towards justice for, and sovereignty of, the custodians of these unceded lands since time immemorial.