

# New Zealand's True Patriotic Big Day November 16, 1840.

*The Day New Zealand Was Granted Independent Rule.*

By Bob Sinclair

**R**oss Baker says he never makes a public claim without documents to back it up. And for many years he has stated that November 16, 1840, is the day all New Zealanders need to celebrate as the most important day in the nation's history, along with Waitangi Day, February 6.



Ross Baker – One New Zealand Foundation co-founder and researcher for this article. [www.onenzfoundation.co.nz](http://www.onenzfoundation.co.nz)

Human history has many examples of people offering new ideas like this one, which were never understood or accepted in their lifetimes. They died unrecognised for their contributions until decades, often centuries, later. Ross Baker is hopefully an exception. For three decades, Ross has publicly stated that the Treaty Of Waitangi has been wrongly interpreted by our government and its historians.

The Treaty, he says, while an important document between two races of people at the time, was actually a prelude to a more significant document, Queen Victoria's Royal Charter which gave

independent rule to New Zealand under the watchful eye of the British parliament.

That happened on November 16, about nine months after the treaty was signed at Waitangi.

Ross Baker knows what it feels like to be in that space occupied by people who dare to state opinions that go against all conventional thinking of the day.

In the past year, however, he has noticed a shift of position in New Zealand. Perhaps it's because he now lives on Australia's Sunshine Coast, closer to his daughter and grandkids, enabling objectivity that distance or altitude can often bring.

The publisher of this magazine also knows the feeling because eLocal has been a very rare example of a public medium daring to even cover the subject.

"The Treaty of Waitangi has been given status beyond its intentions. This has occurred because of the modern day Waitangi Tribunal which has existed since the 1970s," said Ross.

"This Tribunal has determined settlements to part-Maori interests, paid for by today's taxpayers, not the New Zealand government as we are led to believe."

Ross was one of the first New Zealanders to begin questioning the entire Tribunal process, the historical events and the legislative decisions that influence the Tribunal's determinations.

"The claims have nothing to do with the Treaty of Waitangi," he said.

"They are alleged breaches of the laws enacted by the New Zealand government, therefore they should be heard by the courts where non-Maori can participate, cross examine claimants and appeal a decision. Many were heard in this forum in the 1930s and 40s with some being accepted with 'full and final settlement' and some, such as the Te Roroa claim, being rejected," said Ross.

And as he reflects on his latest and fifth publication written since 1992, he says he now has reason for hope that New Zealand is finally waking up to the "injustices being imposed on the majority of New Zealanders by the Tribunal".

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*A scan of the original document. According to Ross Baker researcher "this proves that New Zealand already has a constitution, there is no need for another one. The treaty was never part of our constitution; it was an agreement that gave tangata maori the same rights as the people of England."*