

"Me whakawatea he wahi hei tuku atu ki tena hahi, ki tena hahi, kia karakiatia te iwi i te ata o ia Ratapu, ahakoa etahi o o tatou hahi kei te karakia kei te Rahoroi."

Te Maharanui Jacob, chairperson for Raukawa District Maori Council told the Tribunal that if the warrant was put in the wrong hands, it could mean the death of Maori culture.

Donna Awatere said that the main message coming through television screens is the fact that we don't exist.

"If maoridom was important, they would be able to see their image daily on TV. The BCNZ is contributing to the low self esteem of this country."

"Because TV and maori are so oral, we are perfectly suited as an adjunct to our culture."

"While we are a minority, we still have something to offer the majority."

She said that if the Tribunal doesn't give ABS the warrant, they are supporting the people to push Maori further down and out.

Throughout her delivery, she reiterated that it was not enough being Maori, it should go beyond that and take it in tribal dimensions.

Hugo Manson television broadcaster, told the Tribunal that a non-Maori controlled TV system is essentially anti-Maori.

"You don't need a PhD to know that if you deprive someone of something, they will fight back. I know I would in that position," he said.

"There is spoken and unspoken prejudice in New Zealand against Maori people and programming has hindered the progress of maori related television."

The Auckland sitting of the Tribunal was at Te Poho o Tipene St Stephens College.

Bishop Whakahuihui Vercoe explained the mauri of the Maori to the Tribunal in his commanding yet subtle tone.

While he held the spell bound Tribunal with his perception of the importance of te reo, art, whanaungatanga, turangawaewae and karakia, he managed to impress on them the preservation of our priceless heritage.

"These are the poutokomanawa of the house of maoritanga and not one of these pillars can be removed without destroying the whole structure of Maoridom."

He told the Tribunal that the Maori are a race of human resource in our society that have been neglected for too long.

"Give me the chance to share it with you - my own being and spirituality."

He also called for the other contenders to change horses and support ABS.

Komiti Whakatinana member of ABS, Professor Whatarangi Winiata explained the conception of ABS to the Tribunal.

"The New Zealand Maori Council believes that the apparent unwillingness of the broadcasting authorities to respond to Maori requests is, in fact,

indicative of an inability of the monocultural pakeha managers to comprehend and to embody in their activities tikanga maori."

In his evidence, he told the Tribunal that the NZMC took this application because of the accumulation of disappointing experiences of the Maori Council in its dealing with the Broadcasting authorities in New Zealand, the rising expectations of the Maori people for a better deal and the growing evidence and realisation that no other culture can properly administer the affairs of another culture.

"Failing to meet their statutory and treaty obligations has meant that broadcasting has denied accessibility to Maori culture to all New Zealanders by way of the very powerful technology which they control."

While Professor Winiata was on the stand for cross examination, ITV's counsel, Ted Thomas presented the bomb to the Tribunal. The four sheets of paper he tabled was a proposal for ABS to join forces with ITV. The implications this paper presented, in such a short span of time, limited other contenders to cross examine Professor Winiata.

The paper discussed options for ABS to join ITV as 20% shareholders of their company. Other options included maori controlled programmes of maori content.

But Professor Winiata told the Tribunal then, that one of the aims of ABS was autonomy and that Maori people should be in control of any proposed maori programming.

At the time of going to press, ABS had decided to take up the ITV (Impact Television) offer to join forces. ABS have asked the Broadcasting Tribunal to be considered for a programme warrant rather than a channel warrant. The hearings are proceeding.

"You need to look at the motivations behind ABS's application."

"We do not see that wealth in a tangible sense, but in a cultural sense. But there is a need for resources. These will come from advertising revenue."

The Broadcasting Corp's Counsel told the Tribunal that the "BCNZ has not posed the aspirations that ABS presents."

Ironically, this came the day after the chairperson of the Broadcasting Corporation made a public statement dissociating himself from discussions with ABS. He said that Corporation executives would deal with ABS on "any further issues."

Wiremu Ohia, chairperson for the Tauranga-Moana District Maori Council, told the Tribunal in maori about te reo rangatira.

He told them about the days when punishment was severe for speaking maori in class.

And he told them of the demise of the maori language since then.

"To proclaim to New Zealand, let

alone to the world, that Aotearoa has a language and a culture to be proud of requires resources greater than that of the Maori people."

"Television is the most powerful media available today."

"A Maori controlled station will help add substance to the oftquoted statement that New Zealand society abides comfortably together, but needs to expose its maori face, its taha maori, to New Zealand and the world, permanently."

Ey-race relations conciliator, Hiwi Tauroa, didn't even try to hide his disgust about having to justify ABS's application.

"I've heard people justifying themselves for what they do or their existence."

"We exist, and we are Maori."

He told the Tribunal that the Declaration of human rights says that everyone has the same rights.

"The present image of the Maori, as projected by television, is that they do not exist in the everyday activities of New Zealand society."

"They do not visit banks, buy cars or go skiing."

"They are not members of professional vocations."

"The Maori only appears on Te Karere, Koha, and occasionally on the news, usually when a controversial situation provides an opportunity to stereotype 'Maoris causing trouble again'."

He went on to say that when Maori celebrities were eliminated from television advertisements, all that's left are a bulldozer driver, a truck driver, a family in a state house or break dancers.

ESTV (Energy Source Television) counsel, David Baragwanath, suggested that an increase of appointments on the Broadcasting Corporation Board might be effective.

Hiwi told him that the reality of it was that three people on a Board of nine didn't mean a thing.

"It's really no different for the four Maori members of Parliament against 90 others," he said.

"But it's not the three in the nine that are important."

"It's the other six - they have to understand the depth of the situation."

"Why have three if the other six don't understand?"

And to round off his korero, Kamate! Kamate! resounded within Te Poho o Tipene.

Auckland Girls' Grammar principal, Charmaine Poutney, gave a strong presentation of her views on racism.

"I'm ashamed of my people and that the Maori people have had to ask for what is theirs."

"I've seen first hand, the effects of the education on Maori women and Maori men."

"New Zealand can't afford another channel looking like the other two."

She told the Tribunal that she sup-