

Open letter to asthmatics

Dear Sir,

On opening Tu Tangata today I found the articles about asthma, and the letters from the children. On the spur of the moment I wrote to them. Your magazine is a fine one, with such a lot of interest. A Danish friend of mine gets it regularly, since seeing it here when she was in N.Z., and my sister and her family also get it. I really look forward to receiving it each time.

Dear Ruby, Joseph, Sally and other Maori children with asthma (and Pakeha too) I opened my Tu Tangata today, and what do I see, letters from a whole lot of people who have asthma, just the same as I do.

Mine started when I was about seven years old, but now I am old enough to have all of you for my mokopuna — and I've got five of my own (none of them have asthma). So you can tell it's been going a few years for me now.

Well, when I first got asthma, I can tell you, it was rough. No Ventolin, no Becotide, no tablets. If you were really dying of it, you just had to wait until it got better by itself. When I was about 12 we had weird inhaling things, with a great mask that fitted over your mouth and nose, and the stuff you put into it tasted horrible. Later we had tablets that you had to hold under your tongue while they dissolved. They tasted so bad that sometimes you thought you would be sick if you had another one, then when you couldn't breathe, anything was better than that, so you had another of those tablets.

Well it was a long time before we got the Ventolin inhalers, not until I was grown up, and had four children. I couldn't play games at school or cycle far, or swim, but all the same I had lots of fun and some good friends. It didn't stop me doing anything I really wanted to do like travelling overseas and getting fulltime jobs. Now life is easy. Just a puff when I feel it coming, and sometimes at bad times of the year, using a Bectodie regularly. A couple of tablets a day and those puffs keep me going at full steam, and I can exhaust my mokus.

And I'll tell you a secret, my skin is white — even if my tubes in my lungs are skinny. Maori and Pakeha are no different under the skin — I bet our hearts are just the same size and colour.

So keep up with the puffs and the exercises. I once read asthmatics are very intelligent. Arohanui,
Peggy.

Kia ora Piripi,

I was most excited to read an article in your magazine published in regards to Patrick Nicholas in Aug-Sept. I found it a real stroke of genius. But what excited me most was being able to remember the prophecies of Te Kooti Rikirangi in regards to the Maori Messiah. At Te Kuiti on 1st July 1878 he said:

"The star is showing plainly in the east. I now foresee the leader coming closer and closer to us."

In 1879 he repeated the prophecy:

"I now tell you that it is definite that a leader will arise. There shall be a sign when he appears. I shall be buried beneath his feet. He may be a pakeha, or a pakeha relative, or a Maori or even one of the Queen's grandsons. He will carry on the faith that I have established, and I shall rest in peace. He shall pass on the faith to our children and to posterity for ever."

An important part of this prophecy is where Te Kooti states that he will be buried beneath the new leader's feet. This is consistent with Te Kooti's other prophecies that the leader would come between Kuri a Wharei a point near Katikati, Tauranga and Tikirau a hill on the eastern side of Whangaparaoa, Cape Runaway. A year later he added to his prophecy:

"Behold two stars instead of one, the one star striving against the other, and each shining very brightly. The star in the east is a good star, but the star in the west is evil. If the star in the west gains the ascendancy, and the star in the east fails, let me tell you that conditions in this island are going to be adverse."

In 1885 at Katikati he continued his prophecy and ruled out any possibility of this leader being Sir Apirana Ngata.

"The two stars are still standing as they were in 1880. I make it known to you that this leader is going to be from the east. He shall appear directly between Nga-kuri-a-wharei and Tikirau, no further."

So you can see why I will be keeping a close eye on this young man from Tauranga and look forward for more articles about him.

N. Murray.

To the Editor,

I have been overwhelmed by the response to my interview published in your August/September '86 publication. I have been stopped in the streets by perfect strangers. People I have met once have rung me wanting to see me.

I even began to avoid buying stamps at Tauranga Chief Post Office to avoid a barrage of personal questions from the teller there.

Many people have commented to me that the article was brilliant. Many have commented that what I said would be a brilliant philosophy for the Maori people to adopt. These viewpoints greatly surprised me for it is not a viewpoint I share. It seems everybody has the wrong idea. There are always many routes to the same destination. There are strategies I recommend if utilised will eliminate Maori unemployment and raise the Maori people off the lower social economic level. But these are much more advanced than anything printed in my article, this article was just an introduction to my economic philosophies. In no way do I recommend the strategies mentioned. But I hope they have given a greater understanding of economic development.

I believe there are five levels for economic development. My article was Level One, to give an insight to Level Two. Let me quote Bob Jones after talking on property.

"Still, I have only covered the first, basic stage of entrepreneurial property activity. There is a second phase that is very different indeed and encompasses a unique approach whereby one's own capital is never used, one never actually builds, buys or owns property, but receives far larger property returns at far less risk than via orthodox dealings."

I hope to talk on the other levels in the future. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my viewpoints. I have much in the way of philosophies on Maori economic, cultural, social and political development which I have kept to myself for years. Anybody who knew anything about New Zealand Forest Products would realise how old my figures were.

I have been approached by several people about my philosophies but I believe it is of more benefit to talk to a mass audience.

I would also like to thank Apirana Mahuika for his comments. I always strive to improve my ways of thinking and rejoice at receiving constructive criticism for more often than not criticism is usually straight out jealousy. Thank you for your time. I hope I can contribute to your magazine again in the future.

Yours faithfully
Patrick Nicholas