



Te Rongopai 1814 ‘Takoto te pai!’

Bicentenary reflections on Christian beginnings and developments in Aotearoa New Zealand

Edited by Allan Davidson, Stuart Lange, Peter Lineham, Adrienne Puckey

December 2014 marks the bicentenary of the Revd Samuel Marsden’s arrival in the Bay of Islands with the first Church Missionary Society families. Ruatara, Hongi Hika, Korokoro and five other kinsmen accompanied them across the Tasman. Marsden’s sermon on Christmas Day formally inaugurated the mission in New Zealand.

This unique missionary beginning was dependent on Marsden’s initiative and Māori involvement. From the very first contact, Christianity was being evaluated and tested by local leaders and their iwi. Considerable historical debates have taken place over these early missionary beginnings and their implications. For New Zealand the mission alongside the pā at Rangihoua marked the first permanent European settlement. These beginnings were formative in shaping the country and its development.

The essays in this volume (apart from Grant Phillipson’s contribution) are based on presentations originally given to a conference held at Waitangi in November 2012. They explore different aspects of the missionary beginnings and some of the developments that followed on from this.

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