

Take a Stand!

Inspiration from around the world

***Deep Green Bush-School
Term 3 2018***



Message from the head teacher:

What inspires us? Students chose this subject because we all need to be inspired. We need to know that there were others who came before and stood for what was right and for a healthy planet. These examples remind us that we can organise and that we can win.

Now more than ever this understanding is needed, as our current way of living is destroying the ability of Earth to support life. Half of all wildlife has been wiped out in just the last 40 years. Ninety percent – 90% - of all the big fish in the oceans have been killed. Most of the world's forests have been cut down. Insects around the world are disappearing. The oceans are filling up with plastic, radiation and toxic chemicals. Wildfires, heatwaves, droughts, extreme storms and floods are all increasing in frequency and intensity. These changes will cause massive social and economic instability. And watching TV or staring at a Smartphone won't change this reality.

It should be clear by now, that we cannot count on the institutions around us: not schools or universities, which focus on producing obedient consumers; not corporations, whose sole reason for existing is to make profit; and not politicians, who can only protect the wealth of the One Percent.

Luckily, history provides many examples of what kinds of actions are needed. During Warrior Council discussions, we talked about many of these examples. The ones in this newsletter are those which students found most inspiring. Some of the others we talked about were:

- Malcolm X, the Black Panthers – for black civil rights
- Bhagat Singh and Gandhi fighting for Indian independence from Britain
- the fight against apartheid in South Africa
- the French Resistance during WWII
- the Cuban Revolution
- Vietnamese resistance to the U.S. invasion
- Gaspar Yanga's successful slave revolt (in 1570) against the Spanish in Mexico
- the Luddites (1811-1816) – fighting against early factory owners
- the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804)– slaves defeated the French
- the Lakota Indian Red Cloud's victory over the U.S. army in 1868
- Emiliano Zapata and the Mexican revolution
- the Sobibor uprising – prisoners' successful revolt in a Nazi death camp
- Animal Liberation movement – releasing thousands of lab and factory animals
- the Zapatistas – fought the Mexican government to establish autonomy, participatory democracy and women's equality
- Zomia – the mountainous region in SE Asia where millions of people have lived simple, land-based lives and created cultures in order to remain free from state control

What good is education if it doesn't help inspire us to do what is right?

The world needs action now.

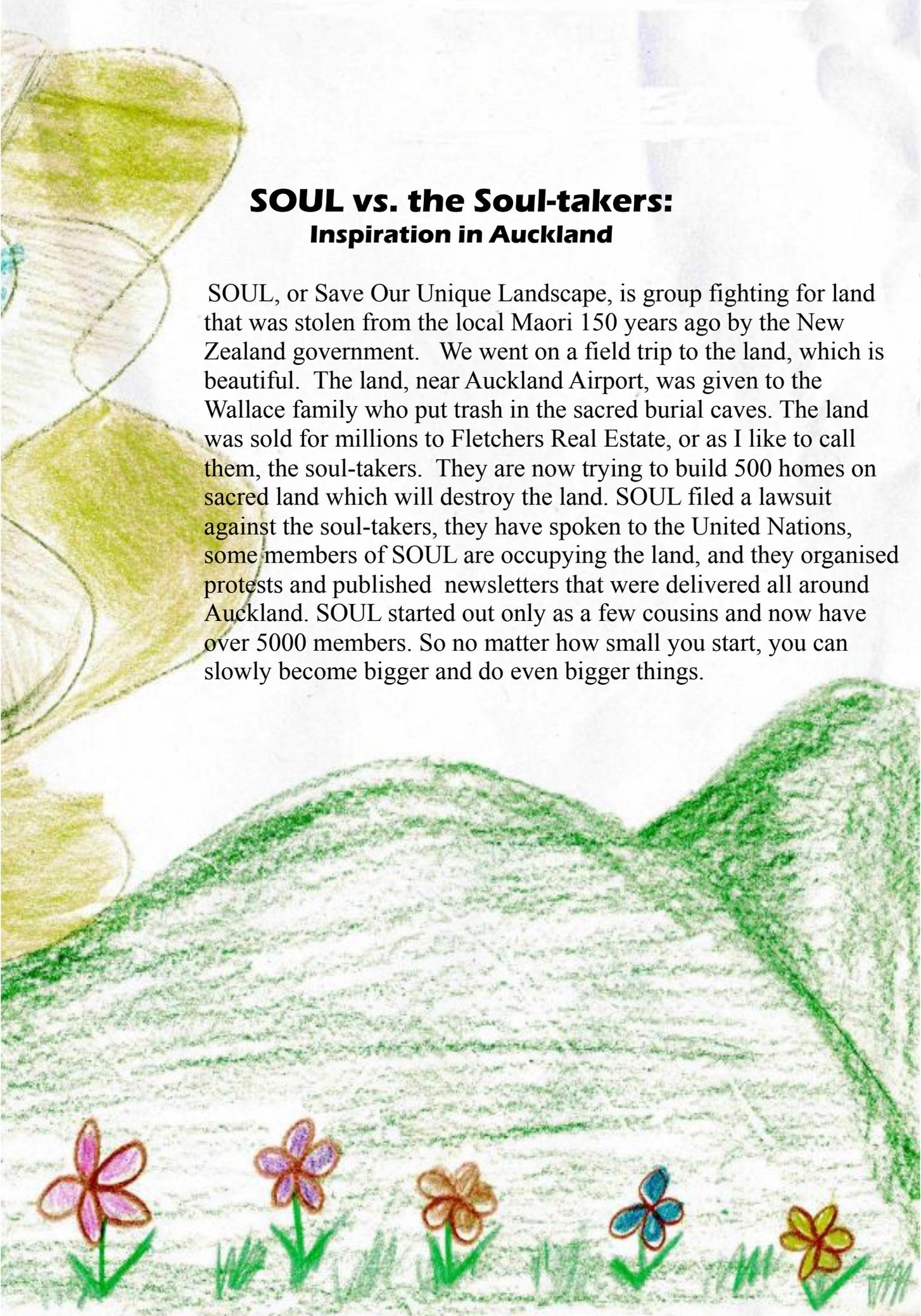


No More Dumb Laws

Autonomy in Rojava, Syria

In 2014 the Kurdish people in Rojava, Syria, declared autonomy. This means being independent, making your own rules and laws and not being controlled by the government. But in order to maintain autonomy they had to fight off the Syrian government and ISIS. One of their key aspects is that they practice direct democracy, which is where everyone votes for what effects them. They also gave women rights and guns to fight back. And they respect the natural world. They are successful at the moment but they are fighting an ongoing war against the Syrian government, ISIS and rebel groups funded by the U.S. They are inspiring because they didn't like the dumb laws and government system, so they declared autonomy and made their own laws for their own community.





SOUL vs. the Soul-takers: Inspiration in Auckland

SOUL, or Save Our Unique Landscape, is group fighting for land that was stolen from the local Maori 150 years ago by the New Zealand government. We went on a field trip to the land, which is beautiful. The land, near Auckland Airport, was given to the Wallace family who put trash in the sacred burial caves. The land was sold for millions to Fletchers Real Estate, or as I like to call them, the soul-takers. They are now trying to build 500 homes on sacred land which will destroy the land. SOUL filed a lawsuit against the soul-takers, they have spoken to the United Nations, some members of SOUL are occupying the land, and they organised protests and published newsletters that were delivered all around Auckland. SOUL started out only as a few cousins and now have over 5000 members. So no matter how small you start, you can slowly become bigger and do even bigger things.

Save the trees!

By Sofia



Earth First!

Earth First! is a radical environmental group that is active in over 19 countries but mainly in the southwest United States. They focus on direct action. Earth First! protects forests and first emerged in 1979 and they are still going today. One of their tactics were tree spikes, which are big nails that they would whack into trees so when someone tried to cut it down it would destroy their equipment and sometimes injure the person chopping it down. They would sabotage logging trucks by putting sand in the fuel tanks at night and they would sit at the top of trees so no one could chop it down. The FBI even tried to assassinate a member of Earth First! known as Judi Bari in 1990 with a car bomb. She survived but later died of cancer. Earth First! failed in most of their operations but did save some forests from being logged. So why are they inspiring? They are inspiring because they risked their lives to save trees and broke the law to do what's right. So what you should take away from this is that sometimes you have to break the law to do what's right.





Most people don't fight back, but these guys did. The Movement For The Emancipation Of The Niger Delta (MEND). They lived and operated in the Niger Delta which is in Nigeria. The Niger Delta is a big river that forks out into brackish waterways that were full of fish that the native people relied on. Shell Oil came in the mid 20th century and started drilling for oil in the delta, leaks from the oil rig caused massive pollution in the delta killing all the fish and making the delta and land toxic. The people who lived off the delta were not happy about this so they started fighting back. The people started an organization known as MEND. In 2009 from 15,000 to 25,000 volunteer members were fighting to free their delta and way of life. MEND's goals are to localise control of Nigeria's oil and to get reparations from the government for pollution caused by the oil companies. Their tactics include the following: sabotage, guerrilla warfare, kidnapping oil workers and returning for a ransom, blowing up oil lines, hijacking oil rigs and using speed boats to do it. Their tactics were effective - they managed to cut Nigerias oil out put by 28 percent from 2006 to 2009! They are inspiring because they started as a small group and grew to thousands fighting for the land that they have lived on for thousands of years. What people should learn from this is don't just sit there and complain, FIGHT BACK!



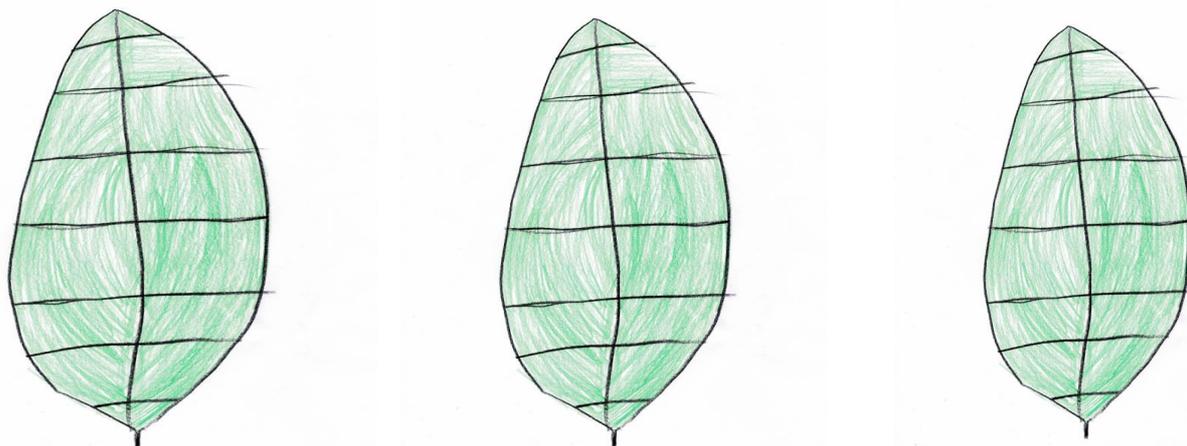




Fighting for Freedom

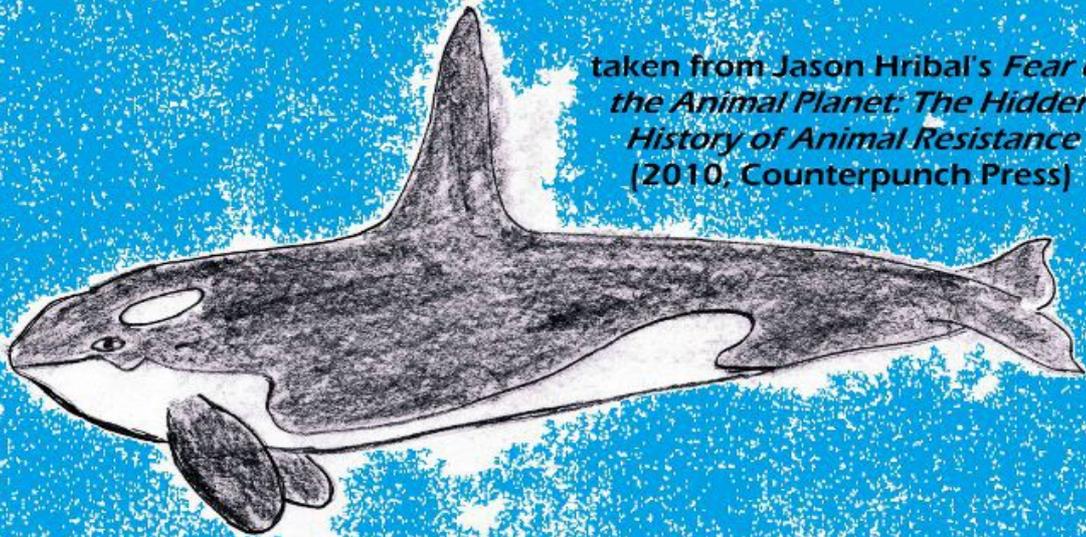
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., is probably a name we've all heard before. If not, that's okay because I'm here to talk about him and everything he's done to change people's views of the world and the people in it. In 1964, in the United States, a law was passed called the Civil Rights Act. This law was passed because King and many others in the civil rights movement participated in non-violent protests, strikes, marches and boycotts. What inspires me about King is that he went against the common opinion of most people and he also didn't listen to the government. He was arrested many times in his life. By standing up for what he believe in, he helped pressure the Supreme Court to make segregation unconstitutional. He did this because he believed black people should be treated the same way as whites, instead of whites acting like they were so much better. In 1968 King was planning an occupation in Washington, D.C., that would be called The Poor People's Campaign. That's when he was assassinated, just like whites had been killing blacks for hundreds of years.



Listen to the Orcas

taken from Jason Hribal's *Fear of the Animal Planet: The Hidden History of Animal Resistance* (2010, Counterpunch Press)



What happens when orcas are locked up for human amusement?

- Skana attacked a trainer at the Vancouver Aquarium (early 1980s)
- Kandu attacked trainers at Marineland (1980s)
- Nootka attacked trainers at the Vancouver Aquarium (1989 and 1991)
- Orky attacked a trainer (1987)
- Kasatka attacked and bit trainers (1990s)
- Ky attacked a trainer (2001)
- Orkid attacked trainers (2000s)
- Taku attacked trainers (2000s)
- Tilikim attacked and killed trainers (late 90s to 2000s)
- Tekoa attacked a trainer (2007)
- Keto attacked and killed a trainer (2010)

What do you think they're trying to say?

**Orcas live up to 60 years in the wild,
but less than 10 years in captivity
Orcas are like us:
they just want to be free!**





The Deep Green Bush-School
Physical strength. Intellectual vigor. Responsible action.