

To our surprise and delight, most of the letters which come in to the editor are complimentary or congratulatory in tone. While we love to receive them, they don't necessarily make interesting for you. So in this issue we've only printed one such letter, because of certain issues the writer raises. But thanks to the rest of you for your support and kind words.

Meanwhile some of you have put pen to paper on specific matters of interest to us all. Some of them are printed here, and we urge the rest of you to drop us a line with your comments, opinions, queries or complaints. Keep those letters coming!

TUNE IN TO TE REO

Why cant we have more Maori on our radio?

At the school I go to my friends used to make me cry because my fathers a Maori. Not long ago our class listened to a storey about a Maori lady who came down from the sky and Married a chief who turned into the rainbow. Now I dont cry and my friends don't tease me cause I told them I'm a princess and they believe it. Mum says its true and my brothers a chief. Love,

Berel McClutchie
(Ngati Porou)
Wainuiomata

P.S. My big sister helped me do this.

For three years now I have been trying to learn the Maori language. I have not had much success. My ancestors are dead and therefore I never hear the tongue of my tipuna. To hear Maori spoken these days is, I feel, a very rare thing, and this is I think the reason why I find it difficult to learn the language. I have passed UE Maori, but I am not a fluent speaker. This fact causes me much pain, because I'm trying hard and getting nowhere. I do not want to see the Maori language die in my lifetime.

There has been one bright spot on my almost incessantly gloomy horizon. It is this. During Maori Language Week I was able to hear almost continuous conversations in Maori on the radio. I feel that in one week I gained more by hearing the language spoken than I have in three years of study. I feel in order to learn a language, to *speak* it, one must hear it spoken.

Alas, that one bright spot, like the setting sun, has gone down on my horizon — seemingly forever. I hear no more Maori on the radio. For this reason I would like to hear your opinion, and also the thoughts of your readers on a suggestion I have to make.

Could we ever have a Maori radio station? I envisage a station run on parallel lines to all other radio stations in New Zealand, except the language would be Maori. I admit that perhaps some of the time there would have to be a little English spoken.

There is a wealth of material upon which a Maori station could base its

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programmes. Here are a few things I've thought of. Stories based on Maori history and legends for both young and old. Talk-back sessions. Interviews with Maori people from different walks of life. The voice of our elders. Lessons in Maori. Music. Ancient chants. Haka. I could go on for ever.

Yours sincerely,

Dickie Thomson
Petone

In fact there are Maori programmes broadcast outside Maori Language Week, though far fewer than many Maori would like to hear. Nevertheless, RNZ's Maori and Pacific Island Programming Unit *Te Reo o Aotearoa*, does a good job with the following Maori programmes on the NZ National Programme:

Te Puna Wai Korero (in English)

Saturday 10.30-10.50am

Produced by Whai Ngata

Te Reo o te Pihiharauroa

Sunday 5.30-5.48pm

Produced by Purewa Biddle

He Rerenga Korero (in English)

Wednesday 7.30-8.00pm

Produced by Haere Williams and/or

Wiremu Kerekere

News in Maori

Sunday 5.48-6.00pm

Weekdays 6.41-6.45am, 5.55-6.00pm,

7.00-7.05pm

(On Wednesday the 7.00pm news is

followed by a magazine giving a backgrounder to the week's news.)

As for the possibility of further developments in TV and radio, see page 6 of this issue.

WORTH ITS WAIT

Your magazine is worth every bit of the long-time-no-see inbetween-times waiting for the next issue to appear. This may be hoha to some but never mind! And the price is OK by me too. I don't think you can afford to reduce the cost although I'm sure this is not an issue because the value in it is tremendous.

I would like to draw your attention to two things, to congratulate you really. The first is the overall layout and visual impact of the magazine. The print, the pictures of people, places and events are top-class. They are professional, in fact easy to read and to see. There is no difficulty in deciphering words and pictures — which is rather good I think for

many of our koroua who may be suffering from short-sightedness or whatever.

The second is related to the first, i.e. the professionalism you so obviously aim for in *Te Kaea*. If an event is worth preserving (and this applies to people as well) then I think it is worth the extra trouble and cost of doing the job properly. I would guess that many people will find this of tremendous importance in the future.

You have obviously set a high standard for the magazine; keep up the good looks. Maoritanga can do more with your kind of quality thinking and image-setting — now and in the future.

H. Mare
Wellington

(Needless to say, we appreciate letters like this one! What does need to be said perhaps is that we are aware of our shortcomings. The most obvious during our first year of publication has been irregular appearance. We have an obligation to our thousands of subscribers, casual readers and other wellwishers to get *Te Kaea* out to your homes or into your shops on a regular basis, and 1981 will see a great improvement on last year's performance. Mr Mare comments also on the cost of *Te Kaea*. Well, quality costs money, and as we are trying to produce a magazine that looks good, reads well, and will stand up to re-reading and being passed around among friends or family, we think the money we ask for your copy of *Te Kaea* is reasonable. And most of you seem to agree.

But it's worth pointing out that the magazine comes cheaper if you take a subscription. And whether you have a subscription or buy from a shop, it is our intention to maintain the present prices for the foreseeable future. — ed.)

SYDNEYTANGA

As a proud Maori who crossed the Tasman some eleven years ago and as a member of a Sydney Maori cultural group, I was saddened to read the article by Tainui Stephens in which he so quickly discredits the Maori cultural activities here in Sydney.

Perhaps he should have stayed longer than six months and looked deeper behind the scenes at the considerable efforts of those with a genuine concern who are doing something about it.

Sydney is an exciting city: its colour, pace and opportunity have long been a magnet to Maori and Pakeha alike. In spite of all this, it can be a very impersonal city, one of extreme loneliness. Hence the Maori have flourished in their many walks of life because they have fallen back on their strong traditional ties. We still think, share, love, socialise and respect as we have always done. The hospitality and

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