

A MINI MAORI COURSE



John Foster

Part Two of our special pull-out supplement

Last issue saw the first part of this mini course, which is designed as a concentrated summary of some of the main features of conversational Maori. The course offers no guidance on pronunciation, dialect variations or vocabulary. But it outlines the basic structures you need to know, and it offers models and examples from which you can form questions and sentences of your own.

For those of us who have learned in the past but need to brush up, or who are familiar with the sound of Maori but are unsure of the way that the language is put together, this course aims to provide a formal structure from which to develop.

But that development depends on commitment, imagination and practice. Once the vital sentence patterns have been mastered, your conversational Maori needs regular application. Practice with your friends, encourage native speakers to talk to you in Maori – you'll soon be making good progress.

If you missed Part One, copies of our last issue are available from the address on page one for \$1.25.

- 7.2 The possessive adjectives.
Ko tenei taku pene = *this is my pen*
He tino nui to raua whare = *their house is very big*
Homai ana pukapuka = *give me his books*
Tikina au kuri = *fetch your dogs*

The full set:

	Singular (one thing)	Plural (several things)
one person		
My	Taku, toku	aku, oku
Your	tau, tou	au, ou
His, her	tana, tona	ana, ona
two people		
Our (inclusive)	ta taua, to taua	a taua, o taua
Our (exclusive)	ta maua, to maua	a maua, o maua
Your	ta korua, to korua	a korua, o korua
Their	ta raua, to raua	a raua, o raua
several people		
Our (inclusive)	ta tatou, to tatou	a tatou, o tatou
Our (exclusive)	ta matou, to matou	a matou, o matou
Your	ta koutou, to koutou	a koutou, o koutou
Their	ta ratou, to ratou	a ratou, o ratou

- 7.3 Statements of actual ownership
He pene taku – *I have a pen*
He potae tona = *she has a hat*
He poi a korua = *you have pois*
He wahine ta Ropata = *Ropata has a wife*
He tamariki a raua = *they have children*
Note how “he” is used in conjunction with the possessive adjectives in 7.2, and the way in which one or several things may be referred to.

- 7.4 “belongs to”. Another choice for expressing ownership.
Na taku hoa tena pu = *that gun belongs to my friend*
No Rua tera whare = *that house belongs to Rua*
Naku tenei wati = *this watch belongs to me (is mine)*
No raua era hoiho = *those horses belong to them (are theirs)*
Note: a. the same form is used whether one thing or several are referred to;
b. the full set of the pronoun form is the same as the singular column in table 7.2, but with “n” replacing the first “t”.