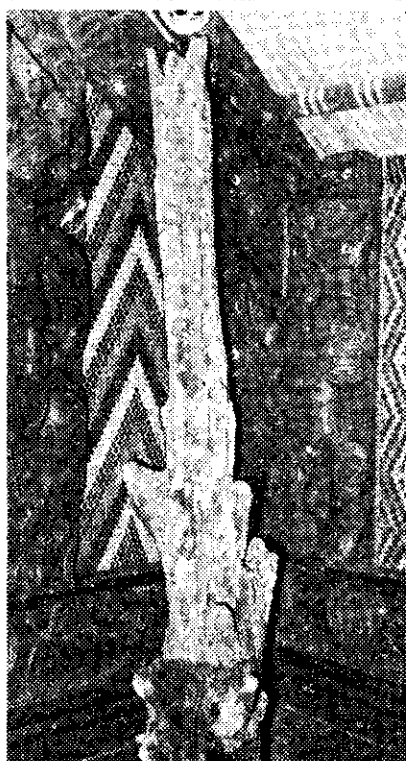




★ THE heritage of the Maori is an important element in the life of the East Coast—and of 2XG, too. Here (left to right), the Station Manager, Leo Fowler, former director of the Gisborne Museum, and secretary to the Maori Museum Committee, and the Committee chairman, Rongo Halbert, accept custody of the relic Rakau Tamatea Reke from Hira Paenga, of the Whangara Tribal Committee. This ancient timber fragment (right) is all that remains of a huge totara, once the storehouse of the Chieftainess Hine-Mate-oro, and was probably seen by Cook in 1769. As a relic it is believed to be unique.



★ rather than stereotypes. A period (1946-48) with the Mobile Broadcasting Unit, and then, until 1952, in Samoa, gave him a wide ranging knowledge on which to base more specialised activities on the East Coast, where he has worked as 2XG's Station Manager.

When he goes on a trip, Mr. Fowler sets off with recording gear in a van belonging to 2XG's Senior Technician, John Newman. They may go up to Hicks Bay and Tikitiki, where talks have been recorded on the dyeing of textiles used in ancient Maori art, on ancient fishing customs and implements, the Maori almanac, weaving and basketry, the history of the Ngati Porou tribe, a lesson on how to learn the haka, and an account of early Maori hymn singing in the Ngati Porou.

Mr. Fowler has proceeded with politeness and caution, making himself known through channels such as the Maori Affairs Department, before brandishing a microphone in front of somebody's nose. He has a deep respect for the Maori powers of speech, and cites a series of talks on carving by an East Coast expert, Pine Tiapa. Mr. Tiapa, who had never broadcast before, reeled off 15-minute talks one after the other, using no notes, never stumbling, timing with remarkable accuracy. Such talks are broadcast by all stations which have sessions in Maori.

Another rich occasion for broadcasting is the annual Hui Topu, or Anglican Church festival, which is held in rotation in the three archdioceses of the Waiapu Diocese. There may be 2000 people at these gatherings, with church

choir competitions and a feast of secular singing from waiata to modern songs sung the Maori way. Discussions are open to everyone on all aspects of life within the church community, visitors are welcomed from other tribes, and the family groups go home after the gathering strengthened by the communal contact.

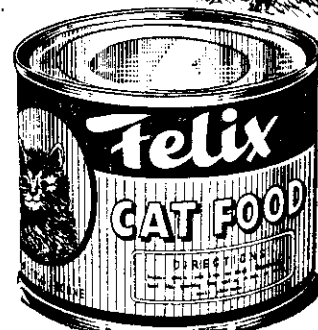
Besides these special trips, the Polynesian blend of the East Coast seems to emerge in everyday programmes at 2XG; whether it's Maori or pakeha children together in the children's club programmes, or an interview with a Welfare Officer from Maori Affairs.

A. T. Ngata, a statesman, spoke his own language with poetic directness, and in a short passage he has set up an ideal which fits the framework of New Zealand's future, if both races are worthy of it: "Grow up O tender plant, to fulfil the needs of your generation. Your hand wielding the weapons of the pakeha as a means for your bodily requirements. Your heart centred on the treasures of your Maori ancestors as a plume upon your head. Your soul given to God, the creator of all things."

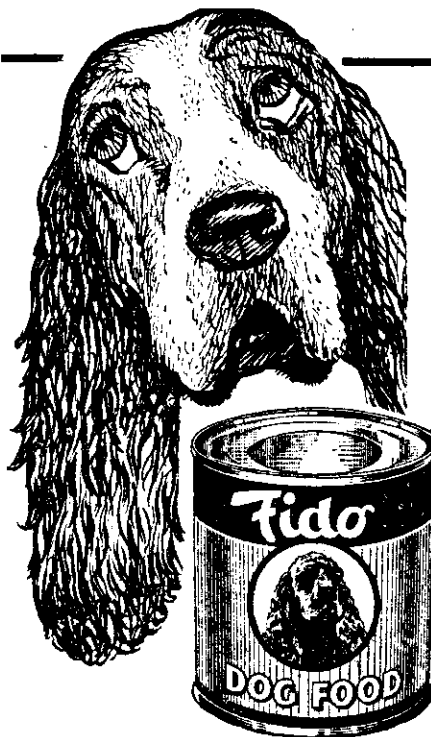
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