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Memorable Radio Pageant

One Thousand Years of Maori Life Portrayed in Speech, Song and Story

*Successful Reception of Brilliant Programme all over New Zealand---
Re-Broadcast Undertaken by Australian Stations*



HAMIORA HAKOPA, leader of the party of Maoris from the Wanganui district who contributed 2YA's memorable and successful radio pageant descriptive of Maori life. By being re-broadcast by Australian stations, this programme has the distinction of reaching the greatest audience ever addressed by any means from New Zealand.

Radio history was established for New Zealand by the outstandingly successful Maori pageant broadcast on Monday evening in commemoration of the eighty-eighth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. It was a brilliant idea to commemorate the occasion by a function which portrayed to the pakeha population of New Zealand a kaleidoscopic view of the advent and life of the Maori race in the Dominion. That history was conveyed in six phases, the essence of each being given with memorable items in speech, song, and story. Congratulations of the heartiest nature only can be extended to the management responsible for the conception, and to the performers whose interpretation conveyed to listeners, in most picturesque and melodious fashion, the romantic history of the past thousand years.

The success of Monday evening's broadcast was a good augury for a similar success on Tuesday evening, when the programme was repeated at a late hour especially for the entertainment of New Zealand's overseas dependencies and the Australian Commonwealth. A re-broadcast of the full programme was undertaken by 2FC, Sydney (and possibly other Australian stations), and, although at the time of writing no information is available as to its success, it may fittingly be hoped that conditions were favourable, and that listeners in Australia were able to enjoy so unique a vocal contact with this Dominion and its unique and distinctive Native life.



FOR this memorable evening 2YA went on the air at five minutes to eight with that majestic introduction to all outstanding events: "Oh, God, our help in ages past" played in four parts on the vibraphone. Upon the first stroke of 8 o'clock the orchestra swung in with the overture "First Movement from Maori Quartette." A novelty was introduced with this introduction in that the music was faded in as the hour struck, and reached its full strength as the last stroke of 8 sounded out.

At the normal conclusion of the overture the orchestra repeated pianissimo part of the overture and gradually faded out, the initial effect of these movements being very impressive.

THEN in measured tones the Station Announcer indicated the scope of the evening's programme—how to commemorate the signing of the Treaty there would be portrayed the history of the Maori through various phases from his first landing on these shores to his present honourable co-partnership with the white race in the occupancy of this land; how in recognition of the important historical nature of the occasion, the Rt. Hon. J. G. Coates, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and the Hon. Sir Maui Pomare, representative of the Maori race in the Ministry, would speak fittingly and to the point; how, from Sir Aparina T. Ngata's epic poem "Scenes from the Past" excerpts would be delivered to place before the vast unseen audience living pages of the past.

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