



Tu Tangata magazine course 1983.

tural values. The practical aspect is that contacts are made and can be taken up later.

As well as these hui, some Maori and Pacific Island communities are making contact with their local media, be it newspaper, radio or television. Te Whanau o Apereira in West Auckland have a regular page in the Western Leader while the Wanganui Chronicle regularly features 'a Maori perspective'.

Many newspapers now actively support pakeha reporters who take up Maori or Pacific Island news rounds and encourage these same reporters to spend time in the Maori or Pacific Island community, just making contacts. Radio New Zealand has also made moves to appoint journalists to these news rounds in Auckland and Wellington. At the moment most of these news rounds, covering the Maori or Pacific Island field, are filled by pakeha journalists, mainly because of the scarcity of polynesian journalists. However this situation is slowly changing because of the intensive training efforts being made.

Only when bi-cultural journalists come into the system will the full effect

be noticeable. It obviously presents problems in how newspapers, radio and television run their news operations. For a start the New Zealand media have little use for a journalist's second language despite it being the tool with which the news is often gathered. Te Karere would be an obvious exception to this. And it's not often appreciated that a bi-lingual journalist has a much wider perspective to write from, and consequently can reach a wider readership than his or her mono-cultural fellow workers. That's not to say that all the Maori or Pacific Island journalists coming on-stream are bi-lingual but they're certainly bi-cultural, which should be seen as a plus.

Any people feel threatened by change and the media is no exception. But real change is already with us in New Zealand if we are to pay attention to our Race Conciliator, Hiwi Tauroa, who could hardly be labelled a scare-monger. He's one of the foremost Maori people using the media to let all New Zealanders know that the doors and windows 'have to be opened in our minds and hearts if we are to live as one nation of many peoples.



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