

## New Zealand Maori Council notes

Discussion at the March quarterly meeting of the NZMC mainly centered on Maori Council support for Maori International.

Professor Whatarangi Winiata in his role as cultural development advisor to the council had prepared a report asking the council to clarify its position regarding Maori International and the takeover of the Maori Arts and Crafts Institute in Rotorua.

After much discussion a resolution was carried, "that the New Zealand Maori Council confirms its support in principle for Maori International."

A second resolution was passed, "that the Council supports the takeover of the Maori Arts and Crafts Institute by Maori International". Opposing the resolution were Manu Paul, Waiariki delegate and Whata Winiata, Raukawa delegate. Two districts, Waikato-Maniapoto and Wellington, abstained.

The idea of a Maori Cultural Foundation also came up for discussion at the council meeting.

It's proposed that government funding and maori funding be pooled together to promote the Maori arts rather than the present system that channels cultural funding to the Queen Elizabeth Arts Council and then through to the

Council of Maori and South Pacific Arts.

The chairman of QE II, Sir Michael Fowler addressed the Council about how the present system works. He opposed any change.

The President of the Maori Wardens Association, Peter Walden then reported on the state of the wardens work throughout the country and asked for Council support for increased funding for maori wardens.



## Getting it right

A Wellington man, Hugh Young, is facing the task of recording the correct pronunciation of more than seven thousand Maori place-names.

He'll be consulting tangata whenua in an effort to get the proper pronunciation and expects the task will take some time to do properly. He's been assisted in his task by a \$2,500 Bill Toft Memorial Grant. (Bill Toft was a broadcaster of some note who encouraged correct Maori pronunciation).

Mr Young works for Radio New Zealand producing a weekly consumer programme and a monthly science report. He says the compiling of the names is being done for three reasons. One is to have archival records of how the place-names are spoken now. Two is to provide a backup to broadcasters so that knowledge of the correct pronunciation is on hand. Three is to have the pronunciation accessible to people wanting to know.

Mr Young is breaking the seven thousand plus word list down into tribal areas so that local people can give the pronunciation of place-names intimately linked with the area.

He says tribes will choose their own speakers to make sure the recording is authentic.

Mr Young hopes to start in the Wellington region with Ngati Raukawa, and then work his way north.

## A legend of Pirongia

A legend of Mount Pirongia has been captured in stone and is now on display in Te Awamutu. The sculptor was Te Atu Nepia Clamp.

The legend deals with a spirit of Pirongia, Whanawhana who abducted Tawahitu, the wife of Ruarangi, a chief who lived on the banks of the Waiapa river. Ruarangi chases the couple and frees his wife from Whanawhana's spell by throwing a cooked kumera at him. Ruarangi grabs his wife and escapes back to his whare. He uses red ochre to ward off the pursuing

Whanawhana, who leaps onto the roof of the whare in frustration and sings a lament to Tawhaitu before returning to Pirongia.

The sculptor, Te Atu has been awarded the Ann C. Martindell award through the United States Embassy in New Zealand and a Winston Churchill Fellowship. Both awards are made to encourage young artists and collectively are worth \$5,000. Te Atu plans to travel to the States this year to further the knowledge about carving.

## Pegasus Prize is big league

Maori writing stands to gain immensely from the Pegasus Prize for maori literature say the competition judges. And that's why they want entries from as wide a field as possible before the deadline of first of May 1984.

The Pegasus Prize is sponsored by the Mobil Corporation and each year is competed for in a different country to bring unknown authors to the attention of American readers.

Past winners have had their work recognised internationally, with one winning of a Pulitzer Prize. This is the kind of recognition a Maori writer could receive say the judges who are Sid Mead, Peter Sharples, Terry Sturm, Anne Salmond, Elizabeth Murchie and

Wiremu Parker. The relationship between the Pegasus Prize and the Te Maori Exhibition in the United States later this year has also been explained by the judges.

Chairman of the judging panel, Sid Mead says the publicity surrounding the Te Maori exhibition will be used in the States to bring the winning author to the attention of the american public.

The winning book will be published by the Louisiana State University Press at the time of the author's tour.

The Mobil sponsors say it's unlikely that the american edition of the book will be distributed in New Zealand. They're hoping a New Zealand publisher will take that up.