

Trout reading group. Sometimes Mrs Smith gets a queer look on her face. My brother Terangi has just started school, so I look after him. It's nice to have someone to look after. But he makes me feel shy sometimes when he calls me "Aroha" — my school name is "Arrahar".

#### Joan Smith

'I don't see any point in having maori in the schools. It's not going to do anyone any good. This koh-hangar rio business is just a flash in the pan — they're trying to make us feel guilty about things that are over and done with... history is history. The education system has enough to grapple with as it is without throwing this at us too. I work very hard to give these children a vital, exciting learning experience, to equip them for what lies ahead. What am I supposed to give up to put maori in? Reading? Maths?

#### Sarah Jones

'I teach new entrants. I've been teaching for four years now, and I like it most of the time, though it's hard work and some days I get disheartened. About six months ago I went to a meeting about maori in schools and listened to some wonderful maori people talking. I went away thinking "How did I get to this age and not know there was this whole other culture in my country?" Well, I knew it was there, but I'm so ignorant about it all.'

So I made some enquiries and have gradually been finding out more about it. I find it amazing that we pakehas are so egotistical that many of us just totally ignore a whole chunk of what our society is about.

Anyway I've been to two hui's, and I've loved it — though I felt very ignorant and inadequate. Now I'm going to night classes to learn the language. It's hard work. I've never learnt another language before, but I believe it's so important, I've got lost time to make up for. It's really difficult to get my tongue around some of those vowel sounds, and I find myself practising over and over again, A.E.I.O.U., even in the bath or driving to school. Sometimes I don't trust my own ears — I hear my tutor say one thing, then I listen to a tape, or watch Te Karere, or hear someone else say the same sound — only it isn't the same sound. I suppose it's the same in english, when you think of the wide range of vowel sounds that New Zealanders use in everyday speech. Yes, it's very hard work, but my tutor keeps on saying "Don't be afraid to practise what you know. It will come more easily to you... the more you use it the better you'll get." She's very encouraging and gives me good ideas of things to do with my class. I know I've got to use what I know or I'll give up. If I wait to be a fluent speaker before I'm brave enough to speak to the children, I'll be waiting till

the day I reach the grave. No, I've got to keep at it.'

#### Principal

'There's a lot of pressure coming from the department. We've just got to get some sort of maori programme going. The syllabus will eventually come out, and teachers are going to have to come to grips with it. Then there are the children entering school from the kohanga reo.... What do we do about them? With no inservice time available and very few opportunities for teachers to learn maori, the young ones are not even leaving training college with enough background, I feel we are in an unenviable position. I have ten on the staff here. A couple of teachers have got a maori club going at lunch-time. The children enjoy that.

We try to make sure that a certain number of legends are in the social studies and language programmes each year at each level, but I know the teachers shy away from pronouncing the maori names. Young Sarah in the new entrants classroom is going to classes at night, and I know she's enthusiastic about it and uses the language in her classroom. I wanted her to have time in the other rooms where they're not getting any, but she says she's not ready yet and needs to gain confidence with her own children first. For example, I'd like to get her into Joan's room.

Joan is an excellent teacher in most areas. Her children do all sorts of exciting things in drama, art, outings, lan-

guage, science, etc., but she's just not interested in maori. What can I do? If I force her to do anything, she'll do more harm than good with the attitude she has.'

#### Rangimarie

'I think I've got what the pakeha calls Burn Out. My tane says we're going back home, to give me a break. And then he worries that I'll work just as much back there. There are so many people thirsting for te reo. Hungry to learn, needing to learn. I look at our young people, and how they feel they've missed out. And others, those who used to call themselves part maori, discovering their taha maori. Then there are our pakeha cousins.... Look at them. It's incredible to see them. Government workers, lawyers, welfare officers, people from all walks of life. Clumsy and pink-faced, struggling with it. I say to them "Be humble, tread softly, nurture what is inside you, what is inside all of us, and we'll work together to make our country better than it has been."

So many people trying and doing their best. And so many misunderstandings too. That makes me sad. Scared of each other for so many reasons. The young maori parents uneasy about the school. The pakeha teachers feeling very shy about how to make contact with our maori families. Our kohanga reo people apprehensive about what will happen to our mokopuna who have to face the pakeha system. Even

