

Maori Land Records more accessible

Maori land records will be much more accessible in future. This follows the signing of a cheque for \$1.5 million by the Minister of Maori Affairs, the Hon. Koro Wetere.

The cheque paid for computer hardware for the MAIA (Maori Affairs Information Automation) project.

MAIA was set up in 1983 to implement a comprehensive information system for Maori Affairs.

This includes the introduction of computers to the ten district offices throughout New Zealand.

As further finance becomes available, MAIA will be easily expanded to handle information held by other divisions such as Housing and Land Development.

Out of 23 tenders, Burroughs Limited won the bid for providing computer hardware. Datacraft Limited, of Wellington, will provide the modem equipment for the communications network.

Besides the computers, Burroughs will also be providing experienced staff to help the Department get underway with the project as soon as possible.

The whole project is expected to be running by July 1986.

One of the recommendations of the 1980 Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Maori Land Courts was on modernising the records of the Maori Land Court.

Under the present manual system, land records are maintained only at the office for the district in which the land is situated.

But with the introduction of a computerised national database, any owner will have access to details about Maori land and its ownership by contacting any Maori Affairs office.

MAIA's next priority is to replace the machines presently used to process a large part of the department's and Maori Trustee's accounting data.



Sue Fitchett (MAIA) Koro Wetere and Brian Clark (Burroughs) at the signing of the contract.

Nga Puna Waihanganga

Nga Puna Waihanganga, formerly the Maori Artists and Writers Society, was formed in 1973 as a fellowship of Maori artists.

It exists to keep in touch artists, craftspeople and other interested people who love contemporary Maori art. This is defined as covering visual, language and performing arts in both traditional and modern forms.

The kaupapa of Nga Puna Waihanganga is unity in the arts and boasts membership of kaumatua, weavers, painters, carvers, sculptors, poets, authors, craftspeople, performing artists, musicians, singers, actors, students, groups and arts administrators.

The secretary is Averil Herbert and she is based in Rotorua. Nga Puna Waihanganga meets each Queen's Birthday Weekend at different marae and is involved in developing Maori art from kohanga reo to tertiary institutions. Further information can be gained by writing to The Secretary, PO Box 1512, Rotorua.

New journalism course

The Pacific Island Affairs building was opened in March signalling changes in the way Polynesian people are being seen in Aotearoa.

The Ministry of Pacific Affairs has appointed a palagi, Mr Tony Johns as its director and new appointments to the Pacific Island Affairs Advisory Council are Mrs Poko Morgan, a teacher at the Multicultural Resource Centre, Tokoroa, and Mr Tino

Meleisea, an executive officer in the Department of Labour, Porirua.

Pacific Island students also now have their own journalism course starting at Manukau Technical Institute on April 7. It is a 25 week full-time course for 15 students and follows the successful Maori journalism course at Waiariki Community College last year. This year two full-time courses take place at Waiariki, Rotorua.