



Florrie Berghan

Florrie Berghan, daughter of a Yugoslav father and a Maori mother of the Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatu tribes. She lives at Ahipara in the far north of New Zealand.

At the age of eleven Florrie was al-

ready a capable weaver. Later she became a master of her craft — delighting in each new discovery of technique, style and pattern.

She says, "My fingers weave one pattern while another is forming in my mind".



Puti Hineaupounamu Rare

Puti Rare was born and brought up in Te Kuiti. Of Ngati Maniapoto descent she moved to Auckland to live twelve years ago. Throughout her life she was always exposed to flax and activities using it. At first she concentrated on taniko weaving but now it is korowai making that is her speciality.

"I really love cutting the flax, getting it home and stripping it back down to the muka. It's very significant — getting back to the earth and then creating from it. There's therapy there."

Eddie Maxwell

Eddie Maxwell belongs to the Ngati Rangiwehi people and resides in Whakatane in the Bay of Plenty. His desire to weave took him from hui (gathering) to hui where he watched and absorbed processes and patterns. At first he met with reluctance to teach him but he persisted. He began by repairing old whariki. About five years ago he gave up his job to become a full time weaver. He says "I'm one of the few men weaving — but I don't feel out of place. Men have always been involved. I also have a burning desire to do intricate work".

Catalogue

Raranga is not weaving in the conventional European sense. No loom or like equipment is used. Baskets or mats of unscraped flax, tikouka, kiekie and pingao are plaited. The more intricate taniko technique (the twisting of the weft threads round the warp threads with the fingers) is used to make muka kete and korowai.

