



### Diggeress Rangituatahi Te Kanawa

A member of the Ngati Maniapoto tribe, Diggeress Te Kanawa has lived all her life at Oparure about five miles from Te Kuiti.

A family project she is involved with is the reconstruction of the village Ohaki where working with tourists is combined with the teaching of weaving.

Illness took her away from school at a very early age and gave a sense of inferiority — “I wasn’t as clever as some of my relations who were held up as examples — but flax meant a lot to me. It is the one thing I feel really confident in. It’s my thing. I can do it as good as or better than most.”



### Emily Rangitiria Schuster

Emily Schuster has lived all her life in Rotorua where she was brought up by Ngatai and Frederick Bubb. A member of Te Arawa tribe, she is a niece of the famous guide Rangi who had a tremendous influence on her. Weaving was such an active part of her life that it is not surprising to find her as craft and guide supervisor at Whakarewarewa village. She often acts world wide as ambassadress for Maori crafts.

She says “As a child I was always being taken by the old people to the bush and to the swamp. It took me four years to condense what I learned from my grandmother to the basics for teaching other Maori women”.



### Riria Smith

Riria (Lydia) Smith of Pohutia, a sub-tribe of Te Aupouri, lives at Ahipara at the beginning of the Ninety Mile Beach in Northland. She was the only one of ten children to take up weaving, even though her mother was renowned

for it. Riria prefers working with the undyed flax, using self patterning, kupenga (planned holes) and reversed leaf techniques.

She says “There’s something about flax — the feel of it. It’s there, growing all around us, we can get it and ...”