

One local Maori elder, John Tangiora said, on opening day, that opportunity came only once and it had to be grabbed eagerly so as to grow in stature and be used for fellow men and society. "Te wahie ka waia mo takurua, te kai ka mahia mo tau." Firewood is sought in winter, food is worked for all year round.

The Maori Affairs District Officer Star Renata said expansion to six-month courses with extended facilities, was planned. The second promise has already been fulfilled with a \$49,000 custodian's quarters, workshop and lecture room, provided by Maori Affairs funds on a conditional loan.

### GREAT ENTHUSIASM SHOWN

To date the brothers are happy with the results. Punga Paewai said that the first intake showed great enthusiasm and when their time ended, work for some was found in the Paewai gangs. He said their farming courses met a need and there was an obvious growth in the trainees' confidence and skill.

Some of the best learning situations have come after the day's formal training has ended as supervisors and boys sit round swapping questions and ideas.

The second intake has extended to take on four girls who are acquiring kitchen skills backed by lessons in nutrition and proper food selection and preparation.

"There has been an amazing growth of pride and confidence," Mr Paewai said and he feels he is well on the way to sending out groups able to find year round employment or even to become self employed.

Trainees are put through the mill of every type of farming activity carried out on the Paewai property. This includes shearing, dipping, scrub cutting, lambing, cooking, forestry skills, wool handling and classing. Skills are built up through series of lectures, videos, observation of gangs at work and then operating in the field under the eyes of Paewai supervisors.

Time is also spent on development of good work behaviour and attitudes along with sound savings advice. This part of the programme is important to the Paewais who want to see the same kind of initiative and leadership qualities they have passed on to their charges.

It is not all hard work as the Paewais supply their own teams to the local basketball competitions and here too the young trainees are encouraged to reveal their talents.

### FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES SEEN

Though their programme is not the only cure for the nation's unemployment situation it can assist with the promise of lucrative spin offs. The Paewais see opportunities for hectares of cut scrub to be sold as firewood in town by those willing to collect it and they would like to encourage the growing of vegetables on their complex site to not only feed the Paewai staff but to sell the surplus on the road side. Such is the vision of the Paewai brothers in dealing with work opportunities.

Dannevirke mayor, Harry Lidington, said the Paewais were making the effort required in seeking to raise standards amongst the Maori community.

He also saw an unemployment problem and said finding work was not the easy task many claimed it was. "The scheme is a positive approach to the 1980s, a result of unselfish positiveness," he said.

Unfortunately Punga Paewai said not enough people had seen the scheme in operation though it had been evaluated by the Agricultural Training Council and shown to be sound.

The last word can be left with Punga Paewai: "It is a positive idea and a hell-of-a-lot of value — but to do it correctly it needs funds."

*Punga Paewai (far right) addresses the training scheme's first intake at the start of the inaugural course last March. — Evening News Photo.*

