

TE REO MAORI/Maori Language

Old practice inspires campaign to promote Maori

The idea that the old people used to teach the tuis to talk has inspired John and Maureen Waaka, from Rotorua, to launch their own campaign to encourage and stimulate the use of Maori in everyday life.

They have come up with the novel idea of wearing a badge carrying an invitation to "speak to me" in Maori.

John Waaka said the idea was to encourage conversation in everyday life and to provide a link between the learning institutions, like university and schools, where the language is taught, and the person on the street.

He said the idea came from speaking to two people who were eager to try out their newfound skills in Maori but who were unable to find anyone to practice on.

"Hopefully it will remind people to speak when they see the badge," he said.

The badges are at present available in Rotorua, Hamilton and Taupo but it was hoped they would eventually be on sale throughout the country.

Anyone wishing to buy a badge contact John Waaka, PO Box 443, Rotorua or phone 81-714 Rotorua.



NGA WHAKATAUKI/Proverbs

Maori Purposes Fund Board seeks translations

A wealth of information and lore waits to be unleashed

For over 35 years, the Maori Purposes Fund Board has had in its possession two large private collections of Whakatauki (Maori proverbs).

Exact information on how and why the two collections came about is now deep within the Board's archives but it is obvious that both collections contain Whakatauki that reach far back into tribal history from all parts of the country.

With the exception of only a few, the Whakatauki have not been translated. They are very old and are probably only remembered or known to a few.

One of the collections, individually mounted on over 2000 cards, is handwritten while the other, of equal size, is taken from books and magazines.

Board Secretary, Mr Sam Ruawai, believes that a wealth of information, lore and beauty could be unleashed if the correct translations are found.

He is also aware of the significance the Whakatauki must hold for the hapu and tribes to whom they belong and has therefore asked that those who recognise any of them write to

him with either the translation or information on their origin.

They can write to: Mr Sam Ruawai, Secretary, Maori Purposes Fund Board; Department of Maori Affairs, Private Bag, Wellington.

Titiro karapa rua, ka taka te paua o nga kanohi

He ahi kouka ki te awatea, he ai ki te po

He koura kia awe te whero, he aruhe kia awe te papa

He manako te koura i kore ai

He manawa he tina

He kiri ki waho, he puku ki roto

He koanga tangata tahi, he ngahuru puta noa

He kaha ui te kaha

Ki te ro ro iti a haere, otira kia mau te tokanga nui a noho

Kaua e tirohia te pai

He pukai te pu, he pukai te rongo

He rata te rakau i takahia e te moa

E riri kai po, ka haere kai ao

He pounamu kakano rua

I motu mai i hea te rimu o te moana

He mahi te aata noho, e ki ana a wheke

E tipi e te waha i uia hoki ko wai ki muri

E rua tonu au ki au

Rori taura, pa taku panehe, rori tangata, rori waiho

He roimata ua, he roimata tangata

Pipitori nga kanohi, kokotaia nga waewae, whenua i mamao, tenei rawa

Iti noa ana, he pito mata

He iti kopua wai, ka he te manawa

Matua te wairua ki te po, e koroingo ana ano