

discover their identity; on their marae in the city they will have what is important to all Maori people, "a place to stand". They will be able to learn again their history, their whakapapa and perhaps most important of all, a sense of belonging. Here they will belong. The marae will fulfill all the necessary functions for those who wish to come, those of the tribe that need that support that only the marae can give them.

The merits and advantages of the urban marae are many and diverse in nature. The marae provides a centre for hui, weddings, tangi and more formal meetings as well. It can be said that the marae caters for most of the important social factors in the life of the average Maori. The marae can be used as a crutch, as a support in times of difficulty, a place where people are united and care for the members of the group. The benefits the marae provides cannot be expressed in purely physical terms. The effect of the marae goes much deeper than the physical, it is the heart of the Maori way of life, spiritually, socially and physically. It is an integral part of the Maori life-style.

In my opinion there are few disadvantages to urban marae. Some would argue that the urban marae does not fully cater for the needs of its members as it isn't coupled with surrounding tribal land. Some would say that it is a farce, a feeble attempt at the real thing. Some would maintain that an urban marae could not be genuine without the presence of the Maori tribal elders to lead the way.

In my view all these arguments can be refuted. In this fast-moving and complex world it is not possible for many of the Maori people to live traditionally, near their ancestral lands or near their rural marae. True, the Maori are a rural people, but in today's world the Maori must adapt, he must find employment where he can and often this means a life in the city. However he still craves and needs that support that the marae offers. Without it the young urban Maori can (and has done) fallen into bad ways. Many a young Maori has sought comradeship, that sense of belonging elsewhere, for example by joining a gang. He believes that by being part of a gang he will regain the sense of being part of a whole, of a common group when what he really needs is to be reunited with his people

through such a medium as an urban marae.

In conclusion I would like to say that the great range of benefits the urban marae offers the Maori people is to a very large extent what the urban marae needs and wants. I believe the urban marae should be encouraged, that money and land should be made available by the New Zealand government. Every urban Maori should have his own tribal marae in the city, he should be made aware of what the marae can do for him and what he can do for the marae. Even the landless, unemployed and dispirited, the "morehu", should have a place, a place to stand.

Congratulations

Tu Tangata offers its congratulations to those entertainers who performed before the Queen at the Royal Variety Show.

It especially congratulates the Maori performers who had the honour of representing their people in the entertainment field, Tina Cross, John Rowles, Howard Morrison, Rhonda, Billy T. James and Frankie Stevens.

Maori Leadership Awards

The New Zealand Maori Council Leadership Awards were presented to recipients at a function on the Te Ore Ore marae at Masterton late last month.

By districts the award winners were:

Aotea: Alec Gage of Turangi and Katerina Peni of Taumarunui.

Auckland: Raka Hunapo and Mrs Betty Hunapo of Mangere.

Takitimu: Mr and Mrs Alex Ropiha of Waipukurau.

Tai Tokerau: Rameka Waiomio and Mrs Harriet Waiomio of Onerahi.

Te Wai Pounamu: Charles Subritzsky and Mrs Rima Subritzsky of Lyttelton.

Wellington: Ward Whaitiri of Kilbirnie and Laura Taepa of Waiwhetu.

TU TANGATA
The Maori
magazine
Subscribe now.

YOU CAN JOIN OUR AIRFORCE WHANAU

You can join our Air Force Team and learn important skills – and the things you learn can see you right for the rest of your life.

The Air Force is looking for keen young school leavers to join the R.N.Z.A.F. Ground Team. After two or more good years of work at High School YOU could join our whanau and learn one of the following skills:-

ENGINEERING TRADES:

Aircraft Mechanical, Metal Worker, Machinist, Armament, Avionics, Draughtsman, Electroplater, Safety Equipment Worker.

SUPPORT TRADES:

Administrative Clerk, Cook, Publications Specialist, Fireman, Medical Assistant, Accounts Clerk, RNZAF Police, Driver, Shorthand Typist, Clerk Typist, Telecommunications Operator, Telephone Operator, Supplier, Steward, Accounting Machine Operator.

For full details of career opportunities, contact your nearest RNZAF Recruiting Office. LISTED IN YOUR PHONE BOOK OR THE YELLOW PAGES.



G020