

tural club with music and language classes for adults as well as for children. Abe and Rangī Turei have already started making the marae concept work for young people who are at present planning a variety of ways to raise funds. New and innovative ideas for raising money are always welcomed. A novel idea is to ask sponsorship for sixty totara carvings at \$1,000 each.

REBIRTH

According to Ihaka Paraone, the opening of the building has special significance. "It's like the rebirth of an ancestor" he said. The tapu lifting is a recognition of the presence of a universal creator in the things we do."

For the old time Maori, it's the coming together of the kindred spirits in all things; of the bush, night and day, summer and winter, the creatures of earth and sky; and also a recognition that we are the inheritors of legacies handed down by our ancestors, and our obligation to pass on values and traditions to generations yet unborn. A building, however plain or ornate is an extension of man's spiritual, social, and material relationships. The ceremony ended with the harakari or the ceremonial feast after the speeches.

And so, the last word rests with one of the elders of the Papakura Marae, Mari Tate, "I feel so proud that at long last we have our own turangawaewae right here in Papakura where we can show our young people who they are, and where they've come from." She concluded by saying, "Here at last, we have a place where Maori and Pakeha can come together."

MAORI RESOURCE DIRECTORY

An Auckland group wants to compile a Directory of Maori Resources covering everything from maraes and cultural bodies to media programmes.

The Aronui-Korkiri Resource Centre in Otago wants to hear from as many groups and individuals as possible to find out what's available in Maori resources throughout the country.

The director of the Centre, Mrs Ngawini Puru says the aim is to make information of Maori resources more accessible to the general public and so increase awareness of the Maori community as a whole.

She says some of the areas covered would be maraes, Maori schools and churches, Maori language classes, Maori cultural and sporting bodies and other organisations. It's also planned to have information on films, tapes, records, books and media programmes.

Information can be sent to P.O. Box 61088, Otago.



A new roof for the Porourangi meeting house at Waomatatini, made possible by a Trust grant, protects the interior artwork. Porourangi was the first house where Sir Apirana Ngata designed tukutuku panels using human figures instead of the traditional patterns. Both types are seen here. Photograph NPS.

RESTORATION UNDERWAY

The Historic Places Trust is engaging conservator Mr Karel Peters, of Auckland, to work on the conservation of two meeting houses at Reporoa and Te Awamutu, and a carved monument near Taumarunui. Mr Peters will undertake the supervision and work at the maraes over a six-week period.

The Tawhaki Piki ki te Rangī monument on the Te Koura marae, near Taumarunui, consists of four carved totara faces on a solid block of totara with a carved human figure on top. The carving has deteriorated at the base and has rotted in places. The aim is to dismantle the whole monument, and clean, consolidate and repaint the carving, before reassembling the monument. Special sealers and resins would be used in the work.

Insect damage

At the Aotearoa marae at Kihikihi, near Te Awamutu, paint on the carvings of the Hoturoa meeting house will be removed before rotted parts and other water and insect damage is repaired and consolidated and strengthened. After treating, repairing and sealing, the carvings will be repainted.

An architectural report suggests that some structural work is needed on the roof, foundations and walls.

The third conservation project is at the Tahumatua meeting house on the Te Ohaki marae, at Reporoa, where the owners were already repairing the structure, towards which the Historic Places Trust had given a \$1000 grant in May last year.

All the outside carvings will need to be removed and dried out before being cleaned, and the rotted and damaged parts treated.

Manutuke meeting house

The Historic Places Trust has also agreed to make a grant for the purchase of materials required for the structural restoration of Te Poho-o-Rukupo meeting house at Manutuke, Gisborne.

An initial grant of \$3,000 will allow the most urgent work to be done this summer.

Double skin

The meeting house is of a "double-skin" form of construction, and the exterior skin must be strengthened and stabilised to ensure it does not settle on the inner structure. New roof rafters and roofing iron will be provided, the side walls rebuilt, the end walls strengthened, and the ceiling replaced.

Te Poho-o-Rukupo is an important house in the history of the Gisborne district, and noted for its superb and original painted patterns.

In 1977 the Historic Places Trust conducted a restoration school at Rukupo to demonstrate and teach ways of cleaning and repainting the interior paintings. This restoration school was filmed by the trust jointly with Pacific Films, and clearly demonstrated the importance of this aspect of the trust's work.