



For Kenny Brown, the reply was an emotional one telling of how privileged he felt to be once more reunited with his family.

New baby

And then after lunch, back on the bus and a visit to the nursery of Huarahi Developments, a new Maori horticulture company. Proudly company chairman Claude Edwards showed off the 14 month old baby of the company.

Eight hectares of land, with the nursery established on one hectare growing avacado, kumara, kiwifruit and shelter willows. The aim is to provide the best virus-free variety of seedlings, firstly to Huarahi growers, and then to the public.

The total value of the nursery is \$100,000 plus.

Back on the bus Claude explained the background of Huarahi, as being the first Maori export company venture to have sprung from shareholders in Maori land. All the growing of crops is done by shareholders from several tribes on their own land, with TNL of Nelson having forty percent shareholding, handling all the marketing of the produce.

At the moment the first season has started for Huarahi with the processing and exporting of squash (200 acres) and sweetcorn (400 acres) to markets in Japan and Malaysia.

The yield for sweetcorn is 4 tonne per acre and 6 tonne per acre for squash.

Clause explained how the squash seed was bought from the Kaneko Seed Company in Japan on a recent overseas trade mission.

As well as the nursery, Huarahi has its own cool store in Taneatua where the processing takes place. Claude added that the people grow produce for themselves, with some crops purchased in the field and some at the factory door. Huarahi provides a nursery manager, an orchard development person and a marketing person.

To the Hawaiians, the Huarahi setup made sense and they thought it was a great example for Maoris to follow.

By this time the bus had arrived at Roimata marae, a very peaceful settlement overlooking Ohiwa Harbour. Once

Top left — Business Course students.

Middle — participants in a workshop.

Bottom — Chas Little on the floor of the conference.