



A MINI MAORI COURSE

This concludes our mini Maori course, which has been designed as a concentrated summary of some of the main features of conversational Maori. The course offers no guidance on pronunciation, dialect variations or vocabulary. But it outlines the basic structures you need to know, and it offers models and examples from which you can form questions and sentences of your own.

For those of us who have learned in the past but need to brush up, or who are familiar with the sound of Maori but are unsure of the way that the language is put together, this course aims to provide a formal structure from which to develop.

But that development depends on commitment, imagination and practice. Once the vital sentence patterns have been mastered, your conversational Maori needs regular application. Practice with your friends, encourage native speakers to talk to you in Maori — you'll soon be making good progress.

If you missed earlier parts, which appeared in issues 10 and 11 of *Tu Tangata*, copies are available from the address on page one at \$1 each.

John Foster

The two parts of the course that have already appeared in *'Tu Tangata'* dealt with the basic structure of Maori; the sentence patterns essential for expressing most of what we would wish to say.

The questions and answers set out in section 12 enable us to start oral practice with fellow students or any Maori friend who is willing to help.

Included in Part Three are additional examples of question and answer using activities in the three photographs. All the sentence constructions may be found in Part Two, in the last issue of *Tu Tangata*. The number in the margin shows which photograph is referred to.

(Action)

- 1 **I hea** nga harakeke e tipu ana? = **where** was the flax growing?
I te repo nui (it **was**) at the big swamp
- 3) ... they are on the seat
He aha **kei roto** i tana peke? = **what is/are** in her bag?
He pukapuka, he kai **hoki kei roto** i tana peke = **there are** books **and** food **in** her bag
E haere ana a Hine **ki hea**? = **where** is Hine going **to**?
E haere ana ia **ki te whare o tona kuia**, **ki te whare o Kiri** = she is going **to** her grandmother's house, **to** Kiri's

(Action)

- 1) **Kei te mahi** ratou i te aha? = **what are** they making?
Kei te mahi ratou i tetahi o nga mea **tino** Maori = they are making one of the **real** Maori things
E aha ana tera wahine i nga tamariki? = **what** is that woman **doing** to the children?
E awhina ana ia i nga tamariki = she **is helping** the children

Note, 'doing to' in this case is English idiom. The transitive preposition 'i' is required not 'ki'. See 1.6 for verbs that do require 'ki'.

- Ka aha** nga tamariki apopo? = **what will** the children **do** tomorrow?
Ka haere mai ano ratou, ki te kura = they **will come here** again, to school
- 3) **I te aha** nga wahine i te ata nei? = **what were** the women **doing** this morning?
I te mahi tino kaha ratou katoa = they all **were working** very hard



1



2

I ahatia te pepi? = **what was done** to the baby?

Note, the passive form 'ahatia' does not require 'ki = to' which is English idiom. ('befallen' might give a better idea of its meaning)

I mauria mai te pepi e tona whaea = the baby **was brought here** by his mother