



Karel Peters (2nd from right) with local Maori youth who worked on the restoration.

Peters from Auckland University, an expert in the restoration of carvings. He recommended that they were in need of immediate attention. On 20 March 1981 the carvings were dismantled and put into storage for drying.

Karel Peters carried out the work and on March 31, 1982, the carvings were re-erected. On April 3 the carvings were blessed at a dawn service by kaumatua, Ron Kingi. Maori elders, Baden Batt, Te Aoepi Kara, Aussie Huata and John Tangiora also attended.



## Summary of carving restoration programme

Following is a summary of the procedure taken in the restoration of the carvings as recommended by Mr Karel Peters.

1. Removal of carvings from House and storage for two months drying.
2. Removal of all paint from carvings using paint stripper followed by fine chisel work — carvings taken right back to bare wood.
3. Carvings were then scrubbed and washed down with water to remove all traces of paint stripper.
4. Numerous injections of Epsilon E 1200 were put into the wood for reinforcement, conservation and preservation of any rotted areas.
5. Building up of missing or damaged carving detail with epoxy resin filler mixed with Totara sawdust to give colour and recarving qualities.
6. Sanding and recarving work then done.
7. Application of diluted Epiglass Evidure preservative/sealer where absorption rates were high.
9. Sanding down any built up areas of Evidure to ensure a good adherence of paint.
10. Two coats of Low gloss acrylic black to highlight detail. (The removal of all paint at the beginning revealed that red with black detail were the original colours.)
12. Shape paua shell, then glue and peg in for eyes.
13. Galvanised angle iron supports made to strengthen the Maihi beams; a mastic layer put between wood and angle iron.
14. Replacement of carvings.

This restoration programme has been laborious and exhaustive work to say the least, and local man Barry Bloomfield has been the competent Supervisor of all this work. However, we are extremely pleased with the results and hope that our carvings will remain intact for many more generations to come.

All data concerned with this whole restoration programme; initial inspection, supervisors, and workers, materials used and all others who contributed in any way will be capsuled and stored for posterity within the carvings. Capsules will be recessed into holes at the head of the right hand amo carving and then plugged and sealed.

Kia ora tatau  
AOTEA MARAE COMMITTEE