



Maoridom 20th Century Style

Maoridom 20th century style sometimes makes for incongruous situations such as the recent opening of the latest luxury hotel in Auckland, the Sheraton and the commencement of a Cathay Pacific Airways service.

Pictured is the welcoming party for guests arriving for the grand opening. Perhaps the context of such 'traditional' welcomes needs to be looked at, as the significance behind such a powhiri is sometimes misunderstood by hosts and visitors alike.

Likewise the 'traditional' welcome for Captain I.P. Steven who piloted the Cathay Pacific Airways flight to Auckland pictured with members of the Auckland Anglican Maori Club.

As New Zealanders become, or are forced to become aware of the Maori roots in this country, new developments are making changes to 'traditional' kawa or procedures. Hence the adaptation for what would have been marae-based welcomes or challenges, to modern-day situations like the opening of hotels or commencement of flight services.



Mawhera buys hotel

A South Island Maori group, the Mawhera Incorporation has purchased an historic Greymouth business, Revingtons Hotel.

The Incorporation already owns two other Greymouth properties, Poutini House occupied by Roys Furnishing Ltd and the MacDonnells Building next to Revingtons Hotel.

Mawhera Incorporation bought the Revingtons Hotel with an eye to tourism and has installed an experienced hotelier, Mr Russell King of Kings Hotel to run the hotel as a co-operative venture.

It's an historic investment because it gives the Poutini Ngaitahu people a strong foothold in its ancestral area. It's been a policy of the incorporation to re-invest rentals received from land on which the town of Greymouth is built. With the recent lifting of legislative restrictions, the incorporation has been free to develop the land.

A familiar landmark in Greymouth for many years, Revingtons Hotel was established about 100 years ago by the Revington family of Greymouth. It quickly established a high reputation throughout the country for hospitality.

A name change to the Post Office Hotel earlier this century caused so much confusion that the owners changed the name back to Revingtons.

The hotel boasts amongst its guestlist, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second who stayed there during her first N.Z. tour in 1953.

Chairman of the Mawhera Incorporation, Stephen O'Regan said the purchase of the hotel brought traditional elements together.

The Barrow family owned and held the licence for Revingtons for some years and were an established Greymouth family. The King family had roots in West Coast heritage through an All Black rugby captain and through run-

ning hotels. The incorporation was an even older element in the West Coast landscape, he said.

Murupara league saves house

The Murupara Maori Women's Welfare League has succeeded in retaining the local district nurses home which was threatened with closure.

However Murupara has lost its resident nurse and now shares two nurses who cover an area from Kaiangaroa, Murupara, Galatea, Minginui, Te Whaiti and Ruatahuna.

The Health Department withdrew its resident nurse because of the shortage of public nurses and had planned to sell the nurse's home.

Meetings were held between the department and the league with the league saying it was prepared to maintain the house and grounds and pay the rates until a resident nurse could be employed.

Local MP Dr Peter Tapsell helped with the negotiations and two months later the league was given the lease to the house. League branches at Te Whaiti, Tawharangi and Murupara organised a working bee and the house was blessed.

At the opening was the Waiariki area representative Areta Koopu as well as Mr and Mrs Murchie, Mr and Mrs Whiteman (local mayor) and local teachers.

The league plans to have health talks in the house as part of a health awareness programme.

The secretary of the Murupara league, Mrs R.L. Te Are thanks Dr Tapsell and the Department of Health and all the people who gave donations and time.

No reira e nga hapu o nga hau e wha, tena koutou katoa.

korero iti

A Waiomio man, Mr Charlie Reihana was recognised in the Queen's Birthday honours with a community service order. Mr Reihana was the 128th warden to be appointed in New Zealand and the first to come from the Tai Tokerau district.

A 101 year-old native school at Kaikohe has celebrated its centenary. Kaikohe West School, which opened as Kaikohe Native School, was later renamed Kaikohe Maori School and was one of the last to carry that classification.