



## Poroporoaki Wiki Christie



Wiki Christie (left) with lifetime friend Turi Tipoki.



A great supporter of the Catholic faith died September 19, 1983, in Wairoa.

Her name was Wiki Margaret Christie.

Wiki was well known in many parts of New Zealand for the help she gave to the Catholic Church.

She was born in Wairoa, in 1899 at her family marae, Whaakirangi, and died at the age of 83.

During her lifetime Wiki was known for her big heart and straightforwardness and cheery disposition.

She was widely respected for the help she gave to many families in their time of need and especially for her help to the Catholic congregation in Wairoa.

She provided a home for many of the priests from The Society of Mary, Pakipaki, who came to Wairoa for mission work.

She taught many priests ways to understand the Maori people and their language.

During school holidays she held catechism camps at her marae for country children.

Children from remote areas like, Te Reinga and Ruakituri (places about 25 miles from Wairoa), would attend these camps.

Wiki held the camps to prepare children for confirmation and first holy communions.

Wiki was also considered a leader of the Tawhiti a Maru Marae, Wairoa.

This marae is looked upon as a Maori extension of the Catholic Church.

It is built in the same grounds as the St Theresa Church, Ruataniwha Road, Wairoa.

As a staunch Catholic, she regarded St Theresa's as her home church and she was regarded as a leader of its congregation.

She also helped other denominations.

Whaakirangi, her Marae, is regarded in Wairoa, as the stronghold for the Ringatu faith.

Many of the tekau ma rua were held there, every year.

She did not confine all her assistance to her church, but took part in many of the activities at the different marae in the Wairoa district.

She considered Takitimu, the paramount marae in the Wairoa area and helped make some of the whariki which protect the mattresses there.

Wiki is survived by five of her 12 children.

At the age of 17 she was wed to her first husband, Harry Lambert.

He was a health inspector and a few years after their wedding they moved to Waipiro Bay.

They returned to Wairoa and later, Mr Lambert died. Together they had 11 children.

She later married her second husband Hairuhu (Sy) Christie, and bore him one child.

Until she retired 24 years ago, Wiki was cook at the old Wairoa Hospital for a few years.

She gave up work to take care of her mother.

Due to ill health Wiki had spent eighteen months in Hallwright House (an old peoples home in Wairoa), before she passed away.

She was buried on her 84th birthday, September 23, 1983.

Haere e kui  
Haere te wahine whakapono  
Haere ki te Po uriuri  
ki te Po nakonako  
te Po tangotango  
Haere ki te tini  
ki te mano  
ki te wehi  
Haere ki te ao wairua  
ki te ao marama  
Haere ki te huinga o Rehua

Okioki ki te araahata o Te Runga Rawa  
Waiho te Pua Nani o te whakapono ki  
roto i o matou ngakau  
Ma te Wairua Tapu e ngaki, kia  
puawai.

**Ngahuia Wilson**