

institution within the overall fabric of Maoritanga. To abolish them especially without Maori consent would be asking for trouble. It would be viewed as something else on a long list that has been taken from us. Their abolition could have the advantages in political power as described by Mr Garnier. We could have more than the four Maoris in Parliament as we have now, although frankly I am completely unimpressed by Messrs Rex Austin, Ben Couch, and Winston Peters in their ability to represent Maori interests. Their degree of "Maoriness" is clearly illustrated by one of them who admits to being Maori only second. That is insufficient for me.

I will agree to the abolition of Maori seats when the following conditions are met:

1. No more alienation of Maori land
2. A much greater sharing of power in government and quasi-government bodies that are appointed and not elected, e.g., selection panels, boards of governors, tribunals, selections of JPs, ambassadors, the judiciary, etc.
3. A clear, unequivocal definition of New Zealand as a multi-cultural society and the translation of this into real and not just tokenist terms.
4. The election of more real Maoris into safe general seats (about ten) and at least four Maoris in cabinet where the real power is.

In general I want some clear indication that the Pakeha is willing to share his political and economic power with me and allow me some share in defining and determining social and economic goals before I give up four Maori certainties. Yours faithfully,

A.M. Johns
Hamilton

I am not at all convinced by Tony Garnier's arguments for the dissolution of the Maori seats in Parliament. In particular, I think his claim that "most Maoris want the four Maori seats abolished immediately" is highly questionable and seems to rest on some very dubious assumptions about political behaviour. It is also incorrect to argue that the Maori MPs do not have the capacity to "make or break" a government; they have, on occasions, been the deciding factor. He compares the New Zealand situation with that of the Black voters in the USA. While it is true that block voting by the Blacks has been an important factor in the election of various presidents, the political gain to the Blacks once these presidents have entered office is marginal to say the least. The Blacks have still lacked access to key political decision making. In the end, the decision to abandon separate representation in New Zealand must be made by those who have the most to lose (or to gain): the Maori electorate.

Paul Spoonley
Palmerston North

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations on the first issue of *Te Kaea* — I have just spent the morning reading EVERY word! There was the odd "dyslexic" word and mis-print, inevitable I suppose. However, I wonder if you should give a thought to distinguishing in some way the odd Maori words that occur in the English text? For example, in Eva Rickard's article: "but the Raglan take. . ." I did a "double-take" here, wondering why the verb "to take" was tucked in there !! Printing the Maori word in italic is probably as good as any other way.
Arohanui

Miria Simpson
University of Waikato

(Point taken. But italicising words is a ploy used by printers and editors to denote foreign languages. Maori is not, obviously, a foreign language and should not be treated as such. If the occasional word of Maori causes readers to pause and think, good job! — ed.)

Congratulations for your determination and drive to ensure that Maori publications once more reach New Zealanders in widening our perception and understanding of ourselves, as people of the land.
Kia ora, kia kaha,
Naku noa, na,

Haare Williams
Te Reo O Aotearoa
Manager

Congratulations on a fine start to *Te Kaea*. We have waited too long for the successor to *Te Ao Hou*. Not only am I happy to subscribe but I shall also encourage others to do likewise.
Naaku ano,

J. Te Rina
Wellington

May I first congratulate you all on a fine magazine, and please find enclosed a money order for the next ten issues of *Te Kaea*. Your magazine is a long-awaited publication which I find most informative. However (there always must be a however) I would like to see more in the way of a basic Maori language write-up — say a regular lesson for beginners or some such thing. But I have no other complaints regarding the publication and I wish you a continued success.
Yours faithfully

K Mair
H.M.N.Z.S. Tamaki, Auckland

(We certainly hope to increase the Maori language content of *Te Kaea*, and I think you will agree that it already looks healthier in this issue. As for language lessons, see our special Maori Language Week issue coming up at the end of July. — ed.)

Your magazine makes fascinating, compelling reading.

Its simple, direct and balanced presentation reflects a wide range and depth of thought and activity. It is the work of a caring editorial and design team dedicated to detail.

The result is quality and I like it.
Arohanui,

Gillian E.M. Shadbolt
Journalism tutor,
Wellington Polytechnic

(Thanks — ed.)

HISTORY AND HISTORICIS

I was interested to read the first issue of *Te Kaea*, and was impressed enough to send you the enclosed subscription. But if I may I would like to make one or two criticisms.

The first concerns *Te Kaea's* "maoriness". O.K., it's about and for Maoris, and seems mainly to be by Maoris, but when I'd finished reading it I was left with very little feeling of any wairua Maori permeating the magazine. The most obvious example would be the low proportion of stories in the Maori language. Please print more. But there are other things too. Don't concentrate so much on news and topical matters that you ignore our history. Where are the legends, stories and traditions that enrich our culture and so distinguished *Te Ao Hou*? Even in the few years since *Te Ao Hou* stopped, so many of our old people have passed on, taking their knowledge and wisdom with them, that I would suggest you have a positive responsibility to collect and publish such items before they are lost to us for ever.

The second criticism concerns your claims not to be a "propaganda tool". So I should hope, but I also hope this means you won't be ignoring Maori Affairs Department activities altogether since: 1. we are entitled to know how you are spending our money and 2. let's face it, the Department does seem to be in the news a lot these days and in many (but not all!) areas seems to be trying to do a good job.

On the other hand, I hope you won't be giving all your articles on the Department the same treatment you have the Howard Morrison concert. There are two whakatauki Pakeha worth remembering here: "that's show business"; and "moderation in all things"!
Heoi ano,
Na,

R. K. Wilson
Papakura

(We do indeed intend to publish more Maori language and more traditional stories. But such material should not and cannot originate from behind an editor's desk at the head office of Maori Affairs. We rely on the contributions of you, our readers — ed.)