

WAY UP SOUTH

News from Te Waipounamu

No doubt some readers will be asking, "How come they're giving so much attention to Te Waipounamu?" Well, one reason is that there has been a lot going on in the south. But the other reason is that Ngaitahu-Ngati Mamoe have taken the trouble to keep us informed, and we cannot keep our readers informed unless *they* keep *us* informed!

Ma muri ano a mua ka totika ai
Awhinatia mai a Te Kaea
Whangaia mai ki te korero

It has been a busy six months for the Ngaitahu and other Maori people of Te Waipounamu as a range of projects which have been in the pipeline for several years have begun to come to fruition. Late last year the Minister of Lands returned the ancient Takahanga site at Kaikoura to the people, and the upper part of the nine-acre reserve was promptly dedicated as a marae and the tapu lifted by 350 people led by Ngaitahu kaumatua, Riki Te M. Ellison. Archaeological work required by the Historic Places Trust before development can proceed has been carried out by the tangata whenua under the direction of Mike Trotter of the Canterbury Museum, and they are currently coping with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act. A small marae – about a "bus and a half" – is planned for the site.

In early November the Poutini Ngaitahu in the form of the Mawhera Incorporation opened their first investment leaseback project in central Greymouth. The building, which was named Poutini House after the taniwha which is the guardian spirit of the western coast of Waipounamu, is a two-storeyed retail furnishing complex leased to one of Greymouth's most enterprising businessmen, Mr Roy Anderson. Costing in excess of \$310,000 and built by Fletcher Developments Ltd, the project was financed jointly by the Maori Trustee and the ANZ Bank. Built on the site of two

Below Araiteuru: an artist's impression.



FRANK SIMPSON

Above Mawhera Incorporation chairman, Stephen O'Regan, with the manager of Fletcher Developments in the South Island at the opening of Poutini House in Greymouth. With them is Selwyn Toogood, himself of Ngaitahu-Ngati Mamoe descent.

Opposite top Mr Ranapia Mana puts the finishing touches to his carvings for the new dining hall at Rehua, Christchurch.

Opposite below Te Arikiniui Dame Te Atairangi Kaahu and her husband, Whatumoana Paki, in front of the Rehua dining hall.

demolished buildings on the prime commercial intersection in the town, Poutini House was described by Mawhera Chairman, Stephen O'Regan, as a mark of faith in the future. "We are serving notice on the West Coast community", he said, "that the Maori owners are not going to be passive rent collectors but active participants in the West Coast economy".

February saw the opening of two major marae projects which will be of great importance to the development of the South's Maori future. The traditional Ngaitahu marae have seen much renovation and renewal in recent years, with the new Rapaki wharekai probably the most ambitious so far. However the dominating fact of Maori life in the region is the steady migration of northern Maori into the ancient boundaries of the Ngaitahu people, and it is in the urban scene that

