

# Kaputuhi Marae benefits from walkathon

A unique form of fundraising took place over the Christmas break with relay teams walking from Auckland 300 kilometres to their marae near Waitomo.

Family members of the Kaputuhi marae at Hangatiki in the King Country wanted to raise money for their small marae.

Organising the walk was difficult but a dedicated young group soon arose to plan the event, 'the Kaputuhi Pa Support Committee, Auckland'.

About 40 walkers were organised into relay teams to walk for one hour at a time including during the night. They were backed up by a convoy of support vehicles.

The walk started on December 27 when the fittest participants ran the 45 kilometres from Swanson, west of Auckland to Aotea Square. There they were joined by the rest of the family and numbers swelled to about 200 as the walkers left Auckland. Sponsorship cards had been completed and every kilometre walked raised money. Donations also came in from passing motorists.

On December 29 after two sleepless nights and many blistered feet, the walkers reach Kaputuhi marae to be greeted by about 250 people.

For the walkers the sight of Kaputuhi Pa nestled in tranquility at the foot of Pukeroa evoked many a tear. For those who had gathered to welcome the walkers, the sight of 200 people coming closer to the marae was equally inspiring.

The organisers hoped that sponsorship of the 40 or more walkers would raise \$20,000 towards renovations of the 36-year-old marae. It doesn't look



Pictured in front of Kaputuhi wharenui are elder Joe Amohanga and caretaker Pat Stafford, a local farmer. Photo Tim Koller.

like they're quite going to reach their target, but marae spokesperson Georgina Marchioni of Hamilton said that by early January more than \$12,000 had come in, with quite a bit still to come — and that's a commendable effort by anyone's standards.

One of the walkers, Sandra Morrison said it was a journey back to their roots and many of the whanau met along the way for the first time. "We had all gathered because of our aroha for our marae and our maoritanga was strong. We walked to save it."

Tama Tu tama ora  
Tama noho tama mate.



## Letters to editor — continued from page 2

**Reply to Mrs M Morgan  
Dear Sir**

With regard to the information given you by a friend, of the ability among his people to foresee the future, it has in fact been proven as correct, although E.S.P. can be misconstrued. The ability which your friend refers to, comes with varying levels of degree.

You are also correct that we, the Maori, are reluctant to speak about the presence of what I would term, phenomena, or metaphysical experience, but I mihi to you as I agree, "it is of great importance", and as such must be duly respected.

I make reference to your question in the Dec-Jan issue and I quote —

"Would any readers have such knowledge, be kind enough to write to 'Tu Tangata' and tell what they know." Unquote.

Like your friend, having regard to the fact, this is a part of our "Taonga", I am, otherwise only one among several Tu Tangata readers who would be happy to assist you with further enlightenment by suggesting that you submit your question or questions to Tu Tangata and I shall do what I can for you.

I will conclude that, although I do not consider myself an authority on the subject, I have enjoyed the pleasure of such experiences in my environmental development from childhood.

To assist with the latter part of your letter, I will say, everyone is gifted with this ability, however, unlike your thoughts, the gifts have not been taken from us by the same ridicule and lack of understanding, but are being continually suppressed by our desire to foster other interests. The use of this ability or service of faith healing, which your friend mentioned, is something I consider uncommon but natural and when such a service is needed, "offer it", i runga i te whakapono me te Aroha, heoi.

He iti noa na motai.

Respectfully  
Tuatea (Joe) Smallman