

Leader ends long term at Wallaceville

In Dr Wally Te Punga's time at the Wallaceville Animal Research Centre, dating back to 1953, it has doubled in size.

Dr Te Punga, 61, began work there as a diagnostic officer. Halcombe-born he went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree at Victoria University followed by a veterinary science degree from the University of Sydney. He practiced as a vet in Eltham and Waipukurau for a few years before joining Wallaceville — the oldest veterinary institute in the South Hemisphere.

After his send-off at the centre the long-serving director — 11 years — told the Leader he will be settling down for a quiet life at his Upper Hutt home.

The cut from the demanding administration of the centre will be complete. Dr Te Punga said he would not presume to leave any messages to staff — I'll

leave the future to my successor (Dr Jack Park)," he said.

His retiring manner belied years of being at the forefront of research — what he called a "funny sort of game".

He qualified for a postgraduate diploma in bacteriology from the University of Manchester in 1955 and in the 1960s studied for his doctorate at the University of London.

His PhD work had nothing to do with the world of a vet — he helped pioneer techniques for curing infant diarrhoea and whooping cough.

Specialised

He has specialised in study into infectious infertility in sheep and cattle, and in vibriosis. His work led to a new and practical method of treating dairy cows, novel and more satisfactory tests and vaccination.

Dr Te Punga's findings have appeared regularly in scientific periodicals, part of the "continual interchange of information", and he has attended many overseas conferences which were always more hard work than holiday.

Church behind bars

by Ressa J.T.K. Marafiaano

The theme is tatou tatou katoa, altogether, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ our saviour. Regardless of race, colour, or creed. What we have learned with our ears and seen with our eyes in the life of Jesus Christ, may we now proclaim to all the world, namely, that we are the sons and daughters of the living God, created in love and destined for life.

On the 10th March 1985 at 2pm. a new Catholic lay chaplain to Papanua prison near Christchurch, South Island, Mr Ray Kamo was commissioned. Mr Kamo had taken part in the morning service at Te Rangimarie marae centre in Gloucester St, and the prison chapel in the afternoon.

The appointment of Mr Kamo as chaplain was recognition of the sad fact of the high Maori prison population throughout N.Z. prisons.

"Why so many Maoris in prisons," said the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch, the most Rev Dennis Hanrahan.

During the morning mass the local Maori and pakeha population expressed their support and encouragement for Mr Kamo at Te Rangimarie marae.

The afternoon service at Papanua prison for inmates saw their new chaplain installed in the job in the same way that new parish priests, brothers, layman, were often commissioned.

Mr Kamo's predecessor, Mrs Iri

Choat was the first Maori woman to be appointed R.C. assisting chaplain in 1982, Mrs Choat is now social coordinator for the welfare of inmates and their families and doing a wonderful job, prisoners call her mum. Mrs Iri Choat also started up the Maori cultural group, she is a dedicated and tireless worker.

Elders, laymen, pakehas from around Christchurch were among the 80 people attending the installation in the prison chapel after traditional speeches by the elders. The Bishop spoke in Maori and English about Mr Kamo's ministry work within the institution.

Among the visitors and elders were, kaumatua Hohua Tutengahe of Te Waipounamu, Rev Peter MacCormack, senior Catholic chaplain Justice Dept, Wellington, Chris Albert, involved with Te Rangimarie centre, Mr Charlie Hood, superintendent Papanua, Addington prisons, Rev Jim Tahere, Maori missionary Te Waipounamu, Rev Father Barry Jones, Te Rangimarie Maori mission of Te Waipounamu, Mrs Mary Kamo, women's chaplain at the women's prison Christchurch, Mr Hoani Stirling, lecturer Maori language Canterbury, Mrs Anne Kamo, aunty of Ray Kamo, Mrs Taniora Croft, Kaiapoi, Mr George Rau from Temuka marae, and Mrs Iri Choat the prisoners mum Papanua jail rock house. For 40 inmates attending the gathering it was a joyful Christian fellowship, meeting people from the world of freedom.

Wally Te Punga

