

more the mihi extolled the ties with the legendary Maori homeland of Hawaiiki.

#### Old ties

In the meeting house that night, the visitors were very privileged to take part in a Ringatu church service. And later it was obvious from the talking and singing with the locals that they were re-cementing old ties with long-lost family.

In the morning was a visit to the Whakatohea Trust Board. Here the former secretary to the board, Sir Norman Perry gave a rundown on how the board was set up. He explained that some years back the Government made a compensation offer to the Whakatohea people for lands confiscated in the land wars.

The offer was for \$1600 a year in perpetuity, but the locals instead opted for a lump sum payment of \$40,000.

This large sum was put together with a Maori Trustee loan and enabled a farm to be purchased.

#### Charitable trust

By judicious handling the original investment provided work for four families but it was felt that more job creation was needed in the area. So a shoe factory was purchased near the present site of the Whakatohea Trust Board office.

A team of young people run the factory and have recently been successful in gaining large orders for markets in the United Kingdom, Fiji and Czechoslovakia.

The Whakatohea Trust is now a charitable trust with assets of around the two million dollar mark. As the prime purpose of the trust is service to the Whakatohea people, its success and profitability is measured differently to other commercial enterprises. All profits are ploughed back for the running of education programmes, marae maintenance and more job opportunities.

For the writer that was the last day spent with the Hawaiians, who had a day in Rotorua before returning to Auckland and then home.

All in all, the business conference and trip was an educational experience that not only opened business doors, but also hearts and minds to the common links Pacific neighbours have.

**Top — Pou Tu Terangi Marae — tangata whenua mihi the Hawaiian visitors.**

**Middle — Claude Edwards (far right) explains the setup of the Huarahi nursery to the Hawaiian visitors.**

**Bottom — Roimata Marae — the welcome to the Hawaiians.**

