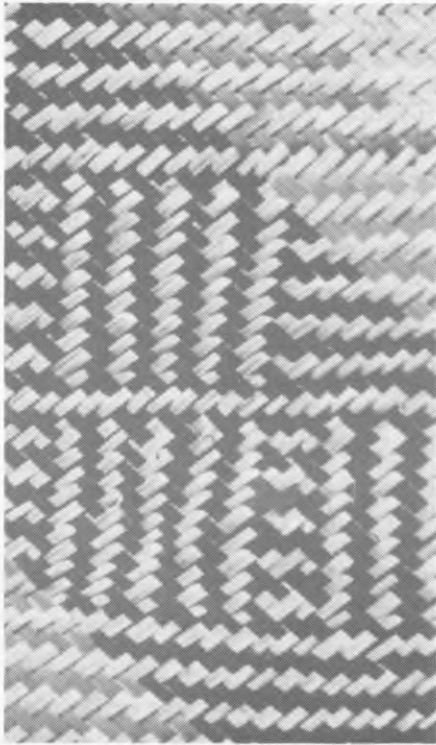
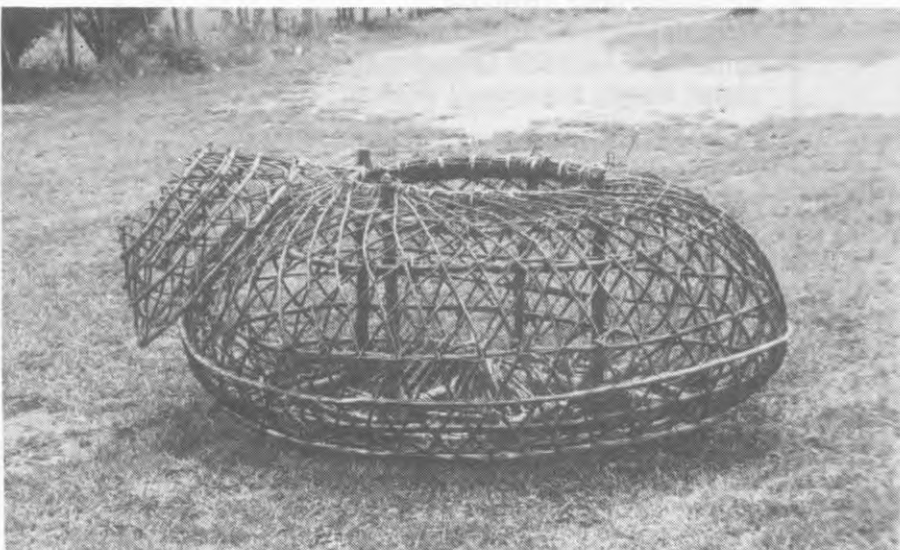


One hundred years of craft at Feathers and Fibre exhibition

Feathers and Fibre is an exhibition of traditional and contemporary Maori Craft to be mounted at the Rotorua Art Gallery, July 19th to August 22nd 1982. High quality and unusual items are being loaned by present day crafts people and by museums and private collectors, to demonstrate a wide range of techniques and fashions covering a time span of over a hundred years.



◀ A mat made by the women of the Herewini family (Ngai Tai) of Torere about 1955. The walls of the Holy Trinity Church at Torere are decorated with wall panels made from plaited kiekie mats showing the various patterns used by Ngai Tai. The pattern shown is called pouaka.



Plaiting, weaving, netting and wicker-work techniques are all included, and visitors will have the opportunity to study at first hand, changes that have occurred and those elements which have remained constant in the crafts.

The plants which provided the Eastern Polynesian ancestors of the Maori, with the raw materials for their clothing, basketry and fishing gear, were not available in New Zealand and the settlers were forced to find alternatives, of which harakeke, the so called New Zealand flax proved to be the most valuable.

Loomless weave

By pair twining, sometimes called loomless or downward weaving (in loom weaving the work proceeds 'upwards' or away from the weaver), warm soft and beautiful garments were manufactured from the fibre. The traditional twining technique, already known in Island Polynesia, was developed and utilised on a much wider scale in New Zealand, being further sophisticated into coloured taniko borders which edge the finest cloaks.

Strips of flax leaf, and to a lesser degree, other materials were used to plait a wide range of mats and receptacles for specific purposes; crops were harvested in work baskets and other types were made to gather sea food. Special kits were made to carry loads on the back, to extract the juice of the tutu, to steep karaka kernels in water, to extract the oil of titoki and to store weaving materials. With changing life styles many of these have become obsolete, and museum specimens of these are to be included in the display.

Above:

Renata Tihore (Ngati Porou) of Hicks Bay working on a traditional fishing net. Examples of his work will be on display at the Fibres and Feathers Exhibition.

◀ A taruke or crayfish pot made from manuka and supplejack vines by Tai Riwai, (Te Whanau-a-Apanui) of Te Kaha (from the collection of Falau Hau-langi, Te Kaha).