

'TIPNEY'

"Look Cherrington do you know this 'Tipney' character — he comes on your bus doesn't he?"

"Yessir. He lives at Pipiwai, about 20 miles further out from me."

"Well, I'd like to talk to him. He's been bunking again. Would you go and find him for me — 4E Room 18."

"Yes sir. Ah, excuse me for saying so sir but his name isn't 'Tipney', its pronounced TEE-PE-NE, the 'PE' and 'NE' as in 'HAIR' without the 'R.'"

"Is that so? Just go and find him for me then."

Poti was related to me and I often felt envious of him because he was a fluent Maori speaker. Whilst I could understand generally, I stumbled along, if I had to reply at any great length. Poti truanted a lot and I was usually sent to find him for Mr Webster who would hand out another detention for not having a note.

I didn't always correct teachers who mispronounced our names but it always brassed me off. Hell, they would get an-

noyed if I continually said theirs wrong —

"Morning Mr Weebstair"

"Morning Mr Fitiheed"

"Morning Mr Beekeet"

Yes, they'd get annoyed.

Mr Webster pronounced my christian name correctly, probably cause his son did. Jim was a prefect too and in the first XV. Groups I spent time with would slowly learn to say it correctly.

"You can say 'Muck' can't you?"

"Sure"

"Well, replace the 'M' with 'P' and add the 'ee' sound — Puckee — but its spelt P-a-k-i.

That generally worked. If it didn't I'd say, "Just call me Puck, as in 'Puck of Pook's Hill' by Rudyard Kipling. Even now I'm not sure whether that does belong to Kipling.

Anyway, I went off and found Poti. We chatted as we walked back. He'd been at a tangi on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. He wondered why I wasn't there. Dad had gone with Uncle

Tono and I'd stayed at home. Poti didn't have a note. He shrugged and said

"The bugger'll give me another detention."

"You want me to tell him about the tangi."

"Nah — I've told him before.

I walked in and sat at my desk, Mr Webster continued writing on the blackboard. Poti stood rather embarrassedly shifting his weight from side to side. Mr Webster kept writing for another couple of minutes and then turned, put his chalk down, looked at Poti and roared in his stentorian voice —

"Well boy! What's your name?"

"Tipney, Sir."

"See!" said Mr Webster glaring at me.

by Te Paki Hone Te Aho Cherrington

TE IWI/People

Promoting the health and cultural well-being of the Maori people through sport is the objective of the newly constituted New Zealand Maori Sports Federation (Inc).

First president, Dr Henare Broughton (Ngai Tahu) says the Federation will operate under the umbrella of the New Zealand Maori Council to achieve those objectives through proper fitness and training programmes.

He's looking now to recruit sports officers willing to be a contact person for their local area. He says the idea is to find out what sports and fitness programmes are catered for in different areas around the country and then to co-ordinate the successful ones.

The sports officers will let their local Maori Committee know what is going on, and in turn the Sports Federation can feed out information through the Maori Committees that comprise the New Zealand Maori Council.

The first annual general meeting of the New Zealand Maori Sports Federation will be in March. The full committee is: president, Dr Henare Broughton; vice-president, Mr Franki Dennis; legal adviser, Miss Pauline Kingi; secretaries, Miss Laurel Tatana and Miss Joy Martin; treasurer, Mr Lance Hadfield; committee, Messers Richard Tamaho, Donald Rameka, Graeme Tatana, Leon Toki, John Forbes, Dennis Hansen and Mesdames June Mariu, Joy-Anne Robinson.

People interested in being sport officers should contact Dr Broughton at Auckland Hospital, Private Bag, Auckland.

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Te Aturangi Nepia Clamp has sculpted a stone figurehead of his great-grandmother. Paku Maraea on the Whakato Marae near Gisborne.

The figurehead was unveiled at the marae's centenary celebrations on New Years Day and continued a family tradition, Paku Maraea opened the marae 100 years ago.

The one and half metre high figurehead has been carved on all sides and includes the mermaid Hine Te Ariki on the front, and the meeting house on the back. Other figures show Hine Te Tama, the goddess of dawn, changing into Hine Nui Te Po, the goddess of night.

Te Aturangi Clamp works at bone carving, painting and kowhaiwhai panels as well as sculpting.

He's an advocate for the recognition of artistic talent on a par with academic talent, suggesting that overseas study scholarships should also go to younger artists developing their art. He says art grants usually go to older people rather than giving younger kids a chance.

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A Hastings Maori girl is now in South Africa spending a year there as a Rotary exchange student.

Vivienne Rarere, a 17 year old at Hastings Girls High School is a guest of an English-speaking family in Durban where she attends Berea Girl's High School.

Vivienne became interested in South Africa after meeting five South African girls at an orientation weekend and being billeted with one. It's believed Vivienne is the first Maori Rotary exchange student to go to South Africa.

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Three objections against proposed boundary changes to Maori electoral districts were received by the commission currently considering objections to proposed boundary changes in New Zealand electoral districts.

Mana Motuhake objected to boundary changes in Northern and Eastern Maori as well as suggesting a name-change of districts to Tai Tokerau, Tai Hauauru, Tai Rawhiti and Te Waipounamu.

Social Credit questioned the validity base of the population figures for each electorate while at the same time objecting to no increase in the number of Maori electorates.

Another objection suggested the formation of a new electorate in central North Island to be called Te Rohe Potae.

The commission is expected to deliver its findings this month.

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The success of the 'Maori of New Zealand' cultural group at the Brisbane Commonwealth Games has already meant plenty of work offers as well as a reawakening of maoritanga amongst the performers.

Linda Morrison, who helped lead the group, says offers for charity shows and private functions continue to come in as well as overseas requests, such as one from Edmonton in Canada.

The group also took part in this years Polynesian Festival at Hastings.

Linda Morrison says back in Australia the group is preparing for the Warana Festival at Brisbane which is an annual cultural extravaganza.