



**Flax planting (Ku Gregory)**

people. Para went on to mention the need for the Society to work closely with such organisations as Maori Affairs, Labour Department, Internal Affairs and any others. Whilst there were expressions of consent over this matter, there was also the will to strongly resist any moves which may threaten the autonomy of the Society. This may be particularly in the area of funding where often there are strings attached.

### Highlights

Other highlights of the conference were the works displayed by various members. Among those displays presented were John Miller with his photographs, Hawkes Bay Community College; Emily Schuster from the Rotorua Arts and Crafts Centre with her kete; Roka Paora with her kete display; Ohaki Enterprises with work from Rangimarie Hetet and her daughter Digger Te Kanawa; Te Awe Davis with her dyed kete; John Hovell with his paintings; Para Matchitt with his submission of woven paper panel. Tuti Tukaokao with his own works plus those of his students at Tauranga; Ivan Ehau with his carved tahaa; Tungai Baker with her different, innovative collapsible fruit bowl and works from various members of the Otaki ope; June Grant's portraiture; Toi Maihi's mountings on taniko designs and Frankie Kahukiwa's carved bone. I apologise if I have left out any work which was displayed.

For yet another year the concert was a burst of creative energy — new poems, new songs, new satire, with items of the traditional. The concert was notable for its vibrant energy and also for the much appreciated visit of

Peter Tapsell, who made a point of calling in after a long draining trip to the South Island. In my opinion the highlights of the concert were two satirical happenings — one from the Auckland Group and one from the Rotorua Group.

The Auckland group's happening was a satire on "Korero Mai" by Harakeke Productions with Tainui Stephens, Raymond Henare, Adrian Faulkner, Wiki Oman, Tui Cherrington, Paki Cherrington and Mangere College Art students, Ruth and Leti. The satire was energetic, vital and had an enormous sense of fun.

The Rotorua happening was a satire on the puppet-like appearance that some Maori arts have adopted in the performing arts field, it was also a satire on American tourist and what they see as a typical Maori. They then did a personification of the growing of the flax. Their group Ngati Hau E Wha of Waiariki included Kathy Dewes, Lincoln Fairhall, Paora Maxwell, Donna Gardner, Tom Rangihuna, Puhirangiaho, Rawiri Tipene-Leach, Pio Tamahori, Tuti Paul and June Northcroft. Their presentation was especially effective because it was performed in Maori.

Others taking part in the concert were: Reverend Kingi Hail Ihaka who did his rendition of "This is the house that Haki built"; the Delamere Sisters singing; Viv Gregory with his group doing their pieces of poetry; Ron Baker performing a piano piece he had composed called "Flax Rhapsody"; Ahurangi with their reggae type rendering of Hone Tuwhare's "No Ordinary Sun"; Trixie Menzies read some of her poetry, followed by a song sung by Tui Cherrington which was written by Kohine Ponika.

Tainui Stephens was next with an apakura written by himself for an uncle followed by a waiata he had written for his son; Arapera Blank recited poetry inspired by flax panels and plaiting; Paki Cherrington read poetry written by Keri Kaa and Te Pere Curtis; Rosemary Kohu and John De Roo read poems from their recent publication "Broken Chant"; Ngati Kahungunu presented a polished performance of the old classic "Kotiro Maori" and "Ruawhoro", a waiata composed especially for the opening of one of their whareniui; Ngata Memorial College did an old Ngati Porou classic "Paikea" with vim and vitality; Hone and Mere Ngata read poetry and performed a blues number; Rangimoana Taylor did a slice of life number and the evening was completed with readings from Rawiri Paratene, Rowley Habib and Hone Tuwhare.

The hui was again energising and sparked off further activity in the regions. The Auckland rohe begin their monthly gatherings with the first at "Te Marae O Paki" on the 25th June. Wellington region begin on the 2nd July, with their meeting at the Wellington Arts Centre to form their own regional committee and to start fundraising.

The 1984 conference venue was not decided at this year's hui, but there was intense friendly rivalry between Wanganui and Otaki both wanting to stage next years hui. It has been left to the National Executive to make the decision as to where the next Annual Hui will be held.

### Hone Tuwhare and Alice Reutini

