

Rangatira honoured

The descendants of Wi-Parata Te Kakakura, Rangatira and M.P., will be holding a reunion at the end of the year.

Wi Parata Te Kakakura died in 1906. A descendant of the Ngati-toa and Ngati-awa tribes, he lived most of his life around Porirua, Kapiti Coast and Waikanae.

Wi Parata was a member of the House of Representatives from 1870 to 1879 and the native member of the executive council.

He had a large family who have many ties in the Gold Coast District. The reunion will be held at the Whakarongotai Marae, Waikanae, from 31 December 1983 to 2nd January 1984.

If any further information about the reunion is required contact Mr T.W. Parata Wellington 637 593.

People not buildings

Community Health Nurses met in Auckland recently to give their support to people-orientated health projects rather than building programmes.

The nurses supported a Maori call for a say in the handing out of public health money. The nurses felt the needs of the Maori community were more important than present government plans to extend buildings, such as the Mangere Health Centre.

The support came from a study day held by the community nurses section of the New Zealand Nurses Association. Three Maori women, Donna Awatere, Waireti Rolleston and Georgina Kirby spoke on the theme, *Waere i te ara* — Clear the way.

The central theme looked at Maori sovereignty in relation to Maori health. The study group resolved to examine the effect on Maori health of lack of Maori sovereignty.

Ngarimu VC & 28th (Maori) Battalion post-graduate scholarship

Applications for this scholarship are invited from students of Maori descent who, having gained a masters degree, desire to study in New Zealand or overseas either for some higher degree or in some special research project.

Value: \$4000 a year plus a return economy air fare. An additional grant of up to \$200 a year may be paid to a married person with dependents.

Tenure: Up to two years.

Application forms are available from the Secretary, Ngarimu VC Scholarship Fund Board, c/o Department of Education, Private Bag, Wellington. Applications close with the Secretary on 1 December 1983.

Applicants may be required to attend an interview in Wellington in January 1984. Return fares will be refunded by the Board.



Metiria (left) and Aropeta Tamou — celebrating 50 years' happiness in an arranged marriage. They hold photographs of their grandmothers Parepeehi Kawe (left) and Wikitoria Tamumu. Photo Jenny Scown.

Resigned to marriage

by Sonya Haggie

When Metiria Anderson and Aropeta Tamou met 50 years ago they were resigned to the fact they were going to be married.

The decision was taken out of their hands by their families who arranged that they would marry, so they did.

And this year they will have been married for 50 years.

The shy, quiet Te Kuiti couple married at Kai Iwi, near Wanganui, in 1933 in a small farm house and without any fuss.

That's the way they wanted to celebrate their wedding anniversary in May, but they had to accept the fact that their grandchildren were going to make a "fuss" over it.

When they were told they were to marry Aropeta was 21 and Metiria was 18.

Their first meeting was remembered with a laugh.

Said Aropeta: "We were both wondering how it was going to work out. But it came out all right. It has been beautiful."

Neither thought twice about not marrying the partner their families had chosen because arranged marriages then were not unusual.

"And in those days you listened to your parents," Metiria said.

"We've had our ups and downs like everybody else I suppose but, well, we've lasted 50 years."

She said their marriage had lasted because they had learned to love one another — a love that today is very obvious.

"And I think that's the main thing in life — love. Loving your children, your family...."

They say that in spite of the success of their marriage they would not arrange the marriages of their children because times had changed and the old Maori tradition had died.

The couple have one daughter, Wikitoria Bell of Hamilton, and an adopted son, Sonny, who lives in Australia.

Soon after they married they moved to Te Kuiti and farmed for about 40 years before retiring to a house in town.

Metiria was born in Te Kuiti and was one of the first students at Te Kuiti's St Joseph's Convent School.

Aropeta is from Wanganui and is a former member of the Ratana Brass Band, which travelled to San Francisco, US, in 1927.