

TE TIROHANGA I TE KÖREROTANGA O TE REO RANGATIRA I ROTO I NGĀ KĀINGA MĀORI ME NGĀ ROHE

Survey of Language Use in Maori Households
and Communities

PĀNUI WHAKAMŌHIO
INFORMATION BULLETIN

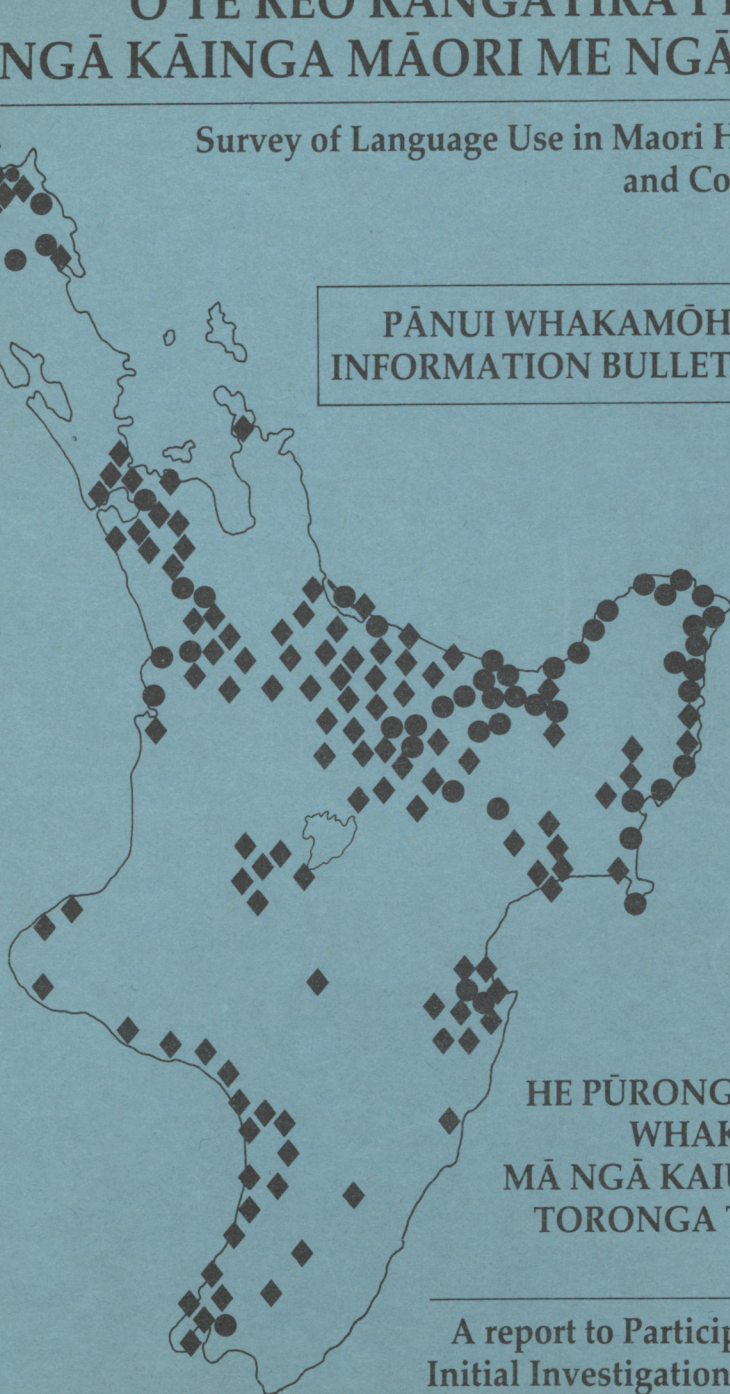
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Localities in which
ten or more households
were visited

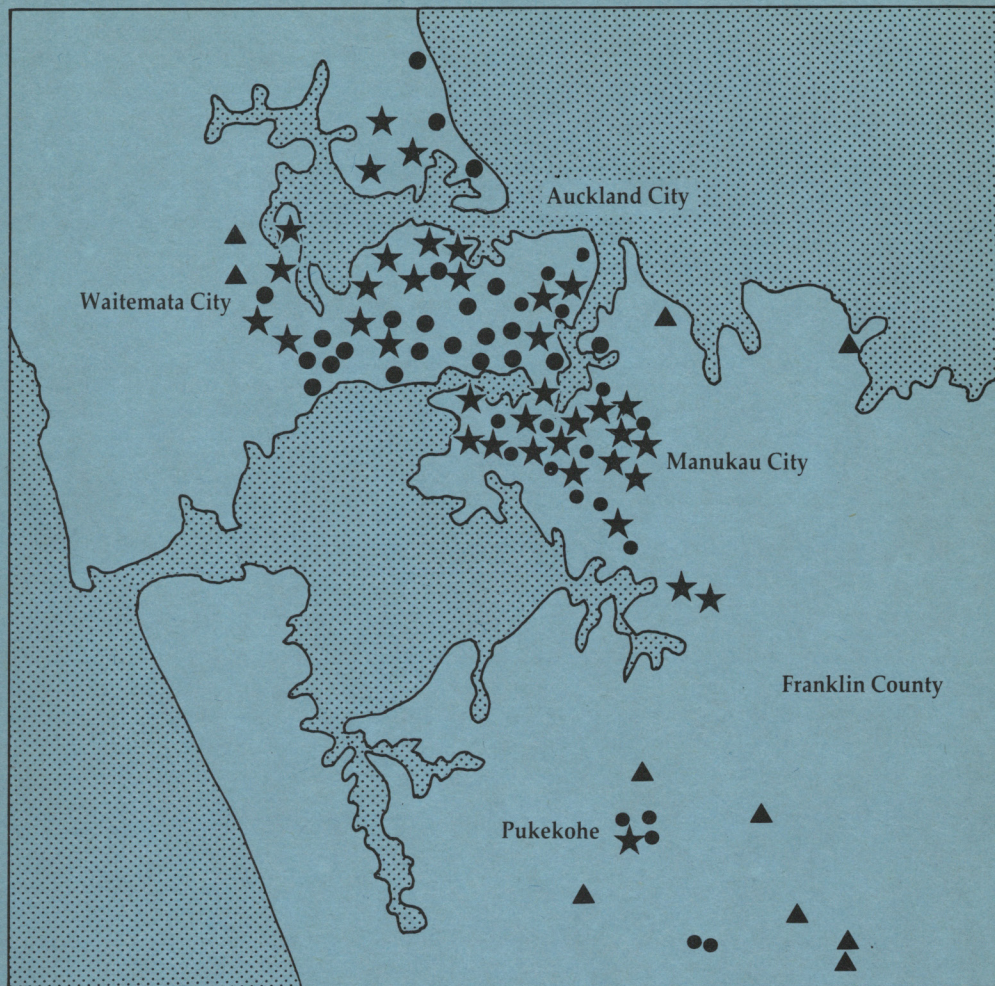
● Two thirds or
more of adults were
fluent speakers of
Maori

◆ Less than two
thirds of adults were
fluent speakers of
Maori



HE PŪRONGORONGO
WHAKAMŌHIO
MĀ NGĀ KAIURU KI TE
TORONGA TUATAHI,
1973-1978

A report to Participants in the
Initial Investigation, 1973-1978



Maori Speakers in the Greater Auckland Area

This map shows the approximate number of people able to understand Maori with ease in the Greater Auckland Area, based on the results of the Socio-Linguistic Survey (1974-76). Each star ★ represents 500 people, and each dot ● a further 100 people. Small towns and rural localities visited in the survey with less than 100 speakers are represented by a triangle ▲.

Knowledge of Spoken Maori (1975)

The Maori Language in Henderson, New Lynn and Districts

Fieldwork for the survey of the use of language in Maori communities in Henderson and several other West Auckland districts was carried out in January 1975. For the purposes of this report, the districts have been combined into three groups: (1) New Lynn, Glen Eden, Henderson; (2) Kelston, Titirangi, Green Bay; (3) Massey, Lincoln, Ranui. (A separate report, No. 62 in this series, has been prepared for Te Atatu.)

Five interviews were carried out in Maori, eight in English and Maori, and the remaining 83 in English.

Altogether, 93 households were visited: 34 in the Kelston, Titirangi, Green Bay area, with a total population of 205, 197 of whom were of Maori descent (about 10 percent of the area's total Maori population at that time); 34 households were also visited in Massey, Lincoln and Ranui with a total population of 182 (172 of Maori descent, about 7 percent of the Maori population); and in New Lynn, Glen Eden and Henderson 25 were visited with a total of 142 people (139 of Maori descent, about five percent of the Maori population).

Results of the Linguistic Survey

Iwi Affiliation

Our informants mentioned 13 major iwi to which they or the members of their households belonged. Of these, the largest by far was Ngapuhi which had a total of 261 members, about half the total number of people included in the survey. In the Massey/Lincoln/Ranui area, 29 people (about 16 percent of the people included in the survey in that area), were of Te Arawa descent.



Ability to Speak and Understand Maori

The information in the table tells us that very few people included in the survey under the age of 25 could speak or understand Maori well at that time. Out of 344 young adults and children, only 11 could speak well, and only 30 could understand well. Just about all the people over the age of 45 could understand Maori easily, as could approximately half the 25 to 44 year olds.

While over half the people included in the survey had no knowledge at all of spoken Maori, in each area over four fifths of these were under the age of 25.

This is a purely imaginary map of the district covered by this report, on which the households included in the survey have been located to show the Maori language resources of the area.

Knowledge of Spoken Maori (1975)

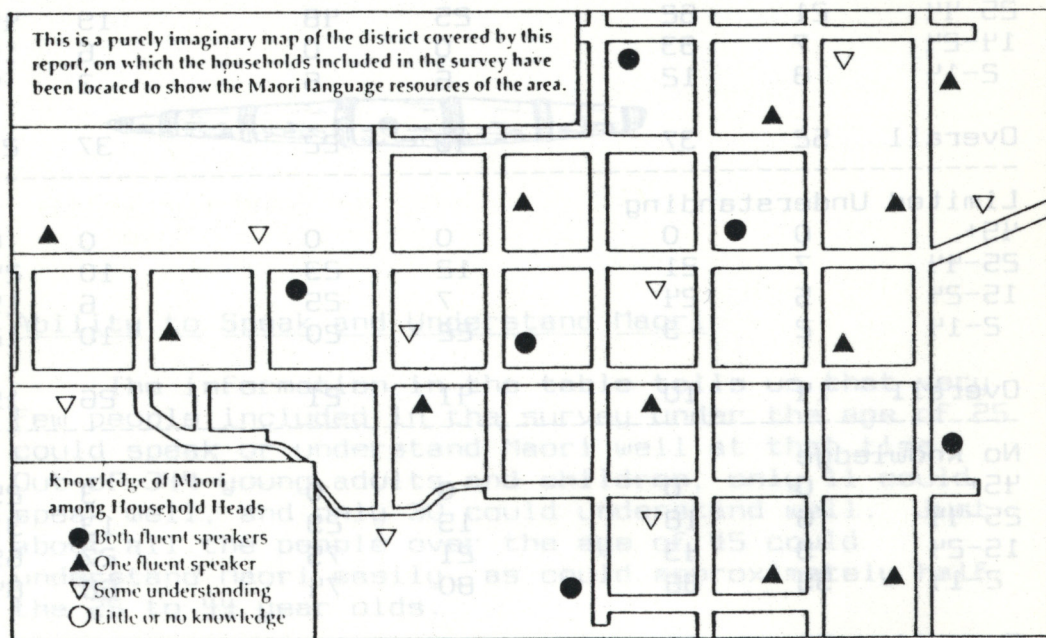
	Henderson/Glen Eden Grey Lynn		Kelston/Titirangi Green Bay		Massey/Lincoln Ranui	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
<hr/>						
Fluent Speakers						
45+	14	8	12	100	8	67
25-44	17	50	15	29	15	36
14-24	2	10	0	0	3	4
2-14	4	6	0	0	3	4
Overall	37	27	27	14	28	16
<hr/>						
Understand Easily						
45+	16	100	12	100	9	75
25-44	21	62	25	48	19	45
14-24	7	33	0	0	6	15
2-14	8	12	6	6	3	4
Overall	52	37	43	22	37	21
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Limited Understanding						
45+	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-44	7	21	12	23	10	24
15-24	5	24	7	25	6	15
2-14	2	3	22	20	10	12
Overall	14	10	41	21	26	15
<hr/>						
No Knowledge						
45+	0	0	0	0	3	25
25-44	6	18	15	29	13	31
15-24	9	43	21	75	27	69
2-14	59	86	80	74	68	84
Overall	74	53	116	58	111	64
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(Numbers and percentages refer to members of households visited; percentages have been rounded to nearest whole number)

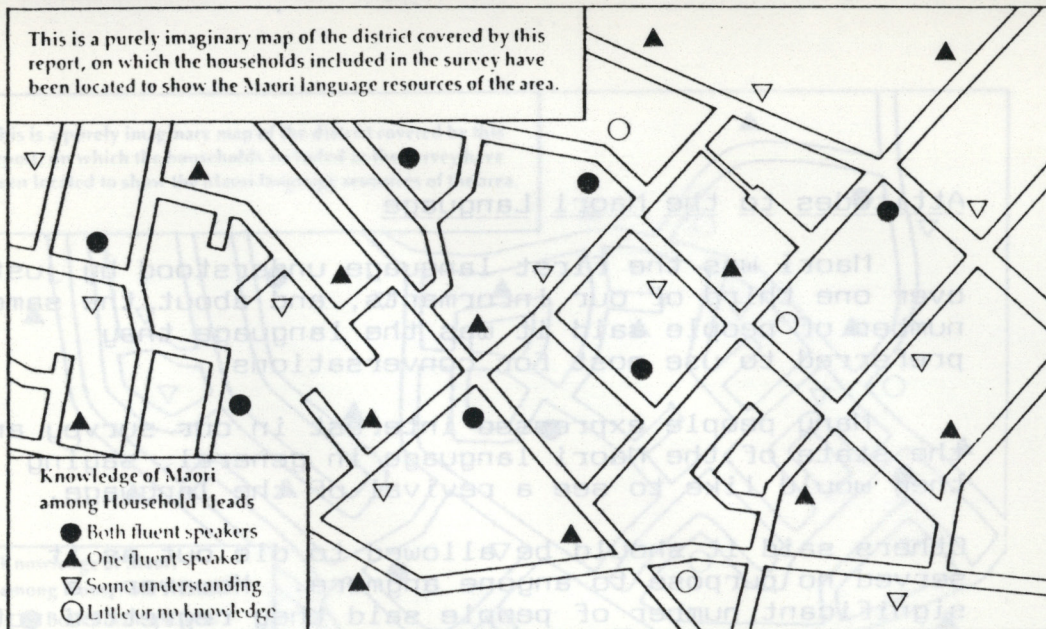
However, if because of the very low numbers of children and young adults who could speak or understand well.

The Maori Language in the Household

Our interviewers visited 80 households with dependent children. Of these, we were told Maori was the main language in only one household. Of the 11 households without children Maori was used in only one household. The rest of the households visited used mostly English, with a few using Maori and English equally and one using Maori when visitors who spoke the language were present.



New Lynn, Glen Eden, Henderson



Kelson, Titirangi, Green Bay

The Maori Language in the Community

English was the main language used for talking with neighbours, children and visitors. Some informants reported using at least some Maori when talking with children but said that the children tended to reply more in English. Over two fifths of the people we visited said they used both Maori and English when they had visitors, but only one fifth reported using any Maori with neighbours.

However, Maori was more likely to be used in religious ceremonies and on the marae in both formal and informal situations.

If any two adults included in our survey were to have met unexpectedly at the time of the survey, the chances of their being able to have a conversation in Maori would have been about one in four. However, if one or both of them were children the chances of a conversation in Maori would have been practically nil because of the very low numbers of children and young adults who could speak or understand well.

Attitudes to the Maori Language

Maori was the first language understood by just over one third of our informants, and about the same number of people said it was the language they preferred to use most for conversations.

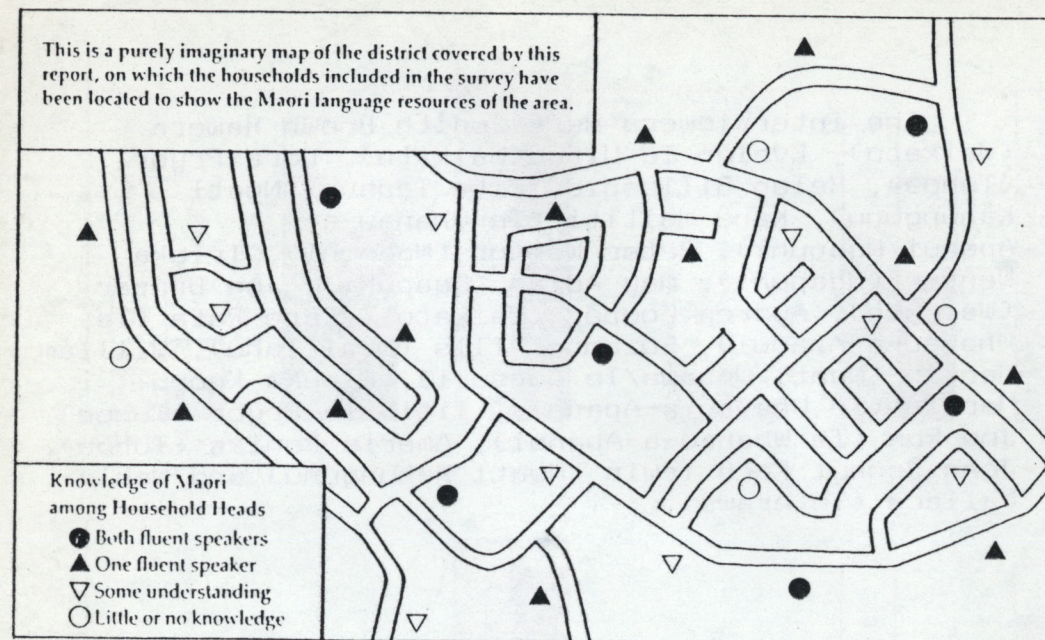
Many people expressed interest in our survey and the state of the Maori language in general, saying they would like to see a revival of the language.

Others said it should be allowed to die out as it served no purpose to anyone anymore. However, a significant number of people said they regretted not learning Maori before and would like to learn to speak it now. They would also like their children to learn. One person said that the reason the language is dying is that young people do not speak it. Perhaps, with this in mind, a large number of people expressed support for the teaching of Maori in schools.

A few people commented on the embarrassment they felt at not knowing how to speak Maori. One woman told us how she had been laughed at when she tried to speak Maori and unfortunately this had put her off learning further.

Some people had decided never to teach their children Maori because of the punishment they themselves received at school for speaking Maori (over two fifths of the household heads we interviewed said they had been punished for speaking Maori at school). One woman who had been strapped at school for speaking Maori, had vowed never to teach her children Maori but had changed her mind about it since.

This is a purely imaginary map of the district covered by this report, on which the households included in the survey have been located to show the Maori language resources of the area.

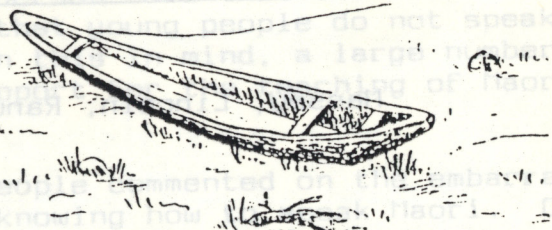


Massey, Lincoln, Ranui

Conclusion

Although English was the language used most of the time by Maori people in these West Auckland districts in the 1970's, quite a high proportion of the adults had Maori as their first language. At that time, the opportunities to use Maori in the city were few, and children especially had little reason to speak any language other than English. Many of the people we spoke to were unhappy about this, and did not want Maori to die out. New developments, like the kohanga reo and the gradual development of bilingual schools and Maori language radio and television broadcasting, may help these people to make their wish for a strong revival of Maori as a living language in these city communities come true.

The interviewers were Judith Brown Hawera (Waikato), Evelyn Te Uira (Waikato), Dora Pryor (Tuhoe), Helen Gillespie, Rita Tapene (Ngati Kahungunu), Kahu Waititi (Te Whanau-a-Apanui/Ngapuhi), Peter Wensor (Ngapuhi), Iriaka Wensor (Ngapuhi), May Adlam (Ngapuhi), Joe Draper (Waikato), Audrey Cooper (Waikato), Pare Rata (Te Whanau-a-Apanui), Suzanne Hills (Ngai Tahu), William Martin (Ngati Manawa/Te Aupouri), Ripeka Koopu Martin (Te Whanau-a-Apanui), Titihuia Pryor (Tuhoe), Joe Rua (Te Whanau-a-Apanui), Ameria Ponika (Tuhoe), John Ranby, Pare Irwin (Ngati Kahungunu) and Mahia Wallace (Te Arawa).

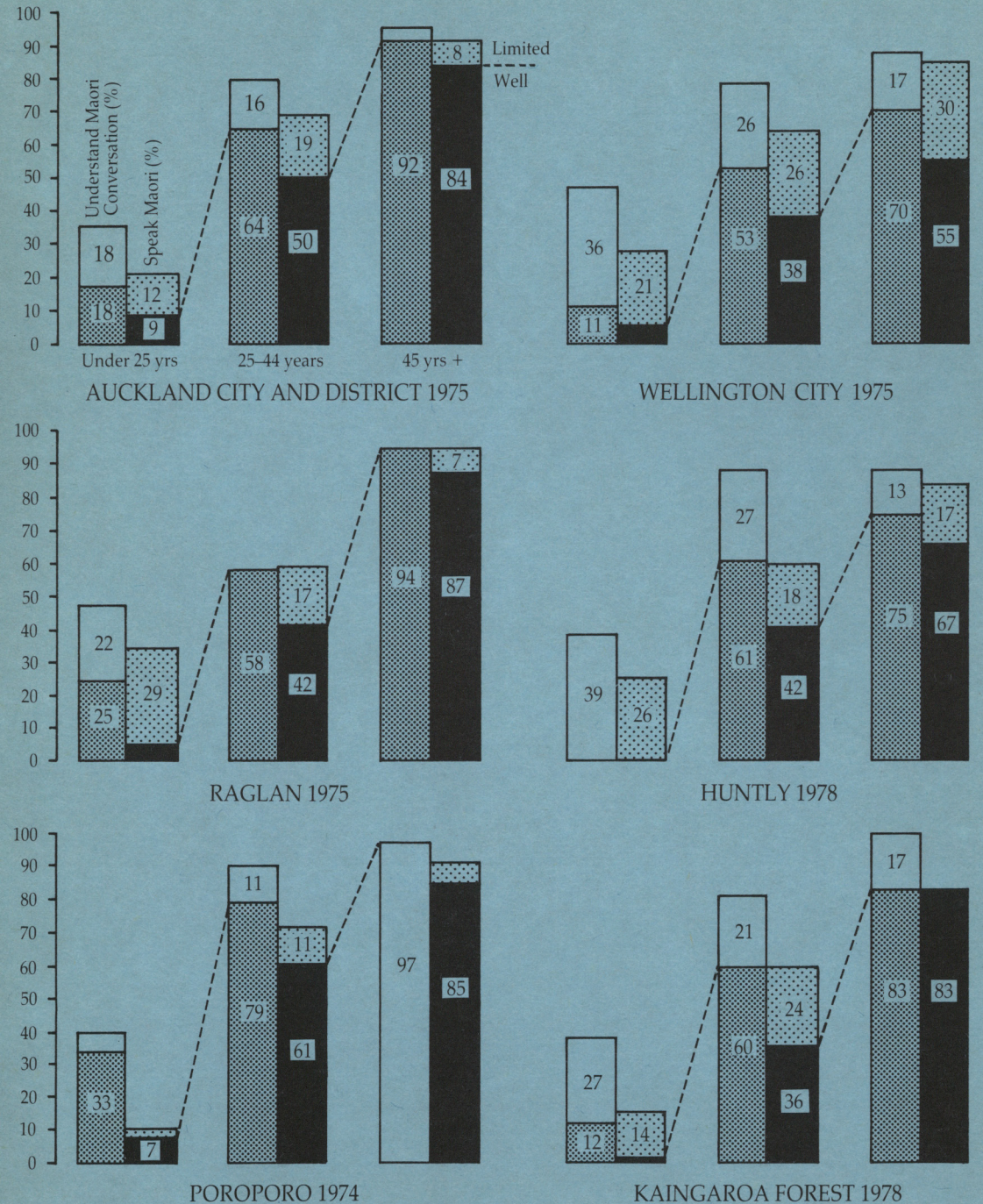


This report was prepared by:

Paula Martin
(Ngai Tahu/Rangitane)

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Knowledge of Maori Language by Age Groups in Selected Areas at the Time of the Linguistic Census



The Survey of Language Use in Maori Households and Communities

The census of language use on which this report is based is the first part of a general study of the place of the Maori language in Maori communities, its structure, how it is spoken and written under modern conditions, and its relevance to New Zealand as a nation. This study is being conducted by the Maori Unit of the New Zealand Council for Educational Research. Fieldwork for the census phase began in Whangaroa County and Te Tii in August 1973, and ended in August 1978. Follow-up studies and studies in additional communities will be undertaken from time to time (the first of these was conducted in Waverley in August 1979).

The map on the front cover shows the approximate localities in which ten or more households were visited between 1973 and 1979. Since the linguistic census was completed, the major task of the Unit has been the analysing and reporting of the information collected. At the same time, however, studies of the structure and usage of the Maori language have commenced; these will result in a series of handbooks and other materials for teachers of Maori (including parents), and for people wishing to learn the language. An example of this is *The First Basic Maori Word List*, published in 1982. Other publications have included background studies for bilingual education projects, and reports on policy issues affecting the Maori language and Maori speakers – for example, the legal status of Maori in New Zealand.

The Purpose of This Report

This report has been prepared for the people who participated in the original survey and who provided the information on which it is based. It is hoped that it will encourage people to compare the situation now with that at the time covered by the report, and that this information will provide a basis for discussion and debate about what action, if any, each community might take to ensure that the Maori language is at least as important in the twenty-first century as it was in the 1970s.

Further Information

One copy of this report is provided free to each person interviewed during the linguistic census in the area concerned, and to local schools, Maori Language Boards, and Maori Committees. Further information about the linguistic survey, and lists of publications, may be obtained from the Maori Unit, New Zealand Council for Educational Research, P.O. Box 3237, Wellington.



Ngā Mihi/Special Thanks

Our first thanks must go to the 6,500 Maori families who entrusted us with the information presented in this series of reports. Fieldwork for the survey was funded substantially by contributions from the Lottery Board of Control, Fletcher Holdings Limited, the Maori Purposes Fund, and the Maori Education Foundation. The coding and analysis of the data was supported initially by a grant from Fletcher Holdings Limited, and further financial assistance for these purposes has been provided by Mobil Oil N.Z. Limited, the Post Primary Teachers Association, the New Zealand Educational Institute and the Raukawa Trustees. The writing of these reports was made possible by the generosity of the J.R. McKenzie Trust.