

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

Survey of Language Use in Maori Households
and Communities

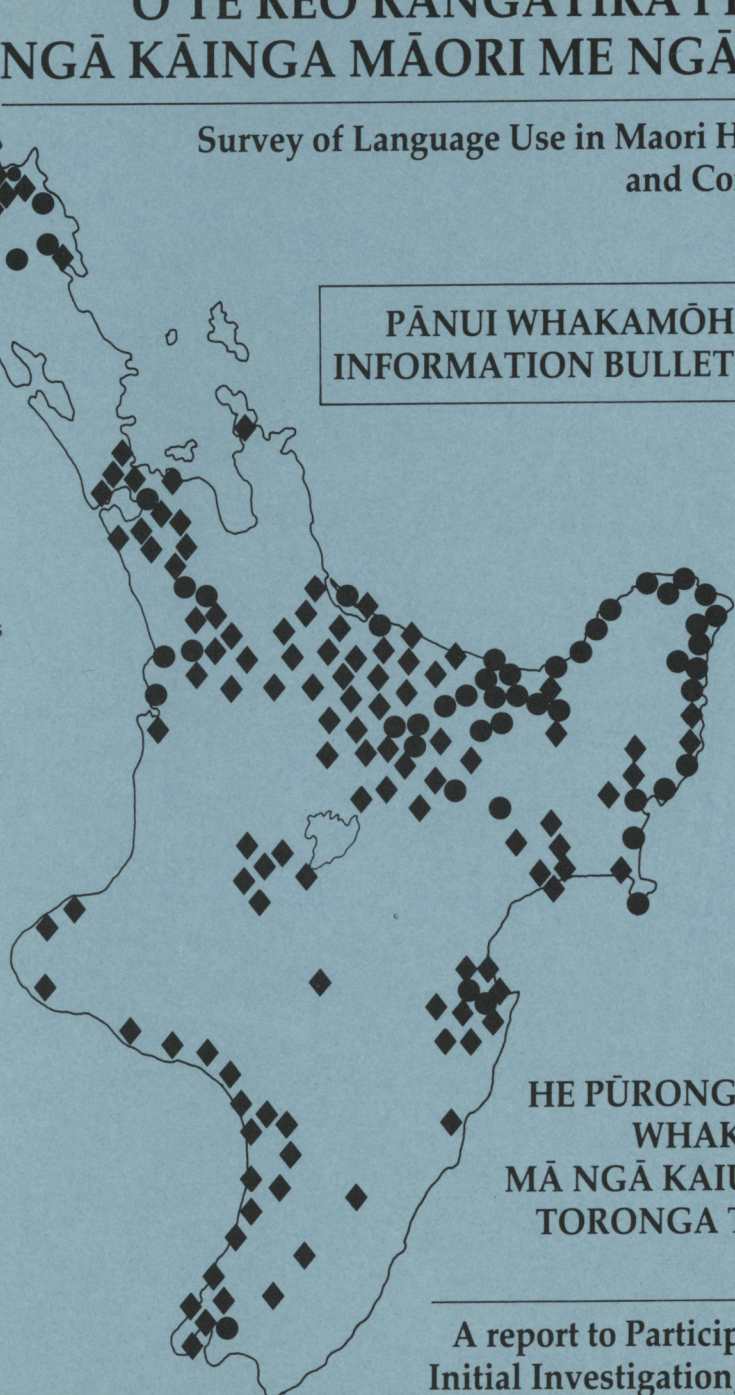
PĀNUI WHAKAMŌHIO
INFORMATION BULLETIN

16

Localities in which
ten or more households
were visited

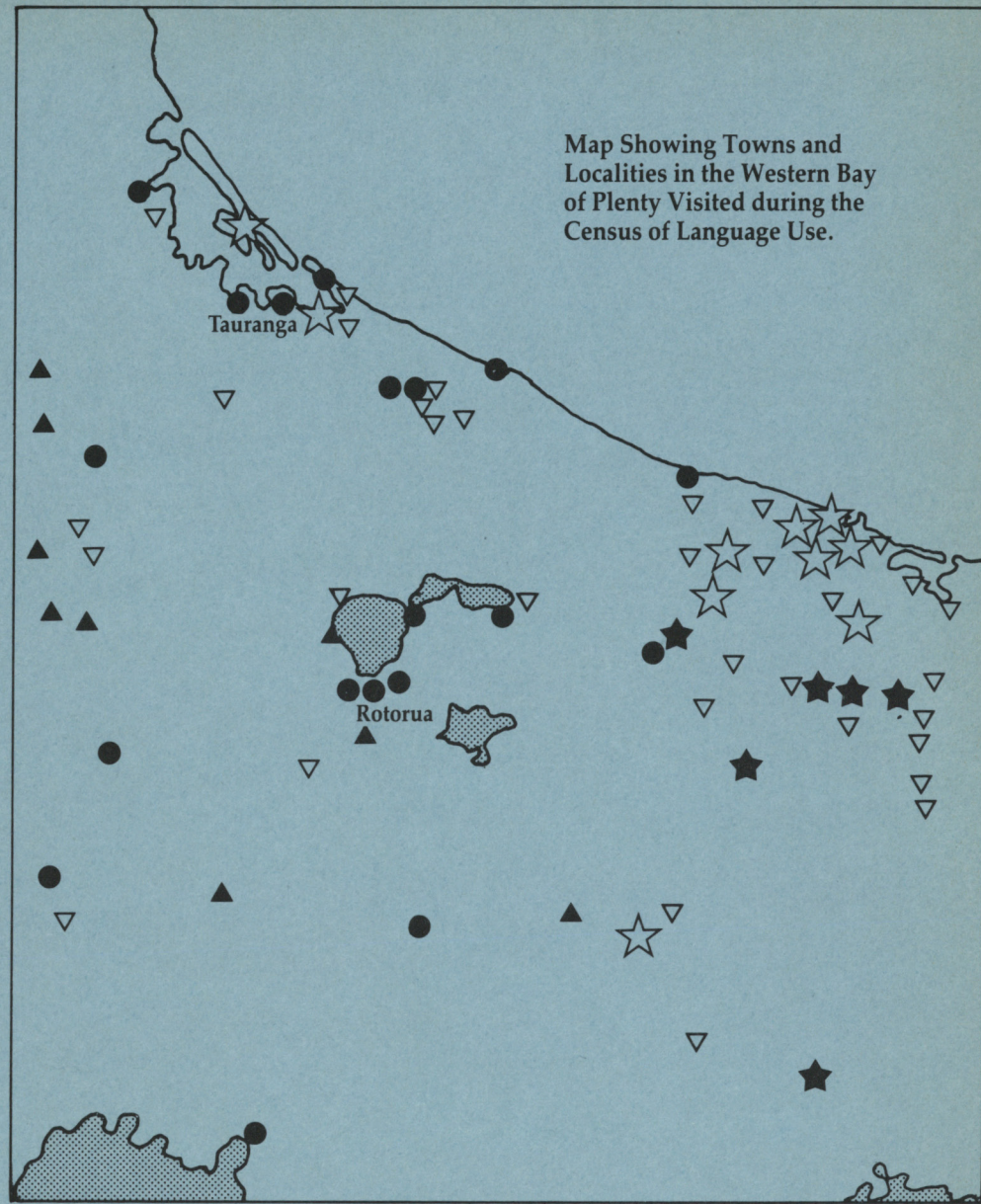
● Two thirds or
more of adults were
fluent speakers of
Maori

◆ 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



Percentage of Fluent Speakers of Maori among Persons Aged 25 and over in Households Visited.

- ★ 90% or more
- ☆ 66% to 89%
- 46% to 65%
- ▲ 45% or less
- ▽ Fewer than 10 households visited

THE MAORI LANGUAGE IN RUATOKI

Fieldwork for the census of language use in Maori communities took place in 29 households in Ruatoki in January 1974. The interviewers were Broncho Te Kiri (Tuhoe), Willie Martin (Ngati Manawa/Te Aupouri), Charee Ogle (Ngapuhi), Maku Potae (Ngati Porou), Carol Hindmarsh Ngawati (Ngati Porou), Joe Rua (Te Whanau-a-Apanui), Yvonne Siggleko (Ngaiterangi), Merepeka Wharepapa (Te Whanau-a-Apanui), Helen O'Donohue and Lynda West.

Seventeen interviews were carried out partly or entirely in Maori; the remainder were in English.

Number of People Involved

The households surveyed had a total population of 181, all of whom were of Maori descent. This was about half the total Maori population of the district at the time.

RESULTS OF THE LINGUISTIC SURVEY

Iwi Affiliation

The people interviewed mentioned 5 major iwi to which they or members of their households belonged. However, almost all (155 or 86 percent) belonged to the Tuhoe tribe.

Use Of Maori Language In The Household

Maori was the main language used in most of the 29 households visited. Twenty-seven of the households had dependent children, and Maori was entirely or mostly used in 24 of them. Two

households used Maori and English for an equal amount of time, while in the remaining households with children only English was used.

In the two childless households, Maori was spoken all the time in one, while members of the other household used Maori when speaking with Maori visitors.

Ability to Speak and Understand Maori

The information in the table on page 2 shows that Ruatoki had one of the highest levels of speaking ability and understanding of Maori in the country. From the youngest to the oldest, almost everyone could understand Maori. There were a few children, however, who could not speak the language well.

KNOWLEDGE OF SPOKEN MAORI IN RUATOKI, 1974

Age Group	Fluent Speakers		Understand Easily		Limited Understanding		No Knowledge	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
45 and over	28	100	28	100	0		0	
25-44	26	96	27	100	0		0	
15-24	20	95	21	100	0		0	
2-14	83	87	95	96	1	1	3	3
Overall	157	92	171	98	1	1	3	2

(Numbers and percentages refer to those interviewed in January 1974; percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number).

The Maori Language In The Community

Maori was also the main language spoken outside the home. It was used for all kinds of situations and experiences in daily life -- with neighbours, friends and family, with workmates, at religious services and, of course, for all marae hui. As almost all the community, from the children to the old people, knew Maori well, if any two people met unexpectedly they would almost certainly understand each other if they spoke Maori.

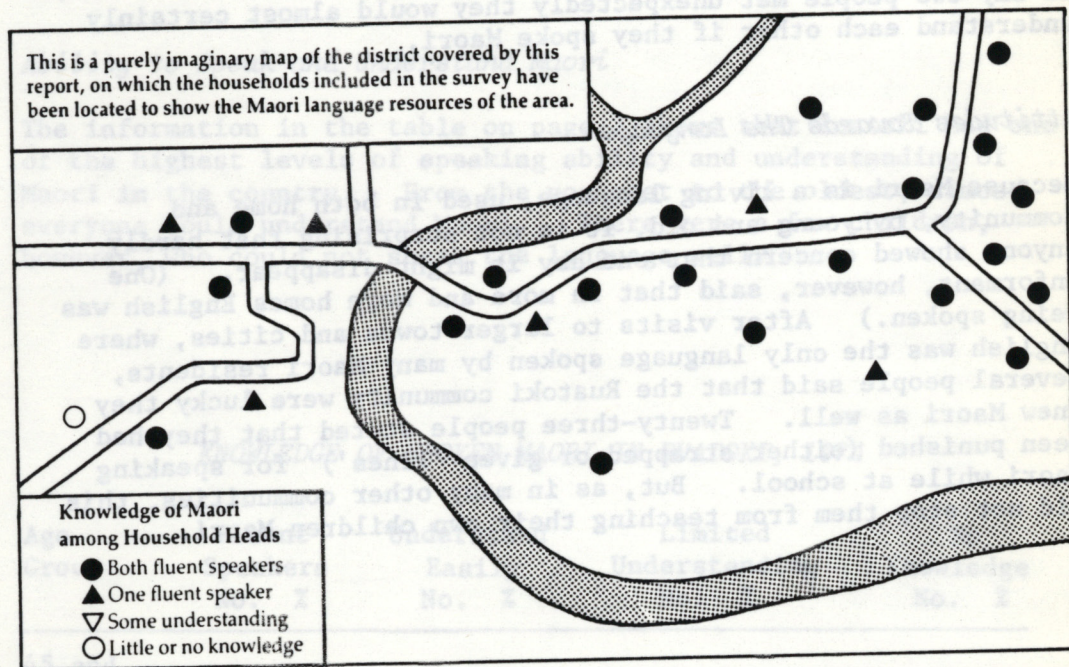
Attitudes Towards The Language

Because Maori is a living language, used in both home and community, by young and old, it is not surprising that hardly anyone showed concern that one day it might disappear. (One informant, however, said that in more and more homes English was being spoken.) After visits to larger towns and cities, where English was the only language spoken by many Maori residents, several people said that the Ruatoki community were lucky they knew Maori as well. Twenty-three people stated that they had been punished (either strapped or given 'lines') for speaking Maori while at school. But, as in many other communities, this did not stop them from teaching their own children Maori.

CONCLUSION

The linguistic survey has shown that Ruatoki is one of the few remaining places in New Zealand where Maori is the main language used by all age groups. Nearly all the people surveyed (92 per cent) were fluent speakers of Maori, who used the language confidently in many social situations both in the home and in the community. At the time of the survey, 87 percent of the children were fluent speakers of Maori, and this is why Ruatoki Primary

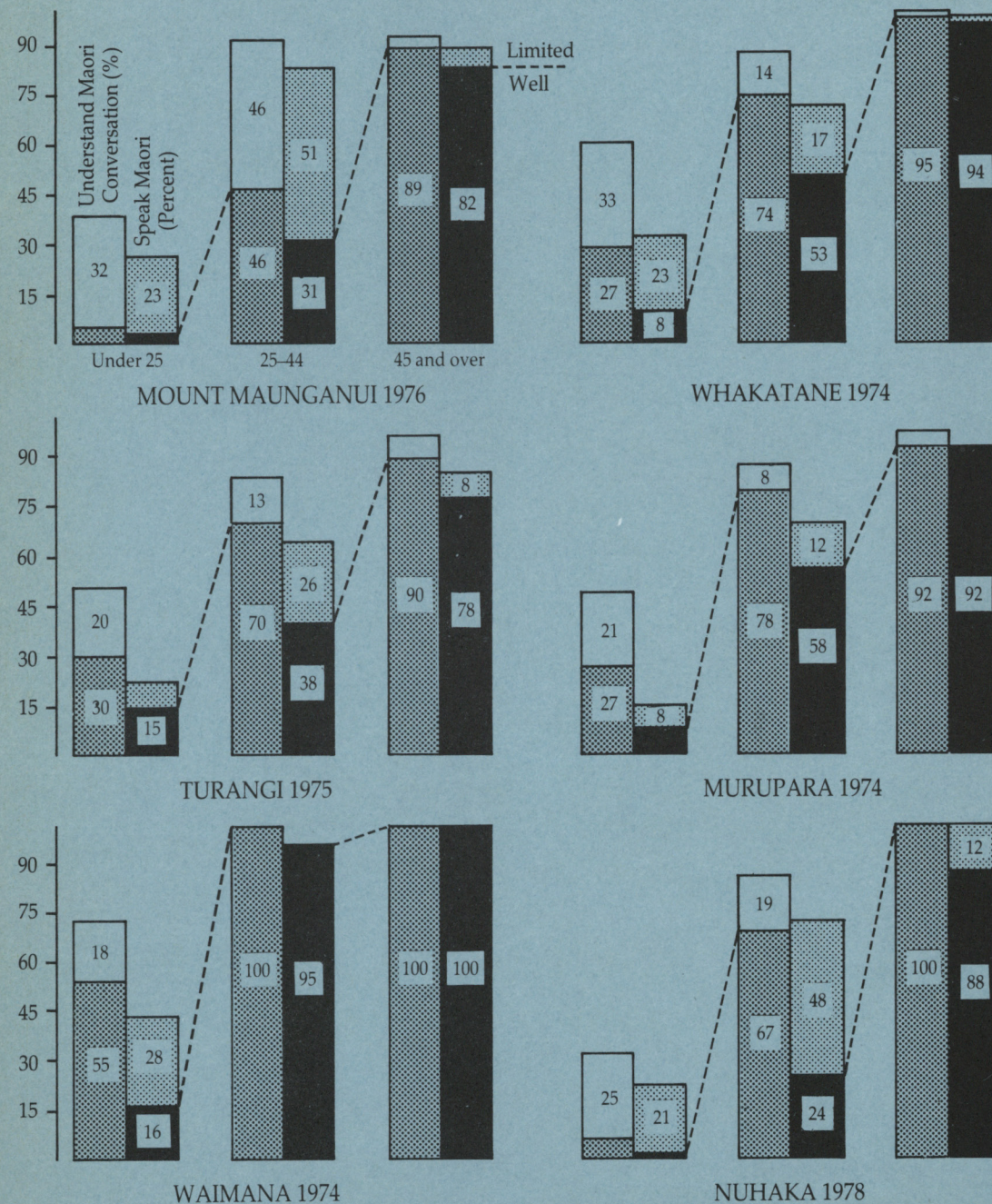
School was chosen, in 1976, as New Zealand's first official bilingual school. By using Maori as a language of teaching and learning, the school is playing an important part in keeping Maori alive in a community in which English is being used more and more by some households.



This report was prepared by Lee Smith (Ngati-Kahungunu).

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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.