

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

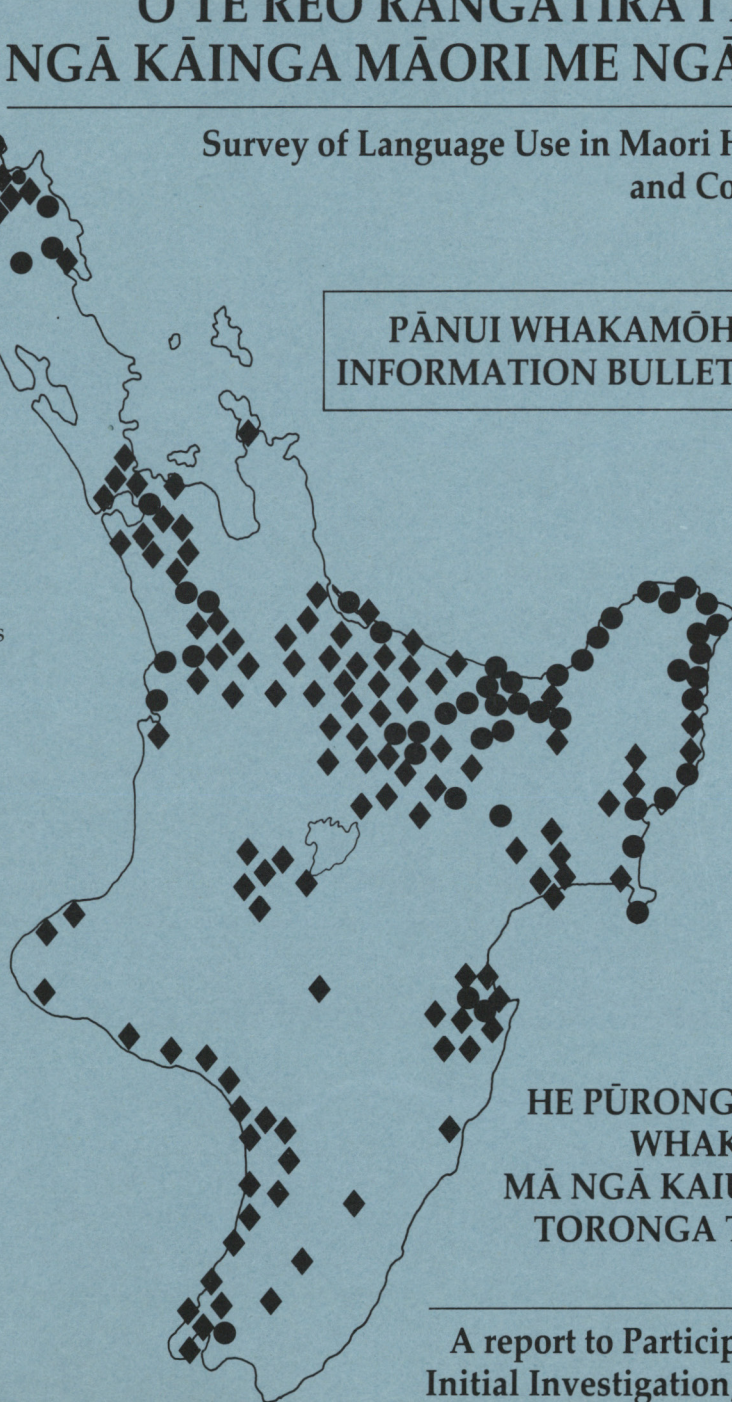
PĀNUI WHAKAMŌHIO
INFORMATION BULLETIN

41

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

THE MAORI LANGUAGE IN ONEPU

Fieldwork for the census of language use in Maori communities took place in 18 households in Onepu in January 1974. Ten interviews were carried out partly or entirely in Maori; the rest were in English. The interviewers were Willie Martin (Ngati Manawa/Te Aupouri), Joe Rua (Te Whanau-a-Apanui), Peter and Iriaka Wensor (Ngapuhi), Jenny Watson, Ripeka Koopu Martin (Te Whanau-a-Apanui), Broncho Te Kiri (Tuhoe), Helen O'Donoghue and Lynda West.

The households surveyed had a total population of 99, and 98 of these people were of Maori descent. This was a third of the Maori population of Onepu at the time.

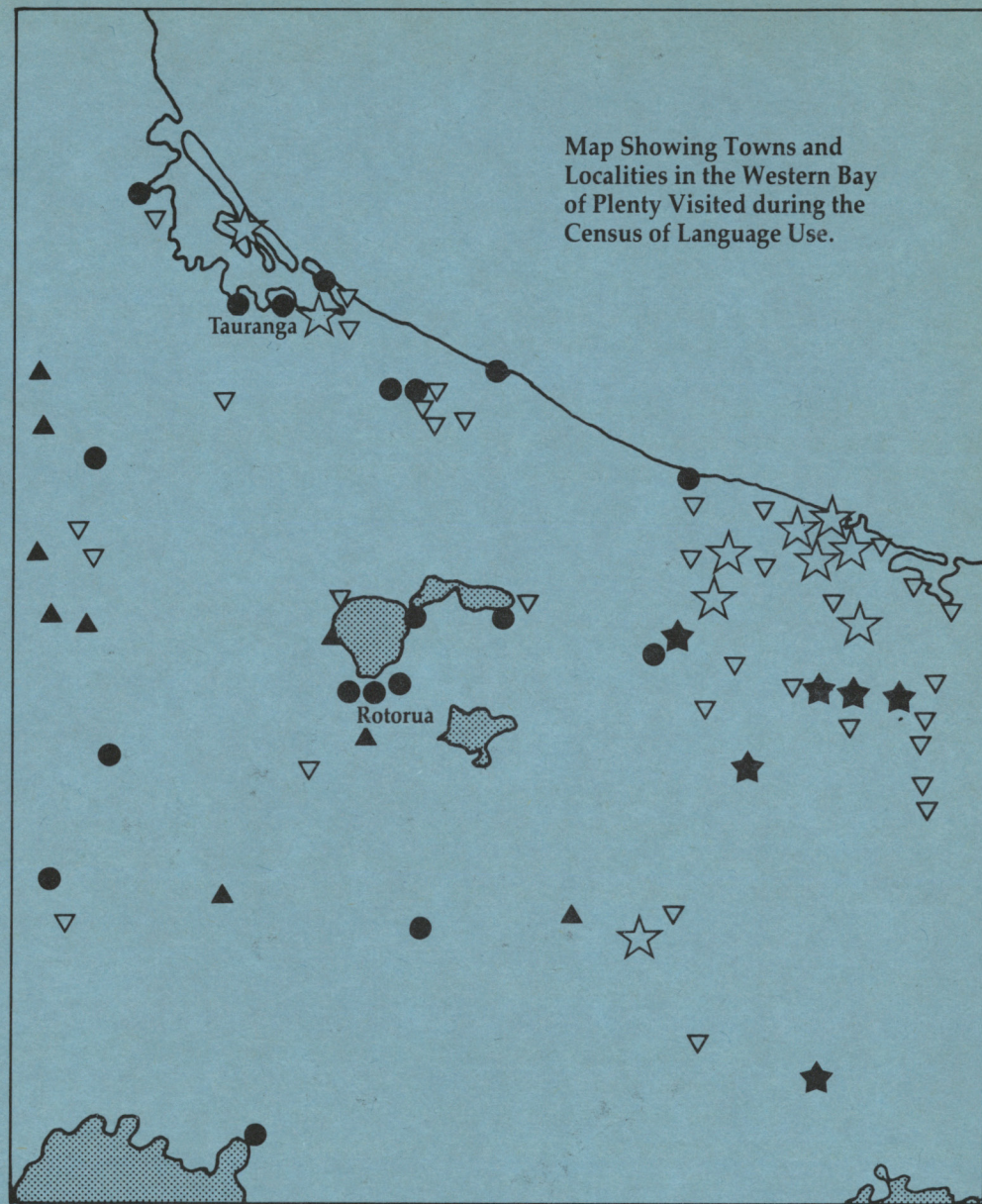
RESULTS OF THE LINGUISTIC SURVEY

Iwi Affiliation

The people interviewed mentioned 8 major iwi to which they or members of their households belonged. Sixty-three people, nearly two-thirds of the total, belonged to Ngati Tuwharetoa. Ngati Awa with 20 members was the next largest tribal group.

Ability To Speak And Understand Maori

The table on the next page shows that more than half the people surveyed could speak Maori well. They included nearly all the adults over 25 and more than a third of the people under 25. Almost three-quarters of them easily understood spoken Maori. At the time of the survey, over a third of the children under the age of 15 spoke Maori well, and more than half of them understood the language with ease. This was a hopeful sign for the future of the Maori language in the area.



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

KNOWLEDGE OF SPOKEN MAORI IN ONEPU (1974)

Age Group	Fluent Speakers		Understand Easily		Limited Understanding		No Knowledge	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
45 & over	15	94	15	94	1	6	0	
25-44	14	100	14	100	0		0	
15-24	9	35	18	69	3	12	5	19
2-14	13	37	21	57	1	3	15	41
Overall	51	56	68	73	5	5	20	22

(Numbers and percentages refer to members of households visited; percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number).

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Use Of Maori Language In The Household

There were 16 households with dependent children visited, and the people in eight of them spoke mostly or entirely in English. In five homes more English than Maori was spoken, while, in the rest, people spoke mostly in Maori or equally in Maori and English.

The people in the two childless households spoke mostly Maori amongst themselves and with visitors.

The Maori Language In The Community

Maori continued to be widely spoken in the community, especially by adults; nearly all the adults surveyed spoke the language well. The language they used with neighbours, friends and workmates, depended usually on the language of the person spoken

to. Most people spoke with members of the younger generation in English, because, as some of them said, 'English was easier to express modern day ideas in.'

Maori was the language that was mainly used for ceremonies on the marae, although some people said that the speeches were more and more being translated into English, if Pakeha visitors were present. Some people thought this was wrong - breaking age-old custom. But others thought it was just being polite to include their guests in the formalities. The Maori language also had an important role in certain religious services.

If any two Maori people from Onepu met unexpectedly there was 1 chance in 2 that they could understand each other in Maori. If both were children under the age of 15 there was 1 chance in 5 that they would be able to talk in Maori. If any two adults met unexpectedly, there was nearly a 100 percent chance that they could understand each other in Maori, as nearly all of them spoke the language well.

Attitudes Towards The Language

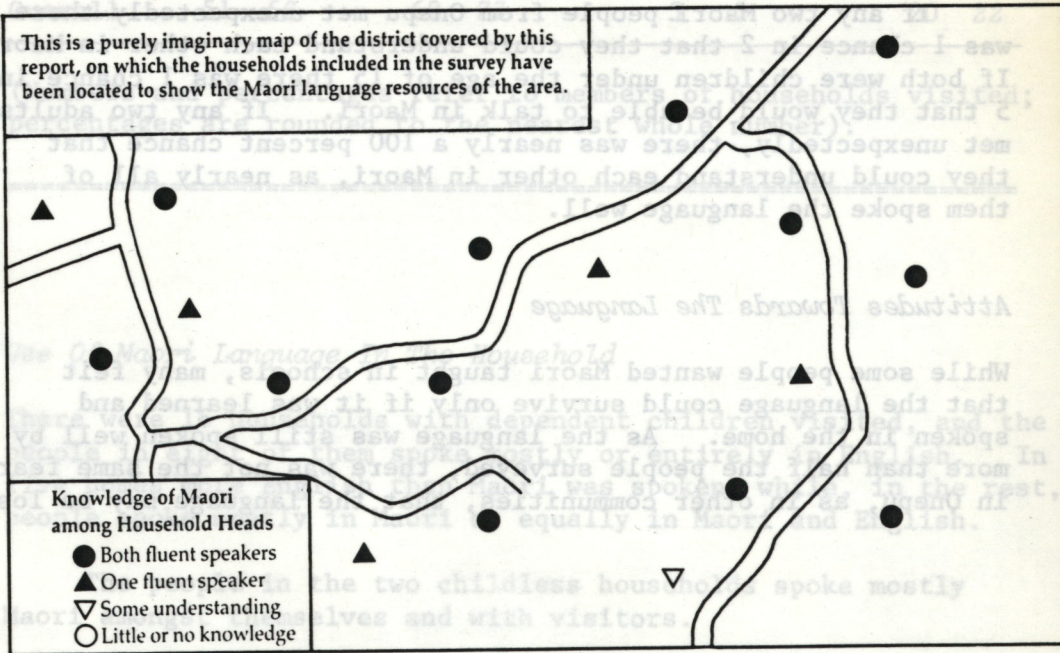
While some people wanted Maori taught in schools, many felt that the language could survive only if it was learned and spoken in the home. As the language was still spoken well by more than half the people surveyed, there was not the same fear in Onepu, as in other communities, that the language may be lost.

CONCLUSION

At the time of the survey, nearly all Maori adults in Onepu over the age of 25, and more than a third of those under this age, spoke Maori fluently. Two-thirds of the people between 15 and

24 understood the language well, as did more than half the school children. Less than a quarter of the total number surveyed knew no Maori at that time - nearly all were children under the age of 15.

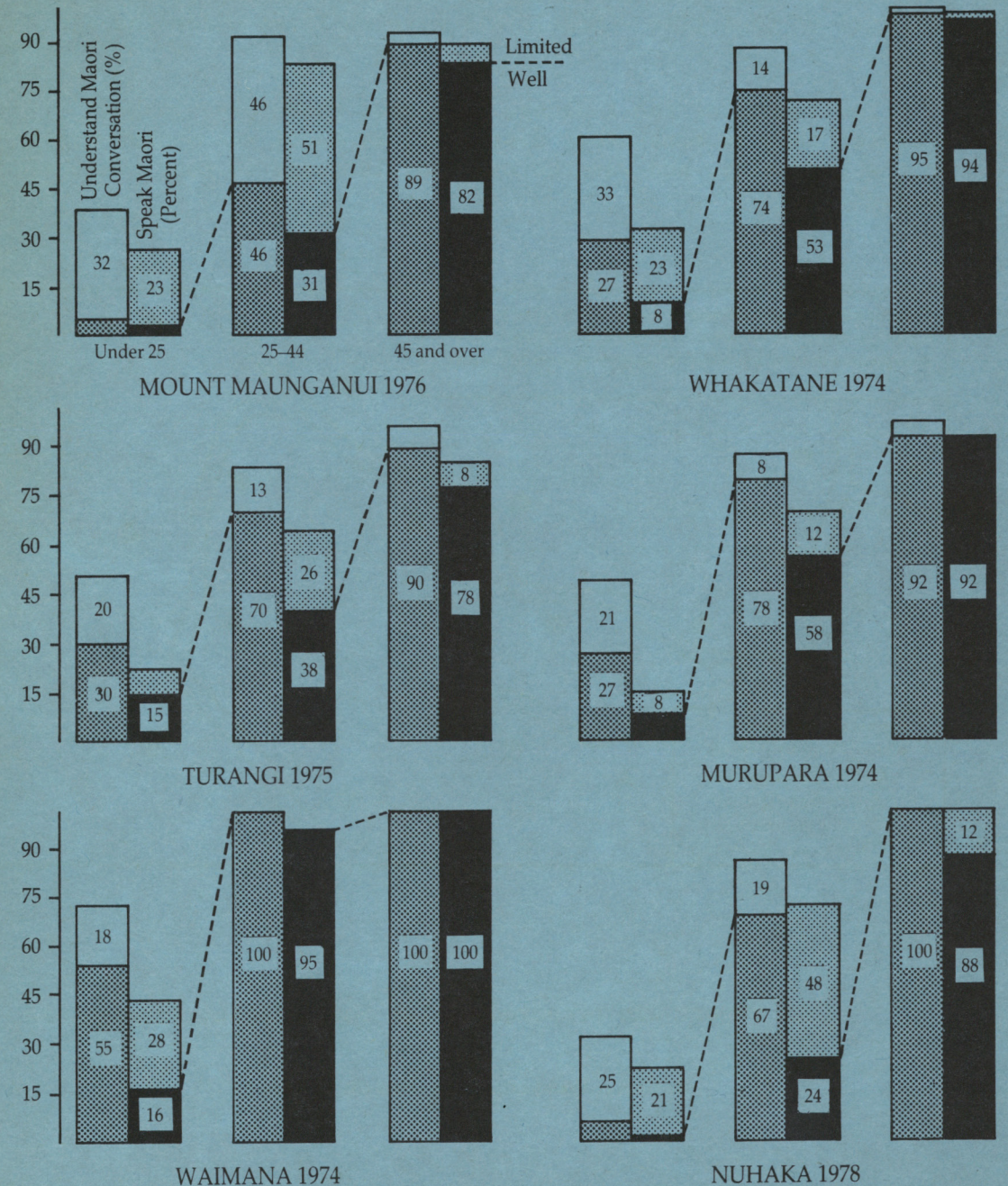
The future of the language in Onepu, therefore, looked brighter than in many other districts, as Maori was spoken widely in the community, and was the everyday language in many households visited.



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.