

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

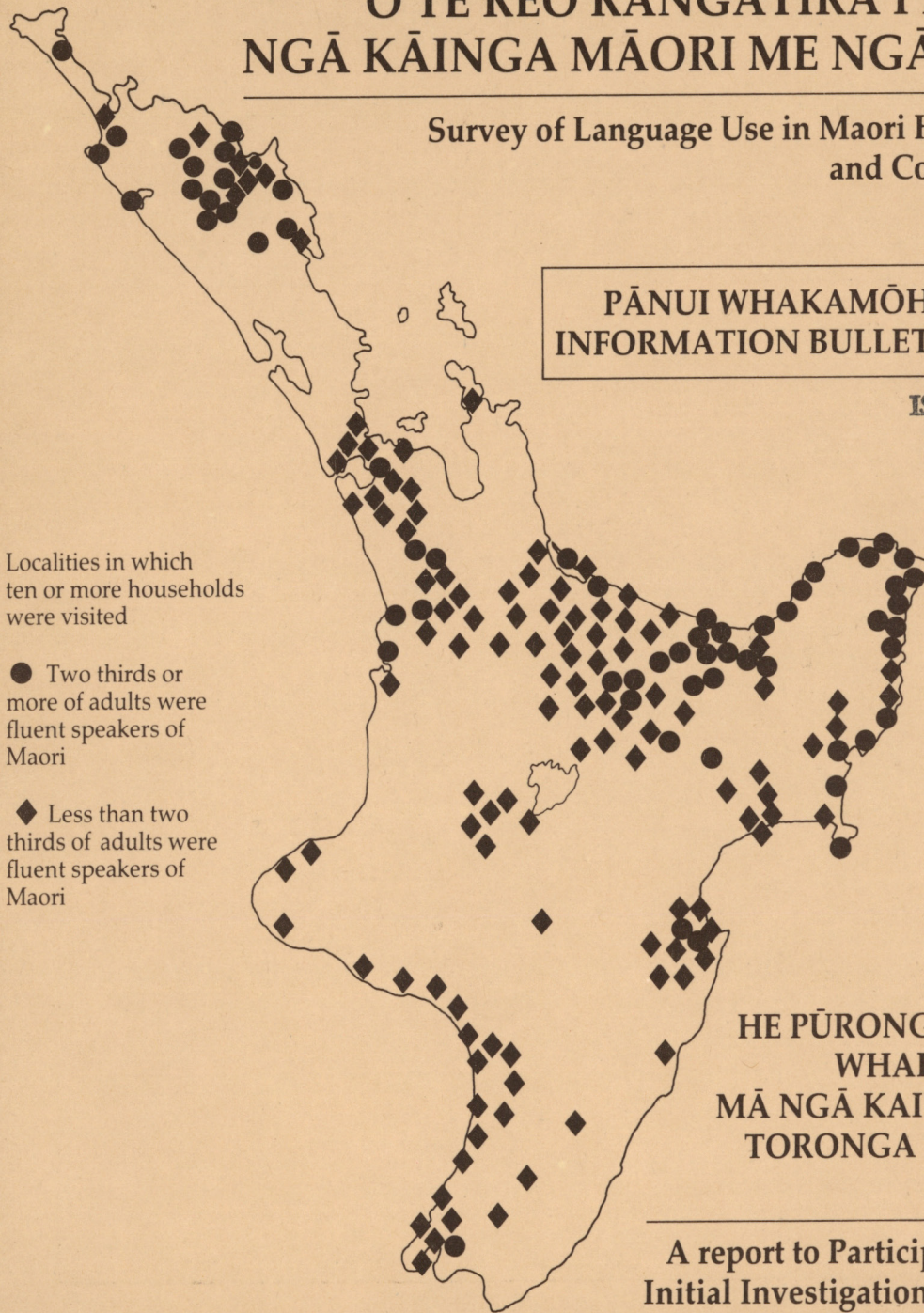
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Localities in which
ten or more households
were visited

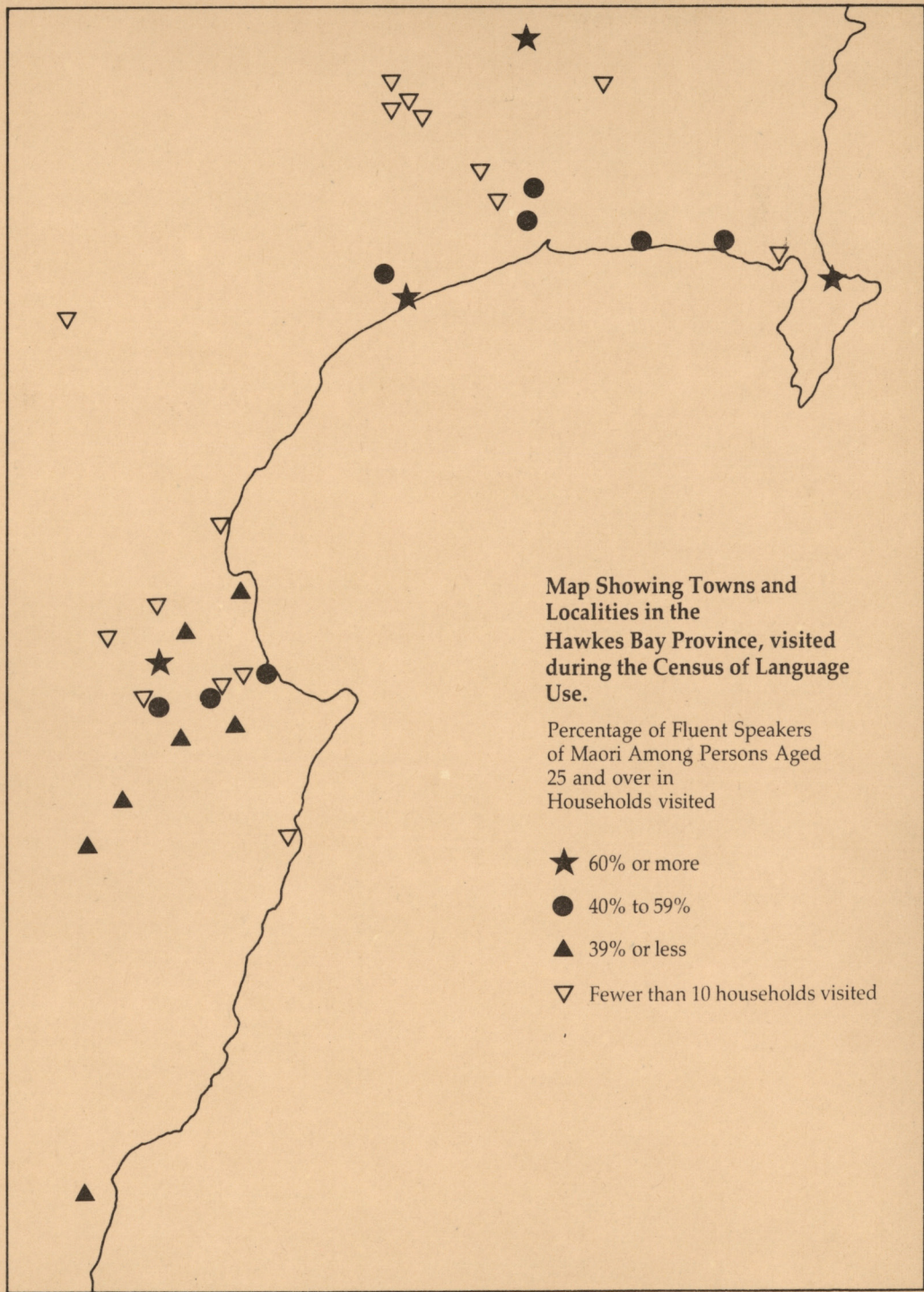
● Two thirds or
more of adults were
fluent speakers of
Maori

◆ 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



Ability to Speak and Understand Maori

The information in the tables tells us that a much higher proportion of people in Havelock North and Waimarama were able to speak and understand Maori. In Havelock North, 50% of those aged 15 years and over could speak Maori, and 75% could understand it. In Waimarama, 40% of those aged 15 years and over could speak Maori, and 60% could understand it.

The Maori Language in Havelock North and Waimarama

Fieldwork for the survey of language use in Maori communities was carried out in 24 households in Havelock North and eight households in Waimarama in August and December 1977 and January 1978.

The interviewers were Kahu Waititi (Te Whanau-a-Apanui/Ngapuhi), Taari Nicholas (Ngati Ranginui/Ngai te Rangi/Ngapuhi), Judith Brown Hawera (Waikato), Phillip Hawera (Tuhoe/Ngai te Rangi/Ngati Awa), Numia Ponika (Tuhoe), Joe Rua (Te Whanau-a-Apanui), Tom Rangihuna (Ngati Porou), Sharon Moerkerk (Maniapoto), Hiria Tumoana (Tuhoe), Tawini Rangihau (Tuhoe), Ian Tawhiro Maxwell (Ngai Tai), Merepeka Wharepapa (Te Whanau-a-Apanui), Kay Waapu (Ngati Kahungunu), Allan Hawea (Ngati Awa) and Keri Tawhiwhirangi (Ngati Porou).

The households in Havelock North had a total population of 143, 138 of whom were of Maori descent. This was about one fifth of the total Maori population of Havelock North at that time. In Waimarama, 27 people were included in the survey - 24 of whom were of Maori descent (about 60 percent of the area's total Maori population).

One interview was carried out entirely in Maori, three in both Maori and English and the remaining 31 entirely in English.

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Knowledge of Spoken Maori in Havelock North (1977)

| Age Group | Fluent Speakers | Understand Easily | Limited Understanding | No Knowledge |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 45 years & over | 10 (48%) | 13 (62%) | 7 (33%) | 1 (5%) |
| 25-44 yrs | 5 (21%) | 7 (29%) | 9 (38%) | 8 (33%) |
| 15-24 yrs | 2 (6%) | 4 (11%) | 11 (31%) | 20 (57%) |
| 2-14 yrs | 0 (0%) | 2 (3%) | 20 (33%) | 39 (64%) |
| Overall | 17 (12%) | 26 (18%) | 47 (33%) | 68 (48%) |

(Figures refer to members of households visited; percentages have been rounded to nearest whole number)

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Results of the Linguistic Survey

Iwi Affiliation

Our informants in Havelock North mentioned a total of 16 major iwi to which they or the members of their household belonged. The main iwi by far was Ngati Kahungunu with 89 members (or 62 percent of total), while 26 people (18 percent) were from Ngati Porou. In Waimarama, only two iwi were mentioned and once again most people belonged to Ngati Kahungunu (21 or 78 percent).

Ability to Speak and Understand Maori

The information in the tables tells us that a much higher proportion of people over 45 could speak and understand Maori well than people under the age. In Havelock North we did not come across anyone under the age of 15 who could speak Maori well. Most people under 25 however, had at least some knowledge of Maori - in fact only one under 15 year old had absolutely no understanding of Maori. Half of those with no knowledge of Maori in Waimarama were between the ages of 25 and 44.

In Waimarama only one person under 45 could speak Maori fluently, and only one other could understand it easily.

About a third of the people had at least some understanding of spoken Maori but nearly a half had no knowledge of Maori at all. Nine tenths of those with no understanding of Maori were under 25.

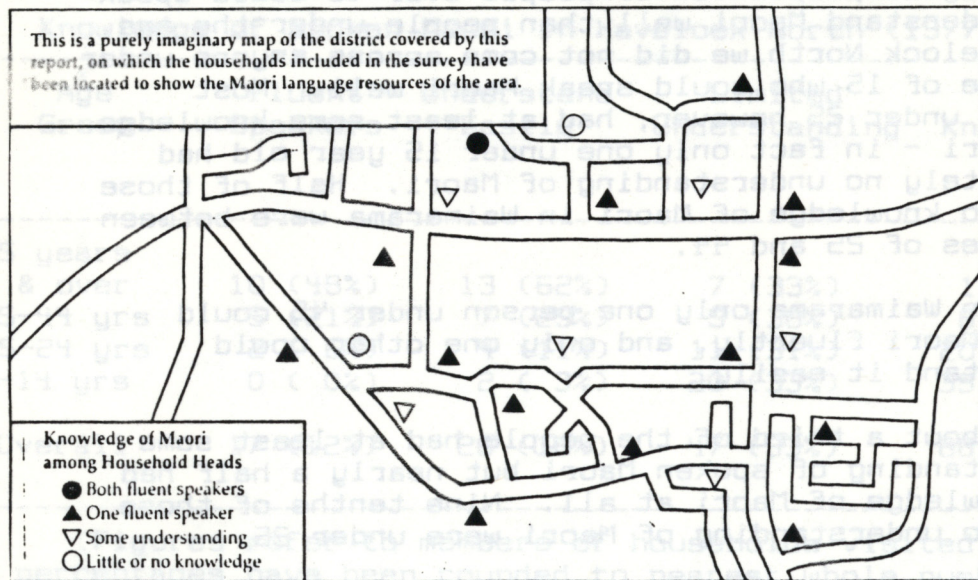
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Knowledge of Spoken Maori in Waimarama (1977)

| Age Group | Fluent Speakers | Understand Easily | Limited Understanding | No Knowledge |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 45 years & over | 3 (50%) | 4 (67%) | 2 (33%) | 0 (0%) |
| 25-44 yrs | 1 (13%) | 2 (25%) | 1 (13%) | 5 (63%) |
| 15-24 yrs | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 3 (43%) | 4 (57%) |
| 2-14 yrs | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 4 (80%) | 1 (20%) |
| Overall | 4 (15%) | 6 (23%) | 10 (38%) | 10 (38%) |

(Figures refer to members of households visited; percentages have been rounded to nearest whole number)

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HAVELOCK NORTH

Use of Maori Language in the Household

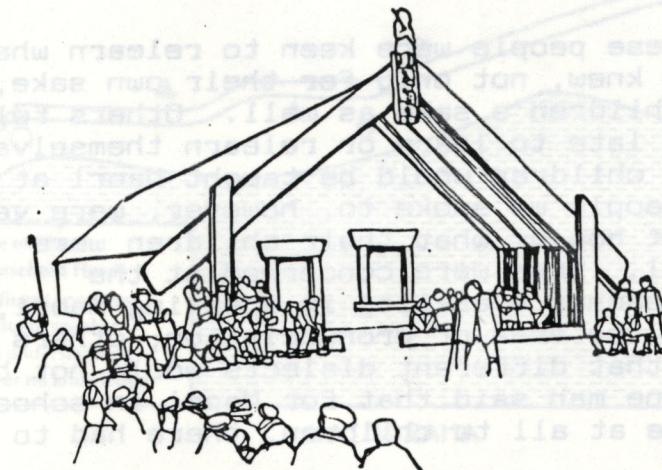
Twenty of the households visited in Havelock North had dependent children while the remaining four were childless. In 18 of the households with dependent children mainly English with some Maori was used. The other two used entirely English. Three of the childless households used mainly English while the other used Maori most of the time.

In Waimarama, English was the main or only language used in all three of the households with dependent children and three of the childless households. Maori was the main language in the remaining two childless households.

The Maori Language in the Community

English was generally the only language used by the people in our survey in both Havelock North and Waimarama for everyday conversations with children, neighbours and visitors. A few people in each area used both Maori and English and one person in Waimarama used Maori most of the time when talking with neighbours and visitors. However, most people said that Maori was most often used (alone or together with English) in certain religious ceremonies and on the marae in formal occasions such as whaikorero. Most people tended to use more Maori for informal chatting on the marae than they did in other situations off the marae.

If any two people in our Havelock North or Waimarama survey were to meet unexpectedly, the chances that they would be able to have conversation in Maori would be practically nil - about one in 33. However, in Havelock North, if both people were adults the chances would be about one in 14, and about one in eight in Waimarama.



Attitudes Towards the Maori Language

Maori was the first language understood by about one third of our informants. Over three quarters said that they preferred to use Maori or both Maori and English for everyday conversations, although English tended to be slightly more popular for reading and writing.

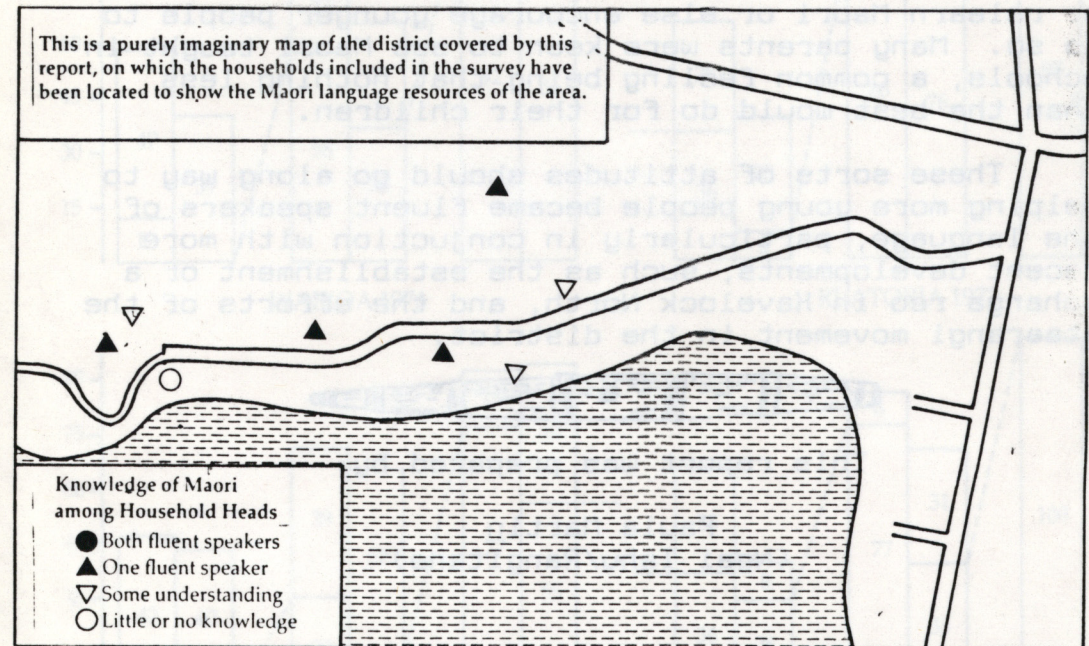
However, many people had, over the years, forgotten what Maori they once knew. For some people, this had happened at school, where Maori was forbidden or simply not spoken. For others, it had happened later on in life - perhaps with a move to a different district or to a city where not many people spoke Maori. Several people mentioned that moving to Hawke's Bay had caused them to lose their ability in Maori through lack of usage. One woman said how surprised she had been when she moved to Hawkes Bay and discovered that hardly anyone spoke Maori. This was summed up by one informant who commented:

When everyone was brought up on the marae they could speak Maori but now that people are brought up in the cities they can't. Although such people are often keen to learn, their efforts are often futile.

Many of these people were keen to relearn what Maori they once knew, not only for their own sake, but for their children's sake as well. Others felt that it was too late to learn or relearn themselves but hoped their children would be taught Maori at school. Most people we spoke to, however, were very particular about how or what their children were taught at school. Some were concerned at the standard of a teacher's ability in speaking Maori, particularly in the area of pronunciation; others were concerned that different dialects would not be catered for. One man said that for Maori in schools to be of any use at all to children, there had to be

continually at home and in the community. This meant everyone, no matter how slight their knowledge of Maori, had to make every effort to speak Maori as often as possible.

On the other hand, a few people were indifferent to the idea of learning Maori or had ambivalent feelings about it. While many people expressed regret or embarrassment at their lack of knowledge of Maori. One man who had grown up speaking Maori but had forgotten it due to "European influences," said he is now interested in "coping with the one culture that can help us" - namely European culture. However, he also said that although he doesn't know much Maori he is willing to learn again "for my children's sake."



WAIMARAMA

Attitudes Towards the Maori Language

Conclusion

The majority of fluent speakers of Maori that we came across in our survey of this part of Hawkes Bay were over the age of 25. While many people under that age had at least some understanding of Maori, a considerable number had absolutely no knowledge of it at all.

While many adults and kaumatua had grown up speaking Maori many had either forgotten what they knew or were finding it difficult to maintain. This was largely due to isolation from other speakers of Maori - in Havelock North Maori people made up only about eight percent of the total population.

There was, however, a general feeling amongst our informants that efforts should be made to learn or relearn Maori or else encourage younger people to do so. Many parents were keen to see Maori taught in schools, a common feeling being that nothing less than the best would do for their children.

These sorts of attitudes should go along way to helping more young people become fluent speakers of the language, particularly in conjunction with more recent developments, such as the establishment of a kahanga reo in Havelock North, and the efforts of the ataarangi movement in the district.

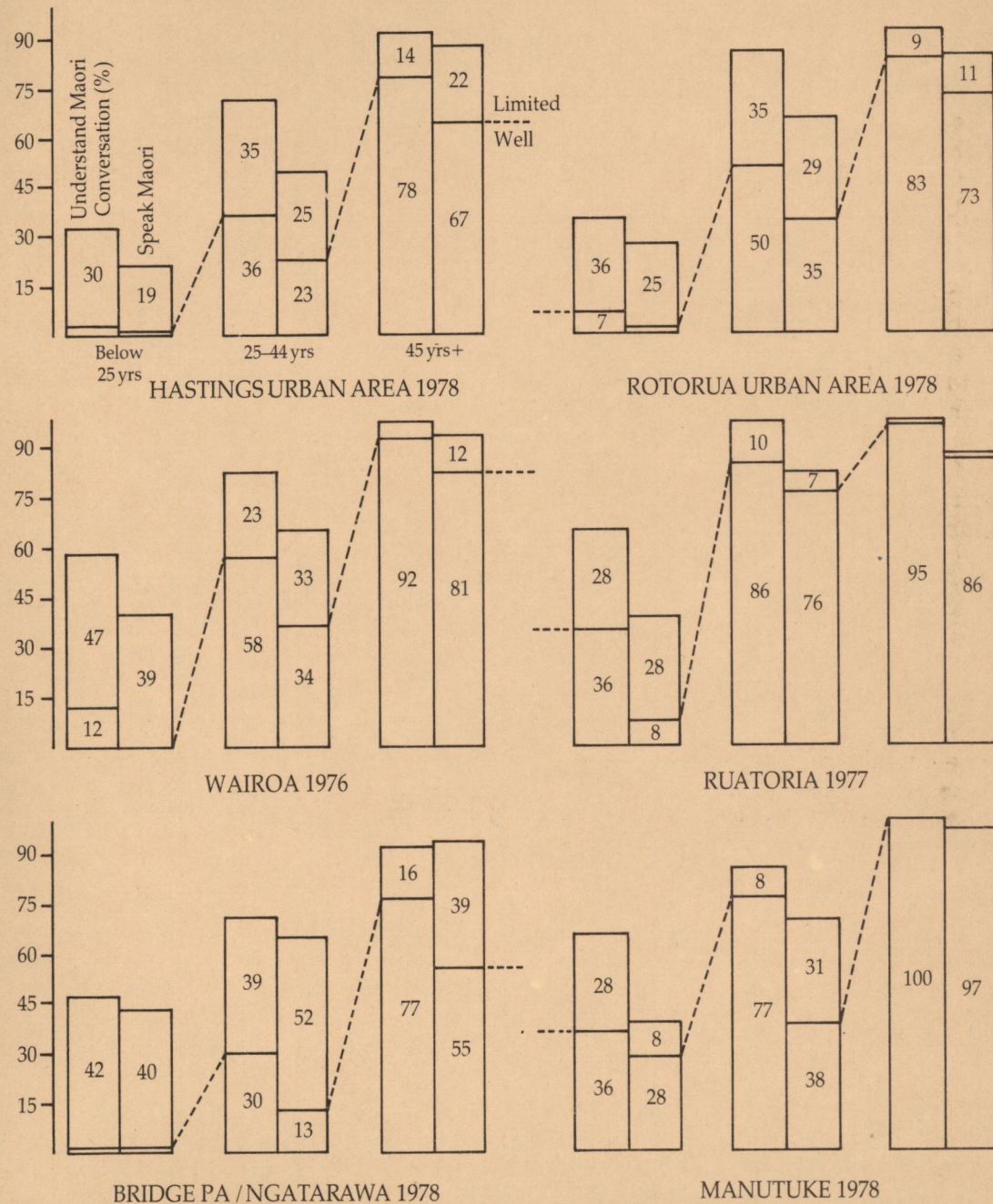


This report was prepared by:

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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.