

MAUMAHARA PUBLICITY RELEASE – EPISODE 3: EDUCATION BACK TO SCHOOL FOR KAUMATUA

Maori Television's show for kaumatua takes them back to school this week on the nostalgic series **MAUMAHARA** (time and date).

MAUMAHARA celebrates kaumatua and their golden stories of the 1920s to the 1950s. The 13-part half-hour bilingual show is presented by Ben Tawhiti (Ngaiterangi) and features archival footage and photos as well as Ben's band 'Nga Kaumatua'.

Many of us have heard the stories shared by our kaumatua like how they "thawed their bare feet in fresh cow-tiko when walking to school". **MAUMAHARA** presents tales of simple living: the dance, music and fashion crazes of the era; the struggles through the depression years and war time; the move to the cities and raising their families away from their papakainga.

Ngapuhi kaumatua Sam Pehi recalls walking six miles to school in Waima, even though the closest school was in Taheke where he lived.

"My father thought that the standard of education was better at Waima," says Sam. "It was called the Waima Maori Native School, and I was quite proud to say I went there."

School subjects at the Native Schools' were very basic and some children left school early or with a poor education.

Many Maori children were sent to Maori boarding schools around the country. It was a long journey from home and homesickness was common. June Mariu says she cried every night when she was sent to Queen Victoria boarding school for Maori girls in Auckland.

"I was a bit apprehensive about leaving Whangaparoa," she says. "Every night for two months I cried, but as the days went on, I got better."

Mere Postow (Ngapuhi) had to make a thirteen hour journey from Panguru in the Northland by bus and train to get to St Joseph's Maori Girls' College in Napier. Her education was cut short though when her family brought her home to help with the farm.

MAUMAHARA means “remember” in English, a fitting title for these 13 half-hour episodes. Produced by Hinewehi Mohi and her company Raukatauri Productions, upcoming episodes will focus on politics, women, music, war and social activities.

Tune in on Maori Television (time and date).