

MAUMAHARA
Series One
Publicity Material

Raukatauri Productions
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SHORT SYNOPSIS

MAUMAHARA is a nostalgic programme which celebrates kaumatua and their golden stories of the 1920s to the 1950s. This 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'.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Memories are made of this....

MAUMAHARA is a nostalgic bilingual programme for Maori Television presented by Ben Tawhiti (Ngaiterangi) which celebrates kaumatua and their golden stories of yesteryear. Threaded by the music of time, **MAUMAHARA** explores a special theme in each episode highlighting how things used to be - from food, music and war to urbanisation, politics and health.

Focussing on the 1920s to the early 1950s, **MAUMAHARA** presents unique stories from sixteen kaumatua that have never been told – until now.

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”. In this programme we will hear more of these 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.

MAUMAHARA means “remember” in English, a fitting title for these 13 half-hour episodes. The stories are complemented by archival footage and photos and music, recorded by Ben Tawhiti and his band 'Nga Kaumatua'.

As a loving footnote to these memories, a song from our kaumatua entertainers reflecting the time and theme ends the show.

MAUMAHARA is dedicated to our koroua and kuia.

INTERVIEW EXCERPTS

Mere Postow, Nga Puhi

“When I was growing up there was a shortage of houses but a lot of our people made nikau huts. They were a lot warmer than modern houses and so beautiful. When it rained the water didn’t come in. The sides were made of raupo tied with harakeke. Mum and Dad died when I was really young so I lived with my grandmother.”

... “The sacks of flour, when they were empty, were washed to make pants and underwear. It was the Champion flour sacks. You couldn’t wash off the words or boil it off. When we played netball we used to get embarrassed when our skirts flew up because you could see our flour sack underwear!”

... “Women used to work the gardens. Some of them had their babies in the gardens. They couldn’t make it to the hospital because they were too busy. There was no butter only pig hinu. A lot of homes had no knives or forks so they used kutae shells instead. For school lunch we used to get given pieces of dried shark. We used to dry our fish on the line outside. We had camp ovens and cooked by putting ashes on the lid. This is what we cooked the rewena bread in.”

Dr Ranginui Walker, Whakatohea

“When I was little, I grew up with my mother and father and I was very special to them but even more special to my two nannies who lived with us. One was a kiritea, fair skinned, and they both had moko. They spoiled me. On pension day they would both come back with lollies for me and they indulged me. My mother didn’t dare growl me in front of them.”

... “It was 11 miles to town on a dusty metal road. We travelled there in our old Model A Ford and my parents made sure they bought heaps of supplies. We bought cabin bread because that kept well and barrels of mutton birds when they were in season.”

... "In town I went to convent school. The first thing I noticed was that none of the Maori kids could speak Maori. I thought that was really strange. When I got to school I remember being attacked by the other kids for speaking Maori and being dragged in front of the teachers. I was only 5 or 6. My experience of that was that you had to suppress your language and pretend to be one of them. To become a white man but live in two worlds. My parents spoke Maori at home and I replied in English. That's how you lose your language."

... "One of my biggest memories was the war. I remember coming home one day after school and seeing my mother crying in the kumara patch. She had a telegram from the post office just delivered telling her my two cousins had died in Alamein. She was crying and I had never seen a person so bereft, she'd had a private tangi for her nephews."

TREATMENT

The programme opens up with kaumatua presenter, Ben Tawhiti, introducing this half-hour of nostalgia that will bring a smile to the faces of koroheke and kuikuia across the motu. The tone of the show is relaxed but with a sense of anticipation that old faces, places and events will be revisited during the show.

In each of the episode's three parts, our kaumatua are seated in a comfortable armchair, telling their stories in Maori and English. Raukatauri Productions was able to get a wide range of tribal affiliations among the talent, some of whom came from Wanganui, Christchurch, New Plymouth and Taumarunui. Each kaumatua was able to bring a favourite or important item of theirs to sit with them during their interviews – a photograph on a side table, a blanket across their lap or other memento.

Simplicity is the key to this programme's style, with the vintage images and music signposting each part of the programme. The pace is sedate and dignified in keeping with the age range of the target audience. Twenty songs were recorded over a three day period for **MAUMAHARA** – fifteen songs with lyrics and five instrumental

songs. There were also sixteen kaumatua interviewed over a period of five days – eight men and eight women.

At the end of the show, Koro Ben and his band ‘Nga Kaumatua’ wrap up the show with a final song. The six-piece band is dressed in true show band style, with white lounge jackets, bowties, red cummerbunds and black trousers. The backdrop is a rich red velvet curtain reminiscent of the glamour and style of old theatres and nightclubs.

BILLINGS FOR MAUMAHARA SERIES ONE

Entertainment series: 13 x half-hour programmes.

Producer: Hinewehi Mohi.

Programme synopsis: MAUMAHARA is a nostalgic programme which celebrates kaumatua and their golden stories of the 1920s to the 1950s. This 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'.

Series 1/Programme 1: Childhood

What was it like growing up as a Maori child during the depression and war years in Aotearoa? MAUMAHARA features sixteen koroua and kuia who reminisce about growing up in a different era.

Series 1/Programme 2: Reo

Sixty years ago, Maori children were smacked at school or 'fed soap' for speaking Maori. Some of them, now kaumatua, speak about the trauma of those early days.

Series 1/Programme 3: Education

Up until the early 1950s, the majority of Maori children were educated in 'Native Schools' while others went on to Maori boarding schools. MAUMAHARA talks to kaumatua about their experiences.

Series 1/Programme 4: War

World War I and II had a great impact on Maori soldiers overseas and their whanau back at home. MAUMAHARA talks to kaumatua about growing up during the war years.

Series 1/Programme 5: Food

Today's kaumatua reminisce about traditional Maori kai, home cooked food and bountiful food resources when they were kids. They also remember luxuries like bread, sugar, butter and flour.

Series 1/Programme 6: Health

Polio, TB and measles had a devastating impact on Maori. Many of today's kaumatua grew up too quickly having to deal with terminal illness and death in the family.

Series 1/Programme 7: Religion

MAUMAHARA talks to a kaumatua who grew up at Maungapohatu with Rua Kenana. The Ratana, Pai Marire, Catholic and Presbyterian religions also feature with other **MAUMAHARA** guests.

Series 1/Programme 8: Music

As children, kaumatua honed their musical talents through bands, church groups and kapa haka. Today's programme also features Taisha and Mahinaarangi Tocker.

Series 1/Programme 9: Women

MAUMAHARA remembers the women who shaped the lives of some of today's kaumatua as children and the challenges Maori women faced in the 1930s and 40s.

Series 1/Programme 10: Social Activities

The fashions, dance crazes and fads of yesteryear are revealed by kaumatua on **MAUMAHARA**. Wherever there was a group of Maori people, there was good camaraderie.

Series 1/Programme 11: Politics

MAUMAHARA talks to kaumatua about the Treaty of Waitangi, Maori political leaders and the effects of colonisation.

Series 1/Programme 12: Employment

The movement of Maori people from rural areas to the cities meant many changes for them. **MAUMAHARA** talks to kaumatua about urban migration, work life and racism.

Series 1/Programme 13: Relationships

In the old days, courting and marriage followed a different etiquette. As kaumatua reflect on today's programme, it was a time when manners and respect were important.

CREW LIST MAUMAHARA

Kaiwhakataki

Ben Tawhiti

Pene Whakatangitangi

“Nga Kaumatua”

Buddy Wilson

Marsh Cook

Joe Haami (no macron)

Richard Diaz

Tom Paul

Kaiwaiata

Whirimako Black

Dennis Marsh

Taisha

Manu Harrison

Mahinaarangi Tocker

Mabel Wharekawa-Burt

Hinewehi Mohi

Kaiawhina Hanga Hotaka

George Bradfield

Debbie Terei

Kaitiaki Putea

Ursula Adeane

Pikitia Tawhito

NZTV Archives

Alexander Turnbull Library

Taputapu Paho Taiao

MVisions

Kaiwhakahaere Hangarau

Maringi Houkamau

Te Ao Scott

Kaihono Ahua

Lise Cok

Kaihopu Ahua

Maringi Houkamau

Mark Tierney

Te Rangi Henderson

Ringahopu Oro

Phil Kusabs

Jonathan Annette

Kaitohu Rama

Kevin Riley

Ringa Whakapai Ahua

Vanita Thomas

Louise Harris

Whakahaere Rerenga Kupu

Steve King

Whakanikoniko

Remote

Puoru

Joel Haines

Ben Tawhiti

Hononga Oro

Media Mechanics

Kaiwawahi Matua

Rahera Herewini

Media Mechanics

Kaiwhakahaere Hanga Hotaka

Heeni-Jane Scott

Kaikotuitui Rangapu

Reikura Kahi

Kaitohu

Iulia Leilua

Kaihautu

Hinewehi Mohi