

# THE MAORI ROLLS

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In New Zealand a general election is held every three years, and it is compulsory for all qualified persons to be registered on an electoral roll. The country is divided up into 75 electorates, each containing about 20,000 eligible voters. There are at present over two million people recorded on the rolls, which are being continually updated to show new electors, changes of address, changes of name by marriage, and so on. The electoral rolls are published in soft-cover book form and can be inspected at most libraries and Post Offices throughout New Zealand. There is a National Microfiche Index used by the Post Office, but not available to the public, which lists all two-million-plus registered voters in alphabetical order, from Neta A'A to Stan ZYZALO.

A few years ago, I spent some time scanning the four Maori electoral rolls, seeking out the most unusual names, along the lines of "Remarkable Names of Real People" in the May 1984 Kickshaws. The reason for selecting these particular rolls is that the Maori people have a penchant for naming their offspring after famous people, places, objects, etc., and hence a perusal of these rolls reveals a high proportion of unusual and original names. It is likely that some of the first names exhibited in this article are in fact nicknames; however, they are taken from an official printed source, so it is obvious that the persons concerned are known by these names and wish to be registered accordingly.

I started my search by looking for palindromic names and was rewarded with ADA URU Lewis, APE HOHEPA Brown and Beauty AHA-TAHA. The following are also listed (\* = preceded by 'Te'):

First Names						Surnames	
Aka	Ata	Ege	Iri	Oro*	Alla	Afa	Iti
Ala	Awa	Ene	lti	Tat	Apapa*	Ata	Unu
Ana	Aza	Ere	Iwi	Umu*	Hanah	Awa	Upu
Apa	Bub	lki	Lil	Uru	Arapara*	Ese	Apaapa
Ara	Did	lni	Oho*	Utu	Atereta	Ewe	

One of the most interesting in this list is the given name UTU, which is commonly used as a synonym for revenge or retribution, but is more accurately translated 'price, return, reward'. Spare a thought also for the individual named NIGGER EWE (the black sheep of the family?).

Next I concentrated on tautonymic names. The Maori language is rich in reduplications as evidenced by the following examples from the Maori rolls:

## Tautonymic Names

Huhu	Kerekere	Pukepuke	Tikitiki
Nono	Kiwikiwi	Putiputi	Timutimu
Wiwi	Kopekope	Raharaha	Wahawaha
Heuheu	Mirimiri	Rakuraku	Hungahunga
Piupiu	Mokomoko	Rawirawi	Ngerengere
Reirei	Nukunuku	Rihirihi	Ngahungahu
Toetoe	Perepere	Tahitahi	Rongorongo
Wauwau	Potopoto	Taretare	Maungu-Maungu

The longest tautonymic name I found was HEREWINI HEREWINI. The only example I found of a triple tautonym is the internal one in the name TIORIORI ORI Poutapu.

Previous mention has been made in *Word Ways* of people having a first name that can be transposed into their surname. Two cases of this were noted during my investigation: KURA KARU and NORMA MORAN. There are, however, several individuals with identical first name and surname. These are APAI APAI, ROIRI ROIRI, RAIMONA RAIMONA and RALPH RALPH, which is rather imitative of a dog barking.

Hyphenation proved to be extremely rare on the Maori rolls, and the only examples worth mentioning are the forenames JO-JO-JEAN and MOANA-NUI-A-KIWI and the surname GRAY-GREENLAND. Readers may also be interested in the multi-hyphenated placename TE TUAHU-A-TUA-MEKE-TE-AHI-TAPOA-I-TAONA-AI-TE-MANAWA-O-TAIA-PUA, which is situated between the Blue and Green Lakes, in the Rotorua district of New Zealand. This name translates to 'the sacred place of Tua-meke, the fire of witchcraft incantation in which the heart of Taiapua was cooked'. It can be found in *The Concise Maori Handbook* compiled by A.W. Reed, published in 1978.

The shortest name I came across was AU TA, who lives in my home town, Hastings. Despite the Maori sound I believe it is actually of Vietnamese origin. There are a number of short Maori first names, such as AO, ME, NU, RA, PA, TU, UA, WI and of course TE (the), which occurs in many names, for example TE WHATA, TE KANAWA, TE RANGI. The most interesting name I have seen exhibiting short words is without doubt SANDRA HI HI OR TE RA NGAMOKI, who lives in the southern Wairarapa town of Featherston.

Most word-lovers will be familiar with the well-known 85-letter Maori placename which is given in the Guinness Book of World Records and also appears in the November 1981 Kickshaws. There are some long Maori given names, but unfortunately it has often been deemed necessary to abbreviate them on the electoral rolls, especially when the person concerned also has a lengthy address. This is a pity, as it would be interesting to know the full names of individuals such as MAAKA T M O R M K REID. Nevertheless, the forenames listed below are quite impressive, although I have heard of longer ones which were no doubt shortened for enrolment purposes:

Teorangatewhakapumau  
Terewanuikitepakanga  
Waikuratautuhiorongo

Tewhakatipurangakeite  
Ngatunganetaihaeretemahue

In Australasia the diminutive *-ie* or *-y* ending is very common. For example, we often say *yachtie* for *yachtsman*, *truckie* for *truck-er*, and *wharfie* for a *wharf-worker*. Following is a list of first names ending in either *-ie* or *-y* which have been culled from the Maori rolls. Some are obvious in meaning, others not:

#### Diminutive Names

Baldy	Chubby	Harpie	Monnie	Puckey	Tossy
Bardy	Chucky	Hoppie	Mossey	Queenie	Tottie
Biddy	Chummy	Kewpie	Nonnie	Roxie	Tussie
Blokey	Cookie	Kiddy	Nuckie	Scottie	Tweeny
Boofy	Curley	Knoxie	Nursy	Scrubby	Twinnie
Brownie	Darkie	Koshie	Oldy	Smoky	Wiggy
Bubsie	Dubbie	Laddie	Pompey	Spady	Wishy
Bundy	Duckie	Lordy	Ponty	Swanny	Yorkie
Bunty	Duskey	Lovey	Porgy	Tolly	Zoonie
Buzzie	Granny	Manny	Pricie		

Many Maoris born during war-time were given an appropriate name such as BRITANNIA, FURLOUGH or EGYPT (where the father was stationed). There are people recorded on the rolls with the name DIGGER, and there is even a lady called DIGGERESS! We have an ATHENS GREECE Kanuta, and ALLIES ANZAC Ryland, and a TUNISIA ALAMEIN Parata. The tendency to name children after places or nationalities flourished during the war years, but has not been wholly confined to that period. The following list of fore-names includes a number which have no connection with war:

#### Places and Nationalities

Aegean	Durban	Maadi	Poland
Alexandria	Gallipoli	Malaya	Somme
Assisi	Géneva	Memphis	Texas
Boroughdale	Ischia	Messines	Tobruk
Boston	Italy	Montreal	Tonga
Cairo	Jordan	Morrow River	Trieste
Cambridge	Judah	New Amsterdam	Tripoli
Canadian	Killarney	Nile	Vienna
Cheyenne	Lake Alice	Olympus	Wales
Cleveland	Libya	Omaha	Ward One
Crete	London	Ontario	Western
Cyprian	Los Angeles	Palestine	Ypres
Denver	Luzon	Paschendale	

The Maori rolls also provide a rich source of individuals who have been named after well-known people, both real and fictional. There is a SAINT PATRICK Apanui, a POPE JOHN Marsh, a JOHN BAPTIST Puku, and a DAVID BOWIE Ngaheke. Movie stars' names also appear, for example TOM MIX Kingi and TARZAN Bidois (incidentally, his wife's name is not Jane but GIRLIE). Would you believe there is even a person on the rolls called HOP-A-LONG

CASSIDY? It's true. Here are some more examples, all forenames:

#### Well-Known People

Agrippa	Fabian	Mercedes	Quirinus	Tilden
Achilles	Gable	Monalisa	Rommel	Tonto
Brando	Ivanhoe	Moses	Roosevelt	Tunney
Caesar	Kaiser	Napoleon	Samson	Vandyke
Constantine	Lancelot	Nixon	Sixtus	Venus
Edison	Lenin			

There are also a number of people who have given names that are occupations or positions of social standing. As with the above list this is probably intended to enhance the person's 'mana', although in some cases there are bound to be other reasons for the nomenclature:

#### Occupations; etc.

Bishop	: Boyship	Comrade	Gipsy	Sailor
Boss	Brother	Cowboy	Lawyer	Skipper
Bowler	Butler	Czarina	Major	Watchman
Bowman	Cabby	Doctor	Prince	Wiseman
Boxer	Captain	Freeman	Saddler	

Another type of forename that has been bestowed on children over the years is based on hoped-for qualities, characteristics or virtues such as NOBLE, LUCKY and REMEMBRANCE. Here are a few further examples from the Maori rolls:

#### Qualities, Characteristics, Virtues

Adorable	Destine	Honey	Silky	Sunny
Constant	Golden	Placid	Sincerely	Treasure
Cosy	Gorgeous	Prime	Smiler	Vernal
Darling	Grand	Reginal	Starbright	Wish

Somewhat surprisingly, the names STORMY, SANGFROLD, FEAR and MORON are also recorded.

Many people on the rolls have been named after objects, both animate and inanimate. The animate names comprise flowers, animals and birds - the two most interesting examples in the latter category being TUI SPARROW Claypole and BUDGIE WOODCOCK. Inanimate first names cover a wide range of objects from GLASS to WHISKEY. Here are some more 'object' names of Maori electors:

#### Inanimate Objects

Blain	Dice	Islet	Rye	Star
Brass	Dollar	Jam	Schooner	Stone
Bun	Dyke	Museum	Shadow	Temple
Bus	Flint	Pinnacle	Snow	Valley
Bush	Haven	Rifle	Souvenir	Wallwork
Cash				

#### Animate Objects

Bronco	Delphinium	Flowers	Geranium	Ginger
Chick	Deodar	Fuchsia	Gibbon	Jonquil

Moray            Romney            Shamrock            Tiger            Turtle  
Poppy

Finally, I have selected half a dozen noteworthy full names, followed by 26 particularly unusual given names, one starting with each letter of the alphabet:

Puke Pupuke		Roman Romeo Moore	
Tesla Jynxtito		Tutai Teroi Tekii	
Echo Lillicrapp		Perry Parry Laval Wiremu Pou	
Alias	Halcyon	Ozone	Uenukutuwhatu
Bluesday	Island	Padabill	Vijayaluxmy
Carmelious	Jury	Quishlor	Widdle
Dido	Kasingty	Rugby	Xmis
Epidemic	Leapyear	Sfax	Yevily
Flatter	Moo	Tonk	Zeitoun
Genesis	Nostrum		

#### DICTIONARY OF TWO-LETTER WORDS

*The Biliteral Society has recently published a 14-page booklet with the above title, containing 227 two-letter words with definitions, mined from the following dictionaries: American Heritage, Barnhart New English, Funk & Wagnalls, Oxford (and Supplements), Random House, Scrabble Players, and Webster's Second and Third (including 6000 Words). They comment:*

*..at long last the English-speaking world has a definitive, well-documented, and large pool of two-letter words from which to draw for any purpose, including applications as yet undreamed of .. two-by-two crossword puzzles; compact want ads or telegrams (where the charge is by the letter or the line rather than by the word); long-sentence competitions using only two-letter words ('we go to do it, if an oe do na do us in - if it do, yu wo be we!'); book titles which could be written horizontally (one word at a time) on the book spine so that library browsers wouldn't get sprained necks ..*

*Word Ways readers can purchase copies at the special price of three dollars from the Biliteral Society, P.O. Box 7444, Richmond VA 23221.*