

B. E. Reid, Wildlife Re-comparatively of the species able. B. Orbell re-akahe in 1948, estimated 250 the birds. By s had slowly o 200 pairs, d to 85 to 110

t consecutive reproduction ity would be use the adult Reid said. a greater e being two ver, and it that numbers n the pre-1967

the Wildlife remove a of the birds g the popula-removals may ers. e evidence of

on a small island. Several islands had been inspected and seemed suitable, but development would take time and money. Preparations had begun, he said.

Not Known

The head of the wildlife service, Dr G. R. Williams, said yesterday the "trans-plant" was still only a proposal, and would not be done within 18 months.

He said the takahe popula-tion had declined by about a third, although it was not known why, and if the decline continued, the continuation of the species would become critical.

Then a number of birds would be put on an island which was isolated, favour-able and free from predators. This would not be done with-out consideration and au-thority.

A survey party going into the area shortly was just routine matter, Dr Williams said, but it had some plans to fill gaps in the knowledge of the takahe, and this might give some indication of what caused the decline.

Not Best Place

"I think the proposal is to put them on Maude Island in Cook Strait," the conservator of wildlife in the southern lakes area, Mr H. W. Axbey said.

where they happened to end up. "It is not very good country, and it is tough in winter," he said.

TARANAKI HERALD, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1972

Love story in Maori carvings

A carving depicting a Taranaki story of pre-European times will be unveiled at St Mary's Church, New Plymouth, on September 24.

The Administrator, Sir Richard Wild, acting as the Governor General, and the Minister of Maori and Island Affairs, Mr MacIntyre, will unveil the carving, which was conceived and executed by Mr John Ford, of Hamilton, and donated by Taranaki families.

The carving will be dedicated by the Archbishop of New Zealand, the Most Rev. A. H. Johnston.

The story refers to an incident about 100 years before the immigrant ships landed the Devon yeoman as settlers in Taranaki.

War broke out between two local tribes and a taua of Ngati-awas from the twin pas of Puke-ariki (where the Taranaki Museum now stands) and Pu-kaka (Marsland Hill) besieged Whakarewa pa, a wooded promontory near the present Puniho marae.

Leading the attackers was Te Rangi-apiti-rua, attended by his son Takarangi, while the defenders were commanded by Rangi-mohuta, the father of the beautiful Raumahora.

WATER CUT OFF

The besiegers were unable to take the pa, but succeeded in cutting off the water supply. Rangi-mohuta was thirsty and asked for water for himself and his daughter. The attempts of some of the Ngati-awas to bring water to the chief was frustrated by their fellows, but when Takarangi consented to carry a calabash of water to the pallisade, none dared risk his wrath.

While the chief was assuaging his thirst, the young Maori leader became captivated by the beautiful Raumahora. She consented to become his wife, and went to his home. As a result of their love for one another, peace came to the parties.

The carved symbol is to stand in St Mary's surrounded by the hatchments bearing the insignias of the regiments which fought on the Imperial

side in the conflicts of 1860-1870.

MISTAKES

The memorial acknowledges that many grievous mistakes were made. There was then a failure of each to understand the other. Maori and Pakeha are now living together as members of one nation. They travel into the future as children of the God of all nations. This memorial, it is hoped, will complement the symbols and flags which adorn the walls of the church.

It is expected that the ceremony on September 24 will recall the occasion on April 28, 1904, when a number of hatchments, designed and painted by Archdeacon Philip Walsh, first vicar of Waitara, were unveiled by Lord Ranfurly, Governor General, Mr Carroll, Native Minister, and other dignitaries.

The Bishop of Auckland dedicated them, and the Reverend F. A. Bennett, later first Bishop of Aotearoa and father of the present bishop, was in attendance. Captain Robert Falcon Scott, later to die at the South Pole, was also present.

TUKUTUKU PANELS

The figures on either side of the carving represent the two chiefs, with the young couple occupying the centre of the stage. Between each carving the numerical strength of the people of both areas and their spiritual awareness is shown in the tukutuku panels. They are in the pupura whetu pattern - "myriads of stars". This work was done by women of the parish directed by Mrs M. Crawford, of Opunake. The kowhaiwhai patterns rising from each panel contain spiritual elements and characteristics of the ancestors represented. The stately strength of Te Rangi-apiti-rua; the uncoiling of the lovers' closeness, reaching up towards their ancestors and down to their descendants; the waves of the sea of Kupe that beat upon Rangi-mohuta at Whakarewa.

These link together in the upper pattern symbolising the sacred mountain, Taranaki, which is given modern significance through the cross depicted within it. The whole concept is supported on the lower carving which represents the two canoes,

Tokomaru and Kurahaupo, of Ngati-awa and Taranaki.

The totara for the carving was also donated by a Taranaki family and the mat was made and presented to St Mary's by the institute of Maori Art and Craft at Whakarewarewa.

The official visitors will be welcomed at St Mary's by a party of Maoris. After the service visitors will be entertained to luncheon in the Parish Hall and welcomed by the Mayor, Mr D. V. Sutherland, the Member for the district, Mr R. M. Barclay, and other officials.