

Ngā Mōrehu The Survivors

The life histories of eight Māori women

By *Judith Binney and Gillian Chaplin*

Teacher Notes

History

BOOK OVERVIEW

Ngā Mōrehu is the life history of eight Māori women who all grew up in the Ringatū faith. The book originated in oral history gathered by the authors as they researched the life of Te Kooti and the Ringatū faith. One of the women's stories is based on an interview conducted as part of this research. The other women's stories are transcribed from recordings made specifically for this book.

The title, 'the survivors', reflects the women's connection with the visionary leader Te Kooti Arikirangi Te Turuki and his followers, who adopted the name 'Ngā Mōrehu' during the wars of the 1860s. But these women are not only survivors: they are also the chosen ones, the leaders of their society. They speak here of richly diverse lives – of arranged marriages and whāngai adoption traditions, of working in both Māori and Pākehā communities. They pay testimony to their strong sense of a shared identity created by religious and community teachings.

First published in 1986 by Oxford University Press, this edition includes minor corrections and updated photo captions.

KEY FEATURES

- Introduction provides an overview of the history of the Ringatū faith, comment on women in the Māori world, and the making of oral history.
- Eight chapters, one for each of the women; each chapter starts with their whakapapa and a brief narrative of the woman's life.
- Illustrated, with photographs and maps.
- Concludes with maps, he kupu Māori/glossary, list of illustrations, endnotes, bibliography and index.

RELEVANT ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

Level 3

AS91434 (3.1) Research an historical event or place of significance to New Zealanders, using primary and secondary sources (event includes an historical development or movement).

AS91435 (3.2) Analyse an historical event, or place of significance to New Zealanders.

AS91437 (3.4) Analyse different perspectives of a contested event of significance to New Zealanders.

NGĀ MŌREHU THE SURVIVORS

THE LIFE HISTORIES OF EIGHT MĀORI WOMEN



Judith Binney | Gillian Chaplin

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dame Judith Binney was a New Zealand historian and writer. She is the author of numerous books of New Zealand history, many with a focus on Māori individuals and communities. She was Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Auckland. She was awarded a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to historical research in New Zealand in 1997, and made a Distinguished Companion in 2006. She received the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement the same year.

Books in School Libraries

AS91438 (3.5) Analyse the causes and consequences of a significant historical event.

AS91439 (3.6) Analyse a significant historical trend and the force(s) that influenced it.

USING *NGĀ MŌREHU* IN YOUR HISTORY PROGRAMME

Ngā Mōrehu provides a female perspective of Māori life within the Ringatū movement and the community that surrounded it. As such it provides a good insight into Māori life (within this community), particularly in relation to beliefs, faith, upbringing of children, schools, health, marriage, Māori–Pākehā interactions. The book could be used both as an example of oral history as well as source material.

3.1 Students could:

- Discuss the approach to oral history in the book, develop their own oral history project and undertake oral history within their family, including learning more about their whakapapa/genealogy.

3.2 Students could:

- Use *Ngā Mōrehu* as a starting point for analysing a range of historical themes or ideas from faith and social change to state intervention.

3.4 Students could:

- Use *Ngā Mōrehu* as a starting point into an investigation of different perspectives surrounding the New Zealand Wars, Land confiscation, the Treaty, Pacificism, sovereignty or isolationism
- Compare the work of Māori historians, modern historians and early historians regarding Tūhoe or any area of early New Zealand History.

INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY IDEAS

Content in *Ngā Mōrehu* is relevant to enquiry topics on: the role of historians, interpreting, using oral history, the Māori prophets, the lives of Māori women in the 20th century, health and social welfare in 20th century New Zealand, native schools.

FURTHER READING

Judith Binney, *Stories Without End: Essays 1975–2010*, Bridget Williams Books, 2010

Judith Binney, *Encircled Lands: Te Urewera, 1820–1921*, Bridget Williams Books, 2009

Judith Binney, Gillian Chaplin, Craig Wallace, *Mihaia: The prophet Rua Kenana and his community at Maungapohatu*, Bridget Williams Books, 2011

Judith Binney, *Redemption Songs: A life of Te Kooti Arikirangi Te Turuki*, Bridget Williams Books, 1995

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/>

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast/timeframes.natlib.govt.nz/>

■ BWB Publishing Trust would like to thank Lara Hearn-Rollo for help with these teacher notes.

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