

Weaving Ties To Oregon

MĀORIS continued
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came to see the meeting of the Tribes," she said. She also had lived in New Zealand.

"It's a fabulous show," said weaver Gail Tremblay (Onanadaga/Micmac) from Olympia, Washington, who came to be with friends.

"Very emotional," said Siletz Tribal Elder Rose Bremner. "I guess it was the mixing of the cultures."

Grand Ronde Tribal Elder Norma Lee made personal gifts to the weavers of her hand-made jewelry.

Rebecca Dobkins attended the show's opening in New Zealand in February, 2004 as part of the effort

to bring the show here, but she credited Native artists Lillian Pitt (Warm Springs-Wasco-Wishxam), Rick Bartow (Yurok) and others for developing a relationship with the Māoris over the last 15 years.

"The experience for both the Māoris and the people of Salem is so profound," said Pitt, who now has a show of some 75 pieces at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland. "I was very moved by it."

During their stay here, the Māoris visited with both Siletz and Grand Ronde Tribes. Here in

Grand Ronde, Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy welcomed them not only for weaving beautiful articles, but also for helping weave relationships.

The show was curated by the Pataka Museum of Porirua City, New Zealand in collaboration with Toi Māori Aotearoa (Māori Arts New Zealand). After its run in Salem, it will move to Seattle for a February-May run in 2006.

The Spirit Mountain Community Fund supported this exhibit with a grant of \$25,000. ■



Māori warrior with traditional Tribal tattooing.



Above: The President of Willamette University M. Lee Pelton. **Right:** Chairwoman of the Siletz Tribe Dee Pigsley. **Below:** On Monday, October 3, the Māoris visited Grand Ronde and brought many woven items to display.

