



Māori Costume

Taniko Tipare (Headband)

FEMALE COSTUME

With the passage of time Māori costume has changed quite a lot. The arrival of missionaries in New Zealand influenced the most significant change in traditional women's clothing by the introduction of a *pari* (bodice) pictured below, mostly for the sake of modesty and decorum as they saw it.

Around the time of Cook's arrival (1769) women wore a *maro*, a triangular shaped garment worn exactly like an apron. By the end of the 19th century the maro had gradually evolved into a kilt like garment similar to the *piupiu* (skirt) we know today, but also included a woven inner lining. The inner lining gradually became a much lighter weight cotton fabric underskirt called a *panekoti* (from the English word "petticoat"). In general terms, women's garments have remained pretty much unchanged since then. The panekoti, piupi and pari are usually topped off with a taniko woven headband known as a *tipare*, such as the one we have here.



MALE COSTUME

While the female costume has remained fairly unchanged for much of the last century or more, the male costume has varied much more in style over the years.

Until the middle of the 20th century some *piupiu* (skirt) worn by men were decorated with taniko weaving across top edge. Nowadays men's piupius are shorter (usually mid-thigh) with a plain black woven or plaited top edge. For much of the century males wore a *tapeka* (body band) like the one pictured below left, which was worn diagonally across the chest. However more recently there is a swing back to a style of costume that reflects the taniko woven red, white and black waistband (as pictured below right). Black shorts or a black bathing suit are now commonly worn by men for modesty and dignity.

