

# Top weaver takes Te Kopu fashion award

The Kuiti's celebrated weaver Rangituatahi "Digger" Te Kanawa felt obliged to contribute something to this year's Te Kopu fashion awards, since the show was being held in the Waikato.

She never dreamed she would walk away at the end of the day with the supreme trophy in her hands.

Mrs Te Kanawa's polyester-lined sheer evening gown "Aramoana" ran out hugely popular winner of the supreme award at a function held at Te Awamutu's racecourse in February.

Asked if she made a habit of designing contemporary clothing when she is not painstakingly weaving korowai cloaks and the like with feathers and flax, Mrs Te Kanawa said: "No, not really. I have always sewn, but I just felt that we in this area should make an effort seeing this had come to our area.

"I didn't think for a minute that I would win. I thought I would be in the also-rans," she said.

Mrs Te Kanawa's grand-daughter, Mata Turner modelled the dress, the name of which means pathway of the sea. Its design combined different shades of blue with a stylised representation of waves, while a three-tone plait on the neckline represented rimurimu, or seaweed.

The outdoor function in Te Awamutu was the first time the awards ceremony had been held there. The purpose of holding it in Te Awamutu was to coincide with the town's centennial year arts festival.

Former Wellington Mayor and Mayoress Sir Michael and Lady Barbara Fowler presented the awards, and the 1986 ceremony is to be held in the new Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington, it was announced.

Section award winners were:

• **Evening wear** — Shona Goodwin took this keenly contested section with a white satin doeskin dress featuring bodice and skirt edged with a motif worked in green sequins. The waist was nipped in with a sequin-sequined rose, and accompanying the dress was a small green-sequined headband. The model was Marama Theodore of Northland.

• **High fashion day wear** — Rangitiniia Wilson of Ngapuhi and Tuhoe tribes won this with a dress named "Paetutu". It was a medium-length creation of Thai silk featuring batwing sleeves and a double kick pleat at the back. The inset and belt were woven in the style of Maori woven kits. The model was Lyn Wilson, of the same tribes.



Mata Turner models "Aramoana," the sea-motifed supreme winner, designed by Mrs Te Kanawa.

• **Youth casual high fashion day wear** — Mr B Nin of Hamilton and Mrs A Taimana of Pakuranga won this section with a man's jacket and trousers outfit featuring a dramatic, quilted, triangular overlay on the jacket. The green and grey outfit was modelled by Hoani Heremaia.

• **Ethnic costume** — Mihi Johnson's traditional design featuring a feather clock, body sash, headband and piupiu took this award. Designed as a past pupils' costume for Hato Petera (St Peter's) College, it was modelled by William Daniels.

• **Children's wear** — two blue, heavily motifed light-weight short-sleeved shirts by Thea Green of Te Arawa tribe won this section. The models were Hoani Heremaia and James Forshaw.

• **Knitwear** — A combination of a dark green, full length knitted dress featuring a large, bold kowhai flower pattern on the front, a white knitted coat featuring a kowhaiwai pattern along the edges and a matching bonnet by Irene Wiki, of Paekakariki took this prize.

The judges also highly commended a