

the ranks of chess and ballroom dancing in the Wednesday afternoon cultural club offerings.

And in Auckland, a book narrating break dancing's history and growth in New Zealand is well under way.

So polish the lino, sweep the pavements pebble free. . . there is dancing in the streets.

Aku raukura

Modern "bop" music and kaumatua came face to face at this year's kaumatua wananga in Wellington.

And it showed that there is no generation gap in the appreciation of kids' music.

The music was the Patea Maori Club's follow-up to "Poi-E". The latest is "Raukura" and deals with identity.

Some elders had the chance of a sneak preview. Wanganui elder Mr Pahita Tauri expressed pride in his northern cousins.

"Our family ties are too strong for us to be jealous of them."

Several elders encouraged the modern maori sound the Patea club was putting out. They wanted other maori clubs to do likewise. They saw songs like Raukura as modern and not cutting across old traditions.

Mrs Wharakawa Ursula of Tauranga said there would be no opposition from her people. "They love 'Poi-E'".

Mr Sonny Keepa of Napier said, "My kids bop to it in the streets."

Mr Keepa is a writer of traditional maori songs.

Mrs Ngoi Pewhairangi of Tokomaru Bay, who co-wrote "Poi-E", was praised by Mr Rua Cooper of Turangawaewae marae. He described Ngoi's talents as "truly great".

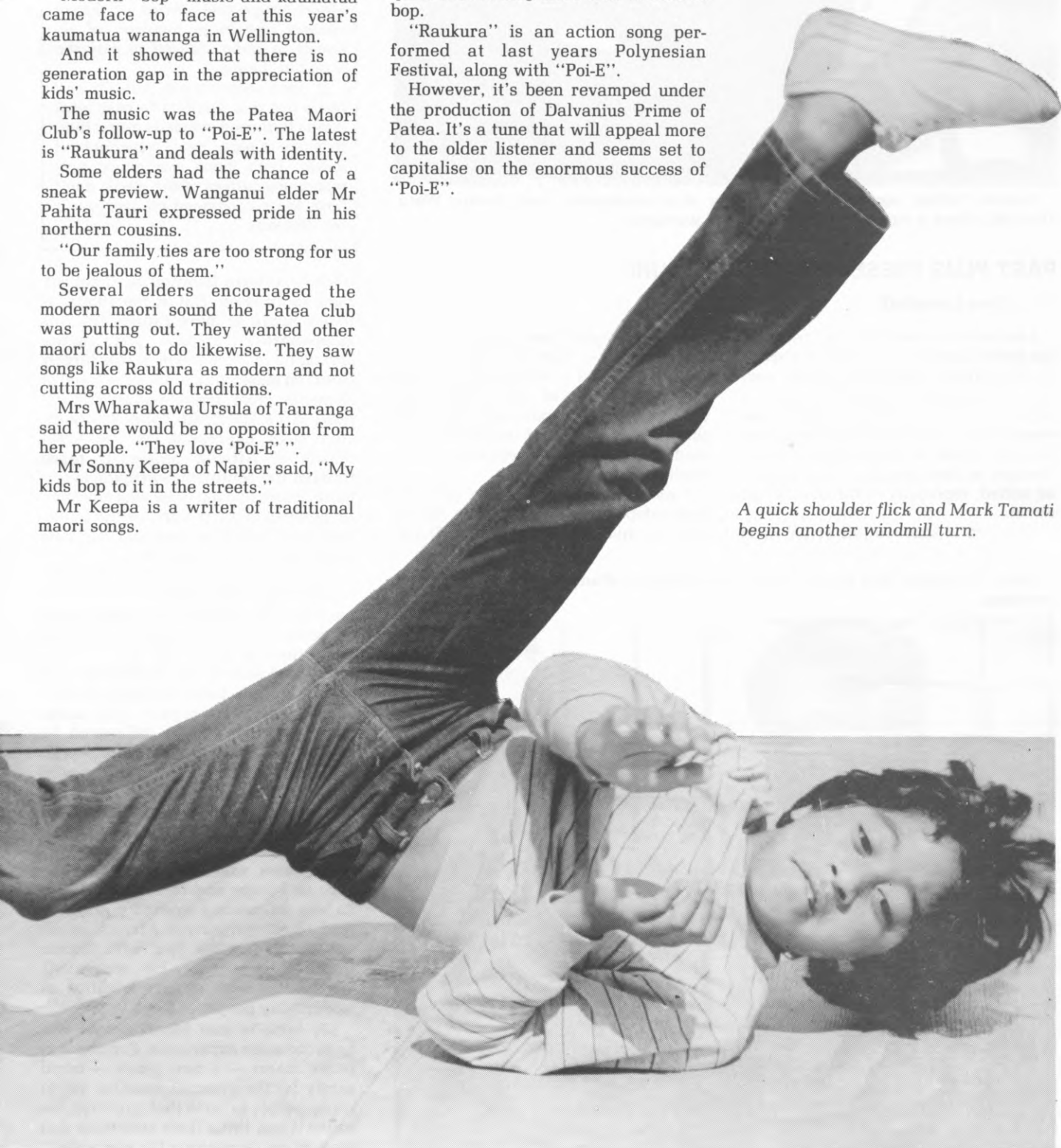
Besides "Poi-E" she also wrote Prince Tui Teke's No 1 hit, "E Ipo" and the latest, "Raukura".

Taranaki elder, Mr Sonny Waru said "Poi-E" was great, but this one was even better.

"Poi-E" is a reggae-poi song with a quick beat suiting those who wanted to bop.

"Raukura" is an action song performed at last years Polynesian Festival, along with "Poi-E".

However, it's been revamped under the production of Dalvanus Prime of Patea. It's a tune that will appeal more to the older listener and seems set to capitalise on the enormous success of "Poi-E".



A quick shoulder flick and Mark Tamati begins another windmill turn.