

# Taneatua's homegrown talent

Sandra and Rangī Mowry with their friend Lorraine Kemara brought the prestigious New Zealand Golden Clef award for country music home to Taneatua.

Incredibly it was the first time the trio, named the Imbuettes, had got together for nearly six months, as they now all live in different towns.

The day before the competitions they went over their numbers, old favourites: "My Baby Think's He's a Train", "Oh Lonesome Me", and "Mama Say a Prayer."

Originally next-door neighbours in Taneatua only Lorraine Kemara of the Imbuettes is still living there. Rangī Mowry boards in Whakatane and attends high school there, while her sister Sandra works and lives in Rotorua.

Rehearsals, although less frequent and often in different places or even towns, are now more concentrated.

Alan Mowry, the father of Sandra and Rangī as well as the tutor of the group, says that while they have less time together, they put a lot of effort and sheer hard slog into rehearsals.

The difficulties seem to have been overcome in Rotorua when against 360 other entrants from throughout New Zealand, the girls won not only the N.Z. Golden Clef award, which included \$1650 in prize money, but also won the group section and the chance to be one of the ten entrants in the Country Music Entertainer of the Year competition.

While none of the trio have any definite plans for their music career at the moment, they have already begun discussing and sorting out their presentation for the Entertainer of the Year competition for Hamilton in September.

It's along way from when the group first drifted together about four years ago and began performing at the Whakatane Country Music Club.

The name "Imbuettes", they got from a dictionary and according to Rangī they "sort of added to it". Her father says with fatherly pride that the name describes them: 'pleasure in small amounts'.

Lorraine Kemara like Sandra and Rangī has a deep love for country music, "I find it really relaxing. I like other music too, especially rock'n'roll." Her favourite singer is Elvis Presley.

Rangī is keen on all music, while Sandra prefers country music with just a bit of new wave.

Sandra, Lorraine and Rangī also sing individually with Rangī having won the Eastern Bay of Plenty Starbound com-

petition last year.

The winning of the Golden Clef award means a big step for the girls and puts their names alongside other winners of the trophy including Patsy Riggir, Janic Ramage and the Montgomery Sisters.

And the future for the Imbuettes?

"We don't know," says Lorraine, "we didn't expect to get this far. But

we're very excited about the Country Music Entertainer of the Year contest and we've got a lot of work to do before then."

Says Sandra, "We enjoy country music and we enjoy singing, that's the main thing."

*Photo credit: Erin Armstrong, Whakatane Beacon*

