

Future development possibilities are also looked at such as federations, and investment arms of Maori commercial organisations.

John Dyall has an honours degree in Economics.

TE OHU WHAKAARI/MERUPA MAORI

... at the Depot Theatre, Wellington

What may be hailed as the great Borthwicks Gumboot Dance was premiered in exciting fashion by Merupa Maori, six young Maori and a Zulu.

That's right a Zulu, Kintsho Ka'Tshabalala who provided the drum accompaniment to what is a new cultural cross-over in dance.

The idea of setting a Maori dance theme against an african drumbeat along with Maori waiata was the collaboration of Kintsho, a Zulu percussionist working with the Wellington Arts Centre Trust, and John Tahuparae, the person behind the innovative drama group Te Ohu Whakaari and now Merupa Maori. It's a very successful union judging by the premiere performance and the audience reaction.

The choreography included not only gumboots worn for a foot-stomping, thigh-slapping dance routine but also full-face motorcycle helmets decked out in striking warpaint.

Full marks also for the up-tempo drum rhythm from all Merupa Maori with the solo award going to Kintsho with some elaborate counterpoint drumming.

I also enjoyed his whaikorero both in Maori and his native tongue.

The links have now been firmly drawn between our two cultures.

As for Te Ohu Whakaari, they are a different taste.

Not for them the brash, energetic display of youthful zest for life, instead the measured pace of the word in time.

Apirana Taylor was very convincing spinning the 'oh so true story' of the frustrated carver and Tina Cook was right over the top in the Patricia Grace 'slice of life' vehicle, 'It used to be green once'.

'He koha ki na taku kuia' also made very effective use of light and shade to handle a poignant korero between generations.

These performing artists are making new waves from a contemporary cultural base and need make no apologies for interpreting their cultures in a new light.

As kaumatua, Wiremu Parker said after the premiere performance, it was a new waka being launched, but it went with his blessing.

James Rongotoa Elkington

Paramount Chief of the Ngati Koata Tribe, and a Patriarch in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, James Rongotoa Elkington, died peacefully in his son's home, Temple View, Hamilton at 11.40p.m. on Saturday June 1st.

Born on D'Urville Island on June 21st 1898 he was the third of 14 children born to John Arthur Elkington and Wetekia Ruruku, and until his death their eldest surviving child.

The Ngati Koata tribe of which he was the Paramount Chief extends its blood lines from Kawhia, the Waikato through into Nelson having migrated from Kawhia to Kapiti during Ngati Toa's exodus under Te Rauparaha later moving to D'Urville Island.

Educated at the Whangarae Native Primary School in the Croxielles area of Nelson he left at the age of 13 to attend the Maori Agricultural College in Hastings.

He was a top student in his time at the Latter Day Saint Maori Agricultural College also being a contemporary of the legendary full back George Nepia.

In 1917 he married Hultan Mere Meha and together they raised 13 children, 8 of their own and 5 adopted. His first wife passed away in 1946 and in 1951 he married Elsie Caroline Wolfgramme raising 2 more children.

His surviving descendants, from children through numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren, gathered from the United States of America, Australia, Tonga and all parts of New Zealand to attend the memorial and funeral services.

During his life he worked as a farming contractor, carpenter and educator. He and his family contributed 40 years of man hours in construction work for the Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints working on both the New Zealand Temple and the Church College of New Zealand, Hamilton.

He also served as a member of the Church College of New Zealand Faculty from 1958 to 1971 becoming in 1972 the Maori Advisor to the Brigham Young University in Hawaii.

As a faithful and active member in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints he served as a Branch President on D'Urville Island and in Porirua also serving as Elder's Quorum President in Porirua.

He was the first Maori Patriarch in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints being called in 1967 serving faithfully from that time.

Throughout his life, whether it was

while fulfilling his position as Paramount Chief in the Ngati Koata tribe or his labours in his beloved Church, he followed in the footsteps of the Saviour with humility always willing to serve those who needed him.

He was a quiet unassuming man whose love for the Gospel governed everything that he did esteeming every person as himself constantly living his personal motto of "Doing unto others as he would be done by."

Paeroa Hawea

Kua hinga mai i roto o Whanganui a Paeroa Hawea he wahine i kaingakautia e ona iwi i nga ra ka pahure. I Pungaharuru, he marae kei runga tata ake i Te Paku-o-te-rangi, i Putiki-wharanui te tangihanga mona, i whakaeke ai nga iwi maha ki te tuku atu i ia ki ona matua, tupuna ka riro ki te po.

He wahine rangatira a Paeroa no runga i te waka nei i a Kurahaupo o Ngati-Apa. He wahine manaaki i te iti i te rahi, a he toka no te Haahi Mihinare o te pariha o Aotea-Kurahaupo. He wahine manaaki i nga taonga tuku iho a ona tupuna, a ko ia tetahi o nga tino kaihautu mo te roopu e mohio whanungia nei ko te Putiki Maori club, mai i te timatanga o tenei karapu i te tau 1952. He uri rangatira i heke mai i tenei rangatira rongonui o ona ra, i a Kawana Hunia, ko tetahi o ana ingoa ko Kawana Te Hakeke. Ko Te Hakeke te rangatira o Ngati-Apa i nga ra o Te Rauparaha ma, ka moe i a Kaewa o Muaupoko, ka puta ko Te Hakeke, tetahi ano o ana ingoa ko Te Rara-o-te-rangi. He wahine whakaiti, i whakaponongatia i ona ra, hei manaaki i nga mahi katoa i roto o ona iwi. Haere e te Whaea, te pononga a te Haahi, te pononga a te iwi. Me tango ake ko tetahi o nga whiti o te tangi ki to tupuna hei whakaranea atu i enei tangi atu ki a koe i te nuku o te whenua:—
Ka eke koe ki runga o Pukehou,
Ka whakamau e hine ki waho o Raukawa;

Ko nga moana ra, e whakawhana noa ra O tupuna i te kakau o te hoe,
Ngaro rawa atu ki Hawaiki.

Moe mai i roto i te anu mataotao, i te rua whakautu o matua tupuna. E te whanau pani, tena koutou i to tatou whaea kua tukuna atu na e koutou ki te koopu o Papatuanuku. Noho mai, me te tangi, me te aroha nui.

Kingi M. Ihaka
Sydney