

Maori speech awards go to N.I.

Pupils from North Island schools won all four sections in the 1984 National Maori Speech Contest, which were held in Christchurch.

A record 44 contestants, representing 11 regions, competed in the finals after having been welcomed with a powhiri by 450 pupils from Christchurch secondary school at the Rehua marae on Thursday.

It was the first time the contest had been held in the South Island.

The competition comprises junior and senior sections in two areas, one in English for Maori pupils and the other in Maori. Contestants may compete in one area only.

The contest winners were: Korimako competition (senior English), Keri Milne (Manurewa High School, Auckland); Sir Turi Carroll competition (junior English), Erina Hurihanganui (Wellington High School, Wellington-Hutt Valley-Wairarapa); Pei Te Hurinui Jones competition (senior Maori), Wai Eruera (Sacred Heart College, Hawke's Bay); Te Rawhiti Ihaka competition (junior Maori), Wayne Wills (Lytton High School, East Coast).

Wai Eruera is the first girl to win the Pei Te Hurinui Jones competition since 1977, when it was won by Vicky Wehi.

Keri Milne's win in the Korimako competition was also notable as she won the junior section in this area last year and in 1982.

The speeches of the contestants and the official speakers at the prize-giving ceremony on Saturday acknowledged the life and work of the late Riki Te Mairaki Taiaroa Ellison, paramount chief of the Ngai Mamoe and Ngai Tahu tribes.

At the 1983 finals in Whangarei Mr Ellison presented Christchurch's request to be the venue for 1984, said the publicity officer, Mrs Rae James.

It was his mana and prestige that had ensured that the contest finals went to the South Island.

The judges for the Korimako and Sir Turi Carroll competitions were Mrs Tilly Reedy, Mr Bill Nepia, and Mr Bill Gillies. Mr Willie Kaa, Mr Hohua Tutengaehe, and Mrs Maxine Tamahori judged the Pei Te Hurinui Jones and Te Rawhiti Ihaka competitions.

The contest closed at the Rehua marae with a haka. It was announced that Wellington would be host for the next finals, at the Sir Michael Fowler Centre from July 24 to 26, 1985.

The competition is sponsored jointly by the New Zealand Post-Primary Teachers' Association and the Maori Education Foundation.

Results were:

Korimako — Keri Milne 1, Yvette Davis (Wellington East Girls' College, Wellington-Hutt Valley-Wairarapa) 2, John Waititi (Northland College, Northland) 3.



Waiarini Eruera with the Pei Te Hurinui Jones trophy won at this year's national Maori speech contest in Christchurch. From Sacred Heart College Napier, Waiarini spoke on the difference between Maoritanga and Taha Maori. Photo credit: Hawkes Bay Herald Tribune.