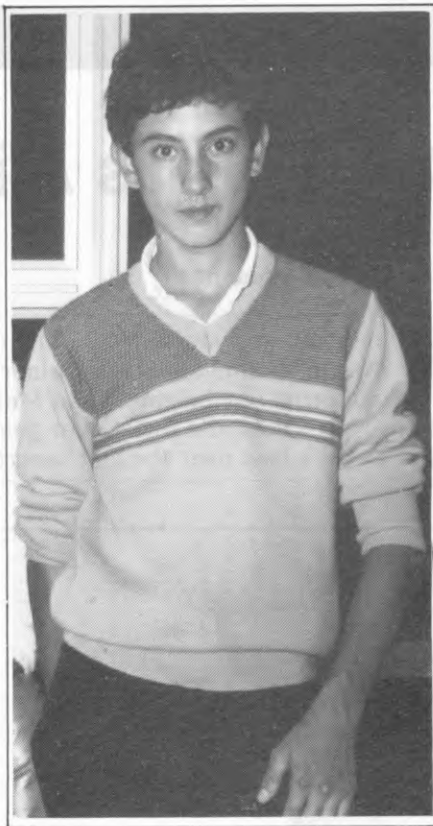




Poroporaki

## Youth bring mural to light



About 40 rangatahi presented a mural with two separate carvings to the Wainuiomata Karate club, near Wellington, in December.

The mural is a tribute to fifteen year old Karate ace, David Te Hiko. He died last June, nine days after a car accident in Wainuiomata.

Besides being a leading member of the Wainuiomata Karate club, David was also a keen hunter.

He was a successful student at Wainuiomata College as well as the leader of the local Catholic parish youth group.

Mike sees the memorial mural as a "symbol of all the good characteristics of the youth today".

Mike explained that the mural and carvings were created and produced by the rangatahi of the Kokiri Manakau Steps programme.

"This has provided them with a stimulating method of bonding and sharing with each other," Mike said.

"By travelling to Wainuiomata with the mural, they have effectively shared their aroha with the youth and community of Wainuiomata."

Mike says that this bond is a reverse of the negative publicity the youth are getting.

"This whole experience is seen as an ideal way of building the self-esteem of young adults and of enhancing their social development."

After unveiling the mural, the audience, which included local MP Fraser Colman and his wife, were treated to a karate demonstration.