

in themselves and in the children of the practise of tikanga maori.

And even more important to the teachers was that the parents backed them up in the desire to have their children bi-lingual.

It seems the NZ Council for Education Research survey which showed the maori language speaking population heading for extinction, determined the people of Omaha to head in the other direction.

However the expectation of the community also puts pressure on teachers and this was felt in varying degrees by the teachers of Omaha.

They spoke of the feeling of having to be 'expert' in all fields of tikanga maori, when they all pointed to their youth and lack of kaumatua-ship. They acknowledged their need for guidance from kaumatua and the resources of the community for them to do their work properly.

And they spoke of the need to recharge the batteries by going back to their marae for periods of time.

This is one of the take being looked at by their Hawke's Bay Maori Teachers' Association and is being taken up by the NZ Educational Institute.

The Omaha teachers pointed out that in this association, they are younger and sometimes more inexperienced than their secondary school Maori teacher counterparts.

It's in this area that Omaha School children are privileged. Their school goes to Form Two without the break of school for Intermediate education. This enables the pupils at around age thirteen to go to Hastings Boys or Girls High where there is a continuation of their bi-lingual education, in that there are full-time maori language teachers.

To the teachers of Omaha, they see young boys and girls standing up with more confidence by the time they are teenagers. Young people confident in their spirits of who and what they are.



## NZ Music Awards 1985

Above:  
The Patea Maori Club provided a colourful and musical backdrop to the awards, impressing with the wealth of experience they've picked up from their European and American tours.

Right:  
Herbs' drummer, Fred Faleauto accepted an award for best album cover design of Long Ago.



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