

School in Singapore

The school system is totally based on merit. Any time school work is not up to par then a student can be asked to leave. As Singapore is small and densely populated the senior grades go to school from 7.30am til 1pm, and the junior grades go from 1.30pm til 6pm. Because of Singapore's overcrowdedness the Government's policy of two children per family only is enforced by

papers and major magazines made Sundee's life fun and interesting, as well as elegant for a teenager.

Living in Singapore a household would have an 'amah' or a servant.

"She was an elf-like Malaysian who kept our house spotless and sometimes cooked for us," says DeWayne. "Some households had many 'amahs'. One for cooking, one to garden and drive. Labour is cheap and the work is good.



De Wayne Transfield and his sister Sundee at the Maori village, Hawaii.

economic sanctions. One result is that your child will have great difficulty being admitted to a school of choice, if any school at all. Abortion is free and government sponsored.

DeWayne's brother Le Roy had to attend in the later afternoon. As a result he became extremely discouraged. So to overcome the tension Le Roy decided to run home from school instead of catching the bus. As this continued he was bought a back pack, running shoes, and running gear to run home. He has been running ever since. Consequently his running career has taken him to the High School Championships and some day to better things perhaps.

But for DeWayne's sister Sundee, it was not possible for her to survive the competitive Singapore school life. She dropped out but later got her U.E. at the Hutt Valley High School when the family returned to New Zealand. So Sundee took a modelling course in Singapore costing \$500 which she had borrowed from an agency. But she had to work to pay all her debts. Happily her life changed and earning good money from modelling made a difference. Appearances in TV commercials, news-

Family background

DeWayne grew up in Lower Hutt, and the family attended Waiwhetu School. His mother taught at Naenae College for many years and then moved to Sydney, Australia. After two years his mother got a teaching position at Singapore for four years. Then like other nineteen year olds LDS youths DeWayne decided to serve a mission and was assigned to Japan for 18 months. First he reported to the language training programme and Missionary Training Centre at Provo Utah for a very intensive language and disciplining course. This was necessary for his missionary role. However being the only polynesian there attending at the time, and his first initial visit to the USA, DeWayne learnt in a personal way to be motivated to perform duties of a more spiritual nature in keeping with his commitments.

Life in Japan

At Okinawa it took DeWayne six months for his language skills to become fluent. Food was expensive and DeWayne rarely ate a meal. He slept on the floor Japanese style. Occasionally a mistake would happen ignorantly or in-

nocently.

DeWayne remembers "rice in Japan is to be eaten plain and anything on it is very rude. I offended an entire restaurant as I poured soy sauce over my rice."

Houses were sparsely furnished at best and visiting people in their homes was agony on the knees after kneeling for two hours. In fact DeWayne remembers he has nearly been crippled at the knees a few times.

On his return to New Zealand DeWayne got a job at the James Cook Hotel in Wellington as night manager. With his Japanese language skills to his credit he was the reservation clerk at the front desk operations. But not many Japanese tourists came while he was there.

A few months later when he and his sister Sundee both received two scholarships from the Polynesian Cultural Centre for four years covering air fare, tuition, board and books plus a guaranteed nominal wage and employment at the PCC, they left with under a week's notice. Amid mad frantic packing and farewells they were now students at the BYU Hawaii Campus sponsored by PCC. This was an entirely new programme and DeWayne and Sundee were two of the first recipients.

An acute shortage of Japanese speaking guides occurred at PCC so DeWayne transferred out of the Maori Village, to conduct walking tours, canoe tours and assist at the restaurant. Now as the supervisor and co-ordinator DeWayne organises Japanese groups as they enter the PCC.

About being a Maori living abroad and in a few countries, DeWayne is proud of his Te Atiawa and Ngai Tahu ties. He has found it difficult to be involved in his Maori culture, as he never had the time with sports, school studies and church commitments.

"But my mother has always keep me abreast of what's happening and has always made me feel proud of my Maori heritage," said DeWayne. Now his mother is on the teaching staff at the Church College of NZ. His uncle, Tata is on the Maori Council and his uncle Huri is a Mormon Bishop of a ward in the Hutt Valley. Then he has an aunt who lives in Hawaii as well, so he has family members nearby. But when he visits his cousins they do not enjoy his wanting to view Japanese programmes on TV all the time. On taking him cruising down to Waikiki, he wants to practise his Japanese on all the Japanese tourists and read all the Japanese travel brochures of Honolulu.

DeWayne reflects by saying "One thing that has always bothered me is that Maori youth tend to sell themselves short. I plan to excel professionally and bring honour to my Maori people as well as my German parentage.