

TAINUI STEPHENS



Some of the officials and helpers from the Festival. At right, Archdeacon Kingi Ihaka, chairman of the Festival Committee and also of the Auckland host committee. Bill Kerekere (below) helped with the compere duties. Below are some of the judges. By the end of the weekend they seemed exhausted and dazzled by the quantity and quality of performance they had had to assess. Above are just two of the wardens who helped things run smoothly — controlling crowds, directing traffic or, as here, helping a baby find its parents.

Both organisation and judging aroused some criticism — not of the way they were handled but of what can realistically be expected given the present limitations of the Festival.

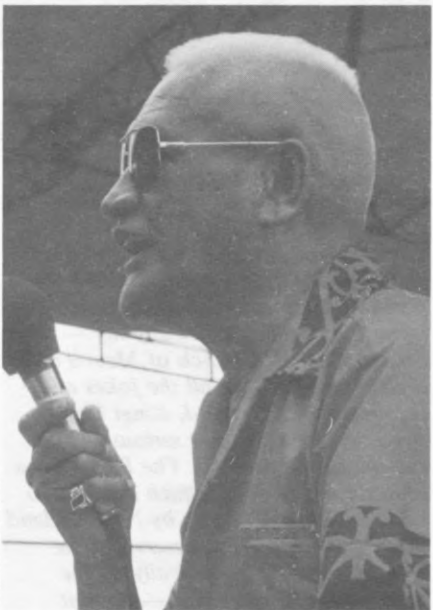
Should the Festival continue to be competitive, for example? And if so, is it really a Festival? Some, like Peter Sharples, argue that the competitive element is the best spur to excellence; others feel that it cheapens the spirit of the occasion, that participants perform merely to score points according to an artificial and arbitrary scale of values — a scale made more arbitrary by the preferences and expectations of the judges. And how significant are the results when highly polished, much applauded groups aren't placed, or when there may be two or three first equals?

These were not the "sour grapes" complaints of the losers, but seriously raised issues which will doubtless be discussed further before the next Festival in 1983.

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