



BRIGHT FUTURES: Cousins Heremia McGarvey and Te Urupounamu McGarvey came away with wins at the Maori Women's Welfare League speech competition this month.

Photo Louis Klaxson
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Police apology inspires school speech winner

Karia Akuhata
Maori affairs reporter

HIRIA Te Moma knows that Te Urupounamu McGarvey, 12, is des-

tined for greatness.

The Te Tawera Bilingual School principal was there when Te Urupounamu claimed the Julie O'Rourke trophy at the Mataatua regional section of the Maori Women's Welfare League Pu Korero

speech competition this month.

And she decided to take Te Urupounamu and her eight-year-old cousin Heremia McGarvey, who won the junior boys' section at the speech competition, to the Mataatua regional section of the Manu Korero speech

competition, held at the Liberty Centre in Whakatane on Friday.

The Pu Korero competition is organised by the league to encourage speech-making skills in primary

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Apology inspires winning speech

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school children.

With famous people the topic, Heremia chose to speak about his ancestor Ngapera Black, who had been instrumental in forming the Ruatoki section of the league.

Mrs Te Moma said Te Urupounamu used a trip to Wellington earlier this year as part of the police apology to Tuhoe for the Operation Eight terror raids, and the impact it had on its people, as her inspiration for the winning speech.

She said the topic for the junior girls' section was marae and Te Urupounamu used the different buildings they attended to discuss the theme.

"We went on a trip as part of the police's apology and she used that to talk about the different marae on our trip and what we did there.

"On our way to Wellington we called in to the Waiouru Army Museum and she talked about the museum as a marae, then we went to Horouta Marae, at Porirua, where we stayed, and the Police College was another marae, then Parliament. And she finished when we came home."

Mrs Te Moma said she wanted to take the two children to the Manu Korero com-

petition so they could see what would be expected of them in the future if they wanted to continue to develop their speech-making skills.

"I took the both of them to Manu Korero, especially Te Urupounamu. She is going to high school next year and I wanted them to see that it is another level up."

She said the kids enjoyed the speeches and were proud their whanaunga (relations) from Te Wharekura o Ruatoki took out all sections at the Manu Korero prize-giving.

The winners included year 9 student Timi Riini, who won the junior section. The senior Maori section was won by year 13 student Akuira Tiakiwai. In the English sections, Anarea Tawhai, a year 10 student, took out the junior category and year 13 pupil Te Iwarangi Harae claimed the top place in the senior competition.

Te Urupounamu and Heremia will represent the Eastern Bay in the Pu Korero national speech competition later this year. The four students from Te Whare Kura o Ruatoki will represent the region at the national Manu Korero competition in September at the Te Rauparaha Centre in Porirua.