



Some of the Maori performers who are taking part in the opening ceremony.

# Celebrations on a lesser scale

By JOHN MATHESON

It was supposed to include a grand programme of laser shows, an opera with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, rock concerts at Western Springs Stadium and a festival of sails.

It was supposed to include a performance by Les Grande Ballets Canadiens, the "world's biggest" flea market and a gala ball at the Auckland railway station.

But it doesn't. . .

The much talked about 1990 Commonwealth Games Arts Festival will instead only include an opening ceremony featuring Maori and Polynesian outrigger canoes on the Waitemata Harbour, international drum and dance performances, exhibitions of African stone carvings, Commonwealth ceramics, photography, Aboriginal art, theatresports, dance and drama.

It's an impressive line-up that Aucklanders should enjoy but nowhere near the extravaganza that was promised nine months ago.

The Fisher Gallery in Pakuranga will play its part when it hosts the Commonwealth Quilt Exhibition from January 19 to February 25.

The centre piece of the exhibition will be the Commonwealth Friendship Quilt. Auckland artist Carol Shepherd designed the quilt which she says reflects the common bonds found in the New Zealand landscape.

The quilt will be given to the Canadian city of Victoria - the venue for the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

Twenty-five primary and intermediate schools in

Howick and Pakuranga will also take part in the Fisher Gallery Exhibition.

Each school was invited to present a painting, drawing or construction of something that is unique to their school or community. Their work will be on view from February 5-9.

One of the festival highlights will be the opening ceremony on the Waitemata on January 20. A giant Maori war canoe will be flanked by hundreds of outrigger canoes from around the world.

When the canoes arrive at Okahu Bay, two weeks of celebration in the city will begin. On the day, a big party at Okahu Bay will be staged.

Entertainers will include a steel band from Trinidad & Tobago, eight sega dancers from Mauritius, four Aboriginal dancers, and drummers and dancers from Ghana, the Bahamas, Australia, Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa, Kenya, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea.

Another highlight will be the international theatresports test match featuring actors from New Zealand, Australia, Italy, Denmark, the United Kingdom and America.

Other highlights include a Zimbabwe Heritage exhibition at the Aotea Centre from January 25 to February 25. It features 90 pieces of stone carvings and 35 paintings.

The Nathan Homestead in Manukau will feature an exhibition of Commonwealth ceramics from everywhere from Australia to the Cayman Islands in the Caribbean. The exhibition starts on January 24 and finishes on February 18.



Theatresports will be a feature of the Commonwealth Games Arts Festival.