



Above: Waikato Times reporter Te Anga Nathan talks with Linda Sabbage while photographer Kent Blechynden sorts out angles for a good shot that will not include clear views of the mural. Restrictions were placed on publication of photographs of the mural by the Turangawaewae authorities, who had commissioned the work. Below: Kent Blechynden targeting Brad Wharakura for the shot (right).



BUDDING ARTIST: Brad Wharakura at work on one of the two murals at Ngaruawahia's Turangawaewae marae. PICTURE: Kent Blechynden

## Holiday job labour of love

By TE ANGA NATHAN

Ngaruawahia High School art student Brad Wharakura has a six-week painting job for Christmas and he's loving it.

The 17-year-old and 14 of his classmates are designing and painting two murals to decorate new sleeping quarters at Ngaruawahia's Turanga-

waewae marae.

They will work under the guidance of their art teacher Linda Sabbage.

Te Arikini Dame Te Atairangikaahu asked Ngaruawahia High principal Barbara Cavanagh if the students could produce some artwork for the new Kimikimi and Pare Hauraki complex which is to be opened in February.

Brad Wharakura, who scored 99 per cent in School Certificate art last year, said it was a privilege to be asked to do the work. The group will paint two 18m oval murals.

"I wanted to do this because this is my marae too, and to follow in the footsteps of my grandfather (Wiremu Wharakura) who did some artwork at the marae."