



FINAL FAREWELL: Haimona Maruera leads a traditional wero (challenge) as the casket bearing Dalvanus Prime is carried from Pariroa Marae.

Photo: MARK DWYER

Farewell to Dalvanus

By **DAVID BRUCE**

MISS ME, but let me go — that was the message Dalvanus Prime sent to mourners gathered to farewell him at Pariroa Marae, near Kakaramea, yesterday.

Several hundred people, family, whanau and friends, attended the morning service which began a progression that finished when the singer-songwriter was buried alongside his ancestors at Tutahi urupa, at Nukumarū, near Waitotara, later in the afternoon.

Dalvanus, who died last Thursday after a long illness, was offered many tributes, including a verse of his own song

An Angel Tonight, sung by his friend and fellow performer John Rowles.

And media laid down their cameras as a mark of respect as the Patea Maori Club faced his cloak-draped casket and performed a poi to honour him.

As Dalvanus was carried from the threshold of Taiporohenui, the whareniui where he had lain in state, his bearers and entourage were preceded by traditional wero (challenges).

But as the casket was loaded into the funeral hearse, the challenges faded and gave way to the singing of Poi E, the song that Dalvanus and the Patea Maori Club made a hit.

At a second ceremony later in

the morning at Hawera's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, mourners overflowed the church and listened to an outdoor relay as family members, including Dalvanus' daughter Alishiba, paid further tribute.

"He was an example of what we can do for ourselves," one nephew said, referring to Dalvanus' musical career and the encouragement he had given to others.

"He was cool, and I love him," said Alishiba.

At the time of his death, Dalvanus was working on three new recording projects and was due to go to the United States to complete negotiations for the return of moko mokai.