



Members of the Danish community in Auckland perform one of their folk dances (above) at the Red Cross centennial pageant in the Town Hall last night.

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Red Cross stages pageant of nations

A colourful pageant of nations, "Bouquet Rouge," was presented in the Town Hall last night by the Auckland centre of the New Zealand Red Cross Society as the main celebration of the centenary of the Red Cross movement.

A cast of more than 200 took part in the pageant, which was produced by Ngaire Lovie.

Junior Red Cross members in the national costumes of more than 80 countries participated in a parade of nations which began the pageant.

Nurses from Auckland and Green Lane Hospitals followed in a tableau showing the changes in nursing attire from 1859, the time of Florence Nightingale, to the present day. Unusual lighting and authentic costumes helped to make the tableau most effective.

Migrant communities in Auckland presented national songs and dances—Samoan, Danish, Dutch, Flamenco and British. Two well-prepared choral items from the Estonian mixed choir were popular with the large audience, as did the solos of Auckland tenor, William Dent.

Lion Dance

Usually only performed for festivals, the Chinese Lion Dance was presented by two members of Auckland's Chinese community, with an accompaniment of gongs, drums and cymbals.

This dance and the Maori items proved the most popular. Presented by the Auckland Teachers' College Maori troupe, the bracket of action songs was performed with a professional polish, and the solo singing of Hanna Tatana was outstanding. Rayne Walker showed her skill

with the long pois.

The Town Hall was decked with flags and at the back of the stage was a huge floodlit red cross.

Included in the official party were the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr Anderton, the Mayor, Mrs K. N. Buttle and representatives of the consular corps, the Dominion Red Cross Society and the Auckland centre of the Red Cross.