

# No replacement for Shaw

**Karla Akuhata**  
Staff reporter

RATHER than replace the person responsible for managing staff in Te Urewera, Tuhoe's chief executive has assumed the responsibility herself and will not look for another manager until at least next year.

Last year, as part of a co-governance agreement between Tuhoe and the Government for Te Urewera, the tribe's governance arm, Te Uru Taumatua, assumed responsibility for Department of Conservation staff who worked in the former national park.

The department continues to cover the financial costs of maintaining the workforce but since August staff had been reporting directly to Te Uru Taumatua through a manager employed by the tribe.

Willie Shaw, director and principal of ecological services consultancy Wildland Consultants, was

employed to be that manager.

However, despite the agreement between the department and Te Uru Taumatua, which was set to continue until this August, Mr Shaw handed in his resignation just before Christmas.

Mr Shaw did not want to discuss his departure and nor did Te Uru Taumatua chief executive Kirsti Luke.

Ms Luke said yesterday she would not be searching for anyone to replace Mr Shaw until next year.

"The position is not being filled at this stage. In the interim I have taken up some of those responsibilities and I have promoted Dan Baigent to the role of planning manager, with operational responsibility within Te Urewera."

Ms Luke said the search for a replacement would not begin until a new management plan for the area, Te Kawa o Te Urewera, had been designed and adopted.

At present, Te Uru Taumatua was in the process of consulting



**Kirsti Luke,**  
Te Uru Taumatua  
chief executive

stakeholders about the plan. The deadline for providing feedback on the Te Kawa O Te Urewera framework was February 26, with a draft plan to be released in April 2017 and the final copy to be confirmed in September of that year.

Ms Luke said she also wanted to wait until the Te Urewera Board, responsible for governance of the former national park, was rejigged next year.

The Te Urewera Board comprises joint Tuhoe and Crown membership and its legislated purpose is to strengthen Tuhoe's connection with Te Urewera. Its members

comprise chairman Tamati Kruger, Matthew Te Pou, Lorna Taylor, Te Tokawhakea Temara, Jim Bolger, John Wood, Dave Bamford and Jo Breese.

The board members were appointed for three years. After the initial term, the board's membership will change to comprise six members appointed by Tuhoe and three appointed by the minister of conservation. The chair will always be selected from among the Tuhoe appointees.

The Beacon asked conservation minister Maggie Barry if she had any concerns about the management of Te Urewera, given Mr Shaw's resignation and Ms Luke's decision not to replace him for the time being.

Ms Barry, through her media spokesperson, declined to comment.

"This is an operational employment issue for Tuhoe, not a matter for the minister, and you are best to direct your questions to them."