

Te Urewera Board seeks to strengthen broad relationships

BUILDING stronger relationships is the focus of a booklet developed by Te Urewera Board.

With a focus on growth and prosperity, Te Urewera Board aims to strengthen and maintain the connection between Tuhoe and Te Urewera.

Board member Lorna Taylor presented the booklet to Wairoa district councillors at a recent forum.

The booklet outlines the aim of the board which Mrs Taylor summarised simply as “about strengthening its relationships with the Wairoa District Council and the manuhiri, and bonding people together”.

She said the board had worked diligently on the document and now was keen to gauge feedback and support.

“The booklet is designed around a framework which outlines key features to fit everybody in to it.”

“We have taken a unique approach with the document and we act in the name of Te Urewera to protect the status and all its natural features.”

“It is about strengthening relationships and bonding people together — and we are asking for council’s support on the framework.”

Mrs Taylor said the framework was also aimed at preserving the natural features and beauty of Te Urewera, as

well as the integrity of its indigenous ecological systems and biodiversity.

“It is also designed to help preserve Te Urewera’s cultural heritage and to present the area as a place for public use and enjoyment — for recreation, learning, spiritual reflection and an inspiration for us all.”

Mrs Taylor said the board had a strong desire to reach out to areas where relationships were key.

“We are hoping the new visitor centre will draw people to the area to get a feel for the culture, land and water.

“We want to connect with people in a way they haven’t (been connected) before,” she said.

Within the booklet it states “manuhiri are important to the vibrancy of a living Te Urewera” and added that manuhiri refers to people whose ideas, care and innovation may be vital to an enduring feature.

Mrs Taylor said they believe Te Urewera offers an opportunity to facilitate livelihood and lifestyles.

Wairoa mayor Craig Little commended the booklet and said the area deserved respect as it was “precious”.

Councillor Min Johansen said to expand on this aim would be a real drawcard for the area.