

New kapa haka to debut at Tuhoe festival

A NEW kapa haka, formed to reconnect young people living in urban centres to their roots in Ruatoki, will perform at Tuhoe's Te Ahurei Festival this weekend.

Jacqui Te Amo attended a Taneatua Community Board meeting last month to ask for support for the Oruakorau Kapa Haka, connected to the Tuhoe subtribes of Ngati Koura 1 and 2.

The board undertook to

give the kapa haka \$500 to help with resources needed to take part in the ahurei festival.

In the lead up to the festival, the kapa, or group, has based itself at Otenuku Marae, opposite Ruatoki School.

Ms Te Amo said it comprised 45 people, some travelling from Palmerston North and Auckland to take part in practices.

She said there were a

lot of disconnected young people with tribal affiliations to Tuhoe living in the urban areas and forming a kapa haka was a way to rekindle their association with marae and tikanga.

In addition to kapa haka, the group was required to put forward a rugby and netball team. It was also anticipated a debating team would be formed as this was another festival discipline.