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The Wairoa Star

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Tuesday, May 27, 2014

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Theft of sports gear investigated
Site for new park HQ being tested
Farming
Sport

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Celebration at Waikareiti

COMMITMENT to Waikaremoana was recognised at the official opening of the Lake Waikareiti day shelter and facilities upgrade on Saturday.

The Friends of Te Urewera hosted the celebration of the revamped day shelter which was attended by Department of Conservation staff and other key stakeholders.

The project has seen a viewing deck installed, the roof and weatherboards of the day shelter replaced, new lockers, two new toilets and signage put up educating visitors of the diverse range of visible flora and fauna.

The Friends of Te Urewera donated \$46,000 to the upgrade of the day shelter with the total project cost in excess of \$200,000.



□ The Lake Waikareiti shelter.

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AOS called out, stock rustling plague goes on

THE Armed Offenders Squad was called to Tuai on Sunday after a man shot a horse and threatened someone with a firearm.

The horse was shot on Lake Road and at approximately 2pm, police arrested a 37-year-old man in Tuai. Meanwhile, stock thefts continue to plague the district with a further 12 lambs stolen from a Waihiri Road paddock on Saturday night.

Wairoa Police Sergeant Aubrey Ormond said the officers must have used a truck to take the stock away and he urges the public to call the police if they see or hear any suspicious behaviour.

"The offenders are working at night so if a member of the public sees lights or trucks in a paddock, or just something a bit odd, give us a call.

"We are looking for help on this one," he said. Sergeant Ormond is also warning people that it is an offence to buy stolen meat and if anyone is offered meat by someone who is not a farmer they should be treated as suspicious and phone the police.

On Wednesday afternoon, dogs were worrying stock on a property on East Coast Road. A steer and four lambs had been killed by the dogs. The owner of the dogs had been unlawfully hunting in nearby forestry block. Police inquiries are ongoing.

Accusation was wrong

WAIROA is standing tall after a national activist group backed down over accusations that the Wairoa District's Mayor and chief executive had intentionally misled ratepayers over a proposed budget increase.

Mayor Craig Little and council chief executive Fergus Power labelled the criticism from the New Zealand Taxpayers' Union as "Wairoa-bashing" and say they will no longer tolerate spin-driven criticism. Last Thursday the New Zealand

Taxpayers' Union accused Mr Little and Mr Power of intentionally misleading ratepayers by claiming the budget increase of 5.43 percent for the 2014-15 Draft Annual Plan did not reflect the impact of Mahia and Oputama wastewater schemes.

The next day the group publicly apologised saying they accept the mayor and chief executive were not

intentionally misleading ratepayers in relation to the Mahia and Oputama Wastewater Schemes.

The group accepted the council had consulted widely on these schemes and those ratepayers affected were likely to be aware, or would soon be aware, of the financial implications of the schemes.

"Following further clarification we,

would without reservation, apologise for any maligning of the character of the Mayor and chief executive of the Wairoa District Council."

The group still maintained council was wrong to use the 5.43 percent in material issued publicly, without clarifying that the figure did not include spending and rates related to the wastewater schemes.

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□ The official opening of the Waikareiti day shelter and facilities, attended by the Friends of Te Urewera, Department of Conservation, Wairoa and District Angling Club president Alan Robinson, Wairoa Search and Rescue president Jock O'Connell and architect and designer Richard Hart.

FROM PAGE 1

The upgraded day shelter and facilities at Lake Waikareiti were officially opened on Saturday.

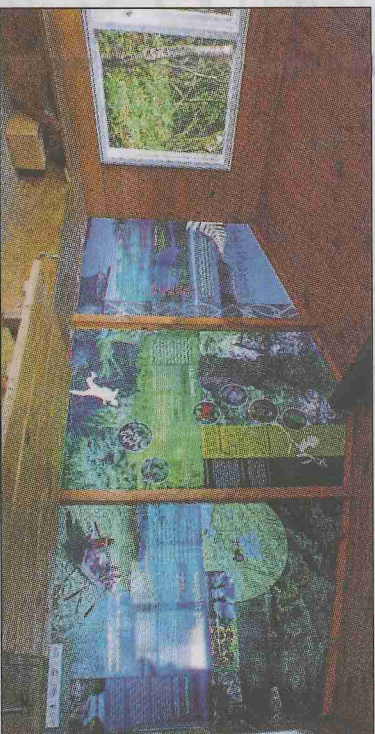
The official opening consisted of a karakia by Newton Lambert, an unveiling of a plaque which recognises the contribution from the Friends of Te Urewera and several talks from Friends members on the club's involvement in building the original day shelter.

The vision behind the upgrade was to improve the initial view visitors got of the lake so their first impressions were the natural qualities of the lake, rather than views of the toilets, rowing boats and infrastructure. In addition, the toilets were in poor condition and did not meet current service standards; the dirty storage area was in poor condition; and the ground was heavily eroded and worn. The day shelter and the ear locker were showing wear and tear, algae, and the paint was flaking.

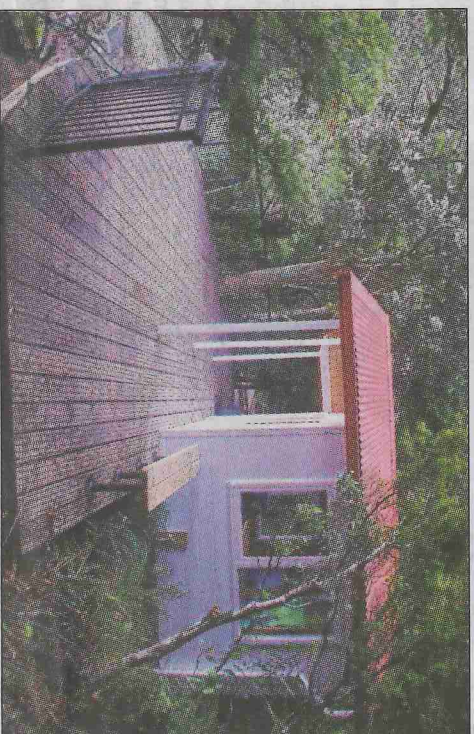
Friends of Te Urewera president Carl Van der Meer said the original day shelter, built by the Friends in 1966, had lasted well.

It was originally hoped the project would be completed by mid-summer 2013 but work was delayed. The Department of Conservation has worked with the Waikaremoana Advisory Committee which consists of representatives from the Friends of Te Urewera, Lake Waikaremoana Hapu Restoration Trust, Mana Motu Hake o Tuhoë, landscape architect Richard Hart and the Maori Committee, to bring the structures up to standard.

The role of the Maori Committee in the project was to provide cultural heritage advice, interpretation, artwork and design input.



□ Signage educating visitors about the lake and of the diverse range of flora and fauna has been put up in the day shelter.



□ The viewing platform at the Waikareiti day shelter.

Wairoa will be defended

FROM PAGE 1

The NZTU's statement went on to say: "The draft annual plan shows that total rates income (including the targeted rates) is estimated to increase by 15.9 percent".

"We thought that it was proper, and still think it proper, to raise the matter publicly."

The council said yesterday that it had accepted the apology.

Mr Power said the issue was now closed, and attention could return to the process of transforming and energising the Wairoa District.

In his original response to the criticism, Mr Power reiterated that he had been appointed to bring about a transformation within council, and within the district.

"The first step requires active rebuttal of the sort of nonsense that has been promulgated for years — that Wairoa is in decay, has inept leadership, and is incapable of a sustainable, prosperous future.

"In fact, Wairoa district has the youngest and most vibrant population structure of all of the cities and districts in the Hawke's Bay region — with 25 percent of the population aged between 0-14.

"That is backed up with some of the warmest and most welcoming people, a rich and proud Maori culture, the kindest climate imaginable, and a surfeit of fish, game, and opportunities for recreation in the vast outdoors — which includes the stunning Lake Waikaremoana and Te Urewera National Park, and the world-renowned beaches of the Mahia Peninsula, with sun, sand and surfing."

Mr Little, who was surprised to have not even been contacted by the Taxpayers' Union, said Wairoa would no longer accept baseless scaremongering.

"I will defend Wairoa district's reputation aggressively. We are no longer a punching bag. We are punching above our weight and we have much work to do as a community.

"When the punching bag looks like blue sea, warm sand, sunshine, and an energised and dedicated community committed to a complete transformation of the district — it becomes a slightly harder target. In fact, why would you even want to diminish it?"

The council has clarified that ratepayers not involved in the Mahia or Oputama wastewater schemes would not be affected by those funding requirements. Participants in the schemes were being consulted separately.

All Wairoa ratepayers were sent individual draft rates notices, which recorded the proposed rates amount for their individual properties under the Draft Annual Plan.

The consultation period closes at noon on Thursday, June 12.

THE DATE IS SET ...

The Local Government Commission is coming to town to hear what we think about **amalgamating** with the rest of Hawke's Bay.

They have read our submissions and now want to hear the voices behind them.

Come along and see democracy in action.

The Wairoa hearing will take place at the War Memorial Hall on **Thursday, June 12**, beginning with a mihi whakataua at 9.30am.

Visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz for more information.

