

No Tuhoe support for lake rahui

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TUHOE do not support a four-day rahui banning activities on Lake Waikaremoana, which has been scheduled to begin this Friday.

Tamati Kruger, the chairman of Tuhoe's governance board, Te Uru Taumatua, said the tribe had not been asked whether it supported a rahui on the lake.

"Speaking on behalf of Tuhoe we don't take that statement made [about a rahui on Lake Waikaremoana] as having any substance and we are just carrying on with our business and our work programmes at Waikaremoana.

"However, we are concerned that members of the public that use Waikaremoana may feel that the statement is supported by us. It is not."

The rahui was announced last week by Tumanako Waiwai, chairman of the Kaumatua Kaunihera for Waikaremoana.

Mr Waiwai said the rahui was to raise awareness of applications made by members of Ngati Ruapani to the Maori Land Court.

He said he believed his ancestors were the original owners of the lake.

"In 1921 our matriarchs and patriarchs from Ngati Ruapani ki Waikaremoana had a discussion with the Crown and the Crown acknowledged them as being the owners of Lake Waikaremoana."

Mr Waiwai said the applications were made to the Maori Land Court because descendants of those "matriarchs and patriarchs" felt they had



Tamati Kruger,
Te Uru Taumatua
chairman

not been included in decision-making regarding the lake.

"We are not going there as Ngati Ruapani or Ngati Kahungunu or even Ngai Tuhoe – even though we are that, we are going there as the descendants of the matriarchs and patriarchs who were the original owners of Lake Waikaremoana.

"There were 354 kuia (old women) and koroua (old men) that had the right to Lake Waikaremoana with the agreement of the Government of that time."

The applications, which are to be heard in the Wairoa Maori Land Court on Monday, contend Judge Patrick Savage made a mistake in 2002 when he awarded 72 percent of Lake Waikaremoana's bed to the then Tuhoe Waikaremoana Trust Board, now part of Te Uru Taumatua, and 38 percent to the Wairoa Waikaremoana Maori Trust Board.

Mr Waiwai said while they were still undecided on the exact location, the group supporting the applications would place a post on the edge of Lake Waikaremoana to symbolise the rahui banning all activities from Friday until Tuesday.

"We ask the people not to go on the lake for the four days in respect for us putting a rahui on it."