

# Lake claimants speak

There is a rahui in place at Waikaremoana. Here are a few comments for readers to consider.

The purpose of this rahui is to ask people to stop and reconnect with the lake, the waters and it's surrounds.

How many of us go to the shores of Waikaremoana and wonder what effect the low water levels are having on the ecosystems around the shoreline, and the follow-on effects?

How many of us are aware of the invasive species of weed that has been allowed to establish itself in the lake in the presence of ongoing monitoring?

Are the kai-mahi, kaitiaki and manuhiri safe — spiritually and physically? Is the environment safe — spiritually and physically? Are we all working as one, or are we pulling in different directions?

The descendants of the original owners of Lake Waikaremoana have a

court hearing in Wairoa on June 28. The hearing is to challenge the process used to give the ownership of the lake bed to the Tuhoe Waikaremoana and Wairoa Waikaremoana Maori Trust Boards.

The owners were never consulted — all we are asking is that the decision be declared a mistake of law and that the descendants of the original owners be given the right to make the decision on the future management of the lake bed. Easy, peasy.

As a result of the claims process, Te Uru Taumatua has taken over the ownership role of the Tuhoe Waikaremoana Maori Trust Board. I guess they could also resolve the situation by returning the lake bed to the descendants of the original owners. Food for thought.

**Tuhoe/Ruapani/Kahungunu descendant**

## Lake Waikaremoana

PUBLIC INVITATION

Sunday, June 26, 2016

10 am

Descendants of the original owners of Lake Waikaremoana extend a warm welcome to all members of the public to a morning tea at Tuwai, Waikaremoana.

We especially welcome those individuals and groups who regularly use the lake and its environs for business or pleasure, such as boaties, fisherpeople, walkers and environmentalists.

We encourage all to come and share their dreams and aspirations for our 'taonga tuku iho', in peace, respect and humility.

Venue – Te Kuha Marae, Tuwai

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