

News



Tuhoe apology seven years later

POLICE Commissioner Mike Bush will visit the homes of eight Tuhoe families to personally apologise for mistakes police made during the Urewera raids – almost seven years after they occurred.

His visit, due before the end of the month, is expected to take two days, a police spokeswoman confirmed yesterday.

The apology is timed to ensure it does not overshadow the Crown apology next month for historic grievances which forms part of the iwi's Treaty of Waitangi settle-

ment. That will be followed by a public apology from police about a week later.

The police were strongly criticised for the 2007 raids in the Urewera mountain range near Ruatoki, which resulted in the arrest of 17 people for allegedly participating in military-style training camps.

The Independent Police Conduct Authority found the raid justified but police acted "unlawfully, unjustifiably and unreasonably" by setting up roadblocks and in detaining the occupants at five of the 41 properties.

ROADBLOCK: Armed police stand guard during a roadblock in Ruatoki in 2007.

File photo

Compressed air trial works at river mouth

Tony Stickley
Council reporter

A NOVEL method of dredging the Whakatane River mouth using compressed air has successfully come through a series of trials, though more testing is planned.

A report to Whakatane District Council's projects and services com-



HIGH-PRESSURE: Compressed air bubbles surface near the Evelyn J's bow as the boat maintains station in the Whakatane River.

File photo

Businesses welcome CCTV upgrade

Tony Stickley
Council reporter

SMALL businesses are looking forward to an upgrade to Whakatane's outdated CCTV system following a recent spate of burglaries in the CBD.

Yesterday Sue Shaw, who has run Seabreeze Souvenirs on The Strand for six years, told Whakatane District Council's projects and services committee she was one of six business operators who had been

said the current cameras were outdated due to changes in technology, with a number of different factors, including "flaring" from car lights, affecting quality.

She said police were very keen to work with the council and citizen volunteers to monitor the screens to get the best possible footage of criminal activity in the town.

She told the committee there was a camera near Ms Shaw's business but it was not pointed at her premises.

briefs

Youth projects get go ahead

THE Ministry of Youth Development has allocated \$19,000 to youth projects in Kawerau.

Kawerau District Council regulatory and services committee considered a report from regulatory and planning manager Chris Jensen at a meeting on Tuesday.

He said projects included a youth council seminar to help develop participation skills and empower young people, along with mentoring and volunteer opportunities.

A range of media would be used to showcase the town's young people and a programme was planned for schools to raise awareness about the Anzac centennial celebrations next year.

Rail extension progress made

INTERESTED parties will meet this month to discuss the next steps toward the creation of a rail extension into Kawerau's Manukorihi subdivision.

Kawerau District Council's economic development officer Su Cammell told a meeting of the regulatory and services committee meeting on Tuesday a consultant's report on the rail extension evaluated crossing State Highway 34.

In a report to the meeting she said an application to the New Zealand Transport Agency could be considered favourable provided safety measures recommended by Opus were put in place.

Antibiotic recall

A RECALL of Amoxicillin Actavis powder for oral suspension has been announced following concerns glass fragments might have entered the powder.

Actavis said the recall, announced yesterday, was a precautionary measure undertaken in conjunction with the New Zealand