

AFTER walking the length of New Zealand promoting social and environmental well-being, Hannah Pehi has a new project in her hometown – the establishment of a community garden.

The Whakatane woman is leading the development of a community garden on a vacant section in Kopeopeo.

The 1615 square-metre site on the corner of Victoria Avenue and King Street, formerly home to a garden centre, has been cleared of rubbish in recent weeks and is now ready for large-scale planting.

Miss Pehi's vision is bold and bright, and her enthusiasm is obvious as she describes her desire to create a social place where people can hang out together, be close to nature, learn how to garden and share their knowledge.

the summer, holding children's days, having musicians playing in the garden and working with businesses to showcase solar energy, composting toilets and other environmentally-friendly products.

Because the site is on the market and the community garden does not have a formal lease on the land, most of the development will be above ground and transportable in kiwifruit crates provided by Opotiki Packing and Cool Storage (OPAC).

These will be brightly painted, lined with plastic, and planted during working bees, starting this Saturday.

Miss Pehi gained national attention when she walked from Bluff to Cape Reinga with her sister late last year, promoting the importance of caring for the environment and each other.

She said developing a community garden was something



community garden co-ordinator

she wanted to do before the walk and her enthusiasm only grew stronger as she encountered people all over the country doing amazing things.

"Looking at community gardens up and down the country, there really is a great sense of community about them."

She went looking for plots and saw a few suitable sites but none as perfect as the yet-to-be redeveloped old garden centre site.

She contacted owner Glyn Hogg who was very supportive of the idea, she said.

"It blows me away how many

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ADOPT A NATION: Former Kawerau South School pupil, Wharepouri Hotene, sits atop the shoulders of a Brazilian athlete during the 2013 Rafting Championships. Photo Stuart Cook

Mr Barton said the project included a great deal of work from many people to ensure its overall success. He gave a special mention to the teachers and parents who allowed the project to "breathe life".

"This is a truly memorable moment to cherish," he said.

Kawerau South School principal Stuart Cook said pupils greeted athletes at the Tarawera High School hall during the opening ceremony, then walked with the athletes to the course on the Tarawera River.

The teams of rafters came into their assigned schools and the project helped to open the eyes of the kids at Kawerau South School, Mr Cook said.

"It was a positive experience for us. "It opened the kids' eyes to other cultures and it was good for them to see a big international event in their town."

The event also put Kawerau on the map, both for national and international audiences, he said.

"It created a buzz during its time here." Adopt a Nation was valuable for rafters too because it gave them a chance to meet and connect with local people, he said.

When the Japanese team came to visit Kawerau South School they brought nick-knacks and origami gifts for the pupils.

They stopped to talk to a number of classrooms then played with the kids during morning tea time.

"It was really interesting for them to come to a school that wasn't steel and concrete, but had grass and fields."

Final reading for Tuhoe settlement

THE third and final reading of the Tuhoe-Te Urewera Settlement Bill will occur in Parliament tomorrow.

From 9am till 11am, Te Uru Taumatua will screen a live online feed at Te Kura Whare, 12 Tuhoe Street, in Taneatua.

A Te Uru Taumatua spokeswoman said the hall in the new headquarters building would be set up for

whanau from nearby Tuhoe communities to watch the debate and speeches.

The reading will usher in a new historical chapter for Tuhoe by enabling the implementation of Te Mana Motuhake o Tuhoe, a 40-year service management plan with the Crown, consolidation of Tuhoe iwi entities and assets, the acknowledgement of Tuhoe as tan-

gata whenua of Te Urewera, and greater control of Te Urewera by Tuhoe.

Members of the wider community are invited to the live streaming, or it can be followed by connecting to the live feed at www.parliament.nz by watching Parliament TV on Sky 86, or Freeview 22.

A formal Crown apology is scheduled for mid-August.

Edited mooring report released

BAY of Plenty Regional Council has changed its mind and decided to release an edited version of an investigation into claims sub-standard chains were used for boat moorings.

But the final verdict remains the same – it says there is no evidence of widespread use of cheap, imported chains.

In March the council refused to

release a copy of an investigation by private investigators Thompson and Toreson to the Eastern Bay Swing Mooring Group, citing privacy issues.

However, in a change of heart, maritime operations manager Reuben Fraser last week decided an edited version should be released in the interest of transparency.

In his letter to the moorings holders Mr Fraser re-affirmed an earlier statement that 69 moorings had been inspected and only one (other than owner-supplied chain) had been found to be non-regulation PWB chain, and one not definitively identified.

"The allegation about widespread use of cheap, imported chain is not supported by the evidence investi-

gators have found," Mr Fraser said. He added that future mooring inspections would involve checking of the chain so ultimately every mooring will be inspected.

Last December Mr Fraser said in a letter to moorings holders that Eastern Bay mooring owners had alleged a council-approved mooring inspector had replaced top chain with a non-compliant chain.

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