

Crown apology expected to draw huge crowd

Geoff Mercer
Editor

THE final act of atonement for grievances the Government inflicted on the Tuhoe nation, starting 150 years ago, will be played out at Taneatua on Friday.

Treaty negotiations minister Chris Finlayson will convey the Crown's apology to a crowd expected to number 3500 in the grounds of Te Kura Whare, the iwi's new headquarters, on Friday.

Tuhoe Te Uru Taumatua Trust chief executive Kirsti Luke said the Government had declared the day one of national significance, which meant the Army would feed the assemblage at no cost to Tuhoe, enabling iwi members who would normally be involved with feeding



BIG CELEBRATION: Temporary marquees are being built in the grounds of Te Kura Whare, at Taneatua, for the delivery of the Crown apology to Tuhoe.

Photo Troy Baker D0981-15

the visitors to attend, take part in and witness the event.

A spokesman for Mr Finlayson said the Minister of Maori Affairs had three opportunities each cal-

endar year to ask for support from New Zealand Defence Forces at hui of national significance.

"It's up to the minister's discretion, but as examples the defence

force assisted with the tangihanga of the late honourable Parekura Horomia, and they will also be assisting with the opening of the 28th Maori Battalion Museum in Gisborne later this year."

Ms Luke said hapu were not completely removed from the catering process - they donated the bulk of the food that would be consumed. Twenty sheep carcasses would come from Ruatahuna, pigs were being sent from Waikaremoana, and beef would be supplied from Ruatoki and Waimana.

Huge covered marquees are being erected to ensure everyone can be seated under cover.

Ms Luke said the pohiri would begin at 9am. Mr Finlayson was expected to begin delivering an hour-long apology at 11.30am.

Te Uru Taumatua chairman and Treaty negotiator Tamati Kruger

would respond.

Ms Luke said entertainment would commence at 3pm and would include the Laughing Samoans, Three Houses Down, dance group The Royal Family, Che Fu and others.

Fireworks would conclude the day's events at 7.15pm.

"Mainly, this is a celebration," Ms Luke said. "It's not a 'heavy' Tuhoe event."

Any members of the public wishing to learn about Tuhoe history and to celebrate the apology were welcome to attend, she said.

Police commissioner Mike Bush, who delivered his own apology to the iwi last week for the heavy-handed actions of officers during the 2007 terror raids, would return to Taneatua for the final chapter in the iwi's Treaty settlement process, she said.

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BEACON DIRECTORY

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Name.....
Daytime Phone.....

Stork Report

Name: Camryn Queree Bell
D.O.B: July 27, 2014
Weight: 7 lbs 9 oz
Parents: Emma and Tyler
Beautiful first baby girl for Emma and Tyler, all doing well.

Name: Jaxson Tainui O'Connor
D.O.B: July 30, 2014
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