

Warmer after cold blast

LAST week's strong southerlies gave Wairoa and Hawke's Bay a blast. On Thursday night at about 9.30pm a tree was toppled on Marine Parade, causing it to fall on the road. The fire service attended. Over the past five days the minimum temperatures have averaged a chilly 2.7 degrees. The grass temperature dropped to a frosty -1.8 degrees on Thursday night. However this week warmer weather is expected.

Tuhoe apology starts new era

TUHOE has received its long-awaited Crown apology for historic grievances, dubbed among the worst in New Zealand's history. Thousands of people, including Tuhoe from across the country, gathered for the event in Taneatua on Friday.

Former Prime Minister Jim Bolger also attended along with Police Commissioner Mike Bush and a number of MPs.

The apology followed last month's Treaty of Waitangi settlement between the iwi and the Crown.

As part of the settlement, the Crown agreed to apologise for historic misdeeds including indiscriminate killings of men, women and children, land confiscations and scorched-earth warfare.

Treaty Negotiations Minister Chris Finlayson delivered the apology, saying "Ngai Tuhoe, it's your day".

"The relationship between Tuhoe and the Crown,

which should have been defined by honour and respect, was instead disgraced by many injustices including indiscriminate raupatu, wrongful killings, and years of scorched-earth warfare," he said.

"The Crown apologises for its unjust and excessive behaviour and the burden carried by generations of Tuhoe who suffer greatly and carry the pain of their ancestors."

Tuhoe spokesman Tamati Kruger said Friday "was a day to be remembered — a day to celebrate peace and a forward-looking future".

Wairoa Mayor Craig Little and his wife Jan attended the event.

"I was honoured to be asked to attend. I felt very humbled to be part of the ceremony on the stage but I felt the real important people of the day were the Tuhoe descendants who received the apology from the minister.

"Tuhoe is a big part of our district and we look forward to a positive future partnership."

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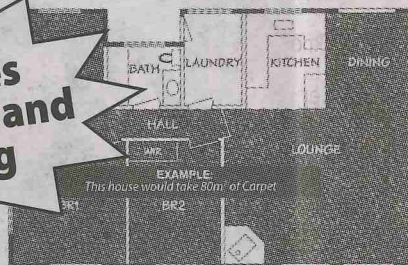
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Boost for Wairoa St John

ST John Wairoa will get two new ambulance staff as part of an initiative being rolled out across New Zealand.

Wairoa will be included in the new staffing initiative which will see an increase of 158 frontline staff in 35 locations across the country.

Stephen Smith, district operations manager for St John says it will be a big push for Wairoa as two new paid positions will help with full crewing issues and enable a 24/7 roster for the ambulance service.

"The service is currently running on a 96-hour roster, meaning there

Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), and the Ministry of Health.

Additional ACC funding of \$5.5 million a year will support 82 positions with 57 positions funded by St John through fundraising and commercial activities totalling \$4 million.

Nineteen will be from additional Ministry of Health funding of \$1.3 million per year.

This latest initiative has been made possible by ACC, which has changed its 'Fee for Service' Policy, to paying a fixed share directly towards St John's national emergency ambulance service.

Two more staff will improve service