

# 'Friendship agreements' the way

## Park management seen as new model with no equivalent in the world

THERE are many ways to encourage a better standard of behaviour and engagement with Te Urewera, says Te Uru Taumatua chair Tamati Kruger.

Unprecedented levels of rubbish this summer have made Te Uru Taumatua realise they need to accelerate their work on establishing a collective enterprise to better address this.

"These standards and priorities are something that should be a collective enterprise discussed by Tuhoe with other organisations and individuals."

He said they had addressed this by entering into a number of friendship agreements when they updated licences, and the Department of Conservation's system of permitting.

"All of that work was done through establishing friendship agreements like we did with Wairoa Search and Rescue."

They have similar agreements and principles with Wairoa Boating Club and angling clubs.

"It is only this summer that we have seen this extreme misbehaviour and we are grateful for that revelation."

"Now we better understand what it is that we need to do."

"It does not stop at blaming — that is not a solution."

"That helps target who we should be talking with and who we should be recruiting."

"Tuhoe and the board does not agree that that is all we should do."

In the past two summers Waikaremoana Authority has employed tangata whenua as hut wardens sharing

## Aim to test lake in April

HAWKE'S Bay Regional Council says it is working with tangata whenua and mana whenua to gain access to Lake Waikaremoana for the purposes of water quality testing.

The council have been unable to undertake their water quality testing at Lake Waikaremoana since 2016.

In a query to Genesis around its underwater habitat review last year, a Genesis spokesperson said the work would be

undertaken to capture long-term trends.

Now it is planned for early April in agreement with Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

It said the work is planned to occur in April this year, and the timing was not material to their update at the annual consultation meeting.

The outcomes of the work will be discussed at the next annual meeting.

Genesis is expecting NIWA to carry out the work required during the first week in April.

their knowledge and stories as the face of Tuhoe, which Mr Kruger said had generated a huge amount of support and congratulations.

This level of manaakitanga was increased this summer.

Mr Kruger said that was what they were doing when they talked about managing the people.

For him it was about working with all the interest groups on an action plan for all of them to use rather than Tuhoe being expected to be the police.

"We do not want to be going to the back room publishing new rules —

that is not the fix.

"New rules are not required but if you are saying to people could you please put aside your claims and be more restrained and more caring, I think that would appeal to people's sense of right and wrong.

"That is what we are meaning when we are implementing Te Urewera Act 2014."

He said the first purpose of the act required the board to improve and enhance the connections between Tuhoe and Te Urewera. The second purpose was to conserve the ecology and sustain the ecological



□ Tamati Kruger

values of Te Urewera.

A third purpose was for the board to do its very best in keeping Te Urewera a place of contemplation and uplifting the spirits and education in these surroundings.

"These are things that we need to manage with people and I think we need to work with others around that otherwise Tuhoe is just giving itself an

A pass.

"Friendship agreements at that level are talking about real participation rather than my reading from a script about how the year has gone in a public meeting."

"They give us an understanding of what is decent, acceptable and the right behaviour and OK."

"If Tuhoe and the board does that by themselves they would set themselves up to be policemen."

"Imagine how effective it would be if we had members of the public showing their love of Te Urewera, that they were confident to talk to other visitors about not dropping rubbish rather than having signs and placards all over the place."

Describing this kind of park management of people as a new model which has no equivalent elsewhere in the world, Mr Kruger said Te Urewera was not a national park to be policed and paid for on entry with signposts everywhere about rules and regulations.

"Consultation is via our friendship agreements and that is around actual engagement."

"It is about real participation rather than going to a public meeting and getting some data."

With regard to the annual \$2m fund from the Department of Conservation for the management of the park, he said they were working with Department of Conservation to work out what was a fair and do-able contribution by the Crown to Te Urewera.

"We believe there has to be more to that from the Department of Conservation so we continue to have discussion with them to get some kind of equity."