

Waikaremoana Great Walk repairs finished

LAKE Waikaremoana's Great Walk is now fully open following a series of repairs.

In September of last year, the region experienced extreme weather patterns.

Heavy rainfall caused rivers to swell to capacity, flash flooding, road closures due to slips and blowouts, and trees were left piled underneath rock and rubble.

The Waikaremoana Great Walk also took a lashing, a Tuhoe spokesperson said.

"After a review of the Great Walk, serious safety issues were found between Waitopaoa and Waiharuru.

"After an assessment of the track, and based on the high risks to human safety, the track was closed until repairs could be completed.

"A lot of time and effort went into the planning of the repair work and the approach to this was guided by the principles from Te Kawa o Te Urewera as well as the concept of our 'living building'.

"The delay caused frustration for those who had booked to do the Great Walk as repairs took longer than anticipated.

"We offer our sincere gratitude for the patience and understanding shown while Tuhoe and the Department of Conservation worked through the difference of approach."

Tatau Tatau o Te Wairoa elections are under way

ELECTIONS for seven trust boards and new trustees for Tatau Tatau o Te Wairoa Trust (TToTW) are currently under way as the Iwi and Hapu o Te Rohe o Te Wairoa treaty settlement shifts up a gear.

After six years of negotiations with the government, the \$100m treaty settlement became law last September, a unit trust asset management model was ratified in November, and the seven kahui (clusters) which make up TToTW have been busy establishing and fine tuning their own governance entity and trust deeds in order to meet the engagement requirements of TToTW moving forward.

As well as electing trustees for their own individual trust boards, kahui are also being asked to elect their representative for the next TToTW trust board. Previously each kahui had two representatives on TToTW.

Four kahui have completed or partly completed the election process.

Rongomaiwahine cluster is represented by the Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust Board which pre-dates the treaty settlement having been established in 1988. It represents seven marae in and around the Mahia area with each marae appointing two representatives to the trust board. Chairman Moana Rongo said

there are currently 14 interim trustees in place with marae now in the process of appointing their new representatives. Nominations for the Rongomaiwahine TToTW representatives are due to open in the coming days followed by a postal vote election to determine the appointment.

Trustees for the kahui Te Hononga o Nga Awa (previously Wairoa-Waikaremoana Maori Trust Board) were recently appointed by way of their five marae, the Ihaka Whaanaga Whanau Trust (IWWT), and Wairoa Waikaremoana Maori Trust Board (WWMTB). The seven

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trustees are Teresa

Smith (Erepeti),

Justine Te Moanani-

Makirere (Te Reinga),

Reremoana Hammond

(Putahi), Siobhan

Storey (Aranui),

Michelle McLroy

(Hinemhi), Reremoana

Houkamanu (WWTMB)

and Clarke Whaanaga

(IWWT). The new

trustees take office on

April 1. There are four candidates vying for the kahui's TToTW representative post and email.

Ngati Rakapaaka Trust, it's

beneficiaries and members completed their trustee and TToTW representative elections in late January.

The TToTW representative for Te Wairoa Tapokorau Mai Tawhiti Trust (Tapokorau #1 cluster) was elected on

Sunday at Taihoa Marae with Oha

Manual being re-elected by those registered members who identified Tapokorau #1 as their preferred primary kahui. Seven initial kahui trustees are in place having been appointed by whanau and hapu of the kahui.

The kahui of Whakaki-nui-a-rua will hold a special general meeting this weekend to decide their trustees by way of a secret ballot. The SGM will be held across the kahui's three marae, with each marae electing one trustee. Elections take place on Saturday at Iwitea Marae at 9am, Whakaki Marae at 1pm and Te Rauhinu marae on Sunday at 9am. The Whakaki-nui-a-rua TToTW representative will be elected on Sunday at Te Rauhinu at 1pm. Nominees and eligible voters must be present on the day.

The Wairoa Tapokorau Whanui Trust (Tapokorau #2) are scheduled to appoint their trustees and TToTW representative at Takitimu Marae on April 13. Nga Tokorima a Hinemahuri (NTAH) are the only kahui of the seven who have opted for postal and online voting for all trustee appointments. NTAH who have the largest membership of the seven kahui, settled for an interim trust model to allow for more discussion around their preferred representation model (marae or hapu based). Thirteen candidates are in the running for seven trustee positions, with four candidates nominated for the kahui's TToTW representative. Voting opened on Monday, and closes on April 23 at 5pm.

A 32.9 percent increase in Wairoa house values is 'encouraging' for the district

IT IS encouraging to see Wairoa's property prices increasing, says Wairoa Mayor Craig Little.

His comments follow a report by Quotable Value which stated smaller provincial centres outperformed the main centres on the residential property market and this may continue in 2019.

The state-owned enterprise's December update records Wairoa's average value increased by 32.9 percent over the 12-month period ending November 2018.

Wairoa's average value in November 2018 was \$199,081 — up from \$149,830 in November 2017.

QV did acknowledge that Wairoa is a small market in which a few houses at either end of

the market can effect significant change.

Mr Little said the council recognised it was important to have affordable housing, but it was also important for the community to grow and prosper.

"It is encouraging to see an increase in house prices which I believe is mainly attributable to demand as more people are moving here as they realise the great lifestyle they can enjoy."

"Comparatively our housing is still cheaper than most other areas in New Zealand making buying a house in Wairoa attractive, particularly when you look at the lifestyle that goes with it.

"That is why it's so critical the

Government considers Wairoa as a location for its affordable housing programme.

"We are also aware increased valuations can make it more difficult for new home buyers to get on the property ladder and that is why Council is working to establish a trade training scheme in Wairoa that will enable affordable homes to be built."

"An ideal opportunity is to attend tonight's rental and papakainga housing hui.

"This has been organised by local MP Meka Whaitiri and offers another option to adding housing capacity within our district."

The meeting will be held at Wairoa Taiwhenua from 6-8pm.

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QUICK News ...

WAIROA'S Fire and Emergency NZ were called out to assist in a motor vehicle accident on Wednesday night on Morea Hill. There were no serious injuries.

Fire and Emergency were called out at 5.05am to attend a vehicle vs power pole accident to which the power company were called to shut down the power.

Rubbish fires burning on Lion Street drew out the Fire and Emergency Services

a second time on Friday evening.

A man put out the fires after being spoken to by the service.

Fire and ambulance emergency services were called to the local golf club on Sunday.

WAIROA St John Ambulance Services responded to two patient transfers, seven medical emergencies and one trauma since Thursday March 21.

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