

News

Free flu immunisation ends soon

NEW Zealanders eligible for free influenza immunisation have only a short time left to be vaccinated before the Government-subsidised campaign ends for this year on August 31.

Medical health officer Jim Miller said this year's influenza season seemed to have started later than usual this year.

"Influenza seasons can be very unpredictable, so there may be worse to come," he said.

The A (H1N1) strain of influenza had been most common across the country so far this year and was being picked up locally.

"This has been responsible for severe infections in previous outbreaks, but is well covered in this year's vaccine," Dr Miller said.

"I would encourage people in the higher-risk groups to have the flu vaccine whilst it's still free – it isn't too late to make sure you and your family are protected."

He said influenza was much more than a bad cold. It was a serious disease that could lead to complications, especially for people with ongoing medical conditions.

Influenza's symptoms included a sudden onset of illness, high fever, headache, a dry cough and illness, usually lasting seven to 10 days.

Influenza was easily spread through coughing, sneezing and touching contaminated surfaces. Good hygiene such as covering coughs, using tissues when sneezing and handwashing could reduce the risk, but immunisation was the best protection for those at most risk.

Influenza vaccinations are free from a doctor or nurse for New Zealanders until the end of August if you are in one of these groups: People aged 65 and over; anyone younger with long-term health conditions, such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, respiratory disease (including asthma), kidney disease and most cancers; pregnant women; children aged six months to five years who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness or have a history of significant respiratory illness.

NZ Cycle Trail



APOLOGY FLAGGED: Treaty of Waitangi negotiations minister Christopher Finlayson delivers his apology above the flag taken from Maungapohatu during Rua Kenana's arrest in 1916 as evidence of sedition, which the Crown has returned to Tuhoe.

D0996-166

Flags exchanged at Tuhoe apology

Geoff Mercer
Editor

A FLAG taken from Maungapohatu to be used as evidence of sedition on the part of Tuhoe prophet Rua Kenana was returned to the iwi on Friday.

And in another exchange on the day the Crown apologised for transgressions



Science fair faces uncertain future

Neryda McNabb
Education reporter

DWINDLING entries are threatening the viability of the Eastern Bay Science and Technology Fair.

Organisers of the annual fair are assessing its future following a gradual drop-off in numbers and support from schools.

Entries have dropped by half since the fair began 10 years ago and without the ongoing support of three primary schools – Whakatane Intermediate, Awakeri School and St Joseph's Whakatane – it would die.

Organising committee member Raewyn Iremonger said 10 years ago there were 200 projects and every year there had been a gradual decline.

This year there were 99 entries from eight Eastern Bay schools, including 33 from the intermediate, 30 from St Joseph's and 25 from Awakeri.

Noticeably absent this year were entries from secondary schools.

The show's overall winner and only secondary-age entrant, Jonathan Everett, entered independently of Whakatane High School.

The fair was a big event and cost a lot of money to organise for a relatively small number of children, Mrs Iremonger said.

"But we don't want to let it die because for some of the kids it rocks their boat.

"It isn't for everyone but for a set number of kids, it is their thing and these are definitely the children that benefit from it."

It was the passionate teachers at a small number of schools who were keeping the fair going.

"We don't want to let it die.

ignite secondary support for the fair, although that might prove difficult.

Head of science at Trident High School, Tony Marrow, said the science fair used to be a large part of the curriculum and all year 9 and 10 students had to do projects.

The school would run its own science fair and send the best entries on to the Bay of Plenty fair.

He said staff would also support feeder schools by helping their teachers teach science fair techniques.

"Over time the feeder schools made science fair almost compulsory to all of their students and some of the junior schools (year 6 students) started to do them as well.

"We discovered as a result of this that the uptake and interest of students in science fair when they came to secondary school was not very positive.

"We also had a few parents who were saying 'not again' after three years of producing projects."

Trident has since changed its approach to better prepare students for NCEA expectations at senior level.

"Our junior students carry out a section of work called 'science investigation' where they plan, carry out and analyse several different situations," Mr Marrow said.

"This approach incorporates the majority of concepts that the students have to incorporate into their science fair projects, such as recognising and controlling variables, analysing data with the assistance of graphing and evaluating experimental procedures."

While this had reduced the number of Trident students entering the Eastern Bay science fair, it had allowed the

welcomes \$8 million fund

GOVERNMENT funding of \$8 million to maintain and enhance the Great Rides of New Zealand will help ensure the trails are delivering the best possible visitor experience, says Evan Freshwater, manager Nga Haerenga The New Zealand Cycle Trail Inc. (NZCT).

The Government has announced criteria for the \$8 million contestable fund over four years.

"This new funding will be used to maintain and improve safety and quality across this world-class network of 23 great rides," Mr Freshwater said.

"For example, the fund will allow trail managers to realign sections of trail where the gradient may exceed what is desirable for their riders, improve the trail surface or build bridges or boardwalks. The funding can also be used to make repairs after storm damage."

Mr Freshwater said the 23 great rides span the length of the country and range from gentle family rides along scenic coastal cycle trails to remote off-road trails that take visitors deep into the great outdoors.

He said the cycle trails had proved a catalyst for new businesses and were creating jobs and wealth in communities throughout the country.

"The great rides are encouraging visitors to travel more widely and do more while they are in New Zealand, which is aligned with Tourism 2025, the tourism industry's new growth framework.

"Tourism New Zealand research shows that around 4 percent of international holiday visitors do some sort of cycling while they are in New Zealand and that on average, cycling visitors spend more than other international visitors."

going back to the 1800s, Tuhoe returned five flags to the Crown.

Tutakangahau, an elderly Tuhoe chief, Rua Kenana's grandfather, asked the Government for the flag following Premier Seddon's visit to Te Urewera in 1894. The flag was wanted as a sign of a peaceful relationship with the Crown.

At Tutakangahau's request the words "Kotahi Te Ture/Mo Nga Iwi E Rua/Maungapohatu" (One law/ for both peoples/ Maungapohatu) were stitched onto the Union Jack.

Minister of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations Christopher Finlayson said historian Judith Binney's book *Encircled Lands* recorded that for Tutakangahau the words chosen "affirmed the important principle that the dominant culture should not pass laws discriminating against Maori".

"We did not want the minister to feel aggrieved and insulted by Tuhoe returning the flags. We explained that today symbolises a new beginning for Tuhoe."

- Tamati Kruger

The flag was acquired by the marae at Maungapohatu and was flying there by 1897. In 1908 Rua Kenana met with Prime Minister Joseph Ward to agree the principle of shared law. Following this "Ceremony of the Union", Rua Kenana adopted Tutakangahau's flag.

Rua Kenana was arrested in 1916 and charged with sedition, counselling others to murder or disable the police and resisting arrest. Police commissioner Cullen, who led the Crown arrest party, took the flag as evidence of sedition.

Rua Kenana was acquitted of sedition but found guilty of "moral resistance" and sentenced to 12 months



BACK HOME: Pouwhare Te Maipi takes back the taiaha Rongokarae, gifted to Premier Richard Seddon in 1894 and returned to Tuhoe by his family on Friday.

Photo Troy Baker D0996-217

hard labour to be followed by 18 months imprisonment. He was released in 1918 and died in 1937.

Cullen resigned from his position in 1916 but retained possession of the flag until 1930, when he presented it to the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

The Museum, on behalf of the Crown, returned the flag to Tuhoe.

Also returned to Tuhoe was the taiaha Rongokarae.

In 1894 Premier Richard John Seddon visited Te Urewera on a fact-finding mission and was gifted the taiaha by Kereru, a Tuhoe leader.

Mr Finlayson said the gift of the taiaha had great meaning to Tuhoe as it was intended to re-affirm the 1871 peace compact between the Crown and the tribe.

The taiaha, cared for by Premier Seddon's family since then, was received by Pouwhare Te Maipi at the apology ceremony.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Tuhoe marae, and other marae around the country, flew Union Jacks. For Tuhoe, they were symbols

of alliance between Tuhoe and the Crown. Five were handed back to the Crown to symbolise a new era in the relationship between the Crown and Tuhoe.

Tuhoe leader Tamati Kruger said the iwi held "long discussions with the minister" before returning the flags.

"We did not want the minister to feel aggrieved and insulted by Tuhoe returning the flags. We explained that today symbolises a new beginning for Tuhoe.

"We felt a new era was beginning where the Union Jack on the flag was no longer relevant, as we believe is the case for New Zealand."

Mr Kruger said "over 90 per cent" of those who attended the apology were ready to accept it and the "clues were in the formal welcome speeches".

He said the three Tuhoe spokespeople "outlined that what had been achieved fell short of the ultimate tatou pou-namu - the highest order of forgiveness and moving on - but we are nearly there and it's for the next generation to achieve [fully]".

It's Not Ok icon to speak

ONE of the faces of the It's Not Ok family violence reduction campaign, Vic Tamati, is speaking at the final Safer Families workshop this week. Mr Tamati will talk about how he changed his life to one without violence.

The first meeting is tomorrow night at Whakatane's Knox

Presbyterian Church, from 5.30pm to 8pm.

On Friday he will speak at Whakaatu Whanaunga in Opotiki, from 10am to 12.30pm, and at the Kawerau Concert Chambers, from 5pm to 7.30pm.

The meetings are free and open to everyone.

**Internet
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