

All aboard for River festival

New idea seeks community and business support

TWO WAIROA groups are looking to establish a November river festival in Wairoa with the aim of entertaining the children of the town.

One of the organisers, Brian Jones, said the festival, pencilled in for November 8, was the brainchild of Wairoa Senior Citizens and Wairoa Rotary.

The organisers are keen for it to be an annual cavalcade of fun with little cars, stalls, a donut stand and candy floss. Negotiations are under way to have one or two live bands performing.

On the river, there will be a rubber duck race for the kids and a bathtub race for the grown-ups.

Mr Jones said they were keen for local businesses to get behind the festival, particularly with the stalls. So far there had been plenty of interest shown from businesses near and far.

Anyone interested in running a stall at the event should contact Bruce Rogers on 838 3378.

Would-be participants in the bathtub race should contact Brian Jones on 838 8871.

Boost for forest plantings

PRIMARY Industries Minister Nathan Guy passed through Wairoa as the Government announced a \$22m investment package for small forests on marginal land last Friday.

Mr Guy stopped in at the Wairoa Community Centre to address the locals about that and other issues, as well as show support for the National Party's Napier candidate.

National plans to subsidise the growing of small forests on marginal land. The announcement was made by Prime Minister John Key, who was in Gisborne with Mr Guy last Friday.

If re-elected, National would invest \$22 million over five years in planting forests of between five and 300 hectares.

Mr Guy said that would equate to about 15,000 hectares of new planting, based at \$1300 a hectare.

He said that was good for erodible land and for managing emissions.

"We know it's hugely important for communities like Wairoa," he said.

The scheme replaces the Afforestation Grant Scheme, which wound up last year.

In return for accepting the grants, recipients will forfeit carbon credits to the Crown for up to a decade.



□ Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy shares a hot drink with local farmer Sifton Alexander and National Party Napier electoral candidate Wayne Walford in Wairoa last Friday.

Apology accepted, in part

Next Tuhoë generation 'to look more in-depth'

THE people of Tuhoë are looking to the future after a Crown apology that addressed more than 170 years of historic grievances dubbed among the worst in New Zealand history.

Tuhoë Te Mana Motuhake mai Waikaremoana chairman Lance Winitana said last month's long-awaited apology at Taneatua, was acknowledged by the people of Tuhoë.

They thanked Minister of Treaty Settlements Chris Finlayson for his delivery and accepted the hurt that it acknowledged.

However, they could not accept the apology in its entirety and it would be up to the tribe's next generation to look more in-depth at it and how they would deal with it going forward.

The apology covered many aspects of wrong-doing by the Crown including

land confiscation, wrongful killings and scorched earth warfare. It also covered failure to implement the Urewera District Native Reserve Act 1896 and the exclusion of Tuhoë from establishment of the Urewera National Park.

Among the highlights of the event was the return of several Tuhoë treasures including a symbolic flag that had been in the Crown's possession for the past 100 years and which had been cared for by the Auckland War Memorial Museum since 1930.

Mr Finlayson also returned a koikoi (sharpened stick) that Tame Iti had given to Hon Michael Cullen to help with negotiations between Tuhoë and the Crown. Mr Iti gave it on the condition that it be returned once settlements had been achieved.

Finally, a taiaha gifted to Premier Richard Seddon in 1884 was given back by Mr Seddon's great-grandson Tim Jerram.

Mr Winitana said Tuhoë could now close the doors on this chapter of their journey and look towards achieving the goals set out in their 40-year plan.

"The plan for Tuhoë is to be self-sufficient with no people on the dole," said Mr Winitana.

"We want to establish good healthcare and education for our people and have our language being taught to our young people. It is about mana motuhake — having our own autonomy and he anga whakama — going forward."

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Senior cards

Nicky was the winner of last week's senior citizens cards.

Elaine took out the consolation and raffle.

Quick NEWS

POLICE attended a non-injury accident on Achilles Street last Thursday.

Police said one car had been travelling too close to the other and struck it as it turned into a driveway.

On Saturday evening at around 9.15pm, police received reports that a neighbour had disturbed an unknown person that was trying to break into a kohanga reo.

This person was seen running from the address, but police were unsuccessful in their efforts to find him.

Wairoa Police commend the community for being so pro-active with calling the police over suspicious vehicles and behaviour.

They encourage the public to keep ringing in.

Wairoa firefighters were called to a chimney fire in Victoria Avenue last Friday evening.

The fire resulted in some minor damage to the ceiling of the property. Firefighters were called to two medical assists on Saturday, one of which they were stood down for en route.

St John Ambulance officers have attended a total of 15 medical callouts since last Wednesday and carried out

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