

News

Deer hunters will look elsewhere

Karla Akuhata
Staff reporter

EASTERN Bay hunters appear to have accepted they cannot shoot deer in Te Urewera.

The Te Urewera board revoked hunting permits issued by the Department of Conservation for the former national park this month pending a review of the system.

With access to Tararua, Kaimanawa and Rotoehu about to close for the summer period, there was concern that the decision to revoke permits would raise the ire of hunters in the Whakatahane area.

The review period is set to have the biggest impact on deer hunters because the next few months are considered good for hunting deer.

The BEACON has spoken to several hunters about the issue and most say they are confident the board will sort the issues.

"There are a few people angry that they are going to do this, but I'm pretty sure they will get it sorted soon."

Mr King said many deer hunters will head to other places, such as the Kaimanawas and the Waioeka Gorge, to hunt.

"There are other places to hunt. I actually hunt in a lot of other places. I don't hunt in the park now. I used to, but now I prefer to hunt the silka instead of red deer."

"It is unfortunate that this happened but I think it will get sorted. It's not the park any more, it's Te Urewera."

However, a Kawerau hunter, who did not want to be named, said the move could put more pressure on the Kaimanawa and Waioeka

forests.
"Everyone gets a little bit protective of their own patch and when you see too many outsiders coming in then, well, you know, things could get a little heated."

Board chairman Tamati Kruger said he had received several calls from people wanting to talk about the review.

"Many of them view it as evidence that their access to Te Urewera will be cancelled or limited. So they are taking a very extreme view of it."

Mr Kruger said he wanted to be clear that access to Te Urewera was still guaranteed to the public.

"During negotiations it was Tuhoie that put forward the view of guaranteed access to Te Urewera. It was not a condition that the Crown raised during negotiations."

"So it would be pitiful to say that Tuhoie is not allowing access to Te Urewera when it was Tuhoie that was championing that access to Te Urewera needed to be guaranteed."

He said the board would not issue any hunting permits, not even to Tuhoie hunters, until an effective permitting system had been installed. There would be no exception for Tuhoie people, however, some could still hunt on privately-owned pockets of land within the park.

Mr Kruger said the permit review had been discussed at the first meeting of the board last month and they decided to put a hold on hunting permits until it was completed.

Continuing the current regime until a new system was developed was one option, "but the view is that we needed to send a strong signal, that the change will be significant."

"The signal we all want to put out there is that it will not be cosmetic or insignificant."

Correction

EASTERN Bay Women's Institute members donated \$1500 to each of the four St John ambu-

lance groups serving the Eastern Bay, not \$500, as reported in the BEACON last Friday.

Babywearers leave pushchairs at



THERE were no pushchairs in sight as the Whakatahane Babywearers group celebrated New Zealand Babywearing Week with a beach walk on Saturday. With their babies nestled comfortably in front or back slings, the

ummies and one dad walked from the Whakatahane Surf Lifesaving Club to West End. This is the second year the Sling Walk has been held alongside International Babywearing Week.

Pictured from left are (with baby Coen), Megh Atticus), Shekiah Meade (with Flynn), Shannon M Jake), Rachel Learmond Sarah Finlay (with Sophi

Plaza almost ready for official

THE newest addition to the Whakatahane central business district, the pedestrian-friendly Strand Plaza, with its two new shops, will be officially opened by Whakatahane Mayor Tony Bonne next Friday.

Mr Bonne said he would cut the ribbon at 4pm next Friday "if there is a ribbon to be cut".

The two stores - gift shop Presentables and shoe and clothing shop Envy - are already open for business, the owners having relocated their businesses from elsewhere on The Strand last weekend.

Workmen were still putting the finishing touches to the plaza's features this week.

The plaza links The Strand with the car park at the back and

provides a connection to the Whakatahane River and estuary. It was a key element of Whakatahane District Council's planning guide for the town's development, the Town Vision.

The plaza replaces two buildings and four shops, demolished to make way for the walkway.

The two new shops facing the plaza have been built by Whakatahane businessman Mike Shepherd, who saw The Strand Plaza as an opportunity to replace his old building containing two shops facing The Strand.

Pictured in The Strand Plaza from left are Jo Dowthwaite, of Envy, and Leonie Moeke and Julie Cotter, of Presentables.

Photo Whakatahane District Council



'Keep your receipts - they are like gold'

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transactions.

Mr Soutar said if she had shown the receipt for the first

got the details wrong in the apology letter."

Ms Gardner explained how she and her partner chose to buy some capiscums because

security."

She said fortunately the security person could see it was an honest mistake. In her complaint to the

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