

News

Upokorehe issues bloodshed warning

Geoff Mercer
Maori affairs reporter

TE UPOKOREHE kaumatua Wallace Aramoana says his iwi will continue its attempt to push back against what his tribe claims is a boundary encroachment by Tuhoe.

In a sternly-worded press release yesterday, Te Upokorehe Treaty Claims Trust said significant prejudice to Upokorehe was highlighted in comments made by Tuhoe Te Uru Taumatua chairman Tamati Kruger following an Upokorehe protest at Maraetotara, Ohope, on Easter Monday.

"We have always believed that Te Kotahi a Tuhoe (the authority mandated to negotiate the Tuhoe Treaty of Waitangi settlement) had done a deal with the Whakatohea Maori Trust Board and now they have both confirmed it.

"Clearly, both our neighbouring iwi intend to settle their own claims then split us between them," trustee Trevor Ransfield said.

Mr Kruger last week said Tuhoe did not recognise Te Upokorehe as an iwi and considered that by dealing with Whakatohea it was

holding talks with the appropriate neighbour on its eastern boundary.

He said when Whakatohea had concluded its settlement, the two iwi would agree which of them would buy the areas of Crown land between them available for purchase.

Following the protest, held to raise awareness about Tuhoe's alleged encroachment into Upokorehe territory, as evidenced by the Tuhoe area of interest map circulated during pre-settlement negotiations, Whakatohea trust board chairman Robert Edwards supported Mr Kruger, agreeing Upokorehe was not an iwi.

"The arrogance of these individuals is astounding," trustee Wayne Aramoana said.

The approach of the two iwi leaders flew in the face of the Maori affairs select committee report stating it was satisfied the Tuhoe settlement would not prevent Te Upokorehe progressing its own settlement negotiations, he said.

"There is an outcry amongst Te Upokorehe iwi, who are outraged that the Treaty of Waitangi, signed by their tipuna Wi Akeake, has been totally ignored and trampled on in favour of Te Kotahi a Tuhoe," Wayne



PROTEST MARCH: Members of Te Upokorehe take up their placards to protest Tuhoe-Te Urewera Bill. File photo D0440-039

Aramoana said.

The trust statement repeats an earlier warning by Upokorehe kaumatua that any "bloodshed as a consequence of this injustice will be on the Crown's hands".

Asked what that meant, Wallace Aramoana said it was an expression that stated Upokorehe would never give up its cause, but if anger at not being heard led to violence, it would be the Government's fault.

The trust statement said Upokorehe would continue to oppose the Tuhoe-Te Urewera Settlement Bill.

Upokorehe is awaiting a decision from the High Court on its concerns.

Breakfast club is new Rotarian initiative

Sven Carlsson
Staff reporter

A BREAKFAST club is the latest initiative by Rotary.

Whakatane mayor Tony Bonne, who is a Rotarian, said the new breakfast club has had two successful meetings so far.

"Rotarian breakfast clubs are popular all over New Zealand," he said.

"Many professionals find it's easier to meet in the mornings than during the evenings."

Mr Bonne said the Whakatane Sunrise Rotary crowd meet every second Wednesday at the Presbyterian Church Lounge.

"We meet from 6.45am to about

8am - have an invited speaker and enjoy breakfast together."

"We've had about 25 people turn up to each meeting."

This coming Wednesday, Opotiki GP Dr Jo Scott-Jones has been invited to speak about rural health.

Mr Bonne said four Rotarians from Whakatane West were behind the new breakfast club.

"This is not a break-away club, but a complementary initiative," he said.

"We would need 25 signed-up members before we could be registered as a new Rotary club."

Mr Bonne said the breakfast club was looking at making Coastguard Whakatane the beneficiary of its activities.

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