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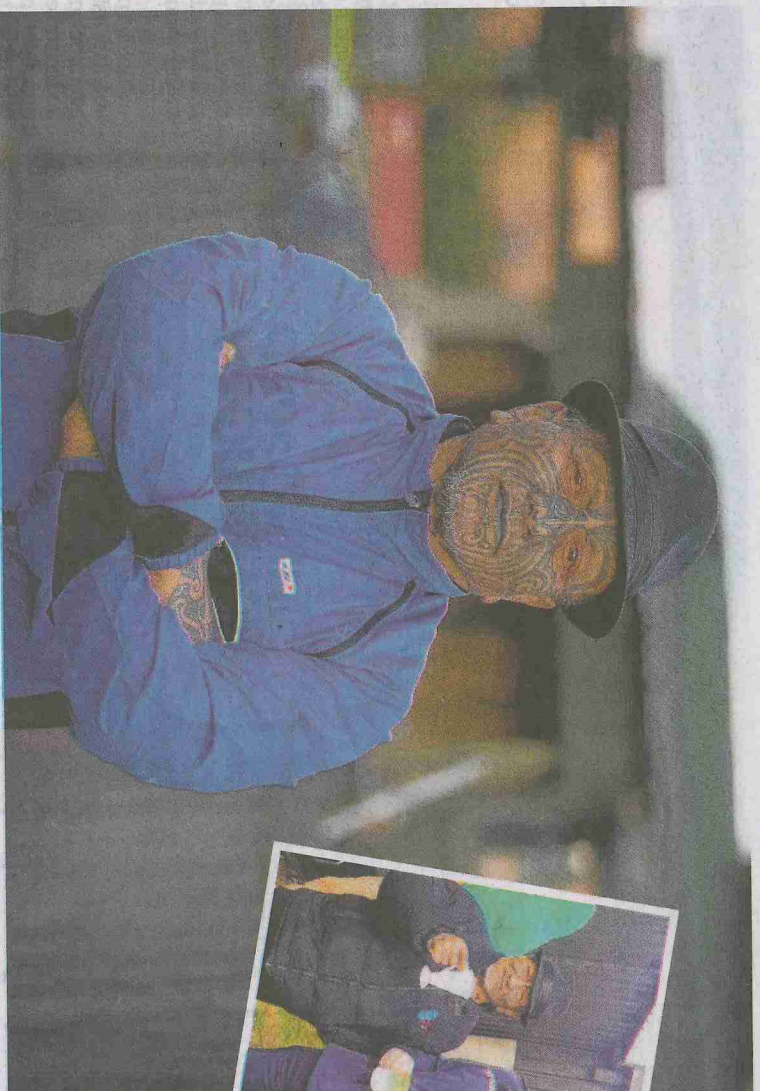
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Tame Iti shares a healing brew with Mike Bush during the Ruatoki visit.  
Picture / Christine Cornege

# 'Sorry' goes a long way

Tame Iti says time to move on after police apology to Ruatoki families

**N**early seven years after armed police raided his community and arrested him for his involvement with alleged military-style camps, Tame Iti says he bears no ill-will and it's time to move on.

Police Commissioner Mike Bush visited Mr Iti and five other Ruatoki families yesterday, including Mr Iti's brother, to apologise for the 2007 raids that led to the arrests of 17 people who were allegedly involved in military-style training camps in the Urewera.

It was also confirmed a settlement had been reached with Tuhoe iwi over the operation, but police would not reveal details.

The Independent Police Conduct Authority said the grounds for the raid were justified but police had acted "unlawfully, unjustifiably and unreasonably".

Mr Iti said his mokopuna offered Mr Bush leaves from a tree at his home, each symbolising peace and hope for the future before they brought him on to his home.

The whanau addressed Mr Bush and the other officers over a two-hour period.

"Today was really about trying to work out for most of us that we had to let go of this even though some of my whanau have been carrying this for seven years," he said. "He needed to hear that, even though he only had to sit there for two hours."

**We can only look in his eyes and say to him 'come into our house' and say to him 'next time you want something just ask me and we won't have a situation like we did'.**

Tame Iti

Mr Iti said he felt Mr Bush's apology on behalf of the police was "genuine".

"We can only look in his eyes and say to him 'come into our house' and say to him 'next time you want something just ask me and we won't have a situation like we did'."

"They admitted they were wrong and what they did back then was unlawful and was not correct."

Mr Iti said despite the raid, the treatment of his people, his arrest and imprisonment he bore the police no ill-will.

"My ancestors never got the same treatment" he said. "They burned our houses down, burned the gardens down... it was the first part of colonisation that attacked Tuhoe."

"Now there has to be a reason to move on, we have an opportunity ahead of us. We are building a new nation, the Mana Motuhake o Tuhoe and the recent settlement is very much a part of it."

The settlement is the Tuhoe Claims

## The Sound pulls plug on two Marks' show

Mark Kennedy and Mark Stauffer have been dropped from The Sound breakfast show, only two weeks after a rant by Stauffer cost him his Radiolive job.

MediaWorks announced yesterday the two radio hosts are leaving the station after only five weeks on air.

"This is a disappointing decision to make, but it is clearly the best decision for the station and its audience," said MediaWorks group programme director Andrew Szusterman.

"We had high hopes for *The Kennedy & Stauffer Breakfast Show*, but after five



Mark Stauffer



Mark Kennedy

weeks on air we recognise the show is not right for *The Sound*."

A statement from the two radio hosts said it was a "great experience" but it was time for them to move on.

A permanent replacement is yet to be

Settlement Bill and Te Urewera Bill. They both passed their final readings last week with broad political support.

The settlement includes a Crown apology for wrongful killings, illegal land grabs and scorched earth warfare.

Mr Bush said he had apologised to whanau who experienced "unnecessary stress during that time and felt a loss of credibility and mana" during the Urewera raids.

"It was important to me that I personally deliver this apology, in private, to redress the hurt felt in Tuhoe," he said.

"The visits are to acknowledge these whanau, the fear that they experienced, the situations they were placed in and the damage that was caused.

"It's really important to me to say sorry to those children who were present so they know what happened to them was wrong."

Tuhoe spokesman Tamati Kruger said whanau visited by Mr Bush "accepted the sincerity of his words".

"They felt it was unscripted and felt he was earnest and it has helped with many of these whanau to deal with their issues."

Asked if the apology was too little too late, Mr Kruger said many Maori had waited more than 150 years for an apology so "in the greater scheme of things this was done at light speed".

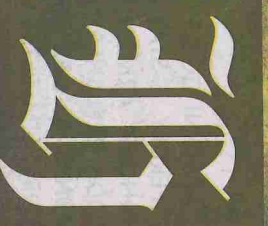
Mr Kruger said police would return to Ruatoki probably early next month where they will apologise further to the remaining whanau and the people of Tuhoe.

appointed. The decision comes only two weeks after Mark Stauffer's late-night slot on Radiolive was dropped after an inappropriate rant involving foul language.

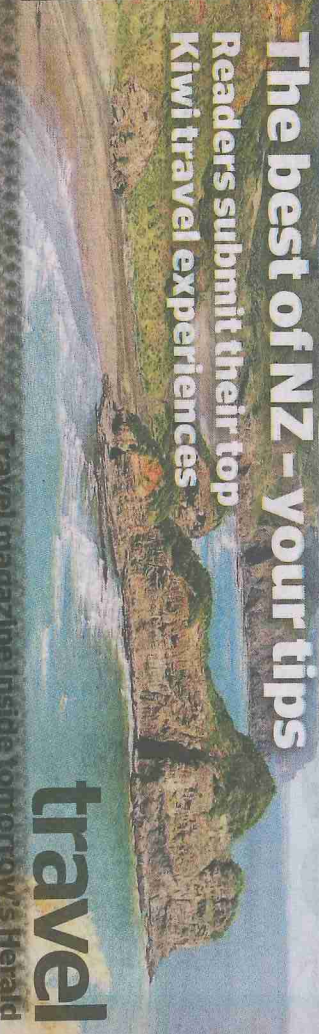
Comments made by Stauffer on the 10pm to 1am show included the words "\*\*\*\*" and "motherf\*\*\*\*" and a discussion on the age he began masturbating and how many abortions a friend had had by the time she was 18.

The audio of the Friday night show was pulled from Radiolive's website and an apology issued to listeners.

- APNZ



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