

Trust marks 25 yrs service to families

MINISTER for Whanau Ora (family health), Tariana Turia has congratulated the Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust on achieving 25 years of service to the community.

The trust, which oversees the Te Kuiti Family Health Centre, celebrated the milestone last month, with Mrs Turia describing it as "an excellent example of an organisation".

The trust has been operating since 1989 delivering a range of services with a focus on the holistic development and wellbeing of whanau, hapu and iwi including an early childhood centre, smoking cessation, aged care and mental health.

The 25th anniversary was celebrated at the trust's open day in Taumarunui on February 14, featuring speeches from senior Maori business consultant Richard Batley and Ruapehu mayor Don Cameron.

Mrs Turia says the health clinic has always had the people's interests at the forefront of its services.

"Their philosophy to improve the wellbeing of whanau underpins everything they do," she says.

"They have consistently empowered their people through an approach that allows them to have their own aspirations, to take control of their own lives and make decisions on their own health and wellbeing which also recognises who they are and where they have come from."

INTERAGENCY APPROACH

Whanau Ora, established by the Maori Party in 2010, is an interagency approach to providing health

and social services to all New Zealand families by empowering whanau as a whole rather than focusing on individual family members and their problems.

Mrs Turia says the trust symbolises the very heart of Whanau Ora's principles.

"The trust and its staff recognise that strength comes with unity and working together.

"It is an excellent example of an organisation that recognises the benefits of collective strength within whanau, hapu and iwi."



CHRISTINE BREARS

CEO PROUD

Trust chief executive Christine Brears of Taumarunui is very proud of the achievement which she says has required a lot of commitment and determination from a large number of staff.

"During the past 25 years the health sector has gone through many changes including ministers of health, health funding authorities, regional health authorities, district health boards, primary health organisations and a number of governments.

"So it is fair to say our continued success has been built on passion and belief by a large number of staff across many years.

"This was highlighted by the minister's comments which gave us all a deep feeling of satisfaction that we are achieving what we set out to do.

"I know the organisation is very well positioned now and I expect it will be around serving the community for many years to come.

"I am very proud of our achievement."

Water levels low, fire bans applied

WAITOMO District Council's water alert level is now at Level 1.

This means that residents need to conserve water and avoid watering gardens during the day.

Residents are advised by council staff that the ideal time to water gardens is 6am-8am and 6pm-8pm to avoid evaporation; to use water saving attachments on hoses and not leave hoses running unattended.

People are also being asked to avoid washing paths and driveways, re-filling swimming pools, to use a pool cover when not in use, and conserve water when brushing teeth and shaving.

"The weather forecast is dry with no substantial rainfall expected therefore residents need to be vigilant in saving water," says WDC water services manager Andreas Senger.

"Every little bit helps to ensure there will be enough water available for everyone."

Council staff also want to hear from any residents regarding possible water leaks so they can be investigated by calling 0800 932 4357 or sending a request via the website - fixmystreet.org.nz

There are more water conservation tips on the council's website - waitomo.govt.nz

OTOROHANGA

Otorohanga residents are also being asked to restrict their water use.

Late last week district council staff, also struggling to meet demand in the dry weather, delivered fliers to residents asking them to voluntarily restrict water use in order to avoid enforced restriction.

"We are delighted to report residents have responded extremely quickly to that request and at this point we have avoided a serious water shortage," says chief executive Dave Clibbery.

"We ask residents to continue their water conservation efforts, by not using garden sprinklers or refilling swimming pools."

People should also turn off taps whenever possible, fix leaks, have quicker showers, use the washing machine less often and delay washing their house or cars.

FIRE BAN

Total fire bans were put in place in both Waitomo and Otorohanga districts on Friday.

Waitomo's ban extends through until April 30, while Otorohanga's is in place until further notice.

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