

Riders shatter viaduct peace

TE KUITI'S picturesque Mangaokewa Scenic Reserve is normally a place where people can relax, have a picnic and stroll through surrounding native bush.

But too often, the minority disturb the tranquility of the 'viaduct' by using it as a race track despite families with young children and/or pets being present.

Located five minutes south of Te Kuiti, the reserve offers picnic areas, bush walks, play areas, swimming holes and public toilets.

Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna says unfortunately the council receives far too many complaints about people ruining the area by doing wheelies and creating an unsafe environment.

In 2010, the toilet facilities, picnic tables and barbecue areas were regularly damaged and someone even tried to steal the bathroom sinks.

The latest incident occurred on Sunday when two youths on dirt bikes not wearing helmets began racing each other despite 10-12 family groups enjoying

Mother's Day picnics and children playing nearby.

One person, who was walking her dog past the riders, was deliberately sprayed with mud and stones by one of the riders.

Mr Hanna says he will discuss Sunday's incident with police and by working together he hopes they can stamp the problem out by enforcing the Disturbing the Peace Bylaw.

"I'm going to speak with police and say that we want it dealt with.

"They have the power to prevent it from happening because it sounds like these motorbike riders really upset a lot of people enjoying their Mother's Day picnics last weekend.

"The Mangaokewa Reserve is a beautiful area which should be enjoyed and we don't want this sort of behaviour in our district to continue."

Mr Hanna says plans are underway to erect warning signs at all council-owned recreation areas such as parks and reserves to outline what behaviour is prohibited.



PROBLEM PARK: The Waitomo District Council is working with Te Kuiti Police to ensure the Mangaokewa Scenic Reserve on SH30 remains a peaceful place for all to enjoy.



Exhibition commemorates WWI

BY ROWAN MILLER

TE AWAMUTU Museum's latest exhibition – *Ake, Ake, Ake* – shares the powerful, personal stories of seven Waikato-Maniapoto men that were part of the Maori Contingent during World War One.

The exhibition has been compiled in conjunction with University of Waikato senior lecturer Tom Roa, and university researcher Maehe Paki.

The pair has collated stories of seven Waikato-Maniapoto men from WWI, into a book and DVD – *Maiea te Tupua* – Satisfying The Spirit: Whanau Accounts of Waikato-Maniapoto Veterans and One Conscriptee, commemorating 100 Years of World War One – was launched at Purekireki Marae in Pirongia on ANZAC Day. (*Waitomo News, In Our Defence*, April 21).

The men are – Kohatu Hari Hemara Wahanui, Tuheka Taonui Hetet, Te Rehe Amohanga, Rotohiko Michael Jones, Joseph Ormsby, William Takaoro Kohi and Te Rauangaanga Mahuta.

There is a perception that Waikato-Maniapoto men did not participate in World War I.

At the conclusion of the New Zealand Land Wars in 1864, King Tawhiao declared peace to reign over his Kingdom for ever more, and that the people could only take up arms in defence of it.

As war broke out merely 50 years after his declaration, the grievances were still fresh for many within Waikato-Maniapoto and they did not wish to serve King George V, who they had been fighting against so recently.

During the conscription period in 1917, Te Puea



WHO ARE THEY?: This photograph is currently on display in Te Awamutu Museum's *Ake Ake Ake* exhibition but many of the soldiers are unknown. If you can identify any of these men please contact the museum. PHOTO COURTESY JOHN HETET

Herangi called for her people to stand strong to her grandfather's declaration, and allowed men who did not want to enlist or were resisting conscription to stay at her marae, Te Paina.

The Maori King at the time – Te Rata – had travelled to England to petition King George V about restoring confiscated lands. Some men waited for his return and to gain his blessing before enlisting with

the New Zealand Army.

Ake, Ake, Ake is on show in the Gavin Clifford Gallery until October 27.

For more information visit the website – tamuseum.org.nz

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