

## Festival promises to be 'good show'

By Laurel Stowell  
laurel.stowell@wanganuichronicle.co.nz

Former SAS soldier and *Survive Aotearoa* frontman Chris Kumeroa is aiming for something bigger and better in this year's Whanganui River Valley Hunting Competition and Wild Food Festival.

It's from April 29 to May 1 and he's targeting parties of celebrity hunters and is confident it will be filmed for both mainstream and Maori audiences. He wants to show people a really good time.

"Celebrity teams will be making their way from every part of the country. We want them all to have an amazing time and spread the word."

Mr Kumeroa has ties to Ngati Tuera and Ngati Hinearo on the Whanganui River.

He was in the SAS in the New Zealand Defence Force and now runs an international security business from Auckland as well as being on Nga Tangata Tiaki, the new Whanganui iwi governance entity.

This year's will not be the first hunting competition held at a Whanganui River marae. The last was at Matahiwi in March 2014 and the next is planned for Jerusalem in 2017.

Mr Kumeroa would like to move it farther afield and bring in Otoko and Uenuku.

"We want to spread the love all the way up to Taumarunui."

Hunters pay a registration fee that becomes part of the prize money.

They start the weekend with a powhiri at 10am at Parikino Marae on the Friday.

At noon the groups and individuals take off into the hills on horseback, foot, helicopter, jetboat or four-wheel drive vehicle.

The sponsors will be allocated hunting blocks for their exclusive use, with a guide and other help.

One of the best will be Papahaua, an Atihau Whanganui Incorporation block of



IT'S OFFICIAL: Another Whanganui hunting and food fest is on the way.

PHOTO/ SUPPLIED

1200ha where Mr Kumeroa says people can see 340 deer in half a day.

The animals hunted will be fallow deer, red deer, pigs, goats, possums, magpies and rabbits.

Red deer are increasing in the area.

Mr Kumeroa saw about six last time he was there, and they were "decent sized" animals.

On Sunday hunters have to be back at Parikino for the weigh-in between noon and 2pm, and prizegiving from 3pm-5pm. The top prize will be \$1000, and there will be others of clothing and GPS gear.

That's also the food festival day, with entertainment and games for non-hunters, families and friends. Entry will cost \$5 for adults, with children under 16 free.

There will be food stalls, with stallholders paying a fee that goes towards marae funds. Ned



SPREADING THE WORD: Chris Kumeroa has high hopes for the upcoming event.

Tapa is to run some fun on the water — a tug of war with paddlers in the same waka pad-

dling in opposite directions. Any animals the hunters don't want to take home will be

**"We want our people to understand what DOC does in looking after and conserving land. We understand that the (Whanganui National Park) may come back to us at some stage."**

auctioned, with the money going to the marae.

Mr Kumeroa is enlisting lots of help for the event.

Hunting guide Lee Winterburn will provide advice, and there will be medical and safety personnel. Department of Conservation staff will be on hand, and pleased with the cull of pest animals.

"We want our people to understand what DOC does in looking after and conserving land. We understand that the (Whanganui National Park) may come back to us at some stage."

One of the goals of the event is to bring river people back to their marae and revive the practice of hunting and making traditional kai.

Another aim is to raise money for river marae, and lure people back to them.

"Lots of Maori now live in urban areas. We would like to reverse some of that, and get them back to the marae."

■ Hunt entry forms are available at Wilsons Hunting & Outdoors in Whanganui's Victoria Avenue. Entries close April 22.

29-04-2016 TO 01-05-16

Whanganui River

### HUNTING & WILD FOOD FESTIVAL

Hunting Dates: 29th APRIL - 1 MAY 2016  
Food Festival Date: SUNDAY - 1 MAY 2016

\$5 ENTRY TO FOOD FESTIVAL UNDER 16YRS-FREE

PARIKINO MARAE, Whanganui River Road

Entry forms available from  
**WILSONS HUNTING & OUTDOORS**  
222 Victoria Ave, Whanganui

Weigh in: SUNDAY- 1 MAY 2016 12 pm - 2pm sharp  
Contact: CHRIS KUMEROA ph: (021) 780 676 | chriskumeroa@yahoo.com

IT'S OFFICIAL: Another Whanganui hunting and food fest is on the way. PHOTO/ SUPPLIED

**TREADWELL GORDON**  
Barristers, Solicitors, Notary Public

PROPERTY - BUSINESS  
RURAL - TRUSTS - WILLS  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
FAMILY - EMPLOYMENT  
DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Wairere House,  
Cnr Somme Pde & Bates St, Whanganui  
12 Kuku St, Taihape  
Phone 0800 TREADWELL  
info@treadgord.co.nz  
www.treadwellgordon.co.nz

I orea te tuatara ka patu ki waho.

A problem is solved by continuing to find solutions.

TAIHAPE HUNTERVILLE OHAKUNE WHANGANUI

SERVING YOUR REGION FOR OVER 40 YEARS

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

We know this land like the back of our hand.

Whanganui 0800 480 062  
Taumarunui 0800 858 803  
Ohakune 0800 858 801

www.balanceonline.co.nz

**BALANCE**  
BUSINESS LIFE SUCCESS