

Matua coming to hunting festival

By Laurel Stowell
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Former All Black and Hunting Aotearoa presenter Matua Parkinson will be the star at this weekend's Whanganui River Valley Hunting Competition and Wild Food Festival.

The festival is at Parikino Marae. It starts with a powhiri for hunters on Friday morning and ends with a prizegiving late on Sunday afternoon.

Hunters' entries closed on Friday, but organiser Chris Kumeroa expected there would be some late ones. Hunters will be in teams of four, and there may be as many as 50 teams. Each will be allotted a hunting block in the wider area.

The prize Papahaua hunting block will probably go to Ken Williams, a sponsor and owner of Wanganui Holden. Paetawa should be another good block — goats are being shot and left there, to draw out the pigs.

Mr Kumeroa hasn't been able to get the festival filmed for television, but he said *The Hunters Club* had committed to coming to the Whanganui River at a later stage. He's hoping it can film celebrity teams hunting here and lure some of Auckland's hunters into the area.

"It will be great for tourism, and put more money in the economy."

There are some unique features of backblocks Whanganui hunting, he said.

"We have large groups of fallow and red deer, not crossed over or matched up with any other species. They're good, free range hunting animals."

Prizes for this weekend's winning hunters will include \$4000 worth of Ridgeline clothing, a GPS and two rifles.

On Saturday there's a first for the river, the Whakatupato firearm safety programme will be run at Parikino Marae by firearms safety specialist Nicole McKee, with Vinnie Heihei from Whanganui Police. There are 14 people registered, and they should all be able to end the day with firearms licences.

Mr Kumeroa would like to run the programme the length of the river, from the mouth to Taumarunui.

He'll give a safety briefing before stalls are set up at the marae on Sunday



HUNTER: Former All Black Matua Parkinson, pictured last year still enjoying the game.

morning. They will be open from 10am on, with a charge of \$5 for adults.

On the food festival side there will be traditional Maori food — hangi, paua fritters and frybread. A food bus is coming from Palmerston North and agencies such as the Conservation Department and Nga Tangata Tiaki will have information stalls.

The hunters return from midday onward. The excitement will build from there, as stories are told and animals appraised.

Carcasses will be weighed, and deer heads and pigs' jaws assessed. There will be prizes for large and average pigs and fallow and red deer. Children will present their possums, rabbits and magpies.

Prizegiving begins about 4pm, with bands Cool Meditation and the Clazmatic Boogie Orchestra there to entertain.

Money raised will go to Parikino Marae. Mr Kumeroa plans to hold the festival weekend at Jerusalem next year, and other marae after that.



THE WRITE STUFF: Lesley Stead, Helen Leahy and Dame Tariana Turia at Friday's book launch.

Dame helps launch book on Labour split

It has been on sale for some months now, but a special Whanganui book launch was held on Friday for the story of Dame Tariana Turia.

And Dame Tariana was there herself at the Sarjeant on the Quay gallery, with her friend Helen Leahy, her former political adviser and the author of the book, *Crossing The Floor*.

The event was hosted by Whanganui mayor Annette Main and also in attendance was Lesley Stead, of Paige's Bookshop, who said the volume had been selling well.

Crossing The Floor tells of Dame

Tariana's traumatic break-up with the Labour Party, where she was associate Maori Affairs Minister, over the Foreshore and Seabed Bill back in 2004.

That, of course, led to the formation of the Maori Party, with Dame Tariana becoming the party's co-leader and a minister in the National-led government.

Now retired from Parliament, Dame Tariana said on Friday she was happy to be out of mainstream politics and was enjoying life "on the outside", working on a number of projects, mainly around health issues.

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He ao matemate te ao mita
kore ... E tama mā, e hine mā,
nau mai ki te kōhanga reo.

Ko tō reo hei tikitiki mō tō
māhunga - Ko tō mita hei
muka motunga kore.

Pūtikitia!

Nā whakauru hou – New Enrollments

E wātea ana tō tātou Kōhanga Reo o Pūtiki Wharanui kia uru mai ai ngā pēpi me ngā tēina piki ake ki te rima tau te pāhake. Kāti, nau mai e ngā mokopuna kia pūtikitia te reo o ngā mātua!

Pūtiki Wharanui Te Kōhanga Reo welcomes new enrollments starting from pepi (7 months old) to 5 years. We welcome and encourage whānau to learn alongside our mokopuna under the korowai of our marae tupuna and uplifting the kaupapa of kōhanga reo.



Photo by Gail Imhoff

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