

SHAKE!

A SEVERE seabed earthquake east of Te Araroa yesterday late morning was felt in Wairoa. The quake was measured at magnitude 6.5 magnitude — 31 kilometres down and 155 kilometres east of Te Araroa.

The earthquake was felt widely throughout New Zealand. Over 3200 reports came in to GeoNet from one end of the country to the other, and five from the Chatham Islands.

In Ohope there was minor damage and elsewhere items fell off shelves. There have since been some 17 aftershocks as large as magnitude 4, and four small quakes near Tokomaru Bay.

Ngati Pahauwera regain Pihanui land of ancestors

NGATI Pahauwera development Trust Chairperson Toro Waaka has confirmed the trust has been successful in its bid to purchase Pihanui Station.

Tenders closed last Friday, with more than 10 bids received.

The purchase aligns with the cultural, social and economic goals of the trust, Mr Waaka said.

“The station currently provides employment opportunities to Ngati Pahauwera members and as we grow our landholdings, so the employment opportunities will grow.

“We intend to add to the resources and returns from the station to progress our long-term strategy of improving the wellbeing of the trust members,” Mr Waaka said.

Ngati Pahauwera Trustee Charlie Lambert said it was very exciting for Ngati Pahauwera to have more of their traditional land back.

“The land at Pihanui Station is a part of who we are as a people and having it back should be something to celebrate.

“Our ancestor Te Kahu o Te Rangi walked up these lands beside the Waiou River marking the Tawai trees with his toki — to let everyone know this was Pahauwera land,” Mr Lambert said.

Ngati Pahauwera Commercial Development Trust chair Luis McDonnell said the purchase fell in line with the decision made by the trustees in 2012 to develop their farms into a viable agribusiness.

He said it was a critical step in their production goal of 100,000 stock units by 2025.

The farm is a sheep and beef enterprise but also has large tracts of manuka which will be utilised in the future. Mr McDonnell has just returned from a 14-day trip to a number of Asian countries as part of the Iwi Honey coalition.

Scrub fire a wake-up call

A SCRUB fire at Tuai on Sunday has provided a timely reminder that the district is rapidly drying out.

Wairoa District Council rural fire officer Mike Walker said the fire, behind Tuai School, covered an area of around 100m by 80m.

Tuai firefighters were able to get the fire under control and damp it down, while one tanker from Wairoa was also called out to assist. A helicopter was put

on standby but it was decided that the area was too dangerous with wires.

Mr Walker said it was a reminder to everyone to start being vigilant when lighting fires. Even though the season is still open, he advised contacting the council prior to lighting a fire for advice.

Mr Walker believed if current weather conditions continued, a restricted fire season would soon be introduced. Last year it began in the middle of December.

Gaiety owners shocked

A MAN charged with breaking into the Gaiety Theatre, threatening two occupants and causing extensive damage, has had his first appearance in court.

The 26-year-old appeared in Gisborne District Court last Monday on a number of charges including two counts of aggravated assault, wilful damage and threatening to kill.

He was remanded until December 8 when he will reappear in Gisborne. It is alleged that on Saturday November 8 around 8pm the man forced his way into the theatre by kicking down doors. When he was disturbed by the occupants he was aggressive and violent towards them.

During his alleged rampage he caused extensive damage, most notably smashing an historic mirror that dated back to the 1940s.

The occupants managed to detain the man while they waited for police to arrive and arrest him.

Gaiety Theatre owner Geoff Hole said the mirror, which used to be in the old Regent Theatre, was irreplaceable and left in pieces all over the floor. He said they had never had trouble like this at the theatre before.

Quick NEWS

POLICE are searching for two men who approached campers at Lake Waikaremoana in an aggressive manner, demanding money.

At around 1am yesterday morning the men approached several people who were camping at the Rosie Bay camp site at Onepoto.

A 33-year-old man is to appear in court after he failed to stop for police and then jumped off his moving motorbike.

Police saw the bike approaching them along SH2 north of Wairoa just after 2am on Sunday morning.

The bike appeared to be speeding and had no lights on.

The driver ignored police signals to stop and when he did eventually slow, he attempted to jump off the moving bike to escape.

He was caught by the police and charged with failing to stop and driving in a dangerous manner.

Police are investigating the theft of a number of firearms from a Kopu Road property last Wednesday.

The guns were taken between 9am and 12pm and included an Escort

semi-automatic black gun with a black extension; a Baikal single under-and-over shotgun; and a Browning semi-automatic black firearm.

Police are investigating reports of an incident along Marine Parade where two men allegedly approached two other men and demanded money.

The incident occurred around 8.30pm on Saturday.

Police are investigating reports of a stock killing at Nuhaka.

On Sunday morning a farmer found the carcasses of three sheep on his property. It is believed they were killed overnight.

Emergency services were called to a car accident on Morere Hill last Thursday where a woman was flown to hospital for treatment.

The woman was the sole occupant of a two-door Toyota Corolla that went off the road just before 10am.

She suffered cuts and a suspected broken arm. She was transported to a safe place by ambulance and then flown by rescue helicopter to Gisborne Hospital.

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