



□ Sitting the firearms licence are left, Mark Tehau senior, Darren Aranui and Steve Shelford.



□ Pig hunting siblings left, Cheyla Samuels and Jayden Samuels at the Whakatupato day earlier this month.

Good turnout at firearms safety, licensing day

HUNTERS have a renewed respect for firearms after attending a firearms safety and gun licensing day at Waipapa-A-Iwi Marae earlier this month.

The Whakatupato programme involved brushing up on firearms safety knowledge and course work in the morning and a gun licence assessment in the afternoon for around 30 people.

Several agencies were behind the initiative which Maori Responsiveness manager of firearms Damian Ormsby said was the second firearms safety day they had held in the Eastern district.

Another aim was to build firearm safety within the family and home unit and organisers were pleased to see several generations making use of the day.

Pig hunting siblings, fathers and sons, women from rangatahi to kuia status attended and for some it was their first time sitting the firearm's licence.

Conversations about firearm safety around the home and when hunting engaged all ages during the day.

Inspector Ormsby said the great thing about the day was it promoted firearm

safety amongst people that already use firearms recreationally and not just for hunting.

One of these areas was having a firearm to keep on top of pests in the fruit growing area and the need for women to sit the licence too if they were the rabbit and possum shooters in the family or were suddenly widowed and the job fell to them.

Gun storage and safe practice using fire arms were big topics covered during the day.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to engage with iwi on marae in a constructive way and it's not just men.

"Of the 30 people here, ten are female," said the inspector.

The combined initiative to deliver the course on July 1 at the marae, involved police, New Zealand Mountain Safety, Ngati Pahauwera Development Trust and Ministry of Social Development.

Some of the younger firearm users identified all of the fire arm safety code as important while others enjoyed learning about the different types of guns and how they all worked in the same way.

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□ Mana Hepi and Damian Ormsby talk about firearm safety on Saturday at Waipapa-A-Iwi, Mohaka.

One firearm user said she was going to be more cautious now handling firearms.

For others the simple message was you cannot have a gun in the house, if you do not have a gun licence and if your number one rabbit or possum shooter

passes on, then it will be up to them to get their own gun licence.

Inspector Ormsby said if there was more interest in holding another similar day, people should contact Wairoa police.

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arrange to help you get the best value for money either over the phone, by email or face-to-face. Sarah has been a travel agent for more than 14 years.

Two years ago, while she was working at a local bank, she returned to the realm of travel and resumed working part-time as an agent.

In March this year though, she made the commitment to working in her field of speciality full-time.

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"The winter cold is getting a bit too much for locals, and they just want

to head for warmer climates," she said.

"Travel enthusiasts are heading to places like Fiji, Rarotonga, Vietnam, the Mediterranean and other warmer places."

For more information, visit Sarah's Facebook page - Sarah Martin NZ Travel Brokers. Her contact number is 027 548 3413. If you would like to register for her monthly newsletters, you can email her on sarahm@nztravelbrokers.co.nz.

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