



HOMESTEAD ABLAZE: Poututu Station homestead was engulfed in flames yesterday morning with several fire appliances from Wairoa and Nūhaka arriving about 9.15am.

Family history lost as homestead engulfed

A CENTURY of family history went up in smoke yesterday.

Before 9am, Wairoa Fire and Emergency were called to Poututu Station Road to battle a blaze that had engulfed the historic homestead.

No one was inside when the blaze began and there was no wind to fan the flames.

Bob Haynes said he and a couple of the farm workers had gone outside to discuss the plan for the day when they heard a noise. "We heard this bang and turned round to see a little bit of smoke coming

out of the chimney.

"It was hellishly quick."

To get a signal to alert emergency services they had to head up to neighbour Isabelle Thompson's property nearby for reception.

The house made of native timbers like kauri was choked with flame and smoke in minutes as fire crews wrestled to get the blaze under control.

Two appliances from Wairoa and one appliance from Nūhaka attended the fire about 9.15am.

New Year Honours

THE New Year Honours 2024 list included a Māhia luminary and now Titahi Bay resident for her services to Māori and business.

Pania Tyson-Nathan (Rongomaiwahine) MNZM, JP became a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

The grand-daughter of Sam Wairau, son of Paihau Wairau and Te Hina Hura and Mereira Te Ngaio, who was the daughter of Heke Taurima and Rangī Te Ngaio, was raised and educated in Wellington and Hastings but their whānau ties to Māhia have always remained strong.

For three decades, Ms Tyson-Nathan has advanced Māori economic and business development initiatives including the community, private and public sectors.

The experience she gained during this time has helped her in the role as one of the Tuahuru Marae trustees on the Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust (RIT).

It is a challenge she takes seriously and she says it is a privilege to serve her whānau, whānui, Māhia and the wider Tātau Tātau community.

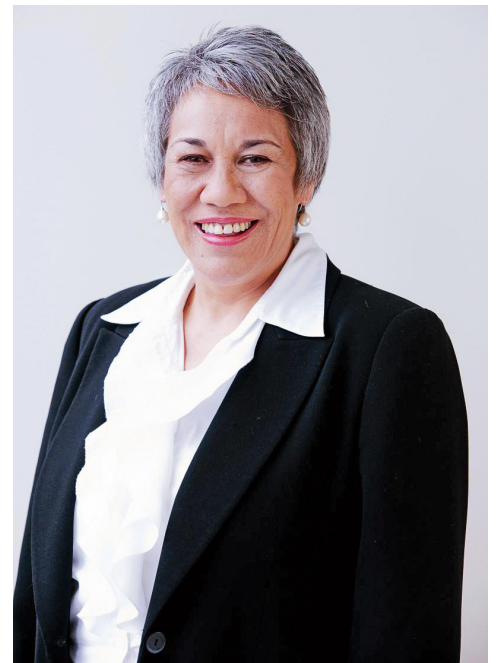
"The award means so much to our whānau in Māhia, so this is very much for them and to those communities in Hastings, Ohakune and Wellington who have contributed to my growth.

"We all know that no-one achieves on their own."

She has a long association with tourism and was named in the top 50 Global Tourism Innovators in 2021.

As chief executive of New Zealand Māori Tourism since 2008, she has focused on highlighting opportunities that a Māori experience offered visitors domestically and internationally.

She said tourism was not for every community and/or the same for every community.



NEW HONOUR FOR DAME PANIA TYSON-NATHAN: The New Year Honours 2024 included Dame Pania (MNZM) becoming a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit. The Rongomaiwahine chief executive of Māori Tourism is also a RIT trustee representing Tuahuru Marae.

"The unintended consequences of a lot of tourists can mean added pressure on infrastructure like roading, sewerage and water use to name a few.

"These issues often go unseen, but are felt by smaller communities especially and are further compounded where there is a low rating base.

"Tourism is a fantastic way to create employment and to stimulate economic growth but it must be well-planned and thought through with and by the locals."

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