**An ‘excellent’ answer to the immediate & long term responses to the 1886 Tarawera eruption**

**Emergency Rescue**

The eruptions stopped at daybreak, 10.6.1886.

Because there was no Civil Defence at this time people at Ohinemutu took it upon themselves to form two rescue parties and trudge through the unrecognisable landscape in hope of rescuing neighbours.

Mr McRae led one rescue party wearing mats to cover their heads and bringing brandy to revive people.

Injured were given first aid and transported to hospitals and the dead were buried to prevent spread of disease.

**Disaster Recovery**

Many tribes left immediately as the land could not support them. Rivers were full of ash and volcanic debris and could not be fished. The landscape had become barren and could not offer shelter. People were scared and emotionally traumatised from the disaster and many were mourning loved ones who were part of the eruption death toll of 153.

For many people leaving was the best option.

Volunteers and supplies arrived from the rest of New Zealand to erect emergency shelters, bridges, clear tracks and find and feed animals.

Severe economic problems were created because the people who were left form Ohinemutu could not continue their businesses and earn money to rebuild their lives. Also no benefits were given to these people, making them dependent on the generosity of the volunteers and the limited supplies.

Mr McRae didn’t receive the insurance money he was entitled to for his destroyed hotel, making it harder for him to get back on his feet.

**Rehabilitation Period**

Over the next 10 – 20 years, permanent repairs were made to bridges, roads, houses, hotels and shops. Paddocks were regressed and trees replanted.

The Government poured money into the area and created the town of Rotorua.

Tourism was building up again as people changed to fit the new environment. Waimangu Thermal Valley, created by the eruption was the next gas-thermal spectacle. The buried village of Te Wairoa also started to pull in income for the growing tourism industry.

**Normality**

During the 20th century, Rotorua became a global tourist destination the eruption promoted itself as a foundation for tourism, and the people of Rotorua adapted their ways to work with the changed environment basing many attractions, such as Mt Tarawera 4WD and Heli tours, Waimangu Thermal Valley, The Buried Village and Rotorua Museum on the impact the 1886 Mt Tarawera had on the community of Ohinemutu.

By Jamie Corkill 11GEO