

## Alice Geary

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**From:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 February 2023 2:30 pm  
**To:** George Taylor  
**Subject:** Re: Chateau Tongariro

Nga mihi George

On behalf of Hāua, we appreciate this update.

Noho ora mai

s 9(2)(a)  
for Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust

On 03/02/2023 13:00 NZDT George Taylor <gttaylor@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Morena s 9(2)(a)

Further to our phone call on Tuesday, Chateau Tongariro Hotel management publicly announced on Tuesday afternoon they would be closing the hotel permanently as of this Sunday 5th February. The hotel business owners, KAH New Zealand Ltd have held a lease with the Department of Conservation (DOC) for operation of the hotel for over 30 years, and have recently been on a month to month tenancy while negotiations were underway for a new lease. They advised DOC on Tuesday that they would not be renewing their lease

At this stage we are working with KAH New Zealand to determine a mutually agreeable handover date for the property. Our first priority will be to assess the improvements and buildings and to develop a sustainable maintenance, safety and security plan for the property while more detailed investigations are carried out regarding the Seismic Assessments of the building(s). Once these investigations are completed we will be in a position to move our focus onto the future of the property and what this may look like.

We will be keeping you informed and will provide regular updates throughout the process, but if you have any concerns or wish to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ngā mihi,

**George Taylor** | Operations Manager | Pou Matarautaki

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai

Whakapapa Village | State Highway 48 | Mt Ruapehu

M: s 9(2)(a)

Email: [gttaylor@doc.govt.nz](mailto:gttaylor@doc.govt.nz) | [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

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## Alice Geary

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**From:** George Taylor  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 February 2023 1:00 pm  
**To:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Chateau Tongariro

Morena s 9(2)(a)

Thanks for the advice last night and it is very reassuring to know Ngāti Hikairo are by our side during this time.

As we know, on Tuesday, Chateau Tongariro Hotel management publicly announced on Tuesday afternoon they would be closing the hotel permanently as of this Sunday 5th February. The hotel business owners, KAH New Zealand Ltd have held a lease with the Department of Conservation (DOC) for operation of the hotel for over 30 years, and have recently been on a month to month tenancy while negotiations were underway for a new lease. They advised DOC on Tuesday that they would not be renewing their lease.

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We will be keeping you informed and will provide regular updates throughout the process, but if you have any concerns or wish to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact me. We look forward to having further discussions as the process progresses and to working with you as we look to the future of this iconic property.

Ngā mihi,

George

**George Taylor** | Operations Manager | Pou Matarautaki  
Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai  
Whakapapa Village | State Highway 48 | Mt Ruapehu  
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**From:** George Taylor  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 March 2023 11:00 am  
**To:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** David Conley  
**Subject:** Chateau Transition

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

As discussed, the transition of the Chateau building and associated buildings is happening on Thursday. We're planning for a low key transition where DOC and KAH come together on the front lawn, acknowledge the transition, handover the keys and go about business as usual once completed. This will be the physical transaction of the change in oversight of the buildings whereas the transition of the lease is an ongoing process. Also, as discussed, there may be some expectation within the community of a more formal or comprehensive acknowledgement of the transition. We're not ruling this out as a possibility for the near future but we need to understand more in terms of risk associated with the main building before we can plan for such event. This given the likely expectation of an inspection and/or tour by dignitaries etc.

So the plan for Thursday is

0900 – meet outside the Chateau on the bowling green lawn, DOC and KAH exchange keys etc, possible short speeches.

As discussed, I just want the exchange to be a safe occasion in terms of cultural aspects so would really appreciate s.9(2)(a) support for this regard.

Once the exchange is over, we'll retreat to the DOC office for a cup of tea.

As indicated, there may be more expectation in the community around this event. We're looking to counter this by stating a more formal event is possibly on the cards once we understand the level of risk associated with the main building.

Ngā mihi,

George

**George Taylor** | Operations Manager | Pou Matarautaki  
Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai  
Whakapapa Village | State Highway 48 | Mt Ruapehu  
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## Alice Geary

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**From:** George Taylor  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 February 2023 1:01 pm  
**To:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Chateau Tongariro

Morena s 9(2)(a)

Further to our phone call on Tuesday, Chateau Tongariro Hotel management publicly announced on Tuesday afternoon they would be closing the hotel permanently as of this Sunday 5th February. The hotel business owners, KAH New Zealand Ltd have held a lease with the Department of Conservation (DOC) for operation of the hotel for over 30 years, and have recently been on a month to month tenancy while negotiations were underway for a new lease. They advised DOC on Tuesday that they would not be renewing their lease.

At this stage we are working with KAH New Zealand to determine a mutually agreeable handover date for the property. Our first priority will be to assess the improvements and buildings and to develop a sustainable maintenance, safety and security plan for the property while more detailed investigations are carried out regarding the Seismic Assessments of the building(s). Once these investigations are completed we will be in a position to move our focus onto to the future of the property and what this may look like

We will be keeping you informed and will provide regular updates throughout the process, but if you have any concerns or wish to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ngā mihi,

George

**George Taylor** | Operations Manager | Pou Matarautaki  
Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai  
Whakapapa Village | State Highway 48 | Mt Ruapehu  
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**From:** George Taylor  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 February 2023 10:41 am  
**To:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Chateau Tongariro

Tēnā kōe s 9(2)(a)

Just following up your message. The ongoing discussions with KAH NZ Ltd have been progressing towards the transition of the Chateau and associated buildings to DOC. This transition date is proposed to be the 9<sup>th</sup> of March. As much as we've been encouraging an event to acknowledge the closing of the Chateau, it looks like this may happen at the time of transition. I'll be sure to keep you informed when the plan eventuates.

Ngā mihi

George

**George Taylor** | Operations Manager | Pou Matarautaki  
Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai  
Whakapapa Village | State Highway 48 | Mt Ruapehu  
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**From:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 February 2023 5:54 pm  
**To:** George Taylor <[gttaylor@doc.govt.nz](mailto:gttaylor@doc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Chateau Tongariro

Tēnā koe George

Thank you for the update regarding Chateau Tongariro.

We would be interested in knowing if there was going to be a formal closure of the Chateau.

s 9(2)(a)  
**Pou Ārahi / Chief Executive**

**Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust**  
(formerly Ngāti Rangī Trust)  
1 Mountain Road  
PO BOX 195  
Ohakune 4625

**Phone:** s 9(2)(a)

**Email:** s 9(2)(a)

**Web:** [www.ngatirangi.com](http://www.ngatirangi.com)



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**From:** George Taylor <[gttaylor@doc.govt.nz](mailto:gttaylor@doc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 February 2023 1:01 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Chateau Tongariro

Morena [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)

Further my phone message on Tuesday, Chateau Tongariro Hotel management publicly announced on Tuesday afternoon they would be closing the hotel permanently as of this Sunday 5th February. The hotel business owners, KAH New Zealand Ltd have held a lease with the Department of Conservation (DOC) for operation of the hotel for over 30 years, and have recently been on a month to month tenancy while negotiations were underway for a new lease. They advised DOC on Tuesday that they would not be renewing their lease.

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