

# Wild horse society role vital, says DOC

THOUGH the capture of five wild horses has landed the chairman of the Kaimanawa Wild Horse Preservation Society in hot water with fellow members, the Conservation Department has said the society's role was vital.

Regional conservator Bill Carlin said the horses' capture by police, army, and the department, and society chairman Ian Boyes, was necessary because of traffic safety. The society's involvement was vital for the relocation and care of the lame mare and foal,

which otherwise might have had to be destroyed, Mr Carlin said.

But society founder James Boyd said it was formed to keep the horses in their natural state. By agreeing to take the horses in advance, the chairman was sanctioning their capture.

Mr Boyd claimed the society dumped Mr Boyes after an urgent telephone vote, but he had reinstated himself the next day.

But Mr Boyes remains adamant that he had done nothing wrong and was never sacked.