

Mark this on the to-do calendar

SOME women will do anything for a good cause, and the women of On-Stage Te Kuiti are prepared to do whatever it takes.

When the lights go up and the curtain opens on the theatre group's latest production *Calendar Girls* on Tuesday it will be in aid of breast cancer and leukaemia awareness and research.

The origin of the hit show *Calendar Girls* is based on the true story of a group of women from the Rylstone & District Women's Institute (near Skipton, North Yorkshire).

The group produced a nude calendar to raise money for leukaemia research after member Angela Baker's husband John died from non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in July 1998.

Members photographed for the calendar – aged 45-65 years – were enthusiastic about the calendar having all known John.

The shot a second calendar 10 years later.

In the subsequent film and hit show, the women are from the fictitious Knapely Women's Institute, with the screenplay written by Tim Firth.

Calendar Girls was first released as a movie in 2003 and debuted as a stage show in the West End in 2009.

LOCAL CAST

On-Stage president Mary Macnaughtan says: "The local cast did not have to be cajoled into taking part in the show... there wasn't any reluctance from the girls wanting to front up for the roles.

"We all read the very well-written script, and found it funny with some poignant moments, and from that moment everyone came on board.

"The cast of 14 is led by Suzanne

Hammond, Faye O'Neill, Anita Coombe, Janene New, Sally Stuart and myself, who play the major roles of the Women's Institute ladies.

"We have had to recast the role of a junior reporter because there is a shortage of young men in Te Kuiti to fill the part, so we had to age the role to that of a mature reporter," says Mrs Macnaughtan.

PROMISES KEPT

In keeping with the spirit of the show, a promise had to be made by On-Stage to make a contribution to cancer research in order to get rights to the show.

"In one scene in the show there is reference to a fundraiser and following the show on the opening gala night the Pink Ribbon fundraising girls are running an auction to raise funds in order to carry out that pledge," says Mrs Macnaughtan.

The proceeds of the auction will go to the NZ Breast Cancer Foundation (Pink Ribbon) and On-Stage Te Kuiti will also make a donation to Leukaemia and Blood.

MOTIVATION

"Like the girls in the original story we have all known of someone as a part of our own circles or in the wider community who have suffered from some form of cancer, and that is our motivation in doing this particular show," says Mrs Macnaughtan.

The show is directed by Carol Eales and 21 people make up the cast and production crew.

The season for *Calendar Girls* runs nightly from Tuesday, April 12 until Saturday, April 16.

Tickets are available from Creative Spaces in Te Kuiti or The Flower Shoppe in Otorohanga.



GET READY: *Calendar Girls* cast members Mary Macnaughtan (left), Freya O'Neill, Sally Stuart, Janene New, Suzanne Hammond and Anita Coombe prepare themselves for a photographic session in a scene from the show. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Best value behind unit's formation

HUGE savings is the main objective behind the formation of a business unit to ensure local authorities get the best value for every dollar spent on roading.

The goal is to make significant savings for Waikato region councils' who collectively spend \$160 million on road maintenance per year.

Working under the umbrella of the Waikato Mayoral Forum – the Road Asset Technical Accord (RATA) – focusses on shared services, more advanced procurement procedures and the implementation of the One Network Road Classification.

The initial focus when RATA began in 2104, was to review road reconstruction and resealing

Ear Care Excellence

Whether you're just curious about having your ears and hearing checked or if you want to change the way you hear we can help you. With over 50 years in business Applied Hearing still offers the best hearing care with traditional values and personal attention with clinics from Kaitia to Invercargill.

Our most popular services are;

- **Hearing Tests** including diagnostic testing, prescription and fitting of the latest hearing instruments some of which are exclusive to us, but all brands are available.
- **Full frequency Hearing Tests** and monitoring for Musicians and Audiophiles up to 16 kHz and custom Musician Plugs and Noise filters for Industrial and Recreational Noise Protection.
- **Wax removal** with the latest techniques including microsuction.
- **Custom Earpieces** for Race Radios, iPhones, MP3 players etc.
- **Eustachian tube** dysfunction treatment using the Ear Popper, for those with blocked ears or with a propensity towards Glue Ear, including children over 3 years.
- **Custom and Preformed Ear Plugs** for Swimming, Sleeping [Snorers] and Flying.



CONTACT US TODAY FOR A FREE HEARING TEST IF YOU'RE 50 + AND GET:

- Full 60-day trial and a satisfaction guarantee
- Quality Hearing Aids at affordable prices
- Access to Government and Insurance Funding
- Extra rebate if you buy two hearing aids
- Free follow-up appointments for the first year
- Free batteries for 12 months at finalisation

Free phone 0508 20 30 20 for your FREE Initial ear examination at Hearing's Otorohanga Clinic.

www.appliedhearing.co.nz

APPLIED HEARING CLINICS NATIONWIDE SINCE 1960

programmes to assess the merits of each council's approach.

Recent projects have included LED street lighting and developing a consistent approach to the maintenance and improvements to unsealed roads, and asset management database support.

Project manager Dawn Inglis says: "RATA is operating from an excellent base, in that almost all councils in the region have committed to the project with only Taupo taking a wait and see approach."

With RATA about to become an independent business unit under the auspices of the Waipa District Council, Ms Inglis is currently updating individual councils on savings made to date on roading projects.

A permanent business unit will be created and business manager appointed.

LOCAL COUNCILS

Mrs Inglis says both Waitomo and Otorohanga have invested about \$23,000 annually for the past two years into the accord.

"Our focus is on the decision-making process ensuring councils have all the information needed for the process and are able to interpret it appropriately," she says.

"A part of that information is how it fits with other councils' projects which may be similar, to see where savings could be made.

"Benefits can be made by working collaboratively.

"By using all the information that is available, roading managers throughout the district may be able to defer a project based on another council's experiences."

WORKING SMARTER

Ms Inglis says by working together the region as a whole is working smarter which in turns gives the funding agency a higher level of confidence in programmes that are put forward.

"We are building a better business case to justify our funding, which negates the risk where if you don't do it the funding agency may not fully invest in the programme of work," says Ms Inglis.

New Zealand Transport Agency regional planning and investment manager Robert Brodnax says: "This collaborative approach is not only ground-breaking nationally, but we can see huge potential to make significant cost savings, which local ratepayers and the wider public will benefit from."