

Work on track area underway

STAGE one to create a safer rail corridor in Te Kuiti is underway.

The Waitomo District Council has commissioned the pruning of trees and bushes adjacent to the railway lines from behind the town's i-SITE building to the clock tower opposite King St East.

The work by Treescape - expected to be completed today - not only improves visibility, but is being done to make way for safety barriers to be installed along the same stretch of tracks.

POSITIVE STEP

Mayor Brian Hanna says a meeting with KiwiRail Hamilton south area manager Wayne Stewart on October 29, was a positive step forward to having the majority of Te Kuiti's rail corridor fenced off from pedestrians.

The meeting was held three days after Te Kuiti teenager Ngaremu King was struck by a train and killed while crossing the tracks in the centre of town to get help for his injured brother.

The top priority for Mr Hanna is to install 120m of safety barriers from the i-SITE building to the former King St East crossing and secondly from the south end of the railway buildings to the Japanese Gardens on Rora St.

"We've agreed on the type of fencing (similar to that already installed opposite The Warehouse) and so all

we're waiting on now is for KiwiRail to come back with a proposal.

"We believe that if there is an impenetrable barrier from the i-SITE to the northern end of town it will stop people from simply walking across the lines.

"We are pushing them pretty hard to get this done ASAP and I expect a response sometime early next week.

"Work probably won't start until December, but we won't rest until it is done."

Mr Hanna says the final stage of the rail safety project is for council to install vandal proof fencing around the Te Kuiti Skate Park on Carroll St to encourage all pedestrians to use the over bridge.

NO NEED

Otorohanga mayor Max Baxter says although the North Island Main Trunk line passes through the Kiwi-ana Capital, there is no need for extra safety precautions.

"For the entire time I've been on council the rail corridor safety has never been questioned nor any concerns raised.

"I've also talked to Robert Prescott (Otorohanga Community Board chairman) and for the entire time he's been on the community board it's never been an issue for them either.

"So I can't see anything being installed to enhance the safety measures at this point."



World champion - three times!

CLEAN SWEEP: Waitomo kickboxer Rebecca Warbrooke achieved a lifelong dream of representing her country earlier this month when she wore the silver fern at the Unified World Championships in Tuscany, Italy. Capping the trip of a lifetime, the mother of two, won three gold medals in three different kickboxing disciplines. **STORY BACK PAGE**

Beattie Home's 77th flower show Friday

GARDENERS normally welcome the rain.

But Aenea Waldon and her fellow Otorohanga rose and flower growers are anxiously keeping a close eye on the weather and hoping for sun.

Mrs Waldron is one of many entrants in the 77th Beattie Home Rose and Flower Show tomorrow.

But the gorgeous yellow 'Absolutely Fabulous' rose, which helped her win the cup for the first year exhibitor with the most points last year, is still recovering from a late pruning and desperately needs some full sun.

TO P2

TO P2

CHRISTMAS IS COMING
Panasonic

STOCK UP EARLY FOR SUPER DEALS



Te Kuiti
Rora St, Te Kuiti P 07 878 8147

Otorohanga
66 Maniapoto St, Otorohanga P 07 873 8871



\$295

Panasonic 60cmv (24") HD LED
• High Definition (1366x768) resolution • Integrated Freeview Digital HD Tuner • 100Hz • IPS LED panel • Media player • 2 x HDMI inputs • 1 x USB input

TH24A400Z



\$899

Panasonic 106cmv (42") Full HD Smart LED
• Full HD (1920x1080) resolution • Integrated Digital Freeview HD Tuner • 100Hz • IPS LED panel • Wide viewing angle • Swipe & share • Wireless LAN built-in • Media player • 3 x HDMI inputs • 2 x USB inputs

TH42AS640Z

Beattie Home's 77th flower show Friday

FROM P1

"AbFab has budded up and was looking okay, but the horrible weather we've had this week is not helping," says Mrs Waldron.

"I won a first, second and third with my alstroemerias (lily of the Incas) and they're looking beautiful, so hopefully I'll be competitive with them again and my dianthus are going well."

LAST MINUTE ENTRY

Mrs Waldron has always been a keen gardener, inheriting the passion and knowledge from her nana Iris and mother Lyla.

She was encouraged to exhibit last year by good friend and show president Katrina Christison.

"It was a last minute thing, I raced round the garden picking blooms and raced down to the Otorohanga Club with my three children in tow," says Mrs Waldron.

"A lady kindly helped me to stage them for the judge, which I found out is quite an art.

"The bloom must be looking at the judge as if to say 'pick me'."

She was surprised to win the cup having entered to help raise funds for Beattie Home and had gone to the prizegiving mainly to support Ms Christison.

"It was a thrill, so this year I'm approaching the show with a little more determination and choosing my blooms more carefully. There's a definite art to it.

"They say fresh is best, so many people don't pick their best show blooms until Friday morning. But we've got hail forecast, so I'm tempted to pick them early."

POPULAR SHOW

Mrs Waldron says the Beattie Rose and Flower Show is very popular and attracted about 500 entries across the classes last year.

And there are plenty of experts on hand to help the novice exhibitors set up if they need a hand.

She would like to see more children have a go in the nine free classes open to them, including jar of weeds, buttonhole, fruit and vegetable figure, aqua jar and handheld flower posy.

There's even a children's class for a flower-themed poem.

Daughter, Alyssa (10) is entering an aqua jar and a miniature scene, while Brianna (9) is doing a buttonhole and a fruit and vegetable figure.

Four-year-old Jacob will be Mum's support crew. The show is open to the public tomorrow from noon at the Otorohanga Club.



BLOOMING FABULOUS: Avid Otorohanga gardener Aenea Waldron is hoping her 'Absolutely Fabulous' rose, which helped her win a cup last year, will see some sunshine today ahead of the Beattie Home Rose and Flower Show tomorrow.

• WELCOME •

Leanne and the girls at Little Scissors welcome Angie Sturzaker to the team.



Angie is looking forward to catching up with new clients and helping them to look and feel great for the festive season!

CHRISSEY STREET IS BACK!

Available for appointments every second Saturday.

littlescissors hair design

A: 50 Maniapoto Street, Otorohanga P: 07 873 8160

Work on track area underway

FROM P1

Mr Baxter says the fundamental difference between Otorohanga and Te Kuiti is that Otorohanga doesn't have any level crossings through town.

"Admittedly a few people cross the tracks near the camping ground, but we're talking very small numbers and there is an extremely long line of visibility.

"Maybe this latest incident in Te Kuiti will make people consider the risk a bit more when going near the railway lines and hopefully raise awareness about corridor safety.

"But our deepest sympathies go out to the family

[of Ngaremu King]."

\$10,000 FINE

The rail corridor – including all railway tracks – is private land and it is illegal to enter railway land in New Zealand without the express permission of KiwiRail.

This means that you are considered to be trespassing if you walk along tracks or cross the tracks at any point other than a designated pedestrian level crossing. Any person found on railway land can be fined a maximum of \$10,000.

The Te Kuiti White Ribbon Art and Garden Ramble

Come and enjoy a relaxed day or weekend

Discover Artists within 16 - 20 special gardens located in or around Te Kuiti.

Registration \$25

Tickets available from Waitomo Limestone Soaps, Oops-a-Daisy and Te Kuiti i-site. Transport available for those with mobility problems.

Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd November

For more information contact

Carol Green 07 878 6506 • Ann Jones 07 878 6784
Shirley Pierce 07 878 6538 • Glenys Tukeke 07 878 7670
Karen Houghton 07 878 7768 • Leonie Warren 07 878 3288

Thanks to all our wonderful sponsors and gardeners

It's Christmas

Waitomo District Christmas Parade
Friday 12th December 2014, 6.00pm
Rora St, Te Kuiti

We challenge you to create an amazing float!
Be the next "Ultimate Shield" Winner

Contact Waitomo District Council to enter your float
or download an application form from Council's website
www.waitomo.govt.nz

Come on, 'It's Christmas'

0800 932 4357
www.waitomo.govt.nz

STALLS

Waitomo
District Council