

## Costly bill to fix turf

BY JAMES PAUL

RATEPAYERS will be footing a bill to the tune of more than \$5000 thanks to the “destructive” actions of vandals who ripped up two of Te Kuiti’s public parks last week.

The Waitomo District Council (WDC) has assessed the damage to the Ward St Reserve and Centennial Park sports field and say it will cost \$5590, excluding GST.

Jules Hansen was at her parents-in-law’s Ward St home when she saw the damage happen on August 9 (*Waitomo News*, August 13)

She described seeing two cars “cutting up the grass” – one vehicle a small dark-coloured SUV or Rav4 and a white sports-type car with a spoiler.

Work to repair the fields began on Thursday. The cost of repair includes topsoil to roll damaged turf areas and spread and level topsoil into the deep ruts created by tyres.

The fields will also be re-sown with rye grass seed.

### DESTRUCTIVE

WDC’s group manager community services John De Luca says the cost of “wilful damage to public property is significant and

should not be overlooked”.

“The people who choose to carry out vandalism acts are behaving in an anti-social, destructive way that is degrading the quality of local living,” he says.

“People expect good quality, safe local living and they perceive this by the visual appearance of a town – free of graffiti, with open public spaces and services that can be accessed and safely used as part of everyday life.

“Playgrounds, public toilets, the library, picnic areas and our lovely parks and reserves all contribute to the appearance of a town. Having these well maintained areas available for use by the public is what encourages people to view Te Kuiti positively as a place to live, work and visit.”

### CALL THE POLICE

Mr De Luca encourages residents to contact police if they see damage to public property taking place.

And he’s issuing a warning to people who think they can get away with such acts.

“Photos are proving invaluable as a way to capture evidence.

“Most people have cell phones or a portable device, so make good use of technology



**GRASSED OFF:** Waitomo District Council community services manager John De Luca says it will cost ratepayers \$5590 to repair the damaged Centennial Park sports field and Ward St Reserve.

and help put an end to vandalism for the benefit of our community.”

Local Police Sergeant Andy Connors says enquiries into the vandalism are ongoing.

## Waikato to manage SPCA



**SHUT:** The SPCA centre in Te Kuiti will remain closed.

BY ROBBIE KAY

THE management of the SPCA branch in Te Kuiti was taken over by SPCA Waikato last week.

The branch had been renamed SPCA King Country last year when it assimilated the Central King Country branch (based in Taumarunui) and moved into a new centre in Taupiri St branded ‘SPCA King Country’.

That centre is now empty.

Waikato SPCA chief executive Sara Elliott-Warren says she is only taking over management of the North King Country part of the branch.

“They [Te Kuiti and Taumarunui] had been assimilated, but every agreement has an out clause so at some stage the national office will need to activate that,” says Ms Elliott-Warren.

“We don’t have the resources to stretch down to Taumarunui which will be better serviced by a different space.”

### CONFUSION

There has been confusion about the branch in Te Kuiti since the entire committee resigned within two weeks of being elected at the March 30 annual meeting (*Waitomo News*, April 14). No reasons for the resignations were given.

No annual accounts were presented at the AGM and Ms Elliott-Warren confirmed they have still not been made available to members.

TO P5

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