



**BREAKING RULES:** To avoid an infringement fee of up to \$300, horse riders are encouraged to contact the Waitomo District Council to ensure they are not riding in prohibited areas. FILE PIC

# WDC to crack down riders breaking rules

WAITOMO mayor Brian Hanna is not happy with the behaviour of horse owners who keep ignoring the rules about riding on public land.

He has issued a warning to riders flouting the Waitomo District Council's Public Places Bylaw, saying: "Enforcement action will follow".

"The places where horses are being illegally ridden in town are intended for pedestrians and the general public," says Mr Hanna.

"It is an unacceptable activity because the environment is not suitable for horse riding, someone could be seriously injured."

The council's customer services manager Helen Beever says there is a very small number of individuals in Te Kuiti who choose to act in a way that has the potential to endanger public safety.

In May the council installed fixed steel barriers at the entrance of pedestrian bridges located along the Mangaokewa Stream to protect pedestrians from potential harm as a result of dangerous and

illegal use of the footbridge and to protect the bridge itself.

The council's decision to install the barriers was in response to public concerns, however, following a significant public backlash WDC removed the footbridge barriers were removed. (*Waitomo News*, June 2)

"Signs are in place along the eastern Mangaokewa Stream to reinforce that riding motorbikes and horses is prohibited," says Mrs Beever.

Anyone breaching the bylaw may be fined up to \$300.

The bylaw does not prohibit horses being ridden on the road as long as the rider observes the road rules.

However, people are discouraged from riding in the urban centre of Te Kuiti.

Mrs Beever says if residents see horses being ridden in areas contravening the council's bylaw, they are asked to contact Te Kuiti Police.



**BIG JUMPERS:** The Heart Foundation's Waikato health promotion co-ordinator Mona Mahu (beside Hearty) with children and staff from Te Kohanga Reo o Te Kuiti who recently raised \$170 for the foundation.

## Tamariki are all heart

CHILDREN and staff at a local kohanga reo have been recognised for their efforts in supporting the fight against heart disease.

In September, Te Kohanga Reo o Te Kuiti held a Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser with \$170 donated to the New Zealand Heart Foundation.

Last month the foundation's mascot 'Hearty' made a special visit to the centre to present certificates and resources to the 34 children.

Head teacher Jodine White says all of the centre's children from the smallest to the biggest took part in the fundraiser.

The foundation's Waikato health promotion co-ordinator Mona Mahu says the foundation presents Healthy Heart awards to organisations where individuals eat healthy, be active and happy.

"And, the kids in Te Kuiti certainly fit that description."

## Council tidies rest area

FOLLOWING continual complaints to the Waitomo District Council about the unkempt condition of the Awakino Rd rest area at the southern entrance to Te Kuiti, it has been tidied up. (*Waitomo News*, August 4)

Although responsibility for its upkeep lies with the New Zealand Transport Association (NZTA), budget cuts have forced NZTA to cut maintenance of rest areas

which are no longer seen as a priority.

Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna says the rest area was an unacceptable look to one the town's entrances so the council has temporarily taken over its maintenance by clearing the rubbish and mowing. He is continuing discussions with NZTA regarding who will be responsible for future maintenance costs at the rest area.

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- Sunbeam fry pan package
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- Family pass to Waitomo Glowworm Caves
- Moki Bluetooth speaker
- Dinner for two at the Thirsty Weta
- Rip Curl travel bag
- Remington hair dryer
- Family pass to the Otorohanga Kiwi House (4 draws)
- RCTech remote controlled helicopter
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