

Ban in place

THE lines have been drawn and the message is clear – drinking alcohol in Te Kuiti’s booze free area is not okay.

Established in 2009, Waitomo District Council’s Public Places Bylaw outlines a specific area within Te Kuiti where it is prohibited to consume and/or possess alcohol.

The areas are: Redwood Park, Rora St, Lawrence St, Sheridan St, King St East, Alexandra St, Taupiri St, both banks of the Mangaokewa Stream (between Redwood Park and the Te Kuiti Bowling Club) and the RSA Memorial Park (opposite the Les Munro Centre).

However, in recent years the bylaw has continued to be broken.

There has been general confusion about where the alcohol ban area begins and ends with signage not clear.

NEW SIGNS

To set the record straight, the council in partnership with members of the Raising Potential through Reducing Risk (RPtRR) team and Te Kuiti Youth Action Plan group has erected six new ‘alcohol ban’ signs

at eye level to make it clear for all members of the public.

The signs, which were installed last week, include a map of the prohibited area, a list of all the banned locations and brief details of the bylaw.

In addition to this, a short film has been produced by the team at the Number Twelve youth centre to outline the rules and has been posted to the Evolve Facebook page to ensure a wider catchment of understanding around the bylaw.

RPtRR team leader Clowdy Ngatai says the alcohol ban – which is law 24 hours a day, seven days a week – was put in place to reduce the negative impact alcohol consumption has in public areas and provide a safe town environment for everyone.

“What we want to do is raise awareness so people know that we have an alcohol ban area and where it is,” she says.

“We don’t want members of our community having to pay a fine because they didn’t know about the ban or the exact location.”

Mrs Ngatai says supporting young



BOOZE BAN: Waitomo District Council environmental and regulatory services leader Elsa du Toit (left) and Raising Potential through Reducing Risk team leader Clowdy Ngatai have joined forces to raise awareness about the areas where alcohol is banned in Te Kuiti.

people’s potential through minimising the levels of risk is a top priority for RPtRR, WDC and the Te Kuiti Youth Action group.

“Young people attending school walk through that alcohol ban area and have had to walk past people consuming alcohol so we hope the new signs will aid in a better understanding. I think the signs

are easier to understand now and I applaud council for taking action on this issue.”

People are still able to transport or carry containers of alcohol through the area (for example from a bottle store to their car) but are not allowed to drink, hold or store alcohol in any area where alcohol is banned.

Alcohol BAN AREA

Drinking and/or possession of alcohol is prohibited at all times in any public place within the Te Kuiti township area, as shown on the map.

Copies of the Waitomo District Council Public Places Bylaw are available from www.waitomo.govt.nz or by phoning 0800 932 4357.

Waitomo District Council

This ban does not apply to licensed premises, or to people carrying unopened alcohol containers from licensed premises to a place outside the alcohol ban area or to private property

The Te Kuiti township alcohol ban is a safety initiative to reduce alcohol-related harm and disorder and to provide a safe town environment for everyone. Copies of the **Public Places Bylaw** are available from www.waitomo.govt.nz

RAISING POTENTIAL THROUGH REDUCING RISK

Waitomo Action on Alcohol

We wish all our communities a safe and happy holiday season

