

Railway buildings revamp progressing

THE re-development of Te Kuiti's historic railway buildings is gathering steam.

The Railway Buildings Revitalisation Project has received a \$600,000 Lottery Heritage Fund grant to begin works on the exterior of the Rora St buildings to restore them to their "former glory".

The project, spearheaded by the Waitomo District Council, is expected to take 2-5 years to complete, and has been divided into five projects.

With the roading renewal project (Rora St roadworks) almost finished, the \$700,000 building restoration renewal phase is about to begin.

The other three projects involve developing a plaza area and upgrading the interior of the three railway buildings.

The entire project is expected to cost \$1.5-2 million with the majority of the money coming from external funding.

CENTRAL HUB

Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna says the aim is to re-invigorate and show-

case the railway heritage of Te Kuiti while creating a vibrant central hub for the community.

"When complete we also expect to contribute to the economic and social development of the Waitomo district by having commercial stores operating out of the buildings," he says.

"While this may appear to be a straight forward process, there are many complex steps involved including development of the design concept, seeking community input, obtaining external funding, tendering and contracting, and seeking tenants for the buildings.

"With the road renewal almost complete and the external works about to begin we are now looking into what can be done internally."

Mr Hanna says there are several options including a conference room, public meeting facilities, cafe, a museum and commercial spaces.

"While the external work is being done I will meet with the (Railway Buildings Revitalisation Project) advisory group to get their thoughts on what the internals of the buildings



ON TRACK: Waitomo Mayor Brian Hanna is pleased with the "buzz" the Railway Buildings Revitalisation Project is creating. Its aim is to create a central community-hub and plaza on Rora St.

will look like. The vision is to restore the buildings close to what they looked like during their heyday while establishing retail businesses as well to draw people in.

"We want to create a buzz and an atmosphere within the town by building a central hub that

everyone in the district can utilise. It's coming along well."

He says although passenger trains no longer stop in Te Kuiti, KiwiRail officials have expressed their interest in keeping the Te Kuiti platform operational with the possibility of future use.

MEAT WEEK ON NOW

Lamb BBQ Shoulder Chops
Product of New Zealand

8⁹⁹ kg

Tegel Chicken Tenderloins
Product of New Zealand

11⁹⁹ kg

<p>Fresh Bluff Oysters 1 doz pots While stocks last. Weather and catch permitting.</p> <p>25⁹⁹ ea</p>	<p>Mushrooms 400gm Product of New Zealand</p> <p>3⁹⁹ ea</p>
<p>Bluebird Grain Waves 140g/150g/ Delisio 150g/Doritos 150g/175g</p> <p>3 for 5⁰⁰</p>	<p>Kleenex Cottonelle Toilet Tissue 18s</p> <p>8⁹⁹ ea</p> <p>Limited to 6 assorted</p>
<p>Sanitarium Weet-Bix 1kg</p> <p>4⁹⁹ ea</p> <p>Limited to 12 assorted</p>	<p>Vogel's Bread 720g/750g (Excludes Gluten Free)</p> <p>2 for 7⁰⁰</p>
<p>Villa Maria Private Bin Range 750ml (Excludes Pinot Noir/Syrah)</p> <p>11⁹⁹ ea</p> <p>Limited to 48 assorted</p>	<p>Steinlager Pure/Stella Artois 330ml 12 Pack Bottles</p> <p>21⁹⁹ pk</p> <p>Limited to 10 assorted</p>

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