

NOVEMBER CLASSIFIED DEALS

***4 for 3
Pay for 3 get
the 4th
FREE**

***Attention
Grabber
ONLY
\$5**

***Mega
Classified
ONLY
\$50
+GST**

* Conditions apply

TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT US TODAY

p 07 878 1188 OR 07 873 7139

f 07 878 1187

e reception@waitomonews.co.nz

EDITORIAL

We welcome your stories and story tips. If supplying photographs we require high resolution (a minimum of 1MB) jpgs. Please note that due to occasional space constraints, sports results/draws may not be published.

Please contact the editorial team

t 07 878 1188

f 07 878 1187

e editor@waitomonews.co.nz

LETTER & THUMBS RULES

No Letters to the Editor or Thumbs Up/Down will be published unless the name of writer, full address and daytime contact phone number are included for verification. **Nom-de-plumes/pen names will not be accepted.** Letters and Thumbs Up/Down are published at the editor's discretion and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Waitomo News. In general, Thumbs Up are to acknowledge random acts of kindness by individuals while Thumbs Down generally reflect the opposite – they should be 50 words or less. Should you have a complaint regarding a business, please address that with the owner/s rather than via these columns. The editor reserves the right to abridge all contributions and letters should be no longer than 300 words. Letters and Thumbs Up/Down can be sent to The Editor, Waitomo News, PO Box 279, Te Kuiti, fax (07) 878 1187, or email editor@waitomonews.co.nz

YOUR NEWS, YOUR VIEWS
WAITOMOnews

The Waitomo News is subject to NZ Press Council procedures. Complaints must first be directed, in writing to the editor – editor@waitomonews.co.nz. If the complainant is unsatisfied with the response, the complaint may be referred to the NZ Press Council, PO Box 10-879, The Terrace, Wellington 6143 or email info@presscouncil.org.nz. Further detail and an online complaints form are available at the website – www.presscouncil.org.nz.

Centres boost revenue

RECENT analysis on the economic impact of i-SITES shows Waikato information centres are the third largest in the country contributing more than \$8 million in sales revenue to the national total of \$73 million.

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism chief executive Kiri Goulter says: "Currently there are 14 i-SITES within the Waikato and they are playing a key role in promoting the region and encouraging visitors to stay longer, do more and spend more."

However, she says the analysis needs to be kept in context, as it also includes Taupo and Coromandel as part of the greater Waikato region.

Mrs Goulter says i-SITES must remain relevant as they operate in a dynamic environment where customer needs constantly change.

She says it's noticeable in some districts that the number of people actually visiting i-SITES is decreasing as more use is being made of technology to access information.

"Like all tourism operations i-SITES need to ensure that they meet visitors' expectations."

LOCAL FIGURES

However, the downward trend is not reflected at two Northern King Country i-SITES.

At the Waitomo Caves 186,000 people have visited the information centre this year – an increase of 11,000 on the previous year.

Manager Celina Yapp says the figure only reflects visitors using the information centre, not the total amount of visitors to the Waitomo Caves area.

She believes it will rise further next year.

Otorohanga i-SITE manager Teresa Ferguson says visitor numbers are also rising in the Kiwiana Capital up 300 to date on last year's 10,575 visitors.

The Waitomo District Council administers the Te Kuiti i-Site and customer services manager, Helen Beever says they don't record visitor numbers but based on previous years they estimate a drop of 3000 visitors this year.

• Waikato is the third largest region in terms of commission-based sales, facilitating about 11.5% (\$8.5m) of all i-SITE network sales.

The Waikato region collected \$429m in holiday expenditure in 2014.

i-SITE sales account for 5.9% of the accommodation spend, 1% of the travel spend and 1.7% of the activity spend in the Waikato region.

Local i-SITES generate an economic return of \$6.30 per \$1 of public funds invested in the region.

Fun in the park



LIGHT PARTY: Jayden Bint (centre) plays quoits with Kamera Nu (right) at last month's Light Party organised for families by the Otorohanga Combined Churches Community team in Windsor Park on October 31. About 300 people enjoyed the free alternative to traditional Halloween activities. The event included a talent quest, bouncy castle, games, sausage sizzles, lolly scrambles, sack races, potato and spoon races, skittles, quoits and ball in the bin competitions. PHOTO SUPPLIED

PM's 2016 education awards now open

TARANAKI-King Country MP Barbara Kuriger is encouraging local educators to enter next year's Prime Minister's Education Excellence awards.

"Our education professionals work hard every day for our children and they deserve to be publicly recognised and encouraged for their contribution," says Mrs Kuriger.

"I want to see our local educators apply for the 2016 education excellence awards, as we have so many talented teachers in our area, who I have met during visits to local schools and early childhood centres.

"These awards recognise and celebrate these people in our communities who are delivering the best teaching to children – those who raise the bar a bit higher."

The awards which are now open,

cover early childhood education, primary and secondary schooling in four categories – excellence in governing; excellence in leading; excellence in teaching and learning; and excellence in engaging.

Category winners each receive \$20,000.

The winner of the Prime Minister's supreme award for the partnership or group that has had the most impact on raising student achievement will receive an additional \$30,000.

"High quality education provides the opportunity for any child from any background to get ahead and make the most of their life, and the teachers who contribute to this should be celebrated," says Mrs Kuriger.

Entries close on March 18.

For more information visit the website – pmawards.education.govt.nz

waitomonews.co.nz
any time . . . anywhere



THUMBS UP/DOWN



THUMBS UP to Countdown Otorohanga for donating their 'Halloween' costumes and props to Hopscotch.

The children were very excited to be given them and will have great fun playing with them also, so thanks for considering us.
Hopscotch Early Learning Centre Staff Otorohanga

THUMBS UP Awesome sums up how I feel about the new art going on bare walls in Te Kuiti – the falcon, tui, bright colourful Maori design – they are all awesome.

Congratulations to those behind these fabulous murals, it's great to see Te Kuiti being brightened up and positive artwork in the empty spaces. Looking forward to more and I can't wait for the awful witch mural to go now.

*Zenna Boroevich
Te Kuiti*

A BIG THUMBS UP to all the people doing the beautiful paintings around Te Kuiti. What a great sight to see. Tino ataahua!
*The Opie Family
Te Kuiti*

THUMBS UP to the young man who cut an elderly man's lawns and didn't ask for any money – marvellous!

*Te Pare Joseph
Te Kuiti*

THUMBS UP and thank you so much to all Otorohanga, Waitomo, Te Kuiti and Tihiroa businesses for your contributions towards the Pink Ribbon appeal – it is much appreciated.
*Antonia Jongmans
Honikiwi*