

Horse riders under scrutiny

PEOPLE riding horses on public parks are breaking a local authority bylaw and Waitomo District Council is taking steps to enforce the rules.

The Public Places Bylaw states: *'No person shall permit any stock to be on a reserve, beach or any other designated area without the prior approval of an authorised officer.'*

'Any person being the owner of, or having control of, any horse in a public place in the urban area shall immediately remove any faeces deposited by that horse from the public place.'

There are also general clauses in the bylaw covering damage to public places.

EDUCATION FIRST OPTION

WDC's regulatory services manager John Moran says the council is aware horse riders have been increasingly seen on park and reserve land and animal control Rod McLeod officer is on the alert for them.

"Education is our first option," says Mr Moran.

"We would like to talk with these

riders, explain the law to them and make sure they understand why they must stay out of the parks.

"If they continue to ignore the law after that, we will take action."

"We don't want horses in the parks, partly because of the potential damage to the turf, but also because these are recreational spaces for families and children to enjoy and horses could be a danger to those people."

Anyone convicted of breaking the bylaw is liable for a fine of up to \$20,000.

Mr McLeod has also asked Te Kuiti Police for their co-operation to get riders off footpaths.

"Riders need to follow the road code just like other traffic," he says.

There are no public areas in Te Kuiti where horses can be ridden, however, the Horse and Sport Club facilities and track beside Te Kuiti Aerodrome is available to members who pay a \$30 annual fee.

For more information, contact Pat Hickey or Ruka Ormsby.



KEEP OFF THE GRASS: These three men seen riding horses on Te Kuiti's Centennial Park at 5pm on Saturday were breaking a Waitomo District Council bylaw.

Safety rules for horse riders

RIDERS must obey the following rules in the official New Zealand Road Code:

- Always wear a safety hat while riding.
- Ride your horse on the left-hand side of the road and as far to the left as possible.
- Keep your horse on the side of the road whenever you can, but don't ride on footpaths, lawns or gardens.
- Don't ride more than two abreast.
- Don't ride on the right of any moving vehicle.
- If you're leading another animal while riding, always keep it on your left, away from traffic.

Meads brothers kick-off competition in style

THE Stan Meads Cup rugby competition has been given a healthy kick-start to 2014 thanks to two North King Country rugby legends.

For the first time ever, Te Kuiti All Black greats Stan and Sir Colin Meads spoke together at an official function to raise money for the competition.

Held at Melville Rugby Club in Hamilton on Friday, nearly 200 people attended the Meads brothers' event which featured speeches, a question/answer session and memorabilia auction.

Event co-organiser and competition developer Neil Macrae says the \$13,000 raised will go towards covering the costs of the Stan Meads Cup rep team's travel and equipment costs and the day-to-day running of the competition for the next

few years.

"The night itself went very smoothly.

"The crowd had the utmost respect for the brothers as they spoke and the auction of signed jerseys and balls, led by MC Ronnie Phillips, exceeded all expectations.

"We now have a really good kick-start to the season which will be spread wisely across the next few years. So overall it was a great outcome."

A reluctant public speaker, Stan Meads says both he and his brother enjoyed sharing a stage together.

"It was great fun actually. There could have been lots more to talk about especially regarding our early lives together but we would have had to go on all night.

"The evening went off very well and the auction raised an incredible amount of

money. Everyone really seemed to enjoy themselves."

Now having finally graced the stage with his world famous brother, Stan says he would consider doing it again.

"I wouldn't say I'm proficient at it yet, but I would be quite happy to do another talking engagement with Colin if it is for a good cause - that would be the only stipulation. Colin has done so many events that he's very accustomed to public speaking but I am not. However, the more I do it the better I would get."

The Stan Meads Cup was established in 2011 as a feeder competition for the ITM Cup and Heartland Championship teams and includes sides such as King Country B, Thames Valley B, Central Bay of Plenty, Te Awamutu and Hamilton.

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