

Volunteers' enviro efforts applauded

A GROUP of 50 volunteers were thanked for their contribution to a wide range of North King Country environmental projects at a special dinner in Te Kuiti this month.

As part of Conservation Week – November 1-8 – which this year celebrated 'Healthy nature, healthy people' Waikato Conservation Board chairman Mark Brough of Aria organised an evening to honour local volunteers at the Panorama Motor Inn on November 5.

Department of Conservation (DOC) partnership ranger Erana Stevens says the guests were a mixture of people undertaking projects on conservation land, private land and council reserves.

"Mark opened the evening by explaining the 'DOC story' which is DOC's vision that New Zealand be-

comes the greatest living space on Earth and the new direction that the department is taking in working with others to grow conservation," she says.

"The number of volunteers present who are covering projects from historic heritage conservation, to growing native populations of blue duck (whio) and kokako and the work in the Mangaokewa Reserve with Project Manu shows the breadth of work that locals are doing in our area. DOC would like to thank everyone involved in conservation across the district."

After highlighting the many successes in conservation from DOC partnerships manager Natasha Hayward, keynote speaker Dr Catherine Beard from Hamilton delivered a speech on honeybees and their effect on our natural environment.



WORTHY CAUSE: Colin Gray (left), Tom Brough, Barrie Tatham and Kate Polson were among those thanked by DOC for their contribution to a wide range of North King Country environmental projects.



HELPING HANDS: Brian and Andrea Hanna (left), Leanne Miln and Jacky Bolton at the Panorama Motor Inn in Te Kuiti where DOC thanked 50 volunteers for their conservation efforts. PHOTOS SUPPLIED

IN BRIEF

Dairy awards open

ENTRIES are now open for the 2016 New Zealand Dairy Industry awards. New entry criteria in the dairy manager of the year category means dairy farm workers with a variety of backgrounds,

experience and skills are able to enter. Entries are being accepted for the dairy manager of the year, share farmer of the year and dairy trainee of the year competitions, and close on November 30.

To enter visit the website – dairyindustry-awards.co.nz.

IF YOU ARE READING THIS *then you are invited*

Enjoy tomato sauce?

Do sausages float your boat?

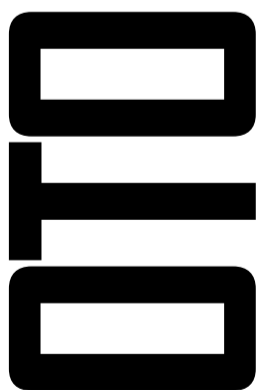
Does the sound of a day in the park with your family and some of ~~Otorohanga's~~

~~North King Country's Waikato's~~ New Zealand's friendliest locals sound like a good time? If so then come down and join us!

The event kicks off at 12 noon with the local violence free champions revealed at 1pm.



PICNIC IN THE PARK



Save the date

*Kids games & family activities, Hip Hop dancers
Live music and BBQ* **ALL FREE!**

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