

## Mayor wants NIMT fenced

A TE KUITI teenager, who was killed after being hit by a freight train while running to get help for his brother, will be farewelled in Taharoa today.

**Ngaremu Teremoe King** died on Sunday night after being struck by the north-bound train at about 6pm.

The tragedy occurred near the town's i-SITE building.

The 14-year-old Te Kuiti High School student was running to get help for his older sibling who had fallen from a bike at the nearby Skate Park which is directly adjacent to the railway lines.

Ngaremu crossed the main trunk line and was running back with a friend when he was hit.

His friend was not injured.

The main trunk line was closed for about four hours while Waikato Police serious crash unit officers investigated.

Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna met with King's parents Terence and Lydia, at their home on Tuesday for a special farewell ceremony.

"They are a very tight whanau

and it's fair to say they are all totally devastated," says Mr Hanna.

"I feel so sorry for Ngaremu because he was only going to get aid for his mate and he obviously didn't hear or see the approaching train.

"According to our youth services manager, he was a neat young fella with a great attitude towards life who punched above his weight in everything he did.

"It's a very numbing time for our whole community and our thoughts are with the King family."

### MORE BARRIERS

Mr Hanna met with KiwiRail Hamilton south area manager Wayne Stewart yesterday to ask for more safety barriers to be installed alongside the main trunk line.

"There was a comment in the *Waikato Times* regarding the rail corridor that said 'people have to take responsibility for themselves, but how do you save people from themselves? Well, fencing it off is the option.

TO P3

A UNIQUE CHARACTER P3



**DRAWING THE LINE:** KiwiRail Hamilton south area manager Wayne Stewart (left) and Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna met yesterday to discuss extending safety barriers in the centre of Te Kuiti to prevent people from crossing the railway corridor.

## KCE prices to rise 3.5%

NORTH King Country customers of power supplier King Country Energy (KCE) are facing a price rise.

The company is lifting its prices for retail customers by 3.5% from November 30.

The increase applies to domestic, farming and commercial customers throughout KCE's traditional trading area of Mokau, Waitomo, Te Kuiti and Otorohanga.

For most domestic customers the increase will be about \$3 a month.

Commercial and farming customers will pay about \$7 more a month.

### HARD TO MISS

KCE chief executive Rob Foster says the increase is slightly less than the Consumer Price Index, which has increased 4% over the three year period since the company's last price rise in November 2011.

"KCE has worked hard to keep prices down by containing operational costs and

increasing efficiencies in the business.

"That's the main reason why we've been able to avoid a price rise for three years.

"Unfortunately, we must now pass along a slight increase to cover rising costs of doing business which are largely outside our control."

He says KCE is committed to being fair and transparent in all its business transactions with customers.

"If anyone has any questions or concerns, our staff is happy to discuss these."



KCE CEO ROB FOSTER

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**CRIMESTOPPER:** Waikato Police are praising the public's use of Otorohanga Police's Facebook page in helping officers catch criminals. Former Otorohanga Constable Adam Quigley helped launch the website in August, 2011. FILE PIC

# NZ first for Police proving its worth

WAIKATO Police say the arrest of two teenagers in Otorohanga recently is a perfect example of social media having an immediate impact on crime.

The praise of Otorohanga Police's Facebook page comes after the public assisted police in tracking down a liquor store thief because of information that was shared via the website.

Western Waikato Youth and Community Service Supervisor Sergeant Mike Henwood says the latest incident began on October 12, when a teenager wearing a red bandana over his face ran into a liquor store on Maniapoto St and fled with a box of beer.

"Security footage from the store's CCTV camera was loaded on to the Otorohanga Police's Facebook page which was followed up by a lot of feedback from the public," he says.

"Three days later when the same male tried the same thing, bystanders recognised what was happening from what they'd read on Facebook and guided police to a local address."

Mr Henwood says as a result of the relaying of information, officers recovered the stolen alcohol and arrested two males aged 14 and 17-years-old who have been summoned to appear in court.

"The offenders also admitted involvement of the earlier theft and the property was returned."

(launched in August 2011) was the first of its kind in New Zealand and it wasn't the first time the website had been used by concerned members of the public to effect positive change in their town.

"A couple of years ago Otorohanga was the subject of some bad publicity in regards to the behaviour of some individuals doing burnouts and racing on the main street.

"Video footage posted by associates of the offenders on YouTube resulted in numerous nominations from locals identifying the offenders on the Facebook page.

"This is clear evidence that social media is becoming a real force in terms of opportunities for the public to actively assist us and we really encourage it."

#### "IT WORKS"

Otorohanga Police Sergeant Andy Connors agrees.

"There's no doubt it [Facebook] works and it is a great way for police to interact with the public," he says.

"It gives us the ability to share information privately or en masse which means it is a great tool by enabling the public to actively assist police just like it happened in this case.

"The more help we can get the better."

To view the Otorohanga Police Facebook page, visit [facebook.com/OtorohangaPolice](http://facebook.com/OtorohangaPolice)

#### NZ FIRST

Mr Henwood says Otorohanga Police's Facebook page




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**TRAGIC ACCIDENT:** Ngaremu King (14) died on Sunday night after he was struck by a freight train in Te Kuiti while trying to find help for his older brother who had fallen from a bike at the Skate Park.



# Mayor wants NIMT fenced

FROM P1

"I've told KiwiRail quite bluntly that is what we're looking for as a solution and the reception I've had to date has been quite receptive."

The extra fencing Mr Hanna is pushing for on the eastern side is from the public toilets opposite The Warehouse, to where the fence currently ends, and on the western side from the VTNZ building past the Skate Park.

Although safety barriers were installed along the northern end of the main trunk line in Te Kuiti after a man was struck and killed by a train in the town in December 2011, large parts of the rail corridor are still exposed.

"Ngaremu's death just highlights an issue we really have to push with KiwiRail to see how we can make that corridor safer for our community," says Mr Hanna.

"The aim is to make it more difficult for people to take the easy option and cut straight across the railway lines.

"The difficulty we have is, this is a railway town, with several lines running through it, but we need to create a clear and obvious pedestrian channel on both sides so that the overbridge becomes the preferred option."

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**Brian Hanna**

not wish to be named, says when a fatality happens on the rail network, KiwiRail works with the local community to understand the contributing factors and identify any changes that are needed.

"This is a tragic and timely reminder of the need to be vigilant at all times near the rail tracks.

"Only ever use proper rail crossing points and when doing so obey warning signs.

"It's important to always stop, look and listen carefully for trains – they can come at any time in any direction, move quickly and quietly and, they take a long distance to stop because they are heavy."

She says the freight train involved in the incident was heading from Wellington to Auckland and the driver has been given time off to receiving counselling.

"We're all deeply saddened by what has happened.

"It always really affects our guys – the mood is very sombre here, especially so with the team in Hamilton.

"Our thoughts are with the family at this sad and difficult time."

**WITNESSES WANTED**

Te Kuiti Police Sergeant Craig Lindstrom says King's death has been referred to the Coroner.

"This is a very tragic circumstance and our thoughts are with the family," he says.

"We are continuing our inquiries on behalf of the Coroner so we are asking any members of the public who were privy to the incident and haven't been contacted by the police to come forward."

# Principal says teen a unique character

THE New Zealand flag flew at half mast at Te Kuiti High School on Tuesday, in honour of year 10 student Ngaremu King who died on Sunday after being hit by a train.

The 14-year-old was running across the tracks back towards the Te Kuiti Skate Park after going to get help for a relative who had fallen off his bike, when the tragedy occurred.

Principal Bruce Stephens says the tragic loss of the youngster has left a hole in the school community. Ngaremu has one sibling also attending the school.

"Younger and older people are greatly saddened by this tragedy and the fact that he has been taken from our school community so early.

"Even for students who may not have known Ngaremu so well, he is still a part of us.

"We've noticed that the students recognise that and feel for his whanau and his loss of not being here. They can sense that one of their own has gone."

A special assembly was held on Tuesday with kaumatua Barney Winikerei and Journey Church pastor Terry Bradley attending.

"They spoke to the student body and enabled them to start to understand the issues of loss in relation to Ngaremu," says Mr Stephens.

"We have set up a special room for students to go to with adult support so those that are feeling uncomfortable with the situation are able to go there.

"It has been a huge shock to the student body – there is no doubt about that."

**UNIQUE CHARACTER**

Mr Stephens describes Ngaremu as someone who "was unique in his own character".

"He had a cheeky sense of humour and he also had a strong sense of moral justice with a strong set of values and beliefs and a group of really close friends who are going to miss him

"He was an excellent horseman, had a real interest in handling horses, and he told us he wanted to become a jockey.

"Ngaremu was a lad that was quite quiet and unassuming, but he was growing in confidence."

**STUDENT TRIBUTE**

Students performed their school haka as a tribute when members of the King family drove past the school's gates on their way to Taharoa where Ngaremu will be farewelled today.

A contingent of 60-70 students travelled to Te Koraha Marae, Taharoa yesterday with staff to pay their respects to the family.

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