



CUT UP: Centennial Park Primary School students weren't impressed with the damaged sports field opposite their school on Monday morning.

LOST TRACTION: Australian Jules Hansen says her parents-in-law, Betty and Mervyn, are devastated "idiots" have vandalised the Ward St Reserve.

UPSETTING IMPRESSION: Two cars were seen being driven on the Ward St Reserve (below) on Sunday night, leaving the turf torn up with tyre marks.



Idiots cut up park & reserve

"HOONS" and "idiots" have torn up Centennial Park sports field and the Ward St Reserve, upsetting one local couple terribly.

Jules Hansen was visiting her parents-in-law, longtime Te Kuiti residents Betty and Mervyn Hansen, at their Ward St home when she saw the damage happen at about 9.20pm on Sunday.

She says she looked across the road to see a dark coloured "little SUV or a Rav4" drive across the field in an out-of-control fashion.

"We had a bird's eye view of the whole thing and I saw them cutting up the grass," says Mrs Hansen.

She says the vehicle was then driven from the reserve north along Ward St, before a white sports-type car with a spoiler appeared five minutes later.

Mrs Hansen, who lives in Australia, says: "I didn't know the police's number, otherwise I would've rung straight away. Mum and Dad are just devastated to see the mess they've made.

"I hate that sort of stuff, being

disrespectful to your community. It's wrong and it looks disgusting. They are hoons and idiots."

Yesterday, Mrs Hansen visited the Te Kuiti Police station and made a statement.

Across town, Centennial Park sports field, was treated to the same "disrespectful behaviour".

Otorohanga Police Sergeant Andy Connors was called to have a look at the damage yesterday morning.

He spoke to a resident who lives opposite the sports field who told him the damage occurred on Sunday night.

"All I can see at this stage is where the car went as there are tyre tracks coming off the edge of the field, with mud and grass going down Lawrence St," says Mr Connors.

"But you can see how extensive the damage is to the field."

Waitomo District Council issued a plea on its Facebook page yesterday, asking residents who may have seen someone 'vandalising public property or acting suspiciously' to call the police.

Govt needs to fast-track help

THE Government should fast-track rural infrastructure to assist dairy regions.

Federated Farmers wants the Government to fast-track its infrastructure projects in dairy regions to assist local economies through the downturn in dairy prices.

Fonterra announced its forecast farmgate milk price for 2015/16 of \$3.85 per kilo of milksolids on Friday afternoon. In July last year Fonterra's forecast price was \$6 per kilo for the 2014/15 season.

FF dairy spokesman Andrew Hoggard says farmers must be in contact with their bankers and advisors.

He says small scale rural service industries, such as engineering or contracting, in some instances might be hit harder than the dairy farmers

they traditionally rely on for work.

"When dairy prices go back up, as invariably they will, then the dairy supply and service industries need to be ready and skilled to get back on to the farms to make up for lost time.

"Or, at least, people will have had other employment in the district and haven't permanently left for somewhere else. The Government needs to set some priorities over the next year, where it can find valid work for these supply companies."

Mr Hoggard identifies irrigation projects, rural roads and broadband rollout as obvious examples.

"Then there is the promise made by the Government before the last election. That it would provide \$100 million over 10 years for planting riparian strips. We could compress that into three to five years. This sort of infrastructure work is going to be done anyway. A little bit of tweaking of government priorities for where and what type of work to fast-track could make the world of difference to some rural communities with a high exposure to the dairy industry."

Waikato FF president Chris Lewis says some dairy farmers are concerned about an impending El Nino this summer, but the consequences are not all that straightforward.

"When the dairy regions in New Zealand get dry then our overseas customers get concerned that worldwide supplies will ease back. They already know New Zealand dairy production will fall this summer for the first time in years. As we've seen a number of times in the past, this puts upwards pressure on prices.

"Farmers should still be budgeting conservatively in the short-term. We should all remember though that there are two critical things here.

"First, is that the medium to long-term outlook for our dairy exports into Asia is very positive.

"The second thing is that the banks realise this, and work through their lending to farmers."

RUGBY

Saturday, August 15, 2015

KING COUNTRY B
V
TE AWAMUTU
SUB UNION

At the Island Reserve, OTOROHANGA • Kick off 2.30pm

