

BOOK WINNERS

THE winners of our two recent book giveaways - *The Hobbit Motion Picture Trilogy Location Guidebook* and *A Cut Above - Cooking with AngusPure* - have been chosen.

The *Hobbit* winners are: Marie Staitte (Otorohanga), Edith McIndoe (Te Kuiti) and Missie Bell (Te Kuiti).

A Cut Above winners are: Judith Parsons (Te Kuiti) and Lorraine Grice (Otorohanga). Your copies will be waiting for collection at our offices in Te Kuiti or Otorohanga.

But be quick we close for Christmas on Tuesday at noon. Enjoy!

WDC allocates grants

WAITOMO District Council has divided \$25,000 between four community groups during its latest round of Community Partnership Fund (CPF) allocations.

The CPF is part of the council's Community Development Fund which provides Waitomo residents access to funding to support them with community initiatives.

Te Piruru Papakainga Marae received \$1500, Friends of Hillview \$4000, Te Kuiti Development Incorporated (TKDI) \$5000 and Brook

Park Incorporated Society \$14,500.

The marae sought funding to help buy a heat pump, Friends of Hillview put their funding towards a new car for transporting patients to appointments, TKDI sought funding to produce merchandise to provide a funding stream for the group and Brook Park Incorporated Society plan to put their funds towards future developments.

Applications for the latest round of funding closed in November.

During the 2013/2014 round of

funding \$24,900 was allocated to six groups.

They were: Piopio Community Sports Inc (\$5000), Piopio Memorial Hall Committee (\$7000), Friends of Hillview (\$4000), Aria Toy Library (\$1700), Te Kuiti SPCA (\$4200) and Piopio Playcentre (\$3000).

In a report to the council, community development co-ordinator Donna Macdonald said the CPF aims to "help our community help itself".

"Consideration is given to community projects and community groups that demonstrate strong links to one or more of the outcomes identified in the Community Development Fund Policy."

The outcomes are: a vibrant and prosperous district, youth, cultural heritage and social amenities.

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Find a tree. Now shoot it!

NOT a call to action many of us would leap at. Nonetheless, Project Crimson wants you to grab your camera and start shooting.

Project Crimson has launched a photography competition that will get your fingers tapping on the shutter of your camera with a fantastic summer prize pack up for grabs. "Climbing in, swinging from, and lazing under pohutukawa or rata trees is all part of a classic Kiwi summer. And this year we'd love to see your favourite images of these iconic native Christmas trees," says Project Crimson marketing manager Melanie Seyfort.

"Whether it's a close-up shot of a bloom, a snap of your kids in your favourite crimson tree, birds feeding from their nectar or an amazing landscape shot just send us your favourite shot and you could be in to win! The competition is open to everyone, everywhere and you have all summer to take the perfect picture."

The competition closes on February 28.

JUDGES

The Project Crimson Trust assists projects to protect and restore the pohutukawa and rata, New Zealand's Christmas trees, bringing colour back to forests and coastlines where these species are under threat.

Ambassador Boh Runga, and sponsor, chef Josh Emmett will judge the photo competition along with trustee Ruud Kleinpaste.

The winner will receive a Project Crimson prize pack.

For more information, visit the website - project-crimson.org.nz.

Former Ohura prison site changes owners

OHURA State Prison looks set to perhaps be reinvented again, having recently been sold to South Island buyers Hope International (NZ) Inc.

The prison, which opened in 1972 as a minimum security facility, was first used as a coalminers' hostel and most recently run as a bed and breakfast.

Its days as a detention centre ended in 2005.

The former prison site, situated in the heart of the small Ohura community, just off the Forgotten World Highway 45 minutes east of Taumarunui, was marketed by Bayleys Realty Group Taranaki in a receivership sale.

It is one of the few accommodation options along the Forgotten World Highway and guests have the option of staying in a reformed cell or correctional staff quarters.

Bayleys sales manager Mark Monckton said Ohura State Prison B&B was a rare opportunity to purchase a piece of King Country history.



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