



YOUR NEWS, YOUR VIEWS

WAITOMO News



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No dogs & no excuses

WAITOMO residents now have no excuse when it comes to knowing where to walk their dogs.

Earlier this month, the Waitomo District Council (WDC) erected a number of highly visible signs throughout the district outlining the specified 'no dogs allowed' and 'dog exercise' areas.

Other signs detail where local residents are prohibited from riding motorbikes, horses and/or camping.

Although the bans have been in place for some time, customer services group manager Helen Beever says the signs have been installed in an effort to raise awareness of the regulations set out under the Dog Control and Public Places Bylaws.

"The aim of council bylaws are to protect the public from nuisance, promote and maintain public health

and safety and minimise the potential for anti-social behaviour in public places," she says.

"The signs are about raising public awareness and reinforcing a message that these areas are not suitable for the outlined purpose or activity because it is dangerous or puts other people or their property at risk."

CBD BAN

Mrs Beever says dogs are prohibited in Te Kuiti's Central Business District (CBD) for several reasons including the number of people and traffic in the town environment.

Areas where dogs are not allowed include Rora St (between Alexandra St and the South End Loop Rd) and King St East and Sheridan St (between Rora St and Taupiri St).

TO P3



SET IN STONE: Waitomo District Council's animal control officer Lucas Koroheke with a 'no dogs allowed' sign on Rora St in Te Kuiti.

Sport role to go part-time

OTOROHANGA'S Sport Waikato co-ordinator's position is set to be reduced to a part-time role.

Following the resignation of fulltime co-ordinator Robbie Matthews in April (Waitomo News, April 23) Otorohanga District Council is now deciding what level of service best meets the community's needs going forward.

In the council's recently adopted 2015-2025 Long Term Plan, it was agreed to commit \$35,000 to Sport Waikato for a part-time co-ordinator as well as \$15,000 for a contestable fund to help local sports clubs grow their codes.

Mayor Max Baxter and chief executive Dave Clibbery are meeting with Sport Waikato chief executive Matthew Cooper and general manager Mike Maguire this week to

discuss what models are proving successful in other Waikato districts with the goal of establishing a new plan to suit Otorohanga.

"We [council] believe in terms of how much money we want to dedicate to sport that having a half-time co-ordinator role as well putting some funds aside for a contestable fund pool is the best option for council going forth," says Mr Baxter.

"Where we are at the moment is that Sport Waikato is drawing up what they believe is the best co-ordinator practice across the region and where they believe they have had the best return on investment.

"What we're asking is that they bring that model to us

so we can tweak it to suit Otorohanga's needs."

Mr Baxter says a sport co-ordinator's main roles are to facilitate local clubs with growing their respective codes, organise annual sports awards events and promote healthy living practices.

"There was some deliberation [in council] about the need for a sport co-ordinator at all but due to the size of our district it was agreed that we do need to have somebody involved in sport being led from a Waikato directive," he says.

"So yes, we will have a sport co-ordinator in the district but it won't be a fulltime one."

Matthews had been Otorohanga's district sport co-ordinator for the past 14 years.

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Our French connection

SELF-DESCRIBED 'Friwi' Maurice Louis is opening his ArtDoc Gallery doors in Benneydale for creative winter sessions to celebrate France's Independence Day – Bastille Day and all that is Vive La France!

The storming of Bastille Prison in Paris on July 14, 1789 was the beginning of the French Revolution.

Now the French Kiwi and his wife Monica are celebrating all things "liberty, equality and fraternity".

Tonight the couple is hosting a Bastille Day show and supper.

"The show is inspired by French cabaret singer Edith Piaf's song *La vie en Rose*," says Mr Louis.

"Which means, it's better to see the glass half full unless of course, you are holding the glass up high too long."

VIRTUAL TOUR

This weekend, visitors will be able to go on a virtual Tour de France, with full immersion conversation classes starting on Saturday.

"The language classes will include everyday sayings, and a French version of a Maori greeting 'pepeha' is followed by getting ears and tongues attuned to another language using

Piaf's songs and waitata," says Mr Louis.

"Then on Sunday participants will learn travel conversation during a virtual tour of the wine regions and towns of the classic Tour de France.

"Kiwis love to travel to France and it's always nice to speak a few words."

With assistance from Creative New Zealand funding, the couple has also invited artists and tutors for workshops throughout the winter months.

The workshops will include masterclasses for opera, painting, improvised music and arranging.

Mr Louis says in previous years it wasn't possible to plan weekend full immersion workshops because there wasn't enough accommodation in Benneydale.

"There is so much more you can do in two days and now that we have the Benneydale Lodge and the Timber Trail sleepout people can stay overnight. At our venue we organise creative workshops and concerts with a cross-cultural theme, because we like to bring people of all ages and nationalities together."

For more information contact Mr and Mrs Louis.



COME ALONG: North King Country residents are invited to join in ArtDoc Gallery's winter creative sessions at Benneydale to celebrate Bastille Day. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Students celebrate Matariki

KAWHIA Primary School students hosted local residents at their Matariki celebrations in the district's community hall last week.

Principal (Tumuaki) Leanne Apiti says: "The school has been working on the Heart Foundation's Heart Start Award with Project Energise and for Matariki we acknowledged the value of healthy kai as a taonga for achieving hauora Maori (health and wellbeing). So one of our Matariki focuses was to offer healthy kai to our whanau and manuhiri (guests)."

The pupils and whanau made a variety of healthy soups from fresh vegetables, produced information flyers about vitamins and set up a 'make your own fresh fruit salad' stand.

As well as performances by the students and displays of original artwork by local secondary students, there were promotional stands in English and te reo celebrating the bilingual opportunities offered at the school.



MATARIKI MOVES: Seven-year-old year 3 Primary School students Tiani Morris (left) and Matarangimahue Ashford-Ingley performing *Maniapoto E* for guests at the opening of the Matariki celebrations. PHOTO SUPPLIED

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