

## NKC voter turnout apathetic

TIME is running out for North King Country residents to have their say as to who should represent them around the council and board tables for the next three years.

Response to date has been slow for the triennial elections of Waitomo and Otorohanga district councils, Waikato Regional Council and Waikato District health Board.

Yesterday, only 30% of the voting papers had been returned in the Waitomo district and 27.5% in Otorohanga.

Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna says: "At 30%, the result so far is similar to 2010 (32%), 27% in 2007, and 36% in 2004, but obviously I want to encourage as many residents to vote as possible.

"This is their one chance every three years to have a say and if they don't vote they cannot influence the direction of their council."

### POSTAL VOTES

Chief electoral officer Warwick Lampp says: "People need to post their voting papers by tomorrow (Wednesday) to ensure they are received on time.

"If voting documents are not posted, they need to be dropped into the ballot boxes available at council offices before noon on Saturday."

Voting packs including voting papers, a candidate information booklet and a freepost envelope have been posted to everyone on the electoral roll.

Voting papers can be posted from anywhere in New Zealand.

People who have not received their voting papers can still vote by casting a special vote by contacting or visiting their local council's offices.

For information about voting, including regular updates on the number of votes cast, visit the website - [electionsnz.com](http://electionsnz.com)



**PURE PUREORA:** Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna (left) and Maori Affairs Minister Dr Pita Sharples at Maraeroa C Incorporation's Pure-Ora Mountain Ginseng New Zealand product launch at Pa Harakeke on Thursday.

## MCI launches ginseng

BY **TODD WARD**

MAORI Affairs minister Dr Pita Sharples has praised Te Kuiti-based company Maraeroa C Inc as an "excellent role model" for New Zealand business innovation.

His comment came when, after eight years of research, development and growing under pine canopies in Pureora Forest, MCI launched its first ginseng product at Pa Harakeke on Thursday.

More than 25 people attended the event including Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna, SCION (a New Zealand Crown Research Institute) representatives and other parties interested in growing the herb.

Called 'Pure-Ora Mountain Ginseng New Zealand', it is considered a "perfect companion crop" to pine forests with a potential net return of \$343,000 per hectare after eight years of growth.

Mr Sharples said MCI's forward thinking provides "fruitful" opportunities for New Zealand's future generations.

"What you have done here, your patience, your learning and

your looking to the future, as well as adapting to the necessary protocols to producing and marketing the product, establishes Maraeroa C as an excellent role model for New Zealand business.

"Mainly because this venture covers so many aspects from primary production, forestry and high-end processing to marketing, eco-tourism and international trade relationships - the list goes on.

"It is such a great project and one we certainly endorse.

"I am very proud and honoured to launch Pure-Ora Mountain Ginseng New Zealand."

### GREAT POTENTIAL

Maraeroa C chief executive and product developer Glen Katu said there is great potential for a NZ ginseng industry.

"The vision for Pure-Ora Mountain Ginseng New Zealand is to be recognised as a mark of quality which is highly sought after by our clients.

TO P2

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Specials available From Tuesday 8th October until Sunday 13th October 2013 or while stocks last. 95 Rora Street, Te Kuiti. Phone (07) 878 8530. Open 7am - 8pm, Monday - Friday, 8am - 8pm, Saturday - Sunday.

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# THUMBS UP/DOWN



**THUMBS UP** to the op shop volunteers and donors of goods who all helped to raise funds to send the two boys on such an adventure into a remote village in Vanuatu.

I understand that three other Te Kuiti people helped in the shop but were unavailable for the photo – Brian Hainsworth, Rhona Cave and Viv Cook. It's great to see our youth having such a chance to experience other cultures and to help in such a character building exercise. Let's hope Te Kuiti sees more of such initiatives to help its youth in the future.  
Well-wisher  
Te Kuiti

**THUMBS UP** to Jean at Te Kuiti Public Library – thank you for all your help. We're sure there are many people who appreciate your extra help and knowledge.  
Barry & Ruth Stott  
Piopio

**THUMBS UP** to Otorohanga Rotary members and their helpers who looked after the collectors' table during

Alzheimer's Appeal Week and Countdown Otorohanga staff for their support it was much appreciated.  
Alzheimer's Caregiver  
Otorohanga

**THUMBS DOWN** to the despicable thief/thieves who stole potted plants, potting mix, containers and shelving from the Otorohanga Community Foodbank garden.

The vegetables grown in our garden go to people who are struggling to make ends meet, we are trying to encourage them to grow their own. How could you stoop so low? Could you please at least return the shelving/trays they are an important part of our plan for the community garden.  
Aileen Berrigan  
Foodbank Co-ordinator  
Otorohanga

**THUMBS DOWN** to the local mowing contractor seen dumping green waste at the corner of Oparure Rd near Te Wharekura o Maniapoto.  
A Local Eye  
Oparure

# MCI launches ginseng

FROM P1

"Our mission is to produce ginseng grown in natural wild conditions which looks, smells and tastes like wild ginseng, is free of chemicals and high in the ginsenoside active ingredient.

"But most importantly, we want to maintain the values our tupuna Rereahu was known for – integrity, respect and mana – as part of our ginseng strategy moving forward."

## SOUGHT AFTER

An ancient food and medicinal plant, wild ginseng root is highly sought after in China but due to over-harvesting traditional supplies are becoming scarce.

Maraeroa C will harvest its first 2ha crop of wild-simulated ginseng in March, to be sold firstly in NZ specialty stores before wholesale exports to China are investigated.

Mr Hanna congratulated Mr Katu on making the most of an exciting new opportunity.

"We the council, want to support you in every way we can and play our part in fostering relationships with trade to China. It is fantastic to be here (at the launch) and we wish you all the luck in the future."

## CROPS

A SCION scope study found the majority of pine forests in the Central North Island have suitable ginseng growing conditions and Mr Katu hopes MCI's research and physical proof will create interest among other CNI foresters to grow the herb as a supplementary revenue stream.

A 1ha crop of wild-simulated ginseng yields about 225kgs of net dry root, with an average return of \$2000 per kg.

Two more 2ha crops planted in 2009, and 2011, will be harvested next.

# KC Chronicle helps Papers Past reach three million pgs

HISTORIC editions of the *King Country Chronicle* are among the more than three million pages of New

Zealand newspapers available online at the National Library's popular Papers Past website.

Papers Past is an online collection of digitised NZ newspapers and periodicals. Currently it contains issues from 83 separate NZ newspapers dating from 1839-1945.

"Many of these newspapers remain as an essential part of their community but other titles ceased publishing decades ago," says national librarian Bill Macnaught.

"The original newspapers are increasingly fragile and difficult for researchers and students to access.

"The purpose of the Papers Past programme is to preserve these invaluable records of our past and make them available to anyone, anywhere

through a free and easily accessible website.

"Much of the original content digitised on Papers Past is held by the Alexander Turnbull Library – itself part of the National Library – but we have been delighted to work with local libraries, historical societies and newspapers to help put these precious papers online."

The latest batch of newspapers to be digitised and bring up the three millionth page on Papers Past are: *Timaru Herald* (1901-1920), *Mt Ida Chronicle* (1869-1926), *Oamaru Mail* (1876-1920) and *King Country Chronicle* (1906-1920).

For more information, visit the website – [paperspast.natlib.govt.nz](http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz)



## Call for Expressions of Interest - Te Kuiti Railway Building 1

Waitomo District Council has acquired the three Railway Buildings on Rora Street in Te Kuiti from KiwiRail. Council's vision is to revitalise this space and create a vibrant hub in the centre of Te Kuiti. Council considers that the creation of such a central hub will promote the culture and history of the community and instil a sense of pride for the township and District as a whole. A vibrant centre will also help to bring about economic benefits to Te Kuiti.

This restoration work as well as the creation of a central hub around the Railway Buildings has been termed the Railway Buildings Revitalisation Project. Due to cost reasons the work has been scheduled over a 2-5 year term and it is also planned to proceed after external funding has been obtained. However, Council aims to kickstart the use of one of these buildings and therefore some internal work is proposed as soon as possible.

Building 1, the north most of the three buildings, is the first one on which internal renovation will be carried out to make it ready for use. For this purpose, Council is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from community groups interested in tenanting the premises so that the internal work can be targeted to the needs of the users.

Building 1 currently comprises of three rooms, one toilet and a kitchen area, however this could be changed to suit the tenant/s needs. The premise can be leased to one group or to two or a combination of different groups depending on the number of applicants and their requirements. The intention will be to provide maximum benefit to the community.



Building 1 is located next to the Te Kuiti i-SITE.

To be eligible to apply, groups/organisations must require the space for the provision of community activities, projects or programmes in the Waitomo District.

WDC reserves the right to seek proposals and applications from other parties in addition to those who respond to this invitation.

The call for Expressions of Interest will take place from 9 October to 28 November 2013.

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To request an EOI document, please contact WDC  
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[www.waitomo.govt.nz](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz)



## have a news tip?

LET US KNOW!  
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