



## Govt grants great news

A GOVERNMENT grant to improve Otorohanga, Piopio and Te Kuiti water quality has come as welcome news to Taranaki-King Country MP Shane Ardern.

Otorohanga and Waitomo district councils will receive government subsidies totalling about \$1.2 million to help improve the quality of drinking water to Otorohanga, Piopio and Te Kuiti.

Mr Ardern congratulated the councils on their successful applications to the Government's Drinking Water Subsidy Scheme.

"The funding means some of our smaller Taranaki-King Country communities can improve the quality of their drinking water.

"That's good news for everyone in these towns.

"WDC has had some unique issues in regard to both wastewater and drinking water that have been challenging for the lower socio-economic rate base to manage, and clearly there needed to be some central government involvement to overcome those issues."

Mr Ardern says WDC approached the Government for assistance and he is very pleased it has provided Te Kuiti with a 60% subsidy of \$780,000 plus GST, and Piopio with an 84% subsidy of \$316,000.

Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna is also pleased with the news.

TO P3

## ODC votes to join LGF bank

OTOROHANGA District Council is a step closer to being part of a local government bank.

At its meeting last week the council voted in favour of being involved in the Local Government Funding Agency.

The vote followed public consultation which ended on September 5. No submissions were received.

Chief executive Dave Clibbery says: "We never thought it was a contentious matter so we were not at all surprised when we got no response to the consultation."

The proposed agency will be operating as early as November, with ODC joining "at the earliest opportunity."

Mayor Dale Williams says: "The savings by all the councils banding together and putting all their debt into one package makes a lot of sense.

"We've long believed we should be getting a better borrowing rate than the banks have been giving us up until now and we see the savings as quite advantageous."

The LGFA scheme, which has been developed during the past 18 months by local authorities and central government, has also been adopted by nine large councils - Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch, Tauranga Cities, Western Bay of Plenty, Whangarei District, Wellington Region and Tasman District.

ODC will join as a principal shareholding local authority which requires an initial investment of \$100,000 and a commitment to meet a proportion of its borrowing needs from the LGFA of up to 80%. (Waitomo News, May 17, 2011)

TO P3



## Kia ora Samoa!

ON Sunday Ashton Coote was the envy of thousands of rugby mad young New Zealanders. Seven-year-old Ashton had the honour of leading the Samoan rugby team onto the field at Waikato Stadium for their Rugby World Cup match against Wales.

In front of a capacity crowd of 30,000, Ashton took the hand of Samoan captain Mahonri Schwalger (pictured), walked onto the hallowed turf and sang the Samoan national anthem with 'his' team before taking a prime sideline spot to watch the game.

He was chosen from 300,000 children as one of 96 young fans to lead an international team onto the field for a Rugby World Cup 2011 match. The match was closely contested with Wales winning 17-10. PHOTO SUPPLIED

## Saving you money every day

Hubbards Cornflakes  
475g



2 for \$5.00

Tomatoes



\$5.99 kg

Potatoes 10kg



\$6.99 bag

Beef Corned Silverside



\$7.99 kg

Hardys Wine Range  
750ml



\$6.99 ea

Cow & Gate Milk 2L



2 for \$6.50

Te Kuiti **supervalue**

just what you need



# SEPTEMBER 2011 ADVERTISING SPECIALS!



This column is to keep readers informed of any current advertising specials on offer, as well as our policies with regard to regular components of the newspaper i.e. sportswrap, letters to the editor, thumbs etc. Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries on 07 878 1188 or email: [editor@waitomonews.co.nz](mailto:editor@waitomonews.co.nz)

## CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIC SPECIAL!

## Something to sell?

For only \$5 extra

add a colour pic/ photo to your single column ad, like this:

Contact Jan or Liza (Te Kuiti)  
t 878 1188  
f 07 878 1187  
e [reception@waitomonews.co.nz](mailto:reception@waitomonews.co.nz)  
Stacey (Rotorhanga)  
t 07 873 7139  
f 07 873 7138

### CARAVAN FOR SALE



Sick of the rat race? Get out of it then... in caravan style! Make an offer Phone 07 123 4578

## DISPLAY

DISPLAY SPECIAL!

# REDUCED RATE

Receive a reduced rate when placing two or more advertisements during the month of September 2011. (Casual advertisers only. Conditions apply).

Contact Janis (Te Kuiti)  
t 07 878 1188 f 07 878 1187  
e [sales@waitomonews.co.nz](mailto:sales@waitomonews.co.nz)

Sam (Rotorhanga)  
t 07 873 7139 f 07 873 7138  
e [otooffice@waitomonews.co.nz](mailto:otooffice@waitomonews.co.nz)

## EDITORIAL

We welcome your stories and story tips. If supplying photographs we require high resolution (a minimum of 1MB). Please note that due to occasional space constraints, sports results/draws may not be published.

Please contact the editorial team  
t 07 878 1188  
f 07 878 1187  
e [editor@waitomonews.co.nz](mailto:editor@waitomonews.co.nz)

### LETTER & THUMBS RULES

No Letters to the Editor or Thumbs Up/Down will be published unless the name of writer, full address and daytime contact phone number are included for verification. Letters and Thumbs Up/Down are published at the editor's discretion and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Waitomo News.

In general, Thumbs Up are to acknowledge random acts of kindness while Thumbs Down generally reflect the opposite. Should you have a complaint regarding a business, please address that with the owner/s rather than via these columns. The editor reserves the right to abridge letters and preference is given to letters not longer than 300 words and those without a pseudonym. Letters and Thumbs Up/Down can be sent to the editor, Waitomo News, PO Box 279, Te Kuiti, fax (07) 878 1187, or email [editor@waitomonews.co.nz](mailto:editor@waitomonews.co.nz)

# Tight-knit communities fare better

*Kia ora.* It continues to be a very busy period for council, with many highlights to celebrate. Our districts (Rotorhanga and Waitomo) have come through the global financial economy in remarkable shape, certainly better and stronger than most and many comparable territorial local authorities.

It really is a credit to our business operators, farmers, employers, employees, and the people who make up the communities across the region.

Working together, accentuating the positives, managing the negatives, and being prepared to do what's necessary for each other is what makes this area special.

As I travel around New Zealand sharing the experiences gained from Rotorhanga's unique youth programmes, I am constantly reminded by other communities how important it is for councils to have the continued support of residents, ratepayers and stakeholders.

The areas I encounter with the greatest problems seem to be where that relationship is most strained, and it can take enormous investments of time, energy, commitment, money and aroha to progress.

I believe a valuable opportunity to engage with the people council serves is to participate in the events and activities at our districts' education centres – early childhood, kindergartens, playcentres, kura, primary, secondary and polytechnic schools

These places are nurturing, guiding, educating, protecting, developing and influencing our children – our future.

### Highlight

One of the highlights of my time on council has been to

## In My View



By Rotorhanga Mayor Dale Williams

share so many special opportunities with students, parents, staff and the respective communities.

Recently I took part in the Waikato Principal for a Day programme, where the morning was spent with principal Toby Funnell at Hauturu School and principal Catriona Chrystall at Rotorhanga Primary.

To be able to share classroom and playground time with the youngsters is enlightening, and reinforces my belief that the future is in excellent hands. Tomorrow I'm hosting teacher Anna Maikuku and the Hauturu junior school at council where I'm hoping to return their wonderful hospitality, and share some council experiences with them.

Tomorrow evening it's the annual Kiwiana Debate, always a highlight for me.

This year mayor Hugh Vercoe and a team from Matamata-Piako District Council will front up against me and the Rotorhanga team, the moot is rugby of course, and it promises to be another hilarious event.

On Thursday Waitomo plays host to the Welsh rugby contingent – another fantastic opportunity.

Certainly Rotorhanga has taken full advantage of the many visitors passing through in recent weeks, and the business association promotions, Project Kiwiana displays, and street flags give the town an international flavour.

Finally, during the next few weeks schools will be staging their annual agricultural and pet days, I encourage everyone to call your nearest school, find out when theirs is on, and spend the day with the kids.

There's nothing more Kiwiana than that!  
*Nga mihi nui.*

## Your Letters

### Velodrome funding

DEMOCRACY died on Wednesday, September 14 – almost the same day as the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11.

Three councillors voted against the infamous velodrome, six for it.

You know their names – vote them out at the next election.

The other thing that got hurt was the truth. When six councillors believe that 61% of written submissions don't count and go against public wishes you have a dictatorship.

This is what we know what in the Waikato – a dictatorship.

If you pay the velodrome rate levy you are supporting the dictatorship.

I for one won't be paying the velodrome levy; and by cutting some of the money we can stop the infamous velodrome.

I urge all ratepayers to unite and don't pay.

**Malcolm Hume**  
**Ohaupo**

### Support for National MP

I WRITE in support of our local MP Shane Ardern.

I know that many people (and the election results back up this statement), appreciate the fact that we have a farmer representing what is a large rural electorate spreading from Hamilton airport over to Raglan and past Stratford.

The rural vote is a hugely important voice and no one supports it more than Shane.

Shane is Chair of the Primary Production Select Committee, Chair of the National Party Agriculture Caucus Committee and the New Zealand Government representative for Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as well as representing the rural community

in his Caucus. He plays a vital role in Parliament as well as looking after our community.

In fact I know that he played a strong role in ensuring that both Benneydale and Te Kuiti received a substantial subsidy from the Government for their sewage programme, which may not make world headlines, but certainly is important for us.

Shane's placing on the list which is just below the ministers and those who are Speakers, shows the high regard the Prime Minister and the party have for him and for the hard work he does for our rural electorate.

**Craig Morrison**  
**Awakino Hotel**

**NEW MICHELIN ENERGY XM2 TYRES, LAST 20% LONGER WITH MAXIMUM SAFETY.\***

Because 20% extra tyre mileage means extra savings for you.

**AVAILABLE NOW AT ADVANTAGE TYRES OTOROHANGA**

**ADVANTAGE** THE TYRE PROFESSIONALS

Advantage Tyres Otorohanga  
119 Maniapoto Street, Otorohanga  
T 0800 686 897

**MICHELIN**  
A better way forward



# Govt grants great news

FROM P1

“We really value Mr Ardern’s input because we realise it’s not easy. Government funding is hard to come by at the moment.

“With Piopio being a small community, doing the wastewater scheme at the same time as improving the quality of drinking water would have been impossible without government assistance. And, Te Kuiti is in the same boat.”

Modifications are needed to the plants which were built in the 1950s, in order to meet current drinking water standards.

“To gain the funding we had to do some pretty rigorous planning and show to the Ministry of Health that the science backs up what we intend to do,” says Mr Hanna.

He expects the funding to “future-proof” the communities’ water needs for the next 30 to 40 years.

Mr Ardern says rural towns are “the real core of our agricultural based economy” and it’s important to “maintain the service areas” of our rural economy.

*As this issue went to press, the total grant for Otorohanga had not been announced.*



CELEBRATING GAIN: Taranaki-King Country MP Shane Ardern (right) takes pleasure in handing Waitomo District Council mayor Brian Hanna a letter from the Government informing him of subsidies the council will receive towards improving Piopio and Te Kuiti’s drinking water.

# ODC votes to join LGF bank

FROM P1

Mr Williams says the fact that ODC’s “debt is really well managed at the moment” has meant that even though it is one of the smaller councils involved from the outset, ODC has been able to find its entry fee “reasonably easily.”

“A lot of councils don’t have that luxury.”

The council will also have to provide a guarantee under the scheme and a rates charge to secure its obligations.

“At any level of participation there is a requirement for the council to cross-guarantee the other

borrowing. That’s an unavoidable circumstance of being part of the scheme,” says Mr Clibbery.

The council considers the risk of providing a guarantee is low because the only borrowers will be local authorities and, there has never been a default by a local authority in New Zealand.

The LGFA’s operational risk is also considered to be minimal due to its conservative borrowing and lending policies.

Mr Clibbery says the LGFA will not operate like a finance company.

“Its clients will only be local government clients, so you are

lending to activities that are very carefully considered, not focused on profit making, and which have been through a formal consultation process with the community.

“The nature of the activity is very conservative.”

The major benefit to participating councils is the considerable savings due to borrowing at lower interest rates than would otherwise be available.

Previously councils could not borrow overseas but the LGFA enables them to do so.

# WRC awash with surplus funds

WAIKATO Regional Council is currently flush with funds.

A report to the finance and audit committee last Thursday detailed the regional council’s positive financial and service performance for the year ending June 30, 2011.

The report also noted an unallocated surplus from the last financial year of \$985,000, while the accumulated surplus from previous financial years was \$1.87 million.

The council’s budget surplus for the 2010/11 financial year and its accumulated surpluses are set to fund essential building repairs, the Tui Mine remediation project and costs related to the Home of Cycling consultation.

The committee agreed that \$1.7 million of this would meet remediation costs associated with the council’s Grey St building in Hamilton.

Costs associated with relocating staff are yet to be identified.

The remediation is necessary due to leaks in the building with the council putting money aside for repairs to avoid rate increases.

It is also looking at legal action to cover remediation costs.

Another \$400,000 has been earmarked for the council’s second contribution to the costs of cleaning up the former Tui Mine site at Te Aroha.

### Unbudgeted costs

The surpluses will also provide funding for the unbudgeted consultation costs associated with the Home of Cycling.

Finance group manager Mike Garrett said: “It is pleasing that the surpluses mean this work can be funded without having an impact on future rates.

“We’ve been able to achieve surpluses by a continuing tight focus on efficiency gains and cost savings where possible.”

**LARGEST LIQUOR CHAIN IN NZ WITH OVER 160 OUTLETS!**

# OUR CAPS OFF TO THE BOYS IN BLACK.

Celebrate with a couple of cold ones from Liquor Centre.

Join the VIP club to go into the draw to win monthly prizes including overseas holidays, 3D TV's, Ipads, iPods etc. and access to VIP instore specials. Visit [www.liquor-centre.co.nz](http://www.liquor-centre.co.nz)

<b>RUGBY SPECIALS - Heineken Sale</b> 6 Pack Cans 330ml ONLY \$14.99 6 Pack Bots 330ml ONLY \$14.99 12 Pack Bots 330ml ONLY \$24.99 15 Pack Bots 330ml ONLY \$30.99 650ml Bot ONLY \$5.49	Speights/Waikato/Lion Red crate ONLY \$35.99 Amy's Vodka Range 3 Flavours 250ml 7% 12 Pack Cans ONLY \$19.99 RUGBY SPECIAL - Steinlager White Can ONLY \$18.99	Cody's 250ml 8% 18 Pack Cans ONLY \$29.99 Jim Beam 250ml 8% 4 Cans ONLY \$9.99 Jim Beam 1 litre ONLY \$36.99	Woodstock 330ml 5% 18 Pack Bots ONLY \$29.99 St Remy Brandy 1 litre ONLY \$33.99 Black Heart/Woodstock 1 litre ONLY \$34.99	Smirnoff Ice Double Black 250ml 12 Pack Cans ONLY \$20.99 Gordons 1 litre ONLY \$32.99 Lindauer Classic Range 750ml ONLY \$10.99
--	--	--	---	--

Everyday in every Liquor Centre outlet we give away **FREE GIFTS** on Beer, Wines, Spirits and RTDs.

**LIQUOR CENTRE**

Specials valid until 30 September 2011. All specials may not be available in some stores. Specials only available at Liquor Centre Stores detailed above. No Trade Sales. We're BIG on being local.