

Decisive wins for mayors

OTOROHANGA'S new mayor Max Baxter says his days of anonymity as a Te Kawa dairy farmer are over.

Preliminary results show Mr Baxter with 1382 votes, is well clear of his nearest rival Arnold van Straalen on 883 votes.

All election results will be confirmed tomorrow.

NERVES KICK IN

The 48-year-old father of two spent the weekend celebrating his win with friends and family before a rush of meetings yesterday morning in preparation to lead the district during the next three years.

"When I was given the news I felt a huge mix of emotions from nervous trepidation to excitement and relief," he says.

"Then I started to grow in confidence until I read a headline in the *Waikato Times*, which said 'Business as usual as Baxter takes charge of exceptional council' and the nerves kicked back in again.

"But overall, I'm very excited to be given this opportunity and I look forward to leading the district."

COUNCILLOR ROLE HELPS

He says having spent three years as the Tihiroa ward councillor will help "smooth" the transition.

"The change to local council responsibilities in recent years makes it imperative to have some council experience before running for mayor because there is so much to learn.

"As a councillor you naturally establish relationships with community leaders and the wider community itself, so experience is necessary - almost mandatory."

Mr Baxter says his new role is made easier by the "exceptional" state

in which his "mentor" Dale Williams handed the district over.

"I couldn't have chosen a better time really," he says.

"There is a good group of councillors on board, some exciting new ones coming on and we can all look to the future without any major concerns.

"The best part for me though is that no-one around the table has any agendas which other councils around the Waikato struggle with and that makes us very fortunate."

"It has been a long time since Otorohanga has had a rural mayor but I'm probably the most urban-rural person you'll ever meet."
- Max Baxter

INITIAL FOCUS

Ready to get started, Mr Baxter says his initial focus as mayor will be continuing to support Otorohanga's youth initiatives and looking for the best infrastructure investment opportunities.

"What gives me the most confidence going into this job is the amount of support I received from the community.

"It has been a long time since Otorohanga has had a rural mayor but I'm probably the most urban-rural person you'll ever meet.

"The big thing about me is that I'm open, prepared to listen and I enjoy engaging with people."

SWEARING IN

Mr Baxter will be officially sworn in at Otorohanga District Council's next meeting on October 29.

Joining him around the table are Deborah Pilkington and Annette Williams (Kawhia-Tihiroa ward), Robert Prescott and Phil Tindle (Otorohanga), Ken Phillips (Kio Kio/Korakonui), Roy Johnson (Waipa) and Robyn Klos (Wharepuhunga).



TOP JOB: Otorohanga's new mayor Max Baxter, who received 499 more votes than his nearest rival Arnold van Straalen, will be officially sworn in at the council's next meeting on October 29.

TO P5

Super Savings!

Fresh Tegel NZ Lean & Lite Chicken Tenderloins



\$12.99 kg

Californian Bi Colour Seedless Grapes 500g



\$3.49 pack

Cadbury Chocolate Block 210-220g/Treat Size Bars 10-20 Pack (Excludes Bubbly/Mousse)



\$2.79 each

Fresh-Up Fruit Juice 1L



\$1.79 each

Oak Baked Beans/Spaghetti 420-425g



99c each

Cold Power Laundry Powder 500g



\$1.99 each



Specials available From Tuesday 15th October until Sunday 20th October 2013 or while stocks last. 95 Rora Street, Te Kuiti. Phone (07) 878 8530. Open 7am - 8pm, Monday - Friday, 8am - 8pm, Saturday - Sunday.

Te Kuiti **supervalue** just what you need

Decisive wins for mayors

FROM P1

Waitomo's mayoralty race was just as decisive with incumbent Brian Hanna sweeping the majority of votes with 1845 over challenger Mike Brown (503).

Now in his second term, Mr Hanna plans to continue the good progress the council has made regarding debt reduction and completing capital works while increasing community involvement programmes and tourism opportunities.

"It's great to get a good mandate from the public which signals we've done an okay job over the past three years.

"It gives me great confidence in what we're doing is meeting with approval and I'm committed to continuing that into the future."

Mr Hanna says the biggest strength Waitomo District Council has moving forward is a "great team" of dedicated councillors and hard working staff.

"We work very well as a team and I really want to foster those relationships during the next three years.

"But my main job now is to develop a clear direction that we will want to achieve as a group and

seeing it through on behalf of the district.

"Waitomo has always punched above its weight and this council will ensure we continue to do that."

Waitomo's elected rural councillors are Phil Brodie (857 votes), Sue Smith (725) and either Allan Goddard (699) or Charles Digby (687) depending on special votes.

Elected urban councillors are Guy Whitaker, Lorrene Te Kanawa and newcomer Terry Davey.

The Waitomo District Council will be sworn in on October 24.

Voter return in Otorohanga was 43.5% and Waitomo 42.45%.

OTHER RESULTS

In other election results, former Waipa mayor Alan Livingston and incumbent Stuart Kneebone were elected onto the Waikato Regional Council to represent the Waipa-King Country district.

Mr Livingston replaces Russ Rimmington.

Those elected to the Waikato District Health Board are Martin Gallagher, Ewan Wilson, Clyde Wade, Pippa Mahood, Andrew Buckley, Sally Christie and Crystal Beavis.



TERM TWO: Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna has been re-elected after receiving 1342 more votes than his mayoralty opponent Mike Brown and will be officially sworn in at the council's next meeting on October 22.

Local shoppers raise \$1950 for St John

GENEROUS North King Country shoppers have reached in to their pockets to help The Warehouse raise money for St John.

Central North Island stores, including Te Kuiti's, ran a three week 'Add-a-Dollar' campaign from July 6-28, asking customers to add \$1 to their total purchase with that being donated to St John's Youth Programme.

A total of \$1950 was raised by The Warehouse in Te Kuiti, contributing to the national total of \$58,269.

Community programmes manager for St John Central Jen Richardson says: "The youth programme offers emergency response training to young

people and this money will go a huge way in ensuring more cadets are fully trained as First Responders. It will also provide new uniforms for many of the trainees."

The Warehouse regional manager Trevor Smith says choosing to give to St John was an easy decision. "We are really happy to be able to help provide the St John Youth Programme with these additional funds so they can continue the amazing training they provide for the community."

Stores involved in the campaign were Te Kuiti, Te Awamutu, Rotorua, Tauranga, Tokoroa, Taupo, Gisborne, Matamata, Whakatane, Papamoa, Cambridge and Fraser Cove.

Community board lineup to change

KAWHIA Community Board will undergo a changing of the guard this year following the preliminary vote counting in the 2013 local body elections.

Former chairman Hano Ormsby (81 votes) missed re-election for one of the three vacancies behind Kit Jeffries (107), Alan Rutherford (102) and Dave Walsh (96).

Hinga Whiu (63 votes) and Callan

Stewart (50) also missed out.

Annette Gane won the Kawhia Community Board's Aotea sub-division position unopposed.

Filling the four spots on the Otorohanga Community Board are Phil Tindle (685 votes), Anne Laws (612), Liz Cowan (592) and Nigel Chetty (516).

All election results will be confirmed tomorrow.

INSTORE SALE NOW ON!

10-50% off all clothing & accesories in store now



NEW Honda CRF 80
Special price \$....
come and see us about the price was \$3999

Checkout the new A.T.V pricing new and used

Trades welcome GST included

King Country Honda

33 Moa St • Ph 07 877 8054 • Email sales@kchonda.co.nz
A/H Ian Murray 07 877 8118 • Mob 021 952 155

Service your engine and save your money!

Servicing your vehicle regularly costs approx \$130 - major repairs can cost \$1000s!

Book your car in with us today!

WOF • SERVICING • CALTEX BULK OIL
free quotes on all mechanical work

Agents for NitroFill . . . makes your tyres last longer!

GENERAL AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

Ph 07 878 8008
or visit us at 10-14 Ward St, Te Kuiti