

The Cottage wins top float

MORE than 1000 people lined Rora St in Te Kuiti on Friday to catch a glimpse of Santa during the annual Waitomo district Christmas Parade – and they weren't disappointed.

Following a fancy fleet of 20 floats, jolly Old St Nick smiled and waved his way down the main street, much to the delight of the large crowd, young and old.

Assistant organiser Charlene Longden says the parade went "very well" and the judges had a hard time deciding which of the floats, featuring a 12 Days To Christmas theme, were the best.

The best club, community group or organisation went to SADD (Students Against Driving Drunk) in their distinctive blue car while the best business was awarded to Smarty Pants for their sporty theme which included a rugby player and rower.

The best education float went to The Cottage (Te Kuiti Community Childcare Centre) for their butterfly costumes and Santa's Dairy, which was also won the coveted Ultimate Shield for best overall design.

The parade featured many others including police cars, St John ambulances, fire trucks, motorbikes and hot rods all led by the Te Kuiti and Districts Highland Pipe Band.

Mrs Longden says her highlight was how brilliant the children behaved before and during the parade.

"Seeing the smiles on all the kids' faces was very rewarding and considering the heat of the afternoon, they all did very well," she says.

"An amazing amount of effort was put into these year's floats and they were all fantastic.

"So thank you again for all the support and we hope that everyone who attended enjoyed this year's parade."



COTTAGE CHRISTMAS: The Cottage's (Te Kuiti Community Childcare Centre), 'Santa's dairy' float won best education float and the coveted Ultimate Shield for best overall design.

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FESTIVE FACES: The Waitomo district Christmas Parade in Te Kuiti on Friday featured (clockwise from top left) Te Wharekura o Maniapoto students, Te Kuiti Volunteer Fire Brigade Chief Fire Officer Grahame Howell, The Cottage representatives and a festive Smarty Pants float.



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