

# Summer Deals

**10 kg Potatoes**  
**\$5.99 bag**

**New season Kumara**  
**\$2.99 kg**

**Royal Gala apples**  
**.99c kg**

**NZ Tomatoes**  
**\$1.99 kg**

**Lettuces**  
**\$1.50 ea**

**Telecucumbers**  
**\$1.50 ea**

**Buttercup Pumpkins**  
**3 for \$3**

**Kamo Kamo**  
**2 for \$3**

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# Major 'manpower' to quell scrub fire

A SCRUB fire near Kopaki "deemed too dangerous" to be fought on the ground took five hours, three fire brigades and two helicopters to get under control on Thursday.

Initially, Benneydale Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a scrub fire on Wednesday at 8.30pm on SH30 near Mangaokewa Rd, north of Kopaki.

Benneydale chief fire officer Murray Paterson says it took firefighters 30 minutes to extinguish the fire which was the size of "half a football field".

The next day at 3.30pm, the brigade was called to the same place where another scrub fire had taken hold.

"This time it was windy and the fire was large, so it took about five hours to bring under control," says Mr Paterson.

#### OTHERS CALLED IN

Te Kuiti and Otorohanga Volunteer Fire Brigades assisted Benneydale crew members with appliances, a 471 Cass Truck and a water tanker.

Two helicopters from Kopkai-based company Rotor Work Ltd and A1 Heli (Otorohanga) were also fitted with monsoon buckets to help extinguish the fire after Waitomo District Council rural fire officer Johan Callis "deemed the fire too dangerous to be fought by personnel".

SH30 was closed at 3.30pm between Mangaokewa and Powell Rds and re-opened nearly six hours later.

Benneydale Police Constable Bill Eivers, who called Benneydale firefighters, says the cause of the fire is unknown.

"I was checking the hotspots and burnt patches on Thursday, and within minutes one of the patches was engulfed in flames. The fire had been controlled by 8.30pm at which point approximately 4-5ha had been burnt."

#### TRAIN DELAYED

Passengers travelling to Wellington on KiwiRail's Northern Explorer on Thursday were delayed at Te Kuiti Railway Station for six hours, after the North Island Main Trunk Line was closed.

Forty-four passengers were diverted back to Auckland and 34 transported by bus to Wellington. A further 30 passengers chose to disembark at Hamilton.

A KiwiRail spokeswoman says the line was



**AFTERMATH:** Three volunteer fire brigades and two helicopters were called to help extinguish a scrub fire on SH30 near Mangaokewa Rd, north of Kopaki last Thursday. The fire burnt more than 4ha of land (above & below) and took five hours to bring under control.

inspected to ensure rail infrastructure was safe and a temporary speed restriction was put in place when it was cleared at 8.35pm.

Earlier that day the Northern Explorer had been delayed when it was involved in a fatal collision with a

truck about 9.45am at the Te Onetea Rd crossing near Rangiriri, killing the 28-year-old driver.

A replacement engine from Huntly ensured the train carrying 108 passengers was able to continue its journey south.







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