

District Monitor



Vol 26, No 30

REACHING RANGITIKEI READERS

August 10, 2017

Local youth join national forum

A group of 16 Marton youths headed to Auckland last week to participate in the Festival For the Future - a forum for future leaders.

The group, along with four adults, travelled by minibus to Auckland, where they joined 1300 participants from all over the country.

They joined in a series of panels and workshops and listened to speakers on a big variety of topics as diverse as Science for the Future, Health and Wellbeing and Education For the Future.

They also joined in a debate with NZ politicians contesting the upcoming election.

There was also a big emphasis on the environment and the power of films and storytelling.

The event was open to youth aged between 16 and 24 and many of the local group were from Rangitikei College. The adults included Cath Ash, Frank Chapman, Hazel Mulligan and Tanya Thorogood.

Project Marton's Cath Ash organised the trip. She says, "It was a fantastic experience. We all took something out of it. Everyone who participated from Marton is thankful to local organisations; Marton Rotary, Marton Christian Welfare and RDC for supporting the trip. Without them the youth would not have been able to attend and it helped realise Project Marton's motto "cost isn't a barrier". We only had four weeks notice to organise the trip."

The team was also hosted for a meal and tour of Spookers, an Auckland haunted attraction, owned by Rangitikei Mayor Andy Watson and his wife Beth.



The group of local youth attending the Festival For the Future forum in Auckland last week.

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Fashion week designer

24 year old Catherine Saunders, a former student of Rangitikei College, is a student of NZ Fashion Tech in Wellington and has created a garment featured in NZ Fashion Week. She is the daughter of Joanna Saunders from Marton. Catherine is in her third and final year at Fashion Tech. She followed a desire to draft patterns and make Cosplay outfits (costume play). She has just arrived home after a trip to southern India, completing a Prime Minister's scholarship \studying fabric manufacturing with her Fashion Tech class.

Catherine designed one of the 36 Resene Colour of Fashion garments for 2017 Fashion Week. Her creation is called Resene-Smashing.

Catherine says, "I found my inspiration for this garment in the way that Resene describes my colour - Smashing. They state that 'it is a pure bold red. It is so full of provocative energy that it demands to be centre stage.'

Because I have previously studied Performing Arts, I found myself overwhelmingly intrigued and curious about what it meant to be centre stage and what the view looked like. With further research, I found that this inspiration sparked a strong theme. This theme included obvious lines and shapes. When translating these themes into a garment, I placed these lines and shapes onto a dress form, in quite a literal sense.

"This created the skirt, which is full and comprised of several layers, each having 3-4 separate sections, that have each been puffed out by two layers of tulle. Each layer overlaps and sits in a different place to the last. The bodice is simple and strong, with a high front neckline and low back neckline. The bodice ends high on the hips.

"This design embodies the colour Smashing. This design is bold; it has energy and it demands to be centre stage. It is what the view looked like."

Where she wants to be



A familiar face at Marton New World - Marilyn Gillingham celebrated working there for Marton New World for 25 years on Wednesday and she couldn't be happier.

After 25 years working at Marton New World, Marilyn Gillingham is as happy as she can be. "I love the job and its people. After this long, I still enjoy waking up and going to work," says Marilyn who has seen four owners come and go in her time.

She first joined New World, in full time capacity, 25 years ago, when Dave Holden was the owner. Prior to that she cleaned and was on call for four years. She worked with former owners Gary Hasler, Raewyn and Neil McCormick and now present owner Brendon Shoebridge, who she describes as a great boss.

She has worked in produce, deli, butchery departments and is currently a checkout supervisor. "The only thing I haven't done, is work in the office," she says the great thing about New World is, that you can train on the job and you can be whatever you want to be and go on to anywhere you want too (within the company). I have even had shot as a barrisita - my dream job."

Marilyn has been around so long, a new generation of employees has arrived. "It has been quite cool to be working and training the kids of former workmates," she says.

Over the years, Marilyn says she has seen big changes in many aspects of the New World shopping experience. Checkouts have become digital, liquor was introduced to supermarkets in 1990 and self-service checkouts are a fixture now.

She has seen the New World premises expand and then move to the present location. She says when the present store opened, the first customer into the new building said it looked like a big city shop.

After 25 years full time, Marilyn is part of the texture of Marton New World - it's a job she loves, along with dealing with people.

Marton New World held something special for this long serving staff member on Wednesday -so wish her well.

Offers help out



Readers will be pleased to know that homeless man Aaron Sheehan (above) has had a number of generous offers of a home from people in Marton. After looking at his several options, he has now found a long term home. He was overwhelmed by the reaction to his plight. Aaron wants to thank Andy Watson, Peter Wood, Cath Ash, Marton Christian Welfare and Awhina Downs for their help. Thanks Marton - you didn't let him down. Ed - RDM.



Catherine Saunders with her 2017 fashion week design.

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Meet the Rangitikei candidates in Marton

The general election is getting very near (September 23) and there has been plenty of political party jostling; keeping us a little bewildered about actual policies.

Locally, we will soon have the chance to see Rangitikei electorate candidates representing the main parties – National, Labour, Green and NZ First.

If you want to ask a question of the candidates, you have the chance to send your question into Project Marton by August 14. They will collate them and send them to the candidates attending the Meet The Candidates evening, so contenders can answer every question fully. Send questions to projectmarton@xtra.co.nz

Project Marton has organised the Meet The Candidates meeting in Marton on Thursday August 24 at the Marton Friendship Hall in Morris St, starting at 6.30pm. Entry is free.

Candidates standing for Rangitikei 2017:

Green - Robin McCandless

National Ian McKelvie (incumbent)

NZ First - Ian Stevenson

Labour - Heather Warren

Act - Neil Wilson.



Heather Warren standing for Labour.



Incumbent National's Ian McKelvie is standing again.

Horizons Region to receive over \$5.84 million for freshwater improvements

The Horizons region has been successful in securing over \$5.84 million from central government under the Freshwater Improvement Fund. This will contribute to projects worth \$12.3 million over four catchments within Manawatu-Whanganui.

Horizons, in conjunction with territorial authorities, iwi, and landowners, submitted five applications toward the fund in April this year. Four of these applications have been successful from a total of 33 projects throughout the country, that will share \$44 million from the fund collectively.

Horizons chairman Bruce Gordon says three of these applications are for initiatives for the Manawātū River, Whangaehu River, and Lake Waipu, which Horizons will manage. The fourth successful application was made by the Lake Horowhenua Trust. "It's really pleasing to have secured such a significant amount of funding for projects that will make direct improvements to the quality of freshwater in our region," says Mr Gordon.

"All of our applications that included upgrading wastewater discharges from water to land were successful, which is a positive step forward."

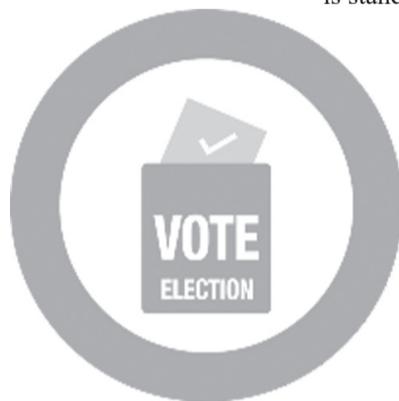
In Rangitikei, The Ngā Wai Ora o te Whangaehu Freshwater Improvement project will cost \$1.68 million, with \$590,000 being contributed from MfE. This project will include 60 kilometres of stream fencing, to prevent stock access; 12,000 riparian plants; 5 fish pass fixes, and 10 community-led restoration projects.

"We're collaborating very closely with Ngati Rangī iwi and landowners, who are providing a combined contribution of over \$450,000 towards the Whangaehu River initiatives. Horizons has also committed over \$450,000, with the Freshwater Improvement Fund covering \$590,000," says Mr Gordon.

Horizons natural resources and partnerships group manager Dr Jon Roygard, says to have been the third most successful region to have secured central government funding and to be able to progress freshwater interventions throughout the region, is really pleasing.

"These projects will add further value to the regulatory and non-regulatory work already being undertaken, for which we are seeing improved freshwater quality results," says Dr Roygard. Water quality trends across the 36 sites monitored region-wide from 2006-2015, show 16 per cent of sites have improved in turbidity; 22 per cent have improved in bacteria levels, 28 per cent have improved phosphorus levels and over half of the 36 sites have improved nitrogen levels.

"We know there is still more work to be done and these newly funded projects will continue to move us in the right direction to improving freshwater for our communities."



60,000 VOTERS GONE, NO ADDRESS

60,000 voters could miss out on voting in the September General Election after their enrolment update packs were returned marked "gone - no address".

Enrolment update packs were sent to 3.15 million enrolled voters at the end of June, to check their details were correctly listed on the electoral roll, for the September General Election. Voters whose packs are returned to sender are taken off the electoral roll.

"Those voters need to get back on the roll now so their vote will count this election," says Chief Electoral Officer, Alicia Wright. "If you've moved house, you will need to update your enrolment details online, or fill in a new enrolment form and return it to us."

People can enrol, check and update their details at www.elections.org.nz - pick up an enrolment form at a PostShop, or request a form by calling 0800 36 76 56 or texting their name and address to 3676.

"You can enrol right up until midnight on Friday 22 September but not on election day itself, which is Saturday 23 September. However, the earlier you're enrolled and ready to vote, the better," says Ms Wright.

Voting starts in New Zealand on Monday 11 September when advance voting places open until election day on 23 September.

BITS n' PIECES



Shaw House Seniors - will have Marion Dean with her EASI Living mobile van at their monthly meeting, 11 August at 11am - followed by a light luncheon. All seniors citizens welcome. Bruce St, Hunterville.

Monty's Surprise apple trees are being given away at the Marton Community Gardens on Saturday August 12. There is a working bee at 8am, then at 12 noon, the apple trees will be given away. There is a limited number so it's first in, first served. They are free but a small donation towards the Community Garden would be appreciated.

Monty's Surprise is a heritage tree with cancer fighting and other health properties. The trees are made available with the help of the Whanganui Health Network and Heritage Food Crop Research Trust.

A Night in Vegas! - Come help support Clifton School with their R18 black tie casino evening! Fabulous auction items, drinks and nibbles available. Will be a great entertaining night out. Saturday 12 August - doors open at 7.30pm. \$35 per ticket - includes bubbles on entry and casino chips to start with. Tickets available at Bulls, Feilding and Marton libraries or email fots@clifton.school.nz

Art 4 Art's Sake - Bulls Town Hall, open 16 August - 22 August, 10am - 4pm daily. Entries close on August 6. Contact Jan Harris, 0211745951 - bulls.community@xtra.co.nz

Bulls Wear-A-Bull Art Show - "A Night in Hollywood" Bulls Town Hall, Saturday August 19. Theme: A Night in Hollywood - entries by August 12. Booklet available at the Bulls Library and Bulls Information Centre. For more info: contact Jan Harris 0211745951 - bulls.community@xtra.co.nz

Marton Friendship Club Hall - garage sale, Morris St on Saturday September 2 - accepting donations of saleable items. Phone 327 4522 - (pick up organiser) before 9am or after 5pm.

Marton Historical Village in Wellington Rd - the village and archives are open to visitors every Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 3pm.

Bulls School 150th reunion - Labour Weekend, October 2017 - contact the school office for more information, or put your name forward to help organise this exciting

Advertise your event and be listed in our Bits n' Pieces until it's on. Ph 06 327 7881. Classifieds deadline, 12 noon Wednesdays.

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CLUB SCENE



The Happy Tours

A well-attended midyear dinner was held at the Cook's Restaurant on June 2. Thanks Anton, Helen and staff for providing a delicious meal. The lucky raffle winners were Tina, Dianne and Pearle. Birthday gals were Tari and Rosemary. Not so well attended, was our afternoon at the movies. However, we enjoyed the movie and the delicious afternoon tea that followed (thanks Lynette for making the sandwiches). On August 10, we will be providing a free bus for members. The plan for the day will be to depart at 9am, morning tea at Foxton then on to Southward Car Museum. Lunch and for those wishing to do some shopping will be at Paraparaumu shopping centre. Please remember to bring your Gold Card.

Rangitikei Country Music Club

Club day July 16; we had a number of our members laid up with that dreaded flu, however it was an excellent afternoon with several new Marton folk coming along for the first time and four of them stepped up and joined our list of singers. One young teen accompanied by her gran is definitely going to be looking for more songs. Well done! They surprised themselves and us. We held a club day last Sunday. We are very grateful for members contribution to afternoon tea, which is always scrumptious. Remember our clubrooms are warm and inviting, we have a ramp to enable those of you who require that little bit of extra help to enter and exit. So to those of you who haven't joined us yet, come along and experience the Country Music sound first hand. Our clubrooms are at 421 Wellington Rd, on the left heading south before the New World, look for our sign. Contact secretary Glynis Southall 06 327 5001 or president Gloria Williams 06 327 7994.

Taihape Bridge Club

Clark Cup 10.7.17, Robin Batley/Cate McCartin 63.49%, Graeme Gibbs/John Marshall 59.52%, Lynette Collier/Ross

Gordon 57.94%; Clark Cup 17.7.17, Frances Loader/Janette Oates 65.97%, Louisa Gordon/Wendy Totman 58.33%, Lesley Keuning/Toby Schweikert 56.94%; Clark Cup 24.7.17, N/S Louisa Gordon/Wendy Totman 58.10%, Rita Batley/Graeme Gibbs 57.14%, Judith Hintz/Allan Thomas 51.90%, E/W Robin Batley/Cate McCartin 61.11%, Marian Cleaver/Allison Thomas 58.89%, Mike Cottrell/Hunter Howard 53.33%; Clark Cup 31.7.17, N/S John Marshall/Toby Schweikert 65.97%, Marian Cleaver/Allison Thomas 62.15%, Robin Batley/Cate McCartin 51.74%, E/W Rita Batley/Graeme Gibbs 59.13%, Celia Bell/Coral Thomas 57.94%, Lynette Collier/Ross Gordon 57.54%.

Turakina Women's Institute

July Meeting. Motto for the month was 'Life is not measured by the moments we take a breath but by the moments our breath is taken away.'

President Pat Perry welcomed all six members on a cold miserable day, inviting all to come closer around the heater to keep warm.

Competitions for the August meeting were gone over. Preparation was put in place for the Combined Kaitoke/Turakina Mini Flower show to be held on the 9 September; the September meeting (sustainability month) will be a visit to the Wanganui Recycling Centre; the October meeting (birthday month) members will dine out at Sugar Plum in Marton and as November is our 'Christmas meeting' plans were started for this day.

Member Hazel Thomson finished the day by giving an account of her recent cruise from Auckland to the islands of Hawaii, finishing her holiday by flying back to NZ. Their cruise boat visited several of the islands, seeing and visiting interesting spots. The constant lava flows means the island is forever changing and growing.

Next month's meeting will be held at G Manning's, 1a College St, Wanganui. Be assured it will be warmer than the Tennis Clubrooms in July.

Monthly competition results; Garden Gem - 1st G Manning, 2nd J Gillam, 3rd M McAlpine. Floral - 'Design in a cup and Saucer' - 1st P Perry, 2nd J Gillam, 3rd J Marshall. Cooking - '4 Afghans' - 1st M McAlpine, 2nd = J Gillam & J Marshall, 3rd = P Perry & G Manning. Handcraft - 'Operation Doll' 1st J Gillam, 2nd P Perry, 3rd = M McAlpine & J Marshall.

FROM THE PULPIT



BEING NEIGHBOURS

"We must regain the conviction that we need one another; that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world and that being good and decent are worth it." Pope Francis.

Pope Francis, in his letter *Laudato Si'*, is passionate that community and connection is one of the most powerful things we have, as we respond to the significant social and environmental challenges facing us today. He discusses how global change in the form of social breakdown, increased violence, loss of identity and inequitable distribution and consumption of energy, are some of the signs of real social decline. And yet "if communities are created... any place can turn from being a hell on earth into the setting for a dignified life." The theme for Social Justice Week this year is Weaving Bonds of Belonging: Knowing our neighbours. We focus on what it looks like today, to build communities of hope and belonging, right where we are.

Let us slow down, spend some time with the words of Pope Francis, examine our connections and disconnections and consider one small action that we can take to weave bonds of belonging in our daily life this week. This prayer and reflection resource can be used in a group or family setting where quotes are read out loud and questions are discussed and ideas are shared. Or it can be done alone with a journal and with the Holy Spirit, our guide.

Bernard O'Donnell (Taihape Ministers' Association).



HUNTERVILLE SHAW HOUSE SENIORS INVITE

seniors from Hunterville and surrounding area, to an

EASI Living Mobile Van Service presentation

given by Marion Dean from Palmerston North
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Take a seat on Broadway



A new public seat has been installed outside the supermarket in Broadway in Marton, by the team pictured who generously donated their time - from left: Wayne Spencer, president of Marton Rotary, Randall McIlwaine owner of Mitre 10 and his son Mark McIlwaine with Tim Gilbertson erected a new seat outside Countdown on Saturday 22 July.

The seat was generously donated by Mitre 10 and carries on the theme ad style of seating, previously installed down the street, outside Marton Pharmacy and The Daily Grind, during the last project to further enhance the shopping area. The latest seating project was a further initiative by the Marton Placemaking Group supported by the Rangitikei District Council.

New funeral home about to be built in Marton

Marton is getting a brand new funeral home chapel on the site of the present chapel owned by Beauchamp Funeral Directors.

Owners Peter and Julie Beauchamp originally moved to Marton in 1981 when Marton funeral directors Evan and Vin Cobham retired after many years of service to the community.

In 1984, the Beauchamp's built the existing funeral home in Morris St, when their son Anthony was young. He and his sister Emily now manage the funeral home.

They say that the town of Marton and surrounding district has supported them so well over the past 37 years, they would like to leave a new chapel and reception lounge as part of their legacy.

In order for Peter and Julie to maintain a viable operation, over the years, they have also opened a funeral home in Feilding and a crematorium in Palmerton North.

The new Marton funeral home and chapel will include seating for 150, with provision for overflow in an adjoining internal room. A kitchen, lounge and two family visiting rooms will also be included. The new funeral chapel will meet a growing need.

The Beauchamps say, "The majority of funerals, these days, are held in venues other than churches, meaning families from Hunterville, Marton and, Bulls are having to travel out of the district."

Construction is due to begin very soon, meaning the existing funeral home will be unavailable for approximately four months.

The Beauchamp's Feilding funeral chapel and facilities will be available for Rangitikei clients, during that time, at no extra charge for the venue or for travelling.

The new Marton building has been designed by Graham Calkin and will be built by Rayner Building Ltd. All the contractors involved in the project are from the local area.



Anthony Beauchamp in 1981 as a toddler, overseeing the building of the soon to be demolished Beauchamp funeral chapel in Marton. He and his sister Emily now manage the funeral home.



Left: The original Cobham's funeral chapel in Morris St.

10,000 consumers support sneaky fees petition

Ten thousand people have put their names to Consumer NZ's online petition calling for law changes to clamp down on misleading pricing practices.

Consumer NZ chief executive Sue Chetwin says its research shows shoppers could be paying \$68 million each year in sneaky fees retailers add to the advertised price of goods and services.

Ms Chetwin says the extra charges, often disguised as "booking" or "service" fees, aren't disclosed upfront and mislead consumers about what they have to pay.

Consumer NZ's online petition calls for all-inclusive pricing rules to be added to the Fair Trading Act to force retailers to disclose the full purchase price upfront. Ms Chetwin presented the petition last week, to the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Jacqui Dean.

"Shoppers are regularly being stung by hidden fees when they buy goods and services, particularly when they're shopping online," Ms Chetwin says. Adding fees to the advertised price is a practice known as "drip pricing". Ms Chetwin says companies use it because it makes consumers more likely to buy and less likely to shop around.

In its Sneaky Fees report, Consumer NZ highlights examples of fees being added to prices advertised by online florists, sports event promoters, theatres, accommodation providers and car dealers.

Ms Chetwin says the price shown for a product should be the total price you pay. "Retailers shouldn't be able to dupe consumers by displaying only part of the cost."

A majority of consumers (68 percent) agree retailers should be required to disclose the total price in their advertising.

Consumer NZ is writing to political parties, ahead of the election, asking them to support changes to the Fair Trading Act.

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Wear-A-Bull Arts show has Hollywood theme

If you love fashion and art, then the Bulls annual Wear-a-Bull Arts show is for you. It's on stage at the Bulls Town Hall on Saturday, August 19 from 7pm.

The theme this year is "A Night In Hollywood," and promises to be a night of glamour and glitter. The standard of entries is always high for the Bulls event and this year is no exception. Tickets can be purchased through the Bulls Information Centre and from the Marton Library. Organiser Bulls community manager Jan Harris says, "We look forward to seeing you for a great show of the creative talent from all ages in the region."

Saturday 19 Aug 2017, 7pm-10pm - Bulls Town Hall, 87 High St, Bulls.

Contact: bullscommunity@xtra.co.nz

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Winter Gardening by Wally Richards Earth Building



Increasing weapon against drink driving

Alcohol interlocks becoming a mandatory sentence for drink drivers, is one of the most significant blows against drink driving in NZ history, says the Automobile Association.

Alcohol interlocks are like a breathalyser in a car, that requires the driver to do tests before and during a car trip. If the driver has any alcohol in their system the car will not start.

“The law has now finally been changed to make it mandatory for the highest risk drink drivers to have to have an interlock put in their vehicle. That is going to mean, less drink drivers getting back behind the wheel, less crashes and less lives lost. “Alcohol interlocks are the best weapon we have to keep drink drivers off the road but, until now, they’ve been sitting in the holster,” says AA Motoring Affairs GM Mike Noon.

“One third of the deaths on our roads right now involve alcohol and we have to do more to stop them.”

The government’s Land Transport Amendment Bill that passed into law last week will make alcohol interlocks a mandatory sentence for repeat drink drivers or those caught at very high levels of intoxication.

About 10,000 drink drivers, eligible for an interlock, appear in courts each year but under the previous sentencing system only a few hundred were receiving an interlock sentence. In 2016, less than 400 interlocks, currently active in NZ, stopped a driver affected by alcohol, being able to start a car 2124 times.

“AA is closely monitoring the number of drink drivers receiving interlocks from 2018. If we can get at least 5000 offenders a year having an interlock put in their vehicle, it’s going to likely prevent tens of thousands of attempts to drink and drive.”

If you want to grow plants and grow them successfully, you have to provide them with a growing medium that is going to help them to grow not only healthy but to their full potential.

The basic medium to grow plants in is; the natural soil that has been building up over millions of years. It’s under your feet when you walk outside. Called by names such as dirt, mud, earth, loam land, clay, land and terra firma. (Latin meaning: firm land)

In a recent article, I pointed out how the East and in particular China, have over thousands of years, learnt the secrets of earth building, replacing what is taken out and often putting more back in which has been removed while growing crops.

A reader, Haikai Tane who has travelled extensively though China, gaining knowledge and is highly regarded in his field of sustainability, replied to my article, with lots of information such as the following;

I have found three main traditional ways of fermenting wastes in China's rural heartlands but only one example of crude composting: a poor old lady whose husband had died, was piling her waste in a heap not far from the house and shitting on top of it daily - very simple!

The villagers tell me that composting loses too much nutrient energy from oxidation and volatilisation which they need for growing crops!

The main way is the sealed fermentation pit with tight fitting lid. The pit is located beside the house and pig sty with a pipe syphoning off methane for gaslight or a gas stove. This method is called the pig gas digester. It consumes all the human excrement of the household, the resulting, enriched "fermented liquid fertilizers" smells more like alcohol than effluents - a rich sweet smell. This liquid is highly cherished and used subsoil before over planting, sometimes, with a slurry of sediment when the pit needs replenishing. Because there is a possibility of pathogens remaining in the fermentation pits, it is not used to fertilize growing plants or wet top soils. Thus, from the Chinese whom are the masters of Earth Building and long term sustainability of the soils. The western style composting has minimum benefits when compared to other methods which are used, directly in the soil. For instance, from rural farming days of the past where availability of land for use was no obstacle. A trench would be dug across the vegetable garden a couple of spades deep and about a metre wide. All the kitchen waste would be thrown into one end of the trench and, likely, along with any organic material and animal manures.

When that bit of the trench was up to soil level, it would be covered with dirt. The next bit of the trench was used for the waste and it was repeated the length of the trench, after which, a new trench would be dug alongside. You can imagine the soil life activity in the covered trench; microbes, earthworms having a field day and no goodness disappearing into the atmosphere. Maximum returns and lots of healthy crops to harvest.

To digress a little; reminds me of a story that a chap once told me. He used to visit his girl friends house for tea on Sunday nights and would always take a basket of fresh vegetables with him.

The parents were truly amazed at the size of the produce and its flavour. They would ask the lad what was his father’s secrets to grow such big wonderful vegetables. He could never tell them because his father would clean out the septic tank every year and place the contents over the vegetable garden! A true story.

For us gardeners, who don’t want to divert their sewage into a holding tank for the gardens, we can make good use of animal and chicken manures in our gardens, placing them in the planting hole, or when preparing a bed or a raised garden, laying the manure across the garden and covering with a

purchased compost. Side dressing existing plants such as roses, spread the manure along with blood and bone over the root zone and then cover with compost. The covering is important as it locks the goodness in.

Now some of you may have heard of a natural product called Biochar?

From wikipedia:

Pre-Columbian Amazonians are believed to have used biochar to enhance soil productivity. They seem to have produced it by smoldering agricultural waste (ie: covering burning biomass with soil) in pits or trenches.

Biochar is recognised as offering a number of benefits for soil health. Many benefits are related to the extremely porous nature of biochar.

This structure is found to be very effective at retaining both water and water-soluble nutrients. Soil biologist say the extreme suitability of biochar as a habitat for many beneficial soil micro organisms.

When precharged with these beneficial organisms, biochar becomes an extremely effective soil amendment promoting good soil and in turn, plant, health.

Biochar has also been shown to reduce leaching of E-coli through sandy soils, depending on application rate, feedstock, pyrolysis temperature, soil moisture content, soil texture and surface properties of the bacteria.

For plants that require high potash and elevated pH, biochar can be used as a soil amendment to improve yield.

Biochar can improve water quality, reduce soil emissions of greenhouse gases, reduce nutrient leaching, reduce soil acidity, and reduce irrigation and fertilizer requirements.

Biochar was also found under certain circumstances, to induce plant systemic responses to foliage fungal diseases and to improve plant responses to diseases caused by soil borne pathogens.

To allow gardeners easy access to the benefits of biochar, I have released a new product that I have called, Wallys Earth Builder plus.

Available in a 2.5 kg jar which can be used over 25sqM of soil or at the rate of 100 grams per sqM. Lightly worked into the soil or raised garden prior to planting or a few of the round pellets placed in the planting hole will not only improve your soils but it also supplies nutrients and health benefits to your plants.

Wallys Earth Builder is a natural fertiliser with a NPK rating of 13.5:5.3:7.1 plus trace elements.

The beneficial micro-organisms reproduce around the roots, enhancing nutrient transfer and disease resistance by reducing fungal, bacterial and insect infestations.

It activates soil, improve soil structure, increases soil aeration and improve soil fertility.

Organic materials, including humic acids and small molecules, promote plant nutrient absorption.

The inorganic, soluble nutrients boost the immediate availability of NPK to boost plant growth and yields, whereas, the product reduces nutrient losses to the atmosphere and through leaching.

Wallys Earth Builder will be available this week, as soon as labels arrive.

Any problems: phone me at 0800 466464 (Palmerston North 3570606).

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After the storm

By Terry Karatau

Severe damage to infrastructure and land throughout the Taihape district, caused by the July snowstorm has been attended to. However, there is still a way to go before the district is close to being back to normal.

On farms, landslips, blocked access tracks, downed trees and power poles are just some of the work still to be completed.

Once again, the people of the Taihape community banded together to show neighbourly support for each other.

The new Neighbourhood Support chairperson Jenni Caldwell said the snowstorm showed how important it is to get to know your neighbours because often, they are the only ones that can support you.

"We have already made those essential contacts so let's keep it going through Neighbourhood Support."

The goal is to have every street in Taihape covered by one or two support volunteers and set up a phone tree, that could be used in times of emergency.

Jenni says, "Get to know your neighbours and your neighbourhood."

To find out more, contact the Neighbourhood Support coordinator, Angela Oliver on 02102851477.



GOT NEWS?
Call Terry 388 1197 or text 021 061 9160



After the July storm, contractors have a big job ahead; fixing a large slip that was close to undermining the main trunk railway line in Taihape.



Tyre marks on the wet lawn at Gumbboot Park are not a good look.

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A Taste of Rangitikei

Taste the delicacies on offer at Rangitikei quality food outlets ... there is something to suit everyone's taste.



A reminder that Marton's **Club Hotel** is hosting a "Beyond the Arabian Nights" performance, by the '5th Element' dance group, this Saturday, 12 August, from 6pm. Entry is free and a full dinner menu will be available. On Friday 18 August, from 6pm, a 'Wine Night' will take place, in association with New World Marton. Karan and Jasleen, Club Hotel hosts, invite customers to "Come and try our 'Big Boy' Steak meal, with a complimentary handle of Tui!" (see photo). Contact Club Hotel on 06 327 8294 for functions, private parties, birthdays, meetings etc.



Hot soups are the ideal way to warm up at this time of the year and **Peggy & Lil's Café** on Follett St, Marton, has tasty food on offer that includes popular varieties; tomato & basil and ham & vegetable. Owner Awhina Downs has added asparagus quiche and kumara cake (pictured), to the café's always interesting and varied menu. Visit Peggy & Lil's quaint little café opposite Marton Park for great coffee, friendly service and delicious, nourishing food!

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Marton Seafoods on Broadway is the place to go for great fish and chips but it's only one of their many tasty meal options and owner Sam Crow says, "I'm very keen to hear suggestions from customers, as we are always looking to add new food choices to our menu. Marton Seafoods' Facebook page lists the popular takeaway's menu, where you can choose your meal and give them a call on 327 8870 to order.

Macaroni cheese is your latest lunch option at Marton's **Centennial Park Dairy**. It comes in a sealed plastic takeaway container, with fork, and will cost you just \$4.50. 'Sweet As' popcorn is still available, along with the popular takeaway outlet's wide and varied menu that includes; Country Fried Chicken, chips, toasted sandwiches, mini pizzas and much more. Come into Centennial Park Dairy, where the shop's 'roaring trade' ensures food is always fresh and tasty!

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MARTON HOCKEY

Long-time "rivals", High School came fired up on Saturday night. Starting out strong, they took an early lead. Marton kept its cool and came back for a 1-1 scoreline at halftime. The second half saw High School starting out strong again; scoring, to put them in front 2-1. Marton stuck to its game and played some great team hockey; scoring 3 well worked goals and taking the win 4-2. MVP points, sponsored by Crewcut Wanganui, were 1 to Grayson Belk, 2 to Xavier Andrews and 3 to Todd Sutton, who also scored a hat trick. Dick of the day was coach Matt Belk; for messing up the scoreboard.

TARGET SHOOTING MARTON

Results 7/8/2017. Well, Kayla Gledhill finally reaped the rewards of self-belief and solid build-up of good shooting in recent weeks, at home and away, and this week, set an absolute PB; by totally outshooting everyone by a country mile. She had a good, 99.3 first up card but Wayne Hunt shot a blinder 99.8 for his first card. Reon Sowry and Allan Wright both shot 97's for their first cards. These three were not able to hold their nerve for the second round and Kayla responded with a good 97.3, to secure top spot; with an excellent total of 196.3. Young Luke Sowry also had a good night, with a 98.3 for his second card. Sammy Gledhill had a good shoot and took the third spot for the week. Kayla Gledhill 99.03 97.03 196.06, Wayne Hunt 99.08 95.00 194.08, Samantha Gledhill 96.04 98.02 194.06, Don Hamilton 96.02 98.04 194.06, Gary Cuff 96.03 97.04 193.07, Peter Lissington 94.02 99.04 193.06, Luke Sowry 94.02 98.03 192.05, Reon Sowry 97.02 94.02 191.04, Fred de Burgh 95.02 95.01 190.03, Jake Wright 94.02 95.04 189.06, Bob Crawford 95.03 94.03 189.06, Allan Wright 97.04 91.01 188.05, Guy Forster Pratt 88.01 96.03 184.04, Graeme Sixtus 94.01 89.00 183.01, Kevin Moody 88.01 89.01 177.02, Alicia Ruardy 83.00 81.00 164.00.

MARTON NINE HOLE GOLF

A very small number braved the weather to play our stableford round on Tuesday. Results as follows: 1st division: 1st Bryan Hammerton. 2nd division: 1st Richard Peirce. 3rd division: 1st Ewan Grant. Lucky card winner: Richard Peirce and raffle winner: Mike Donlon. Next week's starters: Ewan Grant & Dave McDougall. Cards: Jill Bryant & Marion MacPhee. Kitchen: Barry Williams.

RANGITIKEI GOLF CLUB

Results 2 August: a rainy old day but the brave and hardy got out there for a round at Rangitikei. Clive Robinson was top of the pops, with 40 stablefords. Mark Nevile 37, Ian Whitehead, Julian Elliot, Geoff Ingram and Neil Atkins 36, Daniel Scotson 35, Peter Young 32, Jono Cotton 31, Neville Berendt and Steve Boyens 29, Ash Reed 28. Two's: Daniel Scotson 3rd.

MARTON THURSDAY GOLF

3 August. A Stewart 39, N Gordon 38, T Arnott 38, H Bremner 38, G Velvin 38, D Clark 37, P Simpson 36, D Angove 36, B Beck 35, T Hammond 33, P Connolly 33, T McVerry 31, B Francis 30. Most golf: B Cameron. Saturday August 5; stableford; voucher from GK Skou Transport. Craig Skou 42 (voucher), G Marshall 41, T Hammond 41, D Clark 40, B Beck 39, S Melis 39, B Cameron 39, P O'Connor 38, G Calkin 38, N Gordon 37, C Skou 36, C Williams 35, R Yorke 35, R Win 35, P Skou 35, B Francis 35, A Corser 35, Poppe 34, P Simpson 34, E Clark 34, J Ritchie 34, D Morrison 34, D Chapman 34. Being here: J Furness, T McVerry, A Stewart. Twos: R Yorke, G Marshall 3rd, Clark N Gordon, C Skou, B Hausman 6th, A Bary 17th. Jackpot of 12 balls was struck on 6th. McVerry Crawford tournament 11am, Sunday 20 August. Working bee Tuesday 9am to 12. T Hammond would like to see you there. Next week: stableford. Duty: D Angove. Bar: A Bary and J Christie. Shay is playing Manawatu/Whanganui rep at Otaki tomorrow.

HAWKESTONE GOLF CLUB

Saturday 5 August. The Tax Helper club champs, qualifying round 3; medal. S/men; K Hill nett 63, H McDonald 65, M Taiuru 67, D Nicholls 68, G Forbes 70, J Stella & K Rei Jnr 71.

J/men; D Wright nett 67, M Porter 68, P Maitland & D Todd 69, G Stanton & M Neumann 70. Women; 1st S Wells, 2nd P Charlesworth, 3rd J Stantiall. Nearest the pins; s/men = not struck; j/men = D Wright; women = P Charlesworth. Two; K Hill #7 & 16, M Neumann & D Wright #14, H McDonald #16. Jackpot: 14 balls not struck #2. Taimui challenge; Bondy & Pete lost to Grant F & Spike. Next challengers; Andy & Pinky. Coming events: Tuesday golfers' 18 holes; 9am and 9 holes; 9.30am tee off. Saturday 12th - Jock Wasson memorial 24 holes; 10.30am tee off. Club champs: 1st round matches played on, or before, Sat 2 Sept. Programme amendment; Sat August 19 Wilton Cup deferred from 15/7. Visitors and casual golfers play 9, or 18 holes for only \$10. New members pay only \$250. All welcome. Contact Grant; 0210 572 931.

ST FRANCIS INDOOR BOWLS

A few members missing this week but we had a good evening; playing three games of triples, with Ray, Bev and Jennifer being the winners on the night. Graeme was the lucky raffle winner. Next week, we host St Stephen's and Bulls bowling club members for a social evening of bowls; so we hope everyone comes along for a great social night of bowls.

8-BALL POOL

Marton lost its semi-final against Wanganui East Red on 1 August, by 16-5. Ross Marshall and Wayne South recorded singles wins. In the pairs, Graham & Ross Marshall won 2 games, Ray Butler & Stephen Lewis had 1 win. Sunday 6 August saw team finals played in Wanganui. The division 1 final resulted in an 11-1 victory for Wanganui East Gold, over Wanganui East Red. The match was called off after the singles rounds, as the Gold team had an unassailable lead. In division 2, the match was much closer; St John's and Cosmopolitan A sharing the singles, 6-6. St Johns won 5 of the first 6 pairs matches however, to lead 11-7. This match was also called off at that point. The top 16 singles shootout was won by John Rerekura, from Castlecliff, who beat; Allan Pond (Marton), Tina Simpson (Castlecliff) and Aaran Lilley (Wanganui East), on his way to the final. He won the final 3-1, over Steve Robertson from Wanganui East. The Wanganui representative team, to play Manawatu and Horowhenua-Kapiti in Wanganui, on 27 August is; men - Neville Edwards (c), Aaran Lilley, Steve Robertson, Willie Matthews, Steve Matthews, Mike Healey, Mike Watson (all Wanganui East), Graeme Couper (St John's), Allan Pond (Marton), Sam Haapu, Dallas Rodgers (Castlecliff), Chris Burney (Cosmopolitan). Ladies - Charlene Tamati, Trish Amoroa (St Johns), Tina Johnson-Downs (Cosmopolitan) and Tina Simpson (Castlecliff). Reserves - Steve Rerekura, John Rerekura (Castlecliff), Matiu Williams (St John's) and Jess Trethewey (Bulls).

Email us your Sports and Club Reports by 10am Tuesday; monitoradvertising@xtra.co.nz up to 200 words

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Rostered shifts are Tuesday to Saturdays inclusive, and include split shifts.

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Position description and application forms are available on our website, www.ngatawa.school.nz/vacancies.

Applications should be sent to; employment@ngatawa.school.nz

Applications should include covering letter, current Curriculum Vitae and completed application form, and must be with the school by 5.00pm, Tuesday 22nd August 2017.

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RANGITIKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice is hereby given of the following change of meeting in **August 2017**

Ratana Community Board
 Tuesday 15th at 6.30 pm
 (Ture Tangata Office, Ihipera-Koria Street, Ratana Paa)

This meeting was originally advertised for 8 August 2017

Any queries, please phone 06 327 0099 or 0800 422 522

Ross McNeil
 Chief Executive



BULLS RUGBY CLUB

A huge thank you to all our sponsors and organisers for making the Bulls Hunting Competition an awesome day. Without their help the day wouldn't have been possible.

Terry Linklater, Carey White (Boots), Matt Holden, Ross Thorby, Troy Thorby, Chris and Natalie Third, Russell, Ward, Wayne Ward and David Andrews, Hunting and Fishing Manawatu, Hunting and Fishing Whanganui, Marine Services Whanganui, Roadrunner Manufacturing NZ Ltd, Waipine Logging, Waitomo Fuel, Rodger and Hugh Dalrymple, Agri Fencing and Development, Extreme Hunting Whanganui, Gibson Field Services, B Jamieson, Dr P Nelson, Matt Holden Builders, TDL Automotive, Braden Hammond Plumbing, Veronica Jaynes Beautiful Hair, Bulls Four Square, Fruehauf NZ Ltd, A Third, D and A Andrews, T Thorby and C Third, Dead Eye Dick's Levin, Turners Sport, Farmlands Marton, Hardy Rifle Engineering Ltd, Rural Tyres, S.R.V.S, Bulls, UFO Cookers, Harris Contracting, NZ Trophy Processing Ltd, Mcdonald Equipment Whanganui, Bulls Tyres and Auto, Designer Direct, Central Auto Parts, Tim Field, ITM Marton, A Hartley.

MARTON BIBLE CHAPEL



Sunday August 13

10am
 Family Worship Service and Kids' Club
Speaker:
 Daniel Schwann
Subject:
 Why Should I Fear the Lord?
All Welcome

Rangitikei Anglican Parish

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday August 13
 8.00 & 9.30am St Stephen's, Marton
 9.30am St Andrew's, Bulls
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Wednesday August 16
 10.00am St Stephen's, Marton

Contact: Parish Office 06 327 8398

Raffle Results

NZ RED CROSS RANGITIKEI BRANCH

Raffle winners - drawn under police supervision.

1st prize - groceries - ticket 123 - Josie Bismark
 2nd prize - box of bottle sauces - ticket 537 - Mary Grant

Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle. The proceeds go towards community projects.



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 Marton 7.45am Adoration - Mass 9am
Bulls Tuesday Mass 10am
Marton Wednesday Mass and Adoration 10am

Weekend Masses
 Marton Saturday Mass 10am - followed by Reconciliation
Bulls Saturday Mass 6pm
Marton Sunday Mass 9.30am - 2pm Devotions
Rata Mass 9am, 4th Sunday of month. Whangaehu masses suspended.

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Discussion "The future of the hall"
 Chairman - R Gower
 06 327 6436

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Sunday August 13, 2017 at 10.30am

Rev. John Peill
 Country Friendly Service
 Shared Lunch
 AGM
 All Welcome



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Meeting time **Sunday 10am**

For meeting place phone: Pastor Graham Moore 027 612 7655

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Graduating from the staff training programme, in Wanganui.

By Karen Hughes

Wanganui and Rangitikei business organisations are being offered a free staff training programme, under a government-funded upskilling scheme. Private tertiary education provider Training For You is certified to deliver workplace training to organisations whose workforce have communication, literacy or numeracy needs.

Based on a 2006 survey, there were over 1 million adult New Zealanders who did not have the literacy and numeracy skills required to fully engage in New Zealand society, including the world of work. The impact this has on the country's ability to become more productive in business and improve the economy has been recognised.

At a recent Wanganui Chamber of Commerce business gathering, general manager of Training For You, Campbell Means explained the Workplace Literacy and Numeracy Fund; "The Government knows that not all adult New Zealanders with literacy and/or numeracy needs can stop work to do a full time course to improve their skills. So they developed a strategy to take the training to the people in their workplace. The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) has given Training For You funding to design, develop, and deliver workplace literacy and numeracy programmes to address these needs in workplaces around New Zealand. The programmes contribute to business outcomes including increased productivity, better health and safety, reduced waste and enhanced worker engagement."

The terms literacy and numeracy relate directly to traditional skills like reading, writing and maths, but also include speaking and listening, communication skills, customer service, digital literacy, computing skills, and confidence to contribute to meetings.

Business development manager Kristine Dickson says even managing personal finances affects employee performance, "Financial literacy can have quite an impact on how employees perform in their work – things like reading a payslip, understanding KiwiSaver, knowing exactly what you are being paid and how to budget with it."

Kristine Dickson says the signs of literacy and numeracy issues are not always obvious to employers but there are some clues: "Employers may notice certain patterns happening in their workplaces, such as the misunderstanding of important written information, such as contracts, handbooks, work instructions, or non-compliance with policies and procedures." Other noticeable signs are incomplete or inaccurate paperwork, such as timesheets and incident reports, or reluctance to fill in forms. "People are shy about their inabilities and are often well-practised at covering them up. They might ask others to fill in paperwork for them, or they might take important forms home to complete." Absenteeism, especially on days when staff training is scheduled, or when activities involving reading, writing, or numeracy are scheduled, can also be a telltale sign.

Training For You has identified these signs and can support businesses with staff confidence. Kristine says, "We understand that staff can be reluctant to attend a workplace numeracy and literacy programme, as no one wants to be identified as having poor numeracy and literacy skills. But if their organisation promotes the programme as being professional development, the buy-in is greater and the benefits to the employer are huge." Classes are taught like workshops and are interactive, engaging and in small groups in the workplace. As well as communication skills, team-building and developing a positive organisational culture are real benefits.

Under the current scheme, each learner can get between 25 and 80 hours of training delivered between ten and 40 weeks. The aim is to have between one and four hours of learning per week, with the ideal group size being about eight people. The training occurs at the organisation's workplace, during hours to suit. Training For You can work in consultation with employers to design a bespoke programme that incorporates their own workplace documents, processes and tasks, so that participants can directly apply the skills they develop. Participants have their literacy and numeracy needs assessed at the beginning, to ensure that these are met during the programme and again at the end of the programme, to see what progress has been made.

Residential care provider Radius Care Peppertree (Palmerston North) is a good example of how the training can lift the performance of workers. Designed specifically for Radius Care, the Training For You 'Reach Up With Radius' programme, consistently yields positive results for both management and staff. Radius Care is finding that there are real benefits to this training, including reduced staff turnover and better understanding of - and therefore compliance with - regulations. Radius Care has also noted that its programme supports better team work, understanding and acknowledgment of different communication styles - including workers for whom English is not their first language. Peppertree facility manager Jill Job says their tailored programme supports increased self-esteem, changes in attitudinal issues that are tied up with confidence and the ability to communicate clearly, as well as understand others. "I've seen huge differences in staff," says Jill. "There has been significant growth in confidence and ability to communicate. Staff are now dealing calmly and professionally with situations which could have escalated. Instead, staff have calmly asked for clarification, and indicated what they needed."

Training For You is a category 1 tertiary education provider, as determined by the NZQA External Evaluation Report (published 28 October 2015). The organisation provides national level 1-5 programmes, through online learning and on-campus classes in Wanganui. Training for You is accepting enquiries now, for the free workplace literacy and numeracy training programme.



Right: free staff development opportunities offered to employers result in rewards for staff.

Complete storm clean up could be months away

By Terry Karatau

The storm that hit the lower North Island on July 13 is said to have been the biggest in 50 years; leaving 11,000 Powerco customers throughout Wairarapa, Whanganui, Manawatu, Rangitikei and Taranaki without power. Powerco network operations manager Phil Marsh says it was one of the worst storms to hit Powerco's western region this century. "It was the first time, since 2004, that the entire western region has been affected at once," he added, "this time the whole region from Wairarapa to the central plateau was hit within a day." Because the storm was so severe, with blocked access routes the extent of the damage to Powerco's network was not known until Saturday 15th. Mr Marsh said normally, they have a good idea of what's happened the day after the storm hits. "The combined force of heavy snowfalls, high winds and flooding made this different." The loss of Transpower's national grid supply at Mataroa meant the communities of Ohakune, Taihape, Waiouru and Raetihi went without power for 24 hours. Once this was restored, the recovery team swung into action." Up to 260 Powerco, Downer and other contractors' staff worked around the clock, battling trying conditions, to complete some tasks. Safety was a major priority and regular welfare checks ensured the health of workers was closely monitored. Local people, especially those from the remote country areas, showed their appreciation to workers; whether by a hand shake, a thank you card, or home baking. Most of the recovery work is now complete but Mr Marsh says inspecting the network, for further damage, will take several months. "The tidy up work has begun, although the removal of downed poles might have to wait until ground conditions improve and the lambing season is complete. The network will be thoroughly inspected for defects caused by the storm," Mr Marsh said. Many outlying properties were supplied with generators, to see them through, until power was restored. Powerco also took the opportunity to put their second generation base power units to the test in some of the fairly remote areas. Base power is an all-in-one system that generates renewable electricity from solar panels. Excess energy is stored in batteries, with a diesel generator providing back-up. Mr Marsh says people using them were quite impressed, particularly those at the end of a remote road where the units have delivered an improved supply. He said some of the units may become permanent.

Photos courtesy Powerco.



Left: pole down at Mangaweka. The recovery of downed poles may have to wait until ground conditions improve and the lambing season is complete.



Right: the Kimbolton sub-station after the snow dump.

SUDOKU VERY HARD SUDOKU

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4	6						9	

Last Week's Solution

6	5	8	1	2	3	7	9	4
1	7	9	4	8	6	5	3	2
4	3	2	5	7	9	8	1	6
3	2	5	7	9	8	4	6	1
8	6	4	2	1	5	3	7	9
7	9	1	6	3	4	2	8	5
9	4	6	3	5	7	1	2	8
2	8	7	9	4	1	6	5	3
5	1	3	8	6	2	9	4	7

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Contact Phillip on 027 203 2743

Marton **\$149,000**
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Property ID: M1303

286 Broadway, Marton **\$160,000 + gst (if any)**
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Situated in Marton's shopping centre, this historic building contains 2 retail shops and 3 bedroom accommodation. Small manageable section, with double garage, outbuildings and fully fenced. Handy to all schools and amenities. There are numerous possible opportunities with this property. Motivated Vendors.
Property ID: M1311

Marton **By Negotiation**
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High visibility and easy client access and parking. Single storey commercial premises in central Marton. Approximately 300m² of showroom, offices & workshop, plus separate building of approx 50m² and approx 400m² of sealed parking on the corner of Stewart and High Streets. Immediate vacant possession available. Current Rateable Value as at Sept 2014 - \$132,000.
Property ID: M1004

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2 flat sections, on 2 titles; totalling 887m². Located on Dalziel Street Bulls, just off State Highway 1. Partially fenced, power and telephone to the boundary. Surrounded by a modern development on one side and a proposed development on the other side which will be the new Bulls Town Centre. Zoned Commercial.
Property ID: M1287

Contact Kevan on 027 490 8497