

Work scheme receives praise

YOUTHFUL Feilding worker Michael Morris is appreciative of the chance to be involved in the Community Max project that is underway at Kitchener Park, near Feilding.

The 23-year-old former bricklayer is one of eight young people, aged 16 to 25, carrying out various tasks at the park in a scheme that aims to boost youth work opportunities through ongoing regional community projects.

Community Max targets youth workers whose chances of getting work are limited and gives them a

11-month-old daughter. Now I've got a job."

He was so thankful for the opportunity that he wrote to Manawatu District Mayor, Ian McKelvie, and Justice Minister and Rangitikei MP, Simon Power, expressing his gratitude.

"I wouldn't be where I am now if not for everyone involved in the Community Max project," he told them. "I hope that other people who join in the future appreciate it as much as I do.

"Hopefully it will bring people a brighter future and a career in this line of work – that's what I'm aiming for

ing and helping with river-bank protection for Horizons Regional Council.

"The wet weather, unfortunately, made things difficult for the first two months, but they have done well, considering. It's a good project and allows them the chance to develop good work ethics," said Mr James.

Kitchener Park Curator, Gavin Scott, said Community Max was one of the better work schemes as it allowed enough time for workers to learn some work skills and be in a better position regarding future employment prospects. It was



COMMUNITY Max advocate, Michael Morris (centre), is joined by Kitchener Park Curator, Gavin Scott (left), and supervisor, Terry Governor, during his work opportunity project at the native bush reserve.

chance to get some experience and skill sets during a six-month contract. They are paid the minimum wage while on the job.

Michael has been working on the scheme at Kitchener Park for two months and has learnt more about the native bush in that time than when he did a six-month conservation course a few years ago.

"It has been a good project for me as I was on the unemployment benefit and supporting my partner and

anyway," he said.

Parks and Reserves Manager, Albert James, said Kitchener Park was selected as the Manawatu District Council's project contribution as there were many good supervisors on site helping in the restoration of the reserve after it was damaged by the 2004 flood.

He said Community Max workers were planting trees, collecting and growing seed, removing noxious weeds, repairing the boardwalk, making mulch, fence-

also better funded.

Mr Scott said current work was largely focused on the park's management plan, including the creation of the walkway from Kowhai Park to Kitchener Park, replanting, upgrades of the security systems and the metalling of the carpark.

"We also seem to be getting a lot more visitors, such as people out walking their dogs, and there is greater bird life as the trees begin to fruit and provide a better food source," he said.

Party control for revellers

ANYONE planning a festive party stretching into the early hours of the morning should remember the Christmas spirit and be considerate towards their neighbours, says Principal Environmental Officer, Colin Perrin.

He said most people accepted one-offs in the holiday season, but tolerance and co-operation should be heeded by all involved.

"As we move into summer it's beginning to warm up outside," said Mr Perrin, "and people tend to leave their windows open. But it can become harder to sleep and any noise from a stereo is likely to affect people at this time of the year rather than in winter."

He said people planning

parties should advise their neighbours of anticipated start and finish times, and need to keep noise to a minimum after the deadline.

"Distributing flyers in the neighbourhood is an excellent idea and one that most people would applaud.

There's nothing more infuriating than lying in bed at 3 o'clock in the morning wondering when the noise is going to stop."

Mr Perrin said stereos still remained the major problem in the summer months and were responsible for 100 of the 274 noise complaints

registered from December 1, 2008, to March 31 this year. Loud music (59), bass beats (51) and parties (27) were the other major noise-makers during that period, though yelling, motor bikes, bands, bird scarers and drums also drew complaints.

He said people should remember that rights go both ways.

"You have the right to enjoy yourself and make noise on your property, but when it affects the peace, comfort and convenience of other people, they have the right to intervene or complain."

Noise control officers, comprising council staff and outside contractors, are on duty 24/7 and can be contacted at any time on (06) 323-0000.



CONTRACTORS are in the final stages of completing the second stage of a community project at Bunnythorpe encompassing new toilets and a children's playground. The two-unit toilet block, with its changing tables and disabled

access, and the Xtreme Fitness playground are on the site of the former Bunnythorpe Hall. The toilets are now open and most of the equipment for the playground, designed by the Bunnythorpe Community

Committee, has arrived, including jungle nets, cave bridge, crazy bars, precipice walks and trapeze hangar. Equipment for the smaller children is still to arrive, along with the bark ground cover.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Office: Closed from noon on Thursday, December 24, until 8am on Tuesday, January 5.


Library: Open – Thursday, December 24, 10am-5.30pm. Closed – Friday, December 25; Saturday, December 26, and Monday, December 28. Open – Tuesday, December 29; Wednesday, December 30, and Thursday, December 31, 10am-5.30pm. Closed – Friday, January 1; Saturday, January 2, and Monday, January 4. Open – Tuesday, January 5, 10am – resuming usual hours. When library is closed, books can be returned through the slot to the right of the main door.

Makino Aquatic Centre: Open – Thursday, December 24, 6am-5pm. Closed – Friday, December 25, and Saturday, December 26. Open – Sunday, December 27, 8am-6pm; Monday, December 28, 10am-6pm; Tuesday, December 29, and Wednesday, December 30, 8am-6pm, and Thursday, December 31, 8am-5pm. Closed – Friday, January 1, and Saturday, January 2. Open – Sunday, January 3, 8am-6pm; Monday, January 4, 10am-6pm, and Tuesday, January 5, 6am-8pm. Back to normal hours. Pools are cleared 15 minutes prior to closing.

Refuse Bag Collection and Feilding Kerbside Recycling: All refuse bag collections will take place on their scheduled days except Monday, December 28, and Monday, January 4, when they will be collected on Wednesday, December 30, and Wednesday, January 6.

Refuse Transfer Stations: Feilding Refuse Transfer Station, Kawakawa Rd: Closed – Friday, December 25; Saturday, December 26, and Sunday, December 27, and Friday, January 1; Saturday, January 2, and Sunday, January 3. Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8am-4pm; Saturday and Sunday and public holidays, 9am-5pm. **Rural Transfer Stations:** Closed on Saturday, December 26, and Saturday, January 2, and open on Monday, December 28, and Monday, January 4.

Emergencies: For all matters deemed urgent during the holiday period, please telephone (06) 323-0000.



COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING

Under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, notice is given that the following meeting is scheduled for January 2010:

Tuesday, January 19
8.30am Community Wellbeing Subcommittee

Unless specified, the above meeting will be held in the District Council Building, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding, and is open to the public.

Lorraine Vincent
Chief Executive