

Party to benefit Totara Reserve

A SILENT auction of a limited quantity of Totara Reserve is one of the activities planned at the Pohangina Valley Estate's garden party later this month to raise funds for the regional park after which the wine is named.

Three bottles from each of the red wine's 2008 and 2009 vintages will go to the bidder with the highest written offer and lift proceeds towards the ongoing upkeep of the picturesque picnicking and camping spot under

every bottle sold of the Beaujolais-style summer wine with the money set aside for the planting of totara trees at the park.

The 1000 bottles for sale proved extremely popular and sold out quickly.

Ms McMorrان said only 400 bottles of the 2009 vintage (just released) are available and as a result the vineyard decided to host the garden party as a different form of fund-raising.

"We are hoping to raise a similar amount of money as

fitted in well with today's increasing support for sustainable ventures.

Parks and Reserves Manager, Albert James, said the garden party underlined the vineyard's ongoing relationship with Totara Reserve and was an ideal way of marketing an excellent product and a popular recreational attraction.

"It highlights the status of Totara Reserve as a regional park," he said. "It's a win-win situation... and a chance to have a nice party."



VIEWS across the pond to the Ruahine Ranges will greet those attending a fundraising garden party at the Pohangina Valley Estate to provide more trees for Totara Reserve.

the Ruahine Ranges.

The garden party – from 2pm to 5pm on Saturday, March 20, and supported by the Manawatu District Council – is the latest community initiative by Manawatu's first vineyard to enhance the regional park's profile and follows the \$1000 it raised through the sale of the initial 2008 Totara Reserve vintage.

Pohangina Valley Estate owners, Bronwyn and Nick Dymock, and Fiona McMorrان, donated \$1 for

we did with the earlier venture," she said, "Let's hope the weather remains kind and we get good support from the community."

She said the silent auction should create much interest among wine connoisseurs as both vintages of the Totara Reserve offered their own distinctive flavours.

Public response to the naming of the unique picnic wine, with its local connection, and the sale donation initiative, had been positive, said Ms McMorrان, and

A jazz band led by Sue Pugmire and afternoon tea catered by Hester Guy will also feature at the party in the vineyard's private house gardens on its Valley Road property near Ashhurst.

Tickets are \$40 per person and available through the website, emailing info@pohanginavalleyestate.co.nz or at the Feilding Information Centre. Limited tickets are available and with no gate sales early purchasing is recommended.

Community polls favoured

COMMUNITY polls instead of referendums will be used by the Manawatu District Council to gauge land owners' reactions to proposed wastewater and water supply schemes at Himatangi Beach and Rongotea.

Assets Group Manager, Richard Kirby, said a non-statutory poll had the same effect as a referendum, even though it did not involve statutory processes such as electoral roll development, public notices and an 82-day lead-in time period.

"Council wanted to get a reliable feedback from the communities on whether to go ahead with the schemes and believed this was the

right way to do it," he said.

He said each voting paper would contain one question on whether the land owner supported the implementation of the scheme or not.

"Council is concentrating on land owners as the scheme costs are attached to the land. So it's the land owner who needs to have the say as they are the ones who have to pay should the scheme go ahead."

Notification of the polls were to be posted to individual land owners this week, with the voting papers due out in mid to late March. Voters have three weeks to respond and council is expected to make a

decision regarding the schemes in April.

The Rongotea and Himatangi Beach polls are being conducted concurrently by Christchurch-based organisation, Elections New Zealand, who is responsible for the local body elections.

Mr Kirby said running the polls at the same time was more cost effective than running them separately.

Water Manager, Wayne Spencer, said it was important that people took up the opportunity to vote: "The schemes are for the community and the community's future and people should have their say and make sure they vote."

Unconsented trend worrying

MANAWATU District Council is concerned at a noticeable trend in the district of building work being carried out without authorised building consents.

Regulatory Supervisor, Karel Boakes, said 11 Notices to Fix relating to unconsented building work had been issued in the last five months, mainly in the wider rural area.

"Council became aware of the trend through an increased focus on regulatory building requirements," she said, "and as a result a number of notices have had to be issued in a relatively short space of time."

Ms Boakes said the problem largely involved stand-alone units, separate to the main dwelling, which had

been moved onto the property without any foundation and drainage connections. They were also an older-type structure that had received little or no maintenance.

She said it was important that building owners, designers and developers obtained

building consents prior to starting work. "Illegal building work may be unsafe for users and neighbours and is problematic for owners when it comes to selling a property." The Building Act 2004 provides for territorial authori-

ties to issue a \$750 infringement notice for building without a consent, and though this was usually a last resort, the MDC has the process in place to carry out such action for repeat offenders or wilful contravention. Ms Boakes said a number of information brochures on building consents were available at the Manawatu District Council's administration building in Manchester Street, Feilding, as well as on council's website www.mdc.govt.nz. "Council can help in determining whether a consent is required and whether there are any planning issues of which you need to be aware," she said, "and don't hesitate to contact a building and planning officer if you are unsure."

Building Services



EAGER cyclists, including a youthful Superman, get ready for the annual Mayoral Cycle Challenge at Timona Park, Feilding, on Sunday. More than 120 participants joined Manawatu District

Mayor, Ian McKelvie, for the 2010 event held in fine conditions. Whether Feilding is in contention for New Zealand's Most Cycle Mad Town title remains to be seen, but all those who took

part enjoyed the occasion, especially the three-year-old who won a new Avanti bike and helmet.

Photograph supplied by Sport Manawatu

Working bee targets weed

INVASIVE weed, wandering jew, will be targeted by a working bee at Kitchener Park on Saturday, March 6. Members of the

Park Restoration Committee have organised the cleanup between 9am and 3pm, with lunch provided. Volunteers are asked to bring a small

gardening tool and gloves. Further information from curator Gavin Scott on (06) 328-8070 or 027 249 5221.

Artistically Creative Need Financial Help?

Creative Communities Scheme

Applications for the above are now being called for.

Applications for arts and culture purposes only can be made by groups or individuals within the MDC area.



Application forms and further information are available from:

Manawatu District Council
Private Bag 10-001
Feilding 4743
Telephone: (06) 323-0000



**Applications close 4pm,
Friday, March 26, 2010**



