



POHANGINA Valley Estate raised \$1000 for the Totara Reserve Regional Park after a successful garden party at the vineyard's Valley Road property near Ashhurst on Saturday. Eighty-five people enjoyed the occasion - the vineyard's latest community initiative to enhance the park's profile and collect funds for more totara trees at the reserve. The result matches the \$1000 raised last year through the sale of the vineyard's initial Totara Reserve Beaujolais-style summer wine. A silent auction for three bottles each of the wine's 2008 and 2009 vintages drew some spirited bidding before an eventual sale at \$179.95. Co-owner Fiona McMorran said it was the vineyard's first garden party, with many of the revellers hoping a similar event would be held next year.

## Book sale draws dedicated readers

TWO Foxton readers, Raewyn Mullan and Jo-Ann McAlpine, headed off the locals to be first outside the doors for the opening of the Feilding Public Library's 11th annual five-day book sale on Monday.

Carrying two large shopping bags each, the pair arrived an hour before the start time of 10am and were looking forward to culling out some of the 4000 books that were on offer.

"We've been coming to this sale for a few years," said Raewyn, "because it offers a wide selection of material at good prices."

Two other regular book sale enthusiasts, Trevor Richards, of Rongotea, and Stephen Johnson, of Feilding, were also among the 50 people who queued outside the library doors, and were again on the hunt for aviation and music-related material.

Library Manager, Simon Johnson, said steady sales throughout the day realised about \$2800, a heartening opening day return, with nearly half the stock snapped up by eager buyers.

"There was quite a demand for large print books for retirement homes, with trolleys having to be used to transport the books out to



FOXTON book hunters, Raewyn Mullan (left) and Jo-Ann McAlpine, ready for the Feilding Public Library's book sale.

the vans." Mr Johnson said another pattern to emerge was the number of mothers taking away up to 30 children's books at a time.

"That was pleasing as it means the books are still doing the job that we bought them for - to enlighten children's minds."

He said several buyers with each purchased between 50 to 60 books, with non-

fiction titles like gardening and travel proving popular, though fiction titles had also gone "pretty well".

Few books are likely to remain by the end of the week, with a special of four books for \$1 available tomorrow. Books left over by Saturday will be free.

New stock is purchased from the money raised, with last year's sale yielding nearly \$5000.

## Field Days' enormous spinoff

ANOTHER highly successful Central Districts Field Days was run at Manfield Park last week, with major involvement this year from Massey University in association with the Fairfax Media group, who own and promote the event.

The economic spinoff of the field days to Manawatu and, in particular, Palmerston North is enormous and occupies an important place in our regional events' programme. It also gives the community and our farmers access to the latest and greatest in agricultural initiatives, whether they be machinery, technology or just plain old new ideas.

Council has moved to the final stages of both the Rongotea water and Himatangi Beach sewerage schemes with the posting out of voting papers for the Community Polls, which take place over

the next three weeks. It will be a relief for council to be able to finally make a decision on these two vital community opportunities.



**MAYORAL COMMENT**  
by Ian McKelvie

Council has also approved the Draft Annual Plan and it will go out for consultation in the next three weeks containing an increase in rate take of 4.5 percent. This is less than predicted last year but more than council will be

comfortable with as it considers the final plan.

The Manawatu Community Trust reported to council last week and its activities are progressing very well, with community housing running at about 98 percent occupancy and good progress on a potential health centre for Feilding and the District.

The health centre is an important project for our district's future and it is most important that we get this right first time, so it is certainly worth taking a cautious approach.

One last thing: Agriculture Minister David Carter was in town last week talking about the value of water and its storage to New Zealand. Let us become a little proactive in the Manawatu about how we harvest and store water or we will be left in the dust by the rest of the country!

## District briefs

### Radio station's push welcomed

ACCESS Manawatu's push into Feilding has been welcomed by Manawatu District Mayor, Ian McKelvie, and he hopes tonight's public forum on the planned initiative draws a good turnout. Mr McKelvie said a community-based radio station provided a number of benefits in a competitive market where it was "difficult to know where to point yourself". Station Manager, Fraser Greig, said the time had come for Access Manawatu, which had been operating in Palmerston North for nearly 12 years, to get more representation from the wider region and Feilding was the first step in that process. He said Access Manawatu wanted to encourage groups, organisations and individuals to make radio. The open forum begins at 5pm in the St John building in Bowen Street.

### Library caters for lap-toppers

VISITORS to the Feilding Public Library armed with a laptop are now able to log onto the internet within the confines of the building. Library Manager, Simon Johnson, said tickets were available for people with laptops and a Wi-Fi link to check their email or spend time doing research for \$3 an hour or \$10 a day. "The laptop is taking the place of a notebook and pen and with its internet capability all the user needs is a link and we are supplying that link." Mr Johnson believes usage will rise once the word spreads about the library's Cafe Net-type service. "As with many New Zealand towns we do get a number of tourists and like a lot of people these days they often bring their laptops with them."

### Teenagers set another record

ANOTHER attendance record was set when 200 tweens and teens attended the Makino



Aquatic Centre's teenage-only pre-Easter Bash on Friday night. This follows the successful "Back to School Beach Party" last month that drew 175 youngsters to the complex. Programme Co-ordinator, Adie Johansen, said after enjoying the outdoor facilities, especially the dive pool, the teenagers moved inside and revelled in the 33 degree learner pool (pictured). The next themed event is a Pyjama Party on Friday, April 23.



## Tenders for Grazing Licence to occupy Apati Recreation Land

Tenders close at midday on Tuesday, March 30, for the Licence to Occupy, Part Section 41A Block XI, Apati Survey District, comprising 14.5686 hectares, more or less, situated on Ridge Road, Apati.

Tenders must be submitted on the requisite form and in accordance with the conditions of the licence applicable to the land.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Tender forms and conditions of licence are available from Manawatu District Council, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

Any enquiries directed to Shannon Quirke, Parks and Property Officer, on (06) 323-0810.

**Lorraine Vincent**  
Chief Executive



## Temporary Closure of Roads to Traffic

Under the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is given that the Manawatu District Council, for the purpose of permitting **Feilding Promotion Inc.** to conduct a **NZ Military Vehicle Club Rally**, will close the following roads to traffic for the period as stated:

**Internal roads of Manchester Square from 9.30am to noon on Saturday, April 3**

During the period of closure, provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic that would otherwise use the road.

**Lorraine Vincent**  
Chief Executive