

Locally Owned and Operated
JR's
KEVIN JORDAN
 Phone 838 8325
 Mobile (0274) 456 844

- Chimney Cleaners •
- Carpet Cleaners •
- Pest Eradicators •
- General Cleaners •

The Wairoa Star

W.O.F.
WAIROA WARRANT OF FITNESS CENTRE
 38 Freyberg Street, Wairoa
 Phone 838 6368
Hours: 8 am - 4.30 pm

Price \$1

9 771170 097008

1st
Best All-Round Independent Community Newspaper 2009 and 2010
 - NZCNA Circulation under 7500

Gifted Sands well-supported P 2
Farming P 7
What's on where P 8
Sport Ps 14, 15, 16, 17



Tuesday, January 10, 2012

His services to angling land the catch of a lifetime

WALTER Rofe, a life member of the Wairoa and District Angling Club and the Friends of Te Urewera National Park has been awarded a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for his services to conservation and angling.

Mr Rofe has been an advocate for anglers and game bird hunters in the Wairoa and East Coast region for many years, but his love of fishing started 55 years ago when he was a bus driver for Ruakituri School.

Mr Rofe would watch his friend Para Bennett, a teacher at the school fish and one day he lent Mr Rofe a rod.

"It was a steel rod which had been given to him by a friend from England. It was made from a steel tank aerial, and I caught my first ever fish with that rod," he recalled.

From that moment Mr Rofe was hooked on fishing and most days after work he would go to the Ruakituri River for a fish, to the dismay of his wife Margaret.

"It's a wonder we weren't divorced straight away.

"I would get home from work and then go straight to the river for a fish.

"She was certainly a fishing widow," he said.

Mr Rofe said that without the support of his wife he would not have been able to achieve what he had, particularly his role as a councillor for Fish & Game on the Eastern Region Council.

He served as a councillor for Fish & Game on the Eastern Region Council for 15 years, from 1994 to 2009.

He has achieved a strong representation for Wairoa anglers and hunters on the council, ensuring that fisheries in Wairoa and Waikaremoana are well resourced, and that game bird hunters have been heard through council processes.

"I've guarded Ruakituri and the lake very closely while on council," he said.

Mr Rofe said being on the Fish & Game Council has not always been easy as when making decisions they had to take into account the wide picture, while he also tried to look after the Wairoa District.

Due to his diligence Lake Waikaremoana is possibly the only lake in New Zealand which does not allow the use of down riggers or lead lines and the Ruakituri River is one of the only rivers where spinners can not be used.

"In many places the river is accessible from the road so it could very easily be fished out.

"It's the odd victory you have over the big guns at Rotorua which are the highlights," he said.

Due to these victories, Mr Rofe believes the fishing in Wairoa is better now than it was 55 years ago.

He has been a member of the Wairoa District Anglers' Club since 1957, serving on the committee for 20 years, nine as president and has been a committee member of the Friends of Te Urewera National Park for many years. He is a life member of both committees.



Walter Rofe has been awarded a Queen's Service Medal for services to conservation and angling, and says he could not have done this without the support of his wife Margaret.

Continued on page 3

Rain issues

WET weather hampered holiday plans and activities with flooding in parts of the district.

A moist northeasterly low in the weekend caused flooding at Mahia, closing roads, causing surface flooding and bringing down trees.

The deluge of rain in Mahia brought the Kopuawhara Stream up, flooding paddocks and closing Kaiwaitau Road on Sunday.

The flooding left logs blocking motorists' access adding to the problems experienced on the peninsula. The heavy rain on Saturday through to midnight Sunday also caused a slip at Tunanui Road.

There was surface flooding on Mahanga Road and the Nuhaka River Road was closed for a time on Sunday.

At Mahia Beach, 135.1mm of rain was recorded from midnight Friday to midnight Sunday as the moist northeasterly system lingered over the district.

At the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Kopuawhara rain gauge 143mm was recorded.

In Wairoa over 108mm of rain was recorded for January to Sunday, with 52.5mm of rain recorded on January 8.

Moreere Hot Springs is closed once again due to damage caused by torrential rain and slips.

Hot Springs lessee/operator Geoff Prickett expects it will reopen tomorrow although this was dependent on the Department of Conservation being able to get to Moreere to carry out repair work.

Mr Prickett said 157mm of rain fell on Saturday causing two to three breakages in the pipe.



Motorists at Mahanga eye the surface flooding across the road. Mahanga residents were unable to get out on Sunday morning due to flooding.

The damage was caused by the "tremendous" amount of water and rocks rolling down and crushing the pipe. The pipe had also been ripped out in several places.

Mr Prickett said most of the damage he could fix himself, but a Department of Conservation worker was needed to weld the pipe back together.

The hot pools became much more complex to manage after last April's floods caused a rock slide which blocked the stream and broke the pipe which carried the hot water to the lower spring and pools.

As a result of the flooding, the upper spring and the holding tank were submerged under several metres of water.

This means the water now has to be siphoned out of the holding tank and over the slip and down to the main tank by a riser, rather than being gravity-fed.

Mr Prickett said any big flood was now likely to damage the piping, requiring it to be closed for at least a day while repairs were carried out. There was often at least four of these incidents a year.

The outlook is for more unsettled cloudy weather through to Thursday with temperatures of 25-26 degrees. Fine weather is forecast for Friday and Saturday.

The highest maximum so far for January is the 30.1 degree recorded on the sixth.

CELEBRATING NEW YEAR BACKYARD RESOLUTIONS!

MAKE YOUR GARDEN TOP OF THE LIST THIS SUMMER WITH GREAT OFFERS FROM STIHL

STIHL MS 211 CHAINSAW*
 35.2cc/1.7kW/4.3kg
NOW \$695 SAVE \$100

STIHL LINETRIMMERS FROM \$237

STIHL FS 38 LINETRIMMER
 27.2cc/0.6kW/4.1kg

PLUS BUY ANY ROLL OF STIHL NYLON AND GET THE SECOND FREE**
*Offer applies to MS 211 standard version only. **Second roll of nylon must be of lesser value to original purchase. Offer valid until 31 January 2012 or while stocks last.

YOU'LL ONLY NEED ONE **STIHL**

Chris Joblin Motors
 Queen Street - Phone 838 9005