

▶ HAVE A SAY

Letters must be no longer than 200 words and must be signed, with the writers' name legible. Pen names not allowed. Letters must be original and should not have been submitted elsewhere. A full residential address and daytime telephone number must be provided. The editor reserves the right to abridge, edit, or reject letters. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the newspaper. Preference will be given to letters on local issues. One subject per letter. For legal reasons, the correspondent's opinion must be genuinely held by the correspondent. The publisher may reproduce the letter without restriction on the form or location of publication. **Send letters to:** The Editor, South Waikato News, 62-66 Bridge St, Tokoroa. Fax: (07) 886 5347. Email: swaikato.editor@wrcn.co.nz

Make use of our hospital

People in Waikato Hospital are now being treated in the corridors because of overcrowding. At Tokoroa Hospital only one of the four wards is being used.

I remember the time when we had two full-time surgeons, two doctors in the maternity ward and even a specialist doctor for the children's ward.

There were flats for junior doctors and engineering shop, gardeners, cleaning staff and at least half a dozen attendants.

Not so long ago we spent a lot of taxpayers money bringing the place up to standard and now all we have to show for it is a beautiful foyer, modern waiting and reception room and a special ambulance station. On many occasions we are transferred to Hamilton or Rotorua.

We have all the facilities but we are denied certain specialists and equipment.

It would be good to fully utilise our lovely hospital.

Perhaps our new National MP can give us some answers.

B Rovers
Tokoroa

Response from Jan Adams, chief operating officer, Health Waikato:

"The issue is not as simple as using the facilities at Tokoroa Hospital, as they used to be. Modern healthcare services are based on providing clinically safe services in the appropriate facility.

For many services, this is Waikato Hospital for a number of good reasons.

Additionally, the country has a shortage of medical staff and faces difficulty recruiting to rural areas like Tokoroa.

We simply cannot staff Tokoroa Hospital to the level it was several years ago when the population of Tokoroa was considerably higher.

Waikato Hospital is the tertiary provider for the Midland region which takes in Tairāwhiti, Lakes, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki and Waikato DHBs and more than 350,000 people.

In an emergency, patients from that region can be transferred, under medical supervision, via helicopter to Waikato Hospital for treatment."

Sounding off?

The dripping irony of Mr B Stevens letter to your paper two weeks ago has not been lost on many of the residents

in this wonderful village. Is his concern really for the children of Arapuni or the rubbish, or is he just sounding off again?

P Farquar
Arapuni

Smack that

I am writing to say how appalled I am by the behaviour of a woman in the Warehouse Tokoroa on Sunday, February 1.

I was in shopping with my two children when they began bickering loudly at each other in the store. I was very disappointed with their behaviour and told them that as punishment they were to put back the treat that they had each chosen and come and stand by me at the checkout.

My two year old daughter was not at all happy about putting back her treat and threw a mighty tantrum to let the whole store know about it.

The woman who was in line in front of me was saying something to me but I couldn't hear what she was saying over my child's wailing. I assumed this woman was offering me sympathy for the stressful situation I was in and smiled at her. It wasn't until I had made my purchases and was leaving the store with my still

screaming child and her brother that the woman came back towards me and told me to "smack that child!"

She went on to say that she didn't care what politicians said that if I wanted to smack her I should. And then she stood there quite excitedly to see if I would. I am absolutely shocked and cannot believe that someone would go out of their way to come back into a shop to give such condescending and appalling advice.

Who the hell do you think you are? You don't know me or my children and you don't know that 95 percent of the time their behaviour is great, that is because they know their boundaries and that if they step out of them there will be consequences.

But they certainly do not need to be smacked.

I am sure you keep in touch with news and current affairs and have heard of all the terrible abuse that has been inflicted on too many innocent children in New Zealand.

Who knows how many of these offences started as an innocent smack? Maybe you should keep your backward opinions to yourself?

M Christie
Tokoroa



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i'm lovin' it

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Atiamuri (Taupo) 07 378-2777 (collect)
Taupo 07 378-2777

POLICE
Tokoroa & Atiamuri 886-5189
Putaruru 883-8199, Mangakino 882-8008
CRIMELINE (24 hours) 886-7182

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Tokoroa, Putaruru & Tirau 886-6111
Mangakino 882-8299

ST JOHN
Tokoroa 886-8073, Putaruru 883-8663, Taupo (07) 378-6516

TOKOROA HOSPITAL
Tokoroa 886 7239

ANIMALS
South Waikato SPCA 886 7722 or 027 554 7722

Institute backs Rachelle

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and "get stuck in" to ensure she got the right result.

"It's a big investment for me and my children, I want to make it work."

The \$10,000 will go to paying off her student loan and to purchase equipment like her stethoscope and blood pressure kit which become part of her ongoing equipment once she is qualified.

South Waikato District Council mayor Neil Sinclair is a member of the three-person board who decide who will be allocated the yearly scholarships and he said it is never an easy task with a large number of applicants to carefully consider.

"We have certain criteria to adhere to and the rural part is important. The scholarships go to nurses, doctor, dentist - any health professional."



HARD WORK REWARDED: From left: Robin Steed (CEO New Zealand Institute of Rural Health), David Hall (CEO South Waikato District Council), nursing student Rachelle Stables who received her \$10,000 cheque from Neil Sinclair (South Waikato District Council mayor and a member of the NZIRH selection board) and Jenny Shattock (deputy mayor, SWDC).

Ms Steed said the Institute was "delighted to support Tokoroa. It is real rural heartland. We are seeing an increase in the number of younger people in Tokoroa heading into health science careers and that is good."

News bouquet

On Sunday when I was in Auckland, I found a note tucked under the South Waikato car windscreen wipers.

The note said:
"Hi!

"I read the Sth Waikato News and get it sent to us in Auckland.

"The best read in New Zealand. Well done!"

As editor of the paper the grin on my face was quite large but it is not just us the newspaper staff, advertising reps and journalists who need to feel pleased, the community needs to be happy about this compliment as well.

So take a bow South Waikato because it is you who have made the South Waikato News the best read. The stories come from the community, from the people, from the events and happenings going on in this community all the time - the good, the bad and sometimes even the ugly.

Fritha Tagg
Editor

PS To the person who took the time and trouble to write the note and put it under the wiper, thank you. You made my day!

Fishing Report

East Coast tides - Tauranga

Thursday Feb 5	Friday Feb 6	Saturday Feb 7	Sunday Feb 8	Monday Feb 9	Tuesday Feb 10	Wednesday Feb 11
Tauranga H 3:17am 3:36pm L 9:26am 9:57pm	Tauranga H 4:23am 4:40pm L 10:30am 11:00pm	Tauranga H 5:29am 5:47pm L 11:36am	Tauranga H 6:32am 6:53pm L 12:03am 12:40pm	Tauranga H 7:32am 7:54pm L 1:03am 1:40pm	Tauranga H 8:28am 8:51pm L 2:01am 2:37pm	Tauranga H 9:20am 9:44pm L 2:55am 3:30pm
Thames H 2:58am 3:24pm L 9:12am 9:41pm	Thames H 4:07am 4:31pm L 10:20am 10:49pm	Thames H 5:14am 5:39pm L 11:25am 11:54pm	Thames H 6:17am 6:44pm L 12:27pm	Thames H 7:15am 7:43pm L 12:54am 1:26pm	Thames H 8:09am 8:38pm L 1:50am 2:21pm	Thames H 9:00am 9:28pm L 2:41am 3:13pm
Sun 6:35 am R 8:26 pm Moon 12:59 am R 4:42 pm	Sun 7:36 am R 8:25 pm Moon 1:56 am R 5:46 pm	Sun 8:37 am R 8:24 pm Moon 3:06 am R 6:41 pm	Sun 9:38 am R 8:23 pm Moon 4:22 am R 7:26 pm	Sun 10:40 am R 8:22 pm Moon 5:39 am R 8:03 pm	Sun 11:41 am R 8:21 pm Moon 6:41 am R 8:35 pm	Sun 12:42 am R 8:20 pm Moon 7:42 am R 9:03 pm

West Coast tides - Raglan

Thursday Feb 5	Friday Feb 6	Saturday Feb 7	Sunday Feb 8	Monday Feb 9	Tuesday Feb 10	Wednesday Feb 11
Raglan H 6:31am 7:00pm L 12:40pm	Raglan H 7:54am 8:19pm L 1:12am 1:58pm	Raglan H 9:04am 9:28pm L 2:28am 3:05pm	Raglan H 10:02am 10:25pm L 3:30am 4:01pm	Raglan H 10:52am 11:15pm L 4:23am 4:51pm	Raglan H 11:38am 5:37pm	Raglan H 12:01am 12:21pm L 5:54am 6:21pm

Bill Hohepa's fishing guide

Bad Best at 8:48 am 9:20 pm	Bad Best at 9:52 am 10:24 pm	Bad Best at 10:56 am 11:28 pm	Fair Best at 11:58 am	Bad Best at 12:28 am 12:57 pm	Good Best at 1:24 am 1:50 pm	Bad Best at 2:16 am 2:41 pm
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