



A weekly feature on the
communities in
Horowhenua & Kapiti

Caring for Our Community

This week's featured Organisation - Lions Clubs



Community activities from flood relief to car boot sales, Camp Quality for children with cancer, and skills for Living courses for teachers are grist to the mill for the members of the eight Lions Clubs in Kapiti and Horowhenua.

Alice MacDonald, district governor for the Wellington region, which includes Kapiti, Horowhenua, Wellington and the Hutt Valley, says the members of the seven clubs in our local region do an amazing amount of work and put in hundreds of hours of time working on a vast range of projects.

Notably, in this wet and wild summer, the members have been dispensing flood relief in Paekakariki and northern Horowhenua, having received two grants of \$US10,000 each from the Lions Club International Foundation.

Lions club members work above and beyond their immediate club concerns, Ms MacDonald says.

"Bill McKeich of Kapiti Lions is district chairman of the Skills for Living programme and Dianne Hemmingsen of Levin/Waiopahu is the district's Camp Quality programme chairman," Ms MacDonald says.

The eight Lions clubs in the Kapiti Horowhenua Zone are Kapiti, Kapakapanui, Levin, Levin/Waiopahu, Otaki, Pakeke, Parawai and Waikanae. They are a combination of single gender clubs and mixed clubs.

Bill McKeich, president of the Kapiti Club says Lions Clubs in Kapiti have raised over \$112,000 in five years through the Annual Monster Book Fair.

Kapiti club has continued to provide sponsorship and financial assistance to a large number of young people and each year donates up to \$2000 to charities from proceeds raised through its annual auction of household chattels.

For several years now the Lions of Kapiti, Parawai, Kapiti Pakeke, Pukerua Bay-Paekakariki and Waikanae Lions Clubs have managed and co-ordinated the Annual Food Bank Appeal as a major joint project. The appeal is conducted in late November or early December each year and Food Bank organisers are most appreciative of the continued support from Lions and the public. Lions is the largest volunteer organisation in New Zealand and the world, with over 500 clubs and 13,000 members in New Zealand, and 1.4 million members world wide.

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Adventure of the week

Your Easter break could include walking one of the many beautiful tracks in Kapiti and Horowhenua. Begin with a simple and symbolic hillside walk to the landmark statue of Mary in Paraparamu.

The approach is from Tongariro Street almost opposite the Stones Electrical depot.



Making household appliances cheaper: More stars - more savings

If you've got an eye out for new whiteware, keep your other eye peeled for these labels. They're a good guide to how much electricity the appliance will use and how much it will affect your monthly power bill.

Energy efficiency labels are now affixed to fridges, freezers, washing machines, dryers, air conditioners, heat pumps and dishwashers. Here's what they mean.

The more **stars** on the label, the more energy efficient the appliance and the cheaper it is to run. Each extra star means another 10% or more **saving** in running costs.

The labels also show the number of **kWh** (kilowatt hours of electricity) the appliance will use each year. The lower that number, the more money you save! Washing machines and dishwashers have two energy consumption numbers – red for warm washes, blue for cold.

But don't be concerned if the appliance you fancy has an energy efficiency rating of 'only two or three stars'. That means it's about average in terms of today's appliances, although it is possible to purchase a fridge, for example, with the maximum of six energy efficiency stars.

Speaking of your fridge, did you realise it is likely to be the single biggest power-user of all your household appliances?

Examining the energy labels on a range of 400-500 litre capacity two-door fridge/freezers gives some eye-opening results. The number of stars varies from 1.5 to 4. At 12 cents per kilowatt-hour, that gives yearly running costs ranging between about \$57 and \$122. So if you choose the 4 star fridge/freezer over the 1.5 stars one you can save

something like \$65 per year and \$650 over the 10 years that you might own it! If electricity prices rise as they are predicted to, you will potentially save even more.

So the next time you're sizing up that fridge, washing machine, or dishwasher check out its energy label and use it to help you decide which one to buy. Protect the environment – and your pocket!

For more information on appliance labeling, see www.energyrating.gov.au



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