



A weekly feature on the  
communities in  
Horowhenua & Kapiti

# Caring for Our Community

## This week's group – Manakau Community Association



**Dancers at this year's Manakau Medieval Market. A strong community spirit is the secret of success for this annual event.**

It is a tribute to the small rural community of Manakau, just north of Otaki, that they are able to make such a success of their principal annual event, the Manakau community's Medieval Market.

Held every year at the local primary school and run by the Medieval Market Committee, the event held in February each year attracts around 15,000 visitors to the Horowhenua township.

John Martin of the Manakau Community Association says the association has always actively supported the market. "There are only so many people in the Manakau area and we all work together for its success. We all do it and make it work and the market has raised a lot of money for the community – for the colleges and schools and the Fire and Ambulance services."

The Manakau Community Association has also spent a substantial amount of time upgrading Manakau Hall which they were very proud of.

The main objective for the Manakau Community Association was to represent the issues of the community to the Horowhenua District Council and other bodies, too, the actions of which impact on life in Manakau.

"We like our peaceful, restful village. This is a very mixed community – most of the people around Manakau run their own farms or businesses, and there are a number of commuters who travel to work as far as Wellington and Palmerston North but like to live in Manakau.

"We have our school and a Plunket playgroup, the hotel and the dairy on the main road. Now there is a more modern approach, too, with a major subdivision being developed down South Manakau Road," Mr Martin says.

"The Community Association provides a forum to give the people of Manakau who want to raise an issue the opportunity to do so."

With State Highway 1 and the main trunk railway running through Manakau there are sometimes issues with transport and delays.

"The Manakau Community Association has been lobbying TranzRail and Transit New Zealand about finding solutions to some of the difficulties.

"We would like to see access from South Manakau Road into the village. When you stand back and look at the broad picture there is a sensible pattern which could emerge with a bypass road," Mr Martin says.

The Manakau community is close-knit and hard-working and well-represented by the Manakau Community Association.

For more information contact John Martin on (06) 362-6826

## Adventure of the week



### Tuesday JULY 13 Horowhenua Forest & Bird Walk

Meet at the car park  
Otaki Bridge 9.15am or at  
Tui Crescent in Waikanae at  
9.45am for Hemi Matenga walk.

Moderate fitness required. Bring warm and weather proof clothing, strong footwear and lunch. It takes about four hours return. Everyone welcome rain or shine. Contact Ian Boyd (06) 368 4605.

## Get more value from your electric hot water system

### Have you ever run out of hot water?

If you have, you probably need to improve your hot water system boosting its performance and/or reducing the amount you spend on energy.

### Slow to heat up?

You usually start each morning with a full cylinder of hot water. Problems may occur if your hot water needs exceed the storage capacity of the cylinder and its ability to reheat. If your element is too small then reheating will be slow and you may run short of hot water.

### Speed it up with a larger element!

In a standard single element cylinder, an element size equal to 1 kW for every 90 litres of storage is the recommended minimum. That means a standard 180 litre (40 gal) cylinder should have at least a 2 kW element. If your circuit wiring is suitable (you may need to have an electrician check this) and your hot water

demand is high you can speed reheating by installing a 3 kW element.

### High cylinder heat loss?

When your hot water demands are low, the last thing you want is for the heat to 'leak' out. If you have an older hot water cylinder (especially pre 1985) it is likely that the insulation around it is quite thin and more heat is being lost from the water than is necessary.

### Dollars and Sense

An old-style low-pressure hot water cylinder might last 30 to 40 years so there are still many installed in New Zealand homes. Their heat loss is much greater than a new one, and the problem may be compounded by smaller cylinders being set to a higher temperature. The rule-of-thumb is if the outside casing of your cylinder is noticeably warm to touch, you need a cylinder wrap.



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