



It's the catch-phrase of the Rangitikei: 'So much to see, so much to do.' And this month it's the Marton Harvest Festival. Marton's population appears to be growing, with beings of another kind sprouting up around the Rangitikei town. Scarecrows of all shapes and sizes have appeared for the festival's scarecrow competition as the community begins its festivities throughout March. And Room 9 at Marton School are STARS. There's plenty to see and do as Merania Karauria (left) and Tracey Grant discovered when they went back to the Rangitikei. Next week we travel to north Rangitikei.



ALL SMILES: Project Marton festival co-ordinator Paula Skou with Fred Astaire, who welcomes all-comers to the Broadway office. PHOTO: TRACEY GRANT 090311WCTGMARTON11

Forecast is fine for festival fun and frolics

Month-long Marton celebration combines music and an array of entertainment for all ages

Warm, dry days and cool, clear nights herald the Marton Harvest Festival, which puts Marton on the map for a full month.

Everyone is welcome, and there is entertainment for all ages, says Project Marton festival co-ordinator Paula Skou.

She says her tasks are many but she's up for the challenge bringing everything together and getting the word out to visitors and locals.

Coming up on March 19 is the Festival of Cultures at Rangitikei College from 5-9pm where there will be ethnic food and performances by cultural groups.

On the Sunday is the Rangitikei Farmstay Fete day at Kylie and Andrew Stewart's farm on Makuhou Rd, then on March 26 will be the all-day Harvest Party at Marton Park.

"The choice of stalls and entertainment is great," Mrs Skou said.

"There will be a huge selection of art and crafts with Jimmy Dixon's nine-piece band Positive Kii beginning the entertainment at midday."

Josh Ellery and Ben Woolston will be back to entertain and the Jazz Band of teenagers that Mrs Skou describes as "very cool and fantastic" are part of a line-up that includes the Turakina Maori Girls.

Horizons Green Rig will be at the park and food and beverage stalls will whet appetites, alongside the side stalls of pony rides, face painting, jumping castle and tractor and cart rides.

The farmers' market of produce will be on sale and the giant pumpkin competition judging will take place during the day.

■ **Marton Harvest Festival Party** - Marton Park 9am onwards. For more information, contact Paula at Project Marton on (06) 327 7633.

Bess' story will be told

Tomorrow the *Chronicle* will feature the story about Bess and the Anzac horses that went to World War I to serve with the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade. Only four returned. Most perished, some were shot and others were bought by the Indian government and the Egyptian police. The marble plaque in the monument

erected for Bess on the spot in Forest Rd west of Bulls, where she died in 1934, is in need of repair. A group is planning the repair ahead of the Anzac service on April 25, and the 60th anniversary of the death of Bess's owner, Colonel Guy Powles. Merania Karauria spoke with Warren Jansen of Marton, who worked for the colonel.

Practical lesson as class sends food parcels

Sadness turned to gladness at Martin School's Room 9 when pupils learned they could help people in Christchurch after the earthquake.

Their teacher, Heather Warren, went online and scrolled through all the help available on TradeMe and found a thread that led to Wanganui's Castlecliff School.

A *Wanganui Chronicle* story was posted that told of the school helping the Canterbury Volunteer Student Army.

So it was back to the classroom with the good news for her students that there was a way they could help.

Year 6 student Sarah Torrie said the acronym STARS stood for the qualities of her classmates, who were self-motivated, took risks, were articulate, resilient and solved problems.

Room 9 worked together to solve the problem of what they needed to do and brought boxes of muesli bars to add to Castlecliff and Aramoho Schools' food parcels, which will be sent to Christchurch next week.



PUPIL POWER: Pupils in Marton School's Room 9 composite year 5 and 6 class were sad at the devastation caused by last month's Christchurch earthquake, so they did something about it. 090311WCTGMARTON10

Chance to catch glimpse of Rangitikei Homestay

Farm sheds have been turned into comfortable sleeping chalets and the middle section of the original homestead is the rustic bunkhouse that sleeps 22.

Kylie and Andrew Stewart are fourth generation and moved into the home in 2003. Mr Stewart grew up on the working hill-country station which has been in his family since 1901.

The couple work alongside Mrs Stewart's parents, Hugh and Diana, who built the new home 30 years ago. The younger Stewarts began the hard work to transform the farm sheds and original homestead and stamped their brand on the authentic homestay.

The Stewarts will open their farm for the Rangitikei Fete Day on March 20 where high tea will be served, and a gourmet barbecue for those who want something more substantial.

Mrs Stewart said they were keeping the day local with stall holders and musicians coming from Bulls to Wanganui.

Visitors can peruse the stalls with jewellery, designer clothes, handmade chocolates and children's toys on the lawn tennis court, or take a swim in the pool for a gold coin donation.

This is the second year the Rangitikei Farmstay has opened its gates and proceeds from this year's

fete will go toward the Wanganui Girls' College Stage Challenge sets and props.

Mrs Stewart said their farmstay was ideal for "hen nights", corporate or work functions, or a trip up to the highest ridge close to the homestead for al fresco dining while watching the sun set on Mt Taranaki and Mt Ruapehu - among the more memorable moments for tourists who come for the authentic farmstay.

■ **Tickets for the Rangitikei Farmstay fete** can be bought from the Wanganui Girls' College office, Jones St, or Project Marton on Broadway. Adults \$10, primary school children, free.



BEST FARMSTAY: Kylie Stewart with Rocky and Jamie above the Rangitikei Homestay that she runs with husband Andrew. 090311WCTGMARTON05



Sight to scare all

WORTH CROWING ABOUT: Marton School pupils say they had fun creating their scarecrows which can be seen along the fence line at the front of the school on Hereford St. From left: Hori Kumeroa with "Gary", whose head is a netball with stuffing of hay from a neighbour. Javan Hunt's "Herbert" is dressed in his uncle's clothing and has a pumpkin for a head. Ryan Hainsworth decided not to name his scarecrow, and Areta Paulger's mauve colour-coordinated, pint-sized scarecrow was also incognito. Carmel Wulffkilisi (right) named her scarecrow "Isaac". The scarecrow competition closes today with residential, business, schools and community organisations vying for the first prize of \$100 in each of the three categories. PHOTO: TRACEY GRANT 090311WCTGMARTON09

MARTON HARVEST FESTIVAL
CELEBRATING OUR HARVEST SEASON WITH A MONTH LONG FESTIVAL OF EVENTS THROUGHOUT MARCH 2011

SATURDAY 26 MARCH
Harvest Party

- Giant Pumpkin Growing comp.
- Farmers Market
- Health Expo
- Pony Rides
- Tractor & Cart Rides
- Band Positive Kii, Josh Ellery, Ben Woolston, Turakina Maori Girls, Jazz Band & others to entertain you on the day, starting noon.
- Food stalls, beverages & Horizons Green Rig.
- Craft Fair
- Face Painting
- Jumping Castles
- Free Music

Marton Park 9am onwards

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ALL ENQUIRIES PHONE PAULA (06) 327 7633

Rangitikei Round Up

CENTRAL PLATEAU SCOOTER CHALLENGE - 2 LOCAL WOMEN NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Submitted by Melanie Bartlett

On Saturday the 26th of March the Central Plateau Scooter Challenge will be coming to Bulls. The challenge is to raise much needed funds for the Child Cancer Foundation. So far we have around 50 riders on 50cc scooters taking on the challenge of riding from Whanganui, through to Bulls, and then up SH1 finishing in Taupo, and all this in ONE day.

Two local women have teamed up to take on this mega feat, Melanie Bartlett and Richelle Linklater of TDL Automotive Ltd. What we need are sponsors! You can donate money for this great cause by going to <http://www.centralplateauscooterchallenge.co.nz> clicking on the donate tab, selecting 'sponsor a rider' and scrolling down to either Melanie Bartlett's or TDL Automotive-Linklater's fundraising page. Alternatively you can place a donation in the boxes located at TDL Automotive or Bulls Bacon.

The convoy of scooters and support vehicles will be stopping at the Bulls Bakery on High Street at around 8.30am on Saturday 26th of March so come along and see what lengths people are willing to go to for a fantastic cause!

Thanks - Mel and Richelle J
Bronwyn Meads - Bulls & District Coordinator

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