

Horses for courses



**David
Haxton**

Senior Kapiti Coast District Council staff have been horsing around – but in a good and productive way.

Thirty managers from the council took a bus to Sudbury Fields, Te Horo, on Tuesday August 17, for a leadership and motivational forum.

The two hour trip cost \$600, including bus hire, and was funded from the council's training budget.

"Our visit included a demonstration by Andrew Froggatt on the techniques he used to train

his horse Rock using clear unambiguous language," council chief executive Pat Dougherty said.

"Army Major Jason Jones, another motivational trainer, spoke on techniques used to encourage people to think creatively in pursuit of short and long-term goals.

"Several staff also took the opportunity to update the forum on projects they were working on."

The visit came about after council staff last year provided feedback on a range of council activities.

"One was a wish to improve across council communications. Another was training. A range of new initiatives has now been put in place. For instance, we have introduced a fortnightly news sheet covering internal staff matters.

This is circulated to staff by internal email.

"In addition, our human resources staff have introduced a bi-monthly managers forum where managers will be encouraged to come forward and talk about projects underway in their respective areas. This across council transfer of ideas and information will help motivate and educate staff.

"We also intend to introduce speakers from outside council so managers are exposed to new ideas and methods of doing business.

"Our first bi-monthly forum was the visit to Sudbury Fields. It was chosen because of national reputation for teaching leadership and motivational skills. It is also a local company that last year won

a Nature Coast regional promotional award.

"The visit was well worth while and we were glad to take part in what was a high quality presentation by an award winning local business. Based on the brief look we had, we would recommend the company to others.

"The company uses an unusual medium to make important points about motivation and leadership. "The fact that 30 of our managers were able to take part as a group saved us time and money," Mr Dougherty said.

More info:

■ For more information regarding Sudbury Fields visit www.talking-horses.co.nz