



Horse whisperer: Andrew Froggatt has devoted his life to training horses humanely.

and there are other high risk groups, therefore fluoridation of the water supply should cease. Those who still want fluoride can get tablets from the chemist and use fluoride toothpaste.

Mavis Cain
Raumati South

Praise for local horse whisperer

Having witnessed disturbing and cruel treatment of horses in his youth, Peka Peka resident Andrew Froggatt has devoted his life to changing the way people go about harnessing the spirit of a horse.

From early childhood he knew there must be another, gentler way to win the trust of the horses than what he saw. He was affected deeply by witnessing men drive off and leave horses with their heads tied to their tails so that they desperately led themselves round in circles sometimes for up to four hours. Young Froggatt would sneak in when he could and untie these wretched animals.

Andrew Froggatt, known affectionately as the horse whisperer, is still very much on the side of horses and works with all manner of troubled and anxious ones and is planning to save race horses, who would

otherwise end up in the knackers yard.

He works with disadvantaged or difficult youths, in the past with the Epuni Boys' Home and currently with Child Youth and Family. Andrew's work with horses is also used by corporations in teaching staff about leadership and respect.

Thanks to Seamus Boyer's article in the *Kapiti Observer*, July 5, we in Kapiti can rejoice in the knowledge that in our midst there are people with integrity and compassion daily applying their skills to making life better for both animals and people.

Judy Morley-Hall
Raumati Beach

Kapiti the jewel in NZ's crown

I wish to respond to John Jamieson's letter (July 5) entitled "A monument to stupidity?". Earlier this year I reactivated my leisure cycling activities after an absence of several years. The riverside paths at that time were far inferior then to what they are now and the Kapiti Coast District Council and the many volunteer groups who have been responsible for its upgrade should be congratulated.

As a frequent cyclist on these tracks I have to say that the newly installed directional posts are invaluable. Coming off the track on the Waikanae side of the river they enable both walkers and cyclists to maximise use of the track rather than using Te Moana

Rd which carries a considerable volume of traffic. This has the added benefit of diverting cyclists from this road and potentially minimising accidents. I have lived for nine years in Kapiti and was not aware of all of the tracks and streets leading to Te Moana Rd. Neither might I add were numerous other cyclists who have lived in Kapiti longer than me. No maps that I am aware of detail them either.

Mr Jamieson should also consider the value of these new signs to tourists as these tracks of ours are becoming known to many outside our district. Speaking as a former outsider, Kapiti is an undiscovered jewel in New Zealand's crown bypassed by most as they flash by on State Highway 1. Finally I am sure the newly installed park bench can easily be moved when the expressway finally materialises. In the meantime let's enjoy using it.

John Kennedy
Waikanae

MP's joy of the college Roadshow

I had the pleasure of attending Paraparaumu College's Music Roadshow on July 3. It was a fantastic show, with the students' enthusiasm and skills to the fore. The packed Southwards Theatre audience loved it. I congratulate everyone involved – especially director Merrick Stein and his backstage team.

Nathan Guy
MP for Otaki