

Little town, big heart

December 2011

Congratulations Te Aroha

on a very positive year!



2010 closed with the devastating reality of the fire at Silver Fern Farms with many families wondering how they would get through Christmas and beyond. Long term residents know that Te Aroha has been hit by hard times before and has shown its resilience time and time again over the years. We can look forward to Christmas 2011 thankful that our plant is being rebuilt and there will be job opportunities again. This and a few big events has seen a wave of rising optimism in the town...

In winter we dusted off our swannies and pulled on our gummies for **Fieldays 'Big Little Town' Competition** to give neighbouring towns a run for their money. Te Aroha took out the top title with some very imaginative window displays and will be out to defend our title next year! 2012's theme is 'The changing face of farming'

It was great to see businesses and schools get behind **Rugby World Cup** with their bunting and window displays. Visitors to the town remarked that Te Aroha stood out in terms of individual business participation. I-SITE staff had a lot of fun meeting all the different nationalities getting their tongues around some of the greetings!

Aroha Cruise In was right in the middle of Rugby World Cup this year and the committee did a great job promoting the event at the RWC 2011 Roadshow in Hamilton drawing rugby supporters and city folk to Te Aroha for the day.

Construction of the **Hauraki Rail Trail** is full steam ahead - "The initial focus will be to get the track open from Te Aroha to Paeroa and to Waikino," says Principal Project Director Adrian de Laborde. "We hope to have the majority of this section of trail open by the end of December." The majority of the track clearing work between Te Aroha and Paeroa has been completed, and surfacing has begun in some areas. Construction of several bridges is also underway.

The Department of Conservation has worked solidly over winter to enhance the entrance to **Waiorongomai Valley**. The addition of a comfort stop at the start of the track is a welcome upgrade for walkers and a new interpretive map brings the history of the valley to life. Waiorongomai Valley is a showcase entrance to the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park and with the cycleway near completion we are sure to see an increase in visitors to Te Aroha in 2012.



I-SITE welcomed Anita Shannon to the team in July. With a tourism background, Anita originally hails from Switzerland and spent time in North America recently cycling 1700km through the USA with her husband. She has slotted quickly into her i-SITE role and is familiarising herself with local walking and cycling tracks.

Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year to you and your families from the i-SITE team. We have much to look forward to in 2012!



Construction on the Te Aroha -Paeroa leg of the cycleway (top). Students learn about the natural wonders of the Waiorongomai Valley from one of DOC's new interpretation panels



Pop in and let us know what's new with you or share your news with us online with Facebook and Twitter



WHAT'S ON?

December 2011

Te Aroha Business Association - **ANNUAL PROMOTION** Spend money in Te Aroha over the month of December and go in the draw to win fabulous prizes including a trip for two!!

Monday 5th - Friday 16th - Future Te Aroha Centre

'ONCE UPON A CHRISTMAS'

Saturday 10th - Te Aroha Business Association

CHRISTMAS IN THE STREET

Monday 12th - Te Aroha Public Library

BIG BUSH READ

Sunday 25th St Josephs Church

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

January 2012

Sunday 15th - Morrinsville Trotting Club

TE AROHA TROTS

February

Saturday 18th - Te Aroha Athletic and Harrier Club

RIBBON DAY

March

Friday 2nd - Stanley Avenue School

TWILIGHT GALA

Sunday 4th - Te Aroha Athletic and Harrier Club

TE AROHA 5KM AND 10KM FUN RUNS

Saturday 17th - St Josephs School PTA

AROHA HOMES

Sunday 18th - Domain Day Committee

A DAY IN THE DOMAIN 2012 (www.domainday.co.nz)

Sunday - 25th Te Aroha Mountain Bike Club

TE AROHA GOAT CHALLENGE RACE

April

Saturday 7th - Racing Te Aroha

NZ THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS STAKES DAY

Tuesday 10th - Sunday 22nd

ECHO WALKING FESTIVAL

Saturday 28th - Te Aroha Lions Club

50TH JUBILEE

October

Saturday 6th - Cruise In Committee

AROHA CRUISE IN 2012

To find out about any of these Te Aroha events look on www.tearohanz.co.nz
Phone 07 884 8052; Email info@tearohanz.co.nz or visit us at 102 Whitaker St
If you have an event - tell us and we'll tell EVERYONE!