



# RUAWAI RAMBLER

A Newsletter for Ruawai and Surrounding Area  
From the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group



Dec.2018

**Seasons Greetings from Portstar Plastics Ltd.**

**Our Sponsor for this Issue**

## From the Editor

This is the fourth birthday of our Newsletter. We again want to thank our advertisers and sponsors for their support which makes it possible. This issue is sponsored by Mark Jeffries and his team at Portstar Plastics. As mentioned in a previous issue of the Ruawai Rambler, Mark has taken over the business from James Lucas. Mark is great supporter of our community and has joined the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group. Thanks also to our contributors for supplying articles and information. We would not have a community newsletter without you. We are always looking for interesting stories, so if you have an idea please let us know, or write something yourself. You may have people from overseas such as students on an exchange visit or workers. They may like to share their experience in Ruawai with us. Interesting photos are also welcome. As mentioned in the September issue, the RPDG held a public meeting on 15th October. See the report by our Chairman Bruce Crompton about this important meeting.

The program for our annual Christmas activities is included with this Newsletter. The Ruawai Christmas Parade is always worth attending. For a small place we are probably punching above our weight when it comes to Christmas float parades. Special thanks to Elaine Crompton who does most of the organising for the float parade. ) Thanks as well to Nicky Reid and Tina McCullough who are also involved with organising activities for the Christmas season. If you want to share the Ruawai Rambler with friend or relatives out of our area, it is available on-line; go to: [ruawaipromotions.co.nz](http://ruawaipromotions.co.nz). For information about the Ruawai Rambler or advertising contact the editor:Jo (Johannes)Wessel. email: [jhwessel@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jhwessel@xtra.co.nz); Ph.: 439 2507; Mob.: 028 411 3027

Something I have omitted to mention before, is the membership of the RPDG Committee so here it is.

**Chairman:** Bruce Crompton

**Secretary:** Tina McCullough

**Treasurer:** Elaine Crompton

**Committee Members:**

Anna Curnow

Peter Flood

Mark Jeffries

Lorraine Littler

Nicky Reid

Des Bickers

Jo Wessel

Feel free to contact any of the Committee members if you have any questions about the RPDG.

## Report on the Public meeting held to discuss the effects of global warming on the Ruawai area.

This meeting was held on the 15h October in the Ruawai Hall and was well attended. It soon became clear that residents are well aware that global warming will affect us all in some way. There was a genuine interest in the information supplied by both the Regional Council and Kaipara District Council.



The information was well presented and informative and I feel that both the Residents and the Council representatives left the meeting with a better understanding of the situation here in Ruawai.

RPDG has since had a meeting to debrief and analyse what we saw as the important points coming from the meeting. We will be sending a letter to both councils as a result.

The paragraph below will be part of that letter and we feel that it is what residents feel is the most important issue.

*"It is felt that the integrity of our Flood protection infrastructure is the overriding concern of the meeting. This includes the future raising and strengthening of the stop banks and possible pumping stations as water levels rise.*

*Confidence in our flood protection infrastructure is essential for continued investment and development in our area."*

It is possible that another public meeting will be called early next year as more information comes to hand.

**Bruce Crompton, RPDG Chairman**

## Councillor's Corner – The Big Stuff

Now that we are well into our first year of the Long Term Plan, Council has been freed up to look into some of the bigger picture matters that we deal with. What follows is an update on some of the main ones:

**Representation Review** – At least once every six years all Councils must do what is called a Representation Review. In this we look at the way in which our community elects its Council representatives to check that the process gives the best representation around the table. Part of this is whether the numbers of representatives are spread evenly round the district by population numbers. Also of importance is the way in which distinct communities of interest are represented. Based on this, Council resolved to create a new ward, the Kaiwaka Mangawhai ward. As is allowed in the statutory process, it is my understanding that this decision has likely been appealed by at least one member of the community. This means that the decision will now be made by the Local Government Commission based on the evidence generated during the process. We should know the outcome by April 2019 and that will define how the 2019 election is run.

### **Roading Efficiency Project**

It is no surprise to anyone in the District that our roads are not in good shape. Many years of underfunding has contributed to a significant back log of work. Our new Roothing Contract is helping as it includes better auditing and performance standards. However, to progress things further we have been working with Equip, a division of Local Government New Zealand, to identify ways in which we may improve productivity even more and source additional funding where possible. This project has identified firstly that our new contract is strong and that our team under the umbrella of the Northern Transportation Alliance is working well but also that there may indeed be some opportunities for further funding. We are continuing these investigations.

### **Reviewing the Vices**

We have been reviewing the bylaws pertaining to smoking, gambling venues and alcohol control areas. This has been an interesting exercise to be part of as it deals with important issues like the health of our communities and civil liberties, things which don't always align well on the face of things! These bylaws should be adopted by the end of the year. If you have taken the time to share your views in a submission, thank you!

### **District Plan Review**

This was approved as part of the Long Term Plan and there has been significant work done internally to set out the scope. This is a vital project for our District as it sets out the rule book for what the development and environmental focus is for our District over the next ten years or so. Our current District Plan as written at a time when growth was not an issue for us. The Plan is now constraining our ability to respond well to growth and the changing nature of our communities. The review will include opportunities for everyone to have their say and I encourage you to come along to any community meetings that we host on the matter. We need to understand your aspirations for our District so that we can make the rules that support those.

### **Climate Change**

Some of you will have attended the meeting held on climate change in Ruawai last month. Officers from NRC and KDC presented information about the risks of flooding to the Ruawai area. These are significant and will require action that is not business-as-usual over the next few years. It is my understanding that the community now wishes to set up a stakeholder group to co-ordinate our input back to Council to make sure that Ruawai's wishes are heard and help to define the response plans. Look out for more information from Ruawai Promotions and Development Group about the formation of this group.

### **Peoples Panel**

Getting input from our community is vital to helping us make the right decisions. To ensure we get the widest possible range of views we have set up an online system where you register and then we send you questions from time to time asking for your views on things we need to make decisions on. Please do join the peoples panel by going to [www.kaipara.govt.nz/panel](http://www.kaipara.govt.nz/panel).

*Finally, as we head into the Christmas season, please have a happy holiday, enjoy the Christmas parade and the Stop-bank Walkway opening event, and take care of each other.*

**Anna Curnow** 021 667 124 [Cr.curnow@kaipara.govt.nz](mailto:Cr.curnow@kaipara.govt.nz)



## Ruawai Stopbank Walkway

We're nearly there! The committee has been working hard on pulling the different threads together for our Stopbank Walkway ready for our opening event on 16 December. The surface should be finished to a good standard from the first flood gate right through to Simpson's Road. Unfortunately the stretch from the wharf through to the first floodgate has not been dry enough to be worked so will not be finished in time for the opening but should be finished soon after that. In the meantime and certainly for the opening event we will be walking along Westlake Road up to the first floodgate. Keep an eye out for the new signs that are now in production. We have signs describing the history, technology and wildlife of the area. Sometimes, when you live somewhere it's easy to take things for granted. I encourage you to take a walk on our extraordinary stopbank and take the time to notice how incredible it really is; and how beautiful too! Thanks to the contractors who are doing the hard work getting our stopbank ready for this new activity. They are indeed being paid but mostly they have provided quotes that show their support. We have tried to use local contractors wherever possible to make sure this is a project for Ruawai, by Ruawai. I would like to thank my fellow members of the committee; Nicky Reid, Elaine Crompton, Ian Beattie, Dorothy and Jim Simpson, Stella Clyde and Roxanne Kelly. They have shown a commitment and enthusiasm for this project that has carried it from an idea (one that has been held in the community for many years) through to raising funds, organising contractors, designers and signage people and now to organising an exciting event for Ruawai. I look forward to seeing you at 9am (bikes) or 10am (walkers, runners and buggies) on 16 December, at the wharf. Don't forget to dress in a Christmas theme for a little fun! **Anna Curnow**; Chair, Stop-bank Walkway Sub-committee Ruawai Promotions and Development Group

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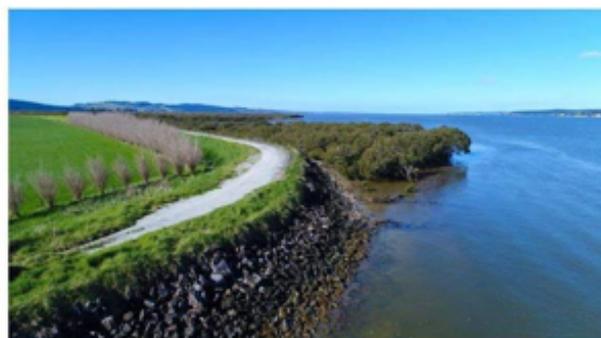


**Ruawai Promotions Development Group**

## Fun Run Walk or Cycle

**SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

Bikes start 9am Walk/Run Buggies 10am  
Registrations from 8am



**7.4km**

**Lots of Spot Prizes**

**Adults \$10**

**Juniors 13yrs and under \$5**

**Family (2 adults and up to 3 kids) \$20**

**EVENT ENQUIRIES**

Anna Curnow 021667124



## The Gazebo

Have you noticed the changes to the Gazebo? Fretwork has been added along the upper part and we have installed railings along the bottom. These additions have enhanced the look of the Gazebo.

Meanwhile, the Gazebo Sub Committee from the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group has been working away on the historical photos and stories of Ruawai and the Ruawai Flats. The project has been completed and the information has gone to a sign writer who will print it on an aluminium base, which will then be attached to the walls of the Gazebo as a permanent display. We were able to get a Grant from the Creative Communities Scheme, through the Kaipara District Council, to cover the expenses for this project. We greatly appreciate this assistance.

We want to thank Colin Thomson for painting the Gazebo and Jason Redwood for making the fretwork and the railings. I want to thank my fellow members on the Sub Committee for the splendid work in getting it all together. These are: Nicky Reid, Suzanne Oud, Tony King (until he moved to Brazil ), Tracey Wedge (Collection Manager of the Kari Museum) and her husband Stephen Davies. Also thanks to the Kauri Museum for allowing us to use many of the photos about Ruawai from the Museum archives. **Jo Wessel**



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**More about the Gazebo**

The Ruawai Flats have a very unique history because this whole area was once an inhospitable swamp that flooded during a big spring tide and now it is one of the most productive areas of Northland. There is soon going to be a Photo Collection permanently installed in the Gazebo on the Ruawai Village Green, to tell the stories of how the Ruawai Flats and its community developed into what it is now – from the timber milling, maritime and drainage stories to the kumara and dairy industries. A sub-committee of the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group created the photo display to provide local information to tourists and to help locals feel proud of where we live. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Photo Collection on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Village Green, followed by Carol Singing, Santa-on-the-Fire-Engine and lolly scramble. Please come along and bring your friends and family. The photo collection has also been compiled into a tourist book called “The Ruawai Flats – Our Story” and there will be a limited number of these available for purchase at the Opening Event. See you there!

**Nicky Reid.**

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In the last couple of issues of the Ruawai Rambler we have mentioned new businesses and buildings in Ruawai. Here is an article about a well established business that is growing with the times. Thanks to Lorraine Littler, our new reporter, for supplying the article and photos. J.W.

**Crompton Engineering, a growing business.**

I recently spoke with Bruce Crompton, owner of Crompton Engineering, to find out a little about why he is adding an additional building to his business’s location on Jellicoe Road. It makes sense to begin by going back to 2 February 1976, when Bruce bought his business from Jim Lowther. He started out with just two staff members. The total area of his building was approximately 200 square metres. Back then, the biggest tractors were 50hp and his work mainly consisted of repairs and maintenance for kumara growers and farmers, and a small amount of manufacturing.

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Tractor work had to be by appointment due to lack of lifting gear such as forklifts.

By 1986 tractors and machinery were starting to get bigger and because of the need for more space, he built the existing workshop.

Bruce has secured contracts over the years which have helped his business to grow. During the early years he was fortunate to secure a three year contract with Marsden B Power Station and with the oil refinery at Ruakaka undertaking fabrication work. This paved the way for more manufacturing work. Bruce did the steel work on the new Dargaville Bridge which was opened in 1988.

He also approached the former owner of PortStar Plastics when he heard he was looking for premises in Ruawai, to see if he would be interested in leasing some space. His offer was taken up and the first few years of operation of this other successful Ruawai business were from the back of Bruce's workshop.

Moving on to the present, tractors and machinery have continued to get bigger and so the need for more space has returned. Tractors can often be over 200hp these days and of course they are heavier as well. These days Bruce also gets to work on such equipment as rollers, levelers and floodgates. To cater for modern times there will soon be workshop space of 800 to 900 square metres. The new building addition will have a lifting facility inside which is now essential for engineering. There will be four bays to allow for better access. He plans on using the current area for manufacturing (kumara machinery etc), retail (pump sales etc) and future development. There are now four staff members working at the business.

Bruce says that there is always a need to invest back into any business in order for it to survive. He wants to ensure our town carries on and he appreciates the support of the local and surrounding communities.  
Lorraine Littler



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Snack packs are sent out a week before the market sees them, so get in touch today.

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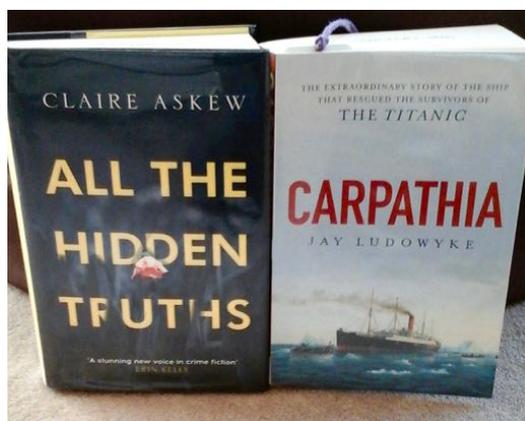
### Sue Neal's Book Corner

Robyn and Sue from Books@Ruawai tell me there is lots of newly-listed stock in, including books suitable as gifts for all ages. Also plenty of good holiday reads for those days on the beach. Need any information about books, or looking for that special book, Sue can help. The shop will be closed Christmas & Boxing day and the day after. Otherwise open during regular hours (see advert below). **J.W.**

It's that time of year again, with the pressure to get the perfect gift. I can only tell you about the books I've read and enjoyed. With all of us having different tastes and interests, it's possible they may not please everyone.

My best tips are to go to the websites of all the major publishers, Hachette, Random House, Harper Collins, to name but a few. They will email you their latest releases as they come along. A site I use a lot is Goodreads; it lets you search it's database and reviews. You can sign up and register books to generate your own library catalogues and reading lists. You can also create your own group of book suggestions: surveys, blogs and discussions.

Now the 2 books I have enjoyed recently:



#### All The Hidden Truths by Clare Askew.

A great crime novel from a new author. An interesting twist on the usual crime thriller novel. Set in Edinburgh and following a college shooting, 13 women and the killer dead. The media, the tabloids, the public, all looking for answers to why this happened. It's gripping and heart warming. A must read if you like crime novels.

#### Carpathia by Jay Ludowyke

I've always known Carpathia was the ship that went to the Titanic's rescue but that was about all I knew. This book is well-researched and not only tells of that night, but Carpathia's history; from being built to being sunk in 1918.

Viewed from the perspective of the modern-day divers, who search for her wreckage, make this as gripping as any novel.

Two brief mentions: The Fox by Frederick Forsyth, modern espionage story-telling at its best. Also, The Clockmakers Daughter by Kate Morton - love, loss, murder and mystery across 2 time-spans.

Both books are fabulous.

**Sue Neal**

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Huband Contractors Limited General Manager Shaun Huband says the new service will be on tap seven days a week.

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On behalf of Uncle's Kai Cart we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas & Safe and Prosperous New Year

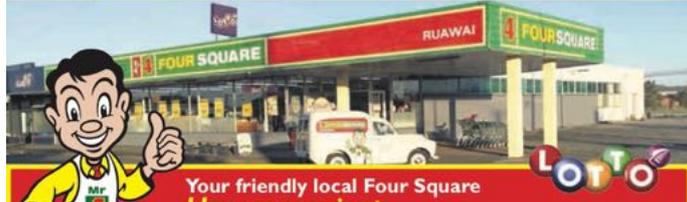


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**Ruawai College Celebrates Armistice Day**

On Monday 12 November, the weather was great and as a school we marked a century since the end of World War 1 with a mixture of silence and noise on the school field. Our students observed a 2 -minute silence and then broke out into our school Haka and proceeded to make lots of noise - clapping, shouting and jumping.



## Real Estate Update

Residential properties in Ruawai have been selling relatively quickly, and are selling above their rateable valuations for the first time in a few years. Ruawai is seen by many as a good location, central to the Kaipara, not too far from Auckland, and ideal for those who want to retire or can work from home – our secret is out! The dairy farm market has seen minimal activity in the past few months and a flood of fresh listings to the market – both of these things are normal for this time of year. There is still good demand for grazing and finishing farms. We are currently experiencing a seller's market here, my window is full of sold signs and I have buyers waiting for new listings, so if you are thinking of selling please give me a call for a free appraisal.

Nicky Reid

B.V.Sc., Dip Real Estate

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## New Boat Hits The Water

We could be wrong but when a new boat comes on the scene these days it is usually an aluminium or plastic product. So it is pleasing to view a home-built, all-wood creation - completed here in Ruawai. From the board of American designer, Jim Michalak, the 18-foot sharpie gives a lively, but stable, performance with an economical 15HP outboard. An unusual feature is the "slot top" which gives access to the anchor without having to scramble over the cabin top. This is great for owner/builder, John Groves, who describes himself as "very mature". John acknowledges the assistance given by neighbour, Jim Gilmour, and whose welding skills produced the trailer.



Margaret King gives the boat a champagne blessing with John looking on, before it confidently planed away into the distance with it's crew, Joh & Ray. Photos by Nicky Reid

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**From the Kauri Museum**

The new tourist season has begun and the number of visitors calling at The Kauri Museum has suddenly increased dramatically. As well as free, independent travellers, the numbers visiting on guided tours is also up, with no less than eight coaches lined up outside the Museum one day last week. And that's not all! There has been steady stream of school visits in the last few weeks with groups of up to 100+ students busy with their schoolwork throughout the buildings. This all keeps staff members on their toes and everyone is most thankful for the support from the team of volunteers who give their time so generously. Thankfully, our efforts to find additional volunteers has been very successful, with both new people joining and a stream of previous volunteers returning to help out. A big thank you to you all.



A group of senior students from Dargaville High School greeting a coach load of international visitors with a powhiri, part of their practical assessment for NZCEA

Coming up

The Otamatea Quilters' exhibition closes on 18 November and will be replaced with a display of old maps and holiday information for travellers in our area. It will be supported with side displays of antique Christmas cards and children's toys.

NB

Free entry to The Kauri Museum for residents of the old Otamatea area will cease from 1 January 2019

**From the Garden Circle**

Hello to all out there, the weather is looking pretty good at the moment, and I am sure we want it to continue. On the 20th September we all went on a garden visit to an amazing garden in Maungatoroto. Had a huge amount of Bromeliads there, like a little secret paradise right in the town. After the garden we all went to lunch at the cafe at the Brynderwyns. They have done a fantastic job doing the place up, and it is well worth a visit.

We held our annual rose show on the 10th of this month. Sorry I was unwell and couldn't attend myself, but all info has been given to me. Attendance was very good this year with 45 to 50, and at least 40 for lunch.

Winners for this year were :- Champion Bloom-Colleen Glass

Senior section

- 1st Judy Mardon
- 2nd=Phil Yelcich & Dorothy Simpson

Intermediate section

- 1st. Jackie Hart
- 2nd. Betty Meurant

Novice section

- 1st. Kura Newell
- 2nd=Lyn Allbury & Diane Daicombe

Old fashioned roses

- 1st. Judy Mardon
- 2nd. Dorothy Simpson

Miniature roses

- 1st. Frances Casey
- 2nd=Kura Newell & Daphne Spice

Patio Roses Stacey Smith

Cut Flowers

- 1st Dorothy Simpson
- 2nd. Jackie Madden

All the decorative flowers were beautiful. The stall was extremely well patronised. So thanks to all who attended for making it a success.

I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful Xmas and a happy new year. Happy weeding all. **Merle Jackson**

The Kaipara Community Health Trust  
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*Merry Christmas* from your **Ruawai Community Sports Club**

The RCSC management committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone within our community and beyond for their continual support over the 2018 year. Without our volunteers, donations and the support of events held at the Sports Club, we wouldn't be able to continuously maintain and upgrade this fabulous community facility.



We wish you all a safe and happy summer break.

*Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi,  
 engari, he toa takitini*

**Exercise for senio**

Exercise is not only good for us it is essential to keep our bodies functioning properly. As we become older and we cannot taking part in sports or long walks we can easily decide to just sit around and that can lead to problems. So, the group described below can be a place for exercise and meeting up with other seniors at the same time.

**J.W.**



**TOTS**

We call our group TOTS (Together on Tuesdays for Seniors) and as the name suggests, we meet every **Tuesday morning** (except during school holidays) at **10 am** at the **Ruawai Community Church centre**. We begin with an exercise/movement programme which includes a focus on strength and balance. We then have a time of fellowship over morning tea. Fay's pikelets are always appreciated. Please feel welcome to join us. There is no charge but a gold coin is appreciated. For more information phone Fay 9728951 or Jacqui 439 2006.

**Jacqui Hart**



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Sept	-	69mm
Oct	-	69mm
Nov	-	41mm up to 23/11/2018

## Christmas Light Display

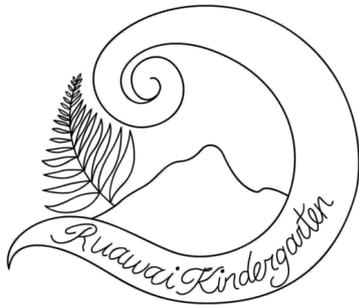


Come along and see the best display of Christmas lights that you have ever seen in Ruawai.

Each year The Lyndseys put up a fantastic display for anyone to go along a look at, this well and truly rivals anything you would ever see in the big cities

Make sure you get in early, don't wait until it's raining.

Available to view in December.



WISHING EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US HERE AT RUAWAI KINDERGARTEN



Term 4 2015 Ends 20<sup>TH</sup> Dec 2018  
Term 1 2016 Starts 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019



For all things automotive  
See the best in town!

CALL US NOW!  
09 439 2424

23 Freyberg St, Ruawai

DIESEL TUNING CHIPS  
AVAILABLE HERE NOW -  
FOR TRUCKS, UTES,  
TRACTORS AND MORE!



# Ruawai Promotions and Development Group

## Christmas Programme



### Float Parade 15th December 2018

Festivities commence 10.00am outside Four Square

Float Parade leaves Community Church at 12pm

Santa, Quick Fire Raffles, Sausage Sizzle, Stalls, Christmas Music

Prize for best floats - Monster Xmas Hamper to be drawn on the day

Further info regarding Parade Phone Elaine 4392221

### WATCH THE NOTICE BOARD ON THE VILLAGE GREEN FOR UPDATES ON CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

#### Decorate your Mailbox!

Decorate your mailbox if you live in town. The more festive the better. Prize for the best one.

### NIGHT ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

12<sup>TH</sup> December 6pm

Opening of the Gazebo, Santa, Lolly Scramble, Carol Singing!

### COME DOWN AND JOIN IN WITH US SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Fun night. Whether you enjoy singing or just listening, there will be all sorts of Christmas songs

#### PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Have your Photo taken with Santa at The Gazebo on the village green for a Gold coin donation

Photos available next day

WATCH THE NOTICE BOARD FOR DAYS AND TIMES

*Opening Times 11.00 am- 2.30pm*



#### **Ruawai Promotions and Development Christmas Raffle**

Cut off and Win a Hamper Full of Christmas Goodies!!!!!!!!!!

Place in Entry Boxes at, Ruawai Post Centre, R.D.1 and Four Square

Drawn 15th December at the Christmas Parade

\$5.00 Ticket

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

