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BRIEFLY

Meet your candidates

The public have another chance to meet candidates in the local government elections tomorrow night.

Te Awamutu Chamber of Commerce is hosting a meet the candidates forum at the Council Chambers from 7pm.

Candidates' profiles feature in the Word on Waipa inside today's issue on pages 11-13.

Te Awamutu Ward candidates' speeches to last week's Grey Power forum also feature on pages 3 and 10, while Kakepuku Ward candidates feature on page 6.

Owner sought

The owners of an injured cat handed in to Te Awamutu Veterinary Services are being sought.

The ginger cat, estimated to be 12-18 months of age, had to have its leg amputated. It looked like it had been either caught in a trap or hit by a car.

The cat was found in the Te Kawa Road area. It was handed in by a person house sitting for friends - the cat wandered in and was initially mistaken for the house pet, which is also ginger.

Garden ramble

Be quick if you want to attend the ninth annual Altrusa Home and Garden Ramble on Sunday, November 7. Last year tickets sold out to this event.

This year the fifteen homes and gardens featured promise to live up to the high standard of past years and tickets (\$20) are sure to sell fast.

Proceeds will fund Altrusa community projects. Further details are available from Playmates or by phoning 872 7879.

Daylight saving

While the recent weather hasn't been too encouraging, the arrival of daylight saving time usually heralds better things to come.

Daylight saving begins this Sunday morning (October 3) at 2am (which becomes 3am).

Most people find it convenient to put their clocks forward one hour before they go to bed on Saturday evening.

The start of daylight saving is also an opportune time to change batteries in smoke alarms.

Our world champion daffodil

By Grant Johnston

It felt as good as winning a gold medal for Frontier Road daffodil growers Graeme and Faith Miller when one of their blooms took out the grand champion title at the World Daffodil Convention Show in Melbourne recently.

Growing and breeding daffodils has been an enjoyable hobby and a break away from their teaching careers for about 20 years.

Mr Miller is principal at Kihikihi Primary School and Mrs Miller works with children with special needs at Otorohanga South School.

Mr Miller first became interested in daffodils when his father gave him some bulbs to plant when he was 13.

Seeing his name on a prize certificate gave him a real buzz.

But there was a much bigger buzz waiting in Melbourne at the Daffodils Down Under Show.

Ironically, the couple did not rate the champion flower as highly as some of their other entries.

When Mr Miller was helping to judge another section of the show and when he saw that their most favoured entry, a 'Lady Diana' bloom had not succeeded in another class he went back to the hotel where they were staying slightly disappointed.

At breakfast the next day another competitor informed them their entry in the 'small orange or red cup, yellow petals' class had won best seedling.

The American judge, who along with a British judge selected the champion bloom, was sitting at a nearby table and when he said that flower had been chosen as grand champion the Millers were speechless.

They had to see for themselves and after waiting nervously for an hour for the show to open raced back to the show, saw their hopes confirmed.

The flower had also picked up the ribbon as open section champion on its way to top honours.

While they thought the flower may not have been large enough, the judges discounted this because of its near perfect formation.

The success will give G and F Miller Daffodils of Frontier Road exposure on the international daffodil stage.

They export some bulbs already but expect more orders to start coming in.



GOLDEN GLOW: Graeme and Faith Miller with a bed of daffodils at their Frontier Road property and the Grand Champion Flower ribbon from the World Daffodil Convention and **BELOW:** the champion flower.

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The Millers grow 12,000 bulbs annually and sell named varieties for prices ranging from \$145 to \$1.50 per bulb.

This year's success was not their first at the World Daffodil Convention - having taken out champion seedling at the last show in New Zealand in 1996.

They are attending six shows this spring, typically picking 400 flowers to choose the best 150.

When the work is at its peak their four children help out and the family garage is turned into a production room, complete with chillers for top flowers.

One show at which locals will see the world class daffodils will be at Hamilton Gardens on October 2.

The couple have lived at Frontier Road for three years and say they could not have wished to find a better place to grow daffodils with fertile soil and good rainfall.

And sometimes despite the best care possible for the prime daffodils grown under netting in their garden, the discards alongside the roadside fence can throw up a champion

- exactly what happened two years ago at the National Show, despite the same variety being grown in the garden.



Call to attend Unknown Soldier events

Ministry for Culture and Heritage chief executive Martin Matthews has launched a nationwide call encouraging veterans and families of New Zealand war dead to take part in ceremonial events marking the return of the Unknown Warrior to New Zealand in November.

"We want as many veterans and families as possible to share in this unique and historic day," said Mr Matthews.

"Veterans, next of kin and descendants who live in Wellington, or are planning to be in Wellington on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 November, are urged to contact the Ministry as soon as possible as there are a number of ways they can participate in ceremonial events."

There are opportunities to attend the Arrival Ceremony for the Unknown Warrior at Parliament, the lying in state at Par-

liament House, and the Military Funeral Procession in central Wellington.

A special toll free number 0800 NZTOMB (0800 437 349) and email address nztomb@mch.govt.nz have been set-up to enable veterans and families to apply for seating at the Memorial Service and the Interment Ceremony.

Applications for seating close on Monday 11 October.

A New Zealand delegation will travel to France for a ceremony early in November to begin the process of repatriating the Unknown Warrior.

On return, the Unknown Warrior will lie in state at Parliament to enable New Zealanders to pay their respects.

Further information on all Unknown New Zealand Warrior ceremonial events is online at www.unknownwarrior.govt.nz.

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