

Donna Wallace Advertising Director
Louisa Hewitt Newspaper Sales and Marketing Manager
Pam Dyhrberg Production Manager
Tracey Grant Chief Photographer
David Rogerson News/Production Editor



CHESTER BORROWS
 MP FOR WHANGANUI

Matthew's has remarked that he was surprised the billboard outside his church depicting Joseph and Mary in bed together offended some people. Paul Henry has been "surprised" to learn his identification of Susan Boyle as "retarded" brought scorn from the Broadcasting Standards Authority. But don't worry, TVNZ has apologised to anybody who "may have been offended". Sadly, and perhaps not so surprisingly, a policeman has just been shot in South Auckland, a very real offence to our society. These things that make media

just had to worry about the family would be at piece and making sure something under the t But we also hear of the true spirit of the se I listened to an extend the family who won \$3 lotto earlier in the yea made Christmas for a donating large chunks charities, funds for an by giving money to the Board. I was intrigued women say that she'll shift through to 7.30 or morning, so will spend

EDITORIAL

Media must not subvert will of local people

WHEN Scotland's most notable poet Robert Burns observed that "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men Gang aft agley" he would never have heard of Wanganui or Whanganui. But that observation certainly rings true with the "H debate" likely to continue long and loud for some time yet. That's because the best laid scheme that has gone seriously agley (at least for the meantime) is dreamed up by the Minister of Land Information, Maurice Williamson, with his attempt to please all parties in the h argument by declaring both versions would be available. And, as Robbie Burns also accurately observed, that decision has the potential to "lea'e us nought but grief an' pain, For promis'd joy!" The dual name decision was initially greeted with some joy by local Maori, who had campaigned so long for formal recognition of the h in Whanganui, and by the most vociferous opponent of the h, Wanganui Mayor Michael Laws. But it took little time before the grief struck. Mr Laws became riled by TVNZ's decision to immediately begin using Whanganui in its news bulletins (before that version has even been gazetted) but added insult to injury by calling the city "Fonganui". Taking the same tack is the other State-owned broadcasting enterprise, Radio New Zealand. When the *Chronicle* challenged those organisations about the way its announcers were pronouncing Whanganui/Wanganui, both responded by claiming that catering for differing Maori dialects was too difficult so they used standardised pronunciations for Maori words, as approved by their "Maori advisers". That explanation is not only nonsense it is arrogant, ignorant, insulting and quite unacceptable. Wanganui with or without the 'h' has never been 'Fonganui'. The "Hw" sound (with the 'h' almost silent) was probably what caused the spelling problem in the first place. Putting the 'h' back was about restoring the meaning of the printed word. It was not about changing the way we say Wanganui or Whanganui. And the explanations offered by TVNZ and Radio New Zealand certainly don't stack up given that TV3's approach to using Whanganui in its news bulletins has been to teach its reporters and announcers the correct pronunciation. Unless these media outlets modify their stance, then maybe Mr Laws is right: "They are unelected liberals subverting the democratic will of Wanganui people."

READERS' LETTERS The Editor, Wanganui Chronicle, Box 433

A big thank-you

Sue and I were the overall winners in the recent Christmas Light Up Your Home contest. However, regardless of our win, through your column we would like to congratulate all of the other category winners and especially congratulate all entrants. You all did a fantastic job of decorating your homes. Hopefully, we all inspired others to give it a go so that next year it will be even bigger. We would also like to thank all of the mums and dads that brought the little ones all the way up to Aramoho to view our lights. It gave Sue and I so much pleasure to see those little faces light up and made it all worthwhile for us. We would also like to thank Property Brokers Wanganui, the *Wanganui Chronicle's* Louisa Hewitt for her fantastic job organising a difficult contest and More FM. Also a very big thank-you to Sponsors Energy Direct, Pak 'n Save Wanganui, More FM and the *Wanganui Chronicle*. The Christmas Spirit is still alive and kicking in Wanganui. Finally, Sue and I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year. Hope to see you all again next Christmas. Cheers. **TREV & SUE MARKLEW** Wanganui

Christmas

I was recently asked what Christmas meant to me. After some thought I came up with the following: Noisy, drunken parties and constant doof, doof, doof. Increased domestic violence. Drunken teenagers roaming the streets at all hours. Drunk drivers and fatal car crashes. Christmas — bah, humbug! **DUSTY MILLER** Marton

Futile

Our mayor appears to suffer from the delusion that his repetitive ranting on any topic at all can magically turn fiction into fact. With Government departments being required to phase in the use of Whanganui, it is inevitable that Whanganui will become the dominant form. While the present generation might resist the change, time will ultimately make the decision for future generations and the long-forgotten rantings and resource-wasting of a belligerent mayor and his obedient little council will be proven entirely futile. **BILL SIMMONS** Otamatea

Where will it end?

I have kept out of the 'H debate', and frankly I'm not surprised it finished as it did. I now hope the Wanganui District Council seek to have the same choice apply to the Wanganui River — with or without the 'H'. I guess it will only be a matter of time



to find out he doesn't than live as if there is no God and die to find out there is Why would time be divided by Christ's birth, BC (before Christ), and AD (anno domini), meaning the year of Our Lord? Happy Christmas, everyone, and God bless you. **MARGARET BROWN** Wanganui

Clean water

In regard to the article from Jango re the old days about good clean water, I would like to advise him that Coke has never owned the Holly Lodge property and the water was never sent by truck to Auckland. It was actually purchased by Lion Breweries, who owned Pepsi-Cola at that time. The water was bottled at Holly Lodge. The water is still being used by our company and delivered to homes and businesses in Wanganui and outside areas. **DON DORRICOFF** Manager The Waterman, Wanganui

Decrepit buildings

Heritage building advocates should read the productivity figures of staff that are moved into modern buildings, from decrepit "heritage" buildings: 39 per cent decrease in sick leave, 9 per cent increase in typing speed, 7 per cent increase in billable hours and much greater efficiency in electricity and

QUOT THE D

Christmas is th when you buy t gifts with next y

Genetic script

Before I move on to rr breeding, understand chromosomes and go to the questions of life needed, not evolution. A computer can pr Before it is printed it spelling. To do that it have the coded data i

THOUGHT OF THE DAY