

WHAT'S HOT?

WHAT'S NOT?

HOT

■ **Kindness of strangers 'paying it forward'. While getting lunch my effpos card declined - the only other person in the cafe insisted on paying, as someone once did for him.**

■ **100 shoe boxes of gifts for overseas children being packed by pupils at Te Awamutu Primary School.**

■ **Waikeria 'workers' great job spreading wood chips on areas of school playgrounds.**

■ **Te Awamutu Police catching crims who drive stolen cars and crash into shops.**

■ **Hotsteppers touch kids team.**

NOT

■ **State of the park and lake on Fairview estate - who maintains that?**

■ **People who get new give way rules wrong, then get verbally abusive about it after parking car.**

TEXT: write HOT or NOT then your opinion.

Send to **021 241 4568** Insert code **TAC** before Hot or Not.

EMAIL: write HOT or NOT then your opinion.

Send to **cathy.asplin@teawamutucourier.co.nz**

DROP: write HOT or NOT then your opinion.

Drop into our office **336 Alexandra Street**

Topiary 'living sculptures'

Te Awamutu Courier garden expert Graeme Burton played a major part in the success of the 2012 Waikato Home and Garden Show.

Mr Burton and his wife Val were exhibitors and he also presented a daily seminar over a busy four days.

The couple were highly commended for Best Site.

The Burtons were excited to have the first showing of Rukuhia Homestead Landscaping's new range of large topiary plants.

All of their topiary are being marketed under the Trademark brand, Topiary Different, and all plants in the range have been personally grown or chosen by Mr Burton.

One of his exclusive new topiary releases is Loropetalum Shirazmatazz, which he describes as having magical deep shiraz coloured foliage all year round.

Mr Burton has trained the plant up a central leader, with the side branches trimmed to give the plant a slightly tapered look from the top to the ground.

The second is Citrus Lime Cocktail. The delightfully small citrus lime fruit on plants which have been espaliered sideways on a plant trellis, just perfect for the homeowner who doesn't have much room for a citrus tree, and who loves a gin and tonic with a small tasty slice of lime.

Many of Mr Burton's new topiary range are one to three metres tall and trained into a variety of symmetrical and abstract shapes.

He sees his new topiary range definitely suiting the bigger sized property, and also the smaller urban section, where an individual specimen could be planted as a 'living sculpture'.

"Put an outdoor spotlight on the specimen and they look amazing at night in the garden," he says.

The Burtons have recently returned from an extensive trip to Europe, visiting many gardens with topiary, just like the ones in the Topiary Different range.

At this stage the Burtons have only released a limited number of varieties, but more will continue to come through.

Mr Burton thinks his new topiary will be readily accepted by gardeners looking for something different from the common topiary product lines currently available in plant retail shops.

Rukuhia Homestead Landscaping doesn't have a retail outlet, they can be viewed online or by making an appointment with Mr Burton.

For the seminar series Mr Burton spoke on a variety of topiary topics, including:

- which plants make the best topiary and the ones to avoid;
- trimming topiary techniques;
- matching up the container to the plant;
- general maintenance of topiary; and,
- selecting topiary to suit the style of house and garden.

■ **Contact details for Mr Burton can be found on page 7.**



Rukuhia Homestead Landscaping owners Graeme and Val Burton with some of their Topiary Different offerings, shown for the first time at the 2012 Waikato Home and Garden Show.

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