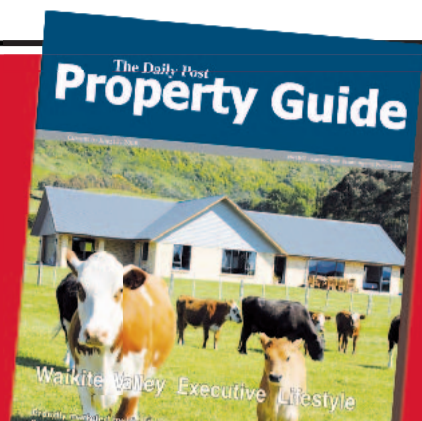


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The Daily Post



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RATES ROW: HOW IT COULD AFFECT YOU A3

Rotorua, Central North Island

Saturday, June 7, 2008

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Fearful dairy owners taking up arms

by Greg Taipari
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Some fearful Rotorua dairy owners are hiding weapons behind their counters for protection in case they are robbed.

One says he has a hockey stick behind his counter and others know of fellow dairy owners who have weapons at the ready in case they are attacked.

Owning a corner store has become a risky business with suburban dairies increasingly becoming the targets of armed criminals who often strike in daylight, brandishing weapons and threatening to harm staff.

Ten local dairy owners have told *The Daily Post* they live in fear of being the next victims of an aggravated robbery.

Their comments come after two Rotorua dairy knife-point robberies in the past week which have left victims traumatised.

The offenders can strike at any time, anywhere, with dairies in suburbs all over Rotorua targeted in recent years, some more than once.

Most offenders demand money, making off with modest amounts as well as cigarettes and sometimes confectionery.

A couple of hundred dollars, some cigarettes and chewing gum would hardly seem worth the risk of spending up to 14 years in jail for aggravated robbery and police say most robbers are caught.

In the latest raid, robbers struck Lynmore Superette on Tuesday about lunchtime. The two men covered their faces with bandannas and threatened the store owner with what looked like a builder's knife.

No one was hurt but the thieves stole about \$200 cash.

The owners of Lynmore Superette told *The Daily Post* it had been a traumatic situation and they did not want to comment further. An earlier robbery happened at Pandora Superette where two masked men with a knife threat-

DAIRY ROBBERIES



WORRIED: Dinas Dhanjee is living in fear. He tells his story on page A4.

RECENT INCIDENTS:

May 29, Pandora Superette:

Two men wearing bandannas over their faces threatened a female shop assistant with a knife and made off with money and cigarettes. One offender was of average build, wearing a blue and white patterned hoodie, the second man was short and stocky.

June 3, Lynmore Superette:

Two men wearing bandannas threatened a shop assistant with what looked like a builder's knife. They took \$200 cash. Both offenders were Maori, aged between 16 and 20 and of average builds. Police also want to find a grey car seen speeding along Lewis Rd shortly after the 12.30pm robbery.

ened a female shop assistant and made off with money and cigarettes.

■ **Other dairy owners living in fear and what police say — A4**

■ **Our View — A6**

She's only got months to live — and today's her fairytale wedding



GETTING MARRIED: Wiki Hunuhunu and Jackson Brown are tying the knot after 28 years together.

by Alison Brown
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ADYING Rotorua woman is getting her final wish — marrying her one true love.

Wiki Hunuhunu was to tie the knot with Jackson Brown at Rotorua Hospital's chapel today, after the couple were gifted a wedding with all the trappings.

The ceremony was extra special for the pair who were told this week by hospital specialists that Miss Hunuhunu has just months to live.

In hospital recovering from a stroke, she recently had a CT scan which revealed she had end-stage cervical cancer. It was a major shock for the 42-year-old and her partner of 28 years, who have raised 11 children between them.

Mr Brown, 46, said he had been wanting to "pop the question" for some time but didn't know how to put how he felt about his partner into words. The scan results and a quiet word from their eldest

WHO MADE IT HAPPEN?

- **Bossi's Hair and Beauty:** Styling for Wiki and two friends
- **Step By Step Bride and Groom Studio:** Wedding gown
- **Pollard's Menswear:** Suit for groom
- **Fusion Flowers:** Wedding bouquets
- **Knox Engravers:** Engraved wedding bands and two glasses
- **Indigo Cafe:** Wedding cake and finger food
- **Fenwicks Deli:** Reception catering
- **Goold Photographics:** Camera, prints and wedding album
- **Speedy Signs:** A banner showing Okere Falls, their favourite spot
- **Silver Fern Motel:** Spa treatments for bride and groom

son, prompted him to take action. "I was nervous," he said. "I hadn't done it before."

For Miss Hunuhunu, hearing the words was like a dream come true.

"He's normally really quiet but you know when he says something, it has meaning. This was one of those times."

The couple bought their engagement ring and wedding bands this week and were planning a simple ceremony. "I would have been happy going to the

court registry office, walking across the road to Subway then back to hospital in my pyjamas if I had to," she says.

But Mary Cooper, the wife of another patient in the hospital's rehabilitation unit, wanted to give Miss Hunuhunu the wedding she deserved. A call to local radio station More FM helped spread the word and within hours 10 businesses had donated products or services for the wedding. Betty Hopps from Step by Step Bride and Groom Studio helped fit the bride into a white chiffon

PICTURE / BEN FRASER 060608BF8

gown to wear down the aisle. "She looked absolutely beautiful," Ms Hopps said. "The morning we tried it on everyone was in tears."

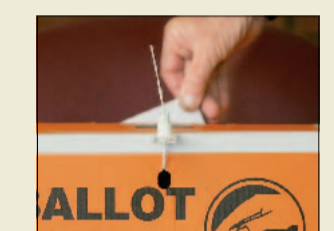
Miss Hunuhunu's day was to start early with a trip to Bossi's salon for her and two friends in a mobility van, specially designed to accommodate the bride's wheelchair.

Pastor Manu Pohio from Rotorua's Charisma Church was to perform the ceremony before more than 100 guests. The reception was to be at the hospital's rehabilitation unit, catered by local businesses. Mrs Cooper said the community's response to her plea for help had overwhelmed everyone.

"Wiki and Jackson are such warm people and over the years, they've done a lot for their community. This is our chance to do something memorable for them."

An emotional Miss Hunuhunu, said all the fuss made her feel like a princess. "We're not the sort of people to ask for anything... this is like a fairytale."

ALSO INSIDE TODAY



Thousands will be blocked from voting this year — are you one of them? — A5



Planning a car trip anytime soon? We've got tips to save on fuel costs. — A7



Got some money but not sure where to put it? Our finance expert offers timely investment advice. — A7



Sell-out Magic match set to sizzle — A12

All Blacks on the road to redemption — A12

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