

## BRIEFLY

### Memorial for Karen Morris

Friends and supporters of the late Karen Boniface (Morris) are invited to attend a Memorial Service for her on Tuesday, November 10 at 10am at the Hillcrest Bowling Club (111 Cambridge Rd, Hamilton).

It is hoped many Te Awamutu people will attend, especially those who helped with the fundraising campaign for her life saving liver transplant in 1993.

### Public BBQ open officially

The opening of the Pioneer Park BBQ will take place this Saturday at 11am in conjunction with the annual Te Awamutu Craft Fair.

Mayor Jim Mylchreest will officiate and there will be sausages available — gold coin donation appreciated.

### Cricket cups

Does anyone know where all the Te Awamutu Cricket Association trophies are?

There were team trophies for A, B and C grade, along with individual batting, bowling and allrounder cups.

If anyone can help out in this regard, please contact Colin Thorsen 871 5151 (ext 713) or 027 422 7189.

### '50s school fundraiser

Ngutunui Enviro School is holding a 1950's Housewife and Husband themed Quiz and Auction Fundraiser Night this Saturday.

Cost is \$10 per head, light supper is provided and the cash bar opens at 6pm and quiz starts at 7pm.

There are prizes for best dressed team of six, great quiz prizes and great auction items.

Call Leanne on 027 741 2238 to secure a table.

# Volunteers rally for Tokanui forgotten



COUSINS Bernice Smith and Maurice Zinsli on the site of the Memorial Wall that will be erected for Tokanui Hospital Cemetery. It was Mrs Smith's family research that alerted Mr Zinsli to his aunt who is buried in the cemetery.

By ROBYN TAYLOR

Kazimierz 'Karol' Rymarczyk (pronounced ri-mar-chick) was a soldier in the Polish army during World War II and when the Germans invaded Poland he was captured and interred at Auschwitz.

It is believed he escaped twice before eventually being released.

A single man, Mr Rymarczyk made his way to New Zealand, arriving in Wellington in June, 1949.

He met and married his Polish wife and settled down, working as a fitter's mate and having two children — Cecylia and Bogdan.

Because of unresolved issues around his four years' incarceration in a concentration camp and the effect that had on him, the marriage did not last and he subsequently lost access to his

children.

At some point he chose to enter Tokanui Psychiatric Hospital as a volunteer patient and according to the well-kept hospital records of the time this mild mannered man was working on getting better, getting out and regaining access to his children.

Before he could realise his dream he unexpectedly died of a stroke at the age of 44.

His body would not have been embalmed or even placed in a coffin, and along with the more than 450 souls before him, was buried in the hospital cemetery by staff and patients and promptly forgotten about in the very year that the cemetery closed.

A couple of years ago, Hamilton man Maurice Zinsli decided to start a genealogy project — he wanted to find out about his ancestry for his kids.

His cousin Bernice Smith from Tauranga had started some research, and it was through her findings that he discovered he had an aunt buried in the Tokanui Hospital Cemetery.

Mr Zinsli decided to visit her grave, and with another cousin, Brian Zinsli, duly arrived at the hospital where they were met by a couple of security guards who would not let them in.

Having noticed a road further back the men thought that they would drive down — the road taking them to the farm office where they met Phil, the AgResearch farm manager at the time.

Mr Zinsli recalls that when he asked about the cemetery he was told to turn around and look up past that farm shed.

"See that paddock over there that looks different to the rest —

I'm sad to say that that's your cemetery up there," the farm manager explained.

At the corner of the site stood a stone marking the cemetery and a plaque recording the dates — the paddock itself was nearly waist high in grass.

"We walked around the paddock — it was so sad," explained Mr Zinsli.

The men scoured the ground trying to find Mr Zinsli's aunt's grave and came across the only headstone in the entire cemetery — that of Bridget Nolan, who died in 1939.

"As I walked towards the cemetery marker stone I got this strange feeling," Mr Zinsli said.

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■ Continued Page 5

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