

Raumanga storage tank.

In the Town Basin marina office we have not received concerns from our visitors about water clarity. They understand we are up a river and when there is heavy rain the water clarity will change. Therefore we do not see this as a problem as suggested by the letter.

Currently we are unable to keep up with demand for marina berths which does result in boats going to other locations within New Zealand. The proposed marina would certainly help the marine industry and Whangarei prosper.

We would like to thank the writer for ideas, views and concerns.

Noel Douglas, Chairman

*on behalf of the Whangārei Harbour Marina Management Trust*

## Police in a box

Eight seven new police officers for Northland, which includes a Precision Targeting Team and a Serious and Organised Crime Taskforce. Interesting.

I recall getting very angry when I went into the Kaikohe police station a while back, looking

for a bit of help. Angry when I discovered there wasn't a soul on the premises. The station was manned by a helpful sign: "To speak to the police push the button and speak into the box." When the voice-in-the-box turned out to be in Auckland I was furious.

What kind of message does a government send to a community when it can't be bothered giving them even one policeman? Messages sent: "You don't f\*\*\*ing matter!" "We are saving money for higher priorities." "We've got officers in fast cars who can get to you if there's trouble."

Trouble? With no community cops, what else would there be but trouble? Memo to Government: Police are in our communities to help us, to makes us feel secure, to convey the message that bad behaviour is a bad choice. On foot. On bicycles. On horses sometimes. And in the community police stations.

Northland is going to get 87 more police officers — with luck Kaikohe, Kaitaia, Pahia and Hikurangi will get a share. But not before 2023! Unless recruitment goes well.

That's another thing — community police are role models for youngsters who may then want to

be helpful policemen when they grow up.

If the new Government comes to understand the positive role police can play in our communities maybe the Precision Targeting Team will be about shooting competitions and the Serious and Organised Crime Taskforce can be reduced to a sign, a button and a two-way Auckland chat box.

Gloria Bruni  
*Kiripaka*

## Help for settlers

I would like to thank your correspondent, Diane Henare, for her letter in the *Advocate*, the subject of which I have often thought of writing to the paper.

My forebears came from England on the earliest settler ships to Taranaki and Nelson, the William Bryan and Bolton, and reading the histories of those settlers it is evident that my ancestors would not have survived had it not been for the "social welfare system provided by Maori" as Diane so truly described it.

In Taranaki Maori had built small whare on the beach to shelter the newcomers and fed them with their own produce when, as often happened, follow-