

# Te Kuiti's Great New Zealand Muster on again

In Pamplona, Spain, bulls charge through the streets but at Te Kuiti it's sheep which put on the annual spectacle as part of The Great New Zealand Muster on Saturday, April 2.

The muster has become a tradition in the town which considers itself 'The Sheep Shearing Capital of the World' and this year up to 1000 sheep will run down Rora St as part of the huge community day out.

The 'Muster' is a traditional Kiwi country fair with shearing events, fantastic food, entertainment, arts and crafts and up to 100 stalls. The event promotes the rural delights of the

Waitomo District and is the perfect free fun family event from 10am to 4pm.

This year's celebrity guest is comedian Te Radar, whose dry humour is perfect for the country theme of the day. There will be a bouncy castle, rock climbing and an extreme air event too.

St Joseph's School is holding a rubber duck race as a fundraiser on the day, and on the main stage performers will include Mihinangi Flemings, The DC Boys and The Big Muffin Band.

Te Kuiti is in



*The Great NZ Muster. Photo Credit: Waitomo District Council*

the north of the King Country, at the junction of State Highways 3 and 30 and on the North Island Main Trunk Railway, 80km south of Hamilton and not far from the famous Waitomo Caves.

In fact, the limestone which forms the caves is also common in the Te Kuiti hinterland which consist mainly of farmland and limestone quarries.

The town is also famous for its huge statue of a sheep shearer and its other attractions include the

Tatsumo Japanese Garden at the southern end of the main street.

A Revitalisation Project for the Te Kuiti railway station was started in 2014 to provide for arts and crafts groups, an education centre, youth projects, historical displays and a meeting room.

The Rail Heritage Trust describes the station as "the finest remaining example of a standard class B station" in the country.

The Mangokewa Reserve five kilometres south of Te Kuiti is a popular attraction for rock climbers, hikers, picnic goers, swimmers and trout fishermen.

To find out more about The Great New Zealand Muster, see [www.waitomo.govt.nz/events/the-great-nz-muster](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz/events/the-great-nz-muster)

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