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Kids push message on School Bus Safety



Children from 5 local primary school presented their findings from a recent road safety research project at a special School Bus Safety Mini-Conference held on 26th November at the New Plymouth Club. The project focused on safety issues relating to use of school buses.

Research methods included interviewing bus drivers and passengers, recording traffic speeds and using photography and video to record hazards. Safety issues identified included inconsistent bus stop signs, unsafe bus stops, parking issues and unsafe student behaviour.



The children came up with a range of creative solutions including the creation of a fun and educational DVD for young children who use school buses to promote bus safety rules.

Suicide Prevention in Taranaki - Update

The recent ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) workshops held in New Plymouth and Hawera in November were a huge success with 43 participants taking part. Meanwhile, LikeMinds Taranaki continue to offer their hugely successful 'Stress in Rural Communities' workshops in partnership with rural groups such as the Rural Support Trust, Federated Farmers NZ and Dairy NZ. **To book a Stress in Rural Communities workshop call Gordon Hudson on 06 759 0966.**

White Ribbon Day 09 draws big crowd

Around 200 people flocked to Puke Ariki Landing on 25th November to join the celebrations for White Ribbon Day, an international event that aims to stop violence against women. Live music, BBQ, free resources and a guest appearance by the Super Maori Fullus were among the attractions on offer.



The early evening event attracted families who spent the evening playing ball games on the landing along with individuals who dropped in on their way home from work to relax and enjoy

the live music. Detective Sergeant Dave Beattie, Police Family Violence Coordinator, spoke about the impacts of family violence and urged anyone affected to seek help from the family violence support services present at the event. The event finished with the release of 48 white balloons symbolising the number of people who have died this year as a result of family violence.

Falls Group members enjoy Market Day



Local Falls Strategy Group members took the opportunity to raise awareness of falls prevention services at a recent 'Community Market Day' organised by Thornleigh Park Rest Home. Sport

Taranaki, Peak Health Taranaki and ACC representatives provided free resources and service information, as well as organising a free Tai Chi taster session for older people attending the event. The Market Day was organised to raise funds for the residents' social group and included a cake stall, tombola, bric-a-brac sale and miniature pony rides.

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DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...

Ready2Drive? Year 10's Road Safety Expo

4th December 2009, 10am-2pm @ Spotswood College

Students from New Plymouth district secondary schools will be taking part in a day of practical road safety activities aimed at highlighting road safety issues affecting new drivers. The activities will include mock driving tests, virtual driving challenges, motorcycle handling skills, fatal vision goggles, seatbelt simulator, the Booze Bus (pictured left) and a crash scene reconstruction. Year 10 students from Waitara, New Plymouth Boys High, New Plymouth Girls High, Spotswood and Francis Douglas

Memorial College will be taking part in the event which is hosted by Spotswood College. Highlights of the day will include a speed and skid demonstration by New Plymouth Police over the lunchtime period, the inevitable sausage sizzle and a prizegiving at the end of the day.

The event kicks off at 9.45am with a welcome from DJ Barnie (Classic Hits) and music during the day provided by ZM. If you would like to see a fantastic example of what can be achieved when we all work together, please pop in during the day and come and see what we are up to!

Family Fun & Challenge...

...without the cost !!!

Sign of the Times?



You may be wondering what has happened to the THINK! sign that used to plaster the wall next to the New Plymouth Police Station until a few days ago...

This year's Family Challenge Fun Day, organised by the Taranaki Safe Families Collaborative, was once again a huge success with over 1000 people turning out to enjoy the day. A range of free activities attracted families with children of all ages. These included face painting, an obstacle course, team sports, fire service challenges, bouncy castles and a treasure hunt.



A free sausage sizzle, ice-blocks and gift bags sponsored by local service groups and companies were also given out during the day.

The event (held in November each year) aims to promote positive and healthy family relationships by encouraging families to spend fun time together. Many activities were open to adults and children alike with the added bonus that parents could leave their wallet at home for once!



The sign was launched in 2002 as part of a region wide campaign to get people to think twice before buying alcohol for under 18's.

However, it was recently decided that it is time for a change and the sign now focuses on reducing family violence, linking in with the national 'It's Not OK!' campaign. The new sign (pictured below) was unveiled to coincide with White Ribbon Day.



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