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“Sabre Tooth”- Police operation with a bite!



Police units from Taranaki and Palmerston North launched recent blitz on drink driving with an evening operation that sealed off the main routes out of the CBD with a series of check points. “Operation Sabre Tooth” was funded by ACC and data gathered during the evening revealed that the ‘at risk’ time for drink driving was actually earlier than expected. 9254 vehicles were stopped during the evening resulting in 411 negative screening tests and 28 positive evidential tests. A further 11 drivers were suspended and 11 court confiscations were undertaken. NZTA Compliance Officers also assisted at the checkpoints, leading to the removal of 9 modified vehicles. Sgt Stephen Richardson who organised the operation felt it was great team effort, but was disappointed that so many drivers continue to drink and drive putting other road users at risk.

NPiS Chair off to pastures new...



On the subject of our local police, we have bid farewell and safe travels to Inspector Fiona Prestidge, Chair of NPiS and supporter of “all things safety” for many years. Fiona has sat on the NPiS coalition group since its inception in 2001, joining as a Sergeant and continuing her support at our monthly meetings even after her promotion to Area Commander in 2006. Fiona is taking up a new job in Police HQ in Wellington as a Strategic Advisor for the digital radio project. Fiona’s role will include articulating the business benefits of strategic radio to promote and facilitate national implementation of the project. All of us at NPiS would like to extend a **HUGE THANK YOU** to Fiona for her unwavering support of our Safe Community over many years. We know that Fiona will miss Taranaki - and we will certainly miss her! We wish Fiona and her family the very best of luck in their new adventures.

Keeping Well in Marfell



The series of successful Older Persons Wellbeing Days continue, with the most recent being held at the Life Advance Church aimed at the Marfell community. Around 60 people turned up to the event which included health checks, fun exercise sessions, safety advice, mobility scooter training and live music. 15 organisations took part in the event, including Problem Gambling Foundation and New Plymouth Police (pictured). The event provided an opportunity for local older people to find out more about a range of safety issues including road safety, crime prevention, elder abuse and falls prevention. A big thank you to those organisations who supported the day.



Safe Community Strategy Update

Progress on a new Safe Community Strategy for the New Plymouth District continues to move forward and it is hoped that the new strategy will be launched later this year. A workshop organised by New Plymouth District Council was held on 1st April and provided local safety representatives with an opportunity to find out more about the development of the strategy and to identify future opportunities for collaborative working. Representatives at the workshop included those working in a range of safety areas including crime prevention, road safety, injury prevention, family violence, civil defence and alcohol/drugs. The Community Safety Strategy will also play a key role in bringing together the information needed for our Safe Community re-accreditation in September this year. The involvement of such a wide range of groups in the strategy’s development will allow us to profile the diverse range of work and activity they contributed to the safety and security of our district.

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Roadsafe Taranaki partners launch new intersection campaign



Road safety partners are launching a local intersection safety campaign in a highly visible way with a local competition linked to the national "Bad Calls Can be Deadly" campaign. The competition sets out to find a lookalike for the 'Grim Reaper' who spins the Intersection Wheel of Misfortune on the NZTA advertisements.

The campaign, which is being supported by the North Taranaki Midweek newspaper, encourages local people to submit photos of themselves for judging on 15th April ready for the local campaign in May. The 'winner' will be dressed up and given two weeks of paid work...sitting at ten selected intersections around New Plymouth with a replica 'Wheel of Misfortune' as seen on the high profile TV campaign. The competition is part of a longer term strategy to raise awareness of intersection safety and to reduce road crashes at those intersection identified as a priority due to their crash rate.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Kaumatua Wellbeing Day * Owae Marae * 21 April 2010 * 10am - 2pm



NPiS and Mahia Mai A Whai Tara are once again teaming up to organise a Kaumatua Wellbeing Day at Owae Marae in Waitara on 21st April. Last years' event was a huge success, and the Marae proved to be a fantastic venue for our kaumatua to come along and find out more about what local services are available while having the chance to try out a range of fun wellbeing related activities. For some visitors, it was the first time they had ever entered the Marae, so the day was extra special for them.

This years' event also promises to be lots of fun! Activities include dancing, Tai Chi, mirimiri, health checks and traditional Maori games. If you would like to have a stand at the Wellbeing Day, or would like to find out more about the event, please contact Esther Tan on 06 754 4669 or Channa Perry on 06 753 7777 x8792. The event is free and is open to the whole community.

Calling all Trades Apprentices - Are you up for the "Challenge"?

Annual Trades Apprentice Safety Challenge * Taranaki HSE Centre * 12 May 2010 * 9am-2pm



Taranaki Construction Safety Group and BCITO are once again hosting a Trades Safety Challenge at the HSE Centre and they are inviting trades apprentices and trainees from the construction, engineering and associated industries to submit teams (up to 4 individuals per team) for this years' competition. Apprentices will be challenged by a number of hands-on activities designed to test their safety knowledge and skills as well as their teamwork. Last year Shell Todd Oil Services took out the inaugural Master Builders Trades Apprentice Safety Trophy. Who will win this year? To book, please call Alison Pitman on 06 759 0728.

Community Education key to effective suicide prevention



Dr Quinnett, Clinical Psychologist and President of the QPR Institute, presented to a group of around 80 people at a recent suicide prevention seminar organised by New Plymouth injury Safe Trust in partnership with Like Minds Taranaki and Clinical Advisory Services Aotearoa (CASA). Dr Quinnett's presentation highlighted how education plays a critical role in enabling those in close contact with individuals at risk of suicide to pick up on suicide 'warning signals' and to respond appropriately to help the person at risk to access appropriate help. He spoke about the training offered by QPR, which trains individuals to sensitively question those they believe to be at risk of suicide and to persuade them to accept a referral for help. For more information on QPR please visit www.qpr.org.nz .

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