



# Good behaviour benefits school

A look at the people and events making headlines in the Waikato Regional Community Newspapers group.

“It’s made a huge difference. The whole place is feeling better.” In short, that’s the difference the implementation of the Positive Behaviour For Learning (PB4L) has made at Cambridge High School (CHS), a process which project leader Grant Ackerman said had taken the best part of two years.

The benefits are already being noticed.

Mr Ackerman said during the time which the PB4L programme has been in place at CHS, it has been a major contributor to an 80 per cent drop in the number of students being stood down and incidents of aggressive behaviour have “all but disappeared”.

“This of course means there are fewer students who are not at school and ultimately that’s what we’re after.

“CHS has never had major behavioural issues but staff and the board of trustees felt the programme would have long-term benefits for our school and eventually the community.”

PB4L is a government initiative which schools can opt into.

In essence, PB4L encourages students to implement good behaviour, for which they are rewarded with prizes.

Once they fill up a card, known as a Caught Being Good Card, with stamps they go into the draw for prizes which are drawn regularly at school gatherings such as assemblies.

Other incentives provided as part of PB4L include special prize weeks such as Punctuality Week and Pay It Forward Week, events which are held two or three times each term.

Two of the cornerstones of the PB4L initiative, Mr Ackerman said, are respect, and showing respect to all and responsibility and being responsible for all that you say and do.

**Cambridge Edition**

## Treasuring nature

Protecting and enhancing the natural

environment means a lot to the staff, kids and whanau of Ngaruawahia’s Galbraith Kindergarten.

The kindy is a Kindergartens Waikato EnviroSchool kindy, meaning there is a big focus on sustainable living and teaching the kids to respect and treasure the nature surrounding them.

The children take pride in growing their own veges and flowers and enjoy eating the broccoli they have nurtured from seed.

They have just planted watermelon and pumpkin and are looking forward to sampling that produce when it is ready.

The kids have a worm farm and pig bucket, they recycle water and sometimes even make their own paper.

“Recycle, reuse and repair are all words the children are going home and saying to their whanau,” head teacher Diane Dunkin said.

Recently the kindy received a grant of \$8700 from the Lions Foundation, which enabled the construction of an outdoor adventure area complete with native plantings and bush reflecting the Hakarimata Ranges, a play bridge and rocks and stones depicting the Waikato River.

This area is the first stage of an entire outdoor area the kindy has earmarked. Next on the wish list are more plantings, creating an outdoor concert arena and safety surfaces under play equipment.

**North Waikato News**

## Hospitality in focus

Ruapehu District Council encouraged the hospitality industry to come along to the Liquor Liaison Group meetings that were being held in Ohakune and Taumarunui earlier this week.

RDC Senior environmental health officer Mohammed Ishrar said the meeting had been strongly recommended for anyone involved who was in the sale or management of





alcohol in the Ruapehu district.

“The Liquor Liaison Group provides a great opportunity to keep in touch with local agencies such as the police, fire, health and district licensing and to network with other businesses and people involved with the Ruapehu hospitality industry,” he said.

The meetings covered the proposed Alcohol Reform Bill and provided the opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the agencies and discuss any issues or concerns they might have.

Mr Ishrar said because of the issues and community concerns over the sale and use of alcohol, the council’s compliance unit was increasing the level of monitoring of Ruapehu’s hospitality providers.

“We want to ensure that everyone involved in the sale or management of alcohol clearly understands what their obligations and legal requirements are so we can assist with reducing alcohol-related harm in our communities,” he said.

Mr Ishrar said attendees had their awareness raised around local alcohol-related issues and the requirements of licensed premises.”

**Ruapehu Press**

### **Coping with tagging**

All dairy and beef cattle farmers, abattoirs, saleyards and rural supply

companies have had to get their heads around the National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) Scheme.

The radio frequency identity tagging of animals is intended to satisfy an increase in consumers wanting to know where their meat comes from.

More crucial, it will help locate bovine diseases such as foot and mouth disease.

Farmers and owners of dairy and beef livestock are required to insert a small, round button tag into the ear of all stock before they leave the farm.

Whether heading to the meat works, another farm, or the sales, the identity of these animals has to be lodged with NAIT within 48 hours of them coming off the truck.

The buyer notifies NAIT and provides the seller’s registered NAIT number, then NAIT asks the seller to confirm the animals’ movements.

Despite the pressures of the calving season and the odd teething problem, Waikato appears to be coping with the introduction of NAIT.

PGG Wrightson Waikato Livestock representative Neil Lyons said the NAIT requirements are a learning curve for everyone.

**South Waikato News**

### **Arts on show**

All the big acts came out to put on show-





stopping performances in the last week of the 2012 Morrinsville Arts Festival.

During the past 15 days the Wallace Gallery has hosted a selection of artistic and musical events.

Creative workshops and musical performances took place during the day, while audiences were treated to evenings of New Zealand Chamber Music, discussions with renowned art critic T J McNamara and an impressive closing ceremony which brought an end to the second annual festival.

Gallery director Leah Murphy said the festival was a great success and attracted 2311 people through the doors.

"I am thrilled with the amount of people who came on board to support the gallery and this festival. It is great to see musical, theatrical and artistic talent warming up a wet winter," Ms Murphy said.

A natural material installation was one of the most popular events at the festival.

Run by the creators of the Imagine the Land Project, more than 500 participants – many from local schools – used natural material such as sands and grains to create a mandala, representing links between art, culture and nature of the surrounding land.

The Community Closing Ceremony

also proved popular with performances from the David St School choir and kapa haka group as well as the Morrinsville Lyceum Choir.

Mighty River Harmony finished the night and left the audience of all ages, amazed by their spectacular sound, Ms Murphy said.

An initiative this year was the Art Trail, in which local businesses hosted artists' creative displays in their shops throughout the duration of the festival.

"We had really good feedback from the 37 shops participating in the Art Trail, as well as visitors who did the Art Trail," Ms Murphy said.

"Our winning business from the People's Choice Award was the Morrinsville Baptist Church, who did an amazing display with an array of artists from their church. They will be given a prize and were clear winners in the voting box," she said.

Ms Murphy said she would like to give a special thank you to all the Wallace Gallery volunteers who made the festival possible

She has high hopes for next year's festival, given the success of the past two years, and is once again looking forward to bringing a unique cultural experience to Morrinsville.

**Piako Post**



**BRRR:** Ezra Morton, 7, and sister Thea, 9, made a sign for the occasion but looked a little chilly before they jumped in the water last Sunday for the annual Chateau Tongariro Hotel Polar Plunge.

**Taupo Times**