

Kia ora Marie

Intergeneration Week Kapiti Coast District Council 1-7 October

Held for the first time in New Zealand

Intergeneration Day 1st October 2006.

The week started with celebrations at Waikanae Memorial Hall

A Whakataua, opening ceremony by Kaumata Ake Taiaki of the local Maori people, followed by a welcome speech from the Kapiti Coast District Council Mayor Allan Milne

Civic Education Debate: *To be old and wise you first must be young and stupid.*

Teams consisted of elected members of council and students from the three colleges on the Kapiti Coast. To debate the finer points of whether to be old and wise you first have to be young and stupid

Those attended thoroughly enjoyed the wit, intelligence and good humour of all the team members who volunteered their time to help make the event a memorable first step in bringing the older and younger generations of Kapiti District closer together. We were the only agency in New Zealand to hold such an event, and it is our hope that the goodwill and inspiration generated by our initiative will continue on next year as well.



Guides New Zealand Waikanae Group (in USA this group would be Girls Scouts)

Older members of the Guides joined younger members to share memories about their time as Guiders. The Older Guiders have decided to become more active with the younger guides. As a result of this event.



Kapiti Brass Band has an age range from a youth age twelve, to the oldest member seventy years old. The bands performance was entertaining for all ages. The younger audience, who had never heard a marching band, got into the rhythm of the band and started marching around the hall.

Otaki Dance Group Dances across the Ages

Dancing has the ability to bring together people of all nationalities and age groups. All who attended the celebration day were able to take something positive away with them.



Whanau and Family Day, Waikanae Library Monday and Thursday 5 October:

Grandparents and grandchildren alike were invited to share in a craft making and storytelling session, followed by morning tea.



Tuesday 3 October:

Hora Te Pai and the Tumeki Group (older maori) with Te Kohanga Reo Taraua (kindergarten group), shared waiata (song) and stories followed by a shared lunch.



Wednesday 4 October:

Kapiti Youth Health Service

&

Kapiti Women's Centre

Celebrating Intergenerational Week



Trish's Day

The inaugural intergenerational week gave Genni and I the opportunity to access the local Youth Service. With our advanced age it is a place that we have only ever dreamed of gaining entrance to.

A fantastic, bright, welcoming facility has been developed at Kapiti Youth Services. It offers confidential health and counselling services staffed by nurses, doctors, counsellors and peer youth workers. Tash and Jenni, trained student volunteers, gave us the guided tour of the premises. Six volunteers (3 boys and 3 girls, from years 12 & 13) are chosen from the local colleges to participate in the running of the facility. Their training involves a weekend retreat to master the skills required for the job, which includes a level of listening and admin skills. They were obviously very proud of the centre and the services on offer to the youth of Kapiti (11-25 year olds), which includes a recently started young mum's coffee group. In times where it is difficult to secure a local GP it is good to know that at least the youth of Kapiti has access to free, quality health services, the challenge for the centre is ensuring that all youth know about and have access to the centre.



It would be nice to be able to develop some sort of liaison between the two centres, however the major initial limitation is the hours the KWC is open - 9-3 is not very conducive to attracting the teen set. One more thing, where is the paintbrush - a few rooms would look great purple and yellow!



Gennie's Day

On a cold dismal wintry (supposed to be spring) day on Wednesday 4th October KWC participated in celebrating Intergenerational week. Tash, from Kapiti Youth Services arrived at 1pm to spend the next two hours experiencing life at KWC.

As I showed Tash around KWC she remarked how warm and cosy and friendly our place is. She did not know about us until she volunteered to do the exchange. We soon found common themes, pamphlets and notice boards with information, free pregnancy tests and contraception, a strong emphasis on confidentiality, a place to feel safe and comfortable, and supportive helpers with a listening ear.



Tash is a high school volunteer at KYS (Kapiti Youth Service). She is one of 8 students from 6th and 7th form volunteering and chosen to help at the Youth Centre. Four students, two girls and two males from Kapiti College and the same mix of four from Paraparaumu College spend after school hours working with the youth of Kapiti on a rostered basis.

When her visit came to an end, Tash and I went to the Kapiti Youth Centre. There I discovered a house of a similar size to KWC, full of a sense of colourful vibrancy and warmth. The house has a reception area, a large lounge area with comfortable lounge suites and French doors leading to a deck, a kitchen area, consulting rooms and toilets. The main difference between the Centres is that KYS have medical staff available for consultation on a range of youth health problems for those seeking help and advice.



Tash and her co student volunteers also promote and educate the students at both the high schools during school hours at assemblies and also mentor younger students.

I was so pleased that I had volunteered to be part of Intergenerational day. I was so impressed with the calibre and commitment of our young people that are helping to make a difference and with the quality of support available to the youth of Kapiti.

Here are some of the images produced on the day at the 'A Peace of Place' workshop. These beautiful pieces of work produced by our very own Centre Worker's are being made into greetings cards and raffled at the annual fund raising 'Quiz Night' on November 17th. This is a fantastic evening of food, wine, and fun - a night not to be missed!



Friday 6 October:

Otaki Library

Tipuna Journeys. A local Author Queenie Rikihana spoke about aspects of lives lived and living. Queenie has written a book about Manawa Hine "women who swan against the tides" These stories were written to inspire youth today to reach their potential through stories of their local ancestors who against all odds overcame obstacles to succeed in whatever they strove to do.

Saturday 7 October:

The Greater Otaki Project Kapiti Coast District Council

Community Vision Celebration This was an opportunity to thank and celebrate with the wider community as we share the vision of Greater Otaki.

Residents and business-people, from the Greater Otaki Community have participated in a number of design workshops since the initial Choosing Futures process in 2004. The material from these latter processes, along with the detailed material from the original Choosing Futures workshops, builds a clear picture of desired future directions.

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