

AT A GLANCE

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We have an amazing collection of highlights from our services! Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

[Important information about our insurance policies included in this newsletter.](#)

Welcome to Rev'd Leo Te Kira who has started with Social Services as Kaiwhakamarama and who will start as Chaplain for Colwyn House in the New Year. A powhiri for Leo was held on 5th December at Napier Community Link. Many thanks to all involved particularly to Karen Fagan for her coordination and liaison role.

MESSAGES FROM OUR ACTING CEO'S

From Erika

Since I last wrote in September, plenty has been going on, so it is not difficult to see how we are already in December. With World Cup Fever dominating our live, streets and TV's, the election seemed like a non event.

The Green Paper for Vulnerable Children has been released. It is a discussion document that outlines the ideas the Government has to improve the lives of vulnerable children. It makes pretty interesting reading and encourages social service agencies to ask the hard questions like "Has the government got the balance right between supporting parents and families/whanau and protecting children".

WASSTB is making a response to the paper and I would encourage any of you to read and make a submission. Making changes will involve some tough decisions and could result in changes to what is funded, who gets priority, how professionals interact with each other and how services are delivered.

And what an incredibly busy and successful year it has been. It has been a year filled with magical successes and I would like to thank you all for your hard work and dedication. A big congratulations to St **Francis Whanau Aroha Centre**, Rotorua who are the first early childhood centre in the city to achieve the highest level of the healthy heart award. The award is part of a free health programme which encourages early childhood services to promote healthy eating to under-5s and their whanau.

We also welcomed Rev Leo Te Kira our new Kaiwhakamarama Maori/Maori Advisor to the team on 5th December. We hope that staff in social services will be able to meet Leo in 2012.

As we head into Christmas and the New Year, remember to keep spreading the message of love, harmony and peace, to take time

"We warmly welcome Leo to his new roles and look forward to the future together."
Jane Roberts



A warm welcome to Jenny Dawson - our new Bishop's Chaplain.



GOOGLE DOCS

Our Administration and Financial manuals, the Orientation book and the Annual Business Plan are all loaded onto Google Docs.

If you need help accessing these documents and policies please contact Bron on 06 8339104 or email bron@wasstb.com

CLOSER TOGETHER WHAKATATAI MAI

Do you still have a

out with your families and remember our loved ones.

I will be heading into the New Year with the excitement of expecting our first baby in March 2012. There is a photo with my bump! So with all good intent I will be on deck until heading off on maternity leave on the 10 February 2012. Thank you to all of you for your warm wishes and support through 2011 - you have been amazing.

Erika Hunt



From Jane

I too applaud you all for the hard work and dedication you have put into supporting those in need in your communities. I also have a very big thankyou to all the staff in the Napier Office and the Senior Team members, your support and hard work has been much appreciated.

We are really pleased to tell everyone about the Christmas present **CHB Whanau Aroha Centre** have from the Trust Board. This service currently operates out of a rented 2 bedroom ex State house but sitting across the road from them is a 4 bedroom ex State house that the WASSTB has just purchased as their new home. The increased space means more children can attend the Breakfast Club and the service can expand the other programmes they offer to their community. The service also has certainty of occupation. With the support of the local community we hope CHB Whanau Aroha Centre will be able to move into their home by the middle of the year after refurbishment, renovating and the removal of a couple of walls.

And the building theme continues with the renovations and extension of **Te Hapara Whanau Aroha Centre** after 3 long years of planning finally about to start next year. Funded by a grant from the MOE, grants from various Funding Organisation such as ECCT and the Lion Foundation and the kind support by way of grants from Holy Trinity Gisborne, St Mary's Family Centre, St Mary's Tahatai Centre, St Francis Whanau Aroha Centre and Merivale Whanau Aroha Centre with some more funding to be found. The notifications of successful grant applications from ECCT and the Lion Foundation have seemed like Christmas presents for all those on the project team.

My best wishes for a joyous Christmas to you all.
Jane Roberts

WHAT'S NEW

Whakatata Mai post card sitting on your desk or in a pile of things to do? PLEASE take a few minutes to fill it out and pop in the post. We would like our services to show their support of reducing inequalities in New Zealand.
Check out their website
www.danvirkefamily.org.nz

Dannevirke Family Services, Dannevirke

When Dannevirke Family Services discovered Dannevirke Chamber of Commerce would be hosting a Market Day on the Friday of Labour weekend it was agreed to have a presence as an Agency. Our Community Counsellor was the spearhead behind our Agency participation in this community event.

Dannevirke Family Services mass-produced our Service Information leaflets, created inviting posters & 'Surviving the Saddle Road Tips' handouts and developed a few competitions: Name our Companion Bear, Design a Logo. We also offered free black & white face painting. There was a big desire to find out what our community most enjoyed about where they lived, in Tararua, a questionnaire was created and post-it's purchased.

On Friday we set up our stall. During Market Day DFS staff took it in turns to invite and encourage passers-by to stop. We had a wonderful day painting faces with Ferns, Stripes, Cups; answering queries, giving out freebies, encouraging entries & asking 'What do you love most about living in Tararua'.

We collected 112 reasons about what community members love most about their community & 69 entries from children of all ages to name our Client Companion Bear.

Thank you to the Tararua District Council Marketing, Dannevirke Chamber of Commerce, the Dannevirke Anglican Church and Tararua REAP who enabled us to participate in such a successful day.

Jacqueline - Dannevirke Family Services



'Post it' notes board and stall and White Ribbon Day event photos

In the paper again!



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Beachaven Community House, Papamoa

On a typical Papamoa October day - sunny and windy - Beachaven Community House hosted just under 100 visitors to a lunch party for our 10th birthday. Past staff, volunteers and group members joined with all the current team for sharing stories and a fabulous lunch. To accommodate all the guests in our tiny property we had a marquee set up in the driveway and cleared out the garage as an extra space for the kids. Unfortunately the marquee became a victim of overnight wind - the whole thing blew over and bent some of the poles. We had to buy a new one and get an emergency team in to set it up on the morning of the lunch! After a formal welcome the children enjoyed a magician and a bouncy castle while the adults reminisced about their time at Beachaven. We were really pleased to host some of our regular funders and show them around. One of the Beachaven volunteers prepared some fabulous displays of photos and stories spanning each year in our first decade, then guests contributed their own stories.

The birthday party turned out to be the last major occasion for Arthur Bruce at Beachaven in his role of Papamoa Missioner. The Bruce's set up the house in 2001 and have been involved in various ways ever since. We wish Arthur and Adrienne well as they move to Opotiki in January.

Bonnie from Beachaven Community House



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Growing Through Grief

Congratulations and thanks to Joy Tomoana and Dr Peter Bray who have together successfully furthered the dissemination of our research on the effectiveness of the Seasons Programme, to reach an **international audience**. The study, undertaken by Joy and supervised by Peter in 2009-10, has now been published as a journal article entitled *The Impact of a Peer Support Programme for Children who are Experiencing Loss: A New Zealand Perspective* on the US website of The National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children (TLC). It is very exciting to have our local work promoted in this international forum. Check out this link <http://www.stairtraining.org/tlc>

Growing Through Grief Eastland

Growing Through Grief-Eastland recently hosted a series of workshops on suicide, presented by Barry Taylor:

1. A morning workshop in Tolaga Bay, Te Whakamomori - **introducing issues around suicide for our communities**. This workshop, cohosted with Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti Hauora, was for those supporting whanau, e.g. kuia, kaumatua, clergy, kaiawhina, mental health workers, social workers in schools etc.
2. An all day workshop in Gisborne, for professionals eg Counsellors, social workers, **Growing Through Grief Dealing with the Aftermath - responding to the impact of suicide**.
3. A half day workshop in Gisborne, for bereaved family and friends, **I just want to know why - making sense of suicide**.

The opportunities these workshops presented were very positive both for the learning offered in this important topic and for relationship building for Growing Through Grief, the local parishes and WASSTB, with the local communities and organisations. The local funeral services added sponsorship to the event, and we engaged local organisations, the Women's Institute and Supergrans, to cater for the workshops. Overall these were three great days of learning and support.

Growing Through Grief Hawkes Bay

Growing Through Grief Hawkes Bay is about to farewell Val Danes from the role of local coordinator. Val has held this position for 12 years, making her the longest serving of any Growing Through Grief coordinator. The service has been very successful and highly regarded throughout her time, and she will be missed from this role. Happily Val remains with us, continuing in her other role as GTG Senior Coordinator, supporting the team of 14 Coordinators around the Diocese.

Growing Through Grief Tauranga

Judy Bailey visited GTG Tauranga in December. Check out the a great article at this [link](#).



Growing Through Gathering

We arranged for the Growing through Grief Coordinators Gathering to be held in Gisborne this year, to coincide with the professional workshop on Friday. This was the first time one of our Gatherings has been held in Gisborne, attended by 12 Coordinators from as far afield as Taupo and Central Hawkes Bay. We were very happy to be together in this lovely place working and sharing together from Thursday afternoon til Saturday afternoon. Thank you Gillian, Growing Through Grief Eastland and Gisborne for your wonderful welcome.

Carol Goldie-Anderson

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St. Francis Whanau Aroha Centre

St Francis Whanau Aroha Early Childhood and Family Support Centre was the first centre in the Rotorua region to achieve the Pa Harakeke award, which is the top tier of the Heart Foundation Healthy Heart Award for Early Childhood Centres.

This award requires evidence of governance and management, teaching and learning, collaboration with families and professional development activities.

Nutrition and physical activity encompasses all areas of the curriculum with a key focus being a whanau/children's vegetable garden. The garden won the Tui Community Garden competition in 2010 and is a learning tool empowering and educating families to make informed choices on how to implement a healthier lifestyle for themselves and their children.

Sandra St. Francis Whanau Aroha Centre



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IMPORTANT Insurance Information

An email will be coming about the future of our insurance cover. Please take the time to read this important information.

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Thankyou for your time spent reading
PATHWAYS FORWARD

This message was sent to trish@waiapu.com from:

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