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In this issue:

WATCH worth looking at	2
Youth Week Launch	2
Matariki Tour	3
Jays of Volunteering	4
Contact & Donations	4

"It can be much easier for a young person to make a fresh start if they can escape the environment that has trapped them."

(Andrea McKenzie, Manager Youth Services)

One to One - growing strong

Wesley's One to One foster care initiative has received a strong endorsement from its key partner, the Department of Child Youth & Family.

The endorsement is in the form of a revised and extended contract that will allow One to One to provide homes for up to 8 foster care children in the area extending as far as Palmerston North.

Says Youth Services Manager Andrea McKenzie, "The extended geographical spread offers enormous benefits for the young people in our care. " It will now be much easier to match our young people to environments that suit their needs, and we are no longer just confined to the Wellington city area."

"It can be much easier for a young person to make a fresh start if they can escape the environment that has trapped them." Thus young people from a city may benefit from a rural environment and vice versa for rural children.

The economies of scale also benefit the support team of two social workers and one Family worker who support the young people. "Sure there are challenges covering the geographical distances involved," says Andrea, "but we now have greater diversity in the skills and home options that our



Part of the One to One Team (Rear from L to R), Rosa, Barbara, Isabel, Glynnis, Bharti, Gavin and Anneke. Front Row, Ron and Veronique. Pictured at a recent training day.

caregivers can provide, and this more than compensates."

Another major change is that the status of the Caregivers is changing from that of contractors, to employees. It is anticipated that the resulting consistency of status across the team will greatly benefit the young people involved.

Andrea attributes the long term success of Wesley Community Action's One to One foster care initiative to;

- Skilled and motivated staff (both caregivers and support staff)
- A commitment to

Strength Based principals of personal development as the means to achieve the best outcomes for One to One's young people

- A healthy and constructive partnership with CY&F.
- The long term nature of Wesley's One to One involvement that recognizes it takes time to build meaningful relationships with the young people, who often have a severely disrupted background.

"I really liked the teamwork and the way the social workers made you feel part of the team"

(One to One Client)



"... their lives are better and they have developed beliefs, attitudes, understanding and skills which have been positively life changing."

(Independent Review of WATCH)

WATCH - Well worth looking at

Since October 2006 Wesley Community Action's Newtown staff have been working alongside young adults appearing in court who have drug and alcohol issues in an initiative called WATCH.

WATCH is the result of Judges being concerned that sending a person to prison who has drug addition issues - is not the best option.

A recent independent review of Wesley's WATCH initiative sums up its effectiveness;

"The overriding testimony from the clients who participated in the evaluation is that, because of their involvement with the WATCH, their lives are better and they have developed beliefs, attitudes, understanding and skills which have been positively life-changing. Critically, these changes have included

positive shifts with respect to alcohol, drug use and offending behaviour".

Wesley Community Actions Director, David Hanna commented; "I believe we should all be proud of this service and it's achievements with 'hard-to-treat' young adults."

"This is a great example of our work aimed at developing just and caring communities."

Wesley highlighted in Youth Week launch



The official launch of Youth Week 2008 by the Hon., Nanaia Mahuta at Pataka Museum, Porirua featured a strong presence from the Wesley Community Action Porirua Youth team.

Wesley Youth Worker Donald Hunter welcomed the crowd of 200, while several of the young people who would have previously described themselves as 'troubled youth' gave eloquent accounts of their journeys.

One described how she had first met her Wesley Youth Worker as a pregnant 14 year old and that during her long involvement with the Youth Worker gained the confidence to return to school and reunite with her family. Now working as a mental health support worker she says proudly, "I am living proof of what can be achieved."

Natasha described how she "wasn't always a Youth Worker but rather, a youth that needed work." Following counselling and support from her Youth Worker she has now gained Social Work qualifications and is working in the same area where she once was a client. She also volunteers her time at Wesley's Cannons Creek Recreation initiative.

Another young person described how she was expelled from college at 14 years and "had no

idea of where I wanted to go." This young person is now in the last stages of a diploma that will allow her to pursue a meaningful career.

Having a Youth Worker that was; "prepared to go out of her way" and "always listened and didn't judge." was described as being crucial elements to her transition.

Wesley Community Action Youth Worker Shirley Umu spoke of the many skills that being a youth worker involved, "It is the innovation, creativity, commitment, constancy, accountability, empathy, compassion, being non-judgmental, good listener, humorous. Someone who be-

lieves their story, is culturally sensitive, and has a strength base approach."

The Mayor of Porirua the Hon Jenny Brash reminded the audience that Youth Week has particular significance in Porirua where 40% of the population is under 25 years old.

Youth Week 08 provided a welcome opportunity to reflect on the importance of appreciating today's youth, and it was great that the Wesley Community Action team could model how this can be done.

"It is the innovation, creativity, commitment, constancy, accountability, empathy, compassion, being non-judgmental, good listener, humorous. Someone who believes their story..."

(Shirley Umu, WCA Youth Worker)



Matariki Magical Mystery Bus Tour

To celebrate Matariki 2008, WCA arranged a bus tour for staff, family and friends to learn about Maori settlement and history in the Wellington area guided by Peter Addis, Tumuaki, of Maori Studies at Victoria University.

Amongst the many Wesley whanau who attended was Ani Waaka of Thought Partners. Here is an abridged version of her account of what was clearly a memorable journey into the past.

"... Tara was one of the first Maori settlers who came from the Hawkes Bay to live alongside the harbour that is now part of Wellington City, thereby establishing Ngai Tara and Ngati Ira as mana whenua – those who had authority over the land.

The land at that time was known as Te Motu Kairanga and the original pa site of Rangitatau, was situated on the headland above what is now Moa Point – an old moa hunter's campsite.

Just around the corner of Breaker Bay, where the current car park is, was an archaeological midden (dump site).

As we continued around the bays to Wellington, Peter made mention of Barrett's reef, (Te Tangihanga-a-Kupe); the channel leading into the harbour (Te Au-a-Tane); the islands of Matiu/Soames and Makaro/Ward, (named by the early explorer Kupe after his daughters); archaeological remains across the water at Fort Dorset; the moa hunter camp that was at the southern end of Seatoun beach and the very recent unearthing at the foot of a new apartment building at 37 Taranaki Street of an ancient raupo hut.

Mythology has it that there were two taniwha in the harbour, named Ngake and Whaitaitai.

In 1820 Te Rauparaha and his raiding party came from the

north, supported by Tainui including his uncle Te Rangihaeata. By conquest Te Atiawa was thus established as mana whenua in Wellington and Ngati Toa in Porirua. However, today there is still a need to carefully traverse the issue of mana whenua. It is a sensitive topic.

In 1835 Ngati Mutunga and Ngati Tama occupied the Aro valley but left the region for the Chatham Islands, but today there would seem to be no descendants now of Ngati Ira.

1839 saw the formation of The Wellington Company by William Wakefield for the purpose of acquiring land for European settlement, on the understanding that 1/10th of the land was to be retained for Maori. That agreement however, was never kept and 22 million acres of land (1/3rd of the country) was purchased by The Wellington Company.

The Wellington Tenth Trust as we know it today came about as a result of the need to address that breach.

Our band of merry travellers then made its way up the coast having landmarks pointed out at Pauatahanui (Te Rangihaeata's, Taupo Pa), Battle Hill where troops from Australia were stationed; the tamariki had an opportunity to climb all over the remnants of the barracks at Ngati Toa Domain while we heard of the benefits of settlement around the Porirua harbour with its shelter, good soil for cultivation and ease of access to the south island.

We then headed up the Ngati Toa maunga of Whitireia (Titahi Bay) and as our driver skilfully manoeuvred our way up and over the winding, narrow hill, Peter pointed out the terraced evidence of earlier settlement and cultivation. Cresting the hill, we were treated to the beautiful sight of Karehana Bay (Plimmerton,) far below us with Te Hongoeka marae. It was just as well we had these scenes to dis-

tract us from the sight of the precarious plummeting landscape in close proximity to the wheels of our bus!

I appreciated the opportunity to be part of Wesley being in Action expanding Community.

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou"

Ani Waaka

"An enriching experience"
(Ani Waaka - Thought Partners)



Above - Peter Addis as tour guide
Below - The Old Barracks at Mana.





The Joys of Volunteering

by Mary Campbell-Cree

I've had the pleasure of being a Wesley volunteer for 6+ years now. I only give an hour or two a fortnight to take a lady out. Such a small amount of my time but the benefits of doing so are huge.

I could never have imagined in my wildest dreams how big a difference that small amount of time has made to the person I see. We are now FIRM FRIENDS and having that relationship has helped her to grow in confidence and the joy that gives my heart is immeasurable.

I simply can't imagine not being a volunteer now.

I wish I had more time to give, but until I retire, I am happy in the knowledge that the small amount of time I give makes a large difference to the person I see.

If you're thinking of volunteering, the rewards are great for your heart. It is not the time you give that is important it is the difference that time makes that counts.

If you're interested in volunteering for Wesley contact Delia at 385.3727 or email; volunteers @ wesleyca.org.nz

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Mid winter Madness

Each winter brings a flurry of activity at Wesleyhaven as staff and residents prepare for some mid-winter madness.

No matter what the weather throws at us, cold or wet, the mid-winter swim seems to attract big

crowds and raises hundreds of dollars, thanks to considerable efforts behind the scenes.

For months prior to the event, Wesleyhaven's multi-talented gardener Joss, is secretly designing her own version of the

Wearable Art Awards.

This year, her efforts in creating the 'pack of card theme, received the **best team costume award.**



YES! I would like to make a Donation

I would like to make a donation of \$.....

Donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible . Please post this form to Wesley Community Action.
PO Box 9932, Wellington. 6141.

- I would like to make a regular monthly donation of \$..... Please send me a receipt
 I Would like to make a "one-off" donation of \$.....

Thank you!

Name _____
 Address _____

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Method of Payment: Visa
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Credit Card # _____ Exp. date _____
 Signature _____

