



A weekly feature on the  
communities in  
Horowhenua & Kapiti

# Caring for Our Community

## This week's feature – Adult Literacy Project



We live in a world surrounded by the written word and most of us take for granted that we know and understand those words. For people unable to read, the world of the 21st century is a difficult and challenging place.

Literacy Aotearoa is endeavouring to bridge the gap to reading for adult New Zealanders and has branches in Horowhenua and Kapiti.

Michael Dally, coordinator of the Horowhenua Adult Literacy Scheme says their service is free, confidential and available to anyone.

"We define 'adult' as anyone who has left school and is having difficulties with literacy and number work. It's not just people who don't know their ABCs. Sometimes people can read the words but have difficulty with comprehension or they are preparing to take on a course of study and need help learning how to study and prepare course work."

Most people approach adult literacy schemes when the simple practicalities of life demand it. They may want to gain a driving licence or face a promotion at work which will require them to do some paperwork and find they are hindered by their inability to read and write to the required level.

Mr Dally says when people make the first approach they are given a 40 minute assessment to determine the extent of their difficulties and, perhaps, the underlying causes.

"Many of the people coming to us have vision problems and have had them all their lives so the first thing we would recommend is a visit to the optometrist. If you are born with bad vision and it is not treated it can haunt you throughout your school life and social life. Young people with undiagnosed vision problems are sometimes put into special classes and because they are unable to make progress with reading, may label themselves as 'retarded'.

Once the assessment is complete and the need for assistance established the client will be assigned a trained volunteer tutor. "They will get an hour's tuition a week and will be expected to practice between lessons. It's what you put in between times that will make the difference.

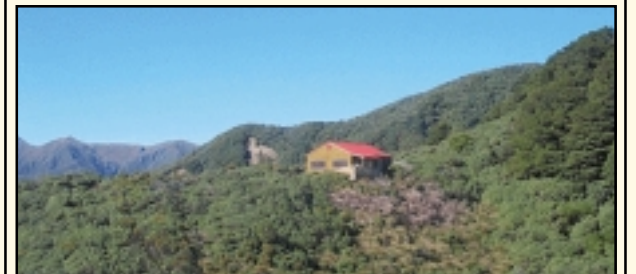
"We want people to get into the habit of reading newspapers and we use the newspapers in Education programme. We also know that in any walk of life these days people will encounter computers so we have computers here and we teach people some basic functions so they can operate them at least at that level." Literacy schemes also work closely with industry helping to assess workers and, if necessary, providing tuition to enable

people to make progress in their workplace. All volunteers are trained by Literacy Aotearoa with a fortnight's classroom and 20 hours practical training. When training is completed they are fully qualified NZQA instructors.

Mr Dally says the need for volunteers is an ongoing one and he welcomes hearing from anyone who would like to assist in this very important work.

To learn more about reading assistance for adults contact Horowhenua Adult Literacy Service, (06) 368-6064 or Adult Literacy Aotearoa (Kapiti) Inc on (04) 905 7712.

## Adventure of the week



### LEVIN WAIIOPEHU TRAMPING CLUB HUT

26th/27th June overnight tramp to the Waiopehu Hut. This trip is an annual event which culminates in a gourmet pot luck dinner at the hut. Contact Sue Clelland 06-368-2118

## Practical tips for energy-efficient driving

# FREE FUEL FOR TWO MONTHS

Variations in driving habits can add 30 per cent to your fuel bill. Imagine you have a raw egg between your foot and the accelerator when you drive.

So:

- Accelerate briskly and smoothly to your cruising speed changing gears early (without labouring the engine).
- Stay in as high a gear as possible without labouring the engine
- It is not true that modern cars have better fuel consumption at 110km/h than at 100km/h. In fact it will cost you 13 per cent extra in fuel at the higher speed.
- Look well ahead and anticipate traffic so you don't need to brake and accelerate unnecessarily.
- Try and travel at a constant speed. Ease off on the accelerator when nearing the top of a hill.
- Where possible drive with the windows closed on the open road as this could save you 5 per cent
- Turning off the air conditioning when it is not needed could save you 10 per cent

Next week – Planning Ahead

## Buying a car?

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