

Tauranga Explorers Newsletter



We're getting new Resources!

In November 2006 we applied for a Lottery Grant to help us in funding the purchase of some much needed equipment etc for our Branch. In March we received confirmation that our application had been approved and we were granted \$2200. This money will be spent on resources for use at our club days. If you have any fundraising suggestions please contact Mellissa.

Explorers get New Logo

Congratulations Celine on your winning entry in our recent design a logo competition. Your logo was voted the winner at last months AGM and will be now recognized as our official logo. Well done and thank you to everyone who entered.

Club Card – available now



We now have an Explorers Club Card available for purchase. For \$50 your club card entitles your family to attend a full years worth of club days without having to pay the usual \$5. If you pay as you go over the course of a year it will cost at least \$60 so immediately you've saved \$10 by having a club card. Please contact Kimberly to get yours today or send your payment to Tauranga Explorers PO Box 15379, Tga.

Upcoming Events:

- **Tauranga Young Explorers get together**
24 April 07, 10am -
Koffee Kulture Cafe,
Papamoa
- **Tauranga Explorers Committee Meeting**
24 April 2007 at
7:30pm Ingrid's home
18 Wouldbank Way
everybody welcome
- **Tauranga Young Explorers get together - Club Day**
08 May 07, 1:30pm -
Koffee Kulture Cafe,
Papamoa
- **Tauranga Explorers**
20 May 2007 Drama &
Speech- Barbara Grey
at Bethlehem College
Chapel cost \$5 per
family for members

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The future depends on what we do in the present.

- **Mahatma Gandhi**

Websites to check out

www.tlsbooks.com
www.alphaed.co.nz

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH TO: -
Yvonne Booysen
Edan Housham**

NZAGC AGM IN WELLINGTON - REPORT FROM INGRID

The short visit to Wellington was very informative and good fun. The AGM was held after we had listened to 4 speakers who shared their research projects with us.

In short the news of the AGM is that we now have a new president: Rose Blackett. She is a teacher who has been involved in the gifted community for many years and started the Christchurch branch a few years ago.

Furthermore we have a new treasurer at the helm - a fellow South African who has been an accountant for many years in the UK and now in Auckland.

There are still branches in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Queenstown, Kapiti, Taupo (only just) Hawkes Bay and now Tauranga.

Thanks to a discussion with Kevin before I left for Wellington, I asked the meeting to look into joint auditing of all the branches by National. It was decided to look further into this but questions were being posed as to the legal implications in doing this. Let us hope that our membership fee to national may cover this cost as opposed to costing each individual branch.

Furthermore, I must add that Stephen Thoms thought the concession card idea a very good one as it cut down on banking and cash transactions on a monthly basis.



Tauranga has been voted to host the next AGM in 2008. Suggestions that have been put forward are to make it a "focus on the family" event rather than conference based. Needless to say, we will have to put our thinking caps on.

As to the talks given by the speakers, one area we could improve in as far as our club days are concerned is by having children assess each session we offer. In other words, we should ask the children if they learned anything new, if they enjoyed the activity and if they would like to learn more.

From another talk I wrote down the following criteria for a mentor. You might remember that we have often spoken about looking for mentors for our children. It seems as if this is hard for schools to facilitate. However, since we are a family organization, we could possibly circumvent legalities in this case. In any case this is what a mentor looks like:

- Honest
- Knowledgeable
- Empowering
- An Outstanding Performer
- Role Model
- Flexible
- Committed
- Able to discuss "How discipline fits into the broader context of life"

Tracey Riley from Massey University told us about her research project for the Todd Foundation who wanted to find out about out of school programmes for gifted children. Although there were a large number of providers for out of school activities - (other than sport) 75% of them did not provide for the gifted community only. The largest numbers of providers were in Maths, Science, and Social Science with fewer providers in performing arts and no programmes to enhance leadership skills and abilities. The providers claimed to focus on enrichment rather than acceleration. They were also catering for several age groups but their primary focus was on children aged 10 - 15. The area where the gifted children's needs were not met was in the pre - school and primary aged children. Some of the providers we might want to investigate further were: Astronomy Online, CREST (Science and Technology), Future Problem Solving, LEARNZ, Young Enterprise Scheme, Maths Achievement Challenge. Furthermore, Tracey Riley recommended that we encourage our children to compete in all challenges offered to the community.