

Tauranga Explorers

*Tauranga Branch of the New Zealand Association for Gifted Children
Newsletter for September-December 2006*

Welcome to our first newsletter

This newsletter will bring you details of our planned activities for this term, ideas for projects, interesting websites to explore, and library news. Please feel free to contribute your ideas on how we can make this a more attractive read for all of us.

Send your ideas to Suman, shumbi2@yahoo.co.nz.

Children's entries will be published too. Kids, your contributions, which at present should be either poems or stories, must be sent in as early as possible so that they can be included the next newsletter. For example, since our next newsletter will be sent out during Term 4, your entries should reach us by 22 October. That could be one of your projects during the school holidays!

Activities for September and Term 4

Adults Only evening

Saturday, 16 September, 7.00pm

Calling all adult members...pencil this date into your appointments diary! It's a potluck dinner with Kevin and Jean Walters. 98e Boscabel Drive, Ohauiti. RSVP to Kevin: 544-9730

Stamping our way around the World

Sunday, 17 September:

Betty, from the Stamp Club, will be bringing a few collections to share. Please bring your own collections to show her. Call Ingrid for details.

Kiwi Conservation Club Outing: Eels Galore

Saturday 23 September, 12.30p.m.onwards

Meet young eels and take an easy walk to a waterfall. To book, call Ingrid 544 9331

Workshop: Is your child gifted?

Saturday, 30 September, 10.30am

Sue Breen, pre-primary teacher and founder of *Small Poppies*, a playgroup for gifted pre-school children, outlines how to identify giftedness in your child during a morning workshop. Please book your places. Call Les for further details: 542 2097.

Stargazing

September 25/26/27 (depends on the weather.)

Go stargazing with Ursula McPherson from the Astronomy Society. Meet at Ferguson Park at 7.00pm for an introductory talk and a look through the telescope.

Visit to Tauranga Intermediate School

Thursday, 12 October, 6.30 p.m.

Interested parents can visit Tauranga Intermediate School to discuss the opportunities the school provides for children with special abilities. Suitable for parents with year 6 children. However, parents from Explorers are invited too.

Get Ready for Halloween!

Date/Time: During October

Let's prepare for a Halloween party: make papier-mache masks...prepare some gross foods. Call Kimberly for details.

Bird watching

Friday, October 13, evening

Walk around the Mount, spotting penguins and petrels with Paul Cummings. Group size is limited to 20, so bookings are essential. Please phone Ingrid.

Talk by Roger Moltzen

Tuesday, October 31, 7.30pm

Topic: 'What you always wanted to know about giftedness, but were afraid to ask'.

Venue: Welcome Bay School Hall. Entry: \$5.00 to cover costs would be appreciated.

Shell Identification: KCC Outing

Saturday, 4 November, 2 hr outing

Join Ann Graeme (creator of *Kiwi Conservation* magazine) in a process of discovery. The focus is on shells found in the Mount Beach. You will be scrabbling around rocks at low tide, so warm clothes and good shoes are essential. Phone Ingrid to book .

Visit to Wingspan: KCC Outing

Sunday, 12 November, Rotorua.

Picnic lunch at Hamurana Springs preceded by walk in the redwood forest. This will be followed by a visit to Wingspan, 1164 Paradise Valley Rd., Rotorua, where various NZ raptors can be seen, e.g. hawks, falcons, owls. Phone Ingrid for details and to book in.

White Dreams

November(Date and time to be fixed)

Talk by Helen Ahern on her visit to the Antarctic.

Ahoy there, bug collectors!

December 17(date and time to be confirmed)

Come and join David Logan on a riverside walk to find insects.

Logo Design Competition

Create-a-Logo Competition

Hey there, Kids!

Get your paint and pens out and design a logo for the Explorers!

The prize will be a chocolate candy bar.
But best of all, your creation will be on every Explorers newsletter.

Send your entries by Thursday, 22 September, to Suman:
Mail: 106 Osprey Drive, Welcome Bay, or e-mail: shumbi2@yahoo.co.nz



Websites to visit

Check out these interesting websites:

www.whatsthatbug.com A bug-lover's delight!

www.nationalgeographic.com

And here are a couple for parents...

www.edusearch.co.nz and www.happychild.org.uk

And while you are about it, take a peek at our very own website:

www.giftedchildren.org.nz/tauranga ...and be thrilled!

Committee Roles

The contact details for the Tauranga Explorers committee members are:

President: Ingrid Booyesen: 544-9331

Treasurer: Kimberly Jones: 542-2425

Membership: Mellissa Mikara 578-3845

Young Explorers (pre-school): Mellissa Mikara 578-3845

Children's Activity Coordinator: Prathima Rao 544-7190

Adult's activity co-ordinator: Kevin Walters 544-9730

PR: Terri Collecutt: 576-0622

Library: Lynda Dixon 570-0452

Newsletter: Suman Bhat 544-5245

Website: Jon Gebert: 542 2097



Library news

Library Books are available from the NZAGC website. The national Librarian will send books to members at the cost of return postage. Please note, however, that books must be returned on time. We envisage that our club will have its own library in due course, so please also contact Lynda if there is anything specific you would like to read.

Activities in August

August saw the Tauranga Explorers meeting on different occasions; one of them was on...

August 15: Schools and Gifted Children Adults Only Evening: This proved to be an absorbing introduction to what our primary, intermediate, and secondary schools here in New Zealand can do and are doing for gifted children. Teachers from the three levels explained how their schools organised extension activities and provided avenues for expression for children with special abilities.