

## Waimakariri District Council Safe Community – Redesignation November 2006

Waimakariri District Council has been reaffirmed as a ‘Safe Community’ by the Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ) on behalf of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2006. The ceremony followed a very successful and enjoyable two day site visit covering:

- the high level of support from the Waimakariri District Council;
- Truck Buddy at Cust School;
- innovative road safety messages especially ‘Alien Adventure’;
- a visit to West Eyreton where the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environment Design were demonstrated;
- the value of Woodend School being designated as an International Safe School within a designated Safe Community supportive environment;
- innovative and impressive high risk youth initiatives covering road safety including the safe use of alcohol;
- Booze Bus checkpoints with the Police;
- hands on demonstration of rural safety at Ohoka School covering all aspects of the ‘Down the Back Paddock’ programme;
- Sports Safety at the Kaiapoi Tennis Club;
- the outstanding achievements of the Young Parents’ College educational facility for young parents and their children;
- programmes to address older persons’ falls including Tai Chi and the Otago Home Based programme; and
- a demonstration by the Coastguard covering boat safety on the Waimakariri River.

It was pleasing to note that those programmes developed during Waimakariri’s process to become accredited as a Safe Community have not only been sustained over time but have been built on to meet the needs of a changing community. However, in contrast to the original application, the re-application incorporated crime prevention, which is a welcomed addition to the mix of improving overall community safety. Of particular note was the involvement of five groups focusing on: injury prevention, crime prevention, road safety, restorative justice and broader Waimakariri District Council community development activities. The theme of ‘Working together for a Safer Community’ reflected the ongoing commitment of WDC to sustainable safety promotion and injury prevention programmes and the WHO Safe Community model.

The redesignation ceremony on the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2006 was a celebration of the participation of the community. Waimakariri District Council Mayor, Jim Gerrard stated that “he was very proud to champion this work and to be associated with the many wonderful projects and people in the Waimakariri District”. Having the Mayor accompany the site visit team for a whole day demonstrated his commitment to community safety.



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