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FEBRUARY 2006 NEWSLETTER

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From the President

Kia ora koutou, Greetings to you all

And Happy New Year! I hope you had a restful break over the holiday period and are feeling refreshed and ready for the challenge of 2006. We are now getting into the summer weather, so enjoy it while it lasts. I was amazed to learn there are more than 150 parks in our city. What a great initiative of the YMCA to utilize them in their summer Activity in the Parks programme.

Many of our members have taken the opportunity of the long school term holiday to visit home-countries and family or to see more of New Zealand. Welcome back! I hope Invercargill and Southland now feels like home to you.

My thanks to those who attended the recent meeting held by the Statistics Department on the forthcoming Census (7th March). This was an important event for those of us who have not filled out Census forms before and may be unfamiliar with the procedure. If you missed the meeting, we have booklets at the office which will help you, call in and pick one up.

Your committee has begun a year of hard work, planning future events for you. Race Relations Day is looming on

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the horizon and we would like as much input as possible from members of the public. Please contact us if you have any suggestions or contributions to make.

Chinese New Year is behind us already and we are now looking forward to our first function of the year, the February pot-luck gathering. Do come and join us, and bring a friend or two with you. If you don't know anyone and are feeling shy about coming, let us know and we will make sure you meet lots of new friends.

I wish you all the very best for 2006 and hope to see you very soon.

Brian

Coming events

18 Feb – Pot luck meal, 6.30pm, Holy Trinity Church Hall, King Street

18 Mar – Race Relations Day, 11.00am, Hansen Hall, SIT complex

Race Relations Day

We are looking for items for our international concert. Get a group together to showcase your country's culture. Contact us please. Items will be accepted on the day as well.

February Birthdays

Amanda Williams

Felipe Silva

Sophie Cook

Gypsy Buckingham

Corey Shanks

Carl Rodmell

Atsuto Tanaka

Robert Smart

Kiwiana

Very happy - Over the moon,
stoked, chuffed, in seventh
heaven, happy as Larry,
happy as a sand boy.

Saying

Don't dream your life, live
your dream.

Nga kupu Maori – Some Maori words

Murihiku – Southland
Pounamu – Greenstone
Rangi – Sky
Wairua – Spirit

My impressions of New Zealand.

We landed in NZ on, what to
me seemed like, the coldest
day of my life.

We had just left our country of
birth and to come from
tropical warmth to near sub
zero climate was a shock to
the system. We had moral
support from my sister-in-law
and her family but those initial
days seemed pretty uphill.

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Literally too, as we were in Dunedin and most of it is uphill!

Well, anyway after haunting Donna at WINZ, for weeks, I finally got a job – where else, but in a supermarket. The job had long hours, standing on my feet the whole day, but it gave me a really wide exposure to people and that I found I enjoyed. It was there I met NZ first hand through such a variety of customers and I picked up what I call Kiwi lingo! Example – Sweet as, Good as gold, No worries.

I then decided to study so I could try my hand at something else. I did a short course at the Polytechnic and around the same time I applied for a job being advertised at the Public Library. I didn't make it but they called me back to ask if I was interested in doing casual work on call. That gave me my second break and while I was studying I got a few steady hours of work at the Library.

We then decided to move to Invercargill and I was lucky that the Library had a job going so everything sort of fell into place. We had finally arrived in NZ. Both my husband and I had jobs we liked, a nice house(and a lovely land lady), and our son too had settled in well with his new school. And in Kiwi teenage tradition he too had a 'job' delivering pamphlets.

Lately we have been exploring little bits of NZ. So far we have covered the base of

Mt. Cook, Wellington and a bit of Christchurch. Since we moved to Invercargill we have seen Bluff, Riverton, Tuatapere and the Catlins over the weekends. It's definitely a beautiful country and often we just go for a long drive just to enjoy the country-side.

Gradually I think we have adapted to and adopted our new country and it's starting to feel like home!

Next chapter when I decide to get my driving licence!

Nita Nayak

Children's corner

Q. What did A and B get in the music store? A. A CD.

Q. What happens once in a minute, twice in a moment but never in a thousand years? A. The letter M.

Q. Why didn't the skeleton dance at the Hallowe'en party? A. Because it had no body to dance with.

In which word do the first two letters signify a man, the first three letters a woman, the first four a daring man, and the whole word a courageous woman?

Answer next month.

Consider the importance of that last statement. I am unaware of any other country where the dominant culture has provided for the forensic analysis of their indigenous history in the way we have done, and have acted on such analysis to redress historical wrongs. Those who agitate to sew this process up as soon as possible or to stop it altogether, miss the fundamental gains achieved. The nation is reconciling itself to its past, slowly, adroitly with a paradigm that we have created uniquely for ourselves and will endure. For many of us it is acutely uncomfortable, but nobody's died from this discomfort yet!

But we should be alert to the impact of this discomfort on ourselves and our colleagues in the grant-making sector. We are inclined to bring to the table as grantors prejudices that have not been addressed and because we are in positions of power over funds these prejudices count. People legitimately entitled to support do suffer because the 'risk' of the unknown is magnified. We see this in Parliament all the time. We can assume it resides within our own organizations.

How might we get over this? One way we do this is by owning our cultural selves, who we are, our right to belong here. Here

we can thank Trevor Mallard for a great question.

Am I as a Pakeha, indigenous? Well, emotionally yes and technically no. For me to claim my 140 years of direct ancestry here is a source of pride and this is my home. But can I fairly claim to be indigenous in the same way as Maori who have been here from around 1300 AD? To do so would be to sideline 500 plus years of Maori experience prior to my forebears' arrival. What's more my forebears were not the first people to settle here, an important element of the definition. So to claim to be indigenous in the same way as tangata whenua is unfair and technically it is not factual. And if there is one matter that we need to do today it is to stick to the facts.

But nor do I wish to tug my forelock in this matter. As Pakeha we claim our belonging through being descended from the settlers who agreed the Treaty. **The same Treaty that by joint agreement of tangata whenua and tauwi, gives all subsequent migrants and their communities the right to call this place their own.** The importance of this cannot be understated. It was the Maori Land Court Chief Judge Durie in 1990 who first described Pakeha as tangata Tiriti, those who belong to the land by right of the Treaty. It is our unimpeachable security, our right to belong passed from generation to generation.

(This article by Pat Snedden will be continued.)

Farewell

Anil, Renu and family have left us for Auckland. Good luck and all the best for life in the north. Anyone who would like to keep in touch and don't have their address, contact the office.

Active Parks

For the months of February and March, you are urged to take part in the YMCA's Active Parks programme. Activities cover most days at varying times, and include walking, kendo, tai chi, aerobics, music, cycling, basketball, skating, pilates, hackysacks and more. Pick up a pamphlet or contact the YMCA phone 032182989 or www.ymca.co.nz for more information.

Citizen's Advice Bureau

This office is currently holding special clinics dealing with consumer affairs and related problems. Contact them for help if you are having any difficulties in this area.

Good news

Congratulations to Allan and Claire who were married recently.

And (another) Allan and Sarah have a little son, Thomas Patrick Barnes, born on Saturday, 4th February, weighing 9lbs. 6oz. Welcome, Thomas.

Ruby is engaged to be married. Best wishes from all of us.

And Gelu and his daughter Georgiana were among a group who recently received Citizenship at the Invercargill City Council. Well done!

Justice of the Peace Certificate

Our resident Justice of the Peace, Philip Chan, has just completed his Justice of the Peace: Judicial Course through the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand.

A Justice of the Peace can:

- Witness signatures on documents

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- Certify document copies
- Authorize search warrants
- Take oaths, declarations, affidavits or affirmations
- Perform citizenship ceremonies
- Issue summonses to witness.

With the Certificate, Justices may also preside in the District Court to hear:

- Minor traffic offences
- Specific preliminary or summary offences
- Bail applications
- Requests for remands and adjournments.

They may also fulfill the role of visiting Justices to prisons.

Allan Cameron, phone 032166332, is also available for Justice of the Peace duties.

Census 2006: Putting You in the Picture

Tuesday, 7 March 2006 is the date of the next New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings. Statistics New Zealand holds this five-yearly census to count the number of people and dwellings (houses, flats, caravans) in New Zealand.

The information gathered by the census provides a snapshot of our population and is used by all types of organizations to make important decisions that affect New Zealanders' daily lives. For example, census information helps in making decisions about

where to locate roads, shops, healthcare centres and schools, and in planning migrant and job training schemes. It is important that everyone takes part so that the information collected is as accurate as possible.

Help with understanding the census and the census questions is available for people for whom English is a second language. Statistics New Zealand has produced information leaflets in 20 languages, which can be found on the website: www.stats.census.govt.nz. Many community and cultural groups have copies of these leaflets. Resources will also be available from ESOL Home Tutor Scheme tutors, and from 17 February people can call 0800 CENSUS (0800 236 787) for help in English, Maori, Samoan, Tongan, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean and Hindi.

An important message for migrant New Zealanders is that completed individual forms are entirely confidential. The information Statistics New Zealand publishes is reported in a way that prevents any individual person being identified. Few people ever get to see the completed forms; those who do have access to the forms have to be authorized by Statistics New Zealand and must sign a Declaration of Secrecy. No other government organizations, including the Police, Immigration Service or Inland Revenue, see the forms.

Every man, woman and child in the country on Census Day, including visitors, must take part in the census. In the two weeks leading up to 7 March, Statistics New Zealand collectors will visit every household to deliver the census forms, and will return after 8 March to collect the completed forms.

Key Census Facts

- Census Day is Tuesday, 7 March 2006.
- Everyone in New Zealand on census night must take part.
- Individuals cannot be identified from the information Statistics New Zealand makes public.

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- Everyone's answers are mixed together to produce information such as the average income of New Zealanders, but no-one's personal income is made public.
- No other government organization – including the Police, Immigration Service or Inland Revenue – can see anyone's census answers. Only people authorized by Statistics New Zealand who have signed a Declaration of Secrecy can.

Orthodox Church Service

The next service will be held at St Luke's Anglican Church, Black Road (off Oreti Road), on Sunday, 19th March commencing at 10.00am. The officiating priest is Archpriest Very Reverend Father Ilyan Eades, who travels from Dunedin to conduct the services.

Promotional CD

J&B Enterprise provide an interactive photo CD featuring over 400 photos of the South Island, which link to the latest up-to-date information on tourist web sites. This would be an ideal gift for family and friends overseas, or anyone who is considering coming here to live. It retails at \$25, but there is a special price of \$20 for our members. Contact J&B Enterprise, ph/fax 03 2127855, mobile 021 0452775.

(Apologies for accidentally cutting off the last of this article in the December issue.)

MEMBERSHIP

Not already a financial member of our group? A family or individual membership costs \$10 a year, so why not join now? This entitles you to reduced charges at functions, plus it will look good on your CV! A healthy membership base helps us with our funding applications, so please consider joining up.

Radio Programme

Have you tuned in yet? You never know who you will hear, it may even be you in future. Jasmine is always looking for someone to feature, so contact her on 2157827 if you would like to showcase your country for us. Every Tuesday, 6.00 – 7.00pm and Saturday 5.30 – 6.00pm, Radio Southland 96.4 FM

Volleyball

We collected names of people interested in forming a Multi-Nations Volleyball Team at our last pot-luck function, and there were a number of people interested. Unfortunately, this did not get off the ground last year, but we are 'hot to trot' with it again now, and will be taking names again at the next gathering. If you are keen to take part, let us know!

Office news

New furniture has been ordered and will be delivered soon. Drop in and check it out! We still have some time-spaces we would like to have covered by volunteers, so if you have a spare hour or two during the week, let us know.

Thursday office lunch

Starting again on Thursday, 23rd February, we invite you to bring your lunch to the office. We will supply hot or cold drinks and stimulating company – that is, if you come along! Any time between 12.00noon and 2.00pm, Mary and Sarah will be there to welcome you and who knows who else? We had some really good times last year, and hope this will be popular again in 2006.

Communication class

For those who are struggling with their everyday English, we invite you to our Sunday Afternoon Club. This is a low-key session, comprised of friendly chit-chat and afternoon tea. No tests, no homework! All ages and nationalities are welcome, and the session is free.

Venue: Our office, 46 Kelvin Street (in the Southland Community House, above the ANZ Bank).

Time: Sunday afternoons, 2.30 – 4.00pm.

SIT Students and Staff

Welcome to new people in town who are associated with the Southern Institute of Technology. Please come along and join us if you would like to make new friends – all nationalities (including New Zealanders) are welcome.

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