

YOUR SAY

Important work

Once upon a time...There was a time when mothering and parenting was important work.

Women were encouraged and praised for their ability to stay home and nurture, educate, and socialise their babies and children.

Now it seems that there is less importance placed on the role of women who stay home with their preschoolers and children. We are judgmental and critical of women who do and we put pressure on them, whether intentionally or not, and encourage them to go "back to work".

The status of women who choose to stay at home till their children are off to school should be encouraged and they should have financial and social support to help them carry out this most important vocation.

There may be some who have children frequently just to get the benefit, but I believe they are few in number compared with the number of women who do stay home or who would like to stay home with their children but financially are unable to.

How many times do I hear a

mother of a baby say: "I have to go back to work because I can't afford not to." "What a terrible decision to have to make - "shall I give my time to my child or to a job so that I have enough money to get by". And these obviously aren't the women having babies to get the benefit.

Let's not forget the importance and value of a mother's ability and right to raise her children herself. Women need to have the choice whether to stay home or not but their choice should be able to be made without the incredible pressure of financial burdens.

Or at least the financial side should not be the binding factor. Let's encourage our mothers to be home with their children and let's support those who choose this job, to be the best mothers to their children.

Let's rejoice in the art of mothering and let's applaud those women, who, in the face of all difficulty and social pressure, chose to stay home with their children. They are to be congratulated.

Debi Hocart
Opotiki

Computer follies earn a laugh

OH dear, oh dear. It isn't often that I find amusement in printing errors, but I must admit that I shouted with laughter when I read my own letter in last Tuesday's *Opotiki News*.

The mistake wasn't bad grammar, it wasn't incorrect spelling. It was the substitution of the word "addresses" for "idleness", so St Paul's comment about people living in idleness — a segment of the com-

munity, now becomes people living in (or at) addresses, which is all of us.

I thought it was funny and I hope you did too. We all like a little unexpected fun in our lives. But if the mistake was due to my doubtful penmanship I beg your forgiveness.

Verna McDonnell
PS: I hope St Paul didn't mind.

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the first to care



UNDER THE BONNET: The Toyota Prius is one of the most successful alternative-fuelled vehicles in the world. And an example was driven into Opotiki on Friday last week. A4024-02

Clean and green car rolls into town

BEN FEINBAUM

A MEMBER of the Energy Options team was in Opotiki on Friday of last week, but she didn't need to re-fuel when driving around town. Why not?

Because Louise Maple was behind the wheel of the company's Toyota Prius, which runs off a special kind of battery when it's not on the open road.

That way it uses less fuel, and emits zero emissions in electric mode, especially useful in areas where there are lots of people gathered together. Nifty, eh?

Mrs Maple said The Prius was easy enough to drive, too.

It would be, as both motors are stunners.

First up there was the hugely efficient Toyota petrol fuelled powerplant, an aluminium double overhead cam (DOHC) 16-valve unit, producing 76 hp at 5000 rpm. That was excellent for cruising State Highway 2 over from Whakatane.

But then there was also the permanent magnet AC synchronous motor which was no slouch either, offering a highly reasonable rating of 67 hp at

1200-1540 rpm.

Lots of automobile manufacturers talk about reducing emissions without compromising drivability. But here it was, Toyota's already done it.

On the day Mrs Maple was taking a few minutes' break between tasks, and she allowed a couple of people to have a snoop around the energy efficient advanced technology partial zero emission vehicle while she finished her lunch.

It all fits in with the Energy Options philosophy - go clean and green!

New species added to quota system

STOCKS of cockle, pipi, tuatua, scallop and dredge oysters not already in the quota management system (QMS) are to become managed.

Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope said last week that, after considering advice from the Ministry of Fisheries and the views of

fishing interests, the species will be introduced into the QMS.

However, he deferred a decision on the introduction of seaweed into the QMS and said two important tuna species will not be introduced at this time.

"Entry of these fisheries

into the QMS will enable a catch limit to be applied in the interests of sustainable use of these resources."

He added the current management of skipjack and albacore tuna was adequately providing for the sustainable utilisation of the species.

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