

Slickers take on bumpkins in the Fight Against Drugs

KAWERAU'S Fight Against Drugs exhibition boxing tournament was such a success last year that they have decided to do it again.

This year the "country bumpkins" will be taking on the "city slickers" at the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre in Kawerau on May 12.

The Fight Against Drugs II will once again feature Kawerau's Blue Light Team and the Auckland Blue Light Team duking it out in the ring.

Celebrity exhibition bouts will include double international boxer and kick boxer, Carl Cowley, six-time New Zealand boxing champion and Olympic games competitor, Colin Hunia, All Black and Sevens legend and ex-New Zealand boxing champion, Eric Rush, and local boxing coach and Te Wananga o Aotearoa sports tutor, Warwick Godfrey.

The Kawerau Blue Light team will be made up of two members of the Kawerau police and Te Whare Wananga o Aotearoa ki

Kawerau students. In all there are 10 bouts scheduled for the event.

Organised by Te Whare Wananga o Aotearoa ki Kawerau and the Kawerau Safer Communities Trust, the smoke/drug/alcohol-free event provides an opportunity for the wider Kawerau community to acknowledge the impact of its entrenched drug culture and develop a unique concept that targets powerful drug free messages to young people and their families.

Safer Communities Trust spokesman, Bob Austin says that last year the tickets for the event sold like "hot cakes".

"Last year's Fight Against Drugs was a full house, attracting 1100 people. It was slightly crowded and for this reason we will be selling slightly less tickets this year so people need to get in fast. The bouts are always impressive and exciting."

Other entertainment will include a maorakau demonstration, self defence, hip hop dancing, a DJ and there will also be a presentation about drugs from former Auckland police officer Cam Stokes.

Last year's event raised \$10,000 toward drug education programmes in Kawerau.

"The money goes a long way to helping our young people," said Warwick Godfrey. "We have been to several schools to play a range of sports and raise awareness about the effects of drugs."

Tables of six are available at \$25 per head. Stand tickets, (preferably for youth) are \$2. Stand tickets can be bought from local Kawerau schools and table tickets through the Kawerau Voice, Kawerau Heartland Services, Radio IXX and Sun 98 FM.



IN THE RING: Action from last year's Fight Against Drugs. A8609-139

Toi Te Ora makes its mark in public breastfeeding debate

TOI Te Ora Public Health's push for a country where mothers don't have to feel embarrassed or made to leave a public place for breastfeeding has been recognised.

The Human Rights Commission recently released a discussion paper, The Right to Breastfeed, with direct quotes from a submission from Toi Te Ora Public Health.

"The paper has followed a lot of hard work from people throughout New Zealand with a national petition calling for a

breastfeeding friendly New Zealand," Toi Te Ora Public Health health promoter Caroline Spencer-McNicol said.

"The paper also outlines more than 35 complaints since 2000 and dozens of negative experiences women have had while breastfeeding in public."

The paper provides a background of the human rights standards and consideration underpinning the right to breastfeed and discusses domestic law and case law in other countries,

which provide further protection of breastfeeding mothers and children.

"It has a set of principles which will help direct organisations and decision-making bodies when considering policy, complaints or strategies involving breastfeeding," she said.

Toi Te Ora Public Health's submissions outlined issues around embarrassment for mothers, especially Maori and Asian women, the importance of taking a 'whole government' approach

and ensuring parents have the opportunity to make an informed choice about whether they breastfeed or not.

"It's great to see the Human Rights Commission respond to the national call for New Zealand to be more breastfeeding friendly," said Mrs Spencer-McNicol.

"Women who signed a petition or answered a community survey last August for World Breastfeeding Week have made a huge difference."



POWER POINT: Greens co-leader Jeanette Fitzsimons, left, checks out the work of the Eastern Bay Energy Trust in Whakatane with Jo Hunt of Energy Options and Green Party candidate Catherine Delahunty. Photo Monique Ford B1017-12

Greens praise trust's energy saving ideas

ANNE CLARKE

GREENS co-leader Jeanette Fitzsimons says the work that the Eastern Bay Energy Trust is doing to promote sustainable energy is top of the line and something all New Zealand should take note of.

Energy Options, an offshoot of the energy trust, promotes sustainable energy by providing ways to conserve it and use it efficiently.

"The work they do is probably the best in the country ... it sets a good example," Ms Fitzsimons said.

Ms Fitzsimons was visiting the Eastern Bay of Plenty last week to discuss energy sources and environmental issues.

In Opotiki, she attended a

screening of *The End of Suburbia*, a film showing the speed at which oil reserves are running out throughout the world.

She also visited Energy Options on McAlister Street in Whakatane where she discussed the importance of energy efficiency and praised them for their work.

"The best way to produce more sustainable energy is to use energy more efficiently," she said.

"Most importantly, if we use all energy sources more efficiently, we will use less overall. Energy saving devices that Energy Options are offering can cut your electrical bill by a lot."

She also supported alternative forms of energy, saying

small-scale generation was now an option with wind and hydro generation and said that wood pellet fires and solar water heating were a step in the right direction for energy efficiency.

When it came to other green measures, Ms Fitzsimons believed that more could be done with Whakatane's recycling system.

At present, the council provides ratepayers with 280-litre rubbish bins with bottles, tins and papers being recycled – but not plastic.

"The zero waste concept is taking off around the country," Ms Fitzsimons said.

"I think that when we throw something out, we need to make sure, firstly, that it cannot be re-used and, secondly, that it cannot be recycled. Only then

should we throw something out."

She also had views on throwing money about.

Responding to criticism of the energy trust for spending money on training power line workers rather than giving electricity consumers a rebate as many other trusts did, Ms Fitzsimons said the funding of industry training was a far better way to spend excess money.

"It is a far greater value to the community than a few shillings in your pockets," she said.

"It builds the local economy and when that person gets work and generates wealth, that money will be spent again and again."

"It builds prosperity and I would like to see the rest of New Zealand follow."

SWAP members meet with Fitzsimons

A MEETING with Green Party co-leader Jeanette Fitzsimons in Whakatane last week marked the 16th senior Parliamentary politician that Whakatane action group Sawmill Workers Against Poisons has spoken to in the past month.

And, although the meeting was a positive one, progress remains slow for the group who are seeking recognition of their claim that toxins used in the timber industry have damaged

their health.

SWAP spokesman Joe Harawira was pleased to have met Ms Fitzsimons but said: "We are talking to the right people but are still experiencing static progress."

The group represents around 120 people who believe they were poisoned by chemicals used in the milling process from the 1950s to the 1980s.

They have spent more than a decade trying to have their claims validated by health

and environmental officials. In the interim, many are sick and others have died.

Mr Harawira talked Ms Fitzsimons through a report on SWAP's meeting with MPs in Wellington last month. The report included the group's progress with ACC claims, the proposed remediation of the Carter Holt Harvey board mill site and the cleanup of properties that received contaminated wood waste from the old Whakatane



Joe Harawira

sawmill.

Mr Harawira also presented Ms Fitzsimons with a lifecycle analysis of the chemically exposed workers, from planting the tree in the forest to the finished product.

The Greens co-leader told him her party would persistently push SWAP issues in Parliament.

"They are a party who have supported us all these years," Mr Harawira said.

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