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**INFORMATION CENTRAL**

How do I book the local hall? Who runs the scrabble club? How do I join the lifesavers? If you've got a question about the Mahurangi area, visit the new Mahurangi Matters Community A-Z at [www.localmatters.co.nz](http://www.localmatters.co.nz)

If you can't find what you're looking for, let us know and we'll soon get the information for you. Listings are free so if you belong to a community or sports group that is not yet on the directory, email the details to [editor@localmatters.co.nz](mailto:editor@localmatters.co.nz)



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WARKWORTH SCHOOL SATURDAY MARCH 27  
**kiwianagala**



Money raised at the gala is earmarked for an upgrade of the school pool.

**School gala a Kiwi classic**

Warkworth Primary is aiming for a cheap and cheerful Kiwi-classic feel to its school gala on March 27.

Organisers are hoping to cash in on nostalgia with Kiwiana and cheap-and-cheerful activities to raise money for an upgrade of the school swimming pool.

There will be free drawcards such as classic challenges for friends and families to take up, including tug-of-war, gumboot throwing, egg and spoon races, sack races and three-legged races.

Coordinator Rachel Hallam says while she hopes the gala is a financial success, it is also important to bring the community together for a “feel

good” fun day out with the family. “It’s got to be cheap enough that everyone can afford to come,” she says. “There will \$1 games like a ‘stubby shy’, ‘pierce the pineapple’ and ‘pop the water balloon’.”

Students and community members purchased pumpkin plants late last year and registered for a prize pumpkin competition to be judged on the day. The students will also compete in some unusual creative events. The junior school is creating sand saucers and grass head men. Older students are making ‘aqua jars’.

*continued next page*

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WARKWORTH SCHOOL  
**kiwianagala**

## Gala funds pool improvements

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A perennial favourite at the school is a 'best loved bear' contest which is put to the public vote.

"We've run it every year and it's been hugely successful". The gala team is running a café this year alongside candyfloss stalls, bacon and egg burgers and a sausage sizzle. There will be pony rides, fire engine rides, and a bouncy castle.

Prizes donated so far for the day include a night's accommodation at Waimana Lodge worth \$525, a Hedgehog Bikes pushbike, a Morris and James ceramic piece' and a Skyworks helicopter ride. The last gala in 2008 raised \$24,000 and organisers are trying to top that this year with a goal of \$30,000.

Proceeds have been earmarked for an upgrade of the pool, including the provision of shade, an upgrade of the filtering system, tiered decking around the pool and an upgrade of the changing facilities. "We see the need in the community for a good pool," Rachel says. "We have a community surrounded by beaches and are exposed to water all the time so water safety classes are really important."

The gala at Warkworth Primary School runs from runs from 9am to 3pm.

**Information: Phone Rachel Hallam 021 0226 9004 or email rachballam@slingshot.co.nz**

## Businesses support shelters

Warkworth steel shed and buildings company Totalspan is lending a hand to keep Rodney and Kaipara school kids under shelter.

Totalspan's national office runs a programme called Undercover Kids which donates structures for school bus shelters. Franchisees like the Warkworth office are responsible for donating their construction.

Local co-manager Don Tomlinson says his company has just installed a free bus shelter for Tomarata School

and are poised to put up another for Otamatea High School.

Other businesses have come on board to support the scheme including Wharehine Contractors which donate the concrete foundations for the shelters and Carters which donate the delivery trucks for the structures.

Mr Tomlinson said that each shelter cost several thousand dollars but "we try to support the local community and try to put as much back into it as we can."



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