



# Mahurangi youth endeavour shines light on Rabi Island

A group of Mahurangi young people are raising funds to travel to Rabi Island, near Fiji, in July, to donate 1000 solar lights.

A dinner and auction night will be held at the Puhoi Hall on April 27 to help raise the money needed to purchase the lights and pay for the trip. The 10 young people travelling to Rabi Island are aged between six to 25 years and are members of the Mahurangi Presbyterian Church. Assistant pastor and trip organiser, Bruce Eirena, says a range of items have been donated to go under the hammer including a Skyworks flight for six people, a signed All Whites shirt, Morris and James pottery and a weekend at Keriwin House Bed and Breakfast in Kerikeri.

“Our goal is to provide a simple solar light for every home on the island and bring our two communities closer together,” he says. “There are around 1000 homes on Rabi Island spread between four villages. There is very little infrastructure on the island, which is home to around 4000 people. There is no electricity grid and each village relies on a single diesel generator to power their homes for a few hours each evening.

“Most people put kerosene in a tin can along with a rag as a makeshift form of lighting in the evening. From both a lighting and safety point of view, this isn't a great system. Education is important on the island but the lack of light makes it hard for students to study.”

Bruce says the group had hoped to attract a major sponsor to cover the cost of the lights, but hadn't had any luck so far. They had even been talking to companies in China and Australia, but were still looking for the right light, at the right price.



A dinner and auction evening with live music will be held at the Puhoi Hall on April 27 to help raise funds for the Mahurangi Presbyterian Youth Group solar light project on Rabi Island.

The fundraiser at the Puhoi Hall starts at 6.30pm and tickets are \$25 single, \$40 couple, \$50 family.

Info: Mahurangi Presbyterian Church office, 425 8861 or email [rabi@mahu.org.nz](mailto:rabi@mahu.org.nz).

## Gardening with the kids

Getting out and about in the garden is a nice way for parents to spend time with their children these school holidays. Whether it's planting a vegetable garden or growing flowers from seed, gardening provides children with many valuable lessons. The practical aspects of gardening teach children basic maths and science, but gardening also teaches responsibility, encourages creativity, and provides a positive place for children to think as well as relax. Info: [www.yates.co.nz](http://www.yates.co.nz)

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YOUTH FEATURE  
**full of promise**



Members of the Warkworth Scout Group relished the chance to get wet and muddy as part of the Scouts National Mud Slide Day in February.

## Non-stop action for scout unit

To get as muddy as possible was the aim for members of the Warkworth Scout Group on February 24 when they took part in the annual Scouts National Mud Slide Day.

Around 30 keas, cubs and scouts battled it out to see who could go the fastest and make the biggest mud-bomb in the mud pool at the bottom of the 40m slide.

This was the first year that the group held a mudslide event, which took place on a farm in Duck Creek Road. Group leader David Hay says the event will return next year by popular demand.

“The mud bombs proved good training for the cubs as they joined other scout groups the following Sunday at the annual Big Splash

competition where two cub members, Zayde Lee and Leah Jones, placed first and second respectively.”

The group also joined other scouts on February 26 to celebrate Founders Day – the birthday of scouting founder Robert Baden-Powell.

“With around 3000 people attending, the loudest chant on the day was for the group as they raced against 35 other rafts. We built two rafts in an hour and came second overall.”

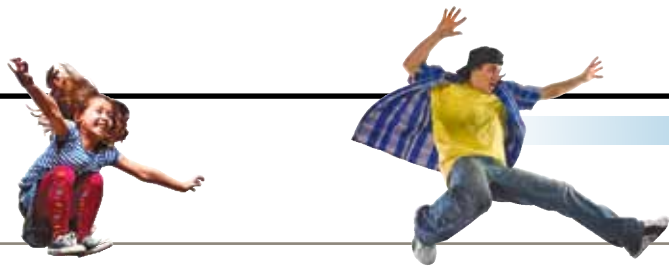
More recently the group was donated a 100m long abseiling rope from the Warkworth Lions Club. The group has 60 youth members in keas, cubs and scouts, and is starting a venturer unit for 14 to 18 year olds. **Info: scouts.org.nz**




**SCHOLARSHIP ALERT!**  
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The Ministry of Education has released 50 ‘Aspire’ scholarships for 2013 to enable students from lower-income families to attend private schools such as Wentworth College in Gulf Harbour – Rodney’s only private school. Scholarship winners receive **free tuition PLUS \$1500 each year** towards school related costs - not just next year, but for the remainder of their schooling at Wentworth! **Applications close May 11, 2012.**

For more information please contact Gail Clews on 09 424 3273  
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YOUTH FEATURE

full of promise

# Environmental initiative seeks sponsorship

A sponsor is needed to help Rodney and Kaipara students turn paper into native trees and plants under a national waste minimisation programme designed to encourage sustainable lifestyles.

Last year, over a hundred Rodney schools, from pre-school to college, joined the Paper4trees initiative run by the not-for-profit Environmental Education for Resource Sustainability Trust (EERST). A further 23 Kaipara schools have been involved since 2009.

The Trust supplies recycling bins for every room in the school to divert cardboard and paper from the waste stream, as well as other resources including posters, badges and recording sheets. Schools organise collection and report their results annually, being rewarded with one native plant for every two cubic metres of paper and cardboard recycled.

Paper4Trees manager Cayley Manson says that while a lot of schools were already recycling to a degree, the programme improves their efforts.

Earning trees highlights the importance of replacing used resources and provides a practical focus for teaching recycling and environmental issues, she says. Once planted, trees provide shade, become carbon sinks and attract native birds.



**Mangawhai Beach school students are successfully turning their waste paper into school landscaping.**

Mangawhai Beach School has received 38 trees and shrubs for school landscaping since it joined and recently ordered a further 28 for its 2011 recycling alone.

Teacher Andie Gore, says it has made a major difference to students' behaviour, increasing recycling awareness and

making it convenient for them to separate paper from other waste.

However, while set-up costs were funded through the Ministry for the Environment's Waste Levy Fund, Cayley says a sponsor is now required before the programme can deliver on the promise of native plants supplied via a local nursery.

After a Lion Foundation grant covered 14% of costs for the Rodney region, around \$10,000 still has to be raised for the region. Although 2011 recycling statistics have yet to be collated, initial plant deliveries are targeted to coincide with the best planting time around May, making finding a sponsor urgent.

In Kaipara, EERST has covered the \$3000-\$4000 cost of providing trees for schools to date, but can no longer afford to do so without sponsor support, she says.

Since the programme began in 2001, schools nationally have recycled over 17,500 tonnes of paper and cardboard earning more than 70,000 plants and saving 140,000 cubic metres of landfill space. EERST estimates that in 2011 schools will have earned more than 40,000 trees.

**Info:** [www.eerst.co.nz/paper-4-trees](http://www.eerst.co.nz/paper-4-trees) or phone Cayley 0800 727 4873.



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