

Focus On Fathering Week Report



1st to 7th September 2008



Report compiled by
Elaine Dyer and Chris Mullins

Waitakere, October 2008



Promoting Great Parenting in Waitakere is a project coordinating a week of activities and displays, story-telling, skills training and events, with fathering in the spotlight.



Focus on Fathering Week reminds us all how important fathering is, how our children need the engaged presence of men in their lives and how, for many men, fathering is an essential part of what it means to be a man.



Focus on Fathering Week is our community celebrating fathering.

Graphics and Layout by Nada Cottrell

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**For more information contact Violence Free Waitakere
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Waipareira Trust



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Background

In 2005 – 2006, a scoping report was commissioned to look at what Waitakere does to support its fathers. The commissioning group, Te Korowai Manaaki's Promoting Great Parenting was aware of the high numbers in our community of absent or disengaged fathers. Our contractor, Warwick Pudney conducted interviews with groups of fathers, service providers and other professionals, and after many hours of discussion and refinement, the report was released early last year.

One of the recommendations generated in this report was to promote positive fathering in the city, with a week of activities leading up to Father's Day. Our inaugural event was held in 2007, and encouraged by the interest in the week, we committed to running another in 2008.

Once again, the decision was made from that meeting to focus on awareness raising, and celebration of the role, as too often we felt that the public attitude about fathering was one of suspicion. We wanted to change that to a more positive focus which would share great stories about fathering and to be a series of events that would have the whole community thinking about how fathering could be supported.

So we had two aims... to promote great fathering and to support the network of services supporting fathers in our city. We wanted to extend our range from the previous year, and as our programme of over fifteen events demonstrates, we were successful with this.

The other factor of the week that we celebrate was the working together of organisations at community, local and national government levels. Our partnering with the Waitakere City Council, Ministry of Social Development's SKIP and the many other community agencies based in Waitakere was not only very effective in the energy and resources we were able to coordinate, but it gave a sense of solidity to the event overall.

Included in this report are the posters and descriptions of events, evaluations and our musings on the process of our promotion.

We trust that this will be of interest to you, both for the resources it contains, but also as an inspiration for you to spread the work into your communities of Great Fathering... as our logo said... 'dad4life' !!!

It is a journey that doesn't just depend on the relationship with the other parent... it is a contract for life with the children of our world.

Events Held and Synopsis

Entire week

Exhibition of photos of fathering and a resource display at West City Mall in downtown Henderson (Tuesday 2nd through to Saturday 6th October).

Mon, Thurs and Friday

Health bus Railside Ave 8:30 a.m. -- 4:30 p.m. Monday 1st Thursday 4th and Friday 5th.

Monday 1st 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The Focus on Fathering Week launch in the Waitakere City Council Chambers.

Tuesday 2nd Kelston Community Centre

6:30 p.m. -- 7:15 p.m

Laughter Yoga

Fathering adolescent daughters

7:30 p.m. -- 8:30 p.m.

Diverse dads -- Fathers of the future - panel discussions/forum for dads with disability and gay men.

Wednesday 3rd 7 p.m. -- 9 p.m.

Forum on supporting the new fathers at Te Tari Puna Ora o Aotearoa featuring Frank Hayes (New Born Fathers).

6:30 p.m. -- 8 p.m.

Creating peaceful pathways for Pacific fathers. Massey Community hall.

Thursday 4th 7:30 p.m. -- 9 p.m. Waipareira Trust

Kaumatua forum "Wisdom of our grandfathers"

Saturday 6th 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. St Michael's, Corban Estate

Playback Theatre "Fathering in a new land - New Settlers" stories

1:30 p.m. Saturday to 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

"Journey to the Falls" - for fathers and tramping age sons - Changeworks Trust.

Sunday 7th 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tui Glen.

"Dad's Day out / Big Clean Up Event" - fun, music, games, pony rides, kayaks, free BBQ

3pm - 4pm West Auckland Hospice

Father's Day remembrance service

For the entire programme / poster see [Appendix B](#).

A Fathers' Film Festival of DVDs to see at home was again promoted (see [Appendix C1](#).)

The Focus on Fathering Week 2008 Launch

The week was launched in style at the Council Chambers on Monday the 1st of September (6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.).



Mhara Marimbas greeted the 150 guests with vibrant melodious sounds of Africa. Mayor Bob Harvey warmly welcomed all to his whare and guest speakers and fellow Westies Pio Terei, Cindy Kiro and Alfred Ngaro presented inspiring stories of their own experiences of fathering. Lynne Pillay brought greetings from the Prime Minister, Alan Jones represented SKIP, and Warwick Pudney - well-known academic, researcher and writer on men's issues launched his new resource book for men's groups (see page 21).

School students and their families from the five schools who took part in the photo exhibition for the week were acknowledged and applauded. Their pictures were an inspiration to many throughout the week. Last-minute stand-in MC Michael Alofa did a superb job of the evening and the Heaven Bent gospel choir sang a number of moving acapela numbers to add some mood to the evening. The marimba group had people shaking and moving through supper - ending a truly lively and inspiring evening of fun.

See launch invitation as [Appendix A](#).

The Joy of Fathering: through my eyes



IMAGES OF FATHERING BY WAITAKERE YOUTH

The Idea

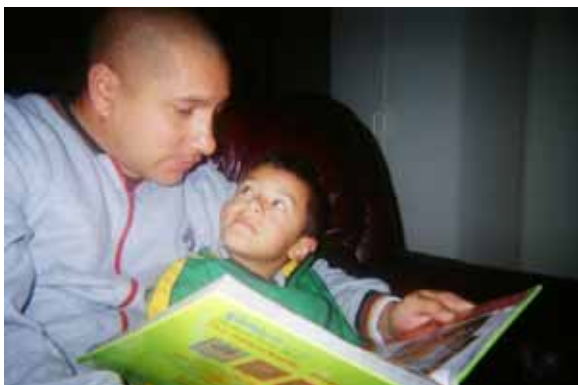
Last year the community was invited to submit images of fathering for a photo display on the airbridge during the Focus on Fathering Week. As an extension this year we wanted young people to share their view of "the joy of fathering" so we secured disposable cameras and recruited a range of local school children to photograph images of fathering.

The Project

Fourteen West Auckland schools were approached via email and invited to gather a small group of their students to participate in this project. Seven schools responded positively and five of those produced a group of students who met with Nigel for a briefing. The students were given a minimum of instruction so as not to constrain or unduly influence them, and a broad scope for interpreting "fathering": In the briefing it was suggested that their images might include dads playing with kids, doing DIY projects with them, cuddling them, reading stories to them, or doing sporting activities together. It might involve uncles, granddads or other men who help in the upbringing of a young person, including teachers, coaches, or neighbours.

The Results

Forty-one students, ranging in age from 7 to 18 years, were given a disposable camera each and one week to capture unique, interesting and "telling" images depicting "the joy of fathering". Thirty-three returned their camera's and thirty-one were able to be processed (two were under-exposed). One image from each student's series was selected for enlargement and inclusion in the photographic exhibition which was displayed in West City Mall. The final images depicted a range of activities and scenes, including a flying fox ride with Dad, homework help, story-time and bed-time. They portrayed men in both traditional roles (doing "Dad" things around the house) and non-traditional activities like cooking, ironing, bathing a baby or playing board games.



The Future / Reflections

Facilitating and including images taken by young people was a highly successful and interesting addition to the "Focus on Fathering" week and photo exhibition. It received a high level of interest from the students, their families, and the general public who viewed the final exhibition. Locating the

exhibition in West City Mall garnered a higher level of visibility to the exhibition and the "Focus on Fathering Week" as a whole.

In future years this project would benefit from an earlier start to recruiting young people's involvement. State schools are busy places and many were unable to respond to the invitation for involvement, especially secondary schools under pressure with NCEA objectives. Other venues, such as the Samoan Language Nest and Puawairua te Kohanaga, were not engaged this year partly due to the short timeline and limited relationship with these community initiatives.

The original proposal called for the inclusion of a local photography club in selecting and preparing the enlarged images for the exhibition. While the President and one club member from the Henderson Photographic Society did have a hand in selecting the final images, due to time constraints and cost issues the clubs involvement was very minimal. With a longer time-frame to work with the role and participation of the club can be further developed, for example to include training or guidance on photography technique, etc for the participating young people.

The "Gala Opening" of the exhibition was included as part of the official launch of the "Focus on Fathering" week. As a result there was a significant number of contributing young people and families in attendance. They contributed to a broad audience and great "fathering" representation while the exhibition itself proved to be an excellent visual backdrop to the "official" launch programme.

Photo and resource exhibition in West City Mall



Throughout the week we were able to set up the photographic display of the children's photographs, and this drew a lot of attention. Alongside these images we infused SKIP messages and had tables with resources for parenting and agencies working with fathers specifically and parenting in general.

A roster was organised to ensure that the display was attended throughout the week and balloons were inflated and used to draw children (and their parents!) Many completed evaluation forms, and commented on the value of the display and resources.

For those attending, it was an invaluable opportunity to interface with the public. Many useful conversations were held, questions explored, resources handed out... over 250 SKIP packs alongside the many other resources.

Health West bus with free health checks for dads

During the week, the bus was parked in Railside Avenue between the Mall and the Council, from 9:30 am to 4:30pm on Monday, Thursday and Friday. In all, 29 men (and 15 women) took the full screening for cardio vascular health, a very positive response from a 'normal' community day.



The Health West bus in Railside Avenue.

DATE	MEN	WOMEN	NUMBER	8.30 TO 4PM DAILY
Sept 1	8	4	12	Two Nurses + Health promotion assistant Very quiet until late morning
Sept 4	11	4	15	One Nurse + HPA
Sept 5	10	7	17	One nurse + HPA
	29	15	44= total	Over all – low numbers and comparable to a quiet community setting.

These numbers were good apart from the Monday, where we had two nurses available but lower interest from the Public.

On a really busy day with the bus project if doing full CVD screening which takes 20 min per person (to the funded population) x2 nurses can assess 30 per day comfortably.

Health West appreciated being able to park the bus on Railside Ave because it was good exposure as far as raising awareness for healthy lifestyle initiative.

Laughter Yoga

Malcolm Robertson a registered clinical psychologist who has worked extensively in public and private mental health care both in New Zealand and Australia, ran a very entertaining session of Laughter Yoga. He was personally



trained by the Laughter Yoga founder, Dr. Madan Kataria, and is a certified Teacher of Laughter Yoga.

Laughter Yoga is a worldwide social movement (non religious, non sectarian, non political) that aims to promote world peace through laughter. Laughter is a tremendously efficient way to express and release tension in a positive manner and Malcolm has a very easy and relaxed way of getting a bunch of strangers to make fools of themselves (and have great fun doing so!). For more info go to: www.youtube.com/laughteryoga for clips.

See flyer as [Appendix C2](#).

Fathering adolescent daughters

There was a disappointing turnout for a really interesting topic presented by Nicole Robertson.

Nicole, who works with adolescent girls as a family therapist, talked with great passion about how teenage girls need positive and engaging relationships with their dads. "All the girls I work with", she says "want more, not less contact with their dads".

It is through healthy and nurturing relationships with their dads that daughters learned to find nurturing relationships with men. "It is from the father not the mother," Nicole says, "that young women gain a further sense of their self confidence in relationship with males". Fathers - do not give up on your teenage girls - they need you, believe it or not, they even appreciate your boundary setting as they struggle to do this for themselves through their teenage years. Nicole has a message more dads should be hearing - contact her on 021 168 4632.

See flyer as [Appendix C3](#).

Active Movement: Games dads can play with their preschoolers

Last year Duncan Robertson of SPARC ran a very successful evening for fathers on the physical activities they could share with their toddlers to help them develop competence and confidence in movement. The workshop was booked to capacity. For some reason however this year we had no takers for the workshop so it was cancelled in advance. For those of you who missed the workshop and are interested in future workshops you could contact Pauline Butt at Sport Waitakere or Duncan Robertson of SPARC (09 966 3117).

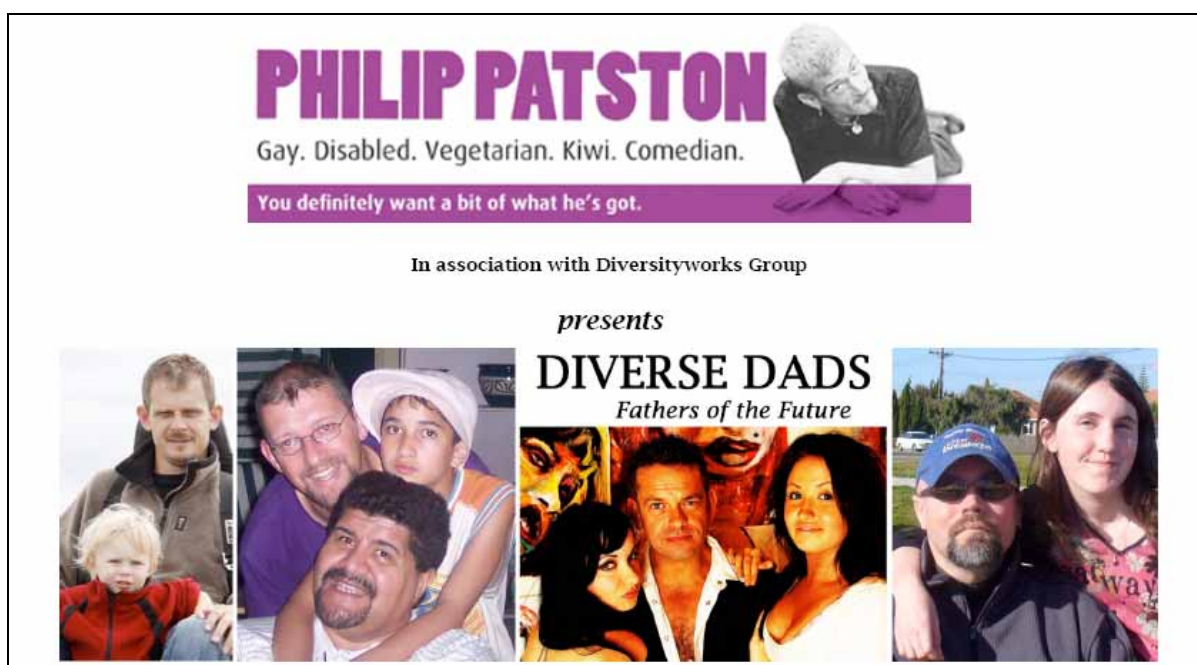
See flyer as [Appendix C4](#).

Supporting New Dads Forum

It was intended that Frank Hayes would lead a forum discussion for the evening. However, as there were only two participants an impromptu and rather moving conversation took place. One of the participants had just seen the flyer for the forum in the Henderson library and as a newly separated father who was in some pain - had sought out the forum for an answer. A sharing session ensued with the father leaving a half hour later somewhat less burdened and with an armful of resources and contact details. It would have been great to have more participants – but then again, making a difference in one life made the evening worthwhile for all!

See flyer as [Appendix C5](#).

Diverse Dads



Relationship building with children was made easier by not having to fit mainstream fathering stereotypes, disabled dads and gay dads agreed in a panel discussion during Focus on Fathering Week.

"We are different from the start, so we don't even try to fit in. We're building a new architecture of parenting," said Maori gay man Ian. He and Dutch partner of 15 years, Erik, have several whangai (children from within the wider family) included in over 20 children from two generations with up to seven children at one time living with them.

Gay, disabled comedian Philip Patston fronted the panel, "Diverse Dads – Fathers of the Future", which aimed to draw attention to the experience of men who may be overlooked as fathers.

When asked if they thought mainstream society believes it is harder on children to have a gay or disabled father, the panel said attitudes have

changed. "I've never had any negative feedback," said Rob, who broke his neck in a motor vehicle accident in 1984 and is stepfather to two teenage girls and father to his two-year-old son. "In fact, people have been really supportive."

Erik agreed. "We are very active in our school community – Ian has chaired the Board of Trustees at our local school for several years."

Tony admitted to always being conscious of ensuring he was giving his best to his daughter. "I'm always questioning myself, asking if I can do more to be a good dad," he said.

Jonny, father to two daughters aged 15 and 20, has cerebral palsy. "Not only am I a father, but I'm a good father," he said. "I'm proud of my daughters – they're great young women."

Philip Patston, who organised the panel, would like to repeat the event next year. "It would be great to extend the scope of diversity to encompass a wider variety of men and circumstances," he said.

An audience member summed up the uniqueness of the panel perfectly at the end. "Compared to other men," she said, "you guys are just not normal!"

See flyer as [Appendix C6](#).

Creating Peaceful Pathways for Pacific Fathers

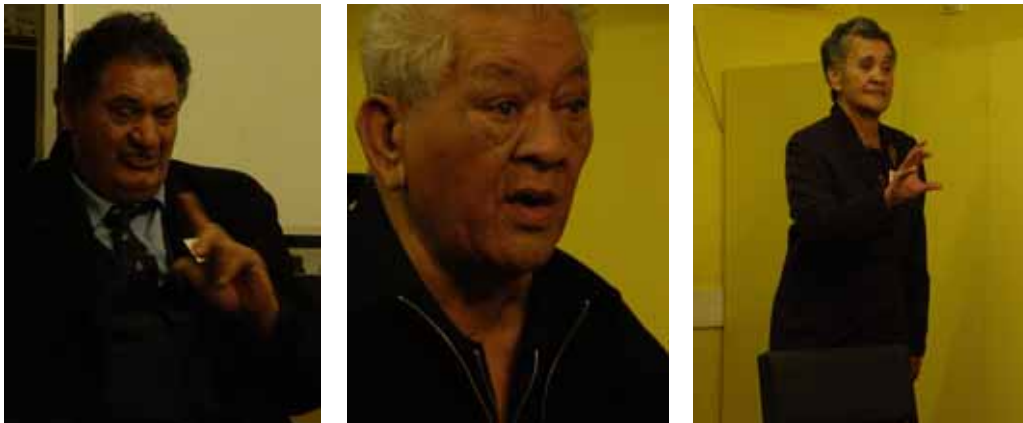


Was hosted by Leataata O Tupulaga O Le Pasefika, a Samoan pre-school in Massey. Ultimately five men attended, alongside Al Freed Saboonchi and Elaine Dyer (facilitators) and Leata Tipi. It was a very deep sharing exploring the roots of violence within our own attitude to ourselves... and how this impacted on one's capacity to be fathers. It was a taster for the whole weekend course of Creating Peaceful Pathways.

Contact for other courses is Jane Holley, 021 2614388.

See flyer as [Appendix C7](#).

Kaumatua Forum



The Waipareira Trust hosted a very moving evening in which the focus was grandparents and their stories of the past - their wisdoms on child-raising and a reflection on how times have changed for parenting. The evening was led by Kaumatua and ex All Black Dennis Hansen supported by other Kaumatua and Kuia. It was disappointing that very few Pakeha grandfathers attended the event which was also intended as a cross-cultural dialogue around grand fathering. Nevertheless it was a very inspiring and moving evening of stories and reflections from the past and on the present.

See flyer as [Appendix C8](#).

Playback Theatre Fathering in a New Land

Despite extensive advertising and networking, partnering with Settlement Support and talking with the NOW meetings, numbers were very disappointing for this event. We are processing reasons why... difficult to find setting in the Corban Estate, Ramadan, beautiful weekend day after rain etc, etc... However, the performers enacted some of the stories brought by those present and are open to exploring the event for another time.

See flyer as [Appendix C9](#).

Dad I'm Bored Workshop at Swanson Sanctuary



Reports are of a great day for the fathers and children who attended... games and activities which joyfully engaged everyone who came. One

father was so impressed that he made sure that the rest of the activities of the week were attended and is eager to support next year's event.

See flyer as [Appendix C10](#).

Journey to the Falls

This year's "Journey" was a great success, with close to 40 people including fathers and their sons, mentors participating as "walk along side" men matched with unaccompanied boys, a four man support team, a grandfather or two and several wonderful musicians. The boys' ages ranged from 9 through to 17 years.

The weather was kind for the afternoon walk and we arrived back at camp just on dark to a roaring fire, warm showers and hearty meal.

The "Journey" experience is all about the stories that men hold, and the opportunity to share these fireside tales with a community of boys, youth and other men.

This year the stories reflected the mixed culture and ethnicity of the participants, a rich sharing of experiences from Europe, the Pacific Islands, Indian, Pakeha and Maori heritage.

Long into the night, when the hours of story were done, the evening was closed with song and guitar, to be begun again in the early hours by Vae and his Tahitian ukulele.

Good food, adventure, laughter, music, experiences of trust and challenge, honoring and acknowledging those parts of ourselves not often brought forward as fully or as often as perhaps they could be.

"The Journey to the Falls" is a service provided by Changeworks to CYF, WINZ, colleges and schools, Henderson Police, referring agencies and families within our community, to support the development of relationship and skills between fathers, sons and within family.

Contact Ron Hepworth (Changeworks Trust 8322720 / 021414857). See flyer as [Appendix C11](#).

Dad's Day Out / Big Clean Up Event



The event was co-organised with Project Twin Streams Henderson Creek. It was a lovely warm September day and the rain held off until the last minutes. A busy day of 20 kayaks on the Creek assisting with the cleanup and coordinated by Outdoor Adventures. Kayaks were also kindly loaned from Man Alive.

Two youth bands from Zeal, as well as local Pacific musicians and dancers kept the 200 or so who attended well entertained. Nikki Woods and her African drummers completed the programme of music. There were pony rides, tug of war and sack races as well as face-painting and junk-art sculpture activities. Lots of stuff for dads, mums and kids!

It was topped off by a great BBQ and Michael Alofa once again did an excellent job as MC for the event. The only drawback of the event was that we did not have a budget for street signage which would have made it easier to find the venue, and probably would have been able to inform more people about the event.

See flyer as [Appendix C12](#).



Fathers Day Remembrance Service

A remembrance service for fathers was held at Hospice for Father's Day. Over 50 people attended.

It was a cathartic experience for many, who appreciated the opportunity to honour lost fathers and other beloved men in their lives, through stories and dedicated songs and finally the release of beautiful white peace doves provided by Dove Blessings.

Joy and grief were shared in equal measure.



See flyer as [Appendix C13](#).

Notes sent to Churches for Fathers Day Sermons

At our request Glyn Cardy, Minister from St Matthews in the City wrote some notes to prompt thinking about Fathers day and links to the Christian perspective around fathering. These were sent out around the Pacific and other church networks of Waitakere (see [Appendix D](#)).

Media Coverage and Publicity

Key messages for Focus on Fathering Week 2008:

- Being a good father is a positive and valuable role model
- Our society, Waitakere needs good / positive fathering
- Children need good / positive fathering
- Be proud of your good fathering skills and patience with children
- Being a good / positive father pays dividends for everyone
- Women are supportive of men being positive role models for their children
- Fathering is an extended society thing – you don't have to be a father to father.
- Fathering is really important in a child's life
- Dads can get involved right from the start
- There are many things that dads can do with their kids
- Fathering is for life
- Fathering is Being there
- Fathering creates a future life
- Dads at work
- Fathers keep it real

- Fathers Wanted

Advertisements were once again arranged in the Aucklander and Western Leader, and several agencies helped us promote the week by adding their agency advertisement to the double page advertisement we had in the Aucklander on 28th August 2008.

The Aucklander interviewed Phillip Patston on 28th August, as well as making their issue cover and lead story "Daddy's Home" and gave a plug for the week in Waitakere.

The Western Leader again interviewed Waitakere dad, Jay Williams as they had last year, exploring with him some of the learnings of a year of fatherhood. Again they gave a plug for the week of events. On the cover of September 5th, they also featured an article about the remembrance service for fathers at the Te Atatu Hospice.

Radio networks were also generous, Kaletī Moala-Mafi arranged to get adverts on the Pacific radio networks, and Mark Leishman talked about it on the Breeze. Elaine was interviewed on Radio Watea by Dennis Hanson the evening of the Mayoral Launch, and the interview was replayed on National Radio early the following morning.



Maori Television interviewing Alfred Ngaro.

Maori TV came and filmed the Launch and also the Kaumatua forum. A link to one of their pieces is at http://tvnzondemand.co.nz/content/te_karere_2007/ondemand_video_skin?tab

The Waitakere News featured large advertisements for the week in two editions. Titirangi Tattler also ran a story for us.

We were active on several different sites on the web... including the Waitakere and Auckland Events Finders sites. Having our www.dad4life.co.nz site also helped get word out there.

The awareness in the community was high that the week was in progress and 25% of those who filled out evaluations commented that they had heard about the events through the media.

Copies of the articles and advertisements are in [Appendix E](#).

Fathering resources for Waitakere (and everywhere else) dads

A new website www.diyfather.com has been launched which provides a forum for fathers to share information and thoughts.

A great web site is www.MrDad.com Armin Brott is a father's educator, and has written several books for different stages of fathering. His DVD "**Toolbox for New Dads**" is excellent and we highly recommend it for any new or expectant father.

Raising Children Network in Australia has another set of great resources for fathers:

http://raisingchildren.net.au/for_fathers/for_fathers.html?highlight=fathering

The Fatherhood Foundation (Australia) www.fathersonline.org again is full of relevant fathering resources and tips

www.menstime.com.au is another good site, they have an excellent e-booklet "**Six Practical Steps to Effective Fathering**" which has clear, sensible and readable tips.

A scoping report "**Fathering Our City**" was commissioned on Waitakere fathers and is available to via email ... ask us to send it to you at vfw@xtra.co.nz

The two series of DVDs "**Nought to Five. A Guide to the Under Fives**" produced by Home grown TV contactus@homegrowntv.co.nz is another good set of practical, New Zealand focused early parenting guidance. Lots of Kiwi dads in there too. They can be purchased by phoning 09 638 5515.

Parenting For Early Learning is a new resource just released by Ministry of Education and SKIP (Ministry Social Development) and useful for parenting groups, but also individual families. www.familyservices.govt.nz/info-for-families/skip

All the **SKIP resources**... great, clear and easily accessible booklets on different aspects of parenting, through from handling stress as a parent to ages and stages of children. Look out for these at the Fathering Week events, or contact 837 4849 if you would like copies sent to you.

www.familyservices.govt.nz/info-for-families/skip

Active Movement is another set of great booklets - **14 Activity Guides for the Under Fives**. You can get copies from www.pushplay.org.nz , and don't forget the practical training evening on Thursday 30th August at the Stadium, phone 966 3117. There are also DVDs available on this topic, with another one on swimming activities.

There are several groups now running which are good for fathers.

Dads Alive is a 10-week course run through Man Alive ph 835 0509. Man Alive also runs some very good courses for men in general.

Toolbox Parenting Courses (Parents Inc) and **Parenting Through Separation courses** (Family Court) are run through the West Auckland Family Services, phone Griff Richards at 818 0204. Lots of Dads are finding these courses very valuable.

Two very popular courses are run through Family Works in Henderson **Incredible Years** and a **Step Parenting Course**.

Family counselling is also available, phone them at 835 1288.

Barnardos Waitakere: Free parenting courses run throughout the year. Next course commences 10th October. *Inspiring Cooperative Behaviour in Our Children*. For more information phone 838 0419.

New Born Dads offers groups and support for expectant and new dads, Albany, by Frank Hayes 477 3764

Men Enhancing Their Lives is a group run at the Massey Leisure Centre by Colin Wrennall and Stephan Nagler ph 833 9459 for more details

The Parent Trust runs a **Being the Father You Want to Be** course, ph 376 0400.

New manual for facilitating fathering groups

The Waitakere Focus on Fathering Week 2008 saw the release of a new manual for fathering groups by the NZ Father and Child Society. This information-packed manual outlines how to take 8 sessions of fathering for dads who are enquiring about how to be the best dad possible. It covers topics such as being the dad you want to be, guidance and discipline, working in partnership as a parent, the importance of dads, fathering from a distance, gender differences, and fathering for the future of your children. It is expected that the new manual will be used by social services and community agencies throughout the country to enhance fathering and create greater inclusion and participation of Kiwi dads.

Also included in the manual are a significant number of resources in the form of background research, information and especially handouts that can be used by anyone wanting to assist the many roles and functions of fathers.

In 2006 west Auckland police youth officers identified in the 'Scoping Fatherhood report' that 90% of their work with youth was with fatherless dads. "This manual can go a long way to assisting dads with enjoying the responsibilities and delights of fathering in a manner that could have hugely positive consequences for the children, and especially boys, of NZ" said Warwick Pudney the Author.

Warwick, a well-known Waitakere author and counsellor has had many years of working in parenting education and is the co-author of *Volcano in my Tummy* and *Beginning Fatherhood*. Additionally he is the national secretary of the NZ Father and Child soc who are publishing the manual.

Contact for the manual can be made direct to Warwick Pudney 021 134 2133.



SWOT Analysis

As part of the debrief from the Week, Elaine Dyer and Chris Mullins carried out a SWOT brainstorm. This was taken to the debrief meeting of the Promoting Great Parenting working group on September 30th, and added to.

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even greater variety of events than previous year • Having Chris Mullins Co-ordinate alongside Elaine • Stories shared , promoting positive fathering celebration • Photo exhibition of children's photos worked really well. Nigel's work very thorough • Interweaving of SKIP messages • Opportunities for men to speak out • Increased networking between men offering services to fathers • Profiling agencies in Waitakere • Logo and website www.dad4life.co.nz • Great flyers developed for all events • Waitakere Council involvement and support, both at a Top level and at a delivery level • Having Health West involved. • Support from SKIP and ECE networks • Profile of fathering increased in community • Great fathering resources promoted • Media coverage in print, radio and TV created considerable profile for event and awareness raising about the topic and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low numbers at some events during the week • Some times made the events less father friendly • Not enough men's agencies involved in holding the events • Challenge to network New Settler events • Still a huge work load for coordinators • Mens organisations still not strategically engaged in event • No events for single/part time dads • Despite all the media and advertising, men are attracted to events mostly by word of mouth (Also an Opportunity) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with this as an annual event • Reshape the sequence to ensure that the best exposure for events ifs given • Men's agencies to identify more events activities to hold for future promotions • Are there chances eg Health West's Mens' Health week to work alongside to make bigger event/ promotion • More promotion into schools, youth, Maori and Pacific • More conversations re fathering and mothering and parenting ideas/ practices • Bring in more talk about effective discipline • More activities for fathers and children to be involved in together • Street signs up about week? • Create a tattoo with the logo and add the ".co.nz" to promote the website • Host Migrants event at familiar place eg NZESS rooms • To run events over a day or two instead of a week, at the same venue and make use of synergies of different events • Using the event as a sector building initiative for men's organisations (opportunities for collaboration, joint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding source for future events • Possible grandstanding by other agendas • Overload with too many events

<p>week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded profile for city re this action • Waipareira involvement with some events and organising • Health West Fono and Settlement support involvement and contribution. • Ministry Social Development SKIP active involvement • Great model of national/ local governments and NGO partnership • Mall displays very popular • Excellent feedback re workshops eg Dad I'm Bored • Good turn out to Dad's Day Out and The Big Clean Up • Partnering with Project Twin Streams for end event at Tui Glen • Large number of men willing to be part of a focus group • Many volunteers from support organisations involved in manning Mall displays (17) 		<p>promotion, building a sector identity etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the F on F week model as a event for other cities to pick up on • Men's and other parenting organisations to adopt the running and promotion, hosting etc of the workshop events • VFW and working group to hold the pillars eg launch, dads day out, photographic and mall exhibition • Local applications eg Massey hosting a 'Dad and the Kids' event at Moire Park • 'Daddy and Me' morning or afternoon in ECE and primary schools which fathers could be released from work to attend • Open day at local Leisure centre where dads and kids could attend for free 	
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Where to next?

The overall sense from the working group's review of the Focus on Fathering Week was that it was a great event for profiling both positive parenting and the organisations that offer services and resources to fathers and men in general. It also worked well to have the coordination held jointly between Chris Mullins and Elaine Dyer, with great back up from the Council (Nada Cottrell, Haylee Verryt and Michael Alofa). The sharing of the Dads Day Out with Project Twin Stream's Big Clean Up worked well for both organisations.

The launch event, the photo exhibition, the Mall display and the Dad's Day Out event were well supported and should be repeated. The overall publicity of the event, design of posters and hosting of the web site www.dad4life.co.nz were also important linking work which we consider could continue to be the task of the coordinating group. The workshop events - which take a major chunk of time to organise and promote were poorly attended - with two notable exceptions (the Diverse Dads Forum and the Fathers Day Remembrance service) which had been fully adopted and promoted through networks linked to these providers.

It is proposed that for 2009, that we drop the idea of trying to attract fathers to workshops but instead invite many of the collaborating agencies to convene events within communities, schools etc that would attract families and fathers. One example could be approaching Kelston Girl's High and other secondary schools and ask them to adopt and promote the very informative session offered by Nicole Robertson on fathers talking with their teenage daughters. The focus for events thus offered would be on some special appeal and angle to catch the interest of fathers linked through the different agencies or services and wider community.

It was further proposed that instead of starting the planning for 2009 only six weeks out from the event we should start this thinking in 2008 and in early 2009 start working with these other agencies in getting them to take on the coordination of specific events which they could then include in their own organisational planning for the year.

This is an exciting new concept for the Focus on Fathering Week and this new strategy could hopefully address issues raised both last year and in this year's review, where it was felt that more men and more organisations should be involved in taking responsibility for the events of the week.

Who was involved?

The week was jointly coordinated by Elaine Dyer of Violence Free Waitakere Promoting Great Parenting and Chris Mullins of Wellpoint Associates and Nigel Pizzini under contract to Violence Free Waitakere.

They were supported by a working group of:

Nada Cottrell of the Waitakere City Council's public events team, Ron Hepworth of Change Works Trust, Brendon Smith of Father and Child Trust, Anihera Castles and Cathie Peters of Violence Free Waitakere, Haylee Verryt and Michael Alofa of Waitakere City Council, Geoff Bridgeman of Unitec, Glen Mohi and Poata Northcroft of Waipareira Trust, Junior Atua-Tavi of Health West, Wendy Claire of Project Twin Streams and Pat Watson of Community Waitakere.

Mayor Bob Harvey was an active supporter with the many ideas and energy that he threw into the week, including use of the Mayoral Chambers for the Launch and generous koha of his books for the presenters at the event.

The core team working with the project was further supported by a reference group which included Rex Ellacott, Chris Davidson, Richard Aston, Ian Hassall, Rex McCann, Vic Tamaiti, Tony Mayow, Annie Gordon, Colin Wrennal, David Kenkell, Warahi Paki, Warwick Pudney, Dave Ryan, Glyn Cardy and Griff Richards.

The following schools were involved in the photographic display:

Royal Road, West Harbour, Timatanga, Bruce McLaren Intermediate and Waitakere College. Sponsors of this event included Steve Wellington and Ngarie Smith of Kodak Express Lyn Mall, Lawry Hanafin, Owner of Kodak Express West City Mall, Kath Perry and Robyn Pickerill of Sellagence for cameras at cost, Robert Leach and Bruce Burgess of Henderson Photographic Society for selection of images.

Speakers, presenters and performers included:

Cindy Kiro, Commissioner for Children, Kaumatua Fred Holloway, Mayor Bob Harvey, Pio Terei, comedian and parent educator, Lynne Pillay, MP for Waitakere, Reverend Alfred Ngaro, Alan Jones of Ministry of Social Development, SKIP, Warwick Pudney, author and lecturer, Jill Dingle, Nainai Tipelu and Angela Verhoven of Health West with the Health Bus, Nigel Robertson (Laughter Yoga), Duncan Robertson (Active Movement), Philip Patston (Diversity Works), Rob Creagh, Jonny Wilkinson, Tony Howe, Ian & Eric (Diverse Dads), Nicole Robertson (Fathering Adolescent Girls), Frank Hayes (Newborn Fathers), Al Freed Saboochi (Creating Peaceful Pathways), Dennis Hanson, Willie Tairua, Chris James, Mereana Stubbings (Te Whanau O Waipareira Trust), Julie Watson, Trevor Sharp, Richard Clayton Rosemary Lawrence (Playback Theatre), Donna and team (Swanson Sanctuary), Changeworks Trust team, Enea & Pierre Wichman, Andrew Hall, Dave Wells, Martin Malinsky, Ron Rolston, Sue Colman for their involvement in the Dad's Day Out / Big Clean-Up; West Auckland Hospice team. Mhara Marimbas (Fraser Bruce and friends), Heaven Bent Choir (Max Maxwell) Damaru Drummers (Niki Wood and Friends) and Layo (Oki Doki the clown).

Darren Wooley, Lisa Murphy and Caroline Kotoisuva of West City for supporting us to have our display in the Mall and the large numbers of other agencies who came and supported the Display.... Barnardos, Man Alive, Changeworks Trust, Safe Waitakere, Community Waitakere, Te Whanau O Waipareira Trust, and Essentially Men.

Glen Candy of Pernod Ricard for three crates of wine for the launch and The Waitakere Licensing Trusts for donating six bottles of local wine for speaker gifts and the Mad Butcher for a \$50 meat voucher as a prize.

Funds for the event were provided by the Ministry Social Development SKIP, Waitakere City Council and Violence Free Waitakere. We were also supported by extra donations from West Fono, Settlement Support and Ethnic Board of the Waitakere City Council.

And to the many people who networked, attended events, promoted the week and most importantly of all, are the fathers of our community. A special thanks too to the families of those of us in the centre of the whirlwind. Your tolerance of our absences and involvement was deeply appreciated!

We sent out 180 certificates of acknowledgment to our wider 'cast of thousands'.

Thank you all for your input and support, the children of the community are worth it!

