

## PLUNKET NEWS

As many of you are aware, the Plunket clinic has been moved to the new Petone rooms. As a result of the move the Maungaraki Plunket rooms are now surplus to requirements, as well as requiring \$40,000 of repairs. Plunket is in negotiations with the Council and it is likely that the Council may purchase it for a nominal fee.

It has been great getting to know you all and we have really enjoyed organising the Christmas parties which were so well attended by our community. The positive feedback has been very much appreciated. The Plunket music group on Monday mornings will continue to run thanks to the fantastic and enthusiastic volunteers we have. Your on-going support and donations will ensure the music group remains active.

Maungaraki Music is held at the Maungaraki Baptist Church, Mondays 9.30 - 10.30am (during term time) so come along and have a shaking, clapping and jumping time to great music, old and new. Donation \$2/ child, \$3/ family, morning tea provided.



Word of the month:  
Prestidigitation

- A. Medical syndrome involving muscle fatigue in the fingers
- B. Sleight of hand used in magic tricks
- C. Rapid orchestral note playing
- D. A form of number code used in WW1

February's word  
Fulsome

- A. expressing a lot of admiration/appreciation

The next NRA meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st of March. New members welcome. The meetings last from 7:30 till 9:00 and all input is welcome.

# NORMANDALE TIMES



March 2012

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**Published by the Normandale Residents' Association**

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Note: Copy deadline 20th of preceding month.

## Has the time come for Normandale Skateboard Ramp?



The skateboard ramp at the top end of Jubilee Park was built by the NRA and local community volunteers at the height of the skateboarding craze, and has been well used over the years. Four years ago the NRA spent around \$1000 to repair and upgrade the ramp after receiving assurances from the skateboarding community that it was a valued resource. Unfortunately these repairs fell foul first of the latest Building code, (as it is over 1.2 metres high it apparently counts as a building so far as the council is concerned), and then the theft of the new sheets of ply we had provided as repairs. This has let the rain and element in to the sub layers, and assisted by further vandalism, these are now failing. *(continued over page)*



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The NRA has always been prepared to put in the money to repair the ramp, and has obtained council grants and aid in kind to assist. However to meet the new codes we require a qualified and registered carpenter to oversee the work and despite several appeals through the Normandale Times, no offers of help have come forward.

In the committee's view, the skateboard craze has passed, and the principle use of the ramp over recent years has been as a focal point for young people to 'hang out'. We now feel the time has come for the community to make a decision on the ramp's future. Is there sufficient interest in the ramp for people to turn out and help, or should we work with the council to have it removed and replaced with a different facility that will still allow the area to function as a focal point for young people to meet?

We will be holding a public discussion on this issue at our March meeting. This will be at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 21st March at St Aidan's Church. Please come along and let us know what you think, and your ideas for the best use of the site.

Pete Matcham  
President, Normandale Residents Association



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