



Congratulations are in order for all those 2012 graduates from Playcentre!

On Friday 31 September, **Lisa O'Leary** and **Penny Rivers** were presented with their certificates (Te Manga) at the Playcentre Association graduation ceremony. Congratulations also to **Kylie Miller** (Te Puna).

Awarded certificates earlier in the year were other Normandale residents (listed on the right).

**Te Wai**

- Lisa Collins
- Paula Dooge
- Bernice Herd
- Ikumi Hirayama
- Fran Kingston
- Janet Lawson
- David McGregor
- Kylie Miller
- Lara Philips
- Nathan Philips
- Katja Starke
- Fleur Tansley
- Rebecca Trustrum



Word of the month  
Chthonic

- A. A mythical Greek beast
- B. A shape tapered at one end and conical at the other
- C. An object that is Dwelling beneath the surface of the earth
- D. Flavoured like fish

August's word  
Fainéant

- D. Lazy or disinclined to work

The next NRA meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th of September New members welcome. The meetings last from 7:30 till 9:00 and all input is welcome.

# NORMANDALE TIMES



August 2012

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

Note: Copy deadline 25th of preceding month.

## NEW PLAYGROUND INSPIRES ROCKET SHIPS, ICE CREAM STORE AND FIRE RESCUES

Since installation over a month ago, the new playground at Normandale Playcentre is enjoyed by children in a variety of different ways. Children have sold vanilla and chocolate ice creams from the "shop", escaped on a rocket to the moon and had races down the double slide. There have been scrambles through the tunnel and the clang clang of the bell of the fire engine.

The fun now enjoyed from the new playground has been a culmination of a massive effort – over four years of group meetings, ideas and brainstorming, fundraising ventures, grant applications and the vetting and engagement of a supplier. The playground was installed in two phases – with the second stage of the playground installation taking place on the 31<sup>st</sup> July. The new structure enhances our already fantastic natural outdoor play area.

A special thanks goes out to the Playground Committee and its various members over the years. Playcentre members organised a variety of creative fundraisers and ventures along the way – including publishing a "Sticky Fingers" cookbook, a "Play-a-thon" which involved a bus and playing in as many playgrounds in Lower Hutt over a specified time period, a High Tea fit for a queen and a Ceili Irish Dance.

An Open Day and Celebration of the new playground will take place late October/early November – with more details featuring in next issue of the Normandale Times.

If you would like to know more about Playcentre, in particular the available spaces now on our starter session - please call the centre and leave a message – phone 589 1227.

*Right: Normandale Playcentre proudly boasts a fantastic new playground - the final stages are secured into place by the work team.*



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**NORMANDALE**

## Minoh House Cherry Blossom Festival

An afternoon of Japanese cultural demonstrations and displays will take place at Hutt Minoh Friendship house, 38 Normandale Road, on Sunday, September 30.

It's the Japanese cultural centre's annual cherry blossom festival day, celebrating the arrival of spring. Despite damage to the top of the drive off Normandale Road, due to a water main bursting in March, the festival will still go ahead. A golf cart will be hired to transport people unable to walk up or down the drive.

The open day will begin at 1pm with karate followed by activities that include origami (paper folding), kimono dressing and kamishibai storytelling for children and the always popular formal tea ceremony. Park uphill from the entrance off Normandale Road (best access for baby buggies) or in the Normandale Over bridge car park and walk up the steps.

Entry is free. Inquiries to 586 4180, on the day 586 3231.



### No Job Too Small ! Cutting Edge

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### Notice Board Notice: did you Notice?

You may have noticed our community notice-board at the bottom of the hill has been refurbished.

It is now available for any Normandale resident for Family and Community notices so feel free to nip down and put up your notice about someone's birthday. 😊

**The Notice Board is not available for business use.**

## COMMUNITY ADVERTISEMENTS

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I run an art and craft market at Knox Church hall once a month. It is on the 2nd Saturday of the month right through to Christmas, from 9:30 am to 1:30pm. We are at the Knox Church hall, 574 High Street, Lower Hutt.

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## ***Super city or local community?***

### ***Have your say about local government***

You can't have failed to have noticed that there have been a lot of questions raised recently about how local government in the Wellington area should be organised. Most of these appear to start from a solution and try to work back to a justification. The prime example being the idea of a 'Super City' for the area along the lines of that imposed on Auckland.

Wellington Regional Council has appointed a panel to enquire as to the best options. Hutt City Council is instead holding a series of information and consultation meetings throughout the City to find out what ordinary people want. However, all seem to agree that the Government want to stick their fingers into things, and only public opinion is likely to influence their decision, so:

### ***We want your views***

Normandale Residents Association in conjunction with the HCC Western Community Committee will be holding a special meeting at:

St Aidan's Church, 7:30pm, Wed. 26<sup>th</sup> September

This is a vitally important issue that will affect you – and the region's social and economic wellbeing – for years to come. A questionnaire will have been sent to every household before the meeting, so come along and tell us your views. It is vitally important that the views of everyone are heard, not just those with vested interests. Low turn outs at these meetings will be used by those pushing for amalgamations as evidence that you don't care, so make sure you put the date in your diary now, and come to the meeting.

Pete Matcham

President NRA

Deputy Chair, HCC Western Community Committee

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