



KEEPING WARM: Nici Nixon and Pauline Cave. PHOTO: Dan Whitfield

Helping others stay warm in Nepal

By Dan Whitfield

Those a little less-fortunate received a warm and helping hand from a group of dedicated, Hutt Valley knitters and quilters recently.

The New Settlers Group, which is open to women throughout the Hutt Valley and Wellington regions who are new to the country, created 56 quilts for families living in the Chebouche village surroundings near Nepal. The package also included a few knitted jumpers and scarves for children.

Group facilitator Pauline Cave says it took the group most of this year to complete their sections of the project, as the ladies only met once a week.

"It's about helping children that are vulnerable as well as helping their families."

One of the members of the

group also has a special connection to the project, with the Chebouche village being her village.

Family Works lead and acting manager for Wairarapa and Hutt Valley practices, Nici Nixon, says it was great to see the different communities and different languages come together, and the quality of what was made was exceptional.

She says it is great because it helps them develop self-sustainability while also having a project to share together.

All the wool and fabric was donated, and the group will be discussing its next project over the next few months.

Family Works is a family-focused social service agency that works alongside families to help meet difficulties and make positive changes, using the strengths and resources they already have.

Fire brigade receives \$4000

By Dan Whitfield

Old books have been exchanged into much needed funds for the Wainuiomata Volunteer Fire Brigade to support all that it does in and around the community.

A total of \$4000 was fund-raised and given by the Rotary Club of Wainuiomata to the local fire service – seeing \$1500 going directly into the station, while \$2500 went towards supplying essential equipment and gear to operational support.

Brigade member Dawn Otter says support is always needed, and in the past it has enabled the purchase of equipment and things for the station.

This round of funding was sourced from fundraisers run

by Rotary throughout the year, with the majority of it coming from its annual book fair. Rotary uses the fire station for its regular meetings.

Club president David Otter was pleased to support the volunteer fire brigade because of its presence in the community and all that it does.

The support that was given to operational support was in the form of \$2500 worth of gear which included a new generator. A new aqua-vacuum was also purchased.

Last year, the Rotary Club raised about \$1100 from the book fair, with funds distributed around the community to worthy organisations.

"It helps us be more efficient," Dawn says.



DONATION: Rotary's David Otter and fire fighter Peter Thompson.

Eyes opened to careers

By Dan Whitfield

An information evening to show students what career paths they could follow later in life saw more than 70 people turn up for advice – which pleased organisers from Wainuiomata Pasifika Education Success Initiative (WaiPESI).

The local organisation stepped up to help high school and intermediate aged students last week, with students opened up to information from places such as the army, navy, airforce, WelTec, and Victoria University.

Yvonne Daymond, who is part of WaiPESI, says the night "went off with a bang."

She says no information provider was left standing idle, the students and families who came along to the event got involved and spoke with representatives from the industries on display, and left with information on what to do next.

"Interestingly, the defence force



CAREER CHOICE: Students from Wainuiomata schools were given information and inspiration from various educational institutions.

had never been to Wainuiomata to provide information to our high school students, so it was pleasing to be able to bring them into the community," Yvonne says.

As another education focused event for the Wainuiomata community, it follows on the heels of a

playdate hosted by the organisation in August. It also expands on the career and education services already provided by local schools.

The careers evening is set to become an annual event and next year's will be held on Tuesday, September 15.

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