



WWSTA

NEWSLETTER



WELLINGTON WAIRARAPA STA PO BOX 33-176 PETONE PH (04) 568 2970

TERM 3 – JULY 2011

FOCUS DAY 14 MAY 2011

Thanks for your support to everyone who attended our Focus Day.

We had very interesting presentations from Paul Nichalls, Civil Defence Controller for the Hutt City Council and Phillip Carver, Senior Financial advisor to the MOE.

CIVIL DEFENCE / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Paul Nichalls

Paul gave a very enlightening presentation covering his teams' role in emergencies, followed by pictures of emergencies including the recent Christchurch earthquakes, the landslip in Kelson and the flooding and landslides in and around Belmont some years back.

Paul's team carries out the Civil Defence mandate;

- Reduction
- Readiness
- Response
- Recovery.

To give you an idea of the scale of their operation, they have;

- Two fully equipped emergency operation centres kept in a continual state of readiness.

- Six full time staff dedicated to emergency management and civil defence response.
- Sixty Civil defence Centres (includes Schools) throughout the Hutt Valley connected by a radio network.
- A range of Welfare Centre sites that can be used in the response and recovery stage.
- Ongoing work with childcare, schools and aged care organisations to enhance their preparedness and promote emergency planning
- Work with the vulnerable to increase awareness of the importance of emergency planning
- Ongoing work with businesses to assist staff with training and preparedness
- A close relationship with fire, police and other emergency services to enhance emergency response.

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We were also given an overview of **Readynet**: the emergency preparedness network. This is a database of information about Schools, Early Childhood, Universities, Businesses, Hotels, Motels, Tourist sites, Public facilities and Neighbourhood and Community support groups

- . The value of this tool is in the detail that it holds, and for schools these include;
 - Site layout plan
 - Special needs persons
 - Risk analysis
 - Service providers
 - Contact details including home and mobile numbers.

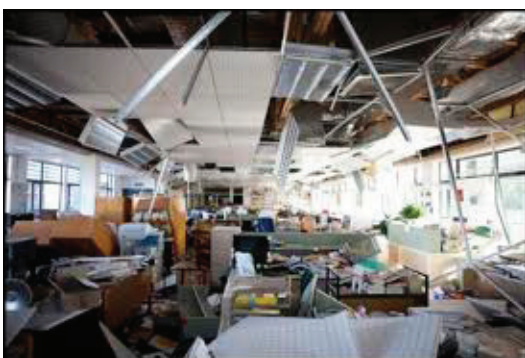
The types of Emergencies that are covered include;

1. Earthquake
2. Flooding
3. Landslips
4. Tsunami
5. Fire
6. Pandemic
7. Chemical

As all Councils have very different areas and topography within their area of responsibility we are arranging Civil Defence presentations by teams from other Councils within our membership areas to keep you abreast of what's happening in your area.

We will advise details of what has been arranged during terms 3 and 4.

A Wellington City Council presentation was scheduled for 12 July 2011. Trustees in that area were advised by email.



SCHOOL FINANCES

Philip Carver

Phillip's presentation centred on a schools' Financial Management Strategy and covered;

- Operating budgets
- Operating funding entitlement of 4 installments
- Annual plan
- Strategic Plan
- 5 year agreement
- 10 year Property plan.

A diagram of how this all fits together is attached to this newsletter.

We will be asking Phillip to give further presentations during the remainder of this year.

POLITICAL FORUM

Representatives from the National (Louise Upston), Labour (Sue Moroney) and Green (Catherine Delahunty) parties attended the Focus Day political forum. Louise, Sue and Catherine are all members of the Education and Science Select Committee. Louise Upston attended in place of the Minister of Education, who offered her apologies, as she was in Northland on the day.

Even though it is relatively early in the election campaign, each party representative gave an overview of the key issues, as they saw them. Questions from trustees ranged across a wide front, including special education, services academies, the role of the Education Review Office, teacher training and effective behaviour management. Several trustees took the opportunity to express their full and frank opinions on the recent letter to schools from the Minister of Education regarding bullying. Most felt the points were well made!

During this session we received a booklet

from Catherine Delahunty entitled *What is real Education?* which developed from an exercise she undertook with groups of students aged 9 to 18 years old in seventeen school-related environments.

We feel that the findings and comments from students will be of interest to Trustees and Principals alike.

The article can be viewed on our website: www.wwsta.org.nz under the heading Trustee Information.

Please note that your Association by taking this action is not promoting the Green Party nor do we necessarily agree with all the findings.

AGM

We wish to thank those Boards which sent us their Proxy vote for the AGM. A copy of our Audited accounts and relative Certificate is also available for viewing on our website.

We had some interesting discussions during both the Focus Day and AGM sessions about areas where members believe the Association could be more active. These matters are now under consideration and action by the Management Team.

We will keep you informed of our plans for the future as they are finalised.

Management Team

Chris Toa was re-elected unopposed as Chairperson of the Association. No nominations were received for the position of Deputy Chairperson.

The current members of the Management Committee are, Chris Toa, Rose Wyse, Wendy Eyles, Bill Courtney, Lorraine Allison and Marian Blackford.

Any trustee who would like to attend Management Team meetings is more than welcome. Why not come along, meet other trustees and grow in trusteeship?

The date of the next Management Team meeting can be found on the website under “calendar of events”.

PYRAMID SCHEMES & MULTI LEVEL MARKETING.

The Ministry of Education has been alerted to a web-based fundraising scheme that is being promoted to schools. The scheme is being promoted under the name of **SXBall**.

There is concern that this may be a high risk scheme backed by unsubstantiated claims. The Commerce Commission has advised us that the SXBall scheme may be referral selling.

Based on this we strongly recommend you not to participate in SXBall.

Referral selling is the practice where a business induces potential customers to purchase by promising some form of reward if they assist the business in selling the good or service to others. It is prohibited by the Fair Trading Act because the customer will receive the reward only if sales are made to the people whose names were supplied.

All schools and early childhood centres should be aware of the dangers of schemes which claim that unrealistic amounts of money can be made. You should always seek financial and legal advice before participating in fundraising schemes.

Further information regarding Pyramid schemes and Multi Level marketing claims can be found on the Commerce Commission website at:

- www.comcom.govt.nz/pyramid-selling-and-multi-level-marketing-claims, and
- www.comcom.govt.nz/assets/Fair-Trading/Factsheets/Pyramid-Selling-fact-sheet-August-2010.pdf.

TRUSTEE TRAINING

Wendy Eyles has sent a report about her experience of getting the free Ministry of Education training working for her community schools.

Our experience in seeking training.

A number of local schools in Upper Hutt have new trustees either selected to fill vacancies or co-opted in the past couple of terms. We were able to access face-to-face training funded by the Ministry when I made the case to them that we had a significant number of trustees (8) that would benefit from basic trustee training. We were able to choose our own trainer, they just needed to hold a contract with the Ministry. We were able to hold two two-hour sessions - Roles and Responsibilities and Board Process. We just provided the venue, and used WWSTA and our own cluster network to advertise, and took the registrations.

I would advise any single school or cluster to put their case to the Ministry if they have a need for training. This training was much more appropriate and beneficial to our new trustees than a webinar or e-workshop could have been, and far less expensive than other providers - we were quoted \$400 per session.

Contact WWSTA to get the details of who to contact in the regional Ministry office and for names and contact details of local trainers.”

Newsletters by EMAIL

The response to sending your our Newsletters by email has been encouraging. It helps the Association reduce costs for both printing and postage and allows you to get a Newsletter promptly.

If you haven't yet subscribed to this option a "Fax back" form is attached for you to complete and return.

Certificates for Retiring Trustees.

Boards are reminded that the Association will provide Certificates for retiring Trustees whenever they're needed.

Please download the **Retired School Trustees** form from our website and fax it to the Association office.

The form has been updated to detail the different classifications of Trustees.



FAX Number

Please note we now have a single combined fax and phone number:

(04) 568 2970



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