

Dear editor,

As one of three grandmothers, I recently attended the 2½ hour, 1 day per week, 10 week, parenting programme, The Incredible Years, facilitated by Bron Blair and Kate Donoghue, on behalf of the Coromandel Independent Living Trust. What an excellent, well presented programme, I can't say enough about it! There's lots to remember, but reading the book by Dr Carolyn Webster-Stratton, will help to reinforce some of the methodologies we explored.

Something I enjoy is having my grandchildren come to stay with me for the school holidays and I was interested to learn some new strategies in how to handle the squabbles and arguments. Among the many useful things is the "When....., then..." technique, along with the need to give lots of praise, keeping your tone right, and finding positive ways of saying things. There was much, much more!

Did I feel empowered? Absolutely, and I believe many of the young mothers who attended felt the same way. Some days it was like watching the "pennies drop" as we found ways to handle different situations. If it's put on again in Coromandel, I would encourage all parents (including dads this time!) and grandparents to do this excellent parenting course. You will be surprised how much you didn't know.

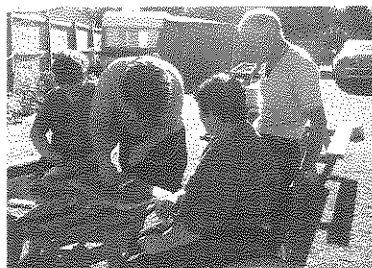
Mariana Gordon, Manaia

Dear editor,

I have just attended the meeting of the Waikato Regional Council where Councillors approved (8 to 4) the spending of \$6 million for the "Home of Cycling" velodrome at St Peters School in Cambridge. For the council to fund this enterprise using money from all ratepayers throughout the Greater Waikato is disgraceful. They have committed ratepayer funds in spite of the majority of submissions opposing them doing so. There is no way that an elite project as this velodrome should be considered as core council business.

In the *Waikato Times* (31 May 2012) I read that under the council's long term plan, ratepayers are facing increases from 3.41 per cent rising to 3.8 per cent in 2014-15. This exceeds the rate of inflation. With rises such as these, Council should be reigning in their spending. Instead, we have a group of councillors who are cavalier in their attitude as to how they spend public money.

Dave Collins, President  
Hamilton Grey Power



Gary and Barb Excell pass on their skills by showing how to fillet fish

Dear editor,

I would like to say thank you to the Mussel Kitchen in Coromandel and the crew on Bartrom Barge, for taking out four young people on their barge during Youth Week and giving them an opportunity to go fishing. The crew were fantastic! And the youth thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Also a big thank you to Barbara and Gary Excell, who opened up their home and passed on their skills and showed the young people how to fillet fish, smoke fish and mussels and deep fry oysters. Much appreciated, Wyonetta Ryan, CAPS Hauraki Inc

## Events coming up in Coromandel

### July

– see calendar on back page.

### August

**Friday 3 & Saturday 4 August** – Entertaining Angels play at Hauraki House at 8pm.

**Saturday 4 August** – Dinner & Concert to benefit CanTeen at Mana.

**Sunday 5 August** – mini multisport event at Long Bay.

**Saturday 11 August** – Mizz Coromandel.

### Sat 18 August

– Celtic harpist Helen Webby and accompanist Davy Stuart, Hauraki House.

**31 August** – Daffodil Day.

### September

**Sunday 2 September** – mini multisport event.

**Friday 7 September** – Coromandel Community Market starts again after winter.

**24-27 Sept** – Poutama Healing Retreat at Mana

Please make sure you let the Chronicle know of your upcoming events by emailing  
ads@coromandeltownchronicle.co.nz

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