

Kea Chatter



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The National Programme theme for this term is 'Pushing the Limits'. I hear from some Kea leaders that their Keas will really be 'pushing the limits' with activities like:- rock climbing, horse riding, discovery hikes, canoeing and heaps more.

There was a great turnout of Keas at the Shackleton Swim Challenge. Groups represented were Shackleton, Hora Hora, Kerikeri and Kamo. The Keas had heaps of FUN in the learner's pool. They started with a Kea song and then played such games as 'Rob the Nest', 'volley ball', 'Stuck in the Mud' and diving to retrieve objects. Well done to all the Keas who participated and congratulations to Shackleton Keas for being the overall winner. Hope to see more Kea Groups participating next term.

Wasn't the Olympic Games great?

What a great opportunity to have a FUN Olympic Night at Keas.

So Hora Hora, Shackleton and Kamo took this opportunity to gather at Hora Hora Den for A 'Wacky Olympics'. Keas enjoyed playing:- socky hockey, balloon volley ball and fun relays such as running backwards, balloon tennis and horse riding. The event finished off with every Kea being presented a gold medal blanket patch and the New Zealand National Anthem.

Hora Hora, and Shackleton Keas were lucky to be able to join Kamo Keas for an interesting and informative meeting around sign language. Two guests who used sign language talked to the Keas and taught them how to sign the alphabet. All Keas then signed their names and played the 'Traffic Light' game using sign language. The Keas had lots of FUN and learnt heaps.

By the time you read this The Northland Keas will have been to JOTA/JOTI and participated in a FUN afternoon of activities.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to working with you all on the new Awards Scheme.



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The words to our Scout Hymn written by Ralph Reader have been running through my mind today. I think they are very appropriate as to why each and every one of us should undertake as much Leader Training as possible to ensure that we become not just a Leader, but a great leader.

Read (or sing) the words below and then ask yourself can you honestly say that you are doing all that YOU can to "to be the best, the BEST that I can be"

Lord, as I start upon my chosen way,
In all I do, my thoughts, my work, my play,
Grant as I promise, Courage new for me
To be the best, the best that I can be.

Help me to keep my Honour shining bright,
May I be Loyal in the hardest fight,
Let me be able for my Task, and then,
To earn a place among my fellow men.

Open mine eyes to see things as I should,
That I may do my daily turn of good,
Let me be ready, waiting for each need
To keep me clean in thought and word and deed.

So as I journey on my chosen way,
In all I do, my thoughts, my work, my play,
Grant as I promise, Courage new for me
To be the best, the BEST that I can be.

Think about these words and the next time you get advised of some upcoming training please agree to attend so you CAN BECOME **"the BEST that I can be"**

Well the end of the year is rapidly approaching and before we know it 2009 will be upon us so make one of your new year's resolutions, your intention to up-skill and become a much better Leader - the youth will thank you for it

For any Leaders who have completed or are close to completing their local training please be aware that there is a "Scouting Advanced Personal Development Course" being held on 20th - 23rd March 2009 at Motu Moana in Auckland - mark it in your diary and discuss your desire to attend with both your Group Leader and myself

Gay Lang (Zone Training Leader)



Te Arahi Rover Scout Crew

When WW2 ended Lionel Philpott, a Scoutmaster for the 1st Whangarei Scouts, returned home but before long he took on the post of District commissioner. While he was overseas in Egypt and Italy he had been invested as a Rover Scout and he decided a Crew was needed in Whangarei. A team of Rovers came up from Auckland and we were invested as Rovers and formed the first Rover Crew in Northland. We consulted a friend (Bert Hadfeld) for a name and he suggested "Te Arahi" - the Founders, and so it was, and we became a District Crew.

Some of the founder and early members were: Trevor Smith, Doug McMillan, Dave Cleary, Keith Saul, Murray Jones, Doug Hadfield, Selwyn Thomasen, Alan Nelson, Rangi Hadfield, Arthur Tucker, John Howson, Keith Wright, David McNair, Jimmy Fosyer, Jack Cleary, Laurie Bailey, John Haytor, Ted Sheehan, Graham Gribble, Bob Jaggard and Bob Kennett.

The Crew bought a piece of land on Western Hills Drive and on this sloping section was placed a tin shed and that was the den while funds were raised to build the den that we named "Te Arahi Whare Tari" (The meeting place of the Pioneers).

In the late 1940s the Te Arahi Crew attended a Rover Moot held on the property of 'Rangi' Sugden at Karapiro. This was real highlight - travelling by train to Hamilton where other Rovers met us and took us to Greenacres, Rangi's farm.

We also had a tea-tree bivvy we built as a retreat on the District campsite that Lionel Philpott had successfully negotiated with the Whangarei City Council to allow us the use of property at the end of Whau Valley Road. It was ideal with two streams, native bush but lots of gorse and tea tree to clear. Kiwis, wood pigeons and lots of other native birds were still there. This is now the Whangarei reservoir lake.



*Season's Greetings
from all your
Zone Team*

