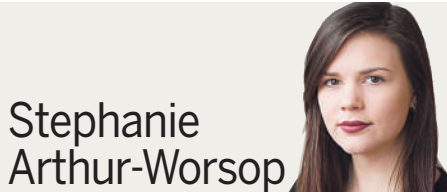


Pupils go on school roundabout



Stephanie Arthur-Worsop

Some of Rotorua's low-decile primary schools are seeing almost half their enrolled pupils come and go within the school year. A local principal says some transient children are attending a school for an average of six weeks and some are clocking up 16 schools by the time they are 10. Principals have voiced their concern the housing situation in Rotorua is exacerbating the problem, particularly in areas where there is a high number of rental properties. Western Heights Primary School principal Brent Griffin said schools in the Western Heights area saw some of the

worst cases of transient students in the country. He said there had been 135 children come and go already at his school since the beginning of the year. "Last year we had about 40 per cent of our pupils come and go with already 135 children changing hands this year, I think our statistics at the end of this year will be closer to 50 per cent. "It is a major issue because the children never get settled and form those strong social bonds or sense of belonging. It is very hard for a child to learn and develop when they move too often." Mr Griffin said his school structure had changed to fit in with the knowledge that many of the pupils would not be at the school longer than a year. "We have short-term goals set up and accelerated learning programmes that last six weeks to give pupils a boost in their achievement. These programmes are great because often a child is not with us longer than six weeks. "We actually have a trophy for a Year



COMING AND GOING: Western Heights Primary School principal Brent Griffin is concerned about the number of children who flit from school to school. PHOTO/STEPHEN PARKER

6 pupil who has been with us since new entrants and has made the most progress. Every year we have about 75 Year 6 pupils leaving us and of that, between six and 10 are eligible for the award." Mr Griffin said transience was "one of the greatest barriers a child faces".

Aorangi School principal Debra Harrod said she was extremely concerned and agreed with Mr Griffin. "Each year the percentage of transient pupils range from 30 to 50 per cent. Last year it was extremely high and I think that has a lot to do with rent prices increasing and housing becoming harder to secure." Ms Harrod said she found many transient pupils had gaps in their achievement. "We have even had cases where they are only with us for two or three weeks. I don't know what the solution is to make housing more secure in low socio-economic areas but something needs to be done." Selwyn School principal Peter Barker said his school had similar cases of transient pupils as Western Heights but said it did not "have a detrimental effect on what we are trying to achieve". "We have had to adapt our programmes to stay in touch with the needs of our pupils and the community. "This year we started offering

accelerated learning programmes and the results from our first cohort has been outstanding. "The situation is what it is so we just gear ourselves to do everything we can to remove any potential socio-economic barriers and give those [transient] children short, sharp boosts in their learning before they move on." Ministry of Education head of early learning and student achievement Lisa Rodgers said moving schools should not be a barrier to learning as teachers were trained to assess a student's learning needs and tailor teaching to those needs. "While transience can set some pupils back, it doesn't need to be the key determinant of how well a child does."

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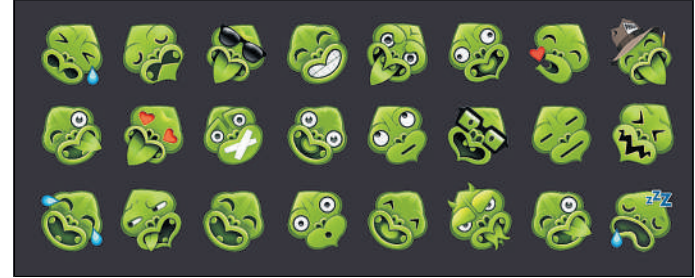
Emotikis offer Kiwi expression

The world's first Maori emoji keyboard has been developed in Rotorua. The Emotikis have been in development for six months, with Te Puia introducing the concept to tourism trade and media at Trenz in Rotorua two weeks ago, captivating everyone who came in to contact with it. They will be officially launched in July. The 150 characters, including tiki pukana expressions, taiaha, hangi, waka ama, kete and more, quickly found their way onto social media and have since been shared around the world. Emoji is the world's fastest growing online language, with still and moving characters used in text and social media platforms to express, emphasise and reinforce emotion. They represent a broad range of emotions — sports, situations, foods and icons that are familiar to or have been made famous by Maori, such as waka ama (outrigger canoe), piupiu (flax skirts), kapa haka moves and faces, kete (woven basket/bag), taiaha (weapon), whanau, and even delicacies such as koura (crayfish), paua (abalone), eels and hangi. Te Puia sales and marketing general manager Kiri Atkinson-Crean said the emoji smiling faces, flags, dancing senioritas, widgets and gadgets had become part of the world's day-to-day digital language but, until now, there had been limited New Zealand icons. "We wanted to create a unique New Zealand equivalent that represents Maori and Kiwi culture and, although we were keen to wait until they were available to officially launch them, they have taken on a life of their own. "We are absolutely blown away by the social media response we've



EMOTIKI: Te Puia/ New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute carvers Maharaja Chisnall (left) and Pene Panapa create their own Emotikis. PHOTO/STEPHEN PARKER

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RANGE: Some of the Emotikis. PHOTO/SUPPLIED

experienced, so it seems only fair to share a few more of the details. It's very exciting." She said she expected people would have their own favourites, "but I expect that the Emotiki equivalent to the famous 'smiley face' icon will be a big hit". The tiki Emotiki expresses a broad

range of emotions and expressions as the smiley face. And he was distinctly New Zealand, she said. "Some of his expressions will be quickly interpreted across cultures. Others such as pukana (fierce facial expression as evident in haka) are uniquely Maori expressions. We see

these as a light-hearted and inclusive way to share the meaning of Maori words and concepts with other cultures, and with all New Zealanders." There is also a small selection of GIFs, or moving Emotikis. They include pukana, poi, taiaha movements and a winking tiki emotiki.

Ms Atkinson-Crean said the seed for the concept came from watching Te Matatini National Kapa Haka Festival and Te Arawa Kapa Haka Regionals, where you'd see children celebrate each other and their performances on social media. "All they could use were expressions and symbols from other countries — we wanted to give them another form of this language with Maori culture Emotikis for an opportunity to express themselves." Ms Atkinson-Crean said a great deal of thought and consideration had gone into the Emotiki development, including sharing the concept with Te Puia pakeke (elders) and being given their blessing. The keyboard will be available for iPhone and Android.

Indigenous leaders convene

Hundreds of indigenous leaders from around the world working to tackle suicide will gather in Rotorua next week for the three-day World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference — Turamarama ki te Ora (Transforming Indigenous Communities). The event is organised by Te Runanga Ngati Pikiao at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre.

Hospitality awards

Nominations for the 2016 Rotorua Hospitality Awards close tomorrow at 5pm. Finalists will be announced on Tuesday. For details go to www.rotoruaawards.co.nz

Dry July challenge opens

Dry July 2016 is now open for sign-ups. Dry July is a fundraiser that challenges people to go booze-free for a month to support people affected by cancer. Sign up at www.dryjuly.co.nz, sign up or donate at www.dryjuly.co.nz/donate

Full council meeting

A full meeting of the Rotorua Lakes Council, postponed on Thursday due to a lack of numbers, will now be held on Tuesday from 9.30am in the council chamber. The agenda is available at www.rotorualc.nz

World Smokefree Day

World Smokefree Day will take place on Tuesday, and the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation NZ is encouraging people to quit by raising awareness of how to be smokefree. See asthmaandrespiratory.org.nz for more information.

Ngai Tuhoe HQ in exhibit

East Coast iwi Ngai Tuhoe's newly built headquarters, Te Uru Taumatua, is being featured in New Zealand's exhibition at the Venice Architecture Biennale which opens today in Venice, Italy. It is one of more than 50 works on display by designers from all over New Zealand that make up the "Future Islands" exhibition.

Taupo Winter Festival

Taupo is set to be the coolest place to be this winter with the recent launch of the inaugural Taupo Winter Festival. Taking place in the middle of the July school holidays, the festival aims to provide activities that will appeal to a range of locals and visitors. Tickets go on sale at 9am on May 30 from Ticketek. View the programme at www.taupowinterfestival.co.nz

College in Shakespeare fest

John Paul College's 15-minute excerpt from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and a five-minute student-directed scene from *The Comedy of Errors* were selected at the recent regional festival to represent Rotorua at the Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand's University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival in Wellington. Performances will run throughout June 3 and 4.

Free Matariki booklet

Rotorua Library has brought together all the Matariki events in Rotorua next month into one easily sourced free booklet. Matariki is the Maori New Year and involves storytelling, performances, craft workshops and many other events. The booklet will be distributed in the *Rotorua Weekender* and can be picked up at Rotorua Lakes Council, the Rotorua Library or on the Rotorua Lakes Council website.

Most-read stories

The most read stories on the *Rotorua Daily Post* website yesterday were 1) Search continues for former Rotorua man, 2) Reporoa farmers box for charity, 3) Severe weather watch for Rotorua, 4) Budget could be better: Principals, 5) Concept revealed for possible Te Arawa office. View these stories and all the other news and videos from the week at www.rotorudailypost.co.nz.

Kawerau Lotto winner

One lucky Kawerau resident has a life-changing Lotto ticket in their glovebox, drawer or wallet. A \$50,000 ticket bought at Ballantrae Four Square for the May 11 draw has yet to be claimed, and Lotto is urging anyone who has bought a ticket there to get it checked. The ticket won Strike Four matching the first four numbers of the evening's draw. The player has 12 months to claim their prize.

Ex-Rotorua man still missing

Western Australia police are continuing their search for missing man Sean David Mitchell. The 37-year-old former Rotorua man was last seen drinking with friends at a beer cafe on Murray St in Perth at 5pm last Friday. A call for help from the public with any information about Mr Mitchell has been made on the Western Australia police's Facebook page. Police believe Mr Mitchell used his Smart Rider card in Perth at 9pm but did not tag off. "About 10pm that night he called a friend and spoke to her about going on a friend's yacht. On Tuesday a member of the public notified police that he had located a bag belonging to Mr Mitchell with some of his belongings still inside in the Swan River at Blackwall Reach in Bicton."

Family films a scoot around the globe

By Kyra Dawson kyra.dawson@dailypost.co.nz

If you spotted a French/Irish family scooting around Rotorua this week you could have been caught on camera. Sean, from Ireland, Valerie, from France, and 6-year-old Enya Clifford left their home in France in January to travel the world for eight months while filming their experience. Together they work on a self-produced series called *The Kid Trotter*, a documentary of sorts where they use scooters to travel around and explore different cultures. Mr Clifford said they came up with the idea a few years back and made a short series while they were in Vietnam. "People really reacted to it and it took off on our website. We got a lot of feedback from people all around the world." For the past four weeks, they have been filming in New Zealand, and spent Thursday and yesterday shooting footage in Rotorua and Taupo. Mr Clifford said New Zealand had been amazing. "The nature, the scenery, the warmth of the people, it's just incredible. We have been spoilt with the weather, we weren't expecting that at this time of year to have sunshine all day every day. "Four weeks is definitely not enough. "Rotorua is amazing, it's been check-a-block. Between a Maori healer we met at Te Puia and the living village in Taupo,



SCOOTING: Enya, 6, scoots by as her mum Valerie Clifford films. PHOTO/STEPHEN PARKER

we have got an amazing episode on this area. We obviously would like to stay here for a lot longer... but we do what we can." Enya said she thought New Zealand was "really good". "I like the countryside. [I like] the

mountains and the colours of the trees." She said she enjoyed having a hangi for dinner in Taupo and the hot springs throughout Rotorua were cool. Enya said she liked being on camera because it was fun. Mr Clifford said Enya had been riding

a scooter since she was able to walk and she could speak three different languages, French, English and German. "She understands the film-making practice and sometimes she comes up with her own ideas of what we should do. She's very creative, and we end up saying

Family's 10 countries in eight months:

- Malaysia
- Singapore
- Cambodia
- India
- Nepal
- New Zealand
- New Caledonia
- Peru
- Ecuador
- Bolivia

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'we never thought of that'. "It's important that we get her point of view, it's the world through her eyes." He said "scooting" was a great way to get around and it also caught many people's attention and acted as an ice-breaker in many cultures. "We will probably end up with 60 10-minute episodes from all over the world and split them into seasons for each country... we are going to have a lot of editing to do when we get home in August," Mr Clifford said. For more information go to www.thekidtritter.com

Call for more land to cope with growth

Continued from p1

back at 2005 levels. But this huge leap for us is a percentage of correction with the really big driving factor being the bulge of the baby boomers coming out of Auckland who want to retire and are coming to Rotorua. But, Mrs Crossley said, Rotorua did not have enough new housing stock with development of new sections lagging behind demand. "This desperately needs to change. Even if we could solve our section issues now it's going to be two years before it comes online." Council consent

solutions manager Paul Spurdle said there was increasing interest in subdivision and residential development coming from consultants. "There is an increased number of subdivision consents being processed, as well as applications to release certificates of title. "The new District Plan has maintained, and rezoned, quite a lot of land for residential and higher density rural lifestyle-type development." He said subdivision was a market and owner-led process. "Therefore the timing, type and scale of subdivision is controlled by landowners. Although there is

a lot of land zoned for residential development, for new subdivisions a lot of this available land sits in large blocks and is therefore controlled by a small number of land owners." Rotorua Chamber of Commerce chief executive Darrin Walsh said the results, to quote boxer David Tua, were "simply 'O' for awesome". "To be ahead of national averages in all these measures really highlights the growth we are seeing here in Rotorua. Businesses are doing well and are growing — creating jobs and employing locals — hence the decrease in unemployment.

"To be ahead of national averages in all these measures really highlights the growth we are seeing here in Rotorua." Darrin Walsh, Chamber of Commerce chief executive "We are also seeing a skilled workforce coming in from outside

of Rotorua and our population is increasing — houses are selling and homes being built. "Rotorua is proving it is a great place to live, work and play, but sustaining it is the key. "We do need development and, whilst we are seeing good increase in residential and commercial consents — we need land to be released to future-proof this growth," he said. Inner City Focus Group member Mike Steiner said it was fantastic to see retail trade figures lift 5.8 per cent in Rotorua, compared with the national average of 2.8 per cent. "Any feedback I've had from other retailers and business people is very positive and they are all very busy. "There's definitely a general feeling of optimism and overall we are pushing in the right direction. "I said a few years ago our time was coming, so we need to be prepared for it. "We need to gear up, put our best foot forward, sharpen up our act and get out there," he said.

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