



Fetal Alcohol Network New Zealand

Kia ora everyone

FASDAY 2008 is almost here!

First of all I would like to thank a very special and caring mum from this network who has asked that her story be shared so we can learn more about FASD from a family perspective – the most important voice on the topic! This contribution is of enormous value in helping to increase our understanding of FASD in the day to day reality of life. Thank you from us all!

On Tuesday 9th September at 9.09am, we would like people to take a moment to reflect on the meanings of the day - preventing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and supporting those affected. If you want to be noticed, join the International Bell Concordance at 9.09am and ring bells too!! More about FASDAY can be found at www.fasday.com

Once again Communities in New Zealand have responded wonderfully to the call to mark International FASD Awareness Day (FASDAY). Thanks to the efforts of some of our passionate supporters, church bells in communities across the North and South Island will be rung to mark the day at 9.09am. There are also awareness raising events and displays planned for a number of centres. Those I know of are Queenstown, Timaru, Blenheim, New Plymouth, Tauranga and Auckland. There will be others large and small that I don't know of yet so please share these so we can all celebrate with you!

Manaaki Oranga, a health and social services organization in New Plymouth is holding a special event at Pukeariki Landing with a host of activities including a kapahaka performance, release of 99 balloons, a 'Tree of reasons' – where the community can write up "why" abstain, spot prizes, bouncy castle and T shirts. Of particular note is the release of research conducted locally by Paediatrician Dr Reena Ho and FASD educational promotions about FASD on 5 local and national radio stations. Their FASDAY efforts has been made possible through a grant from the Alcohol Advisory Council. This truly is a celebration of all that is possible!!

Nelson Marlborough Health Services will participate in a breakfast event being held on Friday 4th Sep, in which guest speaker Judge Tony Zohrab will incorporate discussion of FASD and its potential implications for the local justice community. Other FASDAY events in Marlborough include informational displays at the Community Polytechnic, libraries and schools and a variety of media articles.

Over 40 people have registered to attend the Auckland FASDAY 'BreakFASD' and morning seminar with Dr Paul Connor, neuropsychologist from Seattle. Many of the FAANZ families are attending. A group of children from Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Nga Maungarongo will perform as part of marking the day internationally. If you missed the announcement of the event go to www.ahw.co.nz and click what's new.

Before I sign off, I would like to wish Shona Davison, on behalf of this network, a speedy recovery from an unexpected illness that put her into hospital. Our thoughts are with you and your family Shona and we will share a special thought for you at 9.09am on FASDAY.

Best wishes to you all and Happy FASDAY for the 9th!!