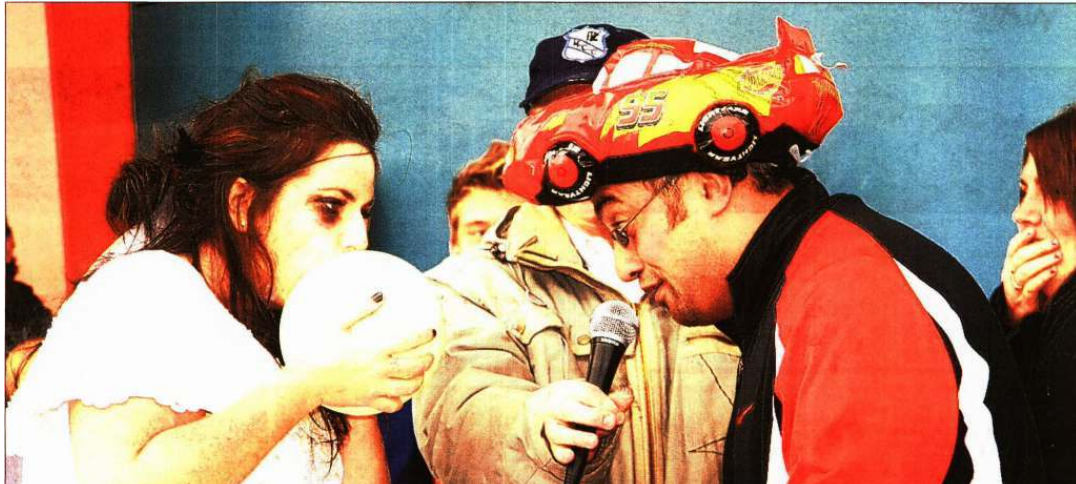


Wainui High School gets into the spirit



It was fun and games when Wainuiomata High School held its Spirit Week festival last week. Organised by teacher Debbie Knewstubb, the event is designed to arouse the spirits of students, as well as raise funds for charity.

The week began on Wednesday with students dressing in their house colours for physical day. Activities included racing on motorised toilets, handstand walking, arm wrestling, egg tossing and an endurance contest.

On Thursday some of the students got into the spirit of the theme "something beginning with C" by dressing as cowgirls, Ceaser, or in the case of Ms Knewstubb, a corpsebride. Several indulged in crazy activities during the lunch hour,

SQUEAKY VOICES: Spirit week organiser Debbie Knewstubb, dressed as a corpsebride, inhales helium as fellow teacher Matauranga Te Rauna demonstrates the high-pitched consequence of doing so.
 CCN070411JASpiritWeek03

including "cream screams", glove blowing, Malteser straw-sucking and a "food relay".

Friday then saw students turn up pyjamas or formal wear for a lip synch concert followed by a boys' version of a Mr Universe contest in the auditorium.

Ms Knewstubb says money collected from the three mufti days will go to youth cancer charity CanTeen.



BARMY: Solomon Tomokino shows off his over-inflated glove during the glove-blowing competition.
 CCN070411JASpiritWeek01



QUIRKY CONTEST: Katy Kosega races the others as she feeds Maltesers into Hone Mateo's mouth via a straw.
 CCN070411JASpiritWeek02



FALSETTO: Joshua Seupule sings a rendition of Justin Beiber's "Baby Baby" to a laughing audience after inhaling helium from a balloon. With him is MC and teacher Richard Hatcliffe.
 CCN070411JASpiritWeek04



Fashion with flavour, flair and taste

Italian-imported licorice straps and chocolate gave Alana Harding, of Hastings, wings for the day.

Ms Harding, who has cerebral palsy, was the model for sister Shayla Harding's winning Hastings Pak 'n Save Edible Fashion Awards entry which claimed the overall prize at Saturday's event.

The licorice straps had to be imported as Shayla could not find any long enough in New Zealand.

Hastings City Marketing general manager Jane Janes, who ran the event, said the 130 entrants in the sixth annual event, which was open to the whole North Island this year, ranged from five-year-olds to people over 40.

She said the event began as a way to promote the city's produce-growing, but "[took] it to a different level" from the popular wearable arts, she said. Judges deemed the Harding entry the best out of 12 finalists, despite it not winning the adult category.

About 800 people turned out to the event, hosted by Brendon Pongia, with proceeds going to CanTeen.

Designers used coffee and lima beans, pumpkin seeds, cabbage and confectionary, and there was also an Alice in Wonderland entry made from teabags.



Overall winner:
 "Magical Warrior Princess", designed by Shayla Harding and modelled by Alana Harding, at the Hastings Pak 'n Save Edible Fashion Awards at the Hawke's Bay Opera House.



Overall runner up: "Eyes Of Stone" designed and modelled by Tessa Paaymans.
 Photos: LYNDA FORREST



Close shave: Twelve-year-old Layla Mason-McKerrow, centre, was supported by Kamo Intermediate School teachers Jo Gunson, left, and Brad Kini when she shaved her hair.

Hair today, gone tomorrow

By DENISE PIPER

A 12-year-old girl has shaved off her beautiful shoulder-length hair to help raise money for kids with cancer.

Layla Mason-McKerrow has raised more than \$2000 for the Child Cancer Foundation by shaving her hair.

The student says she was moved to make the drastic hair cut after seeing a TV advertisement calling for fun "razing".

"I wanted to do it because it was so sad.

"I've seen the CanTeen ads and they're really scary and sad."

Layla's mum Amy Mason has also had a battle with thyroid cancer.

Layla has been supported by her teachers and friends at Kamo Intermediate School.

Four teachers also shaved their heads on Friday so Layla wouldn't be alone.

All of the students watched and



Before: Layla Mason-McKerrow had beautiful shoulder-length hair.

cheered in support as she had the big cut, done by Rita Allison from Excel Hair Design.

The pupils also held a wacky hair multi-day, raising more than \$1000. A further \$1200 has been raised online.

Layla's teacher Rebecca Nelly says the days was much more



Go to www.whangareileader.co.nz to see the video of Layla getting her hair cut and then showing her mum Amy the final result.

than just a multi-day as all of the kids knew about the cause.

The project has given Layla more confidence and practice at public speaking, Ms Nelly says.

Donations are still being accepted online at fundraise.online.co.nz under the name Layla Raine Layla.

Meanwhile, a group of Northland residents shaved their hair over the weekend for the Leukaemia and Blood Foundation's Shave for a Cure campaign.

See P27



Skydiver shaved

By **REBECCA GARDINER**

A SELF-confessed adventure junkie has gone where many women would fear to tread.

Kie Eloff, of Brookby, has shaved her head to raise money for Jump Start, an organisation that gives teenagers facing life challenges the opportunity to take part in a tandem skydive.

Fifty young people from cancer charity CanTeen and ProjectK, a programme designed to inspire 14 and 15-year-olds to reach their potential, took part in the charity event at Whenuapai airbase last month.

Kie has been a supporter of Jump Start since a skydiving friend told her about it two years ago.

"The event totally grabbed me," she says.

"Seeing the excitement in

the kids' eyes, you just cannot describe it."

The 34-year-old wasn't able to help out at this year's skydive, so she wanted to do her bit by organising a fundraising head shave. Her locks were lopped off at Essential Hair Boutique in Botany.

"I feel my heart is smiling," she told the *Times* after the head shave.

"It's for a good cause and makes me feel really happy, and I feel like I'm glowing."

She says skydiving is an exhilarating experience, and is of enormous benefit to teenagers battling cancer and other life issues.

While Kie has never had cancer, she's been affected by serious health conditions.

"When I was born I had underdeveloped lungs and I had heart disease at the age of 16," she explains.

"Twice in my life I was just

lucky. My deepest sympathies and thoughts go to anyone living with cancer or anybody affected by it."

She has raised more than \$750 for Jump Start through a fundraising website.

But she hopes East Aucklanders will dig deep to help boost the total.

"It's been a difficult year getting donations because so many things have happened.

But with Kiwis, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. They still donate.

"They still put their hands in their pockets."

The money raised will pay for food and drinks the teenagers had on their trip, and the remainder will be split between the charities.

To contribute, log onto www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/ KieEloff. For more information about Jump Start, visit www.jumpstart.org.nz.



HAIRY STUFF: Kie Eloff is raising money for Jump Start, which gives teenagers the chance to take a tandem skydive.

Times photos Wayne Martin



Justin and two weeks of torture

A QUEENSTOWNER aims to raise \$20,000 for Child Cancer Foundation while biking and running the length of New Zealand.

Business consultant Justin Ward, 35, sets off from Bluff next Monday, aiming to reach Cape Reinga – 2100km away at the top of the North Island – in 15 days.

Ward, who moved here from Australia three months ago, will complete road or mountain bike legs every day – the longest at 213km.

He'll also put in running sections every second day – the two longest, including a run to the finish line, being 45km.

Barry Lambie, of Christchurch, will be his support person, driving a Jucy-sponsored campervan.

Till he started training, Ward hadn't ridden a bike for 10 years.

However he's run two marathons, one of which raised about \$4000 for cancer charity CanTeen.

Ward says he's motivated to raise money for CCF because he has two little girls, and his father died of cancer.

His fundraising website is fundraiseonline.co.nz/JustinWardAdventurerforlife.

"I'd love to be able to travel the world and do a couple of these for local charities each year."



**Charity rider/
runner:
Justin Ward**

- PHILIP CHANDLER



Residents lose their locks

By LAURILEE McMICHAEL

Not the sun's rays, not chilly breezes, not frosty temperatures, not the risk of insect bites, and not even good-natured ribbing from friends and family will stop 14 of Turangi's bravest residents from losing the lot for leukaemia next weekend.

A bunch of Turangi New World staff, encouraged by checkout supervisor Frances Dick are having their heads shaved to raise money for the Leukaemia and Blood Foundation, which supports patients and their families living with a blood cancer or related blood condition.

Come along and join in the fun outside Turangi New World on

Saturday to watch the group lose their hair to help cancer patients.

Frances, who has lost "quite a few" close family and friends to cancer, says she was very happy with the response from other staff when she suggested the idea, and staff from nearly every supermarket department are represented. Coincidentally (or not) all the shavees already have short hair. However the shavees don't have to go fully bald — they can opt for a number one or a number two instead, as long as their hair is shaved.

Frances has no qualms about baring her head, having done it before, although it that time it was the heat, not leukaemia fundraising, that motivated the

head shave.

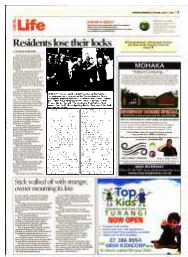
"I was in Israel and it was bloody hot. I went down to a number one, and this time I'm going all the way off."

Shavee Denton Falconer says it wasn't a hard decision for him to make. "I've got a friend who had cancer so it's for a good cause. I know I'll get a lot of crap at the fire station. But my hair grows pretty quick, so in six weeks I'll have a full head of hair."

Sharon Simeon says she's past the stage of being worried about her hair. "Ours grows back. Unfortunately for those who have cancer, they don't have that choice."

Pam Fergus isn't worried about

“Ours grows back. Unfortunately for those who have cancer, they don't have that choice.”



Tc070411shave

LOSING IT: Turangi New World staff are shaving their heads on Saturday morning to raise money for the Leukaemia and Blood Foundation. Back row from left: Luke Biddle, Rob Caldwell, Rayner Bonnington, Rose Hemara and Pam Fergus. Front row: Sharon Simeon, Denton Falconer, Frances Dick and Camron Cornford. Absent: Dean Smith, Darryl Sperling, Marilyn Heremaia, Robyn Izett and Samuel Fletcher.

her head getting cold when she loses her hair — in fact sunburn is more of a potential problem.

“It’s quite warm at the moment . . . they say to wear a hat. But I think we’ll wear the Canteen bandanas.”

New World’s owner/operator Rayner Bonnington, who lost an uncle to leukaemia, is not afraid to join his staff too.

“I said if they can get 10 staff, I’ll do it too and they achieved that result in about four minutes, I guess . . . and they all keep telling me it’s not going to grow back! I’ve probably got one of the least amounts to shave off. It’s a good bit of team morale for us as well as a good cause.”

The big Shave for a Cure happens outside Turangi New World at 11am on Saturday April 9 and people are welcome to come along and watch, enjoy a sausage from the sausage sizzle, buy a raffle ticket, join in other activities (Frances is hoping to organise some entertainment and possibly a bouncy castle for the youngsters) and egg the staff on.

Melinda and Charlie from Hair

La Cafe and New World checkout manager Julie Evans-Zuccati will be doing the honours and Frances says she’s like it to be a fun community event.

As well as donating on the day, people can also go online to www.shaveforacure.co.nz to sponsor the shaves.

Frances’ mum, who lives in Scotland, has sent \$20 and challenged other mothers to donate the same or a similar amount. Frances says she is grateful for any donations people can afford to give, and she’s also organised a raffle.

“We’ll have donation buckets at the checkouts and raffle tickets for sale at the checkouts and at Grand Central Fry and Riverway General Store. We’ve got so many prizes it’s been unreal. The community has been brilliant in coming forward with prizes.”

The raffle tickets are \$2 each (or three for \$5) and prizes include a \$200 New World gift voucher, a five-piece wooden outdoor setting from Turangi Mitre 10, a wall-mounted heater from Turangi Appliances and numerous vouchers and gifts from other local businesses.



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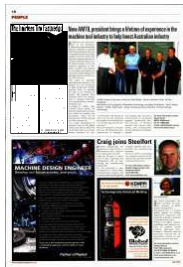
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Times photos Wayne Martin



The hairless Tim Fastnedge



He claims he was never a fan of short hair, but, nonetheless, Techspan director Tim Fastnedge got rid of his for a good cause.

Last month the skydiving enthusiast organised Jump Start to give 50 teenagers from CanTeen and ProjectK a tandem skydive from the ramp of a C130 Hercules.

Techspan gave unstinting support to Tim's endeavours in terms of sponsorship, equipment and paying for the time he spent organising what he describes as something of a logistical nightmare.

Jump Start sets out to get teen-

agers to discover inner strength by facing fear, to benefit from the mutual support and team identity earned by putting trust in others and to experience the confidence and acknowledgment that can be achieved by accomplishing a goal.

To say nothing of the adrenalin rush gained from skydiving.

Loosing your hair as a show of support is not compulsory, Tim says.

Instead, go to his website if you want to make a donation or just find out a bit more about Jump Start.

Visit: www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/TimFastnedge2011