



Making it Safe for Whanau Around Alcohol

“Manaaki Tangata” looking after whanau is the message we want to promote in our community. Over the past 12 months Takipu Marae Committee, trustees and ‘Tu Ake Te Karaka’ Community Council have been discussing the safety of our whanau around alcohol at the marae and in the community.

On Saturday the 13th of March a small group of Tu Ake members and whanau ran their first ‘Beat the Street’ patrol. “This is something we have wanted to do for a long time and we decided to just do it”, said Tu Ake Te Karaka Chairman Ben Brown. With the help and support of their local policeman Paul Cleaver, the Tu Ake Te Karaka Community Council have been working hard to develop community strategies to work on issues that impact on their community. This is just one of their initiatives to keep their young people safe at night and prevent them from roaming around the streets and getting up to mischief when they should be at home. Young people binge drinking was one of the issues identified 2 years ago as one of the concerns for this community. We hope to combat this with the patrol and the help of whanau within the community to jump on board a roster system. Meng Foon supplied the group with torches and the Tu Ake Te Karaka Community Council hope there will be ongoing support for this initiative from other organisations.



From left Teremoana Peneha, Ben Brown, Sarah Brown, Frank Ngatoro, Ngarui Karaka, local constable Paul Cleaver and Dean Karaka (not pictured) get ready to ‘beat the street’. A community initiative to keep their rangatahi and community safe after hours



Tu Ake Te Karaka Community Council work out their strategic plans for the future of Te Karaka

On Sunday the 14th of March Takipu Marae Committee supported their Kapa Haka whanau Nga Uri o Waikohu at a wananga that weekend. “Our marae is a place we want to keep safe from damage and harm”. “The ‘Manaaki Tangata’ marae alcohol policy is one way of ensuring our whanau and our marae will be safe when alcohol is being consumed on the premises. We want to ensure as many whanau know about it so they can feedback on what they think about it”, said Takipu Marae Chairman Barry Kingi-Thomas. With the help of CAYAD Community Action on Youth & Drugs Coordinators Bev Thomas and Rapiata Ria we hope that all marae in Turanganui a Kiwa will take up the challenge and work towards a policy that will suit their marae and whanau. “We were fortunate to be recipients of the ALAC Community Action Fund last year so we are going to be able to promote the message of safe alcohol use to all the whanau and at all our events and wananga this year. We hope to ratify and implement an alcohol policy within the next 6 months all going well”, said Takipu Marae Chairman Barry Kingi-Thomas.



Barry Kingi-Thomas – chairman of Takipu Marae talks to the whanau about the work they have been doing to fund raise for a new wharekai and how important it is for whanau to be safe when alcohol is being served at the marae



Kiri Pardoe – Turanga Health shows Maia Kingi-Thomas how to make non-alcoholic mock-tails as an alternative to alcohol



The Mobile Information Centre makes its first trip out to a rural area to show whanau about the service information they can access instead of travelling all the way into town



Ngā Uri o Waikohu whanau practice hard for the Tamararo coming up next month. Supported by the Takipu Marae Committee and Trustees