

COMMUNITY RADIO REACHES MORE LOCAL LISTENERS

For immediate release

7 February 2008

Rotorua's good news community radio station Gospel Radio will now broadcast to a wider audience following the purchase of a new transmitter.

The station, which broadcasts on the frequency 89.6FM, has been operating for the last seven years on a second-hand transmitter. Don Cairns, station manager and trustee, said the station is run by the Rotorua Gospel Broadcasting Charitable Trust. "Throughout the week we have a broad cross section of guests from a number of community groups and services talking about their activities and events." Mr Cairns said guests include the Rotorua Writers Club, historian Don Stafford, the Rotorua Library, RAVE, Keep Rotorua Beautiful, SPCA, Roma Cook talking about elderly services, as well as the occasion visit from Mayor Kevin Winters and local MP Steve Chadwick. As well as guest speakers the station also provides a community notice board service. "Many organisations and services can't afford to advertise in the paper but we provide this service for free." Mr Cairns said the station has a good listenership which is mostly older people. "A lot of our listeners are older folk who may not be able to get out and about much. Many used to be regular Church attendees so our programming includes bible programmes and homilies throughout the day." He said music makes up 80 percent of the programmes and is a cross section of religious and secular music, and country music.

Mr Cairns said an exciting new initiative at the station has been special needs students from John Paul College, Western Heights High School and St Chads running their own weekly programme. "This began late last year and is proving successful," he said.

"If people want to promote a community activity or service, they can call me on 350 1038 or fax 350 1039."

Primary and intermediate school children from around Rotorua will have the opportunity to take part in the National Young Leaders Day later this year.

Organised by the Halogen Foundation the National Young Leaders Day aims at inspiring and challenging young people to become great leaders.

Annette Fale, Halogen Foundation general manager, said the annual leadership day is held at different venues around the country and is the largest and most significant student leadership event in New Zealand. "The Foundation initiated the day to develop leadership in schools and build a better future for our young people." Schools nominate students they see would benefit from taking part. The programme includes guest speakers who are positive leadership role models in the community, as well as

activities to assist students in developing their leadership skills. "It has been designed to inspire, motivate, empower, educate and connect young people with the skills they need to develop their own leadership skills. This includes practical skills for motivating others, managing commitments and stress management."

In Rotorua, it is expected that more than 2,500 young people will attend the 2008 National Young Leaders Day to be held at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre on 19 May 2008. Mrs Fale said as an independent, charitable organisation, the Halogen Foundation will use the funding from the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust to support venue hire costs, which is greatly appreciated.

To find out more about the day you can visit: www.halogenfoundation.org

Helping lower achieving students improve their literacy is the aim of the Rotorua Eastern Lakes Cluster Schools.

Fran Blundell is one of the team of three resource teachers of learning and behaviour, along with Anete Heke and Maggie Tapaiata, who work alongside students and teachers of the 10 Eastern schools involved in the cluster. This includes a high school, an intermediate and two Kura, or Maori immersion schools, as well as primary schools. Ms Blundell said the programme aims to raise the level of achievement for student literacy, in particular oral literacy and reading levels. "A number of students may only speak one word or maybe just three words in a consecutive sentence at the start of their schooling but by the end of the first year in the programme they can speak 10 to 12 words consecutively and take part in normal activities." She said the range of programmes provided with the grant from the Rotorua Trust has proved beneficial as can be seen from the pre and post achievement data that is recorded. "The cluster works particularly well, as all the schools, the teachers involved, and our team work together sharing information for the overall betterment of the students. We don't have an enormous pool of money but we are achieving very well with what funds we have because of this team work." She said the cluster aims to target the early years (one to three) particularly with relation to oral literacy. "We hope that by targeting the early years now we will have less literacy problems in the future, especially at intermediate and high school level."

The organisations to receive funding from the Rotorua Trust in December 2007 and January 2008 were:

Cancer Society Relay for Life	\$5,000
Christ's Church Ngakuru New Keyboard	\$2,999
Daily Post Appeal Waiariki Women's Refuge	\$8,000
Halogen Foundation Young Leaders Day	\$5,000
John Paul College Role Model Scheme	\$1,000

Mamaku Play Centre Heating	\$4,000
Opera in the Pa Opera on Mokoia Island	\$5,000
ROSSCO Funding Forum and Good Health Expo	\$12,000
Rotary Club of Rotorua West Walking Festival	\$5,000
Rotorua District Council Community Arts Programme	\$20,000
Rotorua District Council Young Enterprise Scheme	\$5,000
Rotorua Eastern Lakes Cluster Schools Literacy Programmes	\$20,000
Rotorua Gospel Broadcasting Radio Transmitter	\$6,500
Rotorua Musical Theatre 'High School Musical'	\$10,000
Te Papa Takaro Haka Hula Hop	\$10,000
Western Heights High School Role Model Scheme	\$5,000
Whakarewarewa Village Charitable Trust Seven Guiding Panels	\$13,000

Ends

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