

December Franz Josef Health Centre Newsletter

- We worked with the West Coast PHO in hosting a Men's Health evening at the 'Full of Beans' (wrongly referred to as 'The Cheeky Kea' in the paper) café. The place was sold out on the night and reports from many of those who went felt that it was a useful, informative and appropriately informal night. We have had a number of people turn up for their cardio-vascular checks since then. I have suggested to the West Coast PHO that something along these lines would be a fitting way to launch the new health clinic when it is opened. Excellent catering and service from the Full of Beans team who helped to create the right atmosphere.
- Many thanks to everybody who contributed to the 'Welcome to Franz' event for seasonal workers in November. Despite the awful weather (and a bus crash just before the start) we think Franz Josef has a good template for a similar event next year. Particular thanks to Chris and Cushla at the 4 square supermarket for supplying sausages, bread and sauce even though the bus crash prevented us from being able to use them this time. A number of those involved have expressed interest in repeating the exercise next year – perhaps a few weeks earlier. We had about 30 people through on the day; fewer than we had hoped but those who did come found it to be a worthwhile thing.
- In order to minimize the loss of Drs. clinic sessions in Franz over Christmas (our normal Thursday morning sessions fall on Public Holidays) there has been some change to the usual arrangement with sessions on Wednesdays during Christmas and New Year weeks. The December clinic schedule can be accessed through the West Coast DHB website (select 'services' then 'South Westland' then 'Franz Josef')
- Please note that Jackie and John will have scheduled clinics on both Christmas Day and New Years Day. If possible we would appreciate it if you could direct people to those clinics (10:00 – 12:00) on both days.
- Shirlina Milne, from DARE, gave a presentation on the manufacture, use of and consequences of the drug methamphetamine or 'P'. We had a good turnout with about 30 people in attendance. We were pleased to get such excellent speakers to travel down from Greymouth. Particular thanks to the good people at DoC for providing the venue, tea and coffee and projection facilities and keeping the place open late.
- Coffee and Tea making facilities now available for people waiting for clinic appointments because the community centre is a community facility – not just a place for the clinic. This might help to make it a more convivial place to wait.

Jackie and John

Fundraising Committee

As per the last report, there are no more events planned before the January 31st deadline. Money is coming in steadily from collection boxes and donations following the mail drop. The latter comprise donations from individuals and businesses in Franz Josef. We look forward to a good month in January before we hand over to the next fund raising committee. We will present an 'end of project' report to the January Community Council Meeting.

John (on behalf of the Fund Raising Committee)