Kia ora, Bula Vinaka, Talofa Lava, Pozdrav Svima, Fakalofa lahi atu, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Greetings to you all.

Welcome to the second edition of The Ranui Sun and to the Christmas season.

We have been very busy here at Ranui House and it has been wonderful to see so many of you visiting us and using the services on offer. We are a very lovely community of people here in Ranui and I for one am proud to live and work among you all. Everyone here at RAP wishes you all a safe and happy Christmas and we hope you will get time to enjoy spending time with family and friends over the break. We will take a bit of a break over the New Year period but look forward to catching up with you all in 2013 when we return on the 14th January.

We hope this bumper Christmas edition finds you well and that you can find some time in your busy pre-Christmas day today to take time out, grab a cuppa and enjoy reading your Ranui Sun.

SULI & PARIS

LOOK WHO’S BACK …

Suli Maasi, our local youth worker with Ranui 135 is currently working alongside local schools implementing programmes and facilitating after school programmes. You will see him around Ranui and also here at the house, so do say hello. He is pictured here with old friend Paris Oti who visited Ranui recently enroute back to Australia and his family. Watch out for Paris too - an up and coming addition to the NRL... Boy we make good sportspeople in Ranui don’t we?

Hooray for the chalk board... which has brought a flood of local people seeking assistance with CV’s and job direction. I have sat with over 20 job seekers, some wanting advice, web site information, cover letters and CV help. By introducing people to the Careers website www.careers.govt.nz and providing the assistance needed a number left more equipped to pursue their own career goals. For others a CV and cover letter is just the ticket to getting a job.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Over the last four years, the Back2Back project has been supporting Massey and Ranui residents on developing initiatives that have led to improving the look and feel of local neighbourhoods. Shared gardens and street get-togethers have been popular. Added to this have been environmental improvements such as cleaner streets, walkways, bush tracks and streams.

Activities for children especially in the school holidays and linking up with school family fun days have been regularly planned for. Residents who have wanted to make changes in their street have been encouraged to turn their ideas into reality. Finding ways to celebrate the good things about knowing your neighbours and caring for each other have also been part of the Neighbours Day activities in March.

Funding for the Back2Back project was given for four years by the Department of Internal Affairs and now the learning’s from B2B have been captured in a resource booklet. It is free to residents and organisations with an active interest in neighbourhood-led development. The starter kit is an ideas booklet with examples of how others have developed their projects.

For a free copy and further information, please contact the Back2Back Community Broker: jenny.tanner@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz, or mobile 021 243 9683.
Monte Cecilia Housing Trust West team have moved back to RAP after a period in Henderson. We are delighted to be back in the Ranui community where we are aware of high housing need. It's great to work collaboratively with other RAP based agencies and to share location with other community people. We are close to the Western Park Village Caravan Park where we run a housing clinic twice a week and we are part of the Hub. Monte Cecilia provides support, advocacy and information about housing - principally for families but can give suggestions and advice as to options for singles and older people too.

Monte Cecilia has a number of houses in West Auckland where families live while working toward a more sustainable housing option. Monte staff Louise Guy Housing Social Worker and Jacob Pohiva our Family Support Worker are based in the RAP House (Ranui House) and can be contacted on 09-8326634, Monday to Friday 9-4 pm. The office will be closed over the Christmas New Year period from Friday 21 reopening on Thursday 4 January.

Best wishes from all of the Monte staff to everyone for the Christmas & New Year season

COMMUNITY BROKER...Hinemoa Key

Tena koutou katoa...

It is a real privilege to serve the Ranui Community as the Community Broker at the Ranui Action Project (RAP). Thank you everyone for the warm welcome I have been given to Ranui. It's been an exciting and busy time so far with heaps of awesome things happening in the community. Highlights have been attending the Neighbourhood Policing Teams Street BBQ's, and the Community Centre and Garden’s Spooky Spring Garden festival. We were treated to some delicious and healthy food at the Youth to Garden dinner night at the Tea Tree Café in November. It was fun meeting the families at the Plunket’s Pasifika Beatz Group, and Nicola our Ranui youth librarian reading and singing songs to the group. The free WORK IT OUT careers and job help service at the Ranui house has been very busy and well supported by CV training from Careers NZ at the Ranui Baptist Church. Finally, it has been a real buzz working with Jenny Tanner and the Back2Back project as part of the Ranui Network. Thanks also to the RANUI ACCORD who are a group of Ranui based services who are passionate and committed to Ranui. Lastly a big shout out to Ranui135 - Rob and Zee Liusi and your team who do amazing work with our youth. I look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE

A word from the Chair... Linda Cooper

It’s already December. School is nearly out, the sun is trying to shine a bit more and we are thinking about buying Christmas presents. Most of all I think lots of us are looking forward to a bit of a summer break from the everyday routines.

We have been busy with lots of changes at Ranui House and soon you will see a new sign at the house as well as on the front windows making us more visible. It will show the sunflower which you see on the newsletter. A shining reference to Ra the sun in our local name.

There are more exciting changes coming to Ranui over the next year which will make the Swanson Rd, Armada Drive, Ranui Station Rd intersection more of a hub of people activity instead of just cars. The new library and supermarket are planned to start construction next year so there is a lot to look forward to.

I am wondering what you think we should call this crossroads. Is it a village or township or is there another name we can give this heart of Ranui? Maybe that is something you can ponder over the holidays and let us know your ideas.

That’s all for now. Naku noa

WISHING YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND SUMMER FROM ALL OF US AT RANUI HOUSE

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MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE

NEW RANUI LIBRARY is coming!

Construction of our new library on the corner of Armada Drive and Swanson Road is expected to begin in April 2013 which means we will all be able to use this wonderful facility around June 2014. The new library will feature among other things: a Children’s area, courtyard, desktop computer access, a living room reading area, quiet reading area for adults, young adults area, Wi-Fi access and an outdoor reading terrace. The new Ranui Library is a priority project supported by the Henderson-Massey local board. For more information go to the Ranui Library page at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/ projects.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU...

If you would like to contribute to The Ranui Sun please drop us a line at housecoord@ranui.org.nz or pop in to us at Ranui House, 476 Swanson Road.