TWNpage2version6.qxp 16/08/2007 12:07 p.m. Page 1

CONTENTS

More Asian cops - 5
New police initiative sees more diversity on the beat.

Journalism crisis summit - 6-7
Journalists' union tackles threats to New Zealand journalism.

Poking fun at politicians - 12
Satire, denegration and ridicule: can politicians take a joke?

No democracy in Burma - 22
Imprisonment and torture: one man's fight for democracy.

News	1-5	Features	12-24
Media	6-7	Media	16-17
AUT News	9	Environment	14
Business	10	Opinion	18-19
Sport	11	Entertainment	20-21

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Royal treatment for at-risk women

Women from all walks receive a night of primp and pamper.

PHOTO: CHARLOTTE COYLE

Charity make-over: Volunteer Candy Liu from the Body Shop applies foundation to an attendee.

By Charlotte Coyle

The Christian Life Centre Auckland (CLCA) has just held its sixth pamper night – a $1000 event, where more than 1500 street workers, women and children in need were treated to a full free night of pampering.

The church literally rolled the red carpet out for the women.

They received facials, manicures, professional makeup and hairstyling sessions, massages, beauty products and a meal.

Entertainment was provided by those brave enough to enter the karaoke competition.

Children were kept busy with movies, food, games, clowns and free toys.

The event, held in late July, was organised by Debbie Baker who runs a team called Streetreach through CLCA. The team operates as a confidential support service for those involved in prostitution.

Baker says the pamper nights, aimed at street workers, women from the Women's Refuge, and other women and children in need, are about letting these women know they are valued.

"So many of these women are from broken homes and they are never told they have worth. So we want them to have a fun night and to tell them, 'You're awesome'."

> "For a lot of these women it really is the highlight of the year."

Baker says she was "very, very pleased" with how the night turned out.

"Everyone just had a ball. For a lot of these women it really is the highlight of their year."

The night was made possible by around $100,000 worth of donated beauty products, cosmetics and children's toys, along with the help of volunteers from CLCA and local hair and beauty salons.

There were fears the night would not run as planned after around $50,000 worth of donated products for the event were stolen from the church's storeroom in May.

Baker is thankful that everything still went according to plan.

"We were so grateful for the extra support we got after the burglary. People were really generous in donating more products and that's how we had enough for the night," she said.

Attendee Kathy Bascand said she enjoyed the event because it gave her a chance to dress up and have her makeup done.

With the attending numbers growing from 900 last year to 1500 this year, Baker is now on the hunt for a new venue for next year's pamper night.

Maori waiata translated after 40 years

By Michele Coelho

The last volume of work by a leading Maori figurehead has finally been translated and published more than 50 years after his death.

Nga Moteatea: The Songs, collated by Sir Apirana Ngata over 40 years, is New Zealand's largest collection of Maori waiata.

The singing of waiata is heard in formal ceremonies on marae, in business and political meetings and at social events.

The collection of songs was divided into four parts, but only three were translated in the late 1970s.

Judith Huntsman, editor of the *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, says the expense and time taken to do the translations caused the delay in this final part.

Professor Hirini Moko Mead, member of Nga Pae o te Maramatanga, finished the translation part-time over two years.

"We were very happy to have supported the translation project and this offers an excellent opportunity to celebrate the work of Sir Apirana Ngata," says Professor Linda Smith, joint director of Nga Pae o te Maramatanga.

> "Ngata has gifted to the nation a living archive."

The translation was edited by Jenifer Curnow and Dr Jane McRae, former members of the University of Auckland's Maori Studies Department, and also contains annotations made by Dr Mead.

For this publication and the redesign of the previous three volumes, the Polynesian Society joined forces with the Auckland University Press to release not only the books, but recordings collected by Sir Ngata before his death.

"The songs, especially now that they are available on CD and in translation, will inspire pieces of literature whether read in Maori or in English," says Dr Sam Elworthy, director of Auckland University Press.

Huntsman says Ngata's collection is "full of allusions to historical and cultural metaphors that refer to Maori culture. It is a very rich work."

The final volume was launched on July 19 at a function held at Waipapa Marae. Dr Pita Sharples, co-leader of the Maori Party, attended along with members of Nga Pae o te Maramatanga.

"Ngata has gifted to the nation a living archive, a true taonga which must have a special place in the cultural heritage of Aotearoa," says Dr Sharples.