

# Thames Karate Kid wins national title

by Peter White

Christopher Robinson need not worry about school bullies — the 10-year-old is now the highest ranked junior at karate in New Zealand.

He won the junior budo male award at the national Kiaido Ryu Martial Arts awards held recently in Thames.

This is the second successive year that a Thames student has won the award out of 14 clubs nationwide.

Christopher began karate aged eight, and has quickly risen to purple belt status. He is four belts away from the coveted black belt — a goal he has clearly set to reach within three years.

He says karate is fun and interesting, has improved his balance and helped him gain confidence.

He works out every day at home and twice a week under the tutelage of instructor Kerri Russek.

As he is so far ahead of his age-group he works out with older boys and has impressed second-degree black belt Phillip Willetts.

"Christopher is so dedicated to martial arts, which is unusual in such a young guy," he says.

Christopher's step-mother Avril Atkins has seen a huge change in his outlook and confidence, and says he has far more energy since he began karate.

The sport is booming in Thames with 23 students upgraded to their next belt at the awards night.

Winners of the local club awards were Fergus Hope (senior male), Laurie Johnson (senior female), Talei Russek (junior female), and Christopher Robinson (junior male).



PHOTO: SHARON MARRIS

TITLE WINNER: Christopher Robinson shows off his winning moves.

# Councillors: Draft sex bylaw 'about human rights'

by Anna Barge

Hamilton City councillors Jocelyn Marshall and Bill Ward are defiantly standing by their support for the city's controversial draft prostitution bylaw, saying it is a community rights and freedom issue.

"It's about justice — it's about social justice," says Ward, referring to the draft bylaw that has split the council.

As an Anglican, Marshall says she gets attacked for her views with many people saying her views are un-Christian.

But she disagrees with this approach.

"As a Christian I care enormously for those less fortunate. Christ was a friend of prostitutes and sinners. If He didn't cast them out, then what right do we have?"

Instead she sees the prostitution reform and the proposed bylaw as a way of protecting the most vulnerable people in society.

"We can't count them out as pariahs," she says.

Ward agrees and says "respect should be given to all facets of society".

He is concerned that many in the community who attack prostitutes have misplaced their energies.

"There are more than 871 children who have gone through the police for family violence problems, and they (those attacking the bylaw) don't say anything," he says.

"We don't have them speaking out with the same passion. To me that's the real issue in our society.

"I would prefer a prostitute living next to me than a family fraught with friction."

Marshall says that as prostitution is now legal it is the council's job to put restrictions around signage and placement.

But she says those fighting against the bylaw do not see it this way and are instead pushing for an overturn of the law.

Ward agrees and says that if prostitution is so tightly regulated as to make it impossible to practice, it will take away legal freedom.

Ward also sees the attack on prostitutes as setting an alarming precedent for home-based businesses.

He thinks that if the council can put restrictions on this legal business then it could also impede other businesses.

While Ward will be listening to the views of locals who disagree with his perspective it is unlikely he will be swayed on this matter.

"I have a responsibility to the large number of those who have phoned and said stand firm," he says.

# Fashion awards showcase talent at Feilding High School

by Lucy Arthur

After her fourth entry, 17-year-old Jennifer Griffin took the supreme award at Feilding High School's Wearable Art Awards earlier this month.

"I was pretty stoked, because you don't really know what they are looking for," Griffin says.

"There are so many different ideas and so it's hard to say what's better."

Her winning costume depicts a rock star with a guitar made of netting and wings made of bamboo garden stakes and paper mache.

"It's hard to make something like that in one colour," she says.

"I started thinking about what was yellow and that's where I got the rubber gloves idea from."

"For the rest of it, you can make just about anything yellow, so I just kind of fiddled around



PHOTO: FAITH SYKES

ROCK STAR: Jennifer Griffin with the design.  
The yellow category focused on

youth interests, so Jennifer chose music as a theme.

"Music is a big part of my family," says the year 13 student, who thinks she will study sciences or maths at Canterbury University next year.

Griffin does not think she would make wearable art design a career, as she thinks she is better with academic subjects.

The costume took nearly three weeks to make.

"It was pretty good to know that all the hard work paid off in the end."

Griffin won the carnival and cyberchick sections in the last two years.

She won a trip to Nelson's wearable arts awards and a digital camera.

The wings of the costume are going to be hung in Feilding High School's music department and the rest of it may be displayed in the Community Arts Centre.

# Hamilton migrant centre to move

by Aimee Nickless

The Waikato Migrant Resource Centre is another step closer to finding its new home.

Its resolution to lease the former Marist Rugby Football Clubroom to the WMRC has been confirmed. It now goes to Hamilton City Council for approval.

Public consultation on the issue saw 434 submissions supporting the proposal and only three in opposition.

Councillor Pippa Mahood says the centre is essential for new migrants to know they have a place they can go to when they arrive in Hamilton.

"It's a one-stop shop for new migrants to go and say 'what goes on in Hamilton for me?'" she says.

At the centre, migrants can access information to give them support such as WINZ, social services, health and education facilities and where they can improve their English.

# Former Hamilton girl eyes up Aussie Idol crown

by Peter James

A former Hamilton girl has become one of the top 30 contestants in the much-hyped *Australian Idol* television programme.

Chanel Cole, 26, who moved to New South Wales six years ago, is one step closer to the fortune and

fame of being an *Australian Idol*. Chanel's parents, Betty and Brendan Whalley, are now also living in New South Wales.

Whalley says he is "over the moon" about his daughter's success so far.

For her stage name on the programme Chanel dropped her surname, says Whalley.

He says that Chanel comes

from a musical background.

"My missus put all the girls through classical piano."

Whalley says he and his family moved around a lot when they lived in Hamilton.

Chanel went to a lot of different schools in the area, he says.

For *Australian Idol*, Chanel has performed songs written by Roy Orbison and Ella Fitzgerald.

In episode six of *Australian Idol*, 118 contestants were placed in groups of three or four, and were asked to perform a song they had learnt the night before.

The *Australian Idol* website says Chanel's performance in episode six resulted in presenter Mark Holden saying, "You're a bloody star!"

The remaining 30 contestants

will be competing until late August.

This number will then be whittled down to 10.

"I think she'll go well because she's got a genuine love of people and a love of music," says Whalley.

New Zealand viewers can catch *Australian Idol* on TV2 at 7.30 on Thursday evenings.