

i-girlz leaderz e-newz



Issue 3 June 2012



Hornby IFG

In this issue:

Last of the stats please

Development of facebook and Twitter pages for IFG Leaders

New leaders joining existing Units

Women in Action Day

Newsrap magazine deadline date for articles

Introducing Stu Thompson

Last of the stats please

Hi to all our wonderful leaders and supporters. This issue of e-newz is coming to you just a day or two before the National Conference of Girls' Brigade NZ, our parent body. If the five Units who haven't sent in their stats forms could just text Jennifer (021 277 3232) the number of girls attending their Units, we think we will crack that magic number of members in IFG and will be able to share the good news at conference.



Development of facebook and Twitter pages for IFG Leaders

The other good news is that we have a volunteer to set up and run our leaders facebook and Twitter pages for us. Thank you to Esther in Oxford. Exciting stuff. More info as this is developed.

New Leaders joining Existing Units

Just a reminder that when you have new leaders join your team that they do need to be registered, police vetted and they need to sign the Code of Conduct. Also we will advertise when we are running the initial training in your part of the country and your new leaders can hook in to that as well.

Women in Action Day

Have you let us know yet if you are coming to the Women in Action one day seminar? Text Charmayne for the Auckland one (June 24) or Janice for the Tauranga or Hawera ones (July 07 and July 14).

IFG Ministry
Team
Contact Details:

Jennifer Box
boxes@es.co.nz
021 277 3232

Charmayne
Johnstone
charmayne@clear.net.nz
027 2740601

Christine Brunt
Christinebrunt@clear.
net.nz
021 651180

Janice Zachan
janicezachan@kinect.co.nz
021 161 5149

Joanna Elliot
elliottclan@clear.net.nz
022 659 1076

Newsrap deadline

Get yourself in the mag. Deadline for Newsrap Articles is August 17.

Introducing Stu Thompson

Over the last couple of issues we have introduced you to our national Team but there is another person on our support team who you should know about as well - Stu Thompson. Stu is the Iconz Director for Boy's Brigade who lives in Tauranga with his wife Karen and they have 5 children- three have left school and their elder daughter has recently married. Here is Stu's story.

My involvement in Iconz began in 2003 when I was appointed by BBNZ to the newly created position of Promotions Director with a mandate to develop a whole new initiative with programmes designed to bring new growth to the movement which had been in decline for over 40 years. Initially I met with a group of innovative BB men in late 2002 and the Iconz name was born. We discussed possible uniform options such as hoodies, baseball caps, black shirts and some programme ideas but there was no logo or programmes to use as marketing tools to help spread the news that BB had moved into the 21st century. This role was right up my alley with a childhood living the adventure on farms with three brothers and no girls of similar age in our neighbourhood. I attended a boys' school and joined the building trade at age 16- so largely lived in a male world. From that age I worked with children as a volunteer gaining experience in virtually every field except school teaching. I taught Sunday School, Bible in Schools and still work occasionally as a children's entertainer (code for clown), have supervised after school and holiday programmes and organised camps and events regularly since I left school. I earned a Diploma of Children's Ministries at Bethlehem Institute in 2002, which enabled me to put wild creativity into a reasonable structure for others to follow. In the first 12 months of Iconz, I worked with Richard Harkness on a pilot programme at St Peters Pressy Church in Tauranga. This was previously a Boys' Brigade Company and the pilot grew from 13 to 33 in the first year. Richard and I kept a record of the best sessions and forgot about the flops and these ideas still make up the bulk of the Iconz Adventure programme today. This pilot programme became Tauranga City Iconz and was the first of five new Iconz units which were launched in 2003 in the Bay of Plenty area. I was appointed as Iconz Director in 2004 as the network of Iconz Units grew. Now there are almost 60 Iconz units spread from Whangarei to Invercargill for boys aged 6-16.

While this growth in Iconz was not unnoticed by GBNZ, Chris Brunt from the 1st Blenheim GB Company had heard about it. She was to later become the National Commissioner for Girls' Brigade, so under her watch GB wholeheartedly embraced the concept of initiating their own version of



Iconz after BBNZ generously shared all their curriculum, promotions material and experience at a series of meetings with key GB women who are all involved with the IFG Ministry Team today, led by Jennifer Box from Dunedin. I worked closely with Jennifer and the team as the Iconz4girlz programme was developed through 2007-9 and some of these times were some of the most rewarding I have enjoyed.



Currently along with three other full time Development Managers I work on the growth development of Iconz around the country, recruiting and training leaders within the local churches in our part of the country and we enjoy a close working relationship with the IFG teams in our areas. Programme development is still a major part of my work and currently I am focused on research and development for the senior boys' programme named Delta.

My desire is to see boys reach their full potential in all life's areas is what motivates them and this is more important today as ever because fathers are not always in the picture for their sons. Highlights for me are doing boys stuff every week, organising camps and other events but the best part of my job is working with the amazing and inspirational men and women who lead Iconz and IFG around the country- they are indeed Kiwi Icons and that's what Iconz stands for: inspiring kiwi boys (and girls) to become kiwi icons- godly men and women who can lead their families and others in the community to make NZ a better country.

From the photos you will see how well Stu slotted in with his pink shirt. To all our pink shirted leaders, thank you for all you are doing to make a difference in the lives of our girls.

Til next time
Your IFG Ministry Team