



18 April 2011

The Trustees
The Sargood Bequest
P O Box 5546
Moray Place
DUNEDIN 9058.

Dear Trustees,

What a fantastic way to start the day with your e-mail informing me of your generous grant, the news of which certainly makes up for the cold from the snow on Mt Peel this morning. I attach your receipt duly signed.

Thank you so much for this grant and I look forward to being able to furnish you with some photos in the coming season towards the end of the year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Robyn Murch'.

Robyn Murch
Funding Officer



Some of the winners of 2010 Poems by Candlelight. From left, Ella Hart, Jan Hill, Jenna Bennett, Samuelson Shaw, Esther Shaw, Donaldson, Sky Paterson.



Poetry by Candlelight: Esther Shaw reads her poem at last year's Geraldine poetry evening.

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Smaller rafts: Andre Schoneveld of the Peel Forest Outdoor Pursuits Centre displays new smaller rafts which will make river lessons for primary and intermediate children easier.

Small rafts big help

Two small rafts suitable for primary and intermediate age children will enable the Peel Forest Outdoor Pursuits Centre to help combat New Zealand's high drowning rate, said director Andre Schoneveld.

Water Safety New Zealand has just released its 2010 report showing 87 people died of drowning last year, the third highest cause of accidental death behind motor vehicle accidents and falling off ladders.

Although this was the lowest annual toll since 1980, New Zealand's drowning rate is one of the worst in the developed world.

Of the 87 who drowned, 29 died in rivers (compared to 18 at beaches).

River deaths make up the largest chunk of drownings with an annual percentage rate of 15 to 35 per cent, Mr Schoneveld said.

That makes the centre's two new rafts, bought with funds from the Sargood Bequest and the Mazda Foundation for \$3750 a piece, priceless.

The 3.3 metre rafts are relatively small compared to the rafts people are familiar with, and are great for younger

children learning river safety, Mr Schoneveld said.

On flatter, more manageable parts of the Rangitata River, for instance, year 7 and 8 school children can drive their own raft.

"They're small enough for them to be able to do that, to have ownership and be able to deal with it themselves. There's an instructor there, but they can actually run it."

The Peel Forest Outdoor Pursuits Centre (OPC) has been running river safety education programmes for 10 years.

Primary and intermediate school children have always been involved, but the rafts will enhance their learning experience, he said.

The rafts are also more portable than the standard size making it easier for the OPC to get to schools in the district, and enabling it to use smaller rivers and streams such as the Orari, Opihi and Waiho Rivers.

"For a small person, a big river can be pretty big and scary, while a small river is a bit more intimate and works well for them," Mr Schoneveld said.

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Contact **Robyn Hanifin** on (03) 684 0703 Ext. 846



robyn.hanifin@timaruherald.co.nz