

Kahu Youth in the house

TIM BREWSTER

Children cheered, the ribbon was cut and alcohol-free bubbly was sprayed in celebration of the official opening of the new Kahu Youth premises at 11 Russell Street on Saturday. As the former premises of Wanaka physiotherapy for more than a decade, the doors are more used to welcoming broken, bruised bodies, but now the building will be used as a base for in excess of 100 youth aged from ten to 20 years.

Youth workers Richard Elvey and Angie Griffiths are both excited at the potential for the new building, with a large number of programmes and

activities being planned for the future.

"Parents have been overwhelmingly pleased so far," Richard said.

Financial support has

the 'drop in' evenings on Friday and Saturday night. Events such as the 'blue moon' drug and alcohol free social evenings, film nights and participation in

underneath Cinema Paradiso and had a seven month wait for resource consent issues to be resolved before they could make the move. "We're always indebted to Callum [McLeod] as we had nowhere else to go."

Their new building has a separate kitchen and lounge, a reception area, office space for the youth workers and two activity rooms. Richard is also grateful for the patience shown by the building's owner, physiotherapist Gin Rutledge and husband Dan, as the group waited for consent before they could take up the lease. The long term goal is for the group to be able to buy their own property.

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come from a range of sources, including the Central Lakes Trust, the QLDC and a number of local businesses and philanthropic individuals.

As well as the different groups such as the 'changemakers' and the adventure groups, the new building will have much more room for

Matariki celebrations will continue as will their strong involvement in Wanakafest parade.

Also planned is a new website and a mentoring programme coordinated with Mount Aspiring College.

The group spent two years based in a room



romantic giveaway

Leap year proposal

According to a tradition dating back at least four centuries February 29 was the only day a woman could propose to a man (tradition also stated it that if the man refused the proposal he had to gift the woman a frock or a kiss).

Peter Hendriks and Julie Tucker at Classic Flights are so excited about this leap year legend they have teamed up with the Wanaka Sun to give away the perfect setting for a woman to propose to her man on February 29. The Freedom of Romance Experience will take the couple for a flight in two open cock-pit TigerMoths over Lake Wanaka and Mou Waho. They will land at a remote, private location overlooking the lake to enjoy a romantic dinner for two with a bottle of local Central Otago wine (before popping the question) and returning to Wanaka Airport.

To be in the draw to win, write us a letter telling us why you should win this experience, worth almost \$800, to propose to your man. Letters should be received by email admin@thewanakasun.co.nz or to the Wanaka Sun office in Spencer Mall by 4pm Tuesday February 28.

The winner should be ready for their flight on Wednesday February 29 (4.30pm - 7.00pm, weather depending).

The winning letter will be published in the Wanaka Sun.



Byron Weastell, 14, Bradley Mathews, 14, and Lyal Cocks.

PHOTO: TIM BREWSTER

Ardmore Street crossings

A guide to the "courtesy crossings" also known as "speed bumps" on lower Ardmore Street was to be provided by council project manager Rob Darby this week. He passed the information on to councillor Lyal Cocks who sent an open letter to the paper which mentioned research on the crossings but did not provide any details. The Wanaka Sun has requested details on the research and we hope to provide them next week.

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