

# Whangarei Site Visit

A one-day site visit conducted by the Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ), took place in the Whangarei District on 21 February 2006. Whangarei District is situated in the northern area of the North Island of New Zealand and covers an extensive land base. The district, which has a population of around 71,000, enjoys a tropical climate and is made up of small communities surrounded by farmland, orchards, forests and coastline.



Whangarei District's vision of working towards a safe and injury free Whangarei District, is achieving this through the collaborative hard work of organisations, businesses, agencies, local iwi, community groups and individuals to create the ultimate living environment.



The site-visit began with a Powhiri and introductions. Highlights of the site-visit included 'The Shattered Dreams' presentation which reflected the over-representation of young people in motor vehicle traffic crashes and was

supported by the Fatal Vision programme which addressed drink-driving and the effects of alcohol on judgment and dexterity.

These presentations were followed by an outline of the Plunket Well-Child project which is an important example of a long-term project within this community and demonstrates sustainability, effective collaboration and good use of data. The interface between school and community was highlighted by a visit to Whangarei Intermediate School where teachers and all year 7 & 8 pupils receive consistent water safety messages and instructions.



The New Zealand Fire Service, which is a key partner, hosted the site-visit and founding members and partners reaffirmed their commitment to reducing injury rates even further into the future.

