

Parklands takes initiative against growing threat of cybercrime

by Murray Owen
Parklands School has taken the initiative and 'logged in' to a module that educates children on how to surf the internet more safely. Parklands has joined community groups and other schools in the Nelson area in an effort to combat the growing threat of cybercrime. Nelson man John Parsons, who established the module with business partner Ryan Clarke, has featured on *Campbell Live* explaining the merits of what is, in effect, a community health education course. He was at Parklands School last week train-

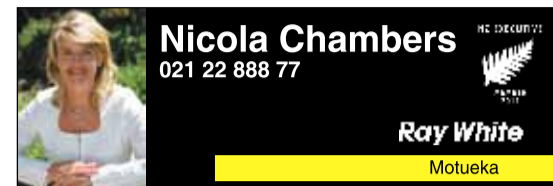


What to do and not to do on the net: John Parsons and teacher Andrea Smith with Jack Lockhart, Kristian Frommel and Quin Vuyiasawa at Parklands School last week.

ing teacher Andrea Smith, (who will spearhead the Parklands initiative) in the mechanisms of the project. The programme identifies the risk of exploitation, how to alleviate the threat of predators and con artists, and the need for discretion when using Facebook and emails. Overseas, there have been instances where children have been killed after they rendezvoused with people they had met on the internet and who were obviously not what they seemed. John, told *The Guardian* that he is not anti-internet or anti-Facebook. The internet is a great tool of communication and reference. However, he said users need to

be more aware of just who they are dealing with and be more circumspect in what they say. Conversations and information are stored. Parklands students were given a practical 'demonstration' of how situations develop through not knowing just who you are dealing with. All their chatroom comments were recorded on a data base. To the student's surprise, part way through there was also an inter-lopser (a young girl not involved in the classroom or even the school). She broke into their discussions and also posted a photo of herself. In fact, the person was not a young

girl at all but Principal Martin Major (who later identified himself) working elsewhere in the school. Also, much of the children's chatroom discussions were loose in nature. The focus of the next lesson was to remind the children that what is said electronically can come back to haunt them.



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The awkward question...

Forgive me for being blunt but is it ever okay to use the bathroom at an open home?

A moment of stunned silence and a few heartbeats later and the consensus tends to be that "the facilities" (for want of a more abstract euphemism) are not for public use but permission is granted in the case of emergency. Children seem to be the main beneficiaries, although parents in the know have a few tips for regulars on the Saturday open home circuit: make good use of the coffee shop breaks and if you get time between appointments, let your children visit the local park. After all, no one wants their thoughtful assessment of a prospective home interrupted by a loud, "Mum, there's no toilet paper in here!" Thankfully, as agents, we are an accommodating and non-judgmental lot.

Give Nicola Chambers GradDipBus (Marketing), Licensed Salesperson **a call, when you want those awkward questions answered.**

St John Youth Division celebrate success

St John Youth Division in Motueka is celebrating success. Members of the Division recently joined with their Youth colleagues from Nelson district Youth Divisions to celebrate their achievements. Five Motueka Penguins (aged 6-8 years) were awarded their Super Penguin badge, while three other Motueka St John Youth Cadets were promoted to Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) rank.

level cadets in the district," said Rick. "We also have the highest number of Cadets per population for the top of the South Island." Nelson/Marlborough District Youth Manager Tracy Simonsen says Motueka Division has had some fantastic successes this

year "and to help us continue that, we're looking for some local members of the community to help out as adult helpers." Mrs Simonsen says both male and female adult helpers are required so the Division can continue to grow.



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Motueka Youth leader Rick Bensemann said the promotion of the cadets to NCO is great for the Division. "Their input into the Division will be important. They'll help us to grow the Division and will also learn some important leadership skills."

Motueka Division has 26 active St John Youth cadets, with nine at Gold Level.

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