

The end of youth rates – at last

THE SUPERSIZEMYPAY CAMPAIGN TO END YOUTH RATES SHOWED JUST HOW BIG AN IMPACT YOUNG PEOPLE CAN MAKE WHEN THEY PRESENT A UNIFIED FRONT.

Unite Union and McDonalds recently reached agreement to scrap youth rates altogether at McDonalds restaurants from March next year.

The move came days after Parliament passed a Bill ending youth rates for 16 and 17 year olds

after the first 200 hours or three months, whichever is the lesser.

Unite Union's SuperSizeMyPay campaign led the charge on youth rates, and thousands of young workers and students got behind this campaign.

"Young workers, their unions, school students, community groups and politicians all played a part in getting us to where we are today on the abolition of youth rates," said CTU's Carol Beaumont. *



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OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

Smokefree Ambassadors campaign

THE CANCER SOCIETY IS CAMPAIGNING TO GET TOBACCO OUT OF SIGHT IN RETAIL OUTLETS. WHY? SIMPLE – CIGARETTES ARE KILLERS. PUTTING THEM ON DISPLAY MAKES THEM EASY-TO-GET AND HARD TO RESIST.



SMOKEFREE YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Cancer Society Smokefree Youth Ambassadors are young people (generally in high school) who are working with the Cancer Society to campaign for a ban on tobacco displays.

Recently, they presented a petition to parliament and spoke on the issue:

"Smoking kills and as young New Zealanders we do not want these deadly products to be sold in the same way as lollies." – CHARLOTTE GAVEY, Lower Hutt

"I'm here today to ask you to support our call to ban tobacco displays to help people like my dad to quit smoking. Knowing the health

effects of smoking and the illnesses that run through our family I have prepared myself to face for the worst – that my dad would die young." – MICAH GUIDOTE, Auckland

"We must be the change which we wish to see in the world, and we must end the pain of our families and friends." – NATHANIAL RATAPU, Gisborne

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The Cancer Society believes young people need to be actively involved in shaping the future of our country. Go to www.bancigarettedisplays.org.nz for more information on what you can do to make NZ Smoke Free. *

Be a climate hero

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE IS A BIG JOB, BUT BY TAKING LOTS OF LITTLE ACTIONS IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES, WE CAN ALL MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

Oxfam has joined forces with Greenpeace and Forest & Bird to launch Be The Change, a campaign to reduce New Zealand's climate change impact.

By joining the campaign online and pledging to take action in our own lives, we can show that Kiwis like us care about climate change.

www.bethechange.org.nz *

HEARTS OF GOLD

CMC MARKETS HAS JOINED FORCES WITH VARIETY (THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY) TO OFFER SIX EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN, AS PART OF THE 2008 VARIETY GOLD HEART SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME.

The programme aims to foster the talents of disadvantaged, sick or disabled New Zealand children in the fields of art, sports, music or education. Each scholarship is worth a maximum of \$5,000 per year for up to three years.

Applications for the 2008 scholarships close on Friday February 8. For more information go to www.variety.org.nz *

Feel the Urge to Get Involved?

WANT THE CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT YOUTH ISSUES AND REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF YOUNG MAORI AND PACIFIC PEOPLE? YOUTHLINE ARE OFFERING YOU THE CHANCE TO JOIN THE URGE YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP.

"Right now is an exciting time to get involved because we are redeveloping the Urge website soon, so it is an awesome opportunity to make your mark and help create a site that is funky, fun and informative," says 22-year-old Urge site manager Nao Guy.

Interested? Email Nao@youthline.co.nz. (And see page 44 for more info!) *

Animal snaps

COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING, A LEADING INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION CAMPAIGNING AGAINST FACTORY FARMING, HAS LAUNCHED A PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION TO FIND THE WORLD'S BEST PICTURES OF FARM ANIMALS.

"We want the competition to draw attention to the fact that these are sentient creatures and that intensive modern farming systems cause them sometimes great suffering."

Go to www.ciwf.org.uk for more info – and check out pages 28-29 of this issue for more info on animal rights. *

SCHOOLFEST OF FUN

SCHOOLFEST IS THE NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME. YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY PARTICIPATE IN AN ARRAY OF PERFORMANCES AND BEHIND-THE-SCENES WORKSHOPS.

The 2008 programme includes an outstanding line-up of international and local opera, dance, music and visual arts. Check out February's *Tearaway* for details on next year's event. For more info visit www.nzfestival.nzpost.co.nz/about-schoolfest/ *