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**BRIEFLY**

**Honour for former local**

Murray Sherwin, who grew up in Pirongia area, was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the New Year's Honours.

Mr Sherwin career has spanned senior appointments in New Zealand and international organisations and for the past nine years as the Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

He previously served with the World Bank and was regarded as one of the New Zealanders who had made a significant contribution to the organisation.

As Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of NZ, he led negotiations between the bank and the banking industry on a new approach to banking supervision in New Zealand and led the bank's international relationships.

**Centenary at Te Pahu**

Te Pahu is celebrating 100 years of schooling in the area (Karamu, Kaniwhaniwha, Te Pahu and Harapepe schools) on March 18-20, 2011.

"We would love all past pupils and staff to join us," says reunion committee spokesperson, Suzanne Moorhouse.

Registration deadline is February 1.

"Contact us on centennial@tepahu.co.nz or on www.tepahu.co.nz or phone 07 8259849 for registration forms."

**First aid at Little theatre**

Places are still available for the MediTrain Waikato first aid course at Te Awamutu Little Theatre next Friday (January 21).

A minimum of 10 enrolments is required for the course to go ahead — phone Denise on 07 856 1194 for course details and bookings.

MediTrain Waikato makes a donation to the Little Theatre for each participant. Spaces are also available for the February 21 and March 21 courses.

**Value of person in their heart - it's the same the world over**

BY GRANT JOHNSTON

It is not the balance that is in a person's bank account, but in their heart that makes them happy.

That is the 'thesis' of Jean Béliveau, who has walked his way through the 'University of Life' — by travelling 75,000 kilometres through 64 countries on foot over the past 10 years.

Many of the happiest people he has encountered lived in the poorest circumstances.

"And I met people who were so poor, all they had was money!"

I caught up with the affable French Canadian during his stopover in Pirongia just before Christmas, where he was billeted with local Barnados worker, Lyn Coutts.

New Zealand was the final country he walked through prior to heading home to walk his native Canada.

He has been through 49 pairs of shoes, stayed in thousands of different homes, eaten amazing things and met incredible people. One of his highlights was meeting Nelson Mandela in Durban in 2003.

Mr Béliveau has experienced wonderful hospitality, but he's also 'roughed it' — staying overnight in a jail in South Africa where he was inadvertently locked in after a change of shift and in nine countries, his 'walk for peace' required a security escort.

He walked through African countries where humans have been on the menu for local wildlife and through other countries where bandits have picked off travellers.

The signs industry worker said he became disgusted with routine and with the arrival of his mid-life crisis, he decided to carry on with his studies



PIRONGIA resident Lyn Coutts shows round-the-world walker Jean Béliveau the town's 'CBD' during his visit to this area.

in a non-conventional way — by walking around the world. Rather than aim for a world record, he accepted his wife Luce's suggestion of walking for peace.

The anticipated 10 years to accomplish his goal coincided with UNESCO's International Decade for the Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.

So with minimal preparation and scant resources, on his 45th birthday on August 18, 2000 he set off on his incredible journey to walk around the world and through the five continents of America, Asia, Europe, Asia and Australia. He has walked through six deserts, including a

tortuous 12 hour trek through the Sahara.

Mr Béliveau has promoted donations for local charities throughout his walk (Barnados while he was in this area — www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/wwwwalk.org).

He also fulfills speaking engagements, talking about his walk for peace and his experiences.

He has an extremely supportive wife — she funds around 15% of his expenses while the rest are covered by his hosts. They communicate via the internet and she joins him for one month each year.

Mr Béliveau has two children

from a previous relationship and two grandchildren.

Mr Béliveau enjoyed New Zealand, which he says has many parallels with Canada.

He flies home to Canada next week to walk the last leg of his journey from Vancouver to Montreal. He will arrive home in mid October and is keen to be reunited with his family, but also happy that his decision to go walkabout was the right one. He is working on a book chronicling his experiences.

His dream is to increase child rights and secure the ideal of the UNESCO International Decade as a reality for the future.