

LIANZA Hikuwai mid winter fun at Te Matariki.

On Wednesday the 18th of July 2007, 33 librarians braved the winter weather to attend a special LIANZA Hikuwai event at Manukau Libraries newest library - Te Matariki Clendon Community Centre and Library.

Special guest speaker Jody Gayton gave an inspirational talk about her time volunteering with VSA in rural Zimbabwe. Jody spoke of the challenges she faced in implementing a community library, and developing operational school libraries, in a society completely unlike anything she had ever encountered before. She shared wonderful photos and anecdotal tales (2 bouts of malaria and still smiling!) with a captivated audience. We followed her transition from arriving as the sole 'murungo' (white person), to leaving her second home after two and a half years as 'muroora we bikita' (daughter-in-law of the district).

Jody's thought provoking talk was followed by an exceptionally yummy winter warming dessert. Many thanks to Manukau Libraries for the delicious nibbles, and to Cathy Cooper and the staff of Te Matariki for hosting this great event.

