

Family fun at Children's Day



Enjoy a fun family day out in Hamilton on Saturday 2 March, from 10am to 2pm. Children's Day is a free event.

The Children's Day event managed by Hamilton Children and Families Trust has been running in the CBD for 6 years and it just gets bigger and better every year. Children's Day is about building the relationship between the child and parent/caregiver.

Highlights this year include:

- A tech zone and lego building inside Hamilton Central Library
- A chalk drawing competition in Civic Place
- A youth zone at Worling Place – this area is mainly for intermediate and college aged kids. There will be a skateboarding competition, and Parkour that is more challenging. This year Electrify NZ-Waikato will provide stepper bikes and an obstacle track for families to try out their bikes.
- Free entry into Excite and other exhibitions at the Waikato Museum
- Stalls of providers who provide services to tamariki in Garden Place. Stall holders are not about handing out information/resources, instead they provide an interactive activity as part of their stall. All stall holders need to be from organisations that provides a service for children or families.
- Live entertainment on the main stage in Garden Place

Rou from Hamilton Children & Families Trust says that the whole family unit can come out and enjoy all the activities at the event, as there is something for everyone.

“We don't want to have unhappy faces from rangatahi because they have been dragged out to an event that caters mainly to the younger age group” says Rou.

“Our event is not a babysitting service, we want to provide activities that create that relationship building between the parent/caregiver and child. As an example, we don’t pay for professional face painters, we have a DIY face painting tent to encourage families to paint each other’s faces” says Rou.

A family friendly space will be created in Garden Place with wooden BBQ tables and umbrellas, and a large water tank and bean bags around the venue for families to stay for the day’s activities. There are ample food outlets in the CBD to meet the needs of families depending on their budget but families are also encouraged to bring a picnic.

There is FREE parking in the weekend and BusIt will provide 2 FREE double decker buses to transport families to and from the North End of the Base to the Transport Centre or Waikato Museum throughout the event.

Rou says, ‘children’ are at the heart of putting on this amazing event.

“All I see at our event, is excitement, smiles, laughter, crying (because they have to leave LOL) and enjoyment” says Rou.

Organisations from mainly the community sector make up the working committee. The event is a collaboration between the Hamilton Children & Families Trust, Central Library, Waikato Museum and FREE FM. This group are always looking for more organisations to join the collaboration to put on the event. Over 60 volunteers give up their Saturday to ensure the event comes to life

Hamilton Children’s Day is on Saturday 2 March, from 10am to 2pm. Find out more at www.facebook.com/ChildrensDayCarnival