

Action aplenty at giant picnic

by Genevieve Helliwell
news@bayofplentytimes.co.nz

When 4-year-old Broady Martelli stood at the top of the world's tallest inflatable slide, he wasn't scared.

In fact, he had been looking forward to slipping and sliding down the mammoth water slide all morning. "I wasn't scared at all," said Broady. "It was really, really fun."

Broady and his family, from Hairini, spent Saturday enjoying the festive activities at the first annual Giant Picnic and Family Fun Day held at The Lakes, Tauriko.

Broady and hundreds of other children lined up for up to 30 minutes to ride the inflatable slide, and for him, he said the wait was definitely worth it.

As well as taking on the inflatable slide, Broady said he was looking forward to going on the rotating chair swing.

Three-year-old Sienna Foster also loved the swing and nodded when the *Bay of Plenty Times* asked if she enjoyed the ride. Her parents, Darren and Kerry of Bethlehem, said Sienna had been looking forward to the ride.

"She loves this kind of stuff," said Kerry. "She just said she wants to have another go."

The Fosters were one of more than 100 families that spent the day at the picnic.

Children were making the most of the free activities, which also included bouncy castles, an inflatable climbing wall, horse



WHEEE: Broady Martelli coming down the water slide at The Lakes Giant Picnic and Family Fun Day on Saturday.

PICTURES / SARAH GULLY 200310SG27BOP



RACER: Steve Trott with his remote-controlled mini-speed boat.

PICTURE / 200310SG23BOP

and cart rides and a live band.

Come lunchtime, picnic blankets littered the ground as many families enjoyed a bite to eat. Spectators enjoyed watching the 2010 New Zealand radio-controlled yacht championships.

Mr Foster said he had "an absolutely wicked day".

● WEEKEND PHOTOS — P8-10

Mobile phones fly through the airways

Throwing a cellphone as hard and as far as you can is not a normal Saturday activity but at the Aquinas College Fun Day Out, cellphones were being thrown left, right and centre.

Hundreds of people paid a small fee and entered the cellphone throwing competition, which was one of the many activities and games that carnival-goers enjoyed.

Julian Coburn, 10, from Pillans Point, took part in the competition because he wanted to win the top prize — an iPod shuffle. Julian had three attempts and his best throw (38m) was the second longest throw in his age group.

Aquinas College student

Natasha Owen also entered the cellphone throwing competition with throws of 38m, 42m and 45m. At that point in time, Natasha had thrown the longest distance in her category.

"Hopefully I can stay in the top three and move on to the finals," she said.

There were three categories in the competition; 10 and under, 11-15 years and 15 plus. Winners of each category received either a digital camera or an iPod.

Other popular activities included racing loos, Segway races, swinging chairs, bouncy castles, a mechanical surfboard, a water slide and carnival-like stalls. There were also Zumba demonstrations, a

belly dancing display and a silent auction.

A young band entertained the crowds as they sang chart-topping favourites, including Blink 182 and Red Jumpsuit Apparatus numbers.

Aquinas College PTA spokeswoman, Jan Cooney, said the day was a huge success, even though the weather was not ideal.

"We're not sure of exact numbers but I would guess that there were about 2500 people there today," she said.

"Around lunchtime, there was a huge rush of people and from there, everyone stayed throughout the afternoon. We're very happy with how it turned out."

— Genevieve Helliwell



HURTLER: Julian Coburn throws a cellphone in the competition heats at the Aquinas College Fun Day Out on Saturday.

PICTURE / JOEL FORD 200310JF12BOP

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Rider badly hurt

A motorcyclist was seriously injured after losing control on a bend on State Highway 2 near Waihi shortly before 7.30 last night. The 41-year-old Waihi man was flown to Waikato Hospital by the Tauranga-based TrustPower TECT Rescue Helicopter after he suffered serious head injury and multiple fractures.

goes to the entrance of the Harbour Park Retirement Village, on Preston Drive in Katikati. There will be no change to the rest of the current route. The Bayhopper — Katicoach service operates on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday only. For further information phone 0800 4 BAYBUS or visit www.baybus.co.nz.

Jobless man faces court

the property for about an hour and 15 minutes.

Portable loo pyromaniac

A fire that torched a portable toilet in Gordon Spratt Reserve on Parton Rd, Papamoa Beach is being treated as a possible arson due to its isolated location in the middle of paddock with no power source. The fire service was called about 11pm with the blaze attended by Mount

dollars & sense

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Lakes fun in the sun

FUN DAY: The first annual Giant Picnic and Family Fun Day was held at The Lakes. Bay of Plenty Times photographer Sarah Gully was there to take these pictures.



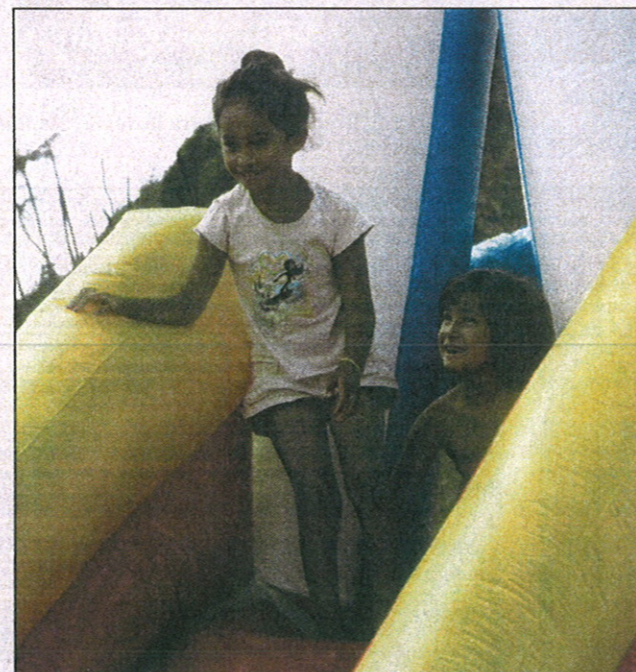
Kurtis Boyed, 14, of The Lakes.

PICTURE / 200310SG10BOP



Eleanor Pow, 8, of Mount Maunganui.

PICTURE / 200310SG02BOP



Madisyn Watene, 5, of Omanu, and Te Marie Smith, 6, of Matapihi.

PICTURE / 200310SG06BOP



The Murrell family — Ollie, 18 months, Bruce, Riley, 6, Cooper, 4, and Phillipa, of Tauranga.

PICTURE / 200310SG05BOP



The Wellsbury family — Kerry, Morgan, 4, Richie and Caleb, 2, of Tauranga.

PICTURE / 200310SG08BOP

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Micheal Rose, 12, of Greerton.

PICTURE / 200310SG01B0P



Aaron Keene, 5, of Welcome Bay.

PICTURE / 200310SG480P



Kaidin Morton-Quintus, 8, of Tauranga.

PICTURE / 200310SG17B0P



Giant picnic and family fun day.

PICTURE / 200310SG19B0P



Te Marie Smith, 6, of Matapihi.

PICTURE / 200310SG07B0P