



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**5 July 2009**

### **Rangiora High School Senior A Netball Team get a Taste of Italy in Hanmer Springs.**

Amuri Estate Retreat in Hanmer Springs provided a last minute fundraising opportunity to the Rangiora High School Senior A netball team, as they prepared to head offshore to play in the Southern Skies International Sports Tournament in Australia.

On Sunday 28 June, while most of South Island's youth were still tucked up warm in their beds, this enthusiastic group of netballers and their parents, were picking olives to raise funds for their upcoming tournament in Brisbane, July 5 – 11.

Their manager, Judith Hayman said, "this is a great opportunity not only to raise more much needed funds for the teams' trip, but it is also an excellent way for the girls to bond together and experience something people think only happens in the Mediterranean countries". "It's a great opportunity to have a new experience, and to see where olive oil comes from. We had no idea that olives could grow in Hanmer Springs!"

Amuri Estate Retreat, owned by Chis and Lisa Preston, is an organic olive grove of 1300 trees, and possibly the highest altitude commercial olive grove in New Zealand. This year marks their 8<sup>th</sup> harvest. In addition to olives the property boasts a "Noah's Orchard", so called as there are two each of plums, cherries, apricots, quinces, pears and apples and seven established walnut trees.

Chris says "harvesting in the Winter can have its challenges, but actually we can have some of our nicest weather at that time. Everyone comes dressed for the cold and by mid-day we're down to t-shirts. But we've also picked in the snow and rain – not the preferred time for most of our helpers". Fortunately the day provided some Mediterranean-like weather, and while not wearing t-shirts, the team stayed warm and dry.

"It's not as hard as we expected it to be", said one of the girls, "and you're picking with your friends which is fun". "I thought the girls did really well" said one of the parents. "They were having a good time and still being mindful about where they put their feet so they didn't damage the olives".

The team plan to use the money they earn from this fundraising to help with the travel costs in getting to Brisbane this month. They have been working toward this goal all year, successfully competing in the North Canterbury Premier competition and against Christchurch school netball teams. They hope to continue this success when they head across the Tasman.

Judith said “Chris and Lisa have been keen to help us achieve our funding goals this year and we may be able to make this an annual fundraising event for future Rangiora High School netballers”. “It was really good to have them here to pick”, said Lisa, “they are good workers, talked a lot and enjoyed a beautiful part of New Zealand. Chris & I are happy that we could help them in some way to make their trip a reality”.

So a ‘Taste of Italy’ for the girls of the Rangiora High School Senior A netball team in Hanmer Springs – a great way of reducing their carbon footprint.

For more information, please visit the Amuri Estate Retreat website at [www.amuri.co.nz](http://www.amuri.co.nz) or call 03 315 5059.

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