



What's the BUZZZZZZZZZ?



April/May 2009

Hi everyone!! I'm sitting in my bedroom in Western Springs, Auckland, the sun's pouring in and I'm in a singlet. Don't be fooled.....talk about changeable weather! I'm used to Nelson's consistency, whereas *here* I think "What a beautiful day, I'll walk up Mt Eden" and on the way down get absolutely SOAKED cos it's raining. Or I think "Yay, I'll hang out my washing it's so lovely today" and ten minutes later my washing is hanging heavily on the clothesline needing to be re-spun! Maybe that's why Neil Finn wrote "Four Seasons in One Day"??

Here's what's been happening since my last Newsletter:

I took a song-writing workshop at Nayland Primary with the OSCAR kids. It was really cool and they all came up with a song to either sing or read out in front of each other. There are budding young songwriters everywhere just waiting to burst into song!

I had my last session at The Childcare Company in Atawhai where we made dragons and sang songs together.

It was a really lovely day at Crackerjack Toys on 18th April. Thank you to all those people who came to say, "see ya", "good luck" and sing songs. Was really nice to see a lot of familiar faces. Thanks to Helen and the staff at Crackerjacks for all their help and support. Oh and thanks to my friend Meg, who took some great photos! I'll put them up on my blog and let you know the address when I have better internet access and have written a recent blog!! A bit slack on that front lately as I have been told.....

Had a very successful farewell gig with "The Nancies" at The Boathouse the night before I left for Auckland. We recorded it live and are in the process of finishing the CD off so we can sell it or use it for promotional purposes. I haven't heard any of it yet, so am really looking forward to a good listen. It was a sell out gig and an enjoyable evening. Thanks to The Leader, The Mail, The Breeze, Fresh FM and Wild Tomato for the publicity. Thanks Glenn, for providing me with material to write a song about and also for working on the door =) And thanks to you other Nancies, I'm missing singing with you.

The ferry crossing was **great** (thank goodness, because my last crossing was spent with my face in a bag.....!) I played for an hour in the café at the front of the ferry and really enjoyed it. It was an interesting crowd and luckily for me there were 4 kids, 2 of whom were under 10 and were happily sitting up close and listening and keen to do some jumping about. I sang some kids' songs as well as adults ones. A couple of over 10s were singing along as they used to sing the songs at school, which was pretty cool.

So, here I am in Auckland!! The big city, full of motorways, roads, cars, shops, people and houses. I have found everyone I have come across to be very friendly and helpful. As a general rule drivers are very courteous and

considerate. I've been lost a number of times, but always managed to find myself again (a bit reminiscent of my life....) With a map one can never go wrong....or can they? I found myself in the opposite direction to where I *should* have been one day – didn't have a clue where I was or how to get back. Those book maps are fantastic if you know where you are, but are difficult to navigate when you don't! Consequently a trip that should've taken 20mins, ended up taking around 1¼ hours! Luckily I wasn't going to a gig, so it didn't matter all that much. I *did* miss my turn off on the North Shore on the way to a gig and started heading to Whangarei.....thank goodness for the "Service Stop" where a lovely young man (who must get interrupted by desperate-looking people all the time) told me to take the next exit and turn around, which I did and was only 15mins late for my gig. I think the preschool teachers thought I was a little inefficient and slightly crazy when I rushed in laughing and saying I'd missed my turn off. I *had* rung to let them know that I was on my way to Whangarei.....They looked slightly relieved when I started singing my first song – a new "Welcome" song I wrote for preschoolers. The rest of the gig went smoothly and the kids were great! =D

I've performed with 3 schools and 3 preschools so far. I've been around several preschools and schools introducing myself and leaving info. I was on "Sunrise", TV3 one morning, singing backing vocals for my friend Mel Parsons, who writes and sings beautiful songs and has just released an album called "Over My Shoulder" (which I told you about in my last newsletter). Thanks Mel =) I'm hoping it will lead to me singing a kid's song or two on the same programme soon – I'll let you know if that comes to fruition. I have 3 big school gigs next week that I'm really looking forward to. I still need more for June and next term – so any help/referrals/names/email addresses of people you know in Auckland who may be teachers, have friends who are teachers, are mothers, fathers, grandparents....anyone or anything you think might help, I'd appreciate it.

"Mainly Toys" in Mt Eden Rd are now selling my CDs. They're a similar shop to Crackerjack Toys, Nelson. Thanks Helen for sending a picture of me performing in your shop, to Dianne, as she recognised me when I walked in!! Made all the difference. I have also approached a distributor and left my CDs for him to listen to, so I've got my fingers crossed that he likes them and will distribute to a few more retailers around the country. It's only half the battle though. Retailers are busy and haven't got time to promote everything they have in their shop, so I still need some wider publicity...I'm working on it.....

I think that's about it for this time. And that's probably enough; it's quite a lot of reading for ya! I'd be really happy to hear from anyone who feels like emailing back and saying "hi" or whatever. I know some people don't like replies to their newsletters, but I do =D

Keep warm, keep smiling, invite friends for tea, go for a walk along the beach, watch a DVD with your kids/parents, play cards and board games together, splash in the puddles and don't let the cold weather get you down - remember this.....

"Whether the weather is hot, or whether the weather is cold, or whether the weather is in between, or not what the forecast foretold, it can't be controlled, so! It's never the wrong time to go out"!

The block contains a handwritten signature that reads "Kath" in a cursive style. To the right of the signature is a simple line drawing of a bee with a smiling face, wings, and antennae.