



# Stars align with Waihi pair to help parents

By JILL CLEAVE

As a parent have you ever lay in bed after a full-on day and wondered how others cope with raising their children?

Waihi woman Anne Marie Spicer has, and she said she often pondered what other parents would do if presented with the particular situation she had been dealing with.

"I came up with the idea of creating a new and supportive kind of parenting book, written by well-known New Zealanders, for people at all stages of parenting, a few years ago," she said.

She said the idea was still mulling around in her mind when she met Paula Trubshaw a few years later.

"Paula is a fantastic and experienced writer and when I told her the idea she loved it and we ran with it," she said.

The book, *Parenting by the Stars*, is a quality collection of real-life parenting stories, tips, family photographs and favourite family recipes sourced from a wide range of New Zealand celebrities giving a unique insight into the ordinary, everyday lives of many of our best-loved stars.

Spicer said they began approaching celebrities and were blown away by responses.

"Everyone we approached was only too pleased to contribute especially when they found out profits from the book were going to the Dyslexia Foundation of New Zealand (DFNZ)," she said.

Neither woman nor their children have dyslexia but they both have clever and talented friends who do.

Spicer said after extensive research they decided all profits would go to support dyslexia.

"We found out one in ten people have dyslexia, a different learning preference, in New Zealand and conservative estimates suggest 50 per cent of people in prisons have dyslexia.

"We believe this is because the education system isn't built to support the

several different learning preferences many children in this country have," she said.

The pair met with the founders of the Dyslexia Foundation and were impressed with what they had achieved. Spicer said the foundation wants all year 13 students to leave school owning their dyslexia, not holding them back.

"We're excited to learn that in Waihi, two schools are planning on adopting the DFNZ's 4D Schools programme and our aim is to have as many schools as possible in the Hauraki region supporting all learning preferences and as soon as possible," she said.

There are 68 celebrity contributors including Michael Campbell, Toni Street, Lady Pippa Blake, Sir Peter Leitch, Nigel Latta, Diane Levy, Nicole Whippy and Jeremy Corbett.

*Parenting by the Stars* will be available in Paper Plus stores nationwide on Monday, March 16, which is the start of Dyslexia Awareness Week, and can be bought online at [parentingbythestars.co.nz](http://parentingbythestars.co.nz).

■ More information on the 4D schools programme can be found at [4d.org.nz](http://4d.org.nz).



We found out one in ten people have dyslexia, a different learning preference, in New Zealand and conservative estimates suggest 50 per cent of people in prisons have dyslexia.

**Anne Marie Spicer**



**REAL LIFE:** Waihi women Paula Trubshaw and Anne Marie Spicer with their book *Parenting by the Stars*, the proceeds from which will go to the Dyslexia Foundation.