



INSIDE:



**Pg 3
Stones
at MTC**



**Pg 7
Ton Up
Girls**



**Pg 24
The
Feelers**

Celebrating disability

Honouring diversity at display

BY BRENDA VOWDEN
brenda.vowden@hbtoday.co.nz

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is about honouring their diversity, says CCS Disability Action services coordinator Katrina Simmonds.

"It shows that people can achieve all sorts of things — and they are."

Katrina has joined Ali Shaplant from the Disability Resource Centre and Maggie Rawnsley from Idea services to organise a public event to celebrate those living with disabilities.

"We're doing this on behalf of a number of other services who support people with disabilities."

A raft of activities are planned, including a Taekwondo display, a kapa haka performance, live music, hand cycle demonstrations, carving and giveaway food.

"The point of us being involved is celebrating being inclusive and part of the community," Ali says.

In her role as support services manager, Ali heads the Network Personnel team, matching people to the right job and helping them into paid employment.

"Once placed we support them in their jobs by working closely with the employer and client to make it as easy as we can."

Another of the three teams at the Disability Resource Centre is Turning Point which works to help clients gain confidence and independence.

"We set goals and help people achieve them — it could be small or huge for that person."



ICAN: Disability Resource Centre client Johann competing at the ITF* Taekwondo World Championships in England.

everyone has a talent. Some people have been competing in mainstream tenpin bowling tournaments. It's all good stuff."

The third team is Scopez which looks after the personal cares of those with higher needs. There are 18 staff at the centre, with 58 people living with disabilities in Turning Point and Scopez and 30 actively seeking jobs.

"There are 50 on the Network Personnel waiting list in Hastings and 38 in Napier — it's a hard slog. There's so much need for this service out there, but funding is limited."

International Day of Persons with

