Exercise 1

This is the first draft of a news story. Can the intro and bridge be improved? If so, what would you write and why?

Māori Market big success

Contemporary Māori art is thriving in New Zealand judging by the roughly 7000 people who recently visited the Māori Market at the TSB Bank Arena, to see over 100 artists' work.

Visitors were blown away by the extensive selection of artworks on show and the live acts which ran throughout each day.

Ranui Calman from Miramar said she was impressed with the collection on display as well as the performances.

"I thought it was awesome how there was a range of art – with both modern and traditional elements.

"We also saw a kapa haka performance, which was fantastic."

The event featured artists at work on ta moko (traditional tattoo), clay sculpturing, weaving and carving and was open last Saturday and Sunday.

Renowned ta moko tattooist Derek Lardelli worked for two and a half hours on a moko for visitor Mokohiti Brown.

More than \$1 million was spent on art at the event and Lardelli said the process of creating a moko is easier when the subject is in the right frame of mind.

"It's just happening for this guy, it's meant to be there."

Exercise 2

This is the first draft of a news story. Can the intro and bridge be improved? If so, what would you write and why?

Volunteers retire

Two volunteers at the Compassion Centre soup kitchen are about to retire.

For more than 45 years Bernard Jones and Patrick White, both 78 and from St Kilda, have been serving up hot meals to Dunedin's needy, never missing a shift.

Now the duo will be going their separate ways, retiring from their monthly dinner duties at the soup kitchen in Taupo St, run by the Sisters of Compassion

White said they not only just serve meals, but also do the cleaning up.

"Bernard's washed more plates than anyone else in the country."

The men began volunteering in 1962 at the soup kitchen in Burns St.

Jones said before the kitchen opened, the society would hand out tickets to the homeless, to be redeemed for food at local cafes.

However, the system was not ideal.

"A lot of the guys were trading the tickets for booze."

Compassion centre manager Sister Margaret Mary Lloyd said as well as providing soup to at least 20 people every morning, about 60 people come for dinner each night.

"Many of the people are homeless, or at least in need of a good dinner.

"No one is ever turned away.

"If they're intoxicated they can't come in, but we will give them a takeaway."

Jones and White were two of the longest-serving volunteers, she said.

Exercise 3

Using the accident information below, write a news story of 250 to 300 words for tomorrow's local daily newspaper.

Central Police (Chief Inspector Dave Stephenson):

"The accident took place at about 10.45am this morning. I don't have all the information in yet, but what I can tell you is this.

"A car and a chartered Newlands Bus Services coach were in collision about two kilometres from Makara Beach.

"According to an adult on board, the bus hurtled through a hedge, bounced off a garage and buried itself in the side wall of a house.

"The car finished up overturned in the Makara Stream. The road is narrow where the accident occurred.

"Enquiries are continuing into the causes of the accident.

"Those killed were: The driver of the car, Ken Joseph Torry, 14, a secondary school boy, of Makara Village. The car was a 1989 Toyota Corolla. The bus driver, Tuakana Hohepa Ngere, 42, of Johnsonville. A passenger in the bus, Gordon Keith Souness, 11, of Newlands.

"The bus was carrying 45 children from Newlands School on a farm visit. They were accompanied by two teachers and four parents. The two teachers, one parent and seven children were injured. All were taken to Wellington Hospital with injuries ranging from minor to serious. Six ambulances went to the scene to take the injured to hospital.

"The road to Makara Beach was closed while the two vehicles were recovered and the bodies removed. After the collision the car apparently skidded along the road on its roof, burst through a farm fence across the road from the house, and stopped in the stream.

"Both vehicles were extensively damaged. The car was a write-off and the front of the bus, which absorbed much of the impact, was badly damaged."

Wellington Hospital (spokesman):

Confirmed that 10 admitted to hospital. Three have been admitted with serious injuries. The other seven have been treated and discharged. No other information.

House owner (Mrs Carlene May McDonald, 74):

"I was having a cup of tea in the kitchen at the back of the house when there was such a terrific crash and the house rocked. I thought, not another earthquake. It almost jolted me off my chair.

"I got quite a shock when I rushed outside to see what happened and the bus was halfway into my lounge. I lost my beautiful rhododendron and camellia, but I suppose I will have plenty of firewood."

Teacher (Ms Julie Smith of Tawa):

"It was awful. The car came around the corner going really fast for the road conditions. It was inevitable that we would hit.

"There was a loud thumping bang. The bus lurched to the right, bounced over the grass verge through the hedge, and ploughed into the house. Most of the pupils were marvellous. Some were scared, some were hurt, but there was very little panic or screaming.

"It all happened so fast, I guess. All the injured were in the front of the bus. I was lucky, I was further back."

Exercise 4

Find a few copies of recent New Zealand daily newspapers and community newspapers, destined for the recycling bin.

Ask a friend to cut out some of the headlines from the newspapers and file them in order. Then go through the newspaper devising your own headlines for the stories. Compare your headlines with those the newspapers published.

This will help you understand how headlines are written.