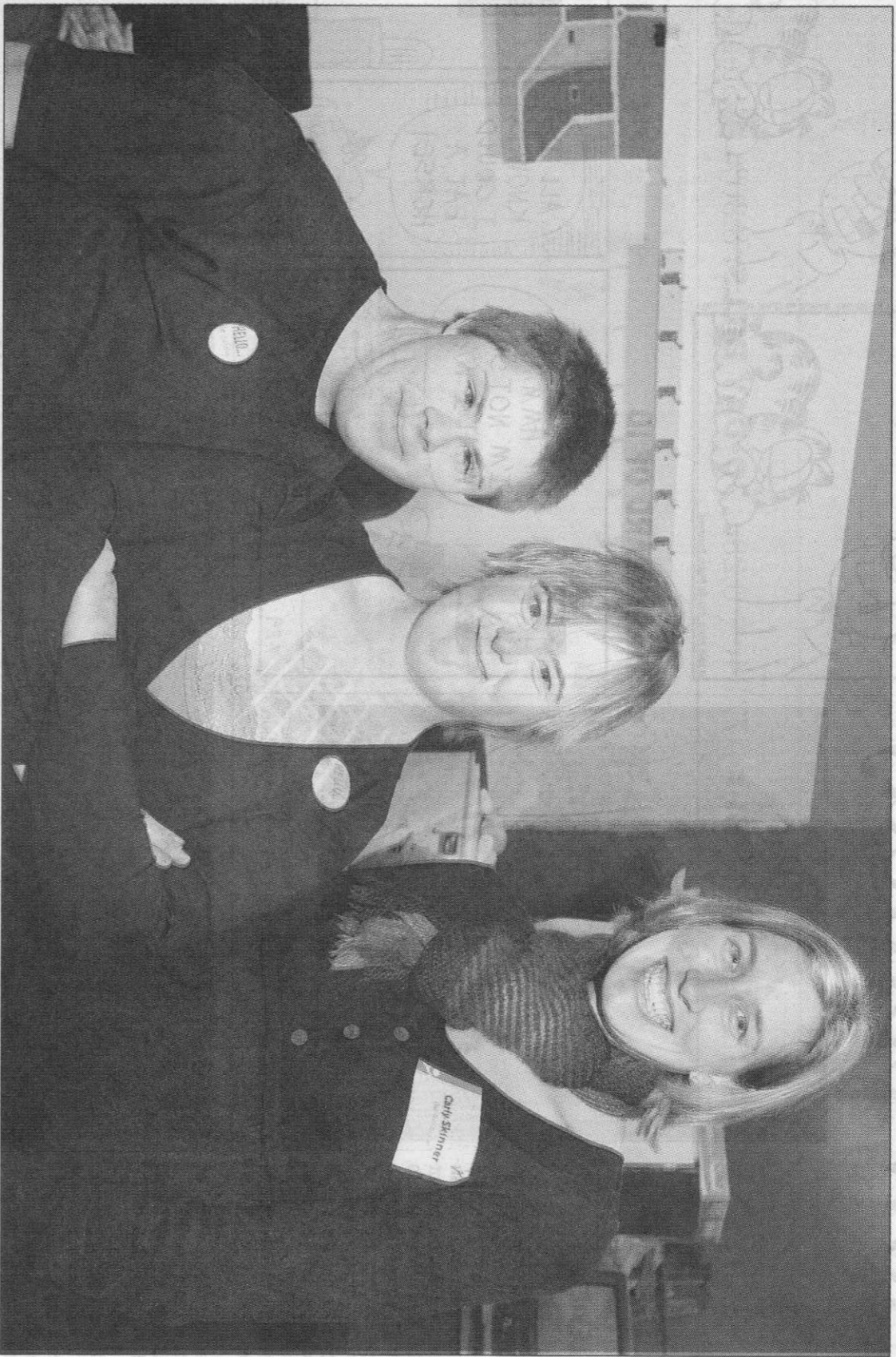


THE PEOPLE PAGE

WHAT: Wellington Down Syndrome Social Club launch



From left, Cameron Hasting, Nicola Murphy and club coordinator Carly Skinner.



One of the first patrons of the social club, Neville Pugh.

Party people

IT WAS all about mingling and socialising in safety at the opening night of Wellington's first social club for young people affected by Down syndrome. The inaugural event last Friday at the Ideas Service Day Base in Wellington was designed to combat the difficulties Down syndrome people have making new friends once they leave school. The Wellington Down Syndrome Social Club allows a fun and safe environment where they can meet regularly – and parents are invited. A former sportswoman of the year,



mountain runner Kate McLroy, who is also club patron, said she found the young people truly inspiring: "I enjoy the company of these young adults and admire their determination and love of life."

From left, trustee Carmen Slater, Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast and the social club's patron, mountain running champ Kate McLroy.



Support worker Hannah Gordon, left, with Mandy Thompson.