

## President's Report AGM – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Good afternoon to all members attending this afternoon's AGM and also to those who could not make it and have sent their apologies.

I would like to start by remembering a very important milestone in the Society's history that was celebrated earlier in the year. On Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011, at the Auckland Museum, 215 members and invited guests of the Society gathered at the Auckland War Memorial museum, to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Spastic Fellowship, which was the founding organization of the Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand.

Months of planning and many long hours went into ensuring that all in attendance had a fantastic evening and it was a chance to pay tribute to the pioneers who set up the Fellowship back on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 1951. People like Sir Charles Norwood, Paulette Leaning and Dr Earl Carlson. Special mention has to go to Harvey Brunt, Janet Chapman and Ross Flood for all of their efforts in helping to create such a wonderful occasion and a very useful resource in the timeline of the Society that was provided to all members following the event.

From a small group of people who had the vision to form the Spastic Fellowship back in 1951, the Society has now grown to **986** members, **857** who are current financial members and have renewed their membership for the 2011/2012 year. The Society has implemented some measures to make it easy for people to rejoin.

Of our **857** current members, **772** have cerebral palsy or have a member of their family with cerebral palsy. Since last October's AGM, the Board has approved **225** new members and the Board has set a target of **1500** members (with cerebral palsy) by the AGM of 2015 for Harvey and his team.

The current programmes still receive great uptake from our members, as listed below:

1. **getOutThere (gOT)** – we now have 550 members using this programme. This subsidized taxi programme has 46 taxi companies partnering with the Society from Whangarei to Invercargill.
2. **getThis&That (gTT)** – since its inception in Sep 2009, 492 members have used this programme and there has been an increasing uptake on this programme. There are 26 suppliers throughout New Zealand who have agreed to accept the Society's getThis&That vouchers.
3. **getStructured (gS)**– 28 members and their families have been approved for this programme to get their wills/legal paperwork in order. The uptake on this programme grew when the subsidy amount was increased to \$1500+GST. The Board will continue to look at ways to make this programme more attractive to members.
4. **getOnYourTrike (gOYT)** – there are currently 38 members using this programme. It is forecasted that by the end of June 2012, there will be 70 trikes in our leasing fleet.
5. **getPhysical (gP)** - a two month trial was run in Auckland back in July and August and of the 100 members invited to take part in the programme, 21 took up the offer. The programme was launched nationally on the 1<sup>st</sup> September and there are now 89 members using it. This programme has generated much interest and we expect it to be as popular as the getOutThere programme.

Since last October's AGM, the Society has received **91** applications for grants, of these, 65 were successful, and the total amount awarded was **\$126,000**. The inaugural Paulette Leaning Fund was used to provide \$100 in gOT vouchers and \$30 in petrol vouchers to gOT users in Christchurch. The Board felt the need to help with the difficulties that were experienced by our Christchurch members with all of the earthquakes in the region, since September 2010.

Following on from the Resolution that was passed at last years AGM – “That the Society appoints a Welfare & Information Officer”, Michael Northcott was appointed into this role and to date has visited all 5 members who requested this service. Michael's next visits will be in early November.

Even though the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was the largest function organised within the last year, there have still been other social events held over the last 12 months, which have been organised by Harvey, Janet, Michael and Luke, and have been very well attended by members, their families and carers.

There have been Cabaret Nights in AKL and CHC, Mid Winter Lunches and Brunches and Boccia Tournaments organised throughout the country. Functions are still being held in Christchurch, however venues are now limited to ground floor locations, which are proving a challenge to find, but the Society will still endeavour to provide the same number of functions as before the earthquakes. Back in March, there was a special event organised for children at Auckland Zoo and this proved a great success for young and old.

Special mention and thanks go to Harvey, Janet and the team for ensuring that all of the Society's functions are wonderful events and well attended by the members.

Later on this year, or in early 2012, a new initiative - **CP Neighbourhoods**, will be coming to a town near you, so please keep an eye on the Society's website and within the upcoming Reviews for further information.

I wanted to reconfirm the purpose of the Society, which is – **“to enhance the lives of people with cerebral palsy in NZ, by empowering them to make their own choices”**, with this being the case, the Board of the Society is working alongside the Board of Iris Ltd to get a Conductive Education programme back up and running at the Coyle St premises in Auckland. A parent lead organisation called Glow Kids Trust, has put forward a Business Plan to run a Conductive Education programme alongside Iris. The Society has provided support to Glow Kid's interim programme until a more permanent solution can be found.

Iris Ltd, which is owned by the Society, had some liability for the carers 'sleep over' issue which has been before the courts. This has now been resolved and the outcome has resulted in a reduced dividend to the Society. John Wade and his senior management team at Iris are still looking for ways that Iris can obtain new service contracts. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Dianne Kidd, who stood down in September from the Iris Board after 4 years, for her service to the Board and most recently as Chair of Iris Ltd. All the best Dianne for your future endeavours.

Unresolved at the last AGM, was the selection of an Audit Company for the Society. This was left to the Board to determine. In conjunction with Iris Ltd, the audit company, Grant Thornton was selected.

#### **Cerebral Palsy Society – Director Retirement**

On behalf of the Cerebral Palsy Board, I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to Tracy Wadsworth, who is retiring from the Board at today's AGM. Tracy is retiring after 4 years of service on the Board. Tracy has been a dedicated and valuable source of knowledge and we will miss her valuable input at Board meetings as well as her services on the Remuneration and Grants Committees. Thank you Tracy for all the hard work and time that you have put into the Society and we will miss your laughter and wisdom.

To the existing board of Peter Fergusson, Rosaline Fuatai, Anthony Smith, Red Nicholson, Michael Turner, Ira Turvey and Harvey Brunt, thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Society's affairs. There have been some busy periods with the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning and more recently with the Conductive Education facilitation process. I do appreciate and value the time that you give to the Board and the long hours that you have been away from home on Society business.

To the new Board members that are being elected today, welcome onboard and we look forward to your contribution and the skills that you will be bringing to the Board for next 12 months.

Yours sincerely,

Karl Sangster - President of the Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand Inc