

President's Report – October 2007



I would like to start off my Report by firstly thanking everyone for attending today's AGM, and for your continued support of the Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand.

What a year it has been, this past year will go down in the history of the Society as a year of rebuilding (laying new foundations) and re-branding.

We started off by moving out of Coyle St and temporarily moving our address to the North Shore LIFE centre, before establishing a fulltime office at the CCS building, Erson Ave Royal Oak.

We had a wonderful Christmas lunch at Unitec that was kindly organized by Lesley Ferkins and well attended by members and friends of the Society.

In late December, there was a Special General Meeting that was called by members of the Society, and a vote of no confidence in the Board was defeated by an overwhelming number of members present.

In early January, the CPS Open Boccia tournament was held, and once again well attended. In conjunction with the tournament a dinner and dance at the Papatoetoe Town Hall was organized, which also recognized the achievements of the NZ Boccia team who had won gold in Rio back in October 2006. This was a wonderful occasion and special thanks go to Harvey Brunt and family for arranging the entertainment and decorating the venue. To all of those that attended the tournament and dinner, thanks for making it such a great occasion.

In late January, the Board advertised for a General Manager, and in February, Harvey Brunt accepted the position and was appointed GM for the Society.

Harvey has been instrumental in growing the Society, and implementing the projects that the Board recognized as priorities which arose from the Strategic Planning sessions:

1. **getConnected Project** - Following on from the successful getConnected Pilot project, where 2 computers were installed in houses of CPS members, there have been 6 further applications to take part in this project. Thanks to Michael Northcott, for managing this project.
2. **getOutThere Pilot Project** - 45 people have signed up for the getOutThere project, we hope that more members will sign up and take advantage of the subsidized transportation that is on offer.

We had another successful event at the mid winter Christmas lunch, at Butterfly Creek, with 101 people in attendance, this just goes to show how supportive our members are and I would like to thank all those people who attended the lunch, and especially to our Special Guests – Reagan Davies, who was the author of the book, 'People Like Us', which was sponsored by Society and also to the Kotuku (White Heron), who just happened to make a "guest" appearance to coincide with launching of the new CPS logo!!!!

Both Harvey and I had the pleasure of being invited to the 40th Anniversary dinner, for the Laura Fergusson Trust, and we sat alongside Dame Barbara Goodman, a former President of the Society back in the 60's. This was a wonderful event and highlights the fact that 40 years ago, the Society was very active in the disability sector in Auckland, and this is somewhere that we strive to be once again in the coming years, not only in Auckland but also in New Zealand.

This year, we also received a \$212k bequest from the estate of Mavis Fowler, which the Society has gratefully accepted and this money will be used to finance projects for the coming year.

Another change in 2007 saw the "Dynamic Duo" of Paul Munckhof and Ross Flood, take over the editorial, design and layout of "The Review". I would like to congratulate both Ross and Paul for their fantastic efforts in putting together such a good read.....we look forward to many more interesting stories in coming editions.

Paul Munckhof is also the Society's webmaster and has revamped the website. Visitors to the site have increased by a factor of 3 and the amount of bandwidth has increased 15 fold. I encourage you to visit the website as new articles are added to it each week and news of coming events is continually updated.

On behalf of the board, I would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to the 3 board members that are standing down this year. They are:

Geoff Barnes
Lesley Ferkins
Craig Hobbs

Geoff was voted onto the Board at the AGM on the 9th August 1992, he has been serving on the board for 15 years and is our longest serving member. Geoff's knowledge of the Society and matters relating to Cerebral Palsy, plus Geoff's humor will be missed by the board. Thanks Geoff for being such a great servant to the society for the last 15 years.

Lesley Ferkins and Craig Hobbs both joined the board in August 2005, and has been a great asset to the board and Society. Lesley's background was governance, and she was wonderful in helping with designing the strategic plan and was involved in interviewing the candidates for the General Managers position earlier in the year. Thanks Lesley for your knowledge and expertise, your shoes will be hard to fill. Good luck with you new role at AUT.

Since November 2006, Craig Hobbs has been the Chairman of Focus 2000. This has been a very challenging and time consuming role for Craig. With the departure of Anne Murphy earlier this year, Craig worked closely with the staff of Focus, reassuring them that it was business as usual, and also helping to ensure that the clients of Focus 2000 still received the highest standard of care during this time of change. Craig was instrumental in hiring Bruce Gallop as the interim CEO and did a wonderful job during this period. Craig was then involved with the employment of John Wade as the new CEO of Focus 2000. John has quickly come up to speed with the core business that Focus operates under. At Focus' shareholders meeting this month the CPS board were able to hear John's thoughts on where Focus is now and how to move Focus forward in the coming year. Craig has been an integral part in the strong relationship between the board of CPS and staff/clients of Focus 2000. I wish Craig all the best with his new role as CEO at the National Maritime Museum and also as Chairman of Focus 2000.

To the existing board of Peter Fergusson, Peter Atkinson, Paul Munckhof, and Harvey Brunt, thanks for your continued support and dedication to the Society, without your strength and courage, things may certainly have been different.

To the new people joining the board, Daniel Aldersley, Todd Fernie, Immanuel Koks, Glenis Lobb and Tracy Wadsworth, I look forward to working with you over the coming year to ensure that the society continues to grow and support its members through the existing projects and new opportunities that will arise.

Over the coming weeks, the board will be signing off on the structure of the Cerebral Palsy Endowment Foundation, and we hope to have the new directors in place by the start of 2008. We have also identified the need for more business orientated directors on the Focus 2000 Board and we are currently identifying key people with the necessary skills to help serve on this board.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming Christmas lunch on Sunday 16th December in Auckland and, both Harvey and I will have the pleasure in meeting our Christchurch members for lunch on Sunday 9th December.

I really am looking forward in the coming year, to growing the Cerebral Palsy Society to a truly New Zealand based Society.

Yours sincerely,

Karl Sangster
President,
Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand Inc.