

The Review

August 2010



The Official Magazine of the Cerebral Palsy Society of NZ Inc

Contact Details

Cerebral Palsy Society of NZ

Office Address

14 Erson Ave
Royal Oak
Auckland 1345

Postal Address

P.O Box 24759
Royal Oak
Auckland 1345
New Zealand

Phone: 0800 503-603

Fax: 09 624-1802

Information & Enquiries

cpsociety@cpsociety.org.nz

General Manager

Harvey Brunt
harvey@cpsociety.org.nz

Project & Property Manager

Michael Northcott
michael@cpsociety.org.nz

Members Manager

Janet Chapman
janet@cpsociety.org.nz

Editor, Writer & Researcher

Ross Flood
rflood@cpsociety.org.nz

Review Design & Webmaster

Paul Munckhof

Researcher

Amy Hogan
amy@cpsociety.org.nz

Website www.cpsociety.org.nz

Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, Cerebral Palsy Society of NZ or Iris Ltd

Cover

Chris Haverkort on his trike

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Mall Invasion

Twenty-four tykes on trikes, plus their supporters, invaded St Lukes Mall in Sandringham on Sunday 15th August, for a Grand Treasure Hunt.

This event was all made possible by our hard working member Chris Haverkort who successfully asked for a variety of vouchers, from St Luke's shopkeepers to cover retail treasure, balloons and McDonalds for a well earned lunch, after the hunt was over.

Chris & his team for a number of years have been making adapted tricycles for children with Cerebral Palsy. As soon as they are road worthy the tricycles are put into a pool by the Cerebral Palsy Society and hired out at \$10 a month, to families who request them.



It was inspiring to see how wonderfully the scheme is working as the kids peddled under an impressive balloon archway, supplied by Balloons Direct and off to dig up some loot, at a faster pace than Long John Silver could ever muster.

Places like Farmers and K-mart contained the x that marked the spot and a coloured balloon signalled a tag lay beneath it. The tag paid for the

treasure of choice which included popular CD's like "Bob the Builder" bath time toys, books like "Scoop the Digger" and of course the old favourite "Thomas the Tank engine"

Once back at the food hall treasures were temporarily forgotten, as a feast of McDonalds took centre stage. All too soon it was homeward bound and once again through the archway everyone departed, where each child received a participation medal.

The media, including TV 1, were there to capture the moment to raise awareness, an awareness conveying the message that these kids were just ordinary kids, having fun & catching up with friends.

Ross Flood



The Disability Allowance Adventure!



People with significant CP can be on the Invalid's benefit from the age of 16 (even if still at school). There is also another allowance paid by WINZ called the 'Disability Allowance' which is a weekly sum to compensate for extra costs incurred for the treatment of the person's CP. The maximum weekly amount for the disability allowance is \$56.98/week. It is allocated based on a person's expenses from the previous year.

My wife talked me into joining her for a visit to WINZ to answer queries regarding my daughter Leonie's 'disability allowance'. I thought this could be a great learning experience, also my wife wanted to show me how power drunk some of their staff could be. My wife is Leonie's agent... so off her and I set.

We approached the reception at WINZ at our allotted time (3pm) and then sat down to wait. Fourty minutes later we were approached by Craig (European, late thirty's... and hot, as I was later to learn from my daughter) and we joined him around his desk. Leonie's file was brought to the desk and Craig started coming up to speed with it. In our file (which had been lost and found at WINZ a couple of times in the month leading up to this) were all the receipts for

expenses that Leonie had incurred because of her CP. Stuff like Osteopaths/Doctors/Specialists etc, which my wife has fastidiously accumulated over the previous year. As we had submitted items for these services in previous years, Craig just cross checked that these services had been approved by Leonie's doctor. It was implied that for new services, some proof of their need would be required in writing from your doctor. Each receipt was checked for dates (i.e. were they in the period being considered ?) and then the amount tabulated.

After proceeding through all the receipts, Craig then started calculating the mileage. My wife had driven Leonie to these services in our Ford Transit Van. The vehicle was checked in WINZ's database, Ford Transit Van: 40c/km. The receipts from the Osteopath were checked for the address, Google maps were opened up on the screen and distance Osteopath to our house was calculated to one decimal point. This was done in turn for each of the a providers until a total mileage was found. On one receipt there was only

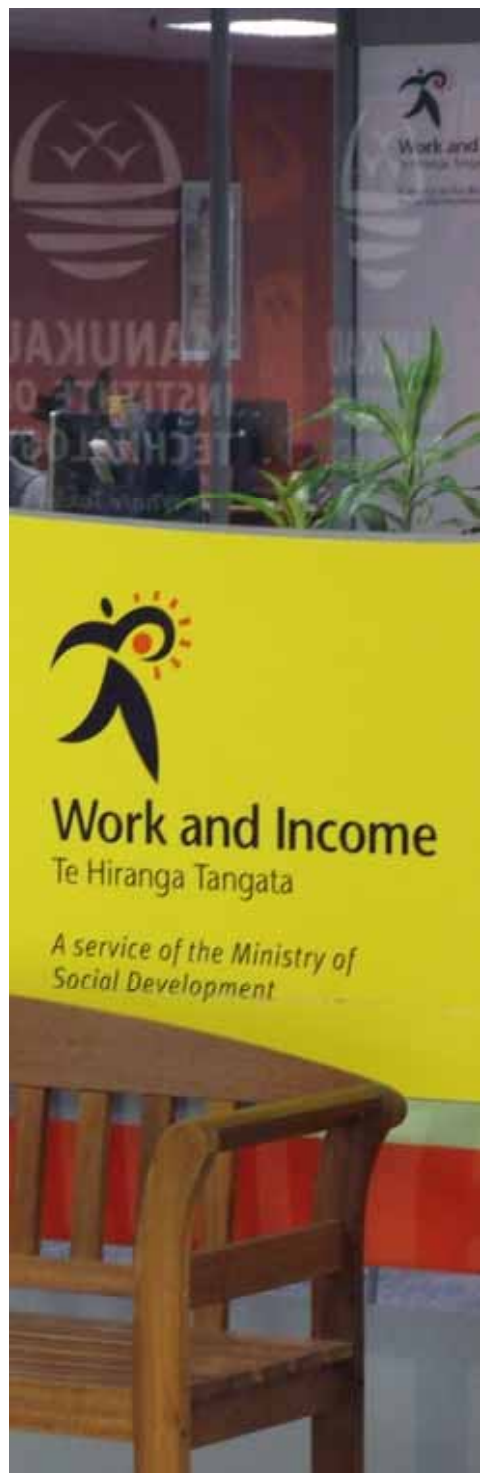


P O Box, Craig was straight onto the phone to get the physical address and work out a mileage, no stone was left unturned!. He then asked if Leonie had done any shopping as mileage for this necessary activity also counted towards the total mileage. Alas we had no shopping receipts (darn!) but noted this new revelation for the future. Before concluding the mileage he asked if we could get the registration ticket from the Van, I presume to prove that this was indeed the vehicle we actually had. On the way out to the vehicle I was thinking that Craig was one thorough mother, or perhaps we looked shifty to him. Certainly he had a very good manner about him and all these requests were done in such a way that we were happy to accommodate him. His rigour in this matter made me feel that my tax payer's dollars were not being fritted away.(I thought he could earn more money as an accountant, a career in which he would have excelled). By this stage 5pm was fast approaching and there were significant stirrings at WINZ as everyone prepared to hit the road running. With a little desperation Craig queried whether he should finish this off tomorrow and then let us know the result, his shoulders noticeably sagged as we said 'no way' (after all, you want a result after two hours of waiting, accounting, adding, Googling and phoning). His pace now noticeably quickened as Leonie's final weekly disability allowance slowly popped out of his calculations. Darn, it was less than last year..... oh well.

We headed for the exit at 5:10pm where the security guard opened the exit to let us out.

Although the process was time consuming, I found it a reasonable experience. My wife said it was her best visit to WINZ so far, so Craig... well done!

Harvey Brunt



Progress on CP Lifespan Research

How many people with CP have children?

What is it like to be a parent with CP?

What are the differences between the types of CP on a daily basis?

What exercise programs are best for the different levels of CP?

These are four of the questions that we are investigating in the CP Lifespan Research. This project is well into the interview stage. So far CPS members have been enthusiastic to participate both as interviewees and research assistants.



Over the next several months we will be consolidating an interview timetable for people both inside and outside Auckland. I am also in the process of training up research volunteers to undertake some of the transcription and dictation. Whilst the research is still in its early stages and the sample size is small, I am feeling optimistic that interesting and useful information is being gathered for the future database. Once the data has been analysed and refined. Result snapshots will be in The Review and on the Society's website.

Before I take the questionnaire to other parts of New Zealand I am keen to make contact with as many people as I can within the Auckland area. We can be flexible about timing and can arrange meetings at a place of your choosing. In recognition of your contribution the Society is able to offer you vouchers as a koha.

As stated previously, the ultimate goal

with this research is to produce a central source of information about CP through the lifespan that reflects daily life. I am working with several IT specialists to plan and design the best way to present this information once it has been transcribed from the interview format. It is hoped to make the information website as accessible and user friendly as possible. If you have any expertise or suggestions please feel free to contact me.

If you want to participate in the research, have any comments or questions my contact details are at the front of the Review.

Amy



Director of Boccia starts 1st September

The Board of the Cerebral Palsy Society approved a new initiative to encourage members into the sport of Boccia, a sport specifically designed for people with CP. Luke Morriss has been appointed to the position of Director of Boccia and will be based at the Society's office in Auckland and reporting to Harvey Brunt GM. Luke begins on the 1st September. We hope that this initiative over the next 2 years will bring a new birth of enthusiasm to the sport, and start the journey of New Zealand Boccia back to where it should be.

"New Zealand Boccia has a proud international history since its beginning and with the growing number of players world-wide, it is time for New Zealand to once again take the lead. Aiming at the 'grassroots level' and looking into schools and clubs alike, we are aiming to promote and grow the number of players in New Zealand, while developing and enhancing a range of physical, mental and social skills that contribute to this wonderful sport. This will in turn, help provide a pathway to success and enjoyment while improving quality of life for everyone involved in this exciting new project," said Luke.

We look forward to our members giving Boccia a go!



Luke is the twin brother of NZ Paralympian Boccia rep, Jeremy Morriss. Luke, along with the rest of the Morriss family travelled to Athens Paralympics, in 2004 to support the New Zealand team. In recent years he has played a vital role ramp assisting for the New Zealand's international pairs. With his important hands on experience, Luke brings vital knowledge to his new role of Director of Boccia.



Of course we can-can

"The first step is to just turn up. We take your strengths and the group strengths and together we create a dance", said Allie Carter, who facilitates "Dance4everyone" classes which ignores labels of disability and special needs and concentrates on capabilities.

In her mid-twenties, Allie Carter left the corporate world behind and embraced the world of dance. She danced as a child and wanted to introduce others to the world of infinite rhythmic possibilities. She especially wanted to make the floor boards accessible for people who didn't have the same opportunities as others.

She was often told that disabled people can't dance, and so she stubbornly set out to disprove this negative perception. "I've got students who can only blink their eyes but that's dancing. They're blinking their eyes while dancing so they are experiencing the dance and therefore they are being part of it," said Allie.

At AUT she enrolled in a degree in dance, focusing her research project and papers on special populations. In 2005 "Dance4everyone" was formed and she spread the word into appropriate areas like special schools and within two days she was booked out.

One of the schools she visits is the Carlson school, where she works with staff to introduce movements to the pupils there. A Scottish Reel was performed which led to great interaction. "Dance4everyone" takes the positive out of the situation. "It's not about people sitting in wheelchairs. It's about people



"Of course I can dance"

sitting at the same level and this can be a good start for a dance routine," said Allie.

"Dance4everyone" emphasises therapeutic, physical and social improvement rather than performance. However they do put on some shows where parents of the dancers can forget for a short while the mundane medical concerns, and just sit back and be proud of their son's and daughter's performances.

"Dance4everyone" has recreational classes in four areas which are Blockhouse Bay, Sunnynook, Papakura and Orakei. They are also willing to visit a group of ten or more dance enthusiasts anywhere around Auckland.

So come along and join in the fun!

For general enquiries link into the website www.dance4everyone.com email dance4everyone@xtra.co.nz or ring Allie Carter Ph 021 634 554



60th Celebrations, 12th March 2011

The organizing committee is making good progress. The venue at the Museum has been booked. The number of attendees has been set for 250, with 200 places being available to the members. Cost for members is planned to be \$40, for a carer in attendance \$40 also. Non-members will be at \$75.



The run sheet for the night is presently looking like this: 4:30-5:30pm arrival and drinks, mingling. Everyone seated by 5:50, Welcome 6-6:15pm, 6:15pm entrée served, 7:15pm main served, 8-8:30pm history and speech, 8:30pm desert, band and dancing 8:30-11:30pm.

The meal is not buffet, but served. The dress standard is still being decided, but will probably be reasonably formal.

So keep the date free and start saving your pennies!

Harvey Brunt

AB's to win the World Cup (This is not a Tui ad) You too could be there



2011 is definitely going to be the year of the RUGBY NUT. Grown men are already salivating at the prospect of the oval ball's world cup right here on our shores. It's going to be Rugby Heaven with all the great teams and individual stars raiding our fields.

RUGBY NUTS with a disability have not been forgotten as it claims on the Rugby World Cups official website that "If you have a disability and/or require wheelchair –accessible seating, please email specialneeds@rwc2011ticketing.com to request an application form. Alternatively, please call 0800 rugby11 (0800 784 2911 or 64 9 367 2011 from overseas or mobile and our customer Service representatives will assist you with your application.

So polish up your wheelchair, paint your face black and get in behind the mighty All Blacks



2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 17th October

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand Inc will be held on Sunday the **17th October 2010**, beginning at 2pm, at the **DRC Meeting Room**, 14 Erson Avenue, Royal Oak, Auckland.

Resolutions for consideration, and **Nominations** for the Executive Board must be sent to: Cerebral Palsy Society, PO Box 24759, Royal Oak, Auckland 1345, to be received no later than 4pm on 17th Sep 10.

The agenda, financial report, etc. will be sent to each financial member prior to the 29th September 2010.

Remember, to vote, you must be a current financial member.

We farewell our Scotty

As the "REVIEW" heads to the publishers we report, with great sadness, the passing of Cerebral Palsy member Scott Dumble. On Saturday 21st August Takapuna's St Joseph's Church, was full of extended family and friends who came to give their respects and celebrate a life of determination and courage.

Scott was the "conductor of his own support system" was one of the most poignant comments at his funeral. This comment touched the hearts of many in the congregation, as it summed up Scott's character perfectly



His cerebral palsy had left him non verbal but he most definitely had a voice. More often than not his voice was delivered with a big smile, a twinkle in his eye and a facial gesture. No matter how it was delivered the message always got through.

Brothers Ray and Craig Dumble spoke of the good times and highly praised their parents Sue and Ray who guided Scott towards a life of quality.

Scott will be sadly missed by the Society, the Boccia Community and his friends at Creative Abilities



Nomination Form

Nominations for the Executive Board of the
Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand Inc
for 2010/2011

Please tick a role

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Board Member



Name of Candidate: _____

Signature: _____

Name of Nominator: _____

Signature: _____

Name of Seconder : _____

Signature: _____

Nominations and resolutions must be received by 4pm on the 17th Sep 2010. The candidate, nominator and seconder must be current financial members as of the 17th Sep 2010.

Please return nominations and resolutions to:
CP Society, PO Box 24759, Royal Oak, Auckland 1345



TalkLink's South Island Expansion

TalkLink, the assistive technology service agency, has broadened its scope and now covers the whole of NZ. In 2008 TalkLink's board of trustees decided to explore the feasibility of starting up a small office in Christchurch to do some NASC assessments.



At the end of that year there was a call for tender to provide a service to the South Island. TalkLink went through a vigorous exercise and it managed to win the contract. Currently TalkLink's southern team is sharing office space with Christchurch DPC centre at 314 Worcester Street. From its office base the team travels around completing assessments in the South Island

The success in the South Island has helped boost TalkLink referrals to 192 during the last quarter –April/June 2010 “Approximately two-thirds of these referrals are new clients. The rest are former clients who need re-assessing,” said General Manager Ann Smail.

Ann Smail is really excited about the southern expansion and enthusiastic about the future.

She talks keenly about the latest face to face communication devices which have a dynamic display touch screen that navigates between pages and stores a lot of knowledge.

“Nowadays some of these devices are also computers which can send emails, surf the web and make text,” informed Ann.

The eye gaze concept is the next big thing with its built-in camera which captures the focus of the users gaze on the screen and proceeds to write the message. This technology is developing rapidly but is still very expensive and like any technology, there needs to be a comprehensive assessment to determine if it is the right system for the individual.

Funding for equipment remains the biggest obstacle, but the Ministry of Health are working very hard to look at a prioritisation tool, to help work out an equitable way of funding

“Funding is certainly an issue but costs do come down. For example one of the first communication speech to text systems ‘Dragon Dictate’ cost \$20,000 in the mid 90’s and now it costs \$300, and is a far superior product” said Ann.

For further enquires go to www.talklink.org.nz/ where a self referral option is available.



Is a Speech Impaired agency needed?

We need your opinion on an agency specifically for the speech impaired. Is there a need for such an agency and what would be its purpose? Advocacy? Funding? General support? We would appreciate your view of this concept.



I was shooting the lunchtime breeze with Harvey last week where the conversation turned to the various organisations that advocate for specific disabilities. As we all know the Blind and Deaf are well catered for as they have a long history of strong and vocal advocacy. During our conversation Harvey raised the point that there is no specific agency for the "Speech Impaired." This had been brought to his attention by several members of the Society

That thought lingered in my grey cells for quite a while and it got me thinking, is this a gap in the disability community that needs to be filled?

Throughout my life I have listened to friends, with severe speech impairment relate their stories of frustration when people ignore them simply because they are in too much of a hurry to decipher the message. Others have simply wanted to book a taxi by phone and had their plans abruptly halted by impatient dispatchers who hang up in mid-sentence. There is also that recent story which received media coverage of a communicative device user who wasn't allowed to submit a verbal speech as

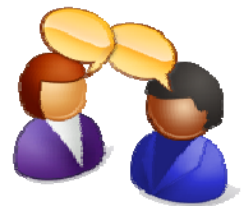
part of her exams at school. Communicative devices are essential for the speech impaired to take their rightful place in society. These devices are expensive and therefore a powerful agency would be more than useful to ensure this type of equipment is widely distributed.

There are problems with this concept. The speech impaired are a diverse lot. For example their impairment could be caused by a stroke, head injury or Cerebral Palsy. Could such a diversified group have enough unity to stick together?

Whatever the potential problems we should not lose sight of this concept.

Get in contact and tell us your opinion.

Floody



Work with Purpose

Under the tutelage of Rehab/Art Therapist Marion Gordon-Flower and Occupational Therapist, Jillene Kay, four clients have graduated from stage one of the "Work with Purpose" programme. This client driven pilot programme, held at "Iris headquarters" was a thorough investigation on the best way to seek employment.

Iris life style coordinators made recommendations about people who already identified work as a goal, to fit the criteria of the programme.

Once the selection was made an introductory day in December was held to discuss programme content.

In 2010 the sessions started in earnest and it soon became obvious that Work with Purpose was aptly named.

Aspirations were identified, developed and desired skills were. The research task was undertaken by each individual, in the area of the job market that interested him or her.

One of the most important discussions was to know how to sell yourself. The question was asked "What personal qualities have you that would interest employers"

That led into various aspects of job seeking such as the importance of the dress code, tidiness, punctuality, good interviewing/communication skills and managing relationships in the work place.

Towards the end of the programme guest speakers and specialists' employment co-ordinators from Work and Income and Elevator provided valuable support.



"Dusting for fingerprints"

One of the highlights was a trip to the Police station where at least one of the "Work with Purpose" group identified as a desirable place to work.

The result of all this hard work is that one of the group is receiving valuable work experience at an art gallery for a week. to help with an upcoming exhibit While there she will learn how the marketing is done, participate in the build up and go to the opening.

There are other work experience possibilities in the police and immigration departments.

If you would like to participate in the next round of stage one "Work with Purpose" programme contact Marion Gordon-Flower mgordon@iris-health.org.nz who has a background in Teaching and Supported Employment. Places are limited but expressions of interest are being taken for the next stage I group.



Young Adult Course

Here is something for our more able members and, within the pages of the Review, the often neglected brothers and sisters of our members.

Miomo is a ten day live-in, life and leadership camp designed for 17-24 year olds. Miomo is an acronym for "making it on my own" and equips students to lead independent, responsible and successful lives.

As Memo's creator Yvonne Godfrey states on her website she is passionate about "guiding young people into adulthood equipped with the life skills, confidence and excitement they need for the journey ahead."

Yvonne is absolutely open to people with disabilities. Albany's Camp Maynard accommodates young people with disabilities as it has a wheelchair accessible bathroom and everything is on one level.

The Memo camp reflects a flattening environment where everyone is equally responsible to run the household in an adult manner.

Campers have lessons in money mastery, CV development and presentation skills, drug and alcohol awareness, cooking and developing healthy relationships.

There is a very big emphasis on presentation and communication skills. The students must be able to have meaningful conversations.



"Lesson learnt at Miomo"

Detailed personalised CV's are compiled before mock job interviews for each student are set up. Students must wear the appropriate dress to these interviews.

Yvonne has 25 expert presenters to call on including Shortland Street celebrities who take part in theatre sports on the first night of camp, fitness trainers, the "Blue light" police team who take team building exercises, two senior prison wardens who come in from maximum security at Paremoremo and disability awareness sessions.

On the last day there is a three hour seminar with the parents while students clean up for graduation on Saturday afternoon. At the ceremony students deliver a 5-7 minute speech to 50-60 people about what they have learnt on Miomo and what their future looks like.

For further enquires contact Yvonne on Phone 413 9777 or 027 249 5444
Email: yvonne@miomo.co.nz
Website: www.miomo.co.nz/



Opportunity to walk with pride

Is your child approximately 3 to 12 years old? Does he or she have some ability to weight bear in a supported standing position and have some leg movement when supported.

If the answers yes to all of the above your child maybe suitable for a Hart Walker, especially designed for children with movement and coordination disorders.

The Hart Walker can help a child achieve many things, including gaining self confidence and the opportunity to interact with others on a more equal basis than before. It can help a child improve their physical fitness and it can be great fun," said Megan Waterhouse National Coordinator for the Lions Clubs NZ Child Mobility Foundation which includes the Hart Walker Project.

Clinics began in New Zealand in August 1999. So far 108 kiwi children have been fitted. 33 children are currently using Hart Walkers in New Zealand (17 in the North Island and 16 in the South Island).

NZ Lions funded a few of the walkers in the first 2 years due to parents approaching the Clubs. Lions started funding on a larger scale around 2001 and this has grown so that now they are funding most of the Hart Walkers.

Clinics to fit and adjust the walkers are held twice a year in Auckland, Wellington Christchurch and Dunedin These clinics, hosted and supported by Lions Club members in each centre, are run by a therapist (Physio or OT) and an orthotist.

Once suitability has been determined, a brief referral form is completed by the family. From there, Genny Hanning (NZ



Lions Hart Walker Project Coordinator) commences coordinating fundraising via the client's local Lions Club. When funding has been approved, the walker is ordered and the child is fitted at their next local clinic. The cost of the first fitting, and first 3 adjustments at the 6 monthly clinics, are covered by the cost of the walker.

South Island: Genny Hanning

Email: gennyh@earthlight.co.nz
(preferred)

Mob: 027 200 0510 (please leave a message or text as Genny has hearing loss)

North Island: Megan Waterhouse

Email: mwaterhouseot@gmail.com
Mob: 027 299 0281



Veteran dancer at age 22

As a 10 year old Alisha McLennan first performed with the integrated dance company Touch Compass, at the launch of the Trust at the Auckland Art Gallery in 1999. She then performed in the youth performance *My Room* and in the performing arts weekend at the Aotea Centre in a piece directed by Linda Parker. She joined the company when she was just 14, touring Lusi's Eden in 2002 to Taupo and Christchurch, and performing Lighthouse later that year at the Aotea Centre. Acquisitions 03 and Nightswimmers with Splash Dance Company followed, then Flying Tales in 2004.

She grew up on Auckland's North Shore where she attended Wilson School, Belmont Intermediate and Takapuna Grammar. In 2003 she moved to Christchurch with her family to live on a farm. While in Christchurch Alisha attended a non-disabled dance programme, and she performed at the 2005 St Margaret's College Dance Variety Night. She also began a degree in political science at Canterbury University.

Alisha is being mentored by Touch Compass, volunteering in the office, working as a dancer and support dance tutor along with being seconded to the trust board. Alisha has been working with Takapuna Grammar dance teacher Juliet Cryns and students to produce an integrated dance performance. This was showcased on 16 June 2010 to much acclaim.

Outside of dance she is a passionate



skier winning the Viv Martin Trophy in 2008 and 2009 for Most Outstanding Female Skier.

Alisha intends to pursue an international dance career and in the longer term she wants to work with New Zealand's disability and dance communities to ensure that dance is accessible for everyone.

This month (August) she has just completed performing in Touch Compass's latest production *Triple Bill* which played at the Auckland Town Hall, Concert Chamber's, THE EDGE.

Whether it's in the field of theatre, sport or education this young woman is going places.

Watch this space!!!



Red's Whirlwind Trip

On July 9, Red Nicholson stumbled back into Auckland Airport, complete with one flat tyre, one exhausted girlfriend, and many happy memories.

After two months travelling through Vancouver, London, Paris, Barcelona, Rome, Athens, Berlin, Amsterdam, Brussels and Hong Kong (whew!), Red was glad to be home in one piece.

"We had a few hair-raising moments, like the puncture in Rome and the powerchair-on-luggage-belt incident in Barcelona, but I think the gods were smiling on me through my trip because we had no major losses, theft, or mechanical failures!" he said.

Despite being charged 140euro (\$280NZD) for a taxi in Rome (on what Red believes was the only wheelchair-accessible taxi in the whole city), he says he would do it again in a heartbeat.

"Maybe not straight away, but it's gotta be done; it was just mind-blowing. Seeing how other people live, what they eat, and in particular their attitude towards accessibility and disability was just so intriguing", he enthused.

Red says his highlights included catching his first 'truly accessible' bus in Vancouver, complete with friendly driver and automatic ramp (try finding one of those in Auckland!), catching a hazardous-looking lift up the rock wall of the Acropolis in Athens, and beating the iPad queues in Paris.

"The queue to buy an iPad at the Apple Store in the Louvre was *nuts*, so I just hung around the back of the line looking lost and lonely, until a lovely French staff



member came and asked me a question. Unfortunately, the question was in French, but I did make out the word 'iPad' so I decided to take a punt and replied, 'Oui, oui!'. Sure enough, he escorted me straight past the line and I was in and out in 5 minutes! Genius!" he said

According to Red, some cities valued accessibility much higher than others, with Berlin and Barcelona being stand-outs, and Paris and Rome being some of the hardest cities to traverse.

He says he's come back with a renewed passion for improving accessibility in NZ, and has just relaunched his website, <http://walkingisoverrated.com> with a brand new look. Go and check it out!



Care Programmes on Horizon

LIFEWISE, the Auckland-based community organisation that provides sustainable solutions to social issues, rather than 'band aid' quick fixes, is developing new projects aimed to help disabled youth.



LIFEWISE Homecare has worked closely with the Ministry of Health and have recently been granted a contract to host Individualised Funding for Home and Community Based Supports. This will allow disabled people and their families to employ their own staff members and have more control over the times and types of support they receive.

LIFEWISE recognises that there are big gaps in services for young disabled people in New Zealand, especially when they leave school.

LIFEWISE's Homecare Services is seeking funding to investigate two important projects in Auckland which will help fill these gaps.

More day services for young people in Auckland with severe cerebral palsy and other disabilities, are urgently required. When these people turn 21, care options are severely restricted as Auckland currently has only two small programmes.

LIFEWISE's day care programme would offer a mix of care and meaningful activities such as leisure and life skills, including exercise programmes, art projects, community engagement, cooking and music.

The other service LIFEWISE wants to develop is a parenting programme for

parents of children with disabilities. These programmes would offer practical tools and techniques to support parents and could also link families to support groups. LIFEWISE Homecare Services could also provide care for disabled children while parents attend these programmes.

LIFEWISE is an experienced provider of in home support and courses, including the Toolbox parenting programme in West Auckland. Parenting courses tailored to the specific needs of parents with disabled children would combine the expertise of both LIFEWISE Family Services and LIFEWISE Homecare Services.

Homecare Services Case Manager Janette Third, (Disability Support), is exploring ways to get extra resources to develop the programmes and do in-depth research and community consultation.

"Most of these young people have complex needs and there's no 'one stop shop' when it comes to help," she says.

Keep an eye on developments at www.lifewise.org.nz

Ross Flood



Taylor-made art projects

Art Adventure is all about maximising creative opportunities in a safe and supportive environment, with a can do attitude. It's also about having a lot of fun and getting as messy as you like, while indulging in a variety of mediums such as painting, mosaic work, sculpture, and even puppet making.



Art Facilitators Mo and Claire have regular brainstorming sessions to discuss the best ways to bring out the creative side of the artists, who attend their sessions. All the artists are disabled in some way but the disability label is put to one side as each individual concentrates on completing his or her current project.

Beginners are given an apron and are encouraged to create their own design on the front. This is a great way to discover where their interest lay and the practicalities of holding artistic tools like paint brushes. If there are difficulties holding a brush, this is no big deal. Mo and Clare have come up with alternatives such as gloves, with sponges on its finger tips, to help spread paint on paper and patterned prints, with springs attached, to stamp the artist mark.

Artists Ravin Samrith and Stephanie Deverall express themselves through their work, as they explore their creative adventure, by crafting their own patterns and vibrant colours. Their disability of Cerebral Palsy is left far behind as they tap into their imagination. Determination constantly runs through their work which draws people into the finished project.

Mo and Claire welcome everyone to come for a "Studio 5" visit at the Wilson Centre, 1 St Leonards Road, Takapuna. They have sessions on Tuesday morning, Thursday afternoon and all day Saturday from 10am – 3pm (two sessions)



Art Adventure also works out and about in the community and regularly facilitates projects for The New Dawn Partnership in Milford which culminates in an exhibition at The Lake House Main Gallery.

All enquiries welcome.

For Further details contact Claire email claireben-son@orcon.net.nz phone 09 441-4455 mobile 022 647 1785 and visit their website www.artadventure.co.nz.

