

The Review

A photograph of a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a bright red short-sleeved button-down shirt. He is smiling slightly and has his arms crossed. He is standing outdoors in a garden or yard with green foliage and a red car partially visible in the background.

March 2007

Harvey Brunt
New General Manager
Barry Hutchins goes to
Parliament

Freedom & Choice

The Official Magazine of the Cerebral Palsy Society of NZ

New Contact Details



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Any opinions, finding and conclusion or recommendation 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 Focus 2000

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continued Support**

Cover: Harvey Brunt

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President's Report

A warm welcome to all our members and I hope that 2007 is treating you well. It's hard to think that we are already into March, how time flies by. I hope that you enjoy reading the 1st Review of 2007. This Review has been edited and laid out by the expert skills of our very own Ross Flood and Paul Munckhof. It's wonderful that we have the skills and knowledge within our membership to be able to produce and put together a Review of quality – many thanks Ross and Paul. Paul also needs to be recognised as the webmaster for the CP Society website. Paul is indeed a very talented person, and a well deserved recipient of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

What a busy year so far for the Society. As part of our future plans we identified a need to separate the functions of the Society from that of Focus 2000 for very simple reasons. Firstly this allows Focus 2000 to concentrate on the more commercial element of their activities, which is to provide services to a wide range of people with disabilities. Secondly the separation allows the Cerebral Palsy Society to concentrate specifically on supporting those affected by Cerebral Palsy, including families. Our society can now become a more active advocate for Cerebral Palsy people, applying resources that are more aligned with our members needs.

As a part of this change I am pleased to announce Harvey Brunt as the new General Manager of the Society. Harvey brings an immense wealth of knowledge of Cerebral Palsy and Society matters to this position. The Board looks forward to working with Harvey in implementing the Strategic Plan to benefit our current membership and grow our membership base.



Special thanks and acknowledgement needs to be given to Peter Atkinson, who filled in as acting Director of Services for the Society, over the past 5 months of transition, until Harvey's appointment. Peter volunteered a significant amount of time to matters pertaining to the Society during this period. I would like to offer my appreciation to Peter, his wife Sue and daughter Imogene, for the work that Peter put in as acting Director of Services.

I would also like to thank those members who participated in the Holiday Boccia Tournament, and attended the Dinner and Dance on the Saturday evening, back on January 13th. What a great event and enjoyable evening. Special thanks goes to Harvey and his volunteers for organising such a memorable and successful weekend.

It was a pleasure to be able to recognise the NZ World Champion Boccia team for their Golden efforts in Rio back in October. Seeing members of the Society winning Gold for NZ, brings a huge sense of pride to the Society. I would like to wish the team all the best for the upcoming World





Cup Tournament in Canada.

Please keep Sunday the 24th of June free for the mid-winter Xmas lunch (venue to be advised). All members and friends are invited and a flier will be sent out closer to the time with detailed information and instructions on how to secure tickets. I look forward to this day and to catch up once again with those members who support the Society and attend our various functions.

You maybe aware of the current matter before the High Court regarding the removal of \$5 million from Focus 2000 control. At the time of writing this article, this matter was still before the court and all efforts are being taken to ensure that these funds are returned. Once a resolution has been found, I will send out a letter to all members advising of the outcome.

I would like to personally thank Craig Hobbs (Chairman of Focus 2000) for the hard work and long hours that he has put into the intricate and sensitive issues surrounding this matter. Congratulations must also go to Craig and his wife Lucy for the birth of their son, Michail on Feb 11th.

I would also like to personally acknowledge and thank the present

Board of Society:

Lesley Ferkins, Paul Munckhof, Craig Hobbs, Peter Atkinson, Peter Fergusson, Harvey Brunt (now GM) and Geoff Barnes for the additional time that they have put into Society matters since the AGM in October. We have had quite a few meetings during the last 4 months and everyone has volunteered their time to ensure that the Society moves forward with the goal of benefiting you, our membership.

Over the next few months, the Board in conjunction with the General Manager will be starting to execute the objectives that have come out of the Strategic Planning process. We hope the result of all this planning will benefit all of our members and ensure that we remain a strong and healthy Society, with a committed membership base.

I would like to advise that in order to serve the CP Community in Auckland better; it has been decided to pass the lease at the LIFE Centre in Albany, to another organisation, who are already tenanted and required extra space. We are now looking at premises that are more strategically located, but still situated amongst like minded organisations. Once again, as soon as we locate premises, this shall be communicated to you so that you will be able to call in and say hello to the new General Manager.

I hope that you enjoy reading the rest of this Review and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Mid Winter Xmas lunch in June.

Take care for now.

Karl.



Harvey Brunt The New General

I feel privileged to have been selected from the candidates applying for this position.

For the last few years I have been advocating for the Society to play a more active role in the lives of people with CP in New Zealand and use the resources of the group to achieve this. Now I have been given the opportunity and responsibility to start making this happen.

Some of you will know me well, here is but a little bit about me for those that don't:

- I am married to Jocelyn and we have 5 adult children, all boys except for four girls. One of my daughters, Leonie (20yrs), has cerebral palsy.
- I was the President of the Society from 1992-2004. I was re-elected to the Board as Secretary/Treasurer at the 2006 AGM. On assuming the role of General Manager I have relinquished this position. I bring a sound knowledge of the Society and its history to the job.
- I studied engineering at Auckland University and have degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering. I spent 12 years in the oil industry in Asia, but after 5 children, my traveling

days ended. Since that time I have worked in technical management positions in Auckland with Honeywell and Imaje Coding.

- Involvement in the sport of Boccia has been a passion of mine for sometime and I have taken an active role in refereeing and running tournaments. I was fortunate enough to be selected as a referee at the World Champs in Rio and witnessed the NZ team winning gold, the highlight of my involvement in Boccia. The sport has given me the opportunity to meet a diverse range of people with cerebral palsy, and the enjoyment of their company.
- My involvement in the disabled sector has been limited, with Jocelyn being the main advocate for our daughter. I am counting on my freshness and lack of prejudice to be positive factors in tackling the issues that face us. So what does an engineer with limited knowledge of the disabled sector bring to the job?
- A commitment to make the Society relevant for people with CP.
- A commitment to get people with CP off the bottom rung of the disability ladder.
- A good knowledge of how to implement projects.
- People management skills.
- A stunning sense of humour.



I began the role of General Manager on the 19th February and have been in the role for 10 days at the time of writing. I have talked with a number of adult members and have been formulating, investigating and prioritizing projects which will be put before the Board in mid March. Things will start happening - that is my commitment to you.

The journey begins.....

Details on how to contact me are shown below:

Email: harvey@cpsociety.org.nz

Mail: PO Box 24759, Royal Oak, Auckland

Action Group

It is time that the voice of people with cerebral palsy and their care-givers/advocates were heard.

We invite you and interested parties to apply to join the "CP Society Action Group".*oh no, not another group, groan, groan, how much more talking before something happens...*

Well, this group will play a prominent role in providing the source information and input for projects and services that the Society needs to implement. From the applicants, a cross section of the Cerebral Palsy community will be selected to be on the group.

We envisage the core of the group to be approx 7-15 people. Meetings will be advertised on our website, so that the greater membership can also attend when they wish to make a contribution.

The first meeting of the group will establish the frequency of meetings. The first meeting will be held in early April. If transport to such a meeting is an issue we will organize this for you, so don't let that put you off.

To apply to be on the committee please send a short note, giving details of why you would be a good candidate for the group, to:

Email: harvey@cpsociety.org.nz

Mail: Harvey Brunt, CP Society, PO Box 24759, Royal Oak, Auckland



Privacy

Recent events have highlighted the fact that the Society does not have a privacy policy. The Society needs to ensure that it conforms to the requirements of the Privacy Act 1993. In keeping with this, the Board has recently approved a privacy policy. The policy document can be found on our website www.cpsociety.org.nz. If you would like a copy posted to you please contact Harvey Brunt

Michael Henry & Anthea Hurst Announce their Engagement

On the summit of Mt Victoria, on a beautiful Valentines' evening in Auckland, Michael proposed to Anthea.

This was the culmination of an 18 month courtship that began on the Boccia courts of NZ and blossomed on the courts in Malaysia.

Michael's advise..." go out there and find true love, I have"



Anthea has been a member of the Society for a number of years, and the Society wishes Anthea and Michael all the very best.

The wedding date has not been set, but stay posted

CP Society Mid Winter Xmas Lunch

A mid-winter Xmas lunch will be held on Sunday the 24th of June at a restaurant in Auckland.

All members and friends are invited. The cost will be \$5 for members (and \$5 for carer in attendance) and \$20 for non-members.

A flier will be sent out closer to the time with detailed information and instructions on how to secure tickets.

For those finding transport an issue, we will be investigating how the Society can help. **Keep this date free!!**



Equipment Grants

The Society administers an equipment grant that people with Cerebral Palsy can apply for. Applications for grants are considered by the board each month. To apply for a grant you can download the application form from our website. (www.cpsociety.co.nz) or request a form from Harvey Brunt.





Barry has the Beehive Buzz

Whenever he gets the chance Barry Hutchins listens to Parliament on the radio, as he enjoys the cut and thrust of political debate. While indulging in this past time he often thought how fascinating it would be to witness, these clashes of opinion, in person.

Barry is a man of action, rather than of idle thought. Hence he set about planning a trip to Wellington to enter Parliament's doors.

As fate would have it Barry mentioned his ambition to Focus 2000 advocate John Carbutt, who happens to have strong political connections both locally and nationally.

"John was marvellous, said Barry. "He helped me set up a meeting with Ruth Dyson (Minister of Disability issues) and even rang up my Wellington motel to confirm arrangements."

As part of his preparations Barry ventured down to Air New Zealand's Manukau office to express his accommodation needs. He also met up with a CCS social worker to request a male care giver for the trip.

"I just needed someone that can throw me about a bit," he revealed with a grin.

In no time at all the departure date arrived and Barry was off to hear the buzz from the Beehive.

Due to his detailed planning his four day adventure went very smoothly. He sat on the aisle seat during the flights between Auckland and Wellington, his motel accommodated his needs, and he spent an unforgettable day in Parliament.

During his meeting with Ruth Dyson she suggested a trip to the debating chamber.

"I couldn't resist taking up this opportunity," he said. I actually witnessed a heated debate during question and answer time. I sat there fascinated inside the debating chamber at the top of the steps."

In the days that followed he visited the volcanic section at New Zealand's National museum Te Papa and took a trip on Wellington's cable car system.

Barry has a few tips for anyone who has a disability planning a trip He highly recommends Air New Zealand as they were very supportive of his needs and he emphasises the fact that everything must be well organised.

He is very appreciative of both CCS and Focus 2000 support.

In future issues CP Review wants to explore in more detail the best way to travel when you have a disability. We would appreciate your thoughts on your experiences while travelling. We want to hear the good, the bad and the ugly.

By Ross Flood





Peter Fergusson (CP Society Vic President) Vs Trevor Jenkinson (NZ Boccia Team Coach)

Like all sports Boccia has a competitive edge. It also has a more relaxed social side as demonstrated at South Auckland's Allan Brewster Centre, in January.

The annual Cerebral Palsy Society Holiday Tournament just gets better and better. The rules were still obeyed but the pressure was most definitely off, as players gathered to enjoy a spot of Boccia and a large dose of socializing.

Mind you there was a serious element. There had to be as Stereos, DVD Recorders and other such modern gadgetry were up for grabs as prizes.

The able bodied gave it a go as well. Bless their souls. Mind you they are improving. OK Trevor Jenkinson did win something but he doesn't count, as he is the Head Coach. It's a bit like playing your boss at a round of golf. You got to let him win. Ha!!! Only kidding Trev . You played some pretty good Boccia there Join Boccia and you are definitely in for a

The more relaxed Side of Boccia

mate. You proved to everyone game plans do work

As Cerebral Palsy Society President Karl Sangster commented in the early pages of this review, it was great to see our recently crowned world Boccia team honoured at the official dinner and dance. Not many people see the blood sweat and tears that goes into building a champion team. Well done guys.

Talking about the official shindig. It was excellent to see 60's rock star Larry Morris still bopping along to the old music. I mean he was cool the first time around.

So folks, if you are looking for something to get into, Boccia has a place for you. You have the chance to learn a new skill and improve on those skills. You also met a whole bunch of friendly people. Since I've been playing I've been to America (New York), Argentina, Portugal, Greece (Athens) and Australia (Sydney). Since I've retired the New Zealand team has been to Malaysia, Brazil and now the squad is off to Canada in May.



lot of fun and if you get good enough, you just might see a bit of the world. Here are a few Auckland and Northland clubs you might like to contact for further information

Northland Boccia meets on a Tuesday from 3:30 - 5pm at Kensington Stadium (all players) and again on a Thursday from 3:30 - 5:30pm at Kensington Stadium (competition players)

Upcoming Northland tournaments

- 28 April Northland Boccia Open Tournament
- 20 June Northland Secondary Schools Tournament
- 4 & 5 Aug North Island Regionals
- Sept Northland Champs
- November Northland Boccia Carnival

Details for North Harbour Boccia are:

Place: Birkenhead College gym.

Address: 132 Birkdale Road, Birkenhead. NB:access not through main entrance at 144!! Down drive at 132 entrance to end and parking on the basketball courts.

Time: 7.00pm - 9.00pm Thursday evenings.

Cost: \$4.00 per evening attended.

Membership: \$20.00 per year.

Contact phone number for enquires: Sue Atkinson 4180569 or 027 293 5068.

Always looking for new memberships. We are a small club but a very friendly mix.

Details for South Auckland Boccia association are:

Place: Papatoetoe Town Hall

Address: St George Street (Main street of old Papatoetoe)

Time: 10am — 1pm every Friday

Cost: \$2.00 per Friday (for tea and biscuits).

Membership: \$5.00 per year.

Contact phone number for enquires: Ross Flood Phone 2787106

Please note. We are rather full at the moment. However you are quite welcome to come along and put your name down for membership consideration on our short waiting list

By Ross Flood



People Required For Survey

The disability resource centre in conjunction with Auckland University are carrying out a survey to determine the extra costs that are associated in living the life of a disabled person. The survey will take about 80 minutes and will be conducted by an interviewer. Volunteers are being sort to participate in the survey. If you would like to volunteer please contact Harvey Brunt. It would be good to have people with Cerebral Palsy involved in the study.

An Opinion

Hey Guys,

Hands up all the people who are sick of inappropriate, more often than not, emotive words describing disabled people in the media.

He/she “suffers from Cerebral Palsy” is a classic example.

Now I don't know about you guys but I never suffered from Cerebral Palsy in my life. In fact the only suffering I encounter is from hangovers. And that my friends is self inflicted.

These cringe creating words have been floating about for some time. I never forget the time when this guy did an article on me for one of the Sunday papers. It was a reasonably well written tale about my involvement with the Otahuhu Rugby club, until the sub-editors intervened.

The article's headline screamed “Cripple is one of the boys.”

Well I wasn't a happy chappie when those words slapped my face.

In fact to pinch one of my work colleague's favourite sayings.

“It fair ripped my nightie. I can tell ya.”

Not that I wear a nightie but you know where I'm coming from.

Thankfully these words and images of suffering cripples are gradually fading away. In my youth I was quite unique cruising down the main street of my



home town in my motorised wheelchair. Now mobility scooters and wheelchairs are common place. People with disabilities are increasingly accepted into mainstream society.

However these negative images still linger especially in the media. In my opinion we must stamp this out. Write and tell us about your experiences in the media. Together we can demand to be portrayed in a far more positive way.

Ross Flood



Introducing our World Champions



(Maurice) Toon, (Jeremy) Morriss, (Liam) Sanders and (Annie) de la Haye are their name(s) and Boccia is their game. Currently they are on top of the world. For those of you who don't know our current New Zealand Boccia team competed in Brazil at a world ranking tournament and came away with the title of World Champions.

Ladies and gentlemen we have four CP's on top of the world. That doesn't happen very often.

CP Review caught up with High performance coach Trevor Jenkinson recently. He was in reflective mood musing on how to capture and re-create environments that produce world champions. To re-create the environment is especially imperative with the World Cup in Vancouver in May and the Beijing Paralympics a little over eighteen months away.

"I knew the guys had done their training. Training is like putting money in the bank and when the players go to a tournament they spend their savings. Of course if the players haven't saved much there is not much to spend. Fortunately the guys are committed to their training so they had years of savings behind them," said Trevor.

"So I knew the throwers had the skills. I was just a bit concern about the self belief. It worked out well in the end though. Didn't it!!!" Said Trevor with a wryly grin.
In preparation for Vancouver and Beijing

Trevor wants to work on aerobic fitness and continue on this self belief path. He is also concerned that we are obviously doing well in the team events but not so well in the individuals.

"Perhaps it's like cruising down a dark street at night. You rather face the darkness with a couple of mates rather than be completely alone," pondered Trevor.

Anyway roll on Beijing

Perhaps you dear reader can be part of the next generation of world champions. The benefits are far reaching. There is training enhancement grants worth up to \$15,000. Carded athletes receive services from sports medicine and education and career advisors. It is hard work but an unforgettable experience.

By Ross Flood



Tr

evo

Dysfunctionphobia Key To Parents' Plight

Here are some interesting comments from my old mate Philip Patston. I definitely agree that we need dynamic paradigms to make far more useful decisions when developing policy and practice to support disabled children. Your comments please. Editor

Media Release 28 February 2007

Dysfunctionphobia is the reason parents feel they are being put through the mill to retain support for their disabled children (The Press, 27/2/07), said consultant Philip Patston today.

"Dysfunctionphobia is similar to homophobia and xenophobia – it refers to the fear or hatred of being unable to function independently," said the gay, disabled comedian, who is also the managing director of consulting business the Diversityworks Group. "There exists in all individuals a subconscious fear of losing function and becoming disabled. It is this fear that causes bureaucracy to create inappropriate and unhelpful policies and practices."

"Currently, the way we categorise people as having impairment relies on a



comparative framework of norms and expected levels of physical, intellectual, emotional and social ability," Patston said. "By some random criteria of comparison we define people as impaired or unimpaired, depending on their likeness to a socially determined notion of what it is to be normal."

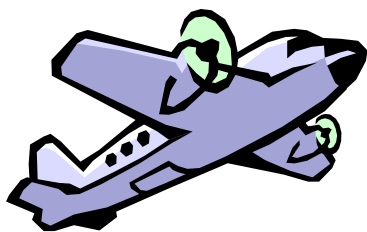
Patston is calling for a more dynamic paradigm of functional change. "Notions of impairment need to be complemented by a more complex understanding of functional diversity, and the value placed on the ability to function independently. By being realistic and informed about the variety in people's capacity to function, we can make far more useful decisions when developing policy and practice to support disabled children."

Philip Patston
DIVERSITYWORKS GROUP AND TRUST

Late News

It was with sadness that we learnt of Tom Hutchins passing (15th March). Tom played a prominent role in the Society and a special article in the coming June review will pay tribute to his contribution and life. Our thoughts are with his family

Wheelchair Bound To Travel



I say folks,

Take a look at this website
www.nzonwheels.co.nz

Simon O’Keefe, a founding trustee of the NZ On Wheels Trust has developed a website, in blog format, where New Zealand travel, accommodation and attractions for people in wheelchairs are discussed.

As Simon succinctly explains “We are aware that there are various bits and pieces of information about wheelchair travel on the web, but we hadn’t found anything that really covered the things we would like to know, so the trust started this site. It is a place where people can share their comments, stories and reviews from a wheelchair user’s perspective.”

Simon O’Keefe is a 26 year old C5 quad who uses a power chair to get around, and is currently living in Wellington. Simon heads the NZ On Wheels Trust which is an independent charitable trust. “NZ On Wheels” is not affiliated with any



particular organisation, nor is it funded by any organisation.

“All our work, including the website development, is done on a voluntary basis by very interested people,” said Simon.

Featuring on the site at present are reports on the Chateau at Tongariro National Park and Rotorua’s Whakarewarewa Geothermal Park. According to these reports the Chateau’s lobby lacks wheelchair access but a portable ramp is available and the staff is really supportive. Once inside the Chateau the wheelchair access is perfect, with accessible rooms located in a new extension to the building. Whakarewarewa’s main tracks are paved pedestrian roads and wooden overbridges which provide good wheelchair access to the majority of the attractions.

“We are keen to hear from anyone who uses a wheelchair and would be interested in submitting a review about their experiences with travel or accommodation in NZ to the site, said Simon.

By Ross Flood



Joke Time

Three blokes enter a disabled swimming contest.



The first has no arms the second no legs and the third has no body, just a head.

They all line up, the whistle blows and "splash" they're all in the pool. The guy with no arms takes the lead instantly, but the guy with no legs is closing fast. The head sank straight to the bottom.

Ten lengths later and the guy with no legs finishes first.

He can still see bubbles coming from the bottom of the pool, so he decides he had better dive down to rescue the head guy. He picks up the head, swims back up to the surface and places the head at the side of the pool, where upon the head starts coughing and spluttering.

Eventually the head catches his breath and shouts: "Three goddamn years I've spent learning to swim with my goddamn ears, then five seconds before the whistle, some bugger puts a swimming cap on me"



If you have any jokes, information or article you think maybe suitable for the CP Review please send it to the Editor: Ross Flood at rflood@cpsociety.org.nz

Fax Sheet

Membership application forms have changed over the years with the result that information held about each member can be varied and limited. The Society has recently adopted a new membership application form which can be downloaded from the website. When renewal of membership is due in June 07, a renewal notice will be sent to each member (with a self addressed return envelope!) together with a member information sheet. This sheet will provide the Society with information that will help us communicate with you, target services and provide privacy options.

New Zealand
Permit No. 181511



Permit



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