

**Issue:** 68  
**Address:** PO Box 108-034 Symonds Street Auckland  
**Email:** julie@heartchildren.org.nz

**Date:** September 2008  
**Phone:** 0-9-377 9950  
**Fax:** 0-9-377 9954

## SEPTEMBER 2008

Spring has sprung!!!  
Daylight saving has started and Summer is officially on the way. The breaking news is that Heart Children has been selected as one of the six finalists in the Sovereign Sunshine Charity list for October. All you need to do is log on and vote for us. Check out **Fundraising Highlights** below for details.

## FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

HCNZ is excited to have been short listed on the **Sovereign Sunshine** website in acknowledgement of the work we do. Please help us win this month's donation of up to \$15,000 from **Sovereign Sunshine**.

**Step 1:** Go to [www.sovereignsunshine.co.nz](http://www.sovereignsunshine.co.nz) register your details and vote for Heart Children. It's that simple. It takes a matter of minutes and will make a world of difference to the 12 babies born each week with a heart defect.

**Step 2:** Spread the word!! Send the link to all your family, friends & colleagues and invite them to vote.

## STAFF ACTIVITY

Wendy Bowen our traditional kiwi gal is now Mrs Wendy Graham. Many of the staff attended her delightful, moving, spring wedding. We wish her joy and fun in her married life.

Sue (office manager) is due back from her OE next week. We need her... the coffee and the biscuits have run out!!!

## HEART KIDS TO DISNEYLAND

The Koru Care trip to Disneyland, in Los Angeles, leaves Auckland on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October & returns on 9<sup>th</sup> November. I am sure the 11 Heart Children that have been selected will be getting pretty excited by now.

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

The fifteen Les Mills BOOTCAMP teams are working hard. Liz Beck (events coordinator) joins the 06.30am training sessions as an "observer" to cheer them on! She doesn't need to "get fit" or "lose weight" she is just another one of us... dedicated to our cause!

## WEB SITE PAGES

Have you checked your website details?

If you want changes let me know.  
And if all is OK just email me and let me know then I won't bother you.

Consider having your newsletters inserted onto your Branch page on our web site. Send through to me as a PDF file or as a word document and I will convert to a PDF file and have inserted.

Remember if putting photos on your page be sure you have got permission from those photographed.

## INFO FOR NEWSLETTERS

Encourage all your families to join Heart Children NZ. Annual membership for a family is \$15 with the first year free for new families. Benefits include camps, free medic alert bracelets, special event opportunities etc.

## **FAMILY SUPPORT**

The Ward is full and our team is supporting a number of families with very sick babies. This requires empathy, commitment & dedication. They have it...And my admiration!

### **August Hospital Statistics**

Listed Families	53
Ward Visits	200
New Registrations	12
From out of Auckland	35

## **CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

Planning will be underway for your annual Christmas parties. This is always a fun event for all participants and is often the branch event that attracts the most participants. It doesn't have to cost a lot of money.

### **Brainstorm ideas:**

- ♥ Santa's sack
  - Ask everyone to bring a \$2 or \$5 present with their child's name on it. Have a couple of extras for those that forget
  - Use a selection of wrapped candy sticks, fruit treats etc.
  - Visit the \$2 shop & make up goodie bags
  - Wrap in 3 separate colours a selection of gifts girls / boys / under 2s.
  - As above but don't wrap. Use separate lucky dip bags with an elastic top
- ♥ Shared picnic – all bring a plate to share & a picnic rug
- ♥ Barbeque – Committee buy the meat & all bring a salad / desert to share
- ♥ Visit a local attraction and set a time & place for Santa to arrive
- ♥ Fancy Dress party with all dressing up including mums & dads
- ♥ Hire a face painter / a balloon man / a bouncy castle
- ♥ Have an older child be the Christmas fairy & sprinkle fairy dust (glitter) on children
- ♥ Lollie scramble
- ♥ Invite a celebrity / sponsor & their family
- ♥ .....
- ♥ .....
- ♥ .....

Be creative add your ideas and do what works for you!!

## **COGS FUNDING MEETINGS**

Cogs funding meetings are underway. Thank you to all of you who are attending these meetings. And good luck with your applications.

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Taranaki Branch maintain a treasure chest in the local hospital where the children have their clinic checks. The children select a piece of treasure after their treatment/ check. I understand this is the highlight of the visit for many. Relationships are developing and awareness growing. Well done Taranaki.

## **UP COMING EVENTS**

Special General Meeting - 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Taupo Cycle Challenge - 29<sup>th</sup> November

Camp Brave Hearts – 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> January

## **REMINDERS**

ASB bank Accounts!!!

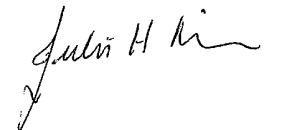
Remember to keep me on your meeting minute distribution list and email/post your meeting minutes to me

And for the last time... if you have a child under twelve who wants to join the Taupo Cycle team contact Liz on ext 809.

Christmas cards @ \$2.00 each. Email orders to [Margaret@heartchildren.org.nz](mailto:Margaret@heartchildren.org.nz)

**Don't forget to vote** and with luck this time next month we will be up to \$15,000 better off!!

Regards to you all



Julie Neilsen

Branch Coordinator