

Issue: 70
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NOVEMBER 2008

November was all about bikes!!

Anybody who is anybody is in Taupo for the last weekend in November. What a weekend! Lots of people... lots of bikes... lots of sun... lots of money...

The Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge is such an important event for Heart Children that everyone is involved.

The highlight for me was seeing the support from the branches and their families. All the north Island branches were represented. It is fantastic to have so much support from around the country. And to see the kids, in their blue t-shirts, coming across the line together is awesome!! Put this event on your personal calendar for 2009.

BRANCH PAID FSW

You will all have received the branch paid Family Support Worker information packs. I am interested in your thoughts. Hint! Hint!

FORWARD PLANNING

Christmas parties are a good time to identify new potential committee members.

Do invite new people to join your meetings and help with the "hands on" tasks.

Don't frighten them off with "office holder" roles.

Planning for a couple of new faces each year is healthy for a committee and people enjoy helping out.

STAFF UPDATE

A number of the head office staff don't work a full time week and the nature of their work means that they are in and out of the office. Couple this with Christmas leave entitlements and you may experience difficulty getting hold of the person you wish to speak to when you

phone. If you can't get hold of the person you are looking for try another extension. We are all willing to help!

Garth	804	Indira	807
Iyanthi	805	Julie	810
Margaret	809	Liz	813
Sue	806	Vaniva	811
Wendy	815	Shona	803

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY & HIGHLIGHTS

Taupo Cycle Challenge was an awesome few day's and having so many involved: family, friends, supporters was fantastic. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

Through having you all there we have once again been able to lift the profile of Heart Children and of course raise valuable funds – over \$100,000.00

Thank you to all involved!

Les Mills Extreme Heartbeat race to midnight on the 22nd of November was a huge success raising \$25,800! A huge thank you to Bridget and her team at Les Mills in Wellington and the Wellington families that got involved.

It is the local branch involvement and commitment at these events that makes the difference.

COMMUNICATIONS

This year has seen a lift in communications at all levels. **Heartline** continues to be distributed to the full membership five times per year. **Branchlink**, has been reestablished and is sent monthly to the branch Chairperson & Secretary for committee distribution. Both the **Zipper Kids** and **Teenbeat** newsletters, with age related information and activities, are going out quarterly. If you are not on a distribution list and you would like to be contact **Indira on ext 807**

FAMILY SUPPORT

Interviews are underway for the new Hospital FSW and we expect the role to be filled before Christmas. Thankfully Jocelyn has continued to help us out.

There have been some changes at Starship. It is important that our members contact us when they are coming for treatment. Use your branch newsletters and family support connections and invite families to make contact.

Email familysupport@heartchildren.org.nz
Phone 0-9-377 9950 ext 910
Provide contact details & treatment dates.

Our Hospital FSWs can provide a wealth of information and support. It's often help with the little things like how to get to the nearest supermarket (a common question) that make this stressful time manageable.

October Hospital Statistics

FS have been working closely with Indira and Raisers Edge (our database management program) is now in use. The data is being entered by the RFSCs.

The statistics will be easily accessible.... I will be able to run this report when it has been finalized.....Watch this space!!

Listed Families	??
Ward Visits	???
New Registrations	??
From out of Auckland	??

WELL DONE & THANKS

A number of Branches applied for Community Postage paid envelopes from NZ Post and were successful.

Congratulations and thank you NZ Post.

Canterbury Branch received \$250 worth of petrol vouchers from BP.

Congratulations and thank you BP.

Check the websites for close dates, include these in the branch annual planning calendar for 2009 and get your applications in. These practical contributions help.

WEB SITE CHANGES

Have you visited our Website lately?

We now have someone doing updates on a regular basis. Alistair Munroe (one of our dad's) comes in for a couple of hours every fortnight. He has been standardizing the

format and will be adding information as required. Things like PDF files of the camp application forms, with close dates, will be included in the near future. Your branch can then direct members to the website for updated information. Check your branch details and use the template previously provided for updating your information.

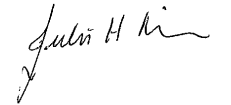
UP COMING EVENTS

- ♥ Camp Brave Hearts – 26th–30th Jan '09

REMINDERS

- ♥ Christmas cards @ \$2.00 each.
Email Margaret@heartchildren.org.nz for last orders
- ♥ The HCNZ financial year ended on 30th November. Close accounts & prepare for auditing.
- ♥ Annual Plans in by the end of January

Regards to you all



Julie Neilsen
Branch Coordinator