

Issue: 71
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DECEMBER 2008

The most hectic month in the year!! And it's over. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and are getting the necessary respite.

Thank you for your well wishes and kind thoughts.

What a year! Although it has been difficult for many we have so much to be thankful for in New Zealand. Our Heart Children network feels stronger than ever with fourteen active branches meeting monthly. You make this happen.

Many organizations combine the December & January communications. I want to see 12 in my file. What does this say about me I wonder? Needless to say this will be short!

REWARD YOURSELVES

"Thank you" is important. We thank people and organisations that give us money, but sometimes forget to say thanks to those that give of their time. It becomes an expectation and the service component seems to be forgotten.

Consider the work your committee has done and your branch achievements. The Chairperson does this in their Annual Report and when the list is put together people are often surprised at just how much they have managed to achieve.

Reward yourselves (committee) for your commitment and work. Consider meeting for a shared meal.

I've always liked the idea of a New Year meeting in a café or restaurant. The meeting can be kept very short, people can chat and there are no dishes.

Remember if this is to come out of your branch funds it needs to be appropriately minuted and approved.

OFFICE STAFF UPDATE

The end of this year will see some changes in the office line-up.

We are saying goodbye to **Iyanthi Wijayanayake** our Fundraising Manager. Applications are being invited for this role.

Jocelyn our Hospital FSW has been replaced by **Kate Souvorova** who will be starting at the end of January

It is with relief and pleasure that we will welcome **Debbie Madden** back on a part time basis early in 2009. She will be working two days a week on sponsorship.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY & HIGHLIGHTS

The **lowlight** in the Fundraising Department is the news that Iyanthi is moving on. We will miss her cheery face, her professional approach and her dedication. Filling her shoes will be a challenge.

The **highlight** in the Fundraising Department is that despite the global economic doom and gloom, 2008 has been reasonably "sweet"

FAMILY SUPPORT

2008 has seen many developments in our Family Support structure. This is an area we are **all** focused on.

Thanks to Sue Clark (Office manager) and (great) Nana Marie Jujnovich for managing the ward visits over the holiday period.

And a special thank you to Santa Joe for visiting Ward 23b on Christmas morning. Kids in hospital, including siblings, need to know that Santa can find them!!

Repeated Message

Invite our families to make contact when they are coming to Starship for treatment.

Email familysupport@heartchildren.org.nz
Phone 0-9-377 9950 ext 910
Text 027-278 7676
Provide contact details & treatment dates.

WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT

Check your Branch Website!!
Alistair Munro has cleaned out all the data he can identify as outdated.
Keep your Branch event info current by including Alistair on your email distribution list. alistair.munro@xtra.co.nz
Email your event fliers and they will be added to your Branch News
Email your Newsletters and they will be added to your Branch as news and stay on as history.

MEETING MINUTES

I have always enjoyed reading your monthly meeting minutes. This is especially so since my branch visits as I am able to put faces to names. Thank you for sending them through.

USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES

We had asked in the past for people to collect Ink Cartridges and return them as we got a small donation from this. We have been informed that the organization that was doing this has stopped the scheme.

UP COMING EVENTS

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

REMINDERS

♥ Accounts to the Auditor.
♥ Annual Plans in by the end of January.

♥ Consider the Branch paid FSW idea.

TIME TO PONDER.....

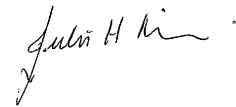
Take a moment to acknowledge your achievements and consider your next moves.

“Out with the old & in with the new” as they say.

Goodbye 2008.....

2009 here we come

Regards to you all



Julie Neilsen
Branch Coordinator