



Branchlink

Issue: 73
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Date: February 2009
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FEBRUARY

Your routine for 2009 will be settling with children back at school and all the related activity that comes with family life.

We here at Heart Children have also settled back into the regular work routine. The economic realities mean that 2009 has brought a new set of challenges. It is important that we maintain the advantages and services that we have developed over the years so we are looking creatively at all that we do. Rather than saying "No this can't be done." we say "Is there another way? How can this be done?"

Although there will be some changes the focus remains the same. We are all committed to our Mission.

TEENBEAT CAMP

Planning is going ahead for Teenbeat Camp. A final decision – yea or nay – will be made within the next fortnight. The camp is full and all applicants have had their acceptance letter which includes a cancellation clause. Travel bookings won't be made until the definitive call is made.

You will have received the **request for funding assistance** from Garth (CEO). Please consider this request carefully. Any assistance from the branches would be welcomed.

Branches who can, contribute to camps in different ways.

They:

- ♥ Contribute to their families...
The Branch either pays the nominal registration fee for the children from their region directly to HCNZ or reimburses the families for their registration fee.
- ♥ Contribute to HCNZ...
The Branch pays a set fee for each child from their region attending camp. For HCNZ this is in addition to the registration fee. Once it has been minuted by the Branch it can be on-going. HCNZ send an invoice for the agreed contribution and list the camp attendees.

For branches that are financial enough to offer assistance there are considerations for both options. Fairness and ease of administration need to be taken into account. The important thing is

that there is a contribution. On funding applications this is a valuable service that the branch provides to their members.

DISTANT DRUMS 2009

HCNZ is committed to our Branch network – the roots of the organization. It was unfortunate that Seminar was cancelled last year and we are determined for that not to happen again so have planned a workshop program for 2009. Financial constraints have prompted the creative changes to the format and booking procedures.

Three Workshops are to be offered to delegates from each branch with two date options for each. HCNZ will pay for one nominated member to attend each workshop.

- ♥ Leading the Team
For Chairpersons & Secretaries
- ♥ Money, Money, Money
For Treasurers & Fundraisers
- ♥ Family Support Angels
For Family Support Workers & Liaison

Changes of Note

- ♥ Workshops will begin at 10:00am and end at 4:00pm to avoid the need for overnight accommodation.
- ♥ Workshops are to be held in our offices which will enable Branch members to meet staff and familiarize themselves with our facilities.
- ♥ Each participant will be responsible for making their own travel bookings. HCNZ will reimburse the named person on a return ticket for up-to a pre-determined amount.

Further information, brochures and enrollment forms will be sent within the week.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Wendy Graham is to meet with our Volunteer Youth Workers on April 4th for a training session that will focus on the guidelines that have been developed for use in this area

BRANCH BANNERS

Thank you for the positive feedback on the banners. The changes were made and they have arrived!! They will be winging their way to the branch secretary within the week.

BRANCH AGMS

A number of Branch AGMs were held in February and others are scheduled for March. Please remember to send through:

- ♥ Your amended **committee list with office holders identified**. I can then update the hospital welcome kit details and ensure that the changes are reflected on the Branch Web link.
- ♥ Copies of your **audited accounts**
- ♥ Your **chairperson's report**. An edited version of the branch chairperson's report is used in HCNZ's Annual Report. This Report is an important document that gives a snapshot view of our whole organization.

It is heartening to see a good number of new faces coming onto committees around the country.

BOARD REPORT

The board of HCNZ meets quarterly. The structural changes in the Board make-up, voted through last year, are in the process of being implemented. HCNZ elected representatives are no longer representing branches so new ideas for circulating Board initiatives and recommendations are being discussed and trialed. I will be briefed by the CEO and report in Branchlink on relevant issues after each board meeting. The minutes will be published as PDF files on the Website after they have been approved (at the following meeting). Of course related reports, correspondence lists etc will not be included. Financial Statements are published annually in the Annual Report.

BRANCH PO BOX

Does your branch have a PO Box? Consider opening one. For a small annual cost of \$125 the branch can have a permanent mailing address that remains constant.

Advantages

- ♥ Printed material does not need updating
- ♥ New secretaries do not need to circulate address changes
- ♥ It demonstrates that you are an established organization when applying for funding grants
- ♥ FSW information can be secure
- ♥ Branch mail is not lost with changes in committee members
- ♥ Boxes can be used by a number of office holders and mail left for collection by others when contact is difficult

Disadvantages

- ♥ The box needs to be cleared regularly

OFFICE STAFF UPDATE

We all miss **Eden Matheson**, our pretty receptionist, who has been away on sick leave. We are not sure when she is to return.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY

Iyanthi has gone and Liz Beck has kept things together this month. Everyone is looking forward to meeting **Sarah Bell** who starts at the beginning of March.

Valentine Appeal letter

It is pleasing to note that the return on this latest appeal letter is on a par with last year.

AWARENESS WEEK

Stories for the media are required for Awareness Week. Can each branch please identify a family who is happy to provide a personal interest story for the local newspaper and provide Debbie debbie@heartchildren.org.nz with contact details. The story does not need to be written. Debbie can do all that and she will make contact with the media etc. This is a great way to get the human face of our organisation acknowledged.

GROWING SUPPORT

Taupo is an important fixture on our calendar with the annual cycle challenge. Relationships have been established and other activity developing including a well supported Heart Stopper Challenge. We are getting to know Taupo well and would love to have a local presence in this city so in January I hosted a public meeting to determine the interest in developing a **Taupo Branch**. The group are to have their first family event on 20th March.

Southland Branch was re-established in Invercargill last year. They are to have their first AGM on 18th March. Well done!

FAMILY SUPPORT

Training is important for all our Family Support Workers. Many people have volunteered their services in the past and we have been very grateful for all they have done. This relationship is being formalized within the organization with the introduction of a "Volunteers Agreement". Anyone volunteering to help with Family Support will be encouraged to join us for Basic FS Training and to sign the "Volunteers Agreement. Our FS network is developing.

Vaniva Lewis – FS Coordinator UNI is to begin her first FSW training sessions in Tauranga early next month.

Kate Souvorova our new Hospital FSW has settled well into the routine of hospital visiting. Her phone extension is 910

SORRY

I've broken my pledge ...

My promise was to keep this to two pages and I have slipped over to page 3. I have reduced the font, edited and still I am onto the next page. Needs must!!

CONFERENCE

Sadly our medical conference that is held every 2 years has had to be deferred until 2010.

Planning a conference starts very early. Speakers are booked well in advance and people need definitive dates. For practical purposes we have had to make a call on this event.

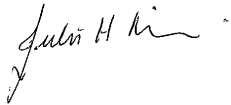
UP COMING EVENTS

- ♥ Gala Dinner – 4th April
- ♥ Youth Workers workshop – 4th April
- ♥ Charity Ice Cricket Match – 24th May
- ♥ Awareness Week 24th – 30th May
- ♥ Distant Drum Workshops – Jul/Aug/Sep

REMINDERS

- ♥ AGM notifications to members & HO.
- ♥ Annual Plans to HO.
- ♥ Website updates to HO
- ♥ 2009 Budgets to HO
- ♥ Awareness Week Plans to Liz
- ♥ Discuss Branch paid FSW concept.

Regards to you all and thank you for all you do



Julie Neilsen
Branch Coordinator