



Branchlink

Issue: 77
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JUNE

The first half of 2009 has been about goodbyes and reflections. The second half of the year is about hellos and anticipation. The new CEO has been appointed. Lara Syddall officially started on 29th June. We are excited and ready for the enthusiasm that comes with a new broom / new start / fresh ideas. Our Board is to be congratulated on the speed at which this appointment has taken place.

COGS APPLICATIONS

The close date for COGS is 31st July (last Friday in July). Applications can be made on line. If you would like to discuss your application please phone me or email with a time for me to phone you.

Please let me know if your Branch is lodging an application this year.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY

Awareness Week Feedback

To date over \$230,000 has been raised nationwide with totals still coming in from the branches. This total is expected to rise and is slightly above 2008 which in the current climate is AWESOME!!! Congratulations to everyone involved, all your hard work has paid off, thank you.

We are still awaiting the results from Nielsen in regards to their research around our awareness but once that has come through we will be passing that on.

Under 19 Basketball World Championship

The Under 19 Basketball Championship is to be launched on 2nd July with our Charity night on 3rd July when NZ plays Croatia.

Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge

The next big event on our calendar is the Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge and we are asking everyone to join the Heart Children team. Registrations open on the 1st of July, as a team of four you only have to cycle 40km each, so get out on your bike and get fit for Heart Children! We are also still looking for heart kids to join the Heart Kids Heart Rider team, if you have children in your

branch under 12 who are keen to take a starring role in New Zealand's second largest outdoor event please contact Liz Beck liz@heartchildren.org.nz.

Kiwi workplace challenge

This awesome team & fitness building challenge, is manageable by both the fit and those keen to "get started". This year they have incorporated a fundraising aspect in support of Heart Children. This could be the health and wellbeing program for your organisation check out www.kiwichallenge.co.nz If you have any questions again your contact is Liz Beck

TEEN SCHOLARSHIPS

Remind your members about the close date for the teen scholarships applications. The revised deadline is 31st August (was 15 June) – check the website for details & application forms. <http://www.heartchildren.org.nz/scholarships.html>

CANON CREATIVE FOR A CAUSE PHOTO COMPETITION

The photo of one of our "wee ones" is doing very well. If a photo for Heart Children New Zealand Inc. is the winner we get \$25000 to spend on helping heart children.

The link below will take you directly to Finlay and you can vote for this striking picture.

<http://www1.canon.co.nz/creativeforacause/Photo/Gallery.aspx?photo=64AAE3EA9FF31105>

This photo was taken of Finlay at aged 5 months. A few weeks later he had his first open-heart surgery. He has a hypoplastic right ventricle, a tricuspid valve defect, pulmonary stenosis, three holes in his heart and a patent ductus arteriosus. He was born weighing just 1.3kg and an MRI scan showed that in addition to his heart problems he was born without a pancreas or a gall bladder. He is one of about ten children in the world known to have survived past a few months with this condition. Despite requiring life-saving insulin and needing replacement enzymes with every feed he is thriving.

By voting and sending this on to others you are raising awareness of Heart Children New Zealand Inc.

The competition closes on Friday 10th July
Please send the link to your friends and family?

Thanks Judith from Canterbury Branch for forwarding this story.

WEB SITE UPDATES

Just a reminder - This is an ongoing process. The contacts list is to be modified. There will be a link from the National Office location to the branch. This means contact details will only need to be added/updated in one place. Check your branch page regularly. Email me any changes you would like made. I then send your request on to Alistair who adds it to his list, prioritises and processes. The turn around has been excellent to date. Thanks Alistair.

NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF UPDATE

Welcome to **Lara Syddall** our new CEO. We understand she is rather partial to seafood – octopus in particular.

Thanks to **Sarah Bell** who has been wearing 2 hats for the last 2 months. She can now re-focus on the fundraising department.

Goodbye **Margaret O'Sullivan** who has gone to Vancouver.

FAMILY SUPPORT

The team is settled, the hospital visits and related support continues, the routines are becoming well established and the recording is developing. In the near future we will be able to provide monthly figures for both Hospital activity and National activity as reported by the Regional Family Support Coordinators (RFSC).

The FS team is busy working on their Distant Drum workshop presentations. All branches have someone attending and a number of Support contacts are also coming.

The development of our own pre-requisite certificates for Family Support Workers is progressing.

DISTANT DRUMS WORKSHOPS

We welcomed participants from 6 branches for the first 2 days of the Distant Drums Workshops. I was a little apprehensive as the format is new so I am pleased to report that the feedback has been excellent. I am looking forward to meeting the next group and introducing you all to our team here in Auckland.

Remember to bring items for the "show & tell" table. It's looking good with all I have kept from

the contributing branches to date - photos, merchandise, crafts, cards.

Also remember to bring your White Governance Folder. We are updating the info for all the branches.

BOARD REPORT

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday 1st August. This will be an historical event as it is the first meeting of the new Board Structure with the new Board members and a new CEO.

The Annual Report 2008 is now available online, thanks to Alistair. You may want to send the link to your stake holders/interested parties.

<http://www.heartchildren.org.nz/annualreport.html>

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Wendy Graham continues to develop the relationships she has with the young adult team on the ward. She can provide support during this difficult transitional period in our kids lives.

FARMERS 100th CENTENNIAL

Remember Farmers Trading Company is turning 100 in August. If you can visit either Farmers in Timaru and support South Canterbury or Farmers in Botany Town Centre and support National Office we would be very grateful.

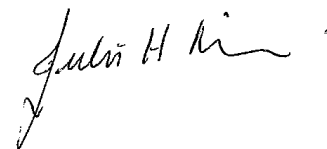
UP COMING EVENTS

- ♥ Distant Drum Workshops – Jul/Aug
- ♥ Heartline – July
- ♥ 3rd July Under 19 basketball Charity Night – Northshore Events Centre
- ♥ 28th November Taupo Cycle Challenge

REMINDERS

- ♥ Website updates to HO

Regards to you all and thank you for all you do



Julie Neilsen
Branch Coordinator (ext 810)