



Branchlink

Issue: 79
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AUGUST

"No matter how good you get, you can always get better, and that's the exciting part". *Tiger Woods*

This works for me. I believe this!

Since that historical day when Linda Davies met Michelle Mann on Ward 9 at the "old" Greenlane Hospital our organization has gone from strength to strength. Even in tough times we collectively have identified what is needed and worked together to meet the needs of our Heart Children community. New people join us and bring their life skills and passion ... we develop and grow ... we get better and better... and it is exciting!!

CAMP BRAVEHEARTS

The word is spreading - we have had more interest in Camp Brave Hearts than ever before. I hope yours is in as applications have now closed (28th August) and there is a **long** cancellation list. If you have any questions contact **Sue Clark**. Her first task is to look after the application process and all the related paperwork. Running Camps is one of Lara's hidden talents and she has put her hand up for this event. What a good way to get to know our kids.

UPCOMING BIG DAY OUT EVENTS & PDS UPDATE

Remember the Big Day Out shows are happening in lower north island very soon – see our website <http://www.heartchildren.org.nz/heartchildrensbigdayout.html> for show dates and contact details.

Promotion is already happening for the upper North Island shows scheduled for November. All relevant branch chairpersons were notified in May. If anyone is unsure, please check with **Sarah Bell**. The upper North Island shows will be listed on the website once the September shows are over.

FYI - If any businesses call to ask where they send their cheques etc, refer them to our website.

And despite the recent media attention, there has not been any adverse effect on businesses willing to support this fun event. May be this is due to the

fact that PDS has a good rapport with businesses that support Heart Children year after year.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

There have been youth events in

- ♥ Auckland – Ten Pin Bowling
- ♥ Wellington – Fitness & Fun in the Pool
- ♥ Bay of Plenty – Movie Night
- ♥ Canterbury – Paint Ball Fitness

Rotorua is planning their event in the near future.

Remember to contact Wendy Graham if you need help with planning youth events.

NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF UPDATE

You may have heard some whispers about staff changes at National Office. When a new CEO is appointed changes are par-for-the-course. Add to this the financial constraints related to the current economic climate and changes are inevitable.

Attached is a list of the office staff and their usual hours of operation. This is a guideline only as we are a flexible bunch often adjusting our times in the office to attend meetings with colleagues, families, press, donors etc....

If this sounds like you've heard it before – you have – last month!!

Updates will be provided as changes are finalized.

THANK YOU CANON

The photo of Finlay from Canterbury won the NZ **Canon for a Cause** photo competition. The prize of \$25,000 has been banked into our accounts.

Thank you Canon providing the opportunity and selecting this particular photograph.

Thank you Simon Corbett for your photographic skills.

Thank you Vicky Aitchison (Finlay's mum) for submitting this photo.

And thank you Finlay for sharing your soul with the world.

BRANCH VISITS

I again plan to visit all the branches in the next three months. Please let me know when your monthly meetings are so I can plan accordingly.

I will be asking for a portion of your meeting time to share Distant Drums Seminar ideas and answer questions where I can.

FARMERS 100th CENTENNIAL

Updates to come re Timaru and Botany Branches. Farmers has extended the campaign for two weeks. Both branches are doing exceptionally well.

BOARD REPORT

Strategic Development

The first meeting of the new Board, facilitated by an external consultant, focused on realigning the strategic plan and ensuring that the "Vision" and "Mission Statements" were still appropriate with our growing membership. With the medical advancements and expertise many of our babies are becoming young independent adults. Heart Children NZ is evolving as our children grow.

The finalising of these new ideas has been held over until the October meeting as a number of board members were unable to attend the July meeting.

Financial Planning

The financial status was studied closely and new budgets have been approved taking into account the strategic plan, and the current financial climate.

FUNDRAISING DEPARTMENT

We've had a much greater than expected response to our Heartline newsletter this issue and have exceeded \$7,000 after just a few weeks. Most donors are equalling or bettering their last donation. To put this into context, our last issue raised \$800 and the previous issue raised \$1,500.

Why so successful? Could be a number of factors:

- Debbie has put a lot of effort into connecting to the people who donate with our stories and how their donations make a difference
- The issue had a cover letter with what we call a 'soft ask' and reply slip
- Our donors may feel we need support now more than ever

- The newsletter went out the week following the media scrutiny on our involvement with PDS (FYI: We received just one negative letter regarding this).

All of the above, and more....

It shows that making connections in the right way is very important to the people who give. They want to see their donations make a real difference.

Long may it continue, I say!

TAUPO CYCLE CHALLENGE

The Taupo Cycle Challenge is three months out and we currently have 13 kids registered to ride in the **heart ride** (the last 5 Ks). Each year we plan to have 30 of our children involved in this group ride that raises our profile and highlights the cause.

This is an awesome event, a lot of fun and a great opportunity to meet other families. We appreciate it is not accessible for many of you (in particular the South Island members) – but if you know of any families who may be interested this year please give them a call or pass their details onto Liz Beck. Liz@heartchildren.org.nz

RUGBY LEAGUE

Heart Children New Zealand have been fortunate to be selected as the charity for the International Masters League Tournament taking place from the 9th – 17th of October this year. There will be 60 teams attending the event from Australia, Cook Islands and New Zealand and games will be played at Cornwall Park and the Domain in Auckland.

This has the potential to be a great little fundraiser for us, and we will again be calling for volunteer help! Contact Liz Beck for details

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to South Canterbury Branch for winning the TrustPower Timaru Health and Well Being award!

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

One branch raised over \$4000 selling these books this year. Books are available for Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington, and Waikato / Bay of Plenty.

Check www.entertainmentbook.co.nz for details

MEDIC ALERT BRACELETS

Heart Children fund Medic Alert Bracelets for those children that require them. Contact **Sue Clark** for details and an application form.

The newly promoted annual fee for those children who have a bracelet is not compulsory however this may be charged if details need changing.

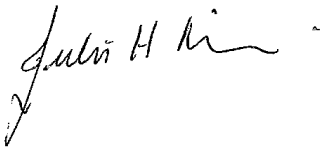
UP COMING EVENTS

- ♥ Distant Drum Workshops – FS Angels
Saturday 8th Aug
- ♥ 28th November Taupo Cycle Challenge
- ♥ Board meeting – 31st October
- ♥ Masters League Tournament from the 9th –
17th of October.

REMINDERS

- ♥ Jo Lawrence CPR Scholarship applications
close 31st August
- ♥ Teen scholarship applications close 31st
August
- ♥ NZ Post - Community Post applications
close 31st August

Winter is over. It's official !!
Regards to you all and thank you for all you do.



Julie Neilsen
Branch Coordinator (ext 810)