



# Branchlink

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## SEPTEMBER

Spring is here. The sun is shining (just for this minute), gardens are sprouting, moods are brightening. Spring is the invitation, the anticipation, the motivation and the inspiration to step up and step out. It is about newness, freshness and joy.

"Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!""  
Robin Williams.

Does it work like this for you too?

## CAMP BRAVEHEART

Planning is well underway for this annual event. It looks like being the biggest – best ever!!!

We are generally agreed that camps are an important component of the service we provide. We started with a small camp catering for a wide age range. As the numbers grew we reduced the age range and added Teen Beat the camp for teenagers, then came Boot Camp, for the young adults. When looking at the American model there are still advances we can make in what we offer and evaluating the need is an ongoing process.

With over 90 applicants for Camp Brave Heart this year, it is clear that there is a need. Lara is passionate about this and we are working on solutions to ensure all children can attend one camp in the year.

## KIWI WORKPLACE CHALLENGE

Plenty's afoot in the land of fundraising and here's an update on the Kiwi Workplace Challenge. Do you know about this? If not, get quick smart onto the website <http://www.heartchildren.org.nz/kiwiworkplacechallenge.html> Registrations closed on 22 September and the next 10-week challenge has started.

Our friend and supporter, Bevan Doherty, the public face of the challenge was on TVOne Breakfast on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>. Did you catch it?

Manukau City Council are aiming to raise \$10,000 for Heart Children NZ in the challenge which is great news. Lara and Wendy attended their breakfast launch. Go Manukau CC!

Check out the HC team. I'm sure there is one as a number of the staff can't stop talking about steps!!

## DENTAL TREATMENT CHANGES

It has come to our attention that major changes are being published related to the requirements for antibiotic cover when heart children undergo dental treatment. We are in the process of having this confirmed and will publish details and access links on the website as soon as we have clarified the information.

This will be updated in next month's Branchlink to ensure accurate information is available for you to include in your newsletters.

## NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF UPDATE

New CEO's always start by doing a full overview of the business they are taking over. This was especially difficult for Lara who had to take into account the current/future financial situation. Uncertainty and change is unsettling so we are all glad that this process is now completed and we can settle into our new/modified roles and added responsibilities.

Sadly we have said goodbye to **Shona Harvey** the Family Support manager and **Indira Bhana** the Database manager. Both have been with us for sometime and we are sorry they have chosen to leave and wish them well in their future career choices.

Attached is an updated list of the office staff and their usual hours of operation.

## FARMERS 100<sup>th</sup> CENTENNIAL

We are still waiting to hear just how generous Farmers has been in Timaru (for the South Canterbury Branch) & Botany (for National Office). I guess they are all still counting.

## **BRANCH LEGAL STATUS**

When preparing grant applications you are usually asked to explain the legal status of your organisation. Here it is....

Heart Children NZ XYZ Branch is an affiliated branch of Heart Children New Zealand Incorporated – AK / 256938

Charities Registration Number CC20102

IRD number is 48-937-756

Heart Children NZ XYZ Branch is **not registered** for GST

## **CONFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA**

Lara is so determined to further her knowledge and extend her networks that she attended HeartKids Fourth National Conference in Australia at her own expense.

HCNZ is leading the field in the services we are providing and Australia's HeartKids is watching us closely. HeartKids has funded planning resources that HCNZ may be able to tap into. The advantages of working together are beneficial to us both.

The key note address by Professor Dan Penny on the 5 key challenges facing CHD highlighted an issue that many of you will relate to.

The advantages of having one large central cardiac centre far outweigh the advantages of smaller local units. This applies to both simple procedures and complex procedures. It appears to be all to do with the numbers ie the more that are done the better the outcomes.

If this is the case in Australia, I guess with NZs population, our central cardiac centre at Starship in Auckland is here to stay.

Some exciting stuff has come out of this exercise. The whisper is Lara is already planning our conference for 2010 penciled in for 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October. (fingers crossed).

## **RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE**

“A home away from home”.

We know that it is extremely difficult for families dealing with the trauma that our Heart Babies bring with them and the added stress of being away from the family support networks will always be a focus for our organization.

All Heart Children families from out of Auckland can be accommodated by Ronald McDonald House Auckland. The House does not turn

families away but due to demand some families may be located off site. If the house is full their staff will locate other accommodation. Due to the demand RMHA has leased a floor of the new Waldorf Apartments at 12 St Martins Lane, while they investigate other more long term options.

If you are having difficulty getting accommodation please contact either your Regional Family Support Coordinator or someone at National Office. We will do all we can to facilitate the process.

## **BRANCH COGS FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

COGS is ideally suited as a source of funds for our branch network. National Office is no longer lodging applications with COGS so that the branches can. The COGS money is allocated annually and the close date is the last Friday in July. Seriously consider putting this on your branch planning calendar for next year.

The cheques will be distributed from the end of October for those branches that have applied for COGS funds this year and have been successful. When you receive your money please let me know just how successful you have been.

Remember to write and thank the distributing office. This is appreciated and it is another opportunity to remind personnel who we are.

National Office do apply to NZ Lottery and branches are unlikely to be successful with NZ Lottery applications because they prioritize centralized applications. If your branch wants to consider this please contact us as we may be able to suggest better options. A lot of work goes into preparing an application and as we learnt in our funding workshop - it needs to be well targeted.

## **YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS**

The exciting news from Wendy's desk is the progress being made on a Health Passport for our older kids. More to report in the near future!!

Remember to contact Wendy Graham if you hear of any older teens coming to Auckland for treatment. She is a great resource and is happy to visit, phone, text, email as required.

## **BOARD UPDATE**

The next board meeting is scheduled for October. This is the Board's annual financial planning meeting and I am required to provide a financial snapshot of the branches. To do this I use the financials prepared for your last AGMs in February/March. Most branches send through the minutes/reports etc pretty promptly after the

meeting but with the busy lives we all live sometimes these can be overlooked. I will be chasing up those that I am still waiting on.

## **TAUPO CYCLE CHALLENGE**

The countdown to the cycle challenge has started and we have:

- ♥ 18 heart children under 12 registered to ride in the **heart ride** (the last 5 Ks).
- ♥ 2500 Entries Registered in the Cycle Challenge
- ♥ 140 people have joined the Heart Children NZ Team
- ♥ 5700 \$s raised so far...
- ♥ 1<sup>st</sup> ACHD team registered to ride the full 160k
- ♥ 0 volunteers registered with Liz – hello?

This is a fun event and Liz Beck would welcome your help. Please flick her an email [Liz@heartchildren.org.nz](mailto:Liz@heartchildren.org.nz) or give her a call.

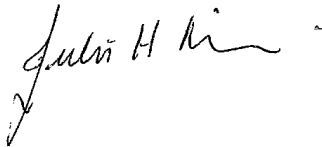
## **UP COMING EVENTS**

- ♥ 28<sup>th</sup> November Taupo Cycle Challenge
- ♥ Board meeting – 31<sup>st</sup> October
- ♥ Masters League Tournament from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> of October.
- ♥ Homai Te Pakipaki (Maori Television talent quest) – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October
- ♥ Branch Visits

## **REMINDERS**

- ♥ Branch 2008 financial Reports to NO

Regards to you all and thank you for all you do.



Julie Neilsen  
Branch Coordinator (ext 810)

**PS:** I've just heard - **Krystal Richmond** from **Bay of Plenty Branch** has made the finals of the Attitude Awards – Youth category. This is a HUGE deal as it's the main award ceremony for people with disabilities.