

disability connect.

helping families

Vision

That people with disabilities and their families are able to lead the lives they want

Core Value

To respect and support choice

Mission

To lead change and influence change for people with disabilities and their families.

e-bulletin – week beginning 7 December 2015

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Christmas is nearly here!

Just letting you know that Disability Connect will close for Christmas and New Year from 4pm Tuesday 22nd December and reopen 9am Tuesday 5th January 2016.

Good news stories

We would love to collect feedback and good news stories from our membership about how we have helped you at some point over the last few years. All feedback welcome, please email to admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz or ring Gabi on 636-0351.

SEMINARS/TRAINING

FREE4U Computer courses – Unitec Henderson and Albany

Did you know about these free self-paced level one courses? Have a look at <http://www.unitec.ac.nz/career-and-study-options/computing-and-information-technology/free4u-computing> maybe you find something suitable. This is self-paced but a facilitator is on hand to help.

Networker Magazine – December edition – topic 'Education Choices: Mainstream and Special Schools'

Our Networker magazine is available in print and electronic versions from Thursday 10th December – contact us on 636-0351 or email admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz to order a copy of this FREE resource. This edition explores important issues related to choosing an education environment for a child with a disability and contains a wealth of information on mainstream, special schools, home-schooling, correspondence school, etc. This will be especially useful to parents of younger children with a disability approaching school age.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Manukau Live Steamers – Waitangi Day FREE event 6th February 2016 from 11am

This is a fun filled day out for children with special needs and their families. [Click here](#) to view flyer.

Show your Ability – Disability Equipment Expo 23rd February 2016

On display are all kinds of equipment for younger and older disabled people and older persons care equipment. For more detailed information please [click here](#).

Learning and Development Team - Hospice West Auckland - Grief information session 11th December

This Grief Information Session is this Friday 11th Dec 1.30-3.30pm at 206 Swanson Road, Henderson. It will cover the impact of grief through all aspects of our lives; physical, emotion, cognitive, behavioural a, spiritual and social. It is free of charge and open to anyone wishing to learn more about the process of grief. Please call 834 9754

Circability are advertising a range of events:

Cirque du Soleil QUIDAM: benefit events for Circability on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th Feb 2016 at 8pm.

Inclusion Planning Meetings: First Tuesday of every month 12.00pm - 1.00pm at Circability Centre

[Click here](#) for flyer and more links.

Self-Expression Group: The dancing Soul – Saturdays 10.30-11.30am, St Heliers Community Centre

Dance and movement Therapy for kids with special needs. [Click here](#) to view flyer.

NOTICES

"Creative Lives Project NZ" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1660356754178749/?fref=ts>

This is a public group on Facebook for families looking at living options for their disabled family member. They are currently trying to find people who would share their success stories.

Long White Cloud (the song and music video) has been launched, in time to celebrate World Disability Day

This song has been created to unite the disability community and will also be an anthem for the Kiwi athletes and supporters on the road to the Rio 2016 Paralympics. Go to attitudelive.com/longwhitecloud to listen.

Need some pampering?

NZ College of Massage is looking for community placement opportunities for their students and would be keen to provide massages to Mums (and maybe Dads) of disabled children. This would benefit those who really need some pampering and also give those students a chance to practice their skills. Please call Karen Mudford 534-1803.

CAT LOUNGE on the North Shore

Brand new cafe that's just opened on Auckland's North Shore with the aim to brighten up your day, and bring smiles to those who need them most. They have 15 resident cats and kittens which visitors can come and cuddle, and play with. It is wheelchair accessible so go and check it out. [Click here](#) for flyer.

Halberg Disability Sports Foundation

They have donated a beach wheelchair for hire in and around Tutukaka coast. For more information [click here](#).

Web accessibility user testing panel – people wanted

The Blind Foundation is looking for wanting a broad range of disabled people who have moderate confidence or familiarity using computers, who are interested in testing website accessibility for NZ companies, on a casual, but paid basis. There's a possibility this may lead to future involvement in a panel of Deaf and disabled people who would review websites on a regular basis. The Blind Foundation has a few people already, i.e. blind and low vision is 'covered'.

In particular, they are looking for people whose physical access needs means that they might use assistive technology to access websites - perhaps someone who uses a wand, or similar.

They're also interested to find people with a print disability whose cognitive/learning impairment creates extra challenges for them accessing websites, but they would be capable of completing a transaction and travelling semi-independently.

'Print disability' means "a person who cannot effectively read print because of a visual, physical, perceptual, developmental, cognitive, or learning disability". Please use this link:

<http://www.dpa.org.nz/article/453/Callingforexpressionsofinterestforawebaccessibilityusertestingpanel.html>

Residential vacancies at Creative Abilities

Creative Abilities have announced that they have added another house and have vacancies. Please contact Jey Balasundaram 09 964 0215 for any enquiries related to both residential and day programme vacancies.

Health Click – health education specialists

Have quality resources for people with intellectual/learning disabilities aged 11+. [Click here](#) for details on their resources.

Attainable Trust and the Attainable kitchen

Are offering Goodies from the Good Purpose Kitchen. Buy some Christmas Goodies and support people with disabilities. Go to <http://www.attainabletrust.org.nz/> for general info and <http://kitchen.attainabletrust.org.nz/shop/christmas> to have a look at the goodies.

Have you heard of DottyWobble?

DottyWobble is passionate about providing a means of communication and learning to those who have not previously had this or who are struggling with their current supports. While products/services started off as a means of providing resources for autistic children they grew quickly into helping anyone with any learning or communication difficulties. Have a look at their website <http://dottywobble.com/> and their newsletter below.

Counties Manukau District Health Board - Warm Up Counties Manukau

This programme is to ensure that you and your family are better prepared for winter, so please consider whether or not you are eligible for the **free** retrofitting insulation programme. You must: live in the Counties Manukau, Papakura, or Franklin area, live in a private home built prior to 1st January 2000, must have a Community Services Card and priority will be given to families with children (*under 17*) or older adults (*over 65*) living in the household with health conditions. Please [click here](#) for information leaflet and [here](#) for application.

Accounting Services (for Individualised Funding)

Vimlesh Nadan has an accounting qualifications and can provide accounting services to parents who use Individualised Funding to pay their support worker. He does payroll, PAYE and Kiwi-saver for his own daughter's support worker. Contact him on 0210574124 or email nadan2fj@yahoo.com for an appointment.

Support groups – Disability Connect

Disability Connect offers cultural special support groups to families with children of special needs as part of the CALD service (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Disability Information and Advisory Service) for different ethnic groups. We have a Chinese Families Autism Support Group that runs every third Tuesday of a month and an Indian Families with Children of Special Needs Support group which runs monthly. We welcome all families with special needs to join the relevant support group. It is a great opportunity for parents to share their experience and network with each other. Please contact Sanny at Disability Connect for more information or bookings, phone 09 526 1298 (DDI)/09 636 0351 or sanny@disabilityconnect.org.nz

MyCare – new service in the home care sector

MyCare is a new online space to connect Kiwis seeking or offering home-based services (paid or voluntary). It works closely with the national not for profit Carers New Zealand and other community organisations. Currently MyCare has opened its website for pre-registrations of those offering services, and people who are seeking help of various kinds. [Click here](#) to view flyer.

Be.Leadership programme: 2016 Applications open

Be. Leadership is a one-of-a-kind programme in New Zealand, taking participants through a year of exploration of different perspectives, questioning, laughter, self-discovery and accessibility focused leadership. It is specifically crafted to suit the diversity of the access community. It advances a more accessible society and a dynamic community of leaders. To apply please visit: <http://www.beaccessible.org.nz/be-leadership>

Dance Therapy NZ - For children on the Autism Spectrum & related disorders including ADHD, Anxiety, PDD and Developmental Delays.

STARS Dance Movement Therapy Groups - Programme activities include dance, movement, music, play and body awareness with a focus on developing social skills and emotional literacy. Starts 16 February in Onehunga, Mt Albert, Northcote and Pakuranga.

Arts 4 Us Specialty Art Therapy Group - Programme activities include art making with the aim to support social skills, emotional literacy, friendship skills and sensory integration. Starts 15 February in Orakei Community Centre. Contact Dance Therapy NZ info@dancetherapy.co.nz 096363029 or check out www.dancetherapy.co.nz .

Playgroup for pre-schoolers with ASD / Aspergers / ADHD - & Siblings

Every Wednesday during school term 12.30-2.30pm (BYO lunch). St Columba Presbyterian Church Pakuranga playgroup and crèche area. Cost \$2 per family. 480 Ti Rakau Drive next to the ice rink. Contact Talita De Lange 021 132 8697. Email: specialkids.families@gmail.com

Safari Multicultural Playgroup

Safari Multicultural Playgroup will launch a new location in Papatoetoe. They welcome families from all cultural backgrounds living locally, as well as former refugee families living outside of Papatoetoe. Please [click here](#) for information of this playgroup.

Janet McVeagh Programmes and Events:

December Holiday programme: [Click here](#) for information, [here](#) for enrolment form and [here](#) for the parental agreement form to be filled out. And have a look at their **Christmas Party** invite [here](#).

January Holiday Programme: [Click here](#) for information, [here](#) for enrolment form and [here](#) for the parental agreement form to be filled out.

Child's Play O.T. Holiday Programme January 2016

[Click here](#) for information about the programmes from 18 -22 January 2016. Please note limited spaces available so be quick to send in your application forms and deposit to avoid disappointment. For those who are not present clients with them they need to book in for a 20 minute assessment/consult/developmental screening test beforehand so they can further understand your child's needs. Please fill in the [case history form](#) and email or mail to them along with the [application form](#). Please click on links for a variety of information: [Social Skills Program](#), [School readiness program](#), [Anxiety Program](#) and [Grafton Map](#).

Contact details: Mob 0274695884, ph (09) 3006324, PO Box 302612, North Harbour, 0751, www.childsplayot.co.nz

Discovery for Teens

The Discovery Foundation exists to give young people the skills, tools and strategies that enable them to get the best out of life and to deal effectively with life's challenges. The Discovery programmes are designed to promote self-esteem and to encourage children and teenagers to reach their full potential. The programmes have a ratio of 1:4 which enables them able to accommodate children who have learning and or physical difficulties. For more info go to www.discoveryforteens.org.nz or have a look at their brochure [here](#).

Lifekidz after school and holiday programmes

Have a look at their website <http://lifekidz.org.nz/> you might like what you see. Or look [here](#).

Caregiver needed

A support carer is wanted to look after a 3 1/2 years old autistic boy at home in Epsom while the parents have some respite. The carer must be experienced in handling a child with autism. Call 0220688022.

Tours for people with disability

We have been sent information about tours in NZ and Australia for people with some (mild) form of disability. Have a look at these brochures and please note they are not suitable for people needing one-on-one care. [Vivid Sydney May 2016](#), [Major NZ Tours and Cruise](#), [Hawkes Bay and Scenic Safari Tours](#) and [NZ Tours](#).

GlowKids launching a Sensory Kindy

Have you heard about Glowkids? It is an Auckland based service providing assessment, advice, early childhood education and therapy for children. Have a look at their website www.glowkids.org.nz. They are now offering sensory Kindy sessions, [click here](#) to view flyer.

The Pure Food Co - Smooth Puree Meals

The Pure Food Co produces texture modified foods that are delicious, nutritious, affordable, and effortless to prepare. Designed specifically for those who experience eating difficulties, providing a top quality selection of proteins, vegetables, and carbohydrates that cater to a wide range of needs. Go to: <http://thepurefoodco.co.nz/>

Therapy 4 Children Service

Quality Rehabilitation Services Ltd are a Paediatric Team of Occupational Therapists, Speech Language Therapists and Physiotherapists that provide services Auckland-wide. Go to www.qualityrehab.co.nz or contact 0800 557 556.

CCS Disability Action – Great Potato Harvest – 12th December 10-11.30am, 14 Erson Ave, Royal Oak

Great potato harvest celebration at the Dig It Organic Garden in Royal Oak. Have a look at flyer [here](#).

Idea Services want you to know about ASD Services available in Auckland

[Click here](#) to have a look at the information.

Affordable Counselling Service

Trisha Glover is in the final stages of completing her Diploma in Psychosynthesis Counselling and is offering counselling services for individual family members living with a person with a disability at a sliding scale rate of \$30 - \$50 per session. She holds clinics in Marua Road, Ellerslie. For more information, [click here](#). Please contact Trisha on 021 142 3851 or email her on tglover@ihug.co.nz for more information or to book a session.

Counselling Service – South

Kim Gregory is a counsellor who has had personal experience with disability. She has a son who is on the Autism Spectrum and has worked in the Disability Sector in various capacities over the past few years. [Click here](#) for more information about Kim, or contact her on 09 296 7587 or email her on ian.kimg@orcon.net.nz.

Edith's Garden Sanctuary

Edith's Garden is a quiet, peaceful oasis in the heart of Auckland's suburbia (at the base of Mt. Wellington). Families and individuals are welcome to visit and enjoy being outdoors in a safe environment. Elevated planter boxes are wheelchair accessible and are available for a small weekly donation. There is also the 'Hub' – an indoor area suited to craft work which can get messy. [Click here](#) for more info or contact Rosie Elder on 021 162 5124 or email edithsgarden@outlook.com or website www.edithsgarden.org.nz

English for Everyday Life/English for Work – Auckland Wide

[Click here](#) for more information on English classes for (new) migrants being run by English Language Partners New Zealand. Alternatively you may contact Estelle Swan on estelle.swan@englishlanguage.org.nz or via phone on 523 0071.

Parent to Parent matching database

Parent to Parent has a database matching families with similar conditions, sometimes they find it difficult to find matches. Contact ph 07 853 8491 or Toll Free 0508 236 236, email: matchingandinfo@parent2parent.org.nz. Also [click here](#) to view their Family Video Stories.

Auckland Down Syndrome Association

All information and their current news can be found at <http://www.adsa.org.nz/How+we+help>
[Click here](#) to view their Christmas invite. ADSA are also advertising for their Success in School course starting February 2016. [Click here](#) for information. ADSA is also asking for help for their Buddy Walk <http://www.adsa.org.nz/BuddyWalk.html>

Scoop articles this fortnight:

["Waiheke girl a finalist for national award"](#)
["Nationwide tradeshow makes disability equipment accessible"](#)
["StarJam launch new Annual Appeal"](#)
["New disability event brings people together"](#)
["Launch of beach accessible wheelchairs in New Brighton"](#)
["Captioning to be extended to Prime Television"](#)
["CQ Hotels Wellington wins Best Employer at Attitude Awards"](#)
["Supreme ACC Attitude Award winner a children's champion"](#)
["Special Education – Everyone knows it's time for change"](#)

Other articles of interest:

["Assistance dog changes life for family of autistic boy"](#)
["Burt Munro Challenge: Brett Ladbrook still riding 29 years after spinal injury"](#)
["Reasonable Accommodation Guide focussing on persons with disabilities released"](#)
["A free call from Santa! Now available to mobiles!"](#)
["Vending machines for all"](#)
["Disabled forced to live 'life in the slow lane'"](#)

Websites of interest

- www.offthepage.co.nz easy to read, high interest books for low level readers, suited to readers with any reading disability, struggling readers or adults learning to read. Also [click here](#) for their general info.
- <http://www.aucklandzoo.co.nz/sites/plan-your-visit/visitor-information/accessibility-info> Accessibility, disability and mobility information for Auckland Zoo visitors
- <http://www.education.govt.nz/news/consultation-workshops-to-support-the-education-act-update-1989/> Consultation workshops to support the Education Act Update 1989
- <http://www.abilityadventures.co.nz/> Ability Adventures – Exploration, adventure and discovery through travel
- <http://www.access4all.co.nz/> Accommodation & Activities for people with reduced mobility

NEWSLETTERS

[Altogether Autism Journal](#) – Spring 2015

[Carers NZ](#) – latest newsletter

[CCS disability action "what's new in the library"](#) – September 2015

[Children's Autism](#) – November 2015

[Deaf Aotearoa Community Weekly](#) – December 2015

[Disability Support Network newsletter](#) - November 2015

[Dotty Wobble](#) – December 2015

[Enable NZ Newsletter – Kia Maro](#) – Issue 4 November 2015

[Expressions](#) – Summer 2015

[Health Quality & Safety Commission E-update](#) – November 2015

[IHC Hot Issues Newsletter](#) – October 2015

[Independent Living Service Newsletter](#) – November 2015

[Ministry of Health NGO newsletter](#) – November 2015

[Muscular Dystrophy Northern newsletter](#) – November 2015

[News from the land of Be](#) – November 2015

[Numicon](#) – Spring 2015

[Open for better care E-update](#) – October 2015

[Parent to Parent enews](#) – November 2015

[Recreate Newsletter](#) – Term 4 2015

[Spark Centre/Mapura Studios](#) – Quarterly Newsletter December 2015

[Special Olympics Fanletter](#) – November 2015

[StarJam Spread Winter edition – e-chat](#)

[Tani Newsletter](#) – Spring 2015

[Vidoma Newsletter](#) - Spring 2015

[Wilson Home e-news](#) – 2 December 2015



From the Disability Connect Team
Lisa, Virginia, Sanny, Gabi, Robyn and Asoka
www.disabilityconnect.org.nz

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