

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 27 February 2017

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Parent & Family
Resource Centre
Trading as
Disability Connect
www.disabilityconnect.org.nz
Phone: 09 636 0351
PO Box 13385, Onehunga
3B Olive Road,
Penrose

Embedded in the text of this E-bulletin are links which open up to pages of more information. Any blue underlined text is a link and can be clicked on for fuller information. We do this in order to provide you with as much information as possible in our E bulletin.

Please note that going forward due to increasing costs, it is necessary for us to charge professionals \$50 including GST each per seminar. There is no charge for parents.

Disability Connect news

Support groups – Disability Connect

Disability Connect offers culturally appropriate support (including three support groups) to families with children of special needs as part of the CALD service (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Disability Information and Advisory Service):

Chinese Families Autism Support Group

Runs every third Tuesday of the month. This month our meeting is on the 21st March, 9.30am-1pm. Please contact Sanny Chan at Disability Connect for more information on our meetings. Our [English](#) flier and [Chinese](#) Flier 09 526 1298 (DDI) or 09 636 0351 or sanny@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Culturally Diverse Support Group (Otahuhu)

This support group runs monthly at Mt Richmond School, 30 Albion Road, Otahuhu, 5.30-8pm. 16th March. All families with special needs are welcome to join this group – we welcome everyone from any culture and any disability. It is a great opportunity for parents to share their experience and network with each other. Please contact Asoka at Disability Connect for more information or bookings – phone 09 636 0351 or 027 457 8571 or email asoka@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Parent Support Group for the Indian Community – Clover Park

This is held at Clover Park Community House. 6th March 6.30-8.30pm. Indian families are very welcome to this meeting. It will follow a relaxed 'conversational' environment. Everyone is free to talk amongst themselves, make new friends, connect for support or just ask any questions you may be interested in. Please email admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz or asoka@disabilityconnect.org.nz or phone 09 636 0351 or text/phone 027 457 8571 to book.

Disability Connect has a Social Worker

This [social worker role](#) is to provide advocacy, support and practical help to families and individuals with a disability. Click on the link to find out more about this Service which is free to families. We welcome new referrals either directly from families or from professionals. Referral forms are available on our website.

We're here to meet your needs - We at Disability Connect would really like to know what topics you would like covered in a series of one off seminars – any topics can be requested and here a few examples; Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Sensory Issues, Play, Sexuality, Puberty, Holiday programmes, etc., etc. Please let us know on 09 636 0351 or email admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

DISABILITY CONNECT SEMINARS AND INFORMATION



2017 Seminars by Disability Connect

[For a link to all upcoming seminars in PDF form click here](#)

Education Legal Issues

Central Auckland – Tuesday 14th March, 12-2pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

North Auckland – Tuesday 28th March 7-9pm
Yes Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Pl,
Albany

South Auckland – Tuesday 9th May, 7-9pm
Clover Park Community House, 16 Israel Ave, Clover
Park

Central Auckland – Thursday 25th May, 12-2pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

West Auckland – Wednesday 7th June 7-9pm
Hubwest, 27 Corban Ave, Henderson

Individualised Funding – The only IF Seminars we are running for 2017

Central Auckland – Monday 3rd April, 12-2pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

Central Auckland – Monday 12th June, 7-9pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

Living Options

South Auckland – Tuesday 30th March, 7-9pm
Clover Park Community House, 16 Israel Ave, Clover
Park

West Auckland – Wednesday 2nd May 7-9pm
Hubwest, 27 Corban Ave, Henderson

Central Auckland – Monday 8th May, 12-2pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose [this date will include a Sign Language Interpreter](#)

Central Auckland – Wednesday 24th May, 7-9pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

East Auckland – Thursday 1st June, 7-9pm
Highland Park Community Centre, 47 Aviemore Dr,
Highland Park

North Auckland – Thursday 22nd June 7-9pm
Yes Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Pl,
Albany

Planning for Adulthood

West Auckland – Wednesday 15th March, 6.30-9.30pm
Hubwest, 27 Corban Ave, Henderson

Central Auckland - Wednesday 29th March, 12-3pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

North Auckland – Wednesday 3rd May, 6.30-9.30pm
Yes Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Pl,
Albany

South Auckland – Thursday 25th May 6.30-9.30pm
Clover Park Community House, 16 Israel Ave, Clover
Park

Transition

Central Auckland - Wednesday 21st June, 12-2pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

South Auckland – Wednesday 5th July 7-9pm,
Mt Richmond School, 30 Albion Road, Otahuhu

Transition Expo – 8 August 2017 – save the date!!! “The progression from school to community life”

Our popular Expo is happening again. Mt Eden War Memorial Hall, 489 Dominion Road, from 9am – 2.00pm

Work and Income

East Auckland – Wednesday 8th March, 7-9pm
Highland Park Community Centre, 47 Aviemore Dr,
Highland Park – SPACES AVAILABLE

West Auckland – Tuesday 21st March, 7-9pm
Hubwest, 27 Corban Ave, Henderson

South Auckland – Tuesday 4th April, 7-9pm
Clover Park Community House, 16 Israel Ave, Clover
Park

Central Auckland - Wednesday 17th May, 12-2pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

North Auckland – Tuesday 27th June, 7-9pm
Yes Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Pl,
Albany

Counselling Services and Support Groups

Disability Sector Project Information and research

Discounted Activities across Auckland listed by Region

Holiday Programmes and Holiday Activities

Other organisations information

Playgroups, activities, after school and holiday programmes

Upcoming Events February – July

Please click on the above section links to see more information and providers

Please look on our [Useful Links](#) section of our website for more services / organisations

SEMINARS/TRAINING/ CONFERENCES

Amazing Assertiveness for Women

This seven week course with Carol Rewega starts next month on Tuesday February 28. As always we would really appreciate any assistance/help with promoting our courses to any women you feel might be interested in attending. Find it hard to say NO? Feel resentful that people take advantage of you? Don't seem able to get what you want? Keep things bottled up, then find yourself "exploding"? Feel that people don't listen or take you seriously? If you answered "yes" to any of the above, then this is the course for

you. Join other women in a supportive environment to find out how to make positive changes in your life through being assertive. Fun, informative and really, really helpful! (7 weeks). Tuesdays 28th February - 11th April, 6.30-8.30pm. 7 weeks. Auckland Women's Centre, 4 Warnock St, Grey Lynn. Sliding scale \$70-\$140. If you would enrol but can't manage the full cost of the workshop please contact us about a reduced rate. info@womensz@org.nz. 09 376 3227 xtn 0.

"Building a Richer Life though Family Governance"

The two day workshop enables families to envision a richer future for sons and daughters who have a disability. Facilitator, Lawrence Chok shares his own journey as a parent and those of others who have journeyed with him. Over the past nine years, they have guided their sons and daughters with disabilities, to lead more meaningful, independent and sustainable lives in their communities. Supporting one another they have worked together to build on their gifts, passions, interests and dreams. To overcome the disadvantages they faced they used intentional planning to grow lives full of purpose, with a sense of belonging to their communities. Then, afraid that these could not be sustained "when we are no longer around", they explored succession planning and ways to build long term sustainability into their work. The results astounded them, in many ways exceeding their dreams. Yet all journeys have their hard times and they found that the support of other like-minded families in their collective was vital. This is the power of working in a collective based on shared goals and values. Lawrence having emulated and based on the Queensland family governance model, the following video link shows a brief of the 3 Australian family groups who have been operating together over the past 28 years:- <https://vimeo.com/112461517>. For those interested to attend the 2 Day workshop, email to lawrencechokia@gmail.com or text 027 872 3968 for further information.

Don't miss Unpacking Disability Law

Registration is now open for Auckland Disability Law's Unpacking Disability Law programme starting 7th March.

This community based programme is focused on making your legal rights on disability easy to understand. Sessions will include your rights on disability and discrimination, mental health, employment and when dealing with the Police. For further information see the attached [flyer](#) or email info@adl.org.nz

Effective Discipline

Most suitable for parents of children 4-11 years. You will learn 24 practical skills and strategies of how to positively discipline your child by building a strong relationship with them. This relationship enables them to be more willing to listen your instruction and guidance while teaching them to take care of their personal responsibilities. Term 1, every Tuesday morning 9.30am-12.30pm, 7th February - 11th April, Term 2 every Tuesday morning 9.30am-12.30pm, 2nd May-4th July, course costs \$50. Email elizabeth@whanaumarama.co.nz or tamati@whanaumarama.co.nz or 09 441 0209.

Effective Discipline - Mandarin

有效的教导 - 国语授课 2017年 第一学期 (共九周) 每周五早上9:30至中午12:30 从2月10日开始至4月7日结束 适用于4-11岁孩子的家长 总费用 \$50.00 你将学到非常实用的24个技巧与策略, 以用于巩固你与孩子的关系并能够使孩子更自觉听从 你的教导 · 更自愿学习如何承担自己的个人责任 Contact in Mandarin haiying@whanaumarama.co.nz

Individualised Education Plan Seminar

As a parent or caregiver of a student with special education needs you have a very important role in your child's education? The IEP workshop is about knowing what your child is entitled to and how you can ensure the best outcome for your child. Thursday 2nd March 7-9.30pm, Yes Disability, 3 William Laurie Place, Albany. If you have any queries about this seminar, please contact us on 027 808 3943 / 09 625 5021 or email auckland@parent2parent.org.nz

Incredible Years Franklin Family Support

Franklin Family Support are now taking enrolments for the Pukekohe 2017 Incredible Years parenting programme. This programme is a FREE 14 week programme for parents and caregivers of children 3 - 8 years old. It focuses on building positive relationships between parents and their children and supports parents to explore new strategies for managing problem behaviour. They run a Monday morning session from 9:30am - 12pm starting February 27th 2017 and a Monday evening programme which starts 27th March. To register, please visit <http://www.familysupport.org.nz/how-we-can-help/parenting/incredible-years-3-8/> where you will find the registration form along with more information. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Annabel Waller at awaller@familysupport.org.nz

Kiwi Parenting for Newcomers to New Zealand

Suitable for parents/grandparents of all cultures Monday 3rd April 10:00am-2:30pm Free One Day Workshop in 2017, Lunch provided, you will discover a little of our countries parenting history from pre-European Maori through to the present day, as well as several practical positive discipline skills and strategies for children of all ages You will discover a little of our countries parenting history from pre-European Maori through to the present day, as well as several practical positive discipline skills and strategies for children of all ages www.whanaumarama-parenting.co.nz

Live your dream Empowering Ethnic Women Entrepreneurs

Women Entrepreneurship Centre (WEC). The Women Entrepreneurship Centre (WEC) is proud to announce the first series of FREE workshop for 2017 supported by Infinity Foundation, The Office of Ethnic Communities and Waitakere Ethnic Board. We will be conducting series of workshops in Auckland Feb-September, communities entitled "Live your dream". The program encourages people to develop self-awareness and inspire their creative potential. Participants are motivated for starting their own enterprise and briefed on the opportunities available

for such enterprises. We think this may be of interest to some of our families. The program encourages people to develop self-awareness and inspire their creative potential. Participants are motivated for starting their own enterprise and briefed on the opportunities available for such enterprises. For more information visit <http://wencentre.org.nz> Link: http://wencentre.org.nz/?page_id=9 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WEN-Centre-1786535468234901/>

Numicon Courses Term 1 2017

[Auckland Years 1-3](#), [Auckland 3 – Years 3-6](#), [Auckland Years 7-9](#) Courses planning for term 2, Greymouth, Otago and Southland, Morrinsville, Auckland and Whangarei. If you are interested in hosting a course at your school contact me www.numicon.co.nz or 09 520 4022 / 0800 678 581. Ken and Margi Leech.

Parenting Adolescents

Most suitable for parents of teens 11-15 years. Term You will learn 23 practical skills and strategies to strengthen your relationship with your teen and help them to be willing to listen to your guidance and consistently take care of their personal responsibilities. Term 1, every Tuesday evening 6.30-9pm, 7th February – 11th April, Term 2 every Tuesday evening 6.30-9pm, 2nd May-4th July, course costs \$50. Email elizabeth@whanaumarama.co.nz or tamati@whanaumarama.co.nz or 09 441 0209.

Parenting Adolescents - Korean

십대를 둔 부모를 위한 한국어 코스

탐1 (9 주) 2017 년 매주목요일 오전 9:30 분--12 :3 0 분
2월 9일 부터 4월 6일까지 저희코스에 대한더 많은정보 를
원하시면 아래홈페이지를 방문해주세요 .. 이코스에서는
10대자녀들과의 유대관계를 강화 시키고 자녀 들이부모의
가르침을 잘 따르 도록도와주며 자녀 들이개인적인 책임감을
인지 하고지속적으 로 지켜 나갈수 있도록 도와주는
21가지실천가능 한기술과 전략 을배우게 됩니 다. Contact
in Korean jumi@whanaumarama.co.nz

Parenting programme, Mt Wellington from March

Family Works is offering The Incredible Years parenting programme that gives families the confidence to succeed. It's for parents of children aged 3-8 years and involves weekly sessions for 14 weeks. Held Thursdays, starting 2 March, 9.30am-12noon, at St Peter's Church, 7 Harrison Rd, Mt Wellington. To book please call 580 1284 or contact Anna 021 048 1404 or Stephanie Stephanie.hills@fwn.org, 021 808 098.

Positive Discipline for under 4's

Most suitable for parents of newborn to 4 year olds. You will learn about your child's brain development, their bonding to you, how to get them to listen, how to effectively manage when they test limits and how to deal with tantrums. Term 1, every Wednesday morning 9.30am-12.30pm, 15th February – 5th April, Term 2 every Wednesday morning 9.30am-12.30pm, 10th May-28th June, course costs \$50. Email

elizabeth@whanaumarama.co.nz or tamati@whanaumarama.co.nz or 09 441 0209.

Social and Friendship Skills Workshop 7-9pm

Interactive workshop on feelings, emotions, making and keeping friends and problem solving. Wednesday 29th March, Freemans Bay (for parents 2-12 years). For free ticket please apply on registration.

Success with Sue Larkey

Friday 10th March, 9.30am-3pm, Holiday Inn, Auckland Airport. For all families, carers, education professionals of children with Autism. Cost \$195 full registration. [Registration form](#)

Conferences/Seminars outside Auckland

7th International Carers Conference

4-6th October, Adelaide Australia. The conference aims to re-imagine caring into the future, providing a catalyst for innovation and collaboration; sharing improvements in the way we support unpaid carers, care-recipients, their families, networks and communities. In addition to recognising and learning from past achievements, this conference will focus on the future, the challenges and opportunities ahead, and showcase innovation in policy and practice. The International Carers Conference theme – Caring into the Future: the new world? - will focus on innovation, partnerships, future challenges and new opportunities. A stimulating program is being developed with challenging debates, thought-provoking presentations, interactive workshops and new exhibition zones to inspire, inform and drive forward sector collaboration.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Research Conference

The 7th International Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is an advanced level conference that continues to bring together experts from multiple disciplines to share international research. It provides an opportunity to enhance understanding of the relationships between knowledge and research and critical actions related to FASD. First held in 1987, the conference brings together people passionate about this work in a stimulating environment where they can learn and forge new partnerships. From the pure science, to prevention, diagnosis and intervention across the lifespan, the conference will address the implications of this research and promote scientific/community collaboration. 1st-4th March 2017, The Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Hands on Autism – Day Workshops

Tuesday 7th March, 9am-4pm The Link, Corner River Road and Te Aroha St, Hamilton. For practical 'Hands On' tools and strategies. Topics – Guide to Autism, Strategies for behaviour, Dealing with anxiety, Sensory Issues. For a free ticket please apply for sponsorship on registration. Speakers and facilitators – Arletta van den Bosch (Family and Child Counselling), Elisa Slaat (ABA behaviour therapist), Christine Farquharson (Occupational Therapist)

International Initiative for Disability Leadership

The best learning initiative for Disability Leadership is a unique international leadership forum that shares knowledge, innovation and effective practices to support the vision of a full life in the community for children, adults and elders with a disability. IIDL is a collaboration of four countries: Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and Canada. 27-28th February, Auckland and 2-3rd March Sydney Australia.

Managing Behaviours in children

Using Visual Strategies and Resources, 11th August 2017, 9.30-11.30am, \$45 per person. Learn how to use supports that visually provide behaviour management strategies. Blockhouse Bay Community Centre. 524 Blockhouse Bay Rd, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland. To book a place email info@dottywobble.com places are limited.

Mind over Matter Whakatane Workshops

Mind over matter invite you to a workshop about sensory processing and cognitive differences. The workshops are designed for the parents, families, community, first responders and professionals who are in close association with people who think and learn difficulty. Two workshops – The Over Responder Whakatane Intermediate, James St, Whakatane, March 2nd, Thursday 7-9.30pm and The Sensory Seeker – Liberty Life Church, Wairaka Rd, Whakatane, March 3rd, Friday 1-3pm. Koha payment. RSVP Susan Haldane sue@mindovermatter.co.nz 027 665 8084 (Text only).

Moral Coherency 2017 Workshop – Sydney Australia

The implementation Project, how to function morally, coherently and adaptively in a world that is dysfunctional, including its human services. 3rd-7th July 2017, Dunmore Lang College 130-134 Herring Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113, Australia. The training Institute developed this workshop to equip people with a special combination of worldviews, preparation, support considerations and strategies needed to function with high moral ideas, with integrity intact and even with effectiveness in the world generally in human services that are full of imperfections and never ending problems

Numicon Courses Term 1 2017

[Hauraki Years 1-8](#), [Tauranga Years 1-8 including learning support](#), [North Canterbury Years 0-9](#), [Ashburton Years 1-6](#), [Christchurch Intermediate and Secondary focus for learning support and RTLB](#). Courses planning for term 2, Greymouth, Otago and Southland, Morrinsville, Auckland and Whangarei. If you are interested in hosting a course at your school contact me www.numicon.co.nz or 09 520 4022 / 0800 678 581. Ken and Margi Leech.

Supported Learning for students over 16

They provide courses in Supported Learning for students aged 16 and over who need extra help to gain skills and confidence to take on study or employment. The support learning programme is under a new zero fee funding offered to learners with learning disabilities. If you'd like to know more about the programme email info@msltraining.ac.nz or visit their website <http://www.msltraining.co.nz/>

Understanding Autism – 2 hour workshop

Monday 6th March, 7-9pm The Link, Corner River Road and Te Aroha St, Hamilton. All welcome! Free for families, carers and support workers. Come learn more about autism in an open and supportive environment. For a free ticket please apply on registration.

Using Visual Strategies and Resources for Learning Workshops

9th June 2017, 9.30am-12.30pm. \$55 per person. Learn About - Visual strategies for learning at any age. Great ways to support learning. New strategies for school or home. Extra support for learning difficulties. Blockhouse Bay Community Centre. 524 Blockhouse Bay Rd, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland. To book a place email info@dottywobble.com places are limited.

Visuals – The Basics and Much More

7th April 2017, 9.30-11.30am, \$45 per person. Learn About: Why visuals are important, Different types of visuals, How to use visuals effectively, How to extend the use of visuals. Receive a free visual to get you started. Visuals and related resources will be available for purchase on the day. Blockhouse Bay Community Centre. 524 Blockhouse Bay Rd, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland. To book a place email info@dottywobble.com places are limited.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



2017 International Women's Day Breakfast on the Shore

New Waitemata Police District Commander, Superintendent Tusha Penny, Wednesday 8th March, 6.45am for 7am -8.30am, Milford Cruising Club, 24 Craig Rd, Milford, North Shore. Tusha is the first female commander for the second biggest policing area in NZ, to the north and west of Auckland. A police officer for 25 years, she is married to a police officer and they have two children. She will speak about what she has learned in her long Police career, and her passion for protecting women and children. Tickets \$30, Students \$25 Enquiries Christine Ball 027 435 9608 cball@xtra.co.nz

Active Families Programme Glen Innes

Active Families is a free physical activity and nutrition based programme for inactive children 5-12 years of age. Every Tuesday 4-5.30pm, from 7th February, Tamaki Recreation Centre, 60 Elstree Ave, Glen Innes. Nutrition workshop and fun family events. Dietician and Physical Activity Support for family. Weekly Activity Sessions. Speak to your GP or Nurse to be

referred or go online to self refer
www.sportauckland.co.nz . Active Families, Sophie Pearce, 09 623 8560 / 022 043 1295,
sophie@sportauckland.co.nz

Art Classes for Children

Concept lead, skills based programme for 7 year old plus. Professional Visual Art tuition. Fully equipped art studio. Monday 3.45-5.15pm, \$200 for 10 week term. Mapura Studios, Rocky Nook Ave, Fowlds Park, St Lukes. \$225 per term (10 weeks) materials provided. Ph 09 845 5361 or email info@mapurastudios.org.nz

ASD Basketball Programme

Siblings and peers welcome. NZ Breakers stadium, 7 Atlas Place, Mairangi Bay. All sessions are on Sundays. Cost \$40 per family/per term. ASD Kids Trust run this event.

Burn Support Group

Offering individuals who have experienced burn injuries, and their families/whanau emotional and practical support during recovery and beyond. Email info@burns.org.nz or 09 270 0640

Cartooning Class

Wednesday 4-5.30pm, Mapura Studios, Rocky Nook Ave, Fowlds Park, St Lukes. \$225 per term (10 weeks) materials provided. Ph 09 845 5361 or email info@mapurastudios.org.nz

Circability

We are offering a new [Applicable Circus Class](#) for physically disabled people (16-30yo) and a new [Funky Friday](#) mixed ability class for all ages at Circability Central in Victoria Park. Please register [here](#).

City Impact Church – Volunteers offer to help families

City Impact Church has its first Community Impact Day for 2017 coming up on 11 March and is keen to hear from anyone who knows a family in need of help. To refer a family, please send their contact name, address, telephone number and details about the help they need. See the Community Impact [website](#) website, phone 09 477 0300 or email communityImpact@cityimpactchurch.com

Clip n Climb North Shore

Come along to try it out, session for families with autism. For bookings email info@clipnclimbnorthshore.co.nz 2017 dates - 26th March, 28th May and 25th June, 27th August, 24th September, 29th October, 26th November. 9am-10am private Admission (Autism Foundation guests only). Please also complete the online waiver form. Please arrive 20 minutes before the session on the day. If you come for the first time with your child, please send Arletta an email (arletta@autism.org.nz) and she will send you a 'social story' to help you prepare your child.
info@clipnclimbnorthshore.co.nz or ph 09 447 1428

Counties Manukau Support Group

PACT Building, 311 Great South Road, Papatoetoe. A great way to meet other families and just get together. Meetings are held monthly, March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, and mid winter lunch July 14th, August 8th, September 5th, October 17th, November 7th. 9.30am-12pm. Please bring a plate to share. Children are very welcome and there is a big play area for them.

Creative Music Group

Māpura Studios have a new class, starting 24th February, which will be exploring music, sound and creativity & more – a collaborative sensory experience programme open to all abilities. Cost \$80 for 8 weeks, Fridays 4-5.30pm. Join us for a sensory experience exploring music, sound and creativity. Jam with the art of noise to make soundscapes, songs and audio atmospheres. Create recordings, CDs and websites to share your creations and extend your practice. Design CD covers, posters and web pages to accompany your music. Perform live in front of an audience. This collaborative, "give it a go" programme is open to all ages and abilities. No previous musical experience or skill is necessary. Ph 09 845 5361 or email info@mapurastudios.org.nz

Cruise the Bays – Bubbles and Balloons Colour Cruise

Round the Bays, Geneva Healthcare \$10 entry fee. Choose between 3 exciting races: 500m, 1.5km and 3km. Lunch and entertainment provided. Race day 10:30am-2pm, Friday 10th March, location: Mission Bay Fountain, Tamaki Drive. RSVP by 8th February, www.genevahealth.com/signup.

Dance Party Abilities

3rd March, 6-8pm, booking essential for catering. Location is in Pakuranga in a school hall. Fun safe environment with great music, gluten free nibbles and drinks provided. Bookings/payments via email/internet. No door sales \$15 per person. Email danceitltd@gmail.com

Diabetes Self-Management Education in Cantonese/Mandarin – Henderson

Do you or someone you care for have Type 2 Diabetes? Find out what you can do to keep yourself or your loved ones well by coming along to the self-management programme. Waitakere Community Centre, 8 Ratanui St, Henderson, 17 March 10.30am-12.30/1pm. Email life@procare.co.nz, 09 354 7770, 021 222 1014.

Diabetes Self-Management Education, Ethnic Specific Education Programme

Namaste, Sat Sri Akal and welcome. Join our ethnic specific diabetes programme, learn how to stay well with Type 2 Diabetes. Shri Harkishan Sikh Temple, 9/3014 Great North Road, New Lynn. 11th March – Living well with Diabetes, 18th March – Preventing complications, monitoring and medication, 25th March – Healthy lifestyle, 1st April – Management of type 2 diabetes. 10.30am-1pm.

Diabetes Self-Management Education in Cantonese/Mandarin – New Lynn

Do you or someone you care for have Type 2 Diabetes? Find out what you can do to keep yourself or your loved ones well by coming along to the self-management programme. Health New Lynn, 1 McRae Ave, New Lynn, level 2 meeting room 1, 7 March 10.30am-12.30/1pm. Email life@procare.co.nz, 09 354 7770, 021 222 1014.

Diabetes Self-Management Programme January-December 2017

6 weeks duration, designed for people living with type 2 diabetes and or their caregivers. The DSMP diabetes programme helps participants to develop self-management skills to deal with the challenges of living well with diabetes. Available in Samoan, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hindi and Punjabi languages and at venues and times to suit different communities within West Auckland Waitemata DHB.

Disability Gymnastics at Tri star Gymnastics

Gymnastics is a great way to improve coordination, balance, motor skills and strength in a fun and safe environment. In Vancouver, I have been the lead coach/coordinator for a Special Needs gymnastics program for the last three years. We are non-discriminatory and are open for anybody, regardless of age or ability-level, who simply needs a more personalised approach to learning. Many of our athletes in Vancouver are individuals living with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome or developmental delays and I am hoping to connect with the same communities here in Auckland. For more information and flier click [here](#).

Disability Gymnastics Papatoetoe

Gym City Papatoetoe starting Mon 13th Feb 12.30 till 1.30 preschool class for children 0-5 with a disability....cost \$84 per term. Gym Fun class for children aged 5-12 with a disability starting Wed 15th Feb 3.30 till 4.30 Cost \$94 per term.

Drama Queens

\$5 per family, locations across Auckland – Orakei Community Centre, 156 Kepa Road, Orakei, Monday 11am-12.15pm, Tuesday 10-11.15am, Friday 11am-12.15pm. Western Springs – Western Springs Community Hall, 956 Great North Road, Western Springs, Wednesday 10-11.15am and Mt Wellington – Mt Wellington Community Church, 5a Waipuna Road, Mt Wellington, Thursday 10-11.15am. No bookings required.

East Auckland Special Needs Support Group

Coffee evening at Denny's 23 March 7.30pm for more details contact Sue suemcgehan@ihug.co.nz

Emergency Services Event for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Sunday 5th March, 11am-2pm, The Town Square, Northwest Shopping Centre, Maki St, Westgate. Want to talk to emergency service personnel that can communicate in New Zealand Sign Language and ask any questions you might have? Join Fire Service, Police and Ambulance staff for a family-based event

aimed at the Deaf and hearing impaired community. Giveaways, Face Painting, and plenty of fun for the whole family.

Emmanuel Family Camp - 31st March – 2nd April 2017

A weekend camp for families who have a child with a disability. For more information ph 09 636 4763 email familycamp@elevatecdt.org.nz

Empowered Communities Workshop

You are invited to attend an Empowered Communities workshop, being offered by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board. These small workshops are aimed at grassroots community groups and organisations, to inform, encourage and support you in delivering events. They are totally free. Attendees will learn basic event planning techniques, understand the regulatory requirements of running events in public spaces and learn how to raise funds from a range of funders and/or sponsors. Ongoing support will be offered after the workshop, to help see your event to fruition. Next workshops in your area are: Saturday 11th March 10am - 3pm OR Wednesday 5th April 4pm - 9pm. You only need to attend one. We encourage numerous attendees from the same community groups to attend. Contact Angela McNoe, Workshop Facilitator 021 830 007

Empowering Women and Girls of the Pacific

The Zonta Club of Auckland, supported by Auckland Council, is celebrating women's achievements on International Women's day March 8th 2017. Join our celebration of International Women's Day with music, performances, speakers and stalls, between 12:15 pm and 1:30pm at Te Hā o Hine Place in the CBD. Speakers: Sina Wendt-Moore, CEO of Leadership NZ Janet Hope QSM Governor, Zonta International District 16 (New Zealand) Phil Goff Mayor of Auckland (or Auckland Council representative). Zonta International Yellow Rose recognition award: Presenter: Maria Tutaia, New Zealand International Netball Player. Zonta Rose recipients: Leonie Morris, Manager of the Auckland Women's Centre Anita Hinton, Founder of 'I got your Back-Pack' and Monica Briggs, CEO of Auckland YWCA. Roses presented in recognition of the dedication and initiative shown by these three Auckland women to supporting and improving the lives of women and girls. Contact Zonta Club of Auckland elainebirk@hotmail.com

Fitness Fun Class

In term 2 under our new brand, we will be launching a fitness fun class for children with special needs or learning difficulties (including things like dyslexia, etc). This class will have fun activities for learning balance, agility, fitness skills, upper body strength as well as activities which encourage both sides of the brain to function. The class will have routines to follow and fun free time. Confirmation of whether the class will run on Saturdays or Sundays will be made soon. Please email info@dottywobble.com if you are interested in finding out more about the class or enrolling.

Idea Services Art Therapy

Arts Therapy uses art, drama, music and movement therapeutically to support wellbeing. A Registered Arts Therapist works from a psychotherapy, counselling and child development framework. Arts therapy is a visual, sensory-rich, concrete and interactive means of expression. \$110 per session 45-60mins. Contact specialist.support@idea.org.nz

Idea Services ASD Plus

ASD Plus aims to increase parental knowledge and skill in supporting their pre-school child with autism. It is person-centred and individualised and participants learn about autism in relation to a range of topics over seven modules. Our team of facilitators are skilled and experienced specialist workers who have experience in supporting young children with autism and their families. ASD Plus is delivered over seven modules covering a wide range of topics including: communication, learning, stress, behaviour and planning for the future. ASD Plus can be delivered via group sessions, individual sessions, or by distance learning. This flexibility allows us to meet the needs of people in rural and isolated locations, and to better cater to cultural and language needs. All of these options come with follow-up support for families, to help with using these skills at home. Contact: asdplus-education@idea.org.nz

Interacting Theatre Community Classes

For Young people with a disability. These fun, well classes take place weekly during term time and give the opportunity to make friends, learn skills and build confidence. We operate out of four Auckland venues and classes are \$10 per session. For more details contact Paula 09 849 5595. Drama on Mondays in Takapuna 1-2.30pm, Drama and film making on Thursdays in Manurewa 10am-12pm and 12-2pm. Drama on Fridays in Henderson 9.30-11.30am and Hip Hop on Fridays in Henderson 12-1.30pm. Drama in Mt Albert on Fridays 12.30-2pm.

Interacting Theatre Monday Class

Here is the great drama group in Takapuna on a Monday beginning February 13th 1-2.30pm, \$10 a class. Held at Phab 8 Auburn St, Takapuna, Contact Paula Crimmens, 09 849 5595, interacting@ihug.co.nz

Janet McVeagh Motu Moana Summer Camp

10th-12th March, 90 Connaugh St, Blockhouse Bay, \$349.60. 7pm Friday, pickup 2.30pm Sunday. Activities – flying fox, water slide, confidence course, camp fire, group games and projector night. [General info sheet](#) Email jm.recreation@ihug.co.nz or text 021 211 9882.

Janet McVeagh Waihi Surfing Camp

17th-19th March, Waihi Top 10 Holiday Resort, Waihi Beach. Drop off Onehunga Community House, 83 Selwyn Street, Onehunga. Friday 6.30pm pickup Sunday 5pm or Hinau Road, Karaka, Friday 7.30pm pickup Sunday 4pm. Email jm.recreation@ihug.co.nz or text 021 211 9882.

Jumping Beans for pre-schoolers

Tuesdays Feb to April 2017, Grey Lynn Community Centre 1.15-2.15pm. \$120 per term or \$20 per session (subsidised).

Kids Connect Camp 2017

A camp specifically for children with physical and mild disabilities aged 9-16. 10-12th March. It is held in Blockhouse Bay, Auckland. Our camps are conducted by experienced staff. We focus on building strong, healthy relationships with other children (with or without physical disabilities). We have a weekend packed with activities, action and fun. Team games, competitions, songs, orienteering on a wheelchair accessible track, quad bikes, crafts and lots of food. Camp fee will be approx. \$135 (subject to change) and also accept Carer Support Forms. For a registration form please email info@cbm.org.nz or phone 09 630 5271, www.cbm.org.nz.

Kids Open Studio

An open studio art group for children of all abilities aged 5 plus, particular provision is made for children with autism and other special needs. The art therapist and facilitators encourage each child to make their own decisions and to follow their own topic of interest. The tutors assist them by suggesting ideas and demonstrating techniques, encouraging them to try different themes and mediums. Jan 31st-April 11th, May 2nd-July 4th, July 25th-September 26th, October 17th-December 12th. info@mapurastudios.org.nz 09 845 5361 Alex McPherson. \$250 for 10 weeks, fees include all materials and a 45 min individual art therapy pre assessment. Fees can be made with carer support.

Magical Glow in the Dark Bush Walk

A part of the Auckland Arts Festival, [Power Plant](#) brings to life a captivating nocturnal bush walk through the Auckland Domain. Having already made its way around the world, 75,000 others have fallen in love with this quirky idea and now it's our turn! As the sun starts to fall at the start of March 2017, you'll be able to make your way through an enchanting forest surrounded by spectacular light installations intertwined within the trees and plants. Vibrant pops of colour and crazy shapes will make all your childhood fairytale dreams come true. To take it to the next level, Power Plant have added a one-of-a-kind sound show created by five internationally acclaimed artists and New Zealand artists from sonics from scratch. You will hear subtle wildlife noises, haunting whistles and everything in between. You will never view the city location the same. So, rally up your friends, parents, sister, kids or even solo it for a truly magical one-hour adventure. Wednesday 8th March – Sunday 12th March, Tuesday 14th March-Sunday 19th March. 8.15-10pm.

Manage Better, Feel Stronger, free courses start his month

Are you, or someone you care for, managing an ongoing health condition? Join a friendly group providing support and information for two and a half hours per week for six weeks. Courses are free and include a cuppa. Venues in Otara, Flat Bush, Manurewa, Glen Innes, Mt Roskill, Henderson, Ranui. Hindi, Chinese and Tongan courses in some areas. To register or for more information call Ula 274 7823 ext 9144 or Ruby ext 9821 or email: ulas@ethc.co.nz

Mangere Cultural Festival

Saturday 11th March, 10am-2pm, Village Green beside library, Massey Road, Mangere East. Food, cultural performances, crafts, bouncy castle. Free family fun. For more information email info@mangereeast.org or 09 275 6161

Mess It Up – Messy Play

2nd March, 9th March, 16th March, 23rd March, 30th March, 6th April, 13th April. 10-11am. Meadowbank Scout Hall, 28c Rutherford Terrace, Meadowbank \$15 casual entry. Our unique one-hour Messy Play sessions involve free play using paint, slime, play dough, foam, water, ice, finger paint, rice, pasta, and many different mediums. Come and have some messy fun with your child where you don't have to clean up the mess afterwards. It's not about making a mess, it's about making memories. Messy or sensory play can help your child's development on a number of levels. This type of creative play gives children endless ways to develop and learn. Young children rely on sensory input to learn about their environment. Research suggests that sensory play helps build neural connections that support thought, learning and creativity. Sensory play supports language development, cognitive growth, fine/gross motor skills, problem solving/reasoning, and social interaction. Children will experience lots of opportunities to develop their fine motor skills - squishing and squeezing can help develop pre-writing skills. There is potential for early Mathematics by discussing size, shape, height, weight and counting and grouping of various mediums. There are endless opportunities for early Science experiments with mixing, dissolving, temperature, and different textures.

No Equality Without Diversity

Shakti will be marking International Women's Day this year on the 10th of March in Auckland with the message "No Equality without Diversity" at Mt Albert War Memorial Hall. As immigrant women in Aotearoa/New Zealand, we experience patriarchal racism on an institutional and structural level, within the home and outside. After 21 years of actively working with New Zealand's Asian, Middle Eastern and African communities, we continue to struggle for a place to exist as a community within the wider realms and be able to exercise our agency over our own affairs. We live in a globalised world and our population is ethnically diverse but recent government strategies, including a "one size fits all" approach in the area of social services, is overlooking the specific needs of marginalised groups including migrant and refugee women, who are one of the most vulnerable communities in Aotearoa. This event will feature two panel discussions, one with researchers, followed by a cross-Party panel on the theme of "No Equality Without Diversity". We will also discuss in detail our campaign to #SaveShaktiWellingtonRefuge. The Shakti Youth Unit will be launching the "Break Free" handbook for migrant and refugee youth experiencing family violence, a first of its kind in New Zealand. We invite you to join us in solidarity over a catered brunch. It is a great opportunity to celebrate womanhood and the richness we bring to Aotearoa through our diverse cultures. I hope to see all of you there especially since this is our event. Please include current and ex volunteers and students at each centre. We encourage each of you to bring at least

one external person with you to the event. Feel free to invite your parents, partner, friends, siblings or networks. Kids are welcome too. Our Youth Unit has designed a very lovely poster for this event (attached with this email). I request that you print and paste in your centres/offices. Please register on the [Eventbrite link](#) to RSVP. Registering online will help us plan better for catering purposes. Here is the [Facebook link](#).

Pain Self Management Education Course

For people with chronic pain lasting for more than 3 months. Wednesday 15th February 2017 runs for 6 weeks, 10.00am - 12.30pm, East Health Trust PHO 260 Botany Road, Unit B, Golflands (Behind East Care A&M) Topics Include - Healthy Eating, Problem Solving, Communications, Strategies for managing: Pain, Fatigue, Frustration. To Register please contact Shirley Bernhard ph 09 538 0599, email shirleyb@easthealth.co.nz or ask your doctor or nurse about a referral. For Further Information about this programme, contact: David, Parvin or Shirley 09 538 0599.

Papatoetoe United Adapted Football Programme

A great opportunity to learn football or enhance your skills under Papatoetoe United Football Club coaches! The programme runs for 8 weeks and is open to young people 5+ with a physical impairment who are either ambulant or use a walker or sticks for mobility. Saturdays 11th February, 9.30-10.30am. Kolmar Centre (Hockey turf) off Sutton Crescent. Cost \$85 for the year. Contact Paul Ralph, 021 456 534 or paulralph@advancemarketing.co.nz. Funding may be available via Halberg Disability Sport Foundation Ability Fund, contact Maia Lewis maia@halberg.co.nz 021 995 951

Coffee and Support Groups

For family/whanau raising a child with autism, disability or a health impairment. Connect with other parents/whanau for support and share a cuppa. [New Lynn group](#) at Mozaik New Lynn, Wednesday 1st March, 10am-12pm and [North Shore](#) – Café Windsor, 550 East Coast Road, Mairangi Bay, 10am-12pm. Please email us at auckland@parent2parent.org.nz or 027 808 3943 / 0508 236 23.

Pasifikability – Free Disability Dance Classes

Proudly presented by Niu Ola Trust. Classes starting on January 20th 11am- 12pm (every Friday until 25th August). Te Rito Community Centre, 7 Piki Thompson Way, Otahuhu. And on Mondays 11am-12pm every Monday until 26th June. Otahuhu Town Hall, 10 High Street, Otahuhu. Self expression Tutors - Valeria Pierbon: Dance and Movement Therapist and Yoko Obata: Movement Based Art Therapist. For more information contact Susannah 021 806 769 or stauponiuola@gmail.com

Pasifika Autism Support Group

10.30am-12.30pm Riverside Community Centre – Cnr Peace and Bernard St, Mt Wellington 29th April, 24th June, 2nd September, 11th November. Contact - Brian 021 216 7772 (text), asdpassifika@gmail.com

Raeburn House Courses and Workshops for Parents

Raeburn House offer groups including Overcoming Anxiety, Managing Anger and Stress, Moving past Depression, and Art Therapy for individuals 18yrs and over. These are free with a referral from your GP. www.raeburnhouse.org.Nz for more information. Venues at Northcote Central and Milford. 09 441 8989 and ask for Brigid.

Spirit of Adventure Trust 5 Day Inspirational Voyage

The Spirit of Adventure Trust was established to provide the youth of New Zealand with access to a character development programme conducted in a maritime environment. Our voyages are seen as a unique environment for youth development. Where the focus of learning for the trainees is on team-work and developing skills of communication, self-reliance, self-discipline, self-esteem, resilience, confidence and leadership. The voyage is from Sunday 27th March – Thursday 31st March.

Stars, Arts 4 us and Dance 4 Us Therapy Schedule Term 1 2017

Weekly dance movement and art-making sessions for adults and children on the Autism Spectrum and related disorders including ADHD, Anxiety, PDD and Developmental Delays, focussing on developing social skills, emotional literacy, friendship skills and sensory integration. Location: Dunkirk, Henderson, Onehunga, Orakei, Mt Albert, Mt Wellington, Northcote, Pakuranga. www.dancetherapy.co.nz or email admin@dancetherapy.co.nz

Tasman Paddleboard Day

Register now for a fun day on the water and experience the joy of paddle boarding. For physically disabled New Zealanders. To register for this event contact Halberg Disability Sport Advisor. Justin Muschamp 027 224 8123 justin@halberg.co.nz Sunday 19th March, 10am -2pm. Tahunanui Beach

Teen Open Studio

An open studio art group for teenagers of all abilities aged 12 years plus, particular provision is made for teens with autism and other special needs. The art therapist and facilitators work to progress art making abilities and to extend group held, collective themes of interest on which to base subject matter for creative projects. A safe environment is provided for teens to form supportive relationships with one another and to share and explore their creative ideas. Feb 2nd-April 13th, May 4th-July 6th, July 27th-September 28th, October 19th-December 14th. info@mapurastudios.org.nz 09 845 5361 Alex McPherson. \$250 for 10 weeks, fees include all materials and a 45 min individual art therapy pre assessment. Fees can be made with carer support.

Te Roopu Taurima – Ready for Mahi

Free e-learning modules. These accessible and trilingual modules provide the opportunity for people to learn some of the basic skills they need to get ready to work.

Through the Horse's Eye – Horse Therapy

Equine therapy is a therapy where the horse is the therapist, teaching a person about themselves and enabling them to solve their own problems in a low pressure, non-judgemental environment. Horses are prey animals, which mean they have to be very good at reading others and communicating with one another. They are also very social creatures and want to create bonds; this represents safety to them. Due to this they are also very good at reading people and often mirror our thoughts and behaviours. Call 021 025 27770, Waiuku (15 mins south of). \$20 per session – 75 mins long.

Tune In "Speech and Music Co-Therapy Group"

Fun filled group sessions led by a music therapist and a speech therapist that use musical activities to develop social and functional language skills. The groups are organised around themes to help children develop their vocabularies and language comprehension, while allowing for plenty of opportunities for development of social skills and friendship through peer engagement and musical games. Preschool group age 2-5yo with caregivers, Monday 1.45-2.30pm, School age group 6-10yo with or without caregivers Monday 3-3.45pm. Raukautauri Music Therapy Centre, \$30 per session. Starts 13th February. For more information contact Jen Ryckaert, Jennifer@rmtc.org.nz or 09 360 0889.

UBU Playgroup for our kids with a difference

Grey Lynn Community Centre, Monday 1-3pm. We're encouraging parents and caregivers to come along, connect and support one another at our new pre-schoolers playgroup with a focus on our children with extra needs. Differences are embraced in a fun and safe environment which offers free or supported play. Contact 378 4908 for more information.

Working with Parents' Anger

Taking the heat off the child. For people working with parents, caregivers and families. Auckland 18th and 19th May. Mercy Spirituality Centre, Te Ngakau Waiora, 104 The Drive, Epsom, \$275 incl GST, 9am-4.30pm.

NOTICES



Attitude are wanting kids to share their voice

We are producing some short videos to give a platform for kids to share their voice. What do they want others to know about having a disability? What would they change about the world? What do they want to be when they grow up? Contact Olivia Shivas 021 022 01103 olivia@attitudelive.com

[Auckland Disability Law Supported Decision Making Resources](#)

They have developed a set of resources as part of a project. The resources can be downloaded and distributed. If you would like printed copies please email info@adl.org.nz. [Let's talk about Supported Decision Making](#), [Let's talk about Supported Decision Making – easy read](#), [Promoting Supported Decision making and the protection of personal and property rights act](#) and a [roadmap to success poster](#).

[Autism and Eating Issues](#)

Here is a useful video by Dr Elizabeth Shea from National Autistic Society. This is quite informative.

[Autism Awareness Day](#)

Sunday 2nd April. We encourage everybody to support autism awareness by wearing light blue and taking part in fundraisers and awareness events.

[Bloom](#)

Is a social enterprise for youth and individuals with learning disabilities. We are based in Pukekohe at Tui Glen Nurseries. You can find us at 188 Jutland Rd (far end of Princes St West) alongside Te Whangai Trust. We offer; meaningful activities for our vulnerable people, a connection to our community, an exchange of knowledge and skills between our keen volunteers and our people, a fun social work environment, some additional income to our workers and a sense of wellbeing for all participants. Every Monday, Thursday, Saturday 9am-12pm. New participants welcome on Mondays. For more information email Ineke bloompukekohe@gmail.com or 021 084 92604. Plants available for sale 10am-12pm.

[Burn Support Trust](#)

The Burn Support Charitable Trust is a non-profit organisation founded in 1987. We rely solely on the generous support of the public and different organisations who donate to our Charity of which we are truly appreciate. Burns are traumatic for both individual, their families/whanau. They can be faced with many losses, their physical appearance, sometimes their home, income and perhaps grieving the loss of a family member or colleague involved in a fire. The multiple emotions felt by burn survivors was the reason Burn Support Group felt there was a real need to support patients and families throughout the rehabilitative phase of a burn injury, however small or extensive that maybe. If you look on their website www.burns.org.nz for more information.

[CCS Disability Action – How's it Going?](#)

Opening up new conversations is a free tool that can support people to work out whether they are living the life they want. People can also use it to talk, or think, about where they are at and where they want to be. For more information click [here](#).

[CCS – What's new in the Library](#)

You can request free books from this service from CCS and will be couriered to you, like a library. Latest update November 2016

[Celebrate Children's Day](#)

The 5th March 2017 is Children's Day. Children are our treasure! Children's Day is a chance for all of us to get together and celebrate the precious young people in our lives. Children's Day – Te Ra O Te Tamariki, provides New Zealanders with an opportunity to give time to children. Children's Day has been running since the early 2000's and is on the first Sunday of March each year. Hundreds of events happen all over the country each March, some big and some small. Children's Day is about treasuring our children, including: Giving time, Praising and encouraging, Listening and talking, Sharing Love and affection, Exploring new experiences

[Childrens Day at Stardome](#)

Bring your little aliens to Stardome for a fun family day exploring the universe! Includes short planetarium shows running every 30 minutes, rocket launching, solar telescopes and more fun! So come down to Stardome for a show and check out our new displays and other activities. (Please note that some of these experiences are weather permitting) 10am – 4pm, Sunday 5th March, \$2 per person

[Community Investigation](#)

Community Investigation invites you to take a holistic look at community and explore questions such as, what does a healthy community look like and how can we create it? How does reciprocity work in community? It also provides methods and tools for exploring the talents of the community. This in turn should lead to a targeted allocation of practical and financial resources and in turn increase productivity for your organisation. It will allow you to look at and challenge the way your organisation functions on a day to day basis while remaining true to its vision. You will also develop a fresh understanding of how your organisation fits into the wider community. Community Investigation will empower your organisation to adopt fresh, innovative ideas and increase you relevance while providing tools for you to shed ideas that may be limiting your life in the community. Community investigation is an experience that empowers your organisation to be agents of change in an ever changing world. For more information contact Gray Ruffell, info@grayruffell.co.nz, 027 303 1079 / 06 870 8212

[Da Homies – A social group of four young men on the Autism Spectrum](#)

We thought we will share this interesting story about how two caregivers supported and promoted the friendship of four young men on the Autism Spectrum to form their own social group "Da Homies". If you would like to know more about promoting social connectedness and/or more about this process, please contact Bobbie Chadderton (bobbie.chadderton@gmail.com)

[Dans le Noir ? at Rydges Auckland](#)

Opening March 24th, 59 Federal St, Auckland. Booking are now open to live this unique human & sensory experience! To book click [here](#) and their facebook [page](#). For more information click [here](#)

Digital playgrounds return to Auckland parks

Magical Park – an app that transforms a normal park into a digital playground – is back for the rest of the year at three Auckland sites following its successful two-month trial. Specifically made for children aged 6-11, the app augments the real world with 3D digital images via a smartphone or tablet. “We know children spend a lot of time on their screens and this app enables them to get moving while using their devices,” she says. “The app’s trial had some really positive results; we saw a lot of families getting out in our parks collecting dinosaur eggs or catching kittens. So we’re really excited to bring Magical Park back to three of our parks for more children to enjoy,” she says. The parks which will host the app until the end of the year are: Onepoto Domain, Onewa Road, Northcote – near the Community Hall, Harbourview Peoples Park, Te Atatu Road and Gloria Ave roundabout, Te Atatu Peninsula, Barry Curtis Park, Flat Bush – near the playground off Stancombe Road. Each park has a game specifically designed for it and the games cannot be played outside the designated areas within the park. The game spaces are clearly signposted and boundaries are pre-programmed to blackout and show warning signs to stop children running into hazards or onto roads. Players can go to [Geo AR Games](#) if they need game support.

Early Years Services Hub Franklin

A partnership between Franklin Family Services and Huakina Development Trust supporting families with children aged 0 - 6 years. Please contact admin@familysupport.org.nz

Eye on Nature Family Day

Auckland Botanic Gardens Event site (enter Everglade Drive). Saturday 1st April 11am-5pm. Free event. Wearable arts fashion parade and entertainment 6-8pm. This year’s focus is ‘Edibles’ from ground to table. For more information www.beautifulmanukau.org.nz

Family First Welfare Trust

Their vision is have a multi-ethnic and well integrated society where Muslim families are dignified, empowered and can live a life free from fear and violence with their own unique identity, contributing towards Aotearoa and community while exercising their rights and choices in a responsible manner. They provide all possible support to the families based on NZ law focusing on Islamic values in a family crisis or family breakdown situation. Based at 269 Great South Road, Otahuhu, 09 276 1785 / 0800 435 7786 email info@familyfirstwelfare.org.nz

Family Start Service

Family start is a home visiting programme that focuses on improving children’s health, learning and relationships, family circumstances, environment and safety. It helps families who are struggling with challenges or problems that make it harder for them to care for their baby or young child. For more information contact 09 276 3729, www.atwc.org.nz

Flourishing Friendships

Flourishing Friendships is a social, friendship and dating organisation for all people over the age of 18

who have a disability, but open to all. Contact flourishingfriendships16@gmail.com or call Sarah 021 135 3560 or Diane 027 629 0696.

Good Vibrations Music Therapy

Sophie Buxton is a qualified and registered music therapist who has just started to offer this therapy in Helensville in term 4. She is available to provide sessions for children, teenagers and adults with intellectual / physical disabilities. Sophie Buxton 021 525 609, or email sophieb@musictherapy.associates

Government launched Disability Confident Campaign

25th November encouraging employment of people with disabilities. The campaign is about showcasing the wide range of easily accessible and practical information available to support employers of disabled employees. One in four New Zealanders have some form of disability. This group represents a vast pool of talent that employers can tap into to enhance workplace diversity and make a valuable contribution to their business. More information is [here](#).

“Ice-Breaker” Anti-Bullying Workshops for Young People

A workshop designed by *The Cube and Yes Disability* delivered by six young leaders from within the disability sector. Have a look at the [flier](#) for contact details.

Incredible Years Pukekohe

A 14 week programme for parents of children 3-8 years. Please contact admin@familysupport.org.nz

Interacting Theatre

Here is the great drama group in Takapuna on a Monday beginning February 13th 1-2.30pm, \$10 a class. Held at Phab 8 Auburn St, Takapuna, Contact Paula Crimmens, 09 849 5595, interacting@ihug.co.nz

Jobs Available – Dan Le Noir (In the Dark) – exciting new restaurant concept in Auckland!!

Dans le Noir? is a project being set up by Dans le Noir? and Rydges Auckland. “Dans le Noir ?” (French for “In the Dark ?”) has several restaurants in Europe (Paris, London, Barcelona) offering patrons a unique human and sensory experience by eating in complete darkness, guided and served by either a visually impaired or blind staff. Dans le Noir? are seeking guides/waiters/waitresses for their Auckland restaurant. Please read the advertisement carefully before applying. Send your CV to Chanael at dansle Noir.auckland@gmail.com

Kidpower, Teenpower Healthy Relationships

Late last year we launched the latest version of the Healthy Relationship Resource for disabled teens and adults. The resource provides practical tools to build resiliency and prevent bullying, violence and abuse, is suitable for the classroom, groups or individuals. It was developed over 6 years, in collaboration with users with disabilities. It is available free online <http://www.kidpower.org.nz/healthyrelationships> or

can be purchased in hardcopy by ordering online through our website. Independent evaluations found that the programme was of high quality, effective, easy to follow, and enjoyable for students!

Lifekidz Team Leader needed

After school and holiday programmes for special needs children. Part time 25 hours per week (increased hours during school holidays). We are looking for a person experienced in looking after people with disabilities/special needs. The applicant must be flexible, positive, enthusiastic and energetic and have excellent behaviour management strategies with strong planning and organisational skills. The ability to supervise, support and mentor young staff members in a busy, challenging, rewarding environment would be advantageous. Email cv to deearna@lifekidz.org.nz

LifeKidz Youth Group – Community Participation Programme

This programme is developed for Very High Needs and High Needs Youth for over 18 year olds. Running Monday to Wednesday 8.30am-3pm. The vision for the youth programme is to: form a group for 18 year olds and over where they can express and excel in everyday life and experiences and join in the local community. Our facility at The Depot is wheelchair friendly, we have a large gym, playground, quiet rooms, large kitchen and social room. Our goal is to do a variety of activities every day including cooking, swimming, visiting our local library, villages and participating in community events. We will create personal goals for each youth member and help achieve them. Call Deearna and make a time to come and visit. We can discuss payment options with you. 09 533 6360 or email deearna@lifekidz.org.nz

Looloo Toilet Training Solutions

How to toilet train my son – answers to all your questions and more.

Mum creates the easiest cookbook

Wellington mother Jenny McClure has released a cookbook she wrote especially for her son and others that struggle with traditional cookbooks. 30 year old Joe McClure suffered a traumatic brain injury after he was hit by a car while cycling in Cambridge, UK, 17 years ago. The then 13 year old spent 10 days in an induced coma and underwent major surgery. Years later when he left home to go and live by himself, it soon became clear that standard cookbooks didn't work for him, she couldn't believe how crazily and complicated they were and her son really struggled to follow them and so the idea for Short Takes: Making cooking simple was born.

Mind over Matter

Are a charity organisation that presents workshops to strengthen communication and connection with those teenagers who think learn and work differently. These workshops are designed for the parents, siblings, families, community members first responders and professionals in close association with these teenagers. The teenagers may be undiagnosed high functioning or diagnosed with such labels as Asperger's, OCD, ADHD, Dyspraxia, ADD, ODD and

others. They normalize what's often viewed as dysfunction or disability and reframes it as cognitive difference, levelling communication barriers between all of our neurodiversity. That person that's been put in that "label or box" is just another person. They were established because there is a desperate and exponential need for our workshops. We are all aware there is a significant increase in teenage anxiety, youth alienation, unemployment, teenage runaways and youth suicide. Helps parents and professionals keep going when they just don't know what to do next. Mind over manner uses applied theatre techniques and works with theatre practitioners. By re-constructing highly-charged events drawn from life experiences, exercises deliver "active-reality" scenarios so parents, family, caregivers, teachers, youth workers and police have the chance to participate and reassess their responses to these most difficult times. If you are interested in booking a Mind over manner workshop please visit our website www.mindovermanner.co.nz or contact Susan Haldane 027 665 8084 (txt only) sue@mindovermanner.co.nz

MyCare

The new way to find support workers. MyCare is bringing technology and community together in a dedicated online platform for people needing at-home care and support. They've built a mobile marketplace, connecting individuals needing help to live comfortably at home to a nationwide network of care workers, part-timers and volunteers. The service aims to break down the barriers. The site already has nearly two thousand workers from nurses and care workers to students looking for work while they study. Here is their updated [flier](#). Visit www.mycare.co.nz or phone 0800 677 000. In October, we released new tools and people can now set up a contractor agreement using MyCare's templates, book their support worker's visits through their MyCare account, assign tasks for the day and keep their support circle of family and friends in the loop. They'll be able to see all visits at a glance and know what's happening every week. Once they've registered, users will have access to these tools:

- **Match** – find someone to provide support or care for themselves or a family member
- **Manage** – it's easy to coordinate support visits and pay workers safely and securely
- **Share** – invite family and friends into the support circle so they know what's happening just by logging in.

If you have any questions about how the service will work for members of your community, you may like to visit our [Help Centre](#)

Never Again E Kore Ano

The Human Rights Commission have recently launched an open letter to the Prime Minister and public campaign for an inquiry into the historic abuse of New Zealanders held in state care. Iwi leaders, disability advocates, academics, current and former Human Rights Commissioners as well as survivors have signed the initial open letter. Please find the letter and further information below. They hope to see a groundswell of support from all New Zealanders as well as those with large social media followings. You are invited to sign the letter and encouraged to disseminate this information widely. The NeverAgain website is www.neveragain.co.nz If you wish to

discuss or have any questions please contact either: Paul Gibson, Disability Rights Commissioner paul@hrc.co.nz or Karen Johansen, Indigenous Rights Commissioner. [Open Letter - PDF](#)

Numicon

Want to learn more about the Numicon approach click [here](#). Their new firm foundations info is [here](#) - Learning through play is the key feature of this new publication. Teachers are loving it! They are enjoying conversations with children in play and workshop situations, even talking about numbers higher than 20! Early childhood teachers and New Entrant teachers are using New FF. And also all their new resources are [here](#).

Open Home Foundation

Oasis Respite Break Services for families accessing individualised funding services. Families can access this service if they have children aged 5-20 years with Autism and/or an intellectual disability. This service can be directly purchased through Open Home. There are 5 different types of services – Respite home away from home – which is allocated via Taikura Trust, caring for your child at home with an Oasis worker, child cared for at home while you are away overnight, a fun day out for your child and also a holiday programme child for your child. Please have a look at the flier [page 1](#), [page 2](#).

Otahuhu Health Expo

1st April, 11am-2pm, Toia, Mason Ave, Otahuhu. Free face painters, bouncy castle, giveaways, and competitions. Free family event. The community will be able to receive information on all aspects of healthy living and available services.

Pain Self Management Education

For people with chronic pain lasting more than 3 months. Programme is Free and runs from Wednesday 16th February for 6 weeks. 10am-12.30pm. East Health Trust, 260 Botany Road, Golflands. Register contact Shirley Bernhard ph 09 538 599 or email shirleyb@easthealth.co.nz.

Phab Social Groups

Our North Shore senior social group (age 35ish) and over are looking for new members, if you or anyone you know is keen please email chewy@phab.org.nz or call 09 488 7490. The group runs in Takapuna on Tuesday from 6.30-8.30pm. Our social group runs throughout school terms and involve different activities such as ten pin bowling, movie visits, baking nights, meals out, community projects and more. The group decides at the beginning of each term and we support them in their social outcomes. This is fun and interactive way to make friends and get out in the community.

Smalltalk Therapy

Have some sessions available with a speech language therapist who have specialist skills in paediatric disability. They cover East and South Auckland.

Special Assessment Conditions – Schooling

School term has begun and often IEP's are scheduled this term. SAC may be one of the subjects to discuss with teachers whether your teenager has an IEP or not. What are Special Assessment Conditions (SAC)? Special Assessment Conditions (SAC) provide extra help for approved students studying for NCEA that ensure they are fairly assessed through the removal of barriers. They can be used for both internal standards and external exams.

Speech4all Speech Therapy

My name is Samantha McGillivray. I am a Speech Language Therapist working part time at Sunnyside Special School and part time as a private therapist at Speech4all. I have worked a lot with children with complex communication needs and have completed my masters research examining the language use in children with ASD. Email info@speech4all.co.nz

Standing Tall Transforming Abilities Survey

Standing Tall Recruitment and Advisory is proud to announce that we will be conducting Disability Sensation and Awareness Training for a global ride share service soon. Contact driver@standingtall.co.za for more information

Strengthening Families – Franklin

Empowering families to sort out their issues all at once in a coordinated way. Families are supported to achieve lasting results. It's about making a difference for families by connecting the services. For more info or to register contact 238 6233 or visit www.strengtheningfamilies.govt.nz

Strengthening Families – North Shore

Are you feeling overwhelmed on how to navigate funding for your child, and would you like to receive increased support from the professionals and schools involved with your family? Julie Walker can help you with this by co-ordinating round table meetings with all those involved, identifying any further help that you can access for you or your child, collaboratively formulating an action plan, and facilitating a safe space where your concerns can be heard. This is a Ministry of Social Development free service, and is based at Raeburn House in Northcote Central. Phone 09 441 8989/027 498 7074

Support Worker Available covering Onehunga – Drury

I am a support worker who has been working with people with special needs and disabilities for 10 years. I am looking for work during the school holidays. I'm also happy to look after your kids while parents go out and do Christmas shopping or just so they can go out and have a little bit of 'me' time as I know parents don't get a lot of that. I'm available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9am till 2:30pm and I will work in South Auckland from Onehunga to Drury. I can work with micky buttons, ng tubes, all hoists, can drive mobility vehicles, know New Zealand Sign Language and can look after children with high needs. I have references if you would like to contact them. Thank you and I look forward to meeting more parents and

working with your children. I am also willing to be paid through IF and carer support days. My hourly rate is \$18-\$20 an hour depending on the child's needs also I charge a bit more for more than one child which price can be negotiated. Please contact Jackie Riley on 021 140 2891. I look forward to hearing from you.

SWAN NZ – Syndromes without a name

SWAN New Zealand is a support group for New Zealand patients and families affected by an undiagnosed genetic condition – a 'syndrome without a name'. SWAN NZ was established by the New Zealand Organisation for Rare Disorders (NZORD) in 2016. For more information email swannz@nzord.org.nz or 04 385 1119

Te Ata Timetable Term 1

Includes Zumba, Mosaic and Crafts, Pools, Art Journaling, Relaxation and Pamper Class, Art, Movies, Creative Writing and Pool Competition. 52 Keeling Road, Henderson.

Safari Multicultural Playgroup Project Job Vacancy.

Playgroup Project Worker – 7 months fixed term, 10-14 hours per week. Will need to have ECE qualification and/or experience, An understanding of refugee and migrant community needs, Commitment to enhancing ECE opportunities for refugee background families, Experience in project and people coordination, and engaging with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Self-motivation, confidence, reliability and flexibility, Sound administration skills and computer literacy, Strong written and oral communication skills. Please look at the position description and request an application form if interested from cherieb@arms-mrc.org.nz. Please make it clear which position you are interested in. Applications close at 4pm on Thursday 9th March 2017. We plan to interview short-listed applicants on the 14th or 15th March. Please send your completed application, CV and cover letter to cherieb@arms-mrc.org.nz or call Cherie 09 973 2852

TimberNook NZ Announces new provider in Christchurch

TimberNook New Zealand names new Christchurch South provider as the first South Island site for our popular outdoor programmes that integrate sensory experiences, imagination and nature for all children.

Uber Total Mobility Trial

Uber is a smartphone app that lets you get a safe, reliable, affordable ride in minutes. It has been operating in Wellington and Auckland for the last 18 and 24 months respectively and have upwards of 2000 active drivers. Uber services are typically up to 40% cheaper than normal taxi fares in Wellington and Auckland. They operate two classes of service – UberX and UberASSIST. UberX is their standard ridesharing product, and is very similar to a taxi. [UberASSIST](#) provides additional assistance to people who are limited in their mobility (ie. scooters, walking frames, utilising fold up wheelchairs) by providing drivers who have received additional training from Be.Accessible.

The details are as follows: – The trial will run for two months for each participant, running starting in January or February, 2017 in Auckland or Wellington. – Participants will be given 50% discounts on up to \$500 worth of Uber trips per month. – The discount will be automatically applied to participant's accounts. – There is the hope that they will utilise the service during the testing period as much as they would like in order to develop a good understanding of the parts of the Uber service that work well and those that need improvement. – Training/phone calls on getting Uber set up will be available if necessary. – Participants will be asked to complete a short survey at the end of the first month and again at the end of the trial. This will be in written format or can be done over the phone. It will cover their experience, and what Uber can do to improve the service.

Wise Collective Project Job Vacancy

9 Months Fixed Term: 12 hours per week, applicants will need to have: Experience of community engagement and development, preferably with former refugee/migrant women, Commitment to enhancing empowerment and enterprise opportunities for former refugee women, Competency in English and at least one other relevant language, Digital, computer and basic administration skills, Strong interpersonal skills and good common sense, Self-motivation, with good teamwork skills and a willingness to learn. Please look at the [position description](#) and request an application form if interested from cherieb@arms-mrc.org.nz. Please make it clear which position you are interested in. Applications close at 4pm on Thursday 9th March 2017. We plan to interview short-listed applicants on the 14th or 15th March. Please send your completed application, CV and cover letter to cherieb@arms-mrc.org.nz. For more information you can call Cherie or Sasi Syed on 09 625 2440.

Articles of interest:

[Rare Disease Day](#)

[NZSL achievements and resources](#)

[Alternative communication in the classroom](#)

[Sign language for the hearing take off in Manawatu High School](#)

[What to look for when choosing a school for a child with special needs in New Zealand](#)

[When a child with autism gets lost](#)

[Living with autism: Good days, bad days, and meltdowns](#)

[Temple Grandin explains why it's necessary to pull ASD children out of their comfort zone](#)

[Women with Down syndrome visits tattoo studio each week](#)

[For the blind an actual reality headset](#)

[Sophie Pascoe shares what fuels her success in new TV campaign](#)

[Teen with autism says the Muppets already have a character on the spectrum](#)

[Boy with no brain stuns doctors as he learns to count and attends school](#)

[Gluten intolerance what are the signs of coeliac disease](#)

[Tips do's and don'ts of fidgets for kids](#)

[Kids with ADHD have some brain regions that are smaller than normal](#)

[Verbal stimming – what is it?](#)

[Dans le Noir opening in Auckland](#)

[Preparing Disabled students for life after school](#)

In order to keep informed about important issues, seminars and changes to any seminars it is important that you LIKE us on Facebook !

Please visit our Facebook page [here](#) and 'like' us. You can follow us on Twitter [here](#)

NEWSLETTERS

[Auckland Down Syndrome](#) – February 2017

[Be Accessible](#) – February 2017

[Carers NZ](#) – February 2017

[Children's Autism](#) – February 2017

[Communitycations](#) – February 2017

[Deaf Aotearoa February 20](#) [Deaf Aotearoa February 27](#) [Talking Hands Magazine](#)

[Dotty Wobble](#) – February 2017

[e-Cald news](#) - March 2017

[Franklin Family Support Newsletter](#) – February 2017

[Health Link North](#) – February 2017

[Health Quality & Safety Commission E-update](#) – February 2017

[Idea Services](#) – February 2017

[Independent Living Services](#) – February 2017

[Kiwi Families](#) – February 2017

[NZDSN](#) – February 2017

[On the Radar \(Rare Disease Advocacy and Research\)](#)

[Parent to Parent newsletter](#) – February 2017 [Magazine](#) – December 2016

[Recreate NZ newsletter](#) – 2016 / 2017

[Special Olympics Fanletter](#) – February 2017

[Violence Free Communities](#) – February 2017

[Whanau Marama](#) – January 2017

[Women's Centre](#) – February 2017

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helping families

From the Disability Connect Team

Lisa, Virginia, Robyn, Sanny, Angela and Asoka

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