



New Zealand Foundation for CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION

MAXIMISING THE ABILITY IN DISABILITY

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From the National Coordinator, Sally Thomas



Well, as I write this we are already just about to hit Easter and there is a definite hint of autumn in the air. We hope that everyone in the Conductive Education whānau and our supporters have managed to keep well—we are aware that lots of people have had covid—with some unfortunately being a lot more affected than others. Our centres have continued their amazing work despite

some challenges as you will read in this newsletter.

What have we been up to?

NZFCE developed our new Strategic Plan for the 2022–24 period with the focus very much on building relationships with the new Ministry for Disabled People and looking at how we can further champion the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) principles into our work. We will be profiling EGL and sharing some stories in future newsletters which will demonstrate what EGL means to individuals and how it impacts on their lives.

We are looking forward to holding our first face-to-face meeting since our AGM in Wellington in May last year, with zoom now being our new norm. We are running a Professional Development Programme as part of our AGM facilitated by Humanly to increase our knowledge of EGL.

Our teams that work in the Education space and whānau participated in hui to have input into the Ministry of Education Highest Needs Review. This was a positive experience with our teachers/specialists talking from their perspective about the needs of children and with this being backed up by the real scenarios that were shared in a separate hui with whānau. We look forward to the outcome of this review and hope that it leads to positive change.



Thank you

Thank you so much to our friends at Independent Fisheries who are supporting us in our work again this year—we cannot express strongly enough what this long-term relationship means to Conductive Education. We also want to acknowledge the Lotteries Grants Board who recently approved a grant for operational expenses so that we can continue our mahi.

Te Pa Haraeka, Naenae Primary School

What a start to the year we have had! Like most places we have had many staff and pupils away due to Covid 19, so it was a most disruptive term. We are hoping that there is a vast improvement in everyone's health next term. At the beginning of the term we welcomed three new ORS students into the school, two five year olds and one older student. One will be learning in the unit and two in the mainstream.

Despite the disruptions we continued to learn a letter of the week throughout the term. When we were learning the letter K we made kites. Everyone enjoyed working

together making their individual kites, which were then displayed on the wall.

In Te Pa Haraeke we do a lot of learning through sensory play. Some of the students love water play. This was a great medium to encourage their exploring Numicon shapes to 5. Shontay-Rose and Ranvir loved doing this!

Usually three times a week, Skyla would go over to the Conductive pre-school to work with the Conductor on the treadmill. But this term we have kept the students separate from each other. Skyla has been loving bouncing on the large ball as well as doing other movement activities at Te Pa Haraeke.

—Staff from Te Pa Haraeka, Naenae Primary School



GlowKids

Kia ora and greetings from Tāmaki Makaurau.

We are delighted to finally be back in the centre, it has seemed like forever since we were able to reconnect face to face with our GlowKids' whānau. Hopefully we never hear the words lockdown again!

We have had a couple of new staff members join our team and this brings a renewed energy and enthusiasm into the Centre. Also, recruiting a new Conductor has been a real challenge, but after a lot of effort we are beyond ecstatic to welcome Reka Ambrus back to GlowKids. When Reka arrived initially in NZ around 10 years ago she joined the GlowKids team, then, after some time, she went on to work with adults, so we are extremely fortunate to have her return to our team. From the outset, having Reka join us has meant we are able to provide services to more children and we have also set up a new class.

Trupti Vadke (ECE teacher) has joined Tess in our Sensory Kindergarten class. Trupti has many years of experience as an ECE teacher, and it is a delight to have her on our team.

We are extremely fortunate to also welcome our new visiting occupational therapist, Tripti Desai. Tripti is a very experienced and will be joining our team at the start of Term 2.

After many months in



Addington Te Kura Taumatua

What a strange year we are having so far. We started the year remaining in our Harakeke bubble within the school, in order to keep our students as safe as possible. In early March, it was necessary to move to home learning for a period of several weeks as Omicron cases began to increase and then affected our unit.

I am greatly appreciative of the team's creative and engaging use of Zoom, and for the activities and videos that have been sent out to our families to provide continuing learning at home, along with ensuring our students had everything they needed at home to access their technology.

The most important thing has been for us to keep up our connections and communication during yet another disrupted term. A huge thank you to our families for their engagement and support over this time. At the time of writing we have a number of students who have returned to school for the remainder of the term. It is so good to see those smiling faces again.

Over Term 1 we have watched our wonderful new accessible playground get closer and closer to full completion. Since the planting has been done it looks even better. It is so exciting to have a range of places all our Harakeke students can access. We have a nice wide path that traverses our playing fields, and it's perfect for



bikes and wheelchairs.

We have an accessible carousel, sandpit and water area, and slide. Also some great sensory musical options, where students can independently create their own sounds.

Our students are so happy to have all these options, along with our safe outdoor area that is just for us. On behalf of all our Harakeke families and staff, I extend my gratitude to Donna Buchanan and the Board of Trustees for their commitment to inclusion for all students at Addington Te Kura Taumatua. We are blessed.

—Astrid and the team

lockdown, it seemed very appropriate to not want to throw off the PJ wearing during the day just yet, so we had our annual PJ day which brought much hilarity, as you can see in the photo below with staff wearing their PJ's.

I'll leave you with this whakatauki: *mahi tahi-ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, ēngari taku toa he toa*

My strength is not an individual, but as a collective.
—From the team at Glowkids

Conductive Education Waikato

Conductive Education Waikato Trust has had a term impacted by covid, as most organisations have. Luckily not too many of our tamariki have been too badly impacted, but we are exercising every caution. Our team is a little battered and bruised from their run-ins with covid, but luckily we are all back on board and loving being able to work face to face with the kids.

Conductive Education Waikato has been involved with a really valuable project called Transforming Services Journey. This is providing an opportunity for us to look at what we are doing, make sure it aligns with the Enabling Good Lives principles and, most importantly, making sure that we are getting good outcomes for our children.

We have had a significant change in our staffing, with staff moving on to other positions within our community. They will provide valuable links to these other organisations and are a great way to spread the Conductive Education word. We wish all the best to Jo, Niki, Melinda and Maddy. We welcome Shannen and Julie to our team and are already seeing the benefits of new ideas and resources for our tamariki. We are still recruiting for a Conductor and welcome the sharing of this need to all avenues. We have also had the graduations of a number of children. It was wonderful to review their activities and progress during their graduation ceremonies. It made us reflect on the value of what we do and the impact that early intervention has had for them and their whānau.

—Vicki Coddington, Centre Manager

Conductive Education Wellington

Life is an interesting roller coaster of challenges and twists and turns that keeps us on our toes. I know that for me personally, I'm ready for a return to life as close to normal as possible. I think we are all tired and with the school holidays nearly here, I hope that everyone has a peaceful rest and just relaxes from the stresses of COVID and it's counterparts. This roller coaster has seen us move alert levels and then change over to the traffic light system. To add to the changing levels, we also have been dealing with vaccine mandates, QR codes and RAT tests. Every change has resulted in new health and safety rules and policies and procedures. COVID has pretty much been everyone's focus for the last two years and it is hard to think of the other things we have done over that time. I did not want to mention COVID in this update but we can't ignore it and it has been at the forefront of everything in both our personal and professional lives.

When Omicron escaped and started cruising around our cities and neighbourhoods, we tightened our Policies at traffic light red. This was sent out to our families for feedback/clarification etc. I was delighted that nearly all of the families were happy to bring their children back to the centre rather than keeping them home like a lot of people did. They had confidence in the systems we had in place and were happy to follow our procedures for entering, leaving, sanitising etc.

The team then focussed on getting the children back into the routines that they know and are comfortable with.

We currently have 14 children under 6 years old with another 5 over 6 years old, totalling 20 and two more children on our waiting list. We have had 5 children transition to other schools in the last six months and another one leaves us today. It's wonderful to watch the progress they have made since starting with us but sad for



us that we won't get to see them every day now.

We have been donated some playground equipment which the team spent some time painting in the good weather. We were also lucky enough to have had the stairs and slide donated by Laura and Tane North who has since moved with their family up to Palmerston North.

We are delighted to report that Andor has successfully completed his year long professional development which was run by Profectum Academy in Seattle. The course he has completed is *DIR-FCD Floortime Training*.

This training took a lot of Andor's personal time as well as the three hour zoom meetings every second Wednesday over the course of a year. Even a week away on annual leave saw Andor with his laptop joining the zoom meeting in the back of the campervan. He has worked extremely hard and we can't wait to throw him a celebratory lunch.

—Kathy and the team

Conductive Education Woodstock

Another interesting start to our year. Our amazing students and staff have adapted so well to learning both at school and home. Despite all this there have been many highlights throughout the term.

We made the most of the amazing weather and both children and staff thoroughly enjoyed getting into the school swimming pool on many hot days. It was so great to see the improvement in our tamariki from the last time we had swimming.

During learning time we have been keeping to our own class bubble. We have really enjoyed having all our children working together in their small groups and continuing to develop a real sense of Whanaungatanga



alongside others and exploring everything. Likewise with the amazing new sandpit.

To finish off the term we participated in the Halberg Manaakitanga Sports day. The weather was amazing and the children and staff had the best day! All of the children participated in ball games, archery, wheelchair basketball, netball, boxing, just to name our favourites. We will definitely be adding it to our calendar again next year.

—The Woodstock Team

to start off our year.

During break times we have enjoyed getting out and interacting with other children in the playground. The school was lucky enough to get some amazing playboxes which have a multitude of tyres, boards, pipes and other such items. Our children have enjoyed playing



Conductive Education (Southern)

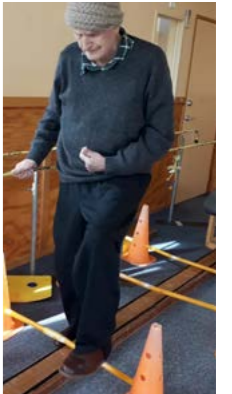
Hello to everyone from the deep south. Not much happening in our area. Due to Omicron everyone is either in self-imposed hibernation or self-isolation. The streets of Invercargill look relatively deserted. Several of our clients or a household family member have caught Omicron. Some of our client families have been in self-isolation for weeks as it spreads through the various family members. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

As a result we have been very quiet over the last few months. We have had very few new clients coming through our doors, but have maintained our role of 28.

It was with sadness that we noted the passing of our former client, Alan (Dusty) Miller. Dusty was a very caring man who volunteered for many years at Riding for the Disabled Southland until his health deteriorated and he was no longer able to fulfil his role there. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Dusty's wife, Lynette, and his extended family.

Hopefully, our next contribution will have some brighter news.

—Chris and Sevi



Conductive Education Canterbury

What a busy start to the year we have had here in Christchurch. Our first week back started with some professional training. We had the pleasure of having our Ambassador—Brad Moorar and the team from Upstream come and do some theming with us for this year. It was a great opportunity for teams to get together and brainstorm some goals for the year and develop a theme we could use to excite and engage our tamariki. After much deliberation, CEC have come up with the theme of 'Fly me to the Moon'. We have given names to our teams within the organisation—our wonderful Education Support Workers are called the 'Stargazers' and the whole team is known as 'Ground Control'. We are lucky to have some very creative and talented team members who have designed beautiful space creations to be used in our environment to motivate our tamariki.

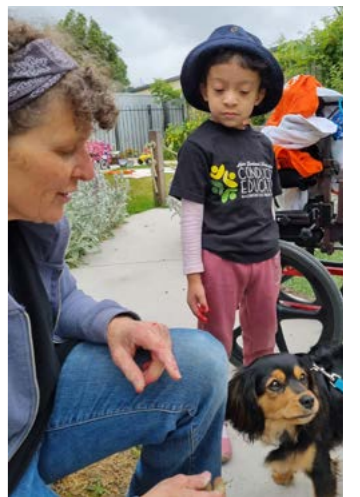
CEC have been investigating the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) principles and how these can enhance the way that we work. EGL was introduced to the team with a training session at the start of the year and we have been looking at ways to incorporate the eight principles into our work at CEC and utilise the EGL language when working with our families/whānau and in our documentation. We know that real stories and experiences are the best way to demonstrate what EGL means for individuals and whānau so we are gathering stories, past and present, and linking these to the principles to assist in our understanding. We currently have two of our past children (now young adults) working at CEC who are able to give us an informative insight into EGL from both a child and adult perspective.

Some of the team have recently completed the Kia Noho Rangatira Ai Tātou training. This is a free course provided by Te Pou and looks at the Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This very informative course highlighted the need to have a good understanding of human rights. We highly recommend this course if you have the opportunity to attend.

Due to Omicron outbreak here in Christchurch we closed for four weeks and moved to a telehealth service. The more experience we have of this way of working the more everything seems to fall into place with ease. Many of our families were staying at home and keeping safe especially as many of our children have compromised health conditions.

We do miss the face-to-face engagement with children/whānau and look forward to term 2 being a little more settled.

—Ngā mihi—Rebecca and the team



Adult Conductive Education Trust

We had a great and fun Xmas party in December last year. Camille Ross was the centre of our attention as we thanked her for all her hard work over 10 years for our whole community. We did lots of activities painting pots, making chocolates and decorating masks. Presents were given and yummy food was eaten. We even had live music and so danced and celebrated.

2022 started with us welcoming new friends to ACET, with Jesse returning and Paige joining us.

Sadly, we have also had to say goodbye to some of our other friends and were all extremely sad to hear of Charlie's passing. Over the past month we have shared many memories with one another as we work through our grief. We would like to send all our love to Leesa, Michael, Adrienne and their family. We are planning a special farewell from our community soon.

We would like to acknowledge and say a huge THANK YOU to the Lottery Community Fund for their generous contribution and their support in the running of our organisation. Support like this allows us to get the mahi done and focus on the great people we serve.

We have 3 fundraisers at the moment—cards created by our participants, CE tea towels and handy baskets. Please contact us if you would like further details.

We have also been consumed with gathering votes in our pursuit to win a new website from the team at Webmad in Christchurch. A massive THANK YOU to the ACET family and community for supporting us as we were announced as the winners!!! We look forward to working alongside the team at Webmad as we develop our new website and can't wait to share it with you all.

Also thank you to our generous contributors; our Staff, Board Members, Volunteers and the rest of the ACET Family for their continued support; Kiwi Gaming Foundation Ltd, COGS, and The Lion Foundation. Without their contributions we would be unable to run our programmes.

Keep an eye out for some exciting news about Braintree and their stylish and purpose-built premises at Papanui.

—Agnes and the crew



Neuro Connection Foundation

After such an unsettling time for everyone, we are pleased to welcome back the majority of our clients to our centre and are getting back into the swing of things.

Several covid related postponements later, we were finally able to hold our week-long 'Pop Up Op Shop' fundraiser which was a success, with support from clients and the wider community.

We also hosted a lovely social gathering, complete with butter laden freshly baked hot cross buns prior to the easter break. These events have been a wonderful way to reconnect and inject a bit of fun in the current climate. We relish the times that we spend with our clients and also love to share in their successes, so here is some great news that's well worth sharing: Our client of three years, Michelle is back on the road! This is a big goal that she has had to work towards and is news well worth sharing. There were a lot of hoops to jump through and if Michelle could give any advice to others, it would be to research what funding is available and get some



professional lessons. She went through Polo Driving School who have modified vehicles for people with disabilities and dual controls, which was great practice for when her own vehicle was modified with funding from The Lotteries Commission. The support they provided was invaluable and the confidence she gained practicing in their vehicle helped her pass her assessment which was generously covered by The Stroke Foundation, with the Occupational Therapist and her driving instructor right there at her side.

The sense of independence that she has gained back is huge. We are honoured that we were the first location that she drove to when she was able. Having the freedom to drive herself to classes, pop to the supermarket as needed and visit friends is amazing. She even planned a little road trip to visit her sister over the Easter break. It's been a long process and has been a testament to her patience and determination.

How wonderful to reach such a huge milestone and we are so proud to share in her accomplishment.

—From the team at Neuro Connection

Conductive Education Taranaki

There's a line in our Team Charter that pretty much captures how we go about the day here at Conductive Education Taranaki: "(we) have fun, passionate, light-hearted interactions". This can be loosely translated as "a high tolerance for well-intentioned madness". While we're all missing having kids coming in to brighten our days, we're doing our best to keep a childish sense of fun alive. This quarter's shenanigans report includes garden visits with a crocodile and a Pokemon, an impromptu wedding re-enactment, and a wild bunch of singing fairies gatecrashing a salon appointment.

New: Video Game Rehabilitation

Since our last update, we've launched Video Game Rehabilitation. We've already filled all our available slots and people are loving it. It's led by Steven Balogh-Bute, who is a trained Conductor, and uses a Nintendo Wii as a neurorehabilitation tool. It's also just loads of fun, which, as we know, is what makes everything work!

Club R&R

We kicked off 2022 in top gear with Club R&R, our inclusive—and incredibly successful—holiday camp. This year the kids got stuck into building, archery, paintball, catapults, zen gardens, making animal lanterns and fidgets, hip hop dancing, science, making kites, doing an obstacle course and a scavenger hunt. While the kids were having fun, our parents and whānau had a bit of down time for yoga, a nature walk, and made the most of the rare opportunity to just chat and connect over a coffee or a beer. This year, for the first time, we invited siblings to join their own wellbeing workshop. 100% of our camp attendees said they'd recommend the camp to other families. When we asked them



what they enjoyed about it, they said:

"I love that the kids are excited to go along each day and that they both feel comfortable to be themselves with all the help and support that there is there."

"Loved the vibe and just joyful and such a happy time with everyone coming together."

"Togetherness. Tamariki having fun and just being them. Siblings enjoying new connections."

Left: Steven and Brodie

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Our Governance Team

Our AGM was held in November and we welcomed two new trustees to our board. The Conductive Education Taranaki Trust has been enhanced by the additions of Jenna Blake and Ciaran King. We have also been joined by Dinnie Moeahu, who is guiding both our governance and service delivery teams as we learn how to better serve our tāngata whaikaha.

A change at the helm

We're having a change at the helm here in Taranaki. As many of you may know, Craig is transitioning out of our service team and into governance. I (Renee) am taking over Craig's role. We acknowledged the changeover at our recent strategic planning session, where we took some time to let Craig know how grateful we are for the incredible mahi that he's done to make CETT the

powerhouse of a little charity that it is—but we're not saying goodbye yet! Craig is still very much active in an advisory role. We'll have a proper farewell later in the year. If I haven't met you yet, please drop me an email renee@conductivetaranaki.org.nz or call me on 0212598928. I'd love to hear how things are going for you, and I'd love to share ideas about how we can keep Conductive Education going strong across Aotearoa.

Left: Steven and Brodie



Conductive Education Taranaki Trust

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