MATAURANGA WHANONGA I AOTEAROA



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From the National Coordinator, Rebecca Courtney



Kia ora Koutou.

Isn't it wonderful to see the signs of spring as we say goodbye to winter. I have been finding my way as I settle into the role as National Coordinator, I am particulary enjoying connecting and supporting our affiliates, the work that they are all doing around the motu is so important, I really do see the difference they are all making to the lives of the people they serve.

NZFCE Board meeting

Recently we held our NZFCE Board meeting in Auckland and took the opportunity to connect with our affiliate centre's, Glow Kids and Neuro Connections. Our Board was fortunate to hear first hand stories from several clients at Neuro Connections before their session with Conductor Nora. The clients shared how attending Neuro Connections has significantly impacted their lives since suffering strokes. A common theme in their discussions was the value of regularly connecting with others who have had similar experiences. They also emphasised how the conductors' high expectations and ongoing encouragement played a key role in their recovery and progress. These powerful testimonials reinforced to our Board the importance of community and support that our affiliates provide to their clients.

I am delighted to advise that the NZFCE Board have co-opted Sally Thomas onto the Board as an Advisory Trustee. We are very fortunate to have an experienced board with a variety of skills, from lived experience to management. Welcome back Sally!

We held our AGM and Professional Development in May with a great turn out from our affiliated centres. Thank you to our friends at the Commodore Hotel for their ongoing support to NZFCE.

"Breakfast with Smithy"

The highlight of the two days was our "Breakfast with Smithy" fundraiser supported by Emm and Terry from NZHL Canterbury Metro. Emm and Terry are wonderful generous people who go above and beyond for Conductive Education.

All of those in attendance enjoyed the banter between Sir Wayne Smith and Laura McGoldrick. It was fantastic to have Kendra Cocksedge and Chelsea Bremner join in too. We are very blessed to be connected with all of our awesome ambassadors: Kendra Cocksedge, Brad Mooar, Alana and Chelsea Bremner, Laura McGoldrick, Life member Sir Wayne Smith and Patron Chris Harris.





We appreciate how busy they all are and the demands that are placed on them from their work, networks and families, and yet they willing give their time and energy to support Conductive Education.

Thank you to Rachel and Montana for sharing their very moving accounts about what an impact Conductive Education has had on them and their whanau.

At the end of the event, we held a lively auction managed by Ben Harris from NZME, who showcased his wonderful auctioneer skills, keeping the energy high and the bids competitive. The lineup of items began with a fabulous Mamma Mia package generously donated by Show Biz. Among the other prizes were a signed Black Fern jersey from Alana and Chelsea Bremner, paired with a delicious lunch with Alana and Chelsea and a voucher from the Butchers Pie Bakehouse in Rolleston. Golf enthusiasts were thrilled by the opportunity to bid on a round of golf at Clearwater alongside Patron Chris Harris and Izzy Dagg. A true gem of the auction was the signed, leather-bound copy of Sir Wayne Smith's book-one of only ten ever produced-also donated by the rugby legend.



We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the event by donating goods for the raffle and auction, buying raffle tickets, purchasing tickets to the event, and bidding in the auction. Thanks to your generosity, we raised nearly \$14,000, which will go directly toward supporting the important work we do.

Wheel-a-thon and Conductive Education Awareness month

Held throughout August this was a great success with several of our affiliates joining in and raising awareness for Conductive Education in New Zealand. Our awesome Ambassadors and Patron got on-board too and virtually cycled between all of our affiliates across the country. We finished off the month with some of our Ambassadors and a few of the Christchurch based Black Ferns rising to the challenge of a game of Wheel Chair Rugby against The Canterbury Chargers. TVNZ also ran a story during the sports news-it was wonderful to get some media coverage of the game. If you missed it here is the link: https://www.1news.co.nz/2024/08/28/canterburychargers-take-on-black-ferns-for-wheel-a-thon/

A total of \$17,500 was raised across the country by the affiliates and NZFCE during the month with individuals challenging themselves to various challenges. We are grateful for the support from our community as we appreciate these are challenging financial times for everyone. Thank you to Peter Meecham Visuals for the fantastic photos he has captured for NZFCE at both the Wheel-a-thon event and "Breakfast with Smithy".



Farewell

Later this month we say farewell to our wonderful Itinerant Conductor Tünde as she returns to Hungary after 2 years in New Zealand supporting several of our affiliated centre's. Hopefully it it not be farewell for good and we will see her back in New Zealand again. Wishing Tünde all the best and thank you for your contribution to Conductive Education in Aotearoa.

That is all from the coordinators desk until our next update at Christmas, please enjoy the news from the centres around the motu.

Nga mihi nui, Rebecca

Conductive Education Waikato – Hamilton

Spring is arriving and we are looking forward to being able to spend some more time outside after a cold and foggy winter. With not being able to go outside as much, we brought the outside in, bringing some of our climbing equipment inside, along with leaves and rainbows (parachutes).

Matariki was a big celebration for our centre. All classes helped to create the artwork for our Matariki gallery, and we had an exhibition for all our whānau to check out the works of art and share in some kai to celebrate. We love sharing learning with our whānau and for our tamariki being able to show off the work they have been doing with their friends in class. The relationships we have with whanau are vital to getting the best outcomes and events such as our exhibition are key in building these.

Chris has been our music teacher for a number of years. He volunteers his time to come and share music and creativity with our tamariki every week, and his children come with him whenever they can to share their music with the tamariki too. It really is a highlight of the week and is an awesome way to engage our learners in activity in a different way.

We had a Silly Sock Day in May and it was a hoot! We teamed up with Jolly Soles for a fundraiser leading to our Silly Sock Day and our tamariki's families were awesome at selling these to their workplaces, family and friends. We were super grateful to AgFirst, who sponsored a pair of socks for all our tamariki. The Hamilton Charities Committee at Land Information New Zealand were also really supportive at spreading the word in their Hamilton office. We sold 174 pairs of socks!

Consistent with the theme of August in the Waikato this year, our Wheelie Awesome Day was a complete wash out, as was our back up day. However, it was great to work with Woodstock School again and raise awareness of Conductive Education within the school community.







Conductive Education Taranaki – New Plymouth

Kia ora koutou, from the CE Taranaki team. It has been a very busy time for us here in Taranaki with three big fundraising events. Unfortunately we have not yet managed to negotiate a Child Development Contract with MoH/Whaikaha (now MSD) due to the continual review and changes in this sector.

However, fundraising shows us who has our backs. We are often speechless in regards to the support that is offered to us through our community, local businesses and families that choose to continue to support what we do!

The Best Darn Charity Golf Day 2024

Our 6th annual Golf Day was held on the 24th of May, and as always was an absolute hoot!

29 teams came together for a great day of ambrose golf at Ngāmotu Golf Club. We had amazing donations for our live auction, raffle prizes and prizes for the winning teams.

NZFCE Patron Chris Harris joined us for the day, almost as good at golf as he is cricket, we auctioned him off to play as part of a team which proved a great deal of fun.

We raised a record amount of \$19,000 for our centre!

Wheelie Awesome Wheel-a-thon 2024

Our 2nd annual Wheelie Awesome Wheel-a-thon really was Wheelie Awesome! We hired out the local skating rink, and our families and community came down to complete laps of the rink on any wheels they chose and had loads of fun.

NZFCE ambassador Kendra Cocksedge flew up to spend the day with us at the event which was amazing. The tamariki and their families enjoyed meeting someone famous and took turns to do laps next to her and get a photo.

Through sponsorship of our tamariki to complete their laps, a bake sale, raffles, and sausage sizzle we have raised around \$6,000, final tally to come soon – incredible!







Legends go WILDer for Conductive Education Taranaki – Fundraising Gala Dinner

On the 7th of September we hosted our fundraising gala dinner, Legends go WILDer for Conductive Education Taranaki – what an incredible evening. We are currently one week post event and are still buzzing from the night it was!

NZ Sporting Legends, Sir Wayne Smith, Chris Harris, Zac Reid and Hope Ralph joined us for an evening of entertainment at the Plymouth International Hotel.

James McOnie hosted the event, so you can imagine there was loads of laughter and great banter. The crowd thoroughly enjoyed hearing stories from the sporting legends and lots of great bidding action occurred for the live and silent auctions.

In the current climate it can be hard to host an event such as this, but more than ever we were shown that our community is there to support us. We are extremely grateful to *Bartercard New Zealand* who was our naming sponsor, and without them this event would not have been possible. We will be annoucing our total raised soon, but we believe it to be around \$20,000 – amazing!

We wish you well for the busy Christmas period.

The team at Conductive Education Taranaki

Harakeke Unit at Addington Te Kura Taumatua – Christchurch

The Harakeke Unit at Addington Te Kura Taumatua have had a very busy but exciting couple of terms.

We have really enjoyed learning all about spring and what happens during this season. Our favourite learning was about lambs—especially as we were able to have two lambs come and visit us for half a day. They looked so cute running around the unit with their nappies on. We got to cuddle them and feed them and some even got little lamb kisses.

For Wheelie Awesome Month we set ourselves the goal of travelling from our unit up to Picton, across on the ferry and then to visit all of the North Island affiliates of Conductive Education. This meant travelling a distance of 1186 kms over the month. We really had to pound the pavement to get these kms covered. The weather wasn't always on our side but having two exercycles in the unit certainly helped with this. The staff were amazing at jumping on these, as well as many children from the senior area of the school. We can happily report that we made it with plenty of days to spare.

Other than the very generous donations that we received from members of our community, we also raised money by selling ice blocks every Friday for the month of August. This was very popular with the children across the rest of the school. The children in Harakeke loved being able to go and deliver each class's orders directly to them. They used their step by steps to thank the children for buying ice blocks to support our fundraising.

Lastly, two children in Harakeke are practicing hard with our school Te Tipuranga group (Kapa Haka) as they get ready for their performance at Tūhono in November. This is a competition being held at the Christchurch Town Hall. We are so proud of their commitment to this and can't wait to see them on stage.

Warm regards, Bridget Manson, Harakeke Manager





Conductive Education Wellington Trust – Wellington

Kia Ora everyone! Our team here at CEWT have had a busy year so far! We have grown to learn new things and strengthen our ability to thrive as a community.

Our current focus as a team is around learning new communicational skills to enhance and strengthen the mana of our tamariki. Using a wide range of resources, media and modes have been a great learning experience for kaiako so far. Our local EIT and SLT from Ministry of Education have supported us along the way and continuously guide us in the process. CEWT would love to give a big mihi to our EIT and SLT as they have managed to help us gain funding to purchase special





communication resources to support our tamariki. We are currently in the process of implementing an outside bilingual core board into our environment as one of our funded items! Watch this space!

Our tamariki have been super busy, actively participating in their own learning environment. For our tamariki on the autism spectrum, it is all about Takiwatanga–Learning in their own space and time. As for our high health needs, it is all about making outcomes achievable no matter the length of time. Overall our environment remains happy and kaiako are always providing their absolute best to support our diverse needs.

We've had a couple of tamariki graduate at CEWT and go off to big kura in the last term. We've also farewell Annemarie our previous Centre Manager as she has moved on to new and exciting things with her whānau, and Judith Silverwood, our "alumni" kaiako who has now retired.

We would like to welcome Vichelle or 'V' as part of our teaching team. V is a fully certified kaiako and has worked in the mainstream environment for some time. She is eager to learn more about our tamariki, their learning, abilities and also their special needs. We look forward to having her as part of the team. Welcome back to our new Centre Manager Ali Sullivan who was involved in the early days of Conductive Education Wellington Trust, it is wonderful to have someone who knows where we have come from and lead us into the future.

From our team to yours, we hope that you all enjoy the Spring season ahead.

Noho ora mai, CEWT team!

Adult Conductive Education Trust – Christchurch

What a wheelie awesome time we have had since our last newsletter contribution. August saw us joining forces with other centres and school around the motu to promote Conductive Education and get wheelie active while doing it. We would like to say a special shout out to our people who wrapped up warm during Winter, hitting the pavements and getting wheelie active in support of ACET.

We had wheelie awesome fun at the wheelathon held at Addington Te Kura Taumatua with Conductive Education Canterbury and the New Zealand Foundation for Conductive Education. We were treated to a fast paced game of wheelchair rugby and it was great watching members from the Canterbury Wheelchair Rugby team, CE Patron Chris Harris, CE Ambassador Kendra Cocksedge, CE Ambassadors and Black Ferns Chelsea and Alana Bremner and Black Ferns Amy du Plessis, Lucy Jenkins, Pip Love and Georgia Ponsonby being wheelie active.

The excitement of the Paralympics and Olympic games held in Paris and the inspirational Paralympians had us trying our hand at a range of different activities and sports while increasing our communication skills around this topic. Our people have been enjoying using the gym as part of the afternoon conductive education sessions run out of the Braintree Wellness Centre and challenging themselves alongside their friends.

We are looking forward to our upcoming Bingo night, giving us a chance to connect with our local community. We would like to thank our generous contributors: our Staff, Board Members, Volunteers and ACET whānau; Christchurch City Council Strengthening Communities fund; Lottery Community Fund; Pub Charity; Rātā Foundation and COGS. Without their contributions we would be unable to run our programmes.









GlowKids – Auckland

Tēnā koutou katoa, greetings from GlowKids in Tāmaki Makaurau:

Tautoko: Waiho I te toipoto, kaua I te toiroa: Let us keep close together, not far apart.

It seems like it was just yesterday that we welcomed in 2024, and now it's September. Spring has sprung, and once again, colours start to fill our space!

GlowKids recently hosted its first open day for professionals. The event aimed to showcase Conductive Education and demonstrate its benefits for tamariki and their whānau. The open day was well attended by CDS teams, Plunket, NGOs, and the CP Society team. Amongst these teams were speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and social workers. One of our past parents also shared their journey, providing valuable first-hand insight. A big THANK YOU to the team for all their efforts in making this day a success!

Now, we have the pleasure of hosting two occupational therapy students and an ECE student teacher as they embark on their practicums here at GlowKids. We welcome students because their presence fills the centre with vibrant energy and enthusiasm, as well as bringing new ideas. This not only enriches the atmosphere but also serves as a source of inspiration for everyone involved with

We have been celebrating the diverse cultural and language weeks that are important to our children and team. One of our whanau from the Cook Islands made the week exciting by bringing in flower headbands and special fruits, our children also listened to Cook Island music to get their groove on! Luseane, one of our team members, shared some of her taonga and brought in some food to celebrate Tongan Language Week. The sharing of food is a way for us to come together - this is a regular event here at GlowKids!

In June our tamariki visited MOTAT (Museum of Transport & Technology), and one of the highlights was exploring the Sensory room and resources - was great that it was undercover! This excursion also provided parents/caregivers the opportunity to come together and connect with others on a similar journey!

Kia tae ki te wā e whai ake nei, tiaki i a koe me o whānau: Until next time look after yourself and your whānau.

Ka kite anō, The GlowKids Team





Neuro Connections – Auckland

Well, it's been absolutely fantastic to connect with so many in our community recently.

A few of our wonderful clients enjoyed meeting the board members from NZFCE whilst they visited. We are sure that their stories left a lasting impression.



Our first Community Catch-up combined with our annual winter soup fundraiser was a busy and successful event. Along with representatives for other disability providers, we were lucky to have Hon Phil Twyford, MP for Te Atatu attend and share his personal experience with stroke.

The launch of our first short video featuring a unique rehabilitation story has had a heart warming response, be sure to have a nosy at our facebook page where it is featured. We look forward to sharing more across social media in the future.

Out and about at the Disability Connect Transition Expo saw us interacting with many other providers.

There a few more networking opportunities coming up and we look forward to rolling our sleeves up and continuing to raise awareness of our mahi.

The Neuro Connection Team.



Conductive Education Southern – Invercargill

Kia ora Koutou.

Well, it's been a pretty cold Winter here in the deep South, however we have had some good frosts which brings about a nice sunny day.

First, I would like to thank our funders for this last quarter, Invercargill City Council Wellbeing Fund and The Lions Foundation, with their amazing support we are able to continue to serve our community and make a difference in many people's lives.

We continue to have a steady number of referrals from Plunket which is wonderful, as we can see our

babies progress and reach their milestones.

I still regularly visit schools and organizations in the community to raise awareness of Conductive and what we have to offer. We have seen a few previous clients come back through our doors after being away from the Centre for many years, this has been lovely seeing how far they have come and what help they need to continue to maintain their independence.

I continue to get an enormous amount knowledge out of being part of the South Island Child Development network, and had the most incredible day

in Christchurch with the amazing Rachel Callender. Her workshop for Child Development leaders and managers was on effective ways of communicating with parents of children who have medical challenges, after her journey with her wee girl Evie. A very heart warming day.

Rachel toured New Zealand meeting parents and children and then wrote the beautiful book on the superpowers of babies with one of our Conductive gorgeous girls Madeline featuring in it. We have this book in our waiting room and parents love to read and be inspired by it.

Ka Kite ano, Debbie





Conductive Education Canterbury – Christchurch

It's hard to believe that we are heading into term four and that Christmas will soon be knocking on our door. 2024 to date has brought about change at Conductive Education Canterbury. We have said 'Ka kite anō' to Rebecca as she has moved into her role as National Coordinator for NZFCE, and 'Haere mai' to Linda as she has stepped into her new role as General Manager at CEC.

We have also watched on with anticipation as our Grenville Street Building Project moved along, reaching completion in June this year. Words cannot express our gratitude to those generous individuals and businesses, who donated services and goods, and gifts of time and/or services. Without the support of our community, we would not be in the position we are in today with our two accessible homes being leased out by Brackenridge and used to house disable people.

CEC whānau alongside whānau from Addington Te Kura Taumatua and the Adult Conductive Education Trust were invited to be special guests of the Black Ferns Captains Run when they last played in Ōtautahi. We were treated to a sunny morning of skills along with a meet and greet.

August saw us getting wheelie active as we took part in the Wheelie Awesome Wheel-a-thon, raising awareness of Conductive Education during the NZFCE Awareness month. We set ourselves the target of virtually wheeling our way around parts of Te Wai Pounamu, including stopping in at CE Southern in Invercargill for some cheese rolls and having a cup of tea in Hokitika with Nichola. We also had a wheelie awesome time taking part in the wheelathon event held at Addington Te Kura Taumatua, alongside the other centres, our National Patron, some of our Ambassadors and some of their friends who play for the Black Ferns. This event allowed our tamariki and their whānau to think big about what the future can hold for them. They were able to watch wheelchair rugby in action as members of the Canterbury Wheelchair Rugby team battled alongside our people, and they got to try out equipment while having fun! A massive THANK YOU to all involved with this event.

Enjoy what is left of 2024, from everyone at CEC.









Conductive Education Woodstock Primary – Hamilton

It has been a jam-packed term with lots more interesting things still yet to come. We have continued to go horse riding each week. The children's confidence and stamina have really improved.

Some of us have been involved in a school production. Those involved have made us so proud, with how they have spoken to a huge audience, danced, and followed instructions. They did an amazing job and had lots of fun

Another highlight of our week is joining our mainstream classrooms. Activities include joining learning groups, singing, dancing, and listening to stories. We continue to grow our friendship circles and especially love it when this spills into the playground and they join us to play games or wheel us around in our chairs.

Each week we have been going for a walk, around the block, to the park down the road, and even to a teachers' backyard! It has been great to build our road safety awareness and learn about getting from A to B (when it's not always our preferred option). All the children have surprised us with their adaptability and it's another thing we look forward to each week.

We were lucky enough to have a big truck visit us during our transport-themed week. So big in fact, that the wheels were bigger than a few of us! It was interesting climbing up and through, pushing buttons, and having a go behind the wheel.

We had been hoping to finish off the term with our wheelies day, however due to weather we had to postpone again. We did have an awesome time dressing in our green though, and will try to make this up next term.





Te Pukenga Spring News – Cashmere Christchurch

Kia ora everyone

We find ourselves almost at the end of another amazing term in Te Pukenga. Our young people have continued to thrive and be successful with their Conductive Education goals. Tünde has continued to develop programmes of skills, activities, and physical programmes to give them a more active life and learning skills that they can use in their futures.



Our young people have many weekly opportunities to engage in lessons that Tünde has prepared. Some of these activities include Social Connection Games such as Connect Four.

With our weather starting to warm up, we are having more opportunities to explore outside and take part in lessons beyond the classroom.

Two of our students thoroughly enjoy walking around the Cashmere High School Grounds. They practise important challenges such as stairs, thus developing confidence to use these when in a variety of situations.

Sadly, we are having to say goodbye to our wonderful Conductor Tünde mid October. We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks and gratitude for the valuable skills and life lessons for our young people she has shared with us. Tünde has been a true asset to our learning environment, and has brought joy, laughter, care and development to our Young People and staff alike. We will miss her effervescent enthusiasm for her craft and skills, and want to wish her the very best for her future endeavours.

We would like to wish everyone an enjoyable rest of the year, and a safe holiday break.

Team Te Pukenga





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