



New Zealand Foundation for
**CONDUCTIVE
EDUCATION**
MAXIMISING THE ABILITY IN DISABILITY

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From the National Coordinator, Rebecca Courtney



Welcome to the April edition of news from around the motu from our affiliates, as you will see there is plenty of positive opportunities for our clients and whānau happening throughout Aotearoa.

Our Stats

We recently undertook our annual statistics gathering exercise and our 12 affiliated Conductive Education centres are providing service to 336 individual's and their whānau from birth through to adults. The staff included in delivering service can include including Conductors, Speech Language Therapists, Teachers, Social Workers, Education Support Workers, Teacher Aides, Occupational Therapists, Music Therapists and Physiotherapists, admin staff and managers – whew, it certainly takes a village!

AGM and “Leadership & Laughs”

Planning is underway for our AGM in Christchurch this is a wonderful opportunity for our affiliates to connect with each other face to face.

While we are all together in Christchurch we are also holding an exciting fundraising event



Wayne, James and Vicki

“Leadership & Laughs”. Our Life Member Sir Wayne Smith decide last year that he wanted to help NZFCE raise funds so he asked a few of his friends if they might be interested in joining him! We are extremely grateful to Wayne who will be joined by Mental Skills Coach Gilbert Enoka, All Blacks Coach Razor Robertson and Leadership Coach James Laughlin.

LEADERSHIP & LAUGHS

Banter, Stories and Leadership Insights

A Breakfast with Legends

7.30am – 11am, Thurs 8th May, The Hornby Club



SCOTT ROBERTSON
Rugby Coach



WAYNE SMITH
Rugby Coach



JAMES LAUGHLIN
Leadership Coach



GILBERT ENOKA
Mental Skills Coach

Raising crucial funds for Conductive Education – enabling good lives within the disability community. Includes live auction.



TICKETS

Earlybird (until 30 Apr) – \$190 per single / \$1,800 per table (10)
Regular (From 1 May) – \$260 per single / \$2,500 per table (10)
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WWW.NZFCE.ORG.NZ



LEADERSHIP & LAUGHS

Banter, Stories and Leadership Insights

AUCTION ITEMS



Black Fern's Signed & Framed RWC Jersey

Black Fern Jersey signed by the entire Women's Rugby World Cup (2021) winning team.



"The Sir's" Signed & Framed All Blacks Jersey

An All Blacks jersey signed by all the remaining living Sir's who played for the All Blacks – Sir Wayne Smith, Sir Bryan Williams, Sir Wayne "Buck" Shelford, Sir John Kirwan and Sir Michael Jones.



Willie Apiata (VC) Signed & Framed Iron Maiden T-shirt

An Iron Maiden t-shirt signed by New Zealand's Victoria Cross hero Willie Apiata plus Sir Wayne Smith "Bonded in Metal"

Exclusive Legends Experience

An opportunity for your team of 10 to spend an hour with Gilbert, Wayne, James & Razor after the event. This will be auctioned online in the 2 weeks prior to the event.
Thank you to the Legends for generously donating their time.

MediaWorks Advertising

\$5,000 MediaWorks advertising package.
Kindly donated by MediaWorks.

Crusaders VIP Game Experience

VIP Lounge package for 10 at the Crusaders vs Highlanders match 23.05.25 see below website for further details www.crusaders.co.nz/tickets/hospitality-packages/
Kindly donated by the Crusaders.

Plus more items to be added!

Raising crucial funds for Conductive Education – enabling good lives within the disability community.



The event is proudly sponsored by our friends Emm and Terry from NZHL Canterbury Metro and all of the marketing material and support has been provided by Harvey Cameron Mint Design.

Wayne has secured some very unique auction items. See the information at left if you are interested and if you cannot attend the event but would like to bid on the auction items please contact us.



Andy has been cycling

Conductive Education is blessed to attract generous people one of those is Andy Kidd Founder of *Mojo WellBeing*. To celebrate the launch of *Mojo WellBeing* Andy took on the challenge of cycling 1100km Pahiata to Amberely return to raise money for 4 charities: *Mojo WellBeing Charitable Trust*, *The Paddock Project*, *Mitey JK* and *NZFCE*. Andy has already started his plans for next year's challenge we look forward to following along.

Many thanks

Thank you to our funders IND Holdings, Lotteries, Kiwi Gaming and CJB Norwood Trust. Also to those businesses who regularly support the work we do, NZHL Canterbury Metro, Morel Construction and all of the Upstream Suppliers. We appreciate you all.

Nga mihi,
Rebecca

Te Pukenga News – Cashmere Christchurch

Kia ora everyone

As the seasons change from the heat of summer, to the cooling of autumn and winter, the young people of Te Pukenga are not slowing down; remaining active and involved in their daily programmes.

We have had our athletics day which brings smiles, engagement, and participation alongside friends in the wider school. Our young people have a positive attitude and give all activities a go.

This year, we are continuing rich programmes of learning – engaging with a broad range of activities to build strength, skills for daily living and stamina across the day.

A number of students have been:

- Interacting with Digi-Tech and Virtual Reality—a real highlight
- Watering plants and taking care of our raised garden beds
- Washing Steph's car—water and bubbles everywhere
- Making the most of sunshine with friends outside for music and movement
- Diligently working on their individualised Physical Programmes
- Exploring new equipment and IEP goals
- Enjoying fun games of racket ball

The team at Te Pukenga–Cashmere High School, would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday break, and keep warm and well through the winter term.



Conductive Education Southern – Invercargill

Kia ora Koutou.

I am new to the team having recently started as Manager. I am excited and enjoying working with the Southern team and whanau.

I have been engaging with organisations already supporting Conductive Education and making new community connections in the Southern area.

We have had a good number of Plunket referrals this year. We also have a speech language therapist doing regular sessions at our centre.

Our Conductors – Sevi and Judit, are motivated and enthusiastic. It is fabulous to watch their encouragement and dedication to providing a professional and caring environment for all who attend our centre.

Thank you to Rebecca Courtney and members of the Conductive Education Southern board for the kind welcome, valuable advice and guidance.

Looking forward to meeting everyone at the AGM in Christchurch, making new connections and gaining knowledge.

Ngā mihi

Suzzy and the Southern team.



Conductive Education Naenae Primary – Lower Hutt

Kia Ora Koutou from Te Pā Harakeke,

This term has been a very difficult one for Te Pa Harakeke. Due to flooding over the Christmas holidays we had to vacate our room. We are currently in the new entrant room and making the best of everything. The positives of being here include our ākonga feeling much more part of the school. One of our more able students is now independently accessing the main playground each break time, because he has been able to see all the students out in the playground at break times.

As a school this year we are all doing the Mitey programme. Cara is doing emotions with our class and this is going very well. She was able to find some soft toys with showing angry, happy, and sad faces. The children have been able to use these when they are angry or sad, to hug and squeeze out all of their feelings until they are feeling better.

Each Tuesday afternoon we have role play time and this has been the perfect time to bring in talk of emotions

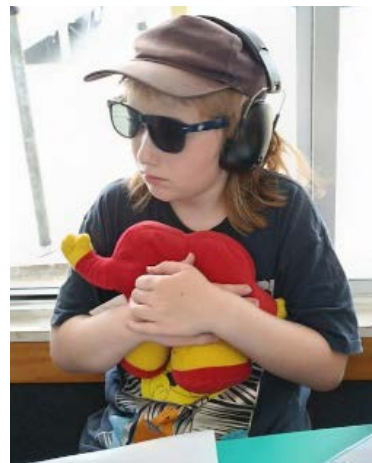


in a more functional way. Opportunities have been provided with dialogue to role play asking others what they need/how can I help?/ how are you feeling?/Taking care of others. We have also provided simple facial expression emojis along with using naming words for the

emotions to be used throughout the day as the children need them. Some students have been able to use these cards to show what emotion they are feeling.

We hope everyone enjoys the Easter break and all the best for next term.

*Ka kite ano,
Naenae
Conductive team.*



Conductive Education Woodstock Primary – Hamilton

We have had another fantastic start to the year, despite farewelling a few long-term staff members. On the plus side we have also welcomed new people to our team. As always, everyone is dedicated to supporting all our tamariki in their learning, and engaging them in a fun and meaningful way.

To begin the year, we were grateful to have the use of the school pool. Being able to incorporate this into our learning program is amazing. We had some very dedicated swimmers who were keen to stay in the water even when the weather cooled. Their confidence and happiness in the water made for a particularly enjoyable time.

We have continued on with our try-a-trike sessions. The skill of each of our children has improved and we are hoping to make it a monthly event to develop further skills and confidence.

Our sensory play is always an enjoyable part of our play. In one week we celebrated four birthdays so this lent itself to some great activities. We are noticing improvement in sensory aversion, fine motor skills, taking turns and decision making.

We have finished the term with IEP's. While it makes for a busy time, it is always so great to connect with families, sharing successes, making goals and sharing ideas to improve further learning.



Neuro Connections – Auckland

We've had a busy start to the year and are really getting into the swing of things.

Client engagement in our regular long-term rehabilitation sessions continues to be strong, and we've welcomed some friendly new faces to the group. But it's the fun outside the rehab rooms that's really stood out lately. Social gatherings with our wider community have highlighted the sense of connection our centre fosters—something we're leaning into even more this year.

Our relatively new Client Council, which meets every two months, has become a valuable platform for clients to share feedback, insights, and advice with Management and the Board. One wonderful idea that came from the Council was to host a Friends and Whānau BBQ outside of regular centre hours. This gave clients the opportunity to share our space with their wider circle of support.

Thanks to some generous community sponsors—and a bit of help from the weather—the BBQ was a fantastic success! The grill was sizzling, gelato was enjoyed by young and old alike, and we spent a beautiful day in the sun, saying farewell to summer in style.

Looking ahead, we're excited about a real Easter treat coming up soon. A local artisan baker (who has supported this delicious tradition for the last two years) is once again generously donating his famous Hot Cross Buns. Our clients are already looking forward to this tasty gathering!

*Warm wishes,
The Neuro Connection Team*



Conductive Education Wellington Trust – Wellington

What a busy start to the year we have had at Conductive Education Wellington Trust, with the tamariki making wonderful progress with their individual development goals.

We are extremely grateful to the NZFCE for their assistance to get our Early Childhood teachers down to CE Canterbury for a visit at the beginning of Term 1. Our teachers returned inspired and with new ideas to implement in our centre.

We have had a big focus on the Early Childhood curriculum and management compliance within our centre over the past few months and we are very thankful to the NZFCE Board, Rebecca and the other CE centres around the country who have been so supportive and helpful during this period of implementation and adaption.

Our goal for this year is to fundraise toward a new building. Back in 1997 a group of committed parents fundraised and opened the purpose built centre however the building was positioned on a old football field which has a high water table unfortunately as the seasons change the building continues to move and slump requiring constant maintenance. We are currently looking at short and long term solutions to our building problem, so watch this space!

*Ngā mihi,
The team from CE Wellington*



Wana Tamariki – Hamilton

In January 2025, Conductive Education Waikato became Wana Tamariki. For the last 3 years, we have been on a journey of reflection, planning for the future and transforming services.

Over this time we have worked with local groups and iwi, staff and whānau, and have determined that a new name is part of our way forward, along with some key changes to how we work. These changes have already been transformative, and we believe will ensure that we are providing the best possible opportunities to get great outcome to the tamariki and whānau we work with. The word *wana* means to bud, shoot, come to life, seedling or young shoot. It also means to be exciting, stimulating, thrilling and moving. It is also about having excitement, passion and energy. We believe that this is a very good description of our tamariki and is how we work now and moving forward.

We have had a spectacular summer in Hamilton, with a lot of warmth and sunshine. This means we have had a lot of water play, but also inside time when the day has been too hot to play outside. Based on feedback from our whānau, our focus for the term has been around developing independence with self help skills, especially working on fine motor skills and tasks using two hands. The tamariki are making such wonderful progress and meeting every challenge head on. One of the favourite times of the week has been music with Chris. This term he has been bringing his daughter with him as she is so keen to share music with our tamariki.

One of the things we do every term, is host several year five medical students who do a paediatric rotation with Waikato Hospital. It's wonderful seeing future doctors engaging with our children and taking aboard information about paediatric disability in New Zealand and the importance of having a strengths based focus rather than a medical/deficit approach. The key messages that we want them to take away with them is that the language they use can have such an impact on whānau, especially around diagnosis, and that the tamariki we see are cool little people with unique strengths and differences that we need to embrace.



Conductive Education Canterbury – Christchurch

Kia ora koutou,

We have had a great start to 2025 with term one almost done and dusted. Our staff and families have embraced the call to get involved in the running of our Centre, with a successful Working Bee in February to get our outside environment looking fabulous for tamariki to enjoy.

In March we celebrated our community with a successful fundraising Market Day. The event was a true testament to the spirit of working together that defines our early learning centre. At the core of the event were the families – current, past, and staff – who contributed their time, energy and resources to make the event a success. It was wonderful to see familiar faces and meet others from our local community, all united by a common goal of supporting Conductive Education Canterbury.

The market day featured a variety of stalls from homemade crafts and

delicious baked goods to a massive white elephant which served the community well with low pricing. We were able to pay it forward with staff delivering left over donations to a range of other community organisations that support those in need. The enthusiasm and participation of all involved was truly inspiring and a big shout out to Louise and the team for their organisational skills. We look forward to other events we have planned for 2025.

*Ngā mihi,
The team at CEC*



Harakeke Unit at Addington Te Kura Taumatua – Christchurch

The Harakeke Unit at Addington Te Kura Taumatua has had a busy start to the year. We have welcomed new staff to the team and are excited about the new programmes we are now able to run.

This term, in preparation for our school-wide production, the students in Harakeke have been diving into the world of drama. They have embraced different character roles, donning costumes and using their communication buttons to bring their characters to life. From noble Kings and Queens to daring superheroes, mischievous pirates, and beloved fairy tale figures. Each session has been an exciting journey into imagination and creativity.

Through interactive activities, our students have experienced a wide range of adventures. They have taken part in a grand coronation ceremony, soared through the air (with the help of the hoist), and demonstrated superhero strength by knocking down walls and vanquishing villains. Their pirate skills were put to the

test as they followed a treasure map, and they even stepped into the world of Goldilocks and the Three Bears to explore the famous house. These drama sessions have been a fantastic opportunity for our students to express themselves, build confidence, and develop new skills in a fun and engaging way. The children have brought joy and enthusiasm to each activity and we can't wait to see how these experiences contribute to their performance in the upcoming school production later in the year!

This term Harakeke also decided that they wanted to support PURPLE day again – Supporting *Epilepsy Around the World*. This is something that is very dear to the hearts of everyone involved with Harakeke with 10 of our 14 children having epilepsy. The greater school community of Addington Te Kura Taumatua wanted to help us support his cause too and sold ice blocks to help raise additional money. It was amazing to see everyone get behind this cause and the school turned purple. Everyone was in purple – children, staff, parents, caregivers, professionals and even visitors to the unit. It really was a sight to see.

*Warm regards,
Bridget Manson*



GlowKids – Auckland

Tēnā koutou katoa, greetings from GlowKids in Tāmaki Makaurau:

Pono: Sincerity: Ka rongo i te ia o te aroha, he ngākau māhaki- To feel genuine intentions is to understand a charitable heart.

What a fantastic summer we have had here in Tāmaki Makaurau. However, as they say, all good things must come to an end. After approximately ten years as General Manager, I have decided it is time for me to resign and reflect on my future direction. It has been an absolute pleasure to lead the GlowKids' team, and I am grateful for the experiences I've had during my time here. It has been a privilege to work with so many whānau and their tamariki. I've shared in their ups and downs and the GlowKids whānau will always hold a special place in my heart – *Sonya Sinclair*.



This Term, we have focused on the different cultures represented within our GlowKids whānau. This theme has fostered wonderful opportunities for sharing kai and increasing parental engagement.



Last month, we were invited to present to Occupational Therapy students at AUT. This was a fantastic opportunity to "spread the word" about our wonderful centre.

Currently, we are hosting two Occupational Therapy students who are completing their practicum with us on Wednesdays. It's great to help provide them with valuable lessons in engaging with our wonderful tamariki and their whānau. In August, we will also welcome a pedagogics student from Holland, who will join us for six months. This will contribute to our kete of knowledge as well.

We would like to give a big shout-out to *Sensory Sam* for generously donating a range of products to our centre. We have enjoyed watching our children engage with these products, and it also helps parents understand what their child is most interested in. We hope to share some more exciting news soon, but we need to wait for that to be finalised.

Additionally, we want to extend our gratitude to *Dragon Community* for funding another three months of music therapy. This is a cost that parents can put to one side, especially when their child benefits from these sessions while attending our centre. We would also like to thank the *Four Winds Foundation* for their support with operating expenses. On behalf of the GlowKids team and Board, your contributions truly make a difference!

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*

Conductive Education Taranaki – New Plymouth

Kia ora koutou, from the CE Taranaki team.

How could it possibly be April already, Term 1 sure has flown by with a bustle of fun.

We started 2025 off with our annual camp, Club RandR, an opportunity for our CE kids and their siblings to come together over four days to have fun and experience new opportunities. This year we spent our first day at the Taranaki Outdoor Pursuits and Education Centre (TOPEC), where the staff were wonderful at adapting the activities to the needs of our children. Tamariki enjoyed an exciting range of activities, including climbing walls, the thrilling 'Flying Kiwi', where they were hoisted high into the air, confidence courses, and a bush walk, where they built a fire and toasted marshmallows. Fun was had by all!

The other three days were held at Westown School where our Conductive classroom is. The highlight of being here is that there is a swimming pool! We even had a visit from local Olympic swimmer Zac Reid who showed the older groups some swimming skills and fun swimming games.

Other fun activities included, baking and decorating cupcakes, Playball, t-shirt painting, dance and movement, face painting and a family colour run.

Another highlight of camp is the parent activities. This year we enjoyed a wonderful art class led by fellow

parent Cherie, a relaxing lunch at the local club, and our popular "Smash Palace," where we released some frustration by throwing old china—great fun for everyone!

We are extremely grateful to our Fairy Godmother, whose generous financial support makes Club RandR possible. Camp also wouldn't be possible without the incredible contributions from our volunteers, one-on-one supporters, and staff. Thank you all!

Term One in the classroom has been all about "Creepy Crawlies." The absolute highlight was observing the magical life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly. We may have even knocked on a few doors to gather extra swan plant leaves to keep our beloved caterpillars fed and thriving! Once our butterflies hatched, we released them into our beautiful garden to enjoy the flowers. Such a wonderful sight!

We're continuing to explore exciting possibilities for our Early Childhood Education initiative. There's lots happening behind the scenes, and we're looking forward to sharing more details with you soon. Watch this space!

Our BAU is currently having 35 children attending individual and group sessions every week, keeping our Conductors very busy.

Ka Kite anō,

The team at Conductive Education Taranaki



Adult Conductive Education Trust – Christchurch

Wow what a start to the year we have had at ACET. 2024 ended with our people having a great time at our Christmas party with Santa popping in to chat and deliver presents. We acknowledged and celebrated the great people connected to our organisation with the Charlie Loffhagen "Seize the Day" Award being presented to Ashlea Davies for her amazing fundraising efforts, dedication to the programme and always bringing her beautiful smile. Gabby Massie received a Certificate of Excellence for always going above and



beyond and supporting Ashlea with her fundraising efforts. We said farewell to our Conductor, Bori Toth, and Board Chair, Sharon Holmes, who have both done wonderful work for ACET—we are very grateful to them both. We also welcomed in our new board co-chairs: Sally Thomas and Leesa Loffhagen and expressed thanks to our awesome board.

We set some fundraising goals for 2025, with two fundraisers under our belt already! Thank you to Debra Davies for overseeing our food wrap fundraiser and Leesa for organising the Hot Cross buns. Big thanks to our Speech Language Therapist, Meagan Duston, and our Team Manager, Nichola McGuire, who have assisted us, alongside our trustees, as we have transitioned into a new chapter at ACET. This year provided an opportunity to look at our programmes through fresh eyes and we really appreciated feedback, from a consultation process undertaken with our people and their whānau around what they would like from our sessions. This feedback led us to engage the services of a new Conductor through Conductive Education Canterbury, Dora Molnar, for our Friday morning sessions and with other organisations in our community; Southern Music Therapy, MS and Parkinsons Canterbury, and the Laura Ferguson Brain Injury Trust to build our Friday



programmes and afternoon sessions, including access to the gym for our people.

We have been amazed by the resilience our people have shown and how they have embraced change in 2025. The hard work we have seen in the gym by those in the afternoon session has been incredible. The continued enjoyment in the music and movement sessions and how our people have embraced any new things on offer such as our massage session, have also been great to observe. We look forward to seeing where these changes lead us and how we can continue to grow connections within the community to ensure our people can access and engage in a range of services that help meet their needs. If you would like to join us, we have our annual Bingo night coming up.



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; Rātā Foundation and COGS. Without their contributions we would be unable to run our programmes.

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Naenae Primary School Conductive Education

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