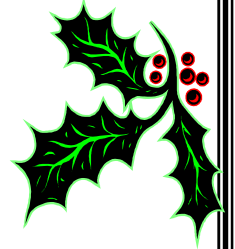




D P ACTION

Disabled Persons' Assembly—Christchurch and Districts
Issue: November—December 2003

SOME SEASONAL THOUGHTS



We have a list of folks we know, all written in a book
And every year when Christmas comes, we go and take a look,
And that is when we realise that these names are a part
Not of the book they are written in, but really of our heart.
For each name stands for someone who has crossed our path sometime,
And in the meeting they've become the rhythm in each rhyme.
And while it sounds fantastic for us to make this claim,
We really feel that we've composed of each remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any special link
Just meeting you has changed our life a lot more than you think.
For once we've met somebody, the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.

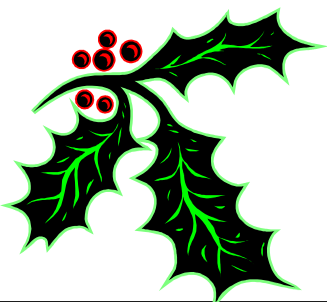
So never think our Christmas verse is just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between,
For when we send a Christmas verse that is addressed to you,
It is because you're on the list that we are indebted to.

For we are but a total of the many folks we meet,
And you happen to be one of those we prefer not to forget.
And whether we have known you for many years or few,
In some ways you have a part in shaping things we do.

And every year when Christmas comes, we realise anew,
The best gifts life can offer is meeting folks like you.
And may the spirit of Christmas that forever endures
Leave its richest blessings in the hearts of you and yours.

an "early" Christmas verse and greeting to you

From: DPA Christchurch & Districts



Another very eventful few weeks for the DPA Committee Members consequently, there is much to share.

A consultation meeting at Elmwood Visual Resource Centre related to education and services to blind and vision impaired children in our region and their needs. Although we are well endowed with resource staff, in the words of one of the parents, "it is atrocious that parents and carers of these children have to beg for funding and resources for their educational needs". Historically the Blind Foundation have probably done such a great job of service provision that government had not been meeting responsibility for services. Since Homai has become a national school the government now has to meet those responsibilities to all children who are blind. After all we do not see parents of able bodied children having to beg for their children's right to education.

At the Total Mobility committee meeting the issue I raised relating to subscription and TM assessment fees that people are required to pay to disability agencies was addressed. A WINZ representative was present and advised that these fees could be included into a special benefit allowance. A notice to this effect will be sent to all TM scheme users in the next newsletter that Environment Canterbury circulate.

I attended a September Forum held by the Community Committee of the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind. Whilst I was there as an ABC representative, I also took the opportunity to share some of the achievements of DPA over the past 12 months and bring best wishes from those people from around our Southern Region who have heard of many of those projects and organizations that we have been involved with.

The DPA co-ordinator and I met with Grant Cleland to plan our future regarding the establishment of the Disability Reference Group and maybe a Disability Advisor at Christchurch City Council. This followed the resolve of the Executive committee to actively progress the matter after an unacceptable delay of almost two years. As a key first step we will meet with the KiwiAble Network to reach an accord as to future action on these issues. The new City Council Manager needs to know clearly the Disability Sector's expectations of this particular project.

Linda and I made presentations at the Disability Network lunch time September meeting. Firstly, I did a promotion for the Association of Blind Citizens, and then Linda and I jointly made a presentation on behalf of DPA. Those present were mainly service providers, Helen Mary was there, nice to catch up with her. It was a good opportunity to keep those providers present up to date with the issues that we are currently involved with, and we had a lively question and answer time, pamphlets and Newsletters were circulated. On behalf of DPA, Linda and I made a presentation to a class of Christchurch Polytechnic students. They were very receptive to the work of DPA with lots of questions. Again pamphlets and Newsletters were issued. A very stimulating session.

As your regional executive committee members Linda, Philip and I attended the School of Medicine forum "Educating Future Doctors for New Zealand". Presentations were made by Professor Ian Town, Dean of the School of Medicine, Professor John Campbell, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, and Associate Professor Tim Wilkinson, Associate Dean, Undergraduate of Education. Linda, Philip, Peter Abrams, a former DPA committee member all spoke on needs for people with disabilities. Olive Webb the Chair of CDHB Disability Support Services Advisory Committee covered a range of issues that need to be considered when treating people with disabilities. This was a very productive meeting and it was great to have the deaf community represented by two of our DPA members. See DPA Happenings for further details.

I attended a 3 hour meeting at Environment Canterbury. Alison Broad from Southland presented the new Total Mobility database system installed for Gore and Invercargill. This is a ticket system, self assessment, which in my view has both positive and negative aspects. Environment Canterbury will need to look at this closely at our next meeting. No decision has been considered that Christchurch will follow suit. The following day I was back at Environment Canterbury to raise some issue with the new Metrocard. (see DPA Happenings for details) At the ABC Annual Conference in Wellington (3-5 October) I managed to refer to DPA several times during the Conference, and encourage other branches to join as Corporate Members. The ABC National Executive rejoined DPA as a Corporate Member at the wish of the whole Conference last year. We believe that in a joint capacity as Consumer Advocacy Organisations we not only extend our area of representation but jointly have a louder voice to improve public awareness to the issues that we have, but also gain their support and credibility. I would like to thank the Committee Members, and all DPA Members for their support over the past year and I am looking forward to the future months with enthusiasm which I trust will be shared by you all.

Kindest regards

Gloria Weeks (DPA President)

LOCAL DPA Happenings

METROCARD (ECAN)

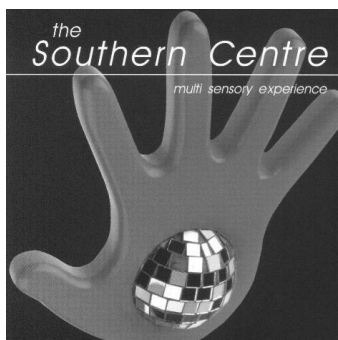
Following representations the subsequent decisions have been confirmed:

- Birth dates are only required for students applying for half fare concessions,
- the EFTPOS service to load money directly onto Metrocards will be available at public libraries as well as the Bus Exchange. As pointed out not everyone travels through the exchange, and likewise they do not want to carry large amounts of cash, so the library option will be good when they can put that in place.
- the scheme has been delayed until the end of October, more glitches with the software.

SOUTHERN CENTRE (QE2) WOW!!!

a multi-sensory experience

or as the DPA President Gloria said, following a visit with the DPA co-ordinator "I would call this a Sensory Expedition Experience – this facility is mainly designed for children, but this does not mean adults are not welcome. There are amazing pieces of equipment, walking on a keyboard floor, moving hands on cylinders in which vibration of the liquid inside can be felt, large cubes with different textures about a foot square with different sounds in them, a jelly bed, a machine that blows air upwards from the centre that holds up a light weight ball – and ribbons, an amazing floor and wall that vibrates with sound, a plate like object that expends high pitch changes in sound when hands are moved up/down, or moving fingers, a bungy chair, fluorescent lighting and moving lights some reflected onto hangings from the ceiling that project different patterns and coloured lights, wall mirrors and other delightful experiences". This facility recently opened and still has some fine tuning being made, different programmes and the moving of equipment is undertaken for specific needs. Many thanks to Trisha Ventom, KiwiAble, and Sarah Kelly, the facility manager, who are fulfilling several years of intense work of funding and design, for their guided tour and time.



For Bookings:

Tele: 941 7118

FAX: 941 7182

Email: QE11SwimSchool@ccc.govt.nz

ALAN BEAN CENTRE

A visit to the Alan Bean Centre was spent with library co-ordinator and educator Bernadette. We were warmly received and shared DPA information that will be advertised in their Newsletter and on their website. We will send our Newsletter to them and this will be available in the library and on line. We took the opportunity to pop into the Spinal Unit to see Graham Tapper whilst at the Centre and traded thoughts and ideas on several issues.

Pedestrian Advocates Group

Christchurch City Council hosted a Pedestrian Advocates Meeting. this could be very powerful for DPA and may at last make some inroads into some of the pedestrian issues that have continued for such a long time but we do need to have representation to be effective. The next meeting is to be in November. You will be keep up to date as this progresses.

Disability Support Action Group Re the ACC/DSS Disparity

The submission writing and action group meets with Ruth Dyson again on 30 October 2003. In attendance will be decision makers from a wide range of disability groups. No public advocacy is planned by the group at this point.

However the group would welcome your support in gathering case studies from people with disabilities describing their personal experiences and impressions of DSS and or ACC. Further information on the nature and scope of the case studies can be obtained by contacting the DPA office. Please please come forward and have your say on this significant issue.

EDUCATING FUTURE DOCTORS forum: move to patient based approach so focus in on 'equipping' for professional practice rather than merely passing academic components. Intake assessments to include academic and oral (motivation, ambiguity, logical, communication). Clinical training to be included a year earlier with an integration of disciplines with clinical sciences. A positive impact is likely for patients and trainee Doctors alike.

Launch of **ASPIRE** (Assessment of Services Promoting Independence & Recovery in Elders). Christchurch is one of four services using a common model of care aimed at assisting older people to live at home which is to be evaluated using a randomised trial design. Focus is men and women over 65 years who have high health and disability needs. Measure of health and wellbeing will include recipient of service, one principal caregiver and the cost and impact for professionals.



This is Lesley's story—it's also a note on a "hero"

Lesley Tysack is a Londoner by birth. She shows more than a touch of Cockney determination—the sort which gave the fingers to the Nazi bombers in World War 2.

A Multiple Sclerosis person and a former President of DPA Christchurch, Lesley is one very remarkable lady, Grandmother of six, she has been a ground breaker in so many ways. Her latest accolade—the award of a Diploma in Creative Writing with distinction from the New Zealand Institute of Business Studies—almost crowns another much earlier achievement which has had huge benefits for hundreds of other disabled people.

Lesley won the right from Government to be in total control of the selection, employment and payment of the folk providing her home care. This bulk grant scheme was her initiative.

But back to Lesley's writing career. She has enrolled in a summer school at Canterbury University on Creative Writing for stage and screen and she is writing a screenplay on the Great Depression of the 1930's which she hopes to sell to TVNZ. A pass, by the way, at the summer school would give Lesley enough points to Graduate BA. All of this spell proud achievements that would be the envy of anyone. But Lesley has recorded these from a physical MS position which sees her totally paralysed from her neck down.

It's not too surprising to say that 20 or more years ago Lesley and others similarly coping with such wide range disability, would have been shunted into an Institution. Life for them there would have been bleak. But Lesley and many many other disabled people had a true mentor, a wizard of a sort, a calm, unflappable chap who understood the potential of that marvel of the modern age—the home computer.

His name is Barrie Woods. Though he has a well deserved official title (below) Barrie has been a hero to Lesley as he designed her PC system so she can "run" her home and communicate with friends—with the world if she so chooses. When you have rung Lesley's door bell she speaks to you through her computer and gives it the command to open the door. The dozens of other tasks that computer technology places at Lesley's command seem almost endless. They empower her to be as much in charge of her life as modern science and technology permit.

It is this drive to assist disabled people which is behind Barrie Woods' offer of **computers on loan** either for short term or long term periods. The computers are all internet capable and though not brand new are well able to handle 2003 demands. They also come with printers. If you are interested in this offer please contact Barrie Woods Rehabilitation Engineer,
Burwood Assistive Technology Service **Phone 03 383 9468**



"EXPO" - success points to future

It's tough enough being a teenager but harder if you are disabled.

That's a statement none of us would disagree with. We know from first hand experience, or have learnt since those heady days of youth, that coping with rapid, often frightening pressures of teenage years is tough, to say the least. Add a physical or mental disability and the road ahead can seem almost impassable.



New Zealand has come a long way from the time, when disabled teens were shunted away into isolated institutions (eg Pukeora in the North Island). Most disabled teens have gained their education with, and part of the ordinary high school. But—and this is a big “but” - when they leave the shelter and support of the high school environment, the personal task ahead can seem insurmountable.



Community ignorance, parental fears, loneliness, depression and a long list of newly discovered frustrations pile on top of one another as the disabled teen attempts to answer the question— “Where to now?” It's to **Wellington** that those of us in DPA Christchurch look confidently for an answer to that question. The example of the group noted below, surely points to a success which must be followed up in our local district.

Known as the **Expo on Transition for Students with Disabilities** it was brought to our attention by DPA committee member Eamon Daly, with further info. sussed out by Linda Telfer.

The Expo—website www.transitions.org.nz - was run by a group known as the Emerge Supported Employment Trust. This is funded by the Ministry of Social Policy. The Trust has seven staff and successfully sought additional funding for the Expo. Operating from a venue which was donated, the aim was to provide disabled youth about to enter the work force or tertiary education with as much information as possible. Students who are still in transition classes at high school were also part of the event. Many stall holders, such as Workbridge, Outward Bound, Sport and Recreation took part in what has been described as a huge success. “It showed that young disabled people are thirsty for knowledge about their future. That is accurate, up-**challenge** for DPA Christchurch



to-date information” The is to follow up in **2004.**

John Brown

Editor's comment: Ideas and partnership associated by the Regional Executive com-assist, knows of someone who could planning of such a major event please Linda Telfer Telephone 03 379 8525



opportunities would be most appreciate. Any reader who is willing to help or is able to contribute to the contact DPA Co-ordinator

Email: dpachch@cyberxpress.co.nz

Christchurch hosts international disabled athletes

October 27 to November 7— these are the dates to remember.

During this period some of the world's top athletes with disabilities will compete on our home turf. It's a combined date attracting 900 athletes and 400 officials.

Part of the competition is a credit to Christchurch for it is only the second time in its 52 years that the World Wheelchair Games have been held away from their home base at Stoke Mandeville near London. The only other time was four years ago in Christchurch. Such was the success of that occasion Christchurch gained the privilege again.

China, with 114 athletes will have the largest team at the wheelchair games, followed by Thailand, Japan and New Zealand with about 60. Australia, Korea and Brazil will each have 40 members.

The Boccia World Cup will be contested at the City Council's Westpac Centre. Boccia is a Paralympic sport developed in the main for people with cerebral palsy. The wheelchair and ISOD events feature 10 sports, including fencing at Cowles Stadium, wheelchair rugby at Pioneer Leisure Centre and the track and field and swimming events at QEII Park. Table tennis is at the table tennis centre on Blenheim Road, the archery is at Rawhiti Domain, powerlifting at the Riccarton Club and lawn bowls at the Woolston Club. Badminton will be held in the Skellerup Hall beside Cowles Stadium.

All in all the vision of organisers, the hundreds of hours of volunteer work, not forgetting the training commitment of athletes will bring a degree of sporting vitality and multi-cultural "sparkle" seen only rarely in such variety in Christchurch. The organising committee chairman, Neil Blanchfield says entries for the wheelchair games are well up on four years ago, with much increased interest from Asian countries.. For more information about times and events the website is www.greatevents.co.nz or phone 377 1700



A FREE Tip for learners of Internet/Email/ Websites

The BBC—the world's best broadcasting service is delivering a winner.

Helping those of us for whom cyberspace is a newish word, the BBC now has a site which provides 10 hours—yes ten hours—free, interactive instruction on the nature of the home computer and how to make sure you get the very best from your PC. It's all very clear. It is easy to use.

These first few steps will show how.

One you go on-line and open the website called "BBC Becoming Webwise" at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/learn/>

Two you get a username and a password

Three you are led through a series of exercises at your own rate you decide. Hope you give it a GO. It's very rare to obtain such expert help FREE



DIARY NOTES

The Way Ahead

DisAbility in Education Conference 2003
Hānātanga I Te Mātauranga: Te Anga Whakainua



The Way Ahead
DisAbility in Education Conference 2003
Hānātanga I Te Mātauranga: Te Anga Whakainua

The DisAbility in Education Conference is the biennial national conference in New Zealand for people who work with students with disabilities in tertiary education, students with disabilities, and all others who are interested in the area of disability and tertiary education.

**The 2003 Conference will be held at the
University of Canterbury, Christchurch on the 8th – 10th December**

*The Conference will be opened by Her Excellency, The Governor-General of New Zealand,
The Honourable Dame Silvia Cartwright, PCNZM, DBE*

Keynote speakers at the conference include **Neil Scott**, Director of the Archimedes Project at Stanford University in the US, **Ralph Keats**, the Director of the Centre for Assistive Technology and Enabling Research at the Open University in the UK, **Ruth Dyson**, Minister of Disability Issues and **Donna-Rose McKay**, Disabilities Co-ordinator at the University of Otago.

The three themes of the conference are:

- assistive technology for students with disabilities
- supporting the supporters
- the student experience

Conference presentations will cover a varied range of aspects of these conference themes from student presentations to sessions on accessible webpage design, peer support and mentoring, services for students with mental health disabilities and professional development issues.

A pre-conference day of workshops on the 7 December will demonstrate a range of assistive equipment for tertiary students with vision impairments, hearing impairment, learning disabilities and ergonomic equipment.

The conference website provides further details: www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability/disconf/index.htm or contact Gill Fowler, Students with Disabilities Co-ordinator Email: gill.fowler@canterbury.ac.nz

HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK

NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: Thursday 6 November 2003 TIME: 12 noon – 2 pm
(12 noon for networking—12.30 pm meeting starts)

PLACE: OXFORD TERRACE BAPTIST CHURCH HALL
Cnr Oxford Terrace & Madras Street

SPEAKER: BILL HAMILTON Kaiwhakarite, Human Rights Commission
TOPIC: Human Rights and the Treaty of Waitangi

One of the new functions of the HRC is to promote by research, education and discussion a better understanding of the human rights dimensions of the Treaty of Waitangi and their relationship with domestic and international human rights law. This forum will outline the process by which the HRC will undertake this project and give people an opportunity to express their views/questions in a safe and respectful environment.

Bring your lunch

Tea & Coffee available

**Enquiries to Sandy Jamison, Human Rights Commission on 353 0956 or
email to sandyj@hrc.co.nz.**



**Disabled
Persons'
Assembly**
(New Zealand) Inc

**The
Assembly
of People
with
Disabilities**

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Deadline for
next issue:
8 February 2004

Office Hours
Monday and Tuesday
9.30am - 5.30pm
Answerphone
cleared regularly throughout
the week.

Noticeboard

Psst—a little space to announce some BIG news.

Congratulations are in order -

On 29 Sep 2003 DPA member Leigh Montford received her Diploma in Free-lance Journalism 'completed with distinction', from the NZ Institute of Business Studies after ten months of dedicated work. Understandably Leigh is rapt and looking forward to fulfilling the potential of the qualification.

International Day of the Disabled Person

will be celebrated with a Xmas afternoon tea and entertainment 2.30—4.30 pm on 3 December 2003 at Christchurch Community House.
See invitation enclosed with the newsletter. RSVP.
We are looking forward to hosting members, supporters and friends.

**DPA Membership
Renewals 2003/04**

are now overdue

Thank you to those members who have completed their renewal.

New members are most welcome.

DISABILITY NETWORK

Meet others working in the Health and Disability Sector in Christchurch. Share ideas and information.
A genuine opportunity to keep up to date.

Bring your lunch, tea and coffee provided.

Date: 26 November 2003

Time: 12.00– 1.30pm

Venue: Disabled Person's Centre
314 Worcester Street, Christchurch

Speakers: Women's Centre/WHIC

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in articles contributed to this newsletter are not necessarily those of DPA Christchurch & Districts or DPA (NZ) Inc. Readers are, however, welcome to submit articles of interest to the DPA membership.
Advertisements are welcome but publication does not signify endorsement by DPA.
Please note the publication deadline date on this page.

The DPA Christchurch and Districts is grateful for the support from: The Community Trust, The Christchurch City Council, COGS, Lotteries Welfare Grants Board & the Southern Trust.