

The Chris Ruth Centre

Newsletter - Spring 2023



The Chris Ruth Centre

Kia Ora Koutou,

The year is certainly racing away as we find ourselves in Spring and enjoying lovely sunny days. There has been a lot happening not only within centres with the persons who attend but also for the Chris Ruth Centre as a whole as well as the disability sector.

Since our last newsletter we farewelled Suzy as our admin/accounts administrator and have welcomed Jill Legg as her replacement. We appreciate Suzy continuing to produce our newsletter for us and trust you will enjoy this issue.

As you will see from the individual centre photos people are enjoying their days and activities.

The enabling good lives principles have an ongoing impact on the overall sector with a huge shift and focus for organisations completing service transformation in conjunction with the government completing "system transformation". The end outcome for system transformation is very much ongoing, however I would like to assure you, we continue to embrace the principles to ensure the persons who we exist to serve have the best days possible.

Here is the link to the Whaikaha - Ministry for Disabled People website where more information and updates can be found at www.whaikaha.govt.nz or click [HERE](#).



Jill Legg

Our Sincere Thanks

I would like to extend our enormous appreciation and thanks to all those who kindly donated towards the replacement of our stolen wheelchair vans. We recovered one of the vans with minimal damage and have replaced the other two. Acknowledgement to Hales for generously giving us a discount on the fit out of one of the new vans, to Hopmans for sourcing the van to fit our needs and finally to North Canterbury MiniBus Trust for making contact and selling us one of their fleet vehicles which they no longer need. All vehicles have additional precautionary measures added to deter further thefts.

Covid Update

In regards to the government's recent changes to Covid restrictions we have been given some guidance to how as an organisation we continue to manage the associated risks. Mask wearing continues to be the strongest defence against spreading the virus. We will continue to be using these.

In addition to this we request that people - **do not attend** - if they have any flu like

symptoms and to please test and to let your respective manager know if there is a positive result. Please note if anyone comes in with these symptoms please be prepared for a call to collect the identified person.

Growth and Re-Development

It is with excitement I share with you news of upcoming changes to our Kaiapoi site.

Due to ongoing interest from new enrollees to our services, it is necessary for us to add a further room to our Kaiapoi centre. This is in the form of an additional CEBus (similar to the existing ones) added to the Smith St side of the property with a walkway to link the new and existing building. Laings construction is helping us with this project and it is hoped it will be completed by July 2024.

There are very few services such as ours in the North Canterbury area which families are able to access and therefore the reason why we exist.

Kind regards,
Marilyn

Career Force

Congratulations to:
Kanisha Reuben
for completing Level 2
Career Force Health &
Wellbeing

Stacey McClimont
for completing Level 4
Apprenticeship Career Force
Health & Wellbeing



Brett family passing over the key to the converted Mazda Demio which they gifted. (They knew of our stolen vans and wanted the car to go to someone that would appreciate it). The gift is in memory of their beloved mother who the car belonged.

*Our heartfelt thanks
to the Brett Family.*

Future Dates for your Calendar:

- LAST DAY for the 2023 year will be **December 20th with a 12pm finish**
- FIRST DAY for the 2024 year will be **Thursday, January 25th**



Claudia doing her Father's Day card



Hoon Hay One

Nau Mai, Haere Mai. Welcome.

We'd like welcome new staff member Phoebe to our room and also note the temporary absence of Te Aroha while she is away up North. Everyone here has been getting out and about on many of those beautiful sunny, winter days. One indoor highlight though has been the disco and games afternoon which Chevani and Jess organised. Together they sewed a beautiful dress for the occasion. We played fun games, such as a dress up relay race, musical spots and Simon says. It was great to see everyone come in their bright colours.

Over the winter months people (including Rick and Claudia) have enjoyed going on the Tram and Gondola. Geraldine had a fun time on the Diamond Harbour Ferry, exploring Lyttelton and having a beer with friends. Adventures at Willow bank, Deans Bush and Mona Vale have been other popular places.

This July marked another year for Matariki celebrations. People learned more about Māori culture, the stars and their meanings. Thanks Kanisha for organizing activities including a Matariki inspired art piece, which you will see on our wall and flax weaving. We had a shared lunch, Mike and Nidhi did a beautiful karakia and then Lucas lit a candle in memory of those who have left us.

I hope many of you enjoyed the Father's Day gifts made recently and that you are all enjoying the longer days. We look forward to giving you our next update.

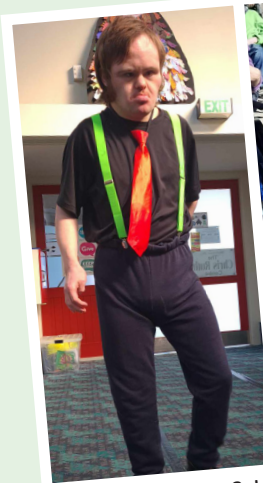
Nga mihi Adrienne and the Hoon Hay One team.



Chevani in her new dress



Shane having a photo op with the Police



Junior & Lou dressed for the disco



Anne at the Botanic Gardens



Batin going to the Barbie movie



Lucas making star biscuits for Matariki



Kris going on the tram



Alicia taking charge

Lamar Room

Riding in style!
From left: Tim, Asher, Huong & Lisa



The Lamar Room celebrated Matariki by coming together and the sharing kai with each other. Our afternoon consisted of the story of Matariki; weaving of flax into stars, the option of wearing a moko (Māori tattoo), waiata (songs), kite making and an alternative choice of origami stars and decoration. There was a real feeling of togetherness, learning, understanding and of course fun.

Our people frequent the Pioneer Sensory room for the touch, sound, sight and smell experience and it is joy to see the wonderment and excitement they show when trying new and different things. There have been in-centre activities on the 'off' week where we have had dart making and throwing, an obstacle course competition where everyone wore crazy outfits and completed a course of hand-eye coordination and balancing skills. We have made the most of the warm weather when it is here and of course we have also been supporting our people to achieve their personal goals.

As one of her goals, Melissa chose to research a limousine ride and proceeded to organise the hire of a limousine for an hour and invite her friends along for the ride. Her invitation included 'smart dress' and finishing the ride at Bill's Bar for a spot of lunch. They popped into our Sockburn Centre and then cruised around the city. A very exciting experience and lots of fun!

Ngā mihi nui
Mary Murphy



Mel enjoying her ride in the limo



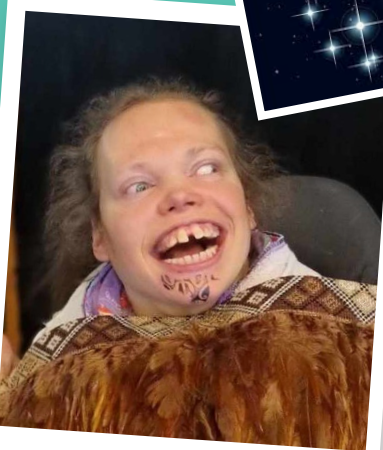
Rory on his e-scooter



Charlotte at the park



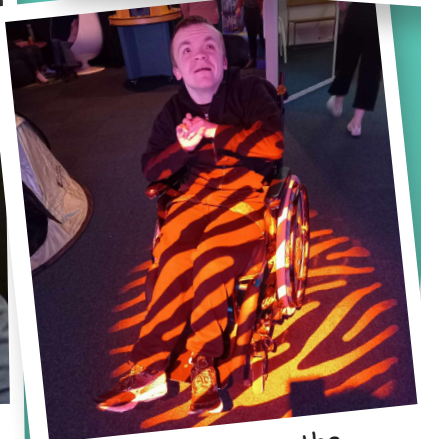
Isaak playing a tune



Hannah enjoying Matariki



Asher all dressed up



Liam enjoying the Sensory Room



Jayden riding the Bus

Hoon Hay Three

Ant with his diminished tuckstock



Chris ten pin bowling



Harry on the Bus



Jenny



Earl



Megan



Earl enjoys using the colouring app on our new smartboard/TV. Here is a photo of a parrot he chose to colour. Earl loves the new technology and requests to go on it every day he's here.

Megan bumped into some interesting characters while out with friends bowling.

This is just a small collection of moments shared in Hoon Hay Three. Ice skating, farm visits, Ferry trips and group lunch outings have also occupied a good amount of time. The year seems to be flying by and the tinsel will be hanging in our rooms before we know it.

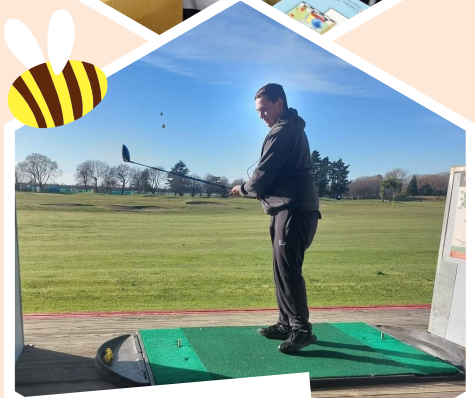
Hoon Hay Three team.

Bishopdale

Sarah with the giant Jenga



James at work at Paperplus Hornby



Alex at the driving range



Kirsten completing her sewing aspiration



Kate working on her puzzles



Josh having fun at Timezone



Jennifer celebrating her 30th birthday

There have been some memorable moments over the last few months. Notably, the Leacroft T-Ball team who were one of the main winners in the annual T-Ball competition. Well done team!

There was a lot of excitement for Luke who has been very patient while waiting for his new communication device to arrive from Germany. The design is much easier for Luke to use, and he has amazed people at how quickly he has picked up using the device to its full potential.

Jennifer celebrated her 30th birthday. She organised her own party at the centre. The cake in the photo was Jennifer's design which she decorated herself with minimal assistance.

The Bishopdale team are currently planning a challenge with the Lamar team to a ten-pin bowling competition. Results to be announced in the next newsletter.

Two new work placements have started over the last few months, the first is Abigail who has a permanent role each Thursday at Bishopdale

Library where she cancels no longer needed books along with other jobs. She has become a firm favourite among the library staff. The other is for Sarah who volunteers one morning a week at the Salvation Army Op shop in Hornby helping sort through womens clothing and general items. The smile on her face while completing her mahi gives the regular staff a warm uplift.

People are making steady progress with their goals including Kirsten with the making of her personal sensory items, which she then uses throughout her week. Jesse has taken advantage of the interactive smartboard to plan his own public bus trips independently through accessing the websites he needs. Liam is working on a goal to learn basic sign language of things he likes which also encourages him to speak the word.

Greg and the Bishopdale team.

Sockburn



Kia Ora Koutou,

Welcome to Spring!... it's great that the days are getting longer and the weather warmer!

We have had a busy few months here at the Sockburn Centre, with the warmer weather, persons we support have been getting out and about doing a variety of community-based activities such as visiting Willowbank, doing nature walks, trips on the Ferry to Diamond Harbour, rides on the tram, searching for painted rocks, blokarting and visiting local areas of interest.

Every second Friday individuals are using visual boards to have turns at choosing who they would like to go out to lunch with and where they would like to go. This has been a great person-driven activity, which has empowered the people we support to have more choices with this opportunity.

On the alternative Friday from this, we are doing a variety of different activities which are organised collaboratively with individual persons and their support staff. We have had some great activities organised, and these have included a local scavenger hunt, beach-crafts, quizzes, charades, a Matariki celebration and a sensory activity among other things, all of which everyone has enjoyed.

Sarah's Story

One of Sarah's goals was to make a craft project. We had a look at Pinterest together and Sarah quite liked the pictures made with puzzles which she chose to make. As part of the planning for this goal Sarah had two separate outings where she purchased puzzle pieces, a canvas and spray paint (she chose gold for the colour).

On completion Sarah chose to give the creation to her friend Lynette. (refer to photo) Sarah worked on it over several months, and managed to finish it in time for Lynette's birthday. Sarah was very proud of her creation, Lynette loves it, and it now hangs in a special place for many to admire.

Nga Mihi Di, Phillipah and the Sockburn team.

Sarah looking very proud of the gorgeous artwork she chose & helped make for her friend Lynette



Karina having fun at Pioneer pool



Will painting the coffee table that he made for his grandmother



Margie & Tanya having fun at the Airforce museum

Cody cooking



Chessie at Willowbank

Camille & Cherie doing hand-over-hand creations for St Patrick's Day



TK enjoying a visit from a staff members baby



Noah interacting with one of the children at his work participation placement at Hoon Hay community pre-school



Ashburton

Jasmine and her fabulous cushion that she created for Hayden's fundraising hamper



Goodbye Winter..... Spring is in sight!

Here in Ashburton everyone has been busy with all sorts of fun filled activities. We have also celebrated three birthdays with Olivia, Aidan and Hayden. Now that Spring has arrived we are all looking forward to warmer days and seeing the beauty Spring has to offer. I would like to say a big Thank you to the following, for all the support we have recently received with fundraising. Mitre 10 Mega Ashburton, New World Ashburton, Four Square Netherby. Simply Eco, Regent Cinemas Ashburton, CRC Ashburton families, staff and persons. Your efforts and support have been greatly appreciated. Also another heartwarming thank you to the ladies at the Ashburton Foot Clinic (Altrusa) for their generous donation of \$250.



Aidan working intently on a project of his interest

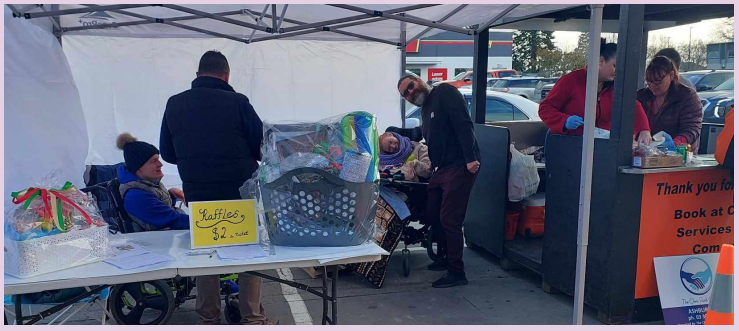


Olivia switching on the sewing machine to create a beautiful bag

The crew are on the hunt for any vegetable seeds please. If you happen to have any laying around in your garden shed that you're happy to part with, we would happily take them off your hands. With the warmer days coming, this is just a friendly reminder for weather appropriate clothing, sunscreen, hat and/or sun glasses please and thank you.



Ka Kite Koutou (see you all again) Sapphire and the Ashburton team.



Hayden & the crew are busy selling hot sausies & raffle tickets for his fundraising goal



Congratulations to the lucky winners of Hayden's fundraising hampers. The home & garden hamper: Fran Christie & The entertainment hamper: Colleen Morgan

The wonderful ladies from 'The Foot Clinic' Ashburton, who generously donated CRC Ashburton \$250. A very heartwarming thank you to Mary Harrison





Kaiapoi



Daisy in her happy place



Brittany selecting her material for PJ's



Matthew at Willowbank



Spring is in the air.

The past few months have seen many exciting activities happen and goals being achieved. As you can see from a snapshot of photos, the people we support have been experiencing a number of different opportunities.

Brittney has set a goal for herself to sew her own pyjamas and as the photos show, she looks like she enjoyed going to select her material for this aspiration.

We had a great day celebrating Matariki with shared kai and Matariki themed games, songs and stories.

This month we are very excited to be included in the North Canterbury inclusive sports festival at the Mainpower stadium Rangiora. We will be giving wheelchair rugby and basketball a go.

We are looking forward to the fine weather to make use of our new garden space.

If you could please send in named sunscreen and sun hats.

Thank you from the Kaiapoi team.



Mitch achieving his goal helping deliver meals on wheels



Daniel on his bike



Lisa catching the bus