

The Chris Ruth Centre

Promoting a good life for adults with disabilities



**The Chris Ruth Centre gets a Rendever
Virtual Reality Stystem, thanks to
funding from New Zealand
CommunityTrust**



Newsletter- Autumn 2025

Dates for your Calendar

- **Tuesday, April 22** (day after Easter Monday): All centres will be closed for Staff Professional Development.
- **Friday, July 4:** All Centres will be closed for Staff Bi-annual First Aid Refresher Training.
- **Monday, July 28 – Friday, August 1:** One-week Mid-Year Closure (this will shorten the Christmas period closure).

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Autumn is upon us, with the leaves changing and the weather reminding us that cooler days are ahead. The year has started well, with some exciting developments, and I'd like to share a few highlights with you.

Updated Website

Firstly, I would like to extend a huge thank you to Peter, Amy, and Jenny for their hard mahi on our updated website. It's looking fantastic, and we're excited for you to explore it. Please note that new sections will continue to be added as appropriate. The updated site now includes a link to our Facebook page, where you can find sector-related information. Feel free to share it with anyone who might be interested!

Virtual Reality

As mentioned in my previous newsletter, the Virtual Reality units have arrived and are already being put to great use. We've received some amazing feedback so far, and I'm thrilled to see the positive impact these tools are having. You can read more about these experiences in this edition.

Engagement/Advisory Meetings

It's my pleasure to share a photo of some of the people we support who attended the recent Engagement/Advisory meeting. Held monthly, this meeting brings together representatives from each of our centres to share updates,

discuss any concerns, and brainstorm new ideas. Facilitated by myself and Di Gimpl, this gathering provides a valuable opportunity for input from those who are directly involved in our work. Please note, no other employees attend these meetings, ensuring it's a space for our supported individuals to voice their thoughts.

Voluntary Work Participation Placements

We continue to support people in securing voluntary work placements. To date, we have a wide range of businesses where those we support are part of the team. We are always on the lookout for new opportunities and invite anyone with connections to a business to consider adding someone to their team. If you know of a business that could benefit from a volunteer, please reach out to the respective Executive Leader for more information.

On behalf of the Trust, we wish to thank the Kaiapoi/Tuahiwi Community Board, Mainland Foundation, and the Roy Owen Dixey Charitable Trust for their recent funding.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you all a wonderful start to the autumn season.

Kind regards,
Marilyn



Engagement/Advisory meeting

Ashburton

Tēnā koutou

We hope all our Ashburton friends and families had a wonderful summer doing all the summer things you enjoy. A warm welcome to Harry, and his family to the centre. We have been working hard at creating mana enhancing and relationship building activities and goals for everyone. Here are just a few to list:

- CRC is collaborating with the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum to create an inclusive art session for the community called Able Art Collective.
- Lots of hard work at the Ashburton Community Garden.
- Inclusive cooking classes at Kai for Kids.
- Walking netball, Birthday celebrations, virtual reality sessions and many more.

We sincerely appreciate the generous donations from Hakatere Presbyterian Parish, Inner Wheel New Zealand and the Steady as You Go walking group. The Hakatere Presbyterian Parish donation helped cover unexpected maintenance costs for our van hoist, ensuring it remains in good working order. The Inner Wheel NZ and Steady as You Go donation will contribute to an upcoming project for the centre. Thank you to all the groups for your kindness and support—it truly makes a difference!

Noho ora mai rā

Sapphire and the Ashburton team



Relationship building lunch date at Sockburn for Jasmine, Holly and Tania



Harrison relationship building while helping out at The Ashburton Community Garden



Our most recent Able Art Collective session. Hosted by the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum



Levon working hard at his mana-enhancing placement at the Ashburton Community Garden



Aidan having fun at the Flashbacks Retro Arcade



Olivia having a joyous time during her virtual reality experience



We welcome Harry and his family to CRC Ashburton



Jacob at the inclusive cooking class, hosted by Ashburton Kai for Kids



Hayden awaiting his first bite of the yummy muffins he made during the inclusive cooking class at Kai for Kids



Smiles from Daniel during some sensory time

Bishopdale

As Easter approaches, it is time to have an update on what has been happening at Bishopdale.

There has been a very successful harvest from the wheelchair-accessible planters made for us last year. The people we support have shared new potatoes, beetroot, baby carrots, radishes and lettuces. We currently have celery, rhubarb, silverbeet and a different lettuce growing nicely.

Kate has been supported in making a scarecrow for the garden which is nearly finished, before taking its pride of place. We are also expanding on sensory items that can be made; From homemade playdough to a sensory blanket, which Abigail has been supported with.

Another drive is to use public transport more as new routes have been added to this area. We are always on the lookout for new work placements, so ideas are welcome, but we are thankful for those business/community organisations that have been welcoming.

As a memorial for Daniel Tutty, money previously raised was used to purchase a Glockenspiel, with a plaque saying 'Where Words Fail Music Speaks', to recognise Dan's love of music.



Hoon Hay 1

Kia Ora All

Welcome to new attendee Tanner and new staff Tamati and Eliana. We have had an interesting start to the year, despite the marginal weather, we have been up to the following activities.

Lucas loved having another ride in the trailer at Mary's dad's place, locking in another one of his goals. Chevani with the help of Tamatis' secret recipe, made fry bread to share for Waitangi day. Batin and Junior are both enjoying playing T-Ball this year.

Logan is very proud of the kowhaiwhai artwork he has made. He has plans to make more to display and sell. Geraldine, Tanner and Rick especially, like going to the Southern Centre Sensory room.

Alice had a visit to the Wharenuui Harikoa; A large-scale crocheted wharenuui (Māori meeting house). Alicia, Claudia and Alice went to a concert at the Great Hall in the Arts centre – adding to Claudia's goal of 'attending musical performances'.

Chevani went shopping and chose to streak her hair blue - thanks to staff Nidhi and Deb who helped with the transformation.

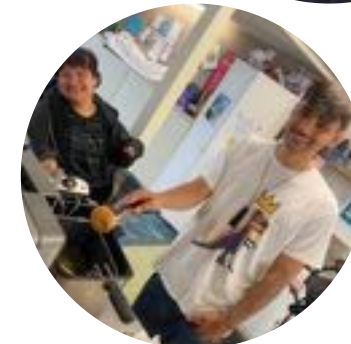


Junior and friends took part in the Long Run at Malvern park raising money for charity. He enjoyed meeting his rugby idols.

We're all looking forward to making the most of the new virtual reality headsets. As you can see Lucas is very enthusiastic for his next turn.

As part of Sudip's goal choice we welcomed the people from www.sharekai.nz who brought ingredients for us to make some Nepalese MoMo's. It was a great experience!

Take care from Adrienne and the Hoon Hay team.



Hoon Hay 3

Tena Koutou Katoa

Here we are into the 2025 year and I think we're already wondering where the time has gone.

HH3 has been lucky to have Charlotte join our room this year, with Caitlin soon to join us. It has been lovely to get to know Charlotte, and we look forward to spending time with Caitlin.

The year has started with a bang with us returning to previous activities, along with new experiences for some people we support.



Harry has been out to find the painted boxes that seem to be spread spasmodically throughout our City, and ticked off another achievement for him along the way.



Charlotte has definitely settled into CRC life, and is now baking up a storm in the upstairs kitchen.



Everyone joined forces to make a real impact while packing products at 0800 Hungry.



Megan doing her bit for the community at 0800 Hungry and then getting her nails done at a Salon. She was so proud of herself and rightfully so.

We've returned to a favourite activity- T-Ball. Courtney couldn't wait to swing for the ball, while it was a new experience for both Isaac and Charlotte.

New Brighton beach has been a popular destination (on the odd fine day we have had), with those visiting there checking out the Pier.

Finally we have now organised a group of people to participate in the Graffiti tagging programme through the Christchurch City Council. Hoon Hay 3 could not be happier to have another opportunity to give back to the community.

We look forward to continuing our year surrounded by positive progress and experiences. Thank you to Whānau for their ongoing continued support of the people and the Centre.





Matthew - MainPower Stadium All-Inclusive Sports

We have had an exciting start to the year. Our community outings and activities have been a real hit with everyone. Over the summer months, we have enjoyed visits to the Sensory room in Pioneer Stadium, beach walks, Funky Movement classes, Pegasus Golf Driving Range, Ice Skating, MainPower All-Inclusive Sports Day along with trips to the movies and rides on the tram in the city centre. The Buskers were a highlight! These activities have been a great way for the persons we support (PWS) to get out, stay active, and engage with their local community.

This year, we have also been thrilled to welcome two new people to our centre: Flynn and Tobias. They've settled in wonderfully and have made a fantastic start to the year. It's been a joy to see them adjust and become part of our vibrant centre.

To date we have built some meaningful connections within the community. This has included work placements at a local Retirement Village and at a Hair salon. We've also

been lucky enough to form a friendship with Enrich Plus in Te Awamutu. The people we support have enjoyed making new friends via video calls, and have made plans to keep in touch through regular pen pal messages.

We also had a fantastic time celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon full of games, Irish dancing, green-themed treats, and of course, wearing their best green outfit. It was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the spirit of the day.

As we progress through 2025, we are excited to see the continued development of each individual's goals. The people we support are making great strides in achieving these and are working with staff to plan their next set.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust. We look forward to another successful and fulfilling year!

Warm regards,

The Chris Ruth Centre Kaiapoi Team

Kaiapoi



Edwin - Bus trip to Rangiora



Daisy- New Brighton playground



Johnny- Work placement at a Hair Salon



Kaiapoi Centre Party for St Patrick's day



Jayden- Having fun at the Sensory room



Brittany and Courtney- Ice Skating



Lisa and Daniel- Sharing a book with each other



Petra- Tram ride in the city centre



Matthew and Flynn- Playing Connect Four

Lamar Room

Kia ora koutou katoa.

We've had a fantastic start to the year, with many people actively working on their goals and engaging with the wonderful community of Christchurch. We've enjoyed a few picnics, cooking sessions, crafts, and birthday celebrations.

Additionally, we have participated in several community activities and resumed playing T-ball. A highlight for many was trying out our new virtual reality system, which allowed them to see penguins up close, experience the Aurora lights, and explore different countries around the world. Many thanks for your support.

Ngā Mihi the Lamar Room

Rory enjoying the 5000 balls of coloured yarn at Wharenuī Harikoa



Liam looking at the Aurora Lights



Jayden enjoying the Halswell Quarry after his picnic lunch



Hannah enjoying the outdoors



Asher at his favourite spot at the Airforce Museum



Bethany and Lisa showing their team work skills off!

Lisa cooking the family a meal



Lisa having a turn with the new VR System



Issak loves T-Ball



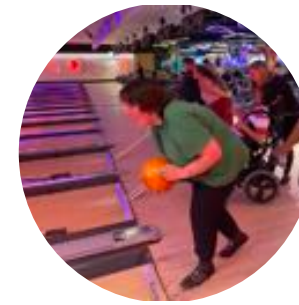
Rachel experiencing tactile touch at the Arts Centre



Jessica enjoying the swing



Sockburn



Kia Ora, Talofa, Ni Hao, Namaste, Greetings, and a Warm Welcome!

We are delighted to connect with you through our latest newsletter, sharing some exciting updates and highlights from the Sockburn Centre. It's been a busy time filled with meaningful activities, new faces, and wonderful opportunities, and we can't wait to tell you all about it!

Welcoming New Faces to the Team!

We are excited to welcome Eve, who has joined our Sockburn Whānau full-time this year, along with Silvy, Maddie and Phoebe, who have joined the Sockburn team. We're thrilled to have you all with us and look forward to great accomplishments together!

Smooth Transition of Head Office!

A significant recent change at the Centre has been the successful relocation of our Admin/Executive Team upstairs. This transition went smoothly, creating exciting

new opportunities, from work placements to adventurous outings like mail runs and stationery shopping.

Tee-Ball: A Celebration of Spirit and Energy

At Sockburn, we have been enjoying our T-Ball games filled with energy and friendly competition. Everyone, including the staff, shows great enthusiasm, creating a positive atmosphere. Our bright yellow uniforms add to the excitement of the day. This event has brought us together, and we are grateful for the joyful moments it has created.

Exciting Outings and Adventures

We have had a chance to experience some exciting trips and activities this year, and we'd love to share some highlights with you:

- Willowbank Wildlife Reserve: Some of us had the opportunity to visit Willow Bank, where we interacted with the animals.

It was a truly special experience, and we were amazed by how calm and patient the animals were during our interactions. It was a heartwarming experience for everyone involved.

- Exploring the CBD & Community Adventures: Several people explored the city through tram rides, community gardens, and ice skating. A special thanks to two community members who kindly helped push Karina and Jess, allowing them to skate at a faster pace. We are grateful for their generosity.

Boosting Communication Skills with Speech Group!

We are excited about our Speech group's success this year. The focus is on helping individuals improve their speech and use communication devices independently. It's inspiring to see Tanya grow in confidence as she facilitates the group and helps others enhance their communication skills. We look forward to continuing this journey together.

Strengthening Connections with Enrich Plus

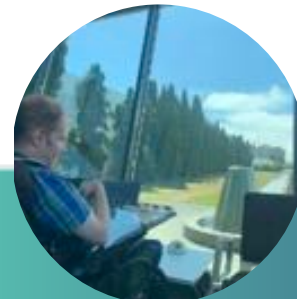
We've also been fortunate to establish new connections for Tanya and Paul, who have been working closely with Charlie and Rheema from Enrich Plus. This exchange has been incredibly rewarding for all involved, it brought us even closer as a centre. We're excited about the future, and all the opportunities for collaboration, and growth.

Looking Ahead - Big Things to Come

We're buzzing with excitement for the future with so many more adventures, opportunities, and exciting programs on the horizon. Stay tuned for what's next - we can't wait to continue this journey with you!

Thank you for your continued support. Let's keep the momentum going!

Warmest regards,
The Sockburn Team







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