

The Chris Ruth Centre



Promoting a good life for adults with disabilities



The Chris Ruth Centre, receives a donation of three new vans from the Hugo Charitable Trust



Newsletter- Winter 2025

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Dates for Your Calendar

- **Monday, July 28 - Friday, August 1:** *One-week Mid-year Closure (this will shorten the Christmas period closure).*
- **Friday, December 19:** *Last day for 2025.*
- **Friday, January 16:** *Staff only day.*
- **Monday, January 19:** *Return day for the people we support.*

Kia ora koutou

We are well into the midst of winter, as the cold weather and increased bouts of illness among both the people we support and our staff clearly show.

It's with great admiration and appreciation that I share some of the recent successes achieved by Amy Pawson, our Fundraising Manager, since our last newsletter. Amy has worked tirelessly to secure funding and build relationships that directly benefit our organisation.

A major highlight is a generous donation from the Hugo Charitable Trust, which has enabled us to purchase two wheelchair-accessible vans and a 12-seater minibus. These are the very first brand-new vehicles in our fleet, and we are incredibly proud to see them on the road. Keep an eye out — they proudly display both our logo and that of the Hugo Trust. Our heartfelt thanks go to the wonderful team at Hugo for their support.

We've also received partial funding from Pub Charity for an office Hush Pod. This addition to our open-plan admin area provides a much-needed

private space for meetings, online communication, and focused work.

In addition, Amy has successfully secured funding from other grant applications and has been actively engaged in marketing and communications, which you may have noticed through updates on our website and Facebook page.

First Aid Training

Thank you to all our families and carers for your understanding while we were closed to allow staff to complete their bi-annual First Aid training.

Poster Competition

Recently, we held a Poster Competition across all our centres, inviting individuals to creatively highlight and celebrate our Mission, Values, and Statement. Each centre participated by submitting unique entries, and the voting was carried out by all centres.

The goal was to choose a winning poster that truly captures the heart of who we are — one that will be proudly displayed in every centre. As a reward, the winning centre received a big bowl of Ambrosia (made by myself) to share and enjoy together!

We're excited to announce that the Sockburn Centre is the proud winner by popular vote with the following fantastic entry (see page 5).

Career Force Training

We are pleased to continue supporting our employees with skill development by completing the Health & Wellbeing Levels.

Congratulations and well done to the following staff:

Level 2 - Nora Filius

Level 3 - Kanisha Reuben, Joanne Kapua Hiroa, Katie Anderson, and Alesha Davey.

Service Satisfaction Survey

Thank you to everyone who has completed the survey so far. As part of our auditing requirements under our contracts with the Ministry, we

are required to document outcomes from service users to demonstrate the impact of the Trust's services. Your feedback is therefore extremely valuable and greatly appreciated.

If you haven't had a chance to complete the survey yet, there's still time. You can do so by following this link

<https://forms.gle/EEYEpkjic5Doc3Gk7>

Reminder dates for your calendar - All Centres will be closed July 28th through to August 1st for mid year break and recharge.

Please enjoy the stories and photos from the individual centres.

Ngā mihi
Marilyn



The winning design for the Poster Competition by the Sockburn Centre

Ashburton

Manawatia a Matariki!

Kia ora koutou,

As winter settles in and frost dusts the land, we hope you are finding moments of rest, reflection, and connection. July is a special time here, not only for cozy evenings and winter fun, but also for the celebration of Matariki, the Māori New Year. Here at the centre, we've been keeping warm with a flurry of activities, goal-setting, community connections and meaningful celebrations. It's been wonderful to see everyone so engaged and uplifted during these colder months.



A crafting afternoon making stars

We also want to send our warmest wishes to Harry, who is celebrating his 21st birthday in July!

Friendly reminder- with the wintry weather, a few potholes have developed in the driveway. Please take extra care and reduce your speed when coming in and out to ensure everyone's safety.

Here are a few photos for you all to enjoy! We hope they bring a smile to your face and a little warmth to your winter's day.

Sapphire and the team at CRC Ashburton.



Olivia at the inclusive cooking class at Kai for Kids



Able Art Collective



Levon enjoying a hot chocolate at the Community Garden coffee get together



Harrison enjoying the virtual reality system.



Pink Shirt Day Friday



Jasmine, Harry and Julie. Julie kindly knitted and donated gloves and hats for winter.



Jacob happy with his completed solar system that he created



Hayden designed and created a new shirt



Aidan busy at the MenzShed



Bishopdale

Greetings from CRC Bishopdale!

As we approach mid-winter, it's time for an update.

In our last blog post on the Trust website, we highlighted the fundraising the Centre was undertaking. The amazing news is that the team and people we support raised over \$1400!

The first purchase is a TV/DVD Player (with wall bracket) for the container for those colder days.

Since the last newsletter, Liam has started his job at the Bishopdale Library, which he shares with Joshua. Winter has not stopped people from getting out to do their share in the community, like Jesse still doing his graffiti spotting and Kate getting the centre's items from the Learning Needs Library.

Our MOVE sessions have become more colourful with some kindly donated Chinese fans that have fast become favourites. We also had a swing seat donated for the garden

that will be a project to get ready for summer.

We had a great time celebrating King's Birthday with crown making and high tea. We will also be celebrating Mike's 40th!



Crown making for King's Birthday



Story-time for Kings Birthday



Luke making dessert for his family



Kate's new diamond project



Sarah enjoying the bus ride



Kate helping at the Learning Needs Library



Kate at Willowbank



Jesse graffiti spotting



Meals on wheels



Jesse individual dance at Jolt

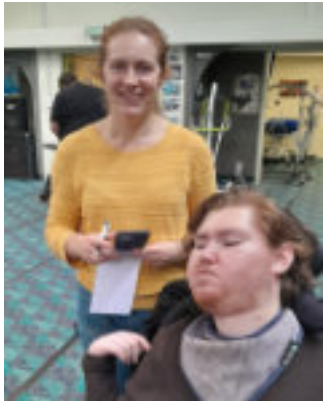


Liam on his first day at work



Sudip shopping for ingredients

Hoon Hay 1



Connor and Mel doing a M.E.L scavenger hunt on her last day

Kia ora all.

My fingers have defrosted enough to write about the following activities that we've been up to.

Lucas and Sofia, along with others, recently attended the Court Theatre Teen performance of SpongeBob. Lucas is never without his 'Patrick' and thoroughly enjoyed the show. Lucas has also been baking and bagging his unique dog treats to sell - a big thanks to Lisa at Westfield Stables for her purchases and contribution (for Lucas's dad's memorial plaque). If you're visiting HH1 be sure to pick up a bag of Lucas' tasty dog treats (\$4) - your furry friend will thank you!

Sam has been busy making and selling delicious soup and filled rolls. He shops for ingredients and then helps with prepping. When made, he asks around to see if anyone wants to purchase. Sam has really taken ownership of the process and it's great to see his

confidence grow.

We recently celebrated Matariki with a shared "boil-up" and fried bread for lunch. We also made pois and had a visit from Natural Magic pirates. We sang a song - Tūtira mai ngā iwi, which we had been practicing, then danced to their fun songs. Big thanks to all the team for making this happen!!

Sudip recently made Ragi Ladoo. We roasted the Ragi flour until it changed colour and had a nice aroma. We then added ghee (like melted butter) and jaggery which is a sugar and cardamom powder. Once this cooled we rolled it into balls. Everyone is enjoying the interesting Nepalese flavours which Sudip is sharing.

Shane has been diligently working on his goal to support the local Hoon Hay Food Bank. He has been raising money through raffles, then shopping and delivering the items to them. You can support him by buying \$2 raffle tickets if you're visiting HH1 - every bit helps!

Junior and Logan took part in a fun, active day with TIMA NZ—an inclusive sports event designed for all abilities. Junior particularly enjoyed playing volleyball, showing energy and focus. Logan explored all the different stations and gave each activity a go. They both showed great teamwork and highlighted a great opportunity to get involved in sport.

Kris enjoyed a swim at QE2 recently. It's been a long time since he's been in the pool and he absolutely loved it!

Sadly we are losing two staff to nursing studies, Mel and Eliana - all the very best for the future.

We're proud of the amazing things the people we support have been up to and grateful to everyone who supports their journey. Take care and stay warm!

Adrienne and the team.

Lucas and his homemade dog treats



Junior at TIMA



Kristian at the pool



Logan using binoculars



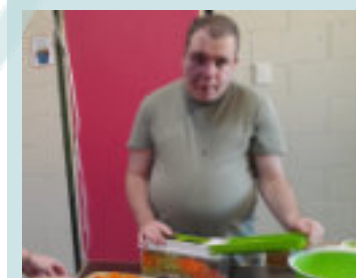
Lucas at the SpongeBob musical



Alice won the bowling



Natural magic music



Sam making soup



Sofia at the Art Gallery



Hoon Hay 3



Tena Koutou Katoa

Here we are into Winter, and you can certainly feel it in the crisp mornings. That morning bite however has not held us back in HH3 and we have been making the most of the sunny, less crisp days, by getting out and about in the community.

HH3 were lucky to get to experience the joy of having a band called Magic perform live for the centres. It's safe to say Jessica thoroughly enjoyed it and got up for a better look. While others chose to get out while the sun was shining and get some fresh air into their lungs.

HH3 continues to support the people in the room to achieve the things they have chosen for themselves. These few photos only provide a snapshot of some of the things people get up to and insight for others.

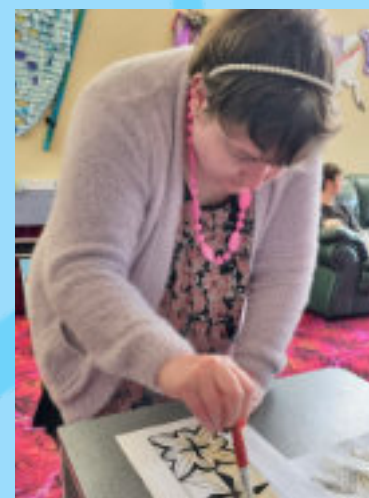
Ka Kite from all the wonderful folk of HH3



William and Harry enjoying the sights of Town and some iconic places



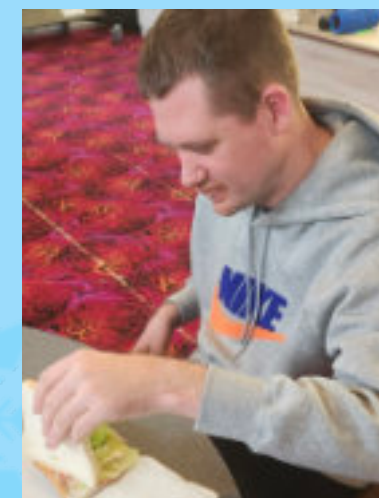
While Earl was busy putting books away at his placement at Cashmere High School Library, Michelle was focused on what books to choose to take out



Michelle contributing to our Tapa display during Samoan language week



Charlotte enjoying sensory interaction



Ant making his sandwiches for lunch



Jessica enjoyed having the band Magic perform



Ant and Erik have been working on more independence with Ant shopping for his own lunch foods and Erik trialing a new communication device



A group from HH3 out for a walk



Kaiapoi

Kia ora everyone,

We hope you've had a fantastic first half of the year! Here at the Kaiapoi unit, we've been enjoying local events and activities, and making the most of the sunny days when they make an appearance.

One of the real highlights has been connecting with a local group called Open Door. They've welcomed us into their Tuesday sessions; an inclusive, community-wide catch-up that offers something new each week. So far, we've enjoyed movement and music, craft sessions, and games days. It's been a great opportunity to connect with others in the community, and we're excited to see how this space continues to grow.

Another recent highlight was a special collaboration between Jolt and the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, which delivered a disability-led, interactive concert. This was a fantastic opportunity for people to engage in creative movement and music. A truly enjoyable and sensory-rich experience for everyone who attended.

We also had a wonderful time at Manaaki Day, hosted by Villa Maria College. Our recent school leavers, Daisy, Tobias, and Jewel were warmly welcomed and had a day filled with meaningful connection and fun.

Activities included a petting farm, craft projects, a delicious lunch, and even a disco!

Lastly, our team has been focusing on communication, supporting individuals to achieve their communication goals. We've been working closely with TalkLink for those using communication devices, and we've been tailoring group sessions to suit each person's unique communication style. We're already seeing great progress and look forward to continuing this journey.

Thanks to funding support from our wonderful Fundraising Manager, Amy Pawson, we've also been able to provide new experiences including the Jolt/CSO concert, Antarctic Centre passes, craft supplies, and even a new shade sail for our deck. We're especially excited about an upcoming mural project. Watch this space!

From all of us here at the Kaiapoi team, thank you for your continued support. We're looking forward to what comes next!

Ngā mihi nui,
The Kaiapoi Chris Ruth Centre Team



Lamar Room



The finished poster from the Lamar Room

Nau mai,

It's hard to believe that July is already here. Thankfully, we are moving towards the other side of winter. Over the past few months, we have been busy with various indoor activities while also making the most of sunny days outdoors. Our focus has been on setting goals and engaging in fun activities. It's always wonderful to see the smiles on the faces of those who are proud of their achievements.



We celebrated Matariki with a shared Kai, making pois, remembrance, celebrating the present, and looking to the future



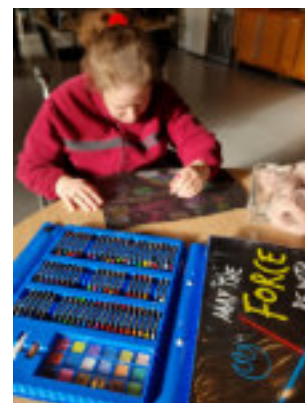
Bethany, Lisa and Rachel went ten pin bowling and then out for lunch



Houng enjoys riding Sunshine and feeding apples to the horses



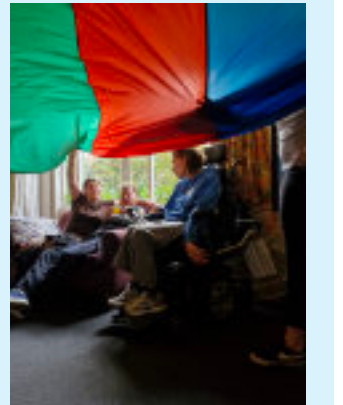
Sara loved seeing and listening to the sheep



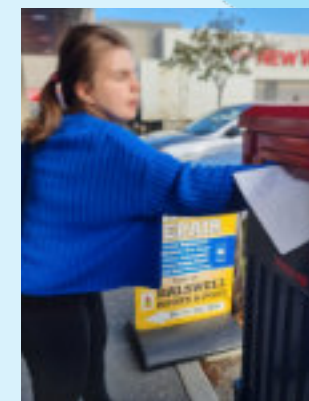
Bethany worked hard on the poster competition



Asher, Jessica and Rory enjoy their Jolt sessions



Parachute activity



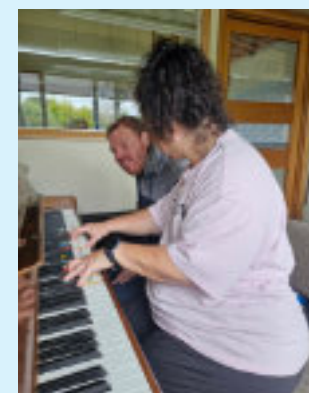
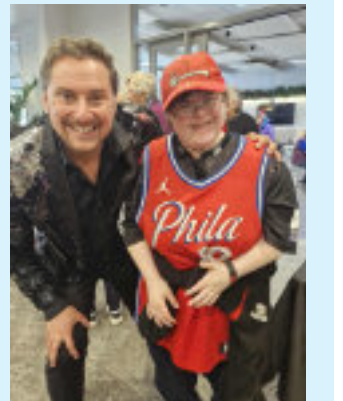
Chrystal posted a letter to her friend Anne.



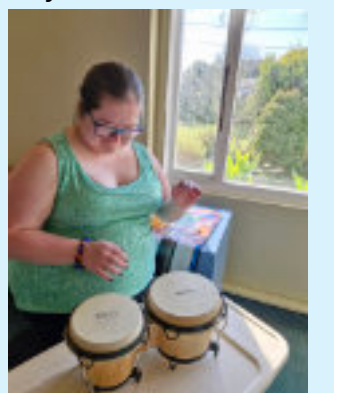
Rachel's goal to bake for her flatmates. She chose chocolate chip



We went to the Operatunity concert, where Teresa and Sara got their groove on and had a photo with one of the cast



Rory, Lisa and Houng enjoy their music session. Tim playing the sound drum





Sockburn

Talofa, Ni Hao, Kia Ora Koutou – Welcome!

Winter has arrived, but that hasn't stopped us from going out and about! Wrap up and catch a glimpse of all the fun we've had over the last several months. We've been busy, active, and creating memories; check out some of the highlights:

Dino Golf Fun

Some of us played Jurassic Adventure mini golf, which provided plenty of laughter, friendly competition, and perhaps a few crazy shots!

Muddy boots and huge smiles

A handful of us braved the freezing temperatures for a walk around Halswell Quarry – cold toes, warm hearts, and plenty of muddy fun!

Willowbank Adventures

Willowbank now feels like a second home to us, and we adore it! Thank you to the kind team that let T.K. enter despite his expired pass; you made his day!

All aboard the tram

Huge thanks to the Christchurch Attractions team for extending Nathan's tram pass at no cost. It was a beautiful surprise and appreciated!

Tunes, Friends, and Bowling

Holly, Henry, and Shalene have been jamming at music sessions at Halswell Hub. They've made new friends and always look forward to bowling fun during the school holidays!

Tanya's Special Moments

A very special shout out to Tanya, who walked her sister down the aisle on her wedding day - what a proud and wonderful moment!

Strike! Bowling Time

Bowling is always a hit—literally! We like showing off our abilities and sneaking a few hot chips too.

Workplace Star

Candice is doing an excellent job at her work placement! She vacuums with confidence and a huge smile. Ka pai, Candice!

City Explorers, Unite!

We've been exploring the CBD, visiting pop-up museums, libraries, taking bus trips, and giving Move a go at Jellie Park. There's so much to see and do!

Matariki Moments

We learned about the nine stars of Matariki and tasted excellent kai from various cultures. A wonderful way to connect and celebrate together.

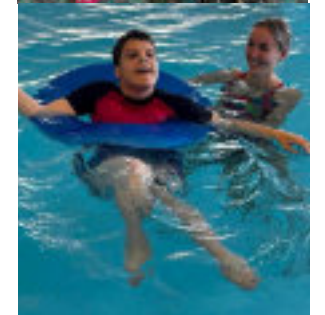
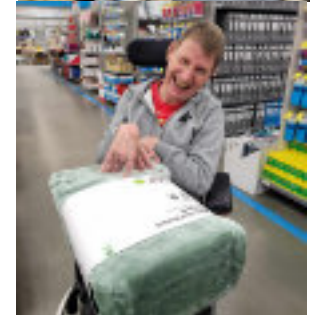
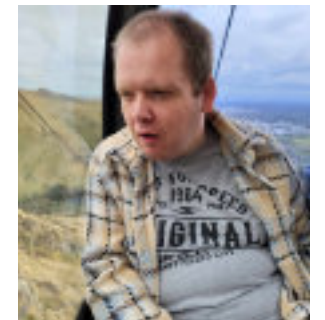
Check out our photos!

We've captured so many of these great moments, and we hope you enjoy looking through them as much as we enjoyed experiencing them.

Drop in at any time!

If you're nearby, stop by our centre for a coffee and kōrero. We would love to see you!

From all of us at the Sockburn centre, thank you for being part of our journey; we can't wait to share more fun with you soon!



A Fairytale Ending After a Challenging Chapter for The Chris Ruth Centre Trust

What began as an exceptionally difficult period for The Chris Ruth Centre Trust has found a heartwarming and hopeful conclusion. After the devastating theft of five mobility vans in just seven months during 2023, the Chris Ruth Centre is celebrating a major boost—thanks to the incredible generosity of the Hugo Charitable Trust, which has donated three brand-new vans.

The thefts severely limited the Trust’s ability to provide essential community access and engagement for those we support. While the Trust managed to replace the stolen vans with second-hand vehicles, it faced a funding shortfall of around \$30,000—money that could have been spent enhancing services.

Now, thanks to the support from Hugo Charitable Trust, the Chris Ruth Centre has welcomed a 12-seater minivan, and one of two wheelchair-accessible vans, the third currently being sourced for the Trust. This is a

timely gift that restores not just transportation, but also dignity, inclusion, and joy.

“The arrival of these new vans is a mana-enhancing moment for the people we support,” said Marilyn Paston, CEO of The Chris Ruth Centre Trust. “As a charitable organisation, we’ve never had the means to purchase brand-new vehicles. This is a dream come true.”

The Hugo Charitable Trust, founded in 2017 by Maryanne Green to carry on the legacy of her father Hugh Green, has become a powerful force in New Zealand’s charitable sector. With over \$85 million in capital and more than \$19 million in donations distributed to date, the Trust continues to make tangible, lasting differences in communities across the country.

The Chris Ruth Centre Trust extends its deepest thanks to the Hugo Charitable Trust for their life-changing support—not just for the donation of

the vans, but for believing in the power of inclusion and mobility.

“This truly is a fairytale ending,” said Paston. “And we’re so grateful to be part of the Hugo Charitable Trust’s story of generosity.”



Left to right: Maryanne Green (founder of the Hugo Charitable Trust), Aoibheann Monaghan (Trustee & CEO of the Hugo Charitable Trust), Amy Pawson (Fundraising Manager of CRC), Marilyn Paston (CEO of CRC), Kathryn Roberts (Trustee of the Hugo Charitable Trust), Mark Owens (Chair & Trustee of the Hugo Charitable Trust) and Phillipah Muyani (Executive Leader of CRC Sockburn).



Above: Maryanne, Kathryn and Aoibheann meeting Junior and Lynette at Hoon Hay.



Below: The new vans

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Estate of George Sevicke Jones

Steady as You Go walking group

Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand



The Chris Ruth Centre

promoting a good life for adults with disabilities

Head Office:

Unit 7, 6 O'Briens Road

Sockburn 8042

PO Box 9027, Christchurch 8149

Ph. 03 339 2930

E. admin100@chrisruthcentre.co.nz