

The Chris Ruth Centre



Promoting a good life for adults with disabilities



*The arrival of the third van donated by
Hugo Charitable Trust*



Newsletter- Spring 2025

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Dates for Your Calendar

Monday, December 8: *Kaiapoi End of Year Celebration*

Tuesday, December 9: *Hoon Hay 3 End of Year Celebration*

Wednesday, December 10: *Hoon Hay 1 End of Year Celebration*

Thursday, December 11: *Bishopdale End of Year Celebration*

Friday, December 12: *Lamar End of Year Celebration*

Monday, December 15: *Sockburn End of Year Celebration*

Tuesday, December 16: *Ashburton End of Year Celebration*

Friday, December 19: *Last day for 2025.*

Friday, January 16: *Staff only day.*

Monday, January 19: *Return day for the people we support.*

Spring is my favourite season of the year for many reasons, daylight saving being one.

We have had a very busy time since the Winter edition. As you will see in this newsletter and from the blog posts on our website, and social media posts on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Service Development Evaluation (Audit)

This was completed in August with a very positive outcome. It is heart-warming to receive such an encouraging report, which reinforces the excellent work everyone does each day to support the people who attend.

The assessors were especially interested in the introduction of the Virtual Reality (VR) system and how it enhances individual planning goals. Through VR, people can experience different cultural celebrations as part of their goal to explore culture. Those with goals around connecting with animals can also enjoy a variety of animal encounters in a safe and engaging way.

Fundraising applications

We're excited to share fantastic news! Thanks to Amy's successful grant applications, our centres have received a wonderful range of new

resources that will make a real difference.

Bishopdale, Sockburn, and Kaiapoi now each have their own AED units (something they didn't have before). We've also received grants for Arts & Craft supplies, Imaginable Solution Hands which are adaptive devices that aids a person (who wouldn't normally be able) to use pens, paint brushes to write and paint. Funding for musical instruments for a music room at Hoon Hay, three overlockers for Sockburn, Kaiapoi and Bishopdale and sewing accessories for the other centres. Funding for a vibrant painted Mural Project at Kaiapoi, a storage container for the Ashburton Centre, and a partial grant towards a new lifting hoist for Ashburton.

A big thank you to all the organisations that have supported The Chris Ruth Centre through these donations.

A huge round of applause to Amy for her amazing work and commitment in securing these opportunities for our centres and those that attend.

Building Updates

Ongoing progress continues behind the scenes with the redevelopment of our Hoon Hay site.

At the same time, we are preparing to open a new centre on Tuam Street, scheduled for early 2026.

This new location will ease the pressure on our three existing Hoon Hay centres and provide a more convenient location option for people living on the east side of Christchurch. It also creates opportunities for the Trust to welcome and support new people who are interested in using our services, freeing up availability in all Hoon Hay locations.

A letter to families who live closer to the new centre has been forwarded and we have advertised the Executive and Team Leader roles on seek with some very promising applicants submitting their interest.

We will share more information as we progress through the required elements and stages of development.

Congratulations - to Diane Moloney for completing Level 3 Health & Well Being.

End of Year Celebration - Please look out for an invite (closer to the event) from the Executive Leader of your respective centre which will include more details.

Thank you to everyone for the part you all play in making a difference for the people we exist to serve.

Warmest regards

Marilyn



Sockburn Centre enjoying a spring walk under the blossom trees.

Board Recruitment – Join the Chris Ruth Centre Board

As part of our ongoing succession planning and strategic commitment to future-proof our services, the Chris Ruth Centre Board is seeking to appoint two experienced individuals to join our governance team.

We are looking for people who bring a depth of knowledge, strong governance capability, and experience ideally gained within medium to large organisations. These appointments include the Board Chair position and an additional Board Member role.

This is an opportunity to contribute to a well-established organisation dedicated to supporting people with

intellectual disabilities to live meaningful and fulfilling lives. Board members play an important role in guiding strategy, ensuring sustainability, and shaping the future of the Chris Ruth Centre.

If you, or someone you know, would be a great fit for these roles, we welcome you to make contact with our CEO.

Enquiries to Marilyn Paston-
mpaston100@chrisruthcentre.co.nz



Kaiapoi Centre, enjoying some relaxation under the new canopy.

Ashburton

Kia ora and welcome to spring!

Spring is a season of new beginnings, growth, and fresh opportunities. As the days grow warmer and the gardens begin to bloom, we're reminded of the sense of renewal this season brings.

Here at the Centre, it's been a busy and exciting time! We recently celebrated a special milestone, Harry's 21st birthday with plenty of laughter and cake. Our team also attended the opening of Arofa Café, a wonderful neurodiversity-led café that's a great addition to the Ashburton community.

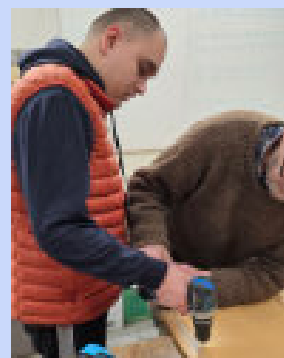
During Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, we celebrated by making fry bread, learning te reo words for our ingredients, and enjoying Māori waiata together. Our regular activities have continued with enthusiasm, from weekly participation at the MenzShed, Kai for Kids, Able Art Collective, Ashburton Community Garden and many other meaningful experiences that build connection and community. We also shared the

virtual reality experience with the MenzShed members, which everyone really enjoyed!

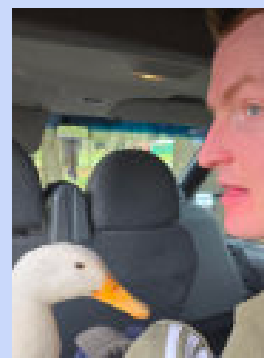
A special mention goes to Levon, who has been invited to be a guest speaker for the Ashburton Community Garden's AGM, ka pai, Levon!

A heartfelt thank you to Ashburton Council, Mackenzie Foundation and the Frozen Funds for their generous funding donations. The funding granted means we now have a secure storage container, an operational sensory room, a new transfer hoist and craft supplies. All of which make a huge difference to the people we support and the work we do each day.

Sapphire and the team at CRC Ashburton.



Left: Aidan working on his frame while at the Menzshed. Right: Hayden had a special visitor, a duck!



Able Art Collective



Harrison singing while out for a walk



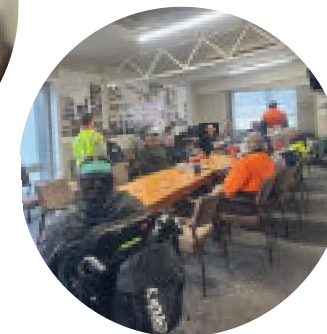
Olivia at the Art Gallery



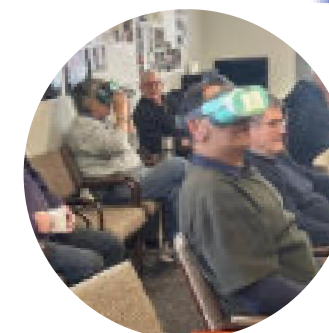
The opening of the Arofa Cafe



Virtual Reality experience at the Menzshed



Harry keeping the community safe



Bishopdale



Alex using the new overlocker

Greetings from all at Bishopdale.

Everyone is happy to see the warmer days ahead.

Over the last few weeks, the team has been receiving training from team member Deb on Positive and Active Support, which complements the team's work in supporting people to improve their life outcomes. We are in the position to say that each person we support at Bishopdale has either a volunteer or work role within the community.

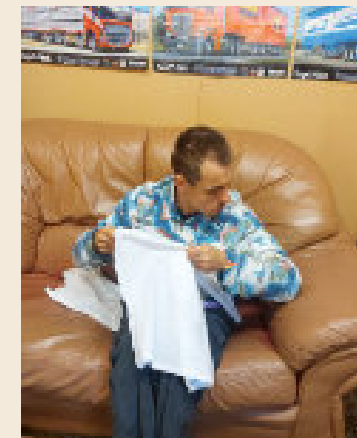
The garden beds are now prepared for new vegetables to try and grow. A project for one PWS is to grow strawberries for their family. To help with the growing, our scarecrow is now in full use! We are still deciding on a name, so we welcome

suggestions. Also, Colin, the Trust's maintenance man, has been working on a project to make part of the garden more accessible for projects to be undertaken.

Lyn Cotton from Jolt very kindly knitted a sensory rope to use in our MOVE sessions. It has also been exciting for two PWS to enjoy their year's membership at Willowbank.

The team is constantly keeping an eye out for new opportunities in the community, whether one-offs or longer-term. We also have another ten-pin bowling challenge with Lamar, and a scavenger hunt in the city coming up. The latter has been paid with funds from the Roy Owen Dixey Trust grant.

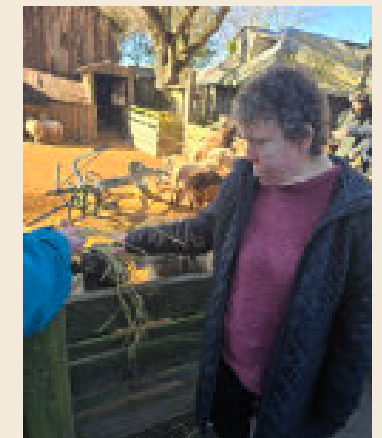
Greg and the Bishopdale team.



Isaac making cleaning rags for the CCC graffiti team



Jesse and Alex T working in the garden



Kate feeding the sheep



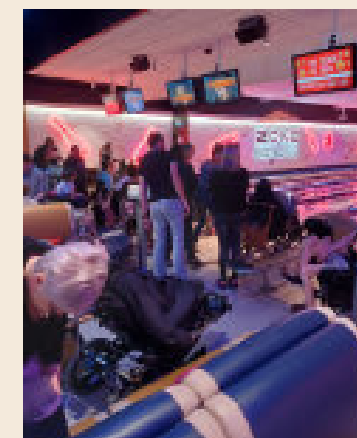
Joshua at CSO



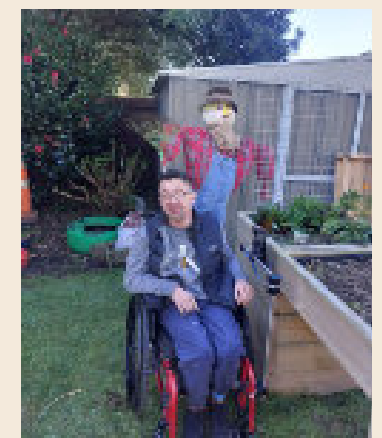
Sensory rope from Lyn Cotton at Jolt



Alex T with the sensory rope



Ten-pin Bowling



Alex T with the scarecrow



Hoon Hay 1



Kia ora and welcome to new staff Robel (Robbie) and newish staff, Mary. Despite the weather we have been making the most of many opportunities.

Junior, Tanner and Rick recently went up in a helicopter! Rick, with the help of staff, raised money to help pay for his staff support. Although the day was a bit overcast they all had a unique experience. Logan has been pushing the envelope with his adventures - the latest being the climbing wall at the Adventure Centre.

Lucas has been cooking up a storm with friends at Speech group. All hands on deck to make a yummy Mac and Cheese lunch. He's also loving the Virtual Reality system!

Sam continues to make his yummy sandwiches for everyone and on fine days helps in the garden.

We all appreciated the Freemans bringing in their puppies. Caite is a real animal lover!

Earlier this year we had a visit from the Little Diggers. Claudia, and all who gave it a go, thought it was awesome! A big thanks to the Little Diggers team.

We recently had a visit from the Court Theatre with their annual performance. This year it was titled Nuku and Vai. We loved sharing the Pacifica vibes with them

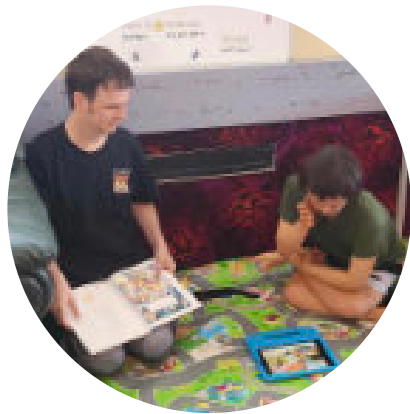
Sofia loves going to JOLT; moving and grooving and catching up with her trainer. Tanner's most favourite thing is being in the swing chair and Kristian loves going for spring walks.

We're all looking forward to the next few months of activities and hope to lock in some outside fun. Feel free to drop into the centre any time and don't forget to include a hat for those sunny days.

Ngā mihi nui,

Adrienne and the team.





Hoon Hay 3



Tena Koutou Katoa

Over the last few months Hoon Hay 3 has been anything but idle and opportunities to work on goals or take advantage of any new activity or opportunity has been embraced by all.

We have returned to sessions in the Sensory room at Pioneer Stadium. Courtney was completely engrossed in the experience, squealing in delight especially when she discovered the animal board. Both her and Jessica were fascinated by the star lighting area behind the curtain.

We were lucky enough to be included when some labradoodle puppies came to visit Hoon Hay. Isaac and Logan got up close for a good look. The puppies didn't seem to mind either.

We've been reminded of Ant's pleasure when it comes to baking. It's fair to say he loves it and can't wait to get himself involved in the process.

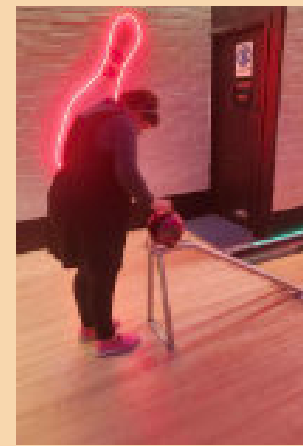
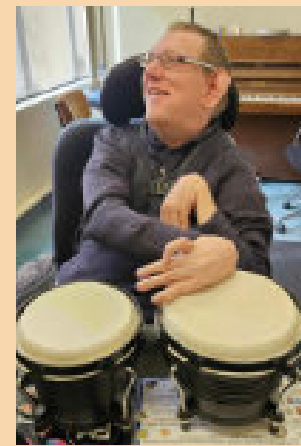
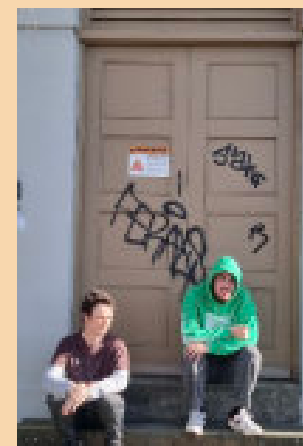
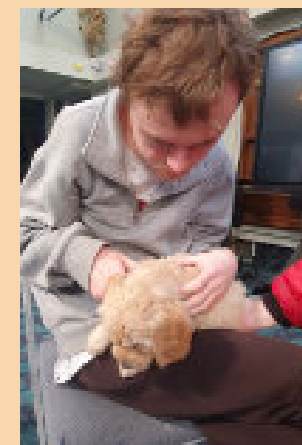
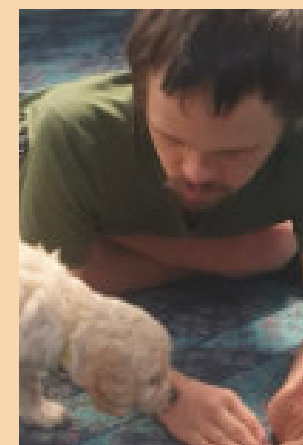
You can tell by his smile how much he loves it!

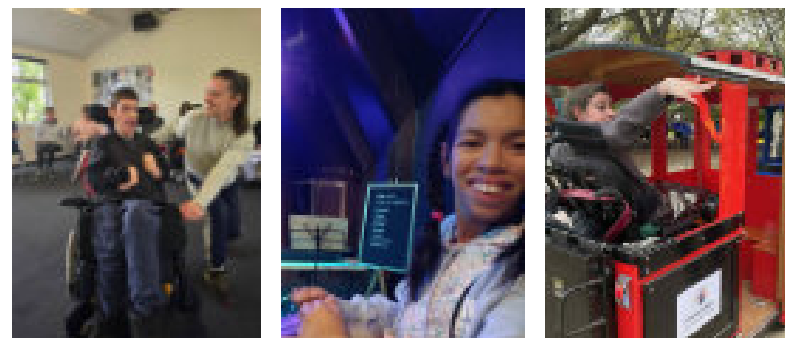
Eli and Harry have continued on their graffiti spotting journey, and can be proud of their efforts to support cleaning up our wonderful city.

As we race towards the end of the year we have many celebrations just around the corner and are looking forward to the first one for Halloween.

We do hope that everyone has had the opportunity to get out on the recent days of sunshine. It is so lovely to see the spring flowers out and the blossoms on the trees.

Shelley and the Hoon Hay 3 team.





Kaiapoi



Greetings from the Kaiapoi Team!

Time has flown by over the past few months as we've enjoyed a range of opportunities to get involved, with the arts being a real focus that has allowed us to celebrate diversity, creativity, and culture in many meaningful ways.

A real highlight was Jolt's 12th major production, *See Me Go* - a vibrant celebration of Ōtautahi Christchurch. Featuring more than 120 dancers and guest artists, it was an uplifting experience for everyone involved. We were thrilled to revisit a favourite lunchtime series at The Arts Centre's Great Hall, enjoying Kate Taylor's beautiful performance of jazz classics and modern favourites. Another standout was *Octopus* by Many Hats Theatre Company, created by actors with lived experience of disability. The show celebrated diversity and self-expression through interactive theatre and improvisation. To top it off, we were proud to attend a student showcase at the Brain Tree Wellness Centre. Across all of these experiences,

it's been great to see everyone's enthusiasm.

Music and movement continue to bring joy.

Jolt's community drop-in centre offers regular opportunities for connection and confidence-building, while the Waimak Open Door initiative has continued to grow. It has been especially rewarding to see friendships forming between our participants and the wider Kaiapoi community. Craft mornings, games, and even virtual reality sessions have provided plenty of fun and connection.

We had the pleasure of joining the third North Canterbury Inclusive Sports Festival. From wheelchair basketball and boccia to Top Team challenges and loose parts play, it was a fantastic day celebrating adaptive sport. We really

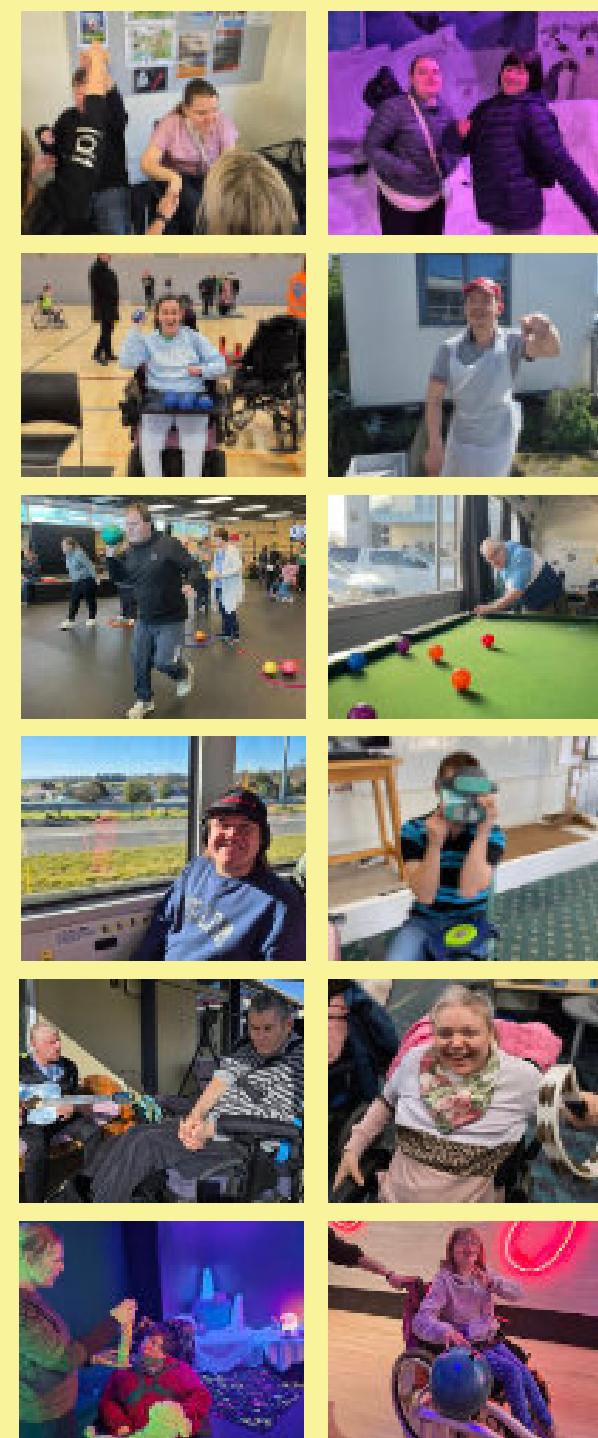
enjoyed the camaraderie, competition, and a special photo with Mayor Dan Gordon of Waimakariri.

Over winter, we made great use of our Antarctic Centre passes, generously funded through the Roy Owen Dixey Trust grant. These visits offer opportunities for fun, learning, and interactive play - a fantastic resource during the colder months. We are also grateful to Harcourts Four Seasons

Realty for their donation of an overlocker and sewing items. We appreciate their generosity, which has supported both our creative projects and everyday activities.

As we head into summer, we ask whānau to bring sunhats and sunscreen so everyone can enjoy the sunshine safely. It's been great to see everyone enjoying the opportunities on offer. Thank you for your ongoing support, we look forward to sharing more highlights soon.

Caroline and the Kaiapoi team.



Lamar Room



Charlotte was the winner of the best-dressed book character day

Nau mai,

Welcome to the final Lamar newsletter of 2025! It's hard to believe that the end of the year is approaching. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Courtney, who has been with us for the past four weeks.

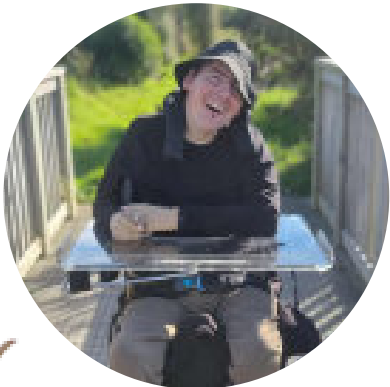
Throughout the year, we have participated in numerous community activities, including performances with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, Jolt, Music Therapy sessions, and Horse Riding, to name a few. Looking ahead, we have some exciting events lined up: Hydro slide, a scavenger hunt, tram rides, and another concert by the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, which will be held in Hoon Hay.

The final week of the year will be packed with extra activities, including

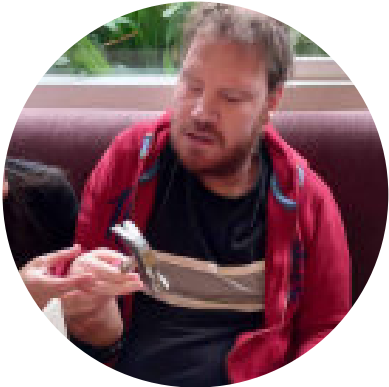
an annual water fight, a picnic lunch, a disco, and a games day. At the centre, we have been busy with cooking, passive stretches, quizzes, crafts, foot spas, sewing, and enjoying our new music equipment. We have also celebrated many birthdays, including some milestone ones.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to the businesses that continue to support us with work placements. Many have worked hard throughout the year.

Ngā Mihi
Lynette and the Lamar team.



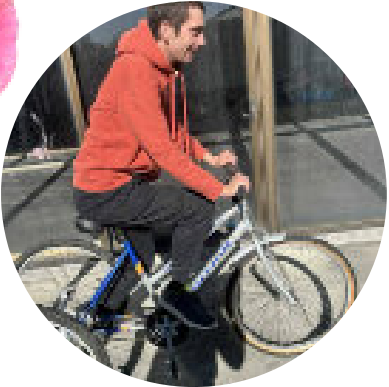
Issak is enjoying his goal of being one with nature.



Rory is making his birdhouse for their new home.



Niamh is enjoying the session at Move.



Jayden is getting back to riding his bike.



Sara is using the switch to work the sewing machine



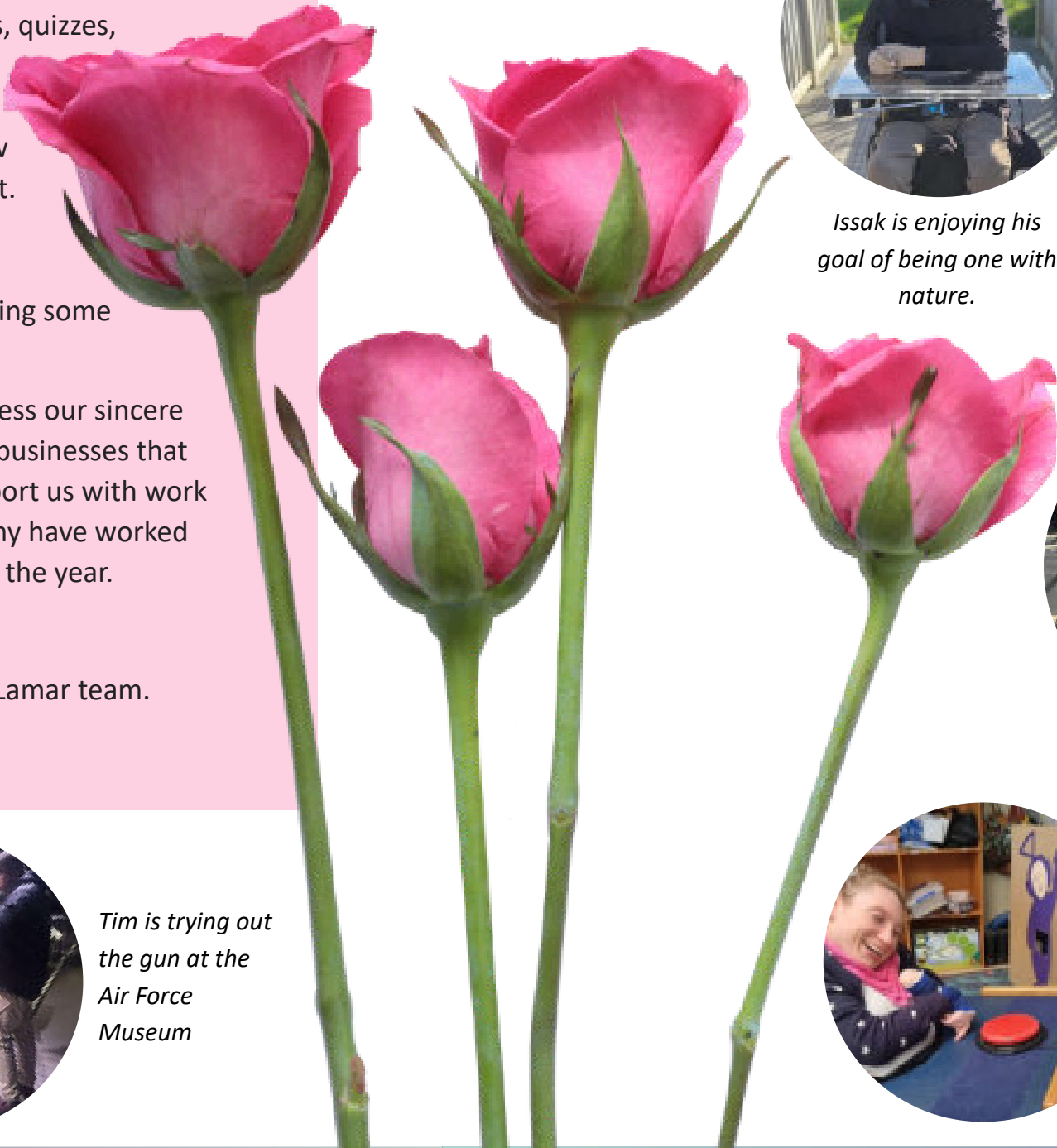
Jessica is having a bash on the new drum kit.

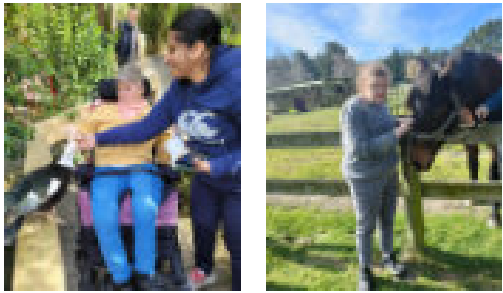


Hannah dressing up as a Mermaid at the Southern Centre.

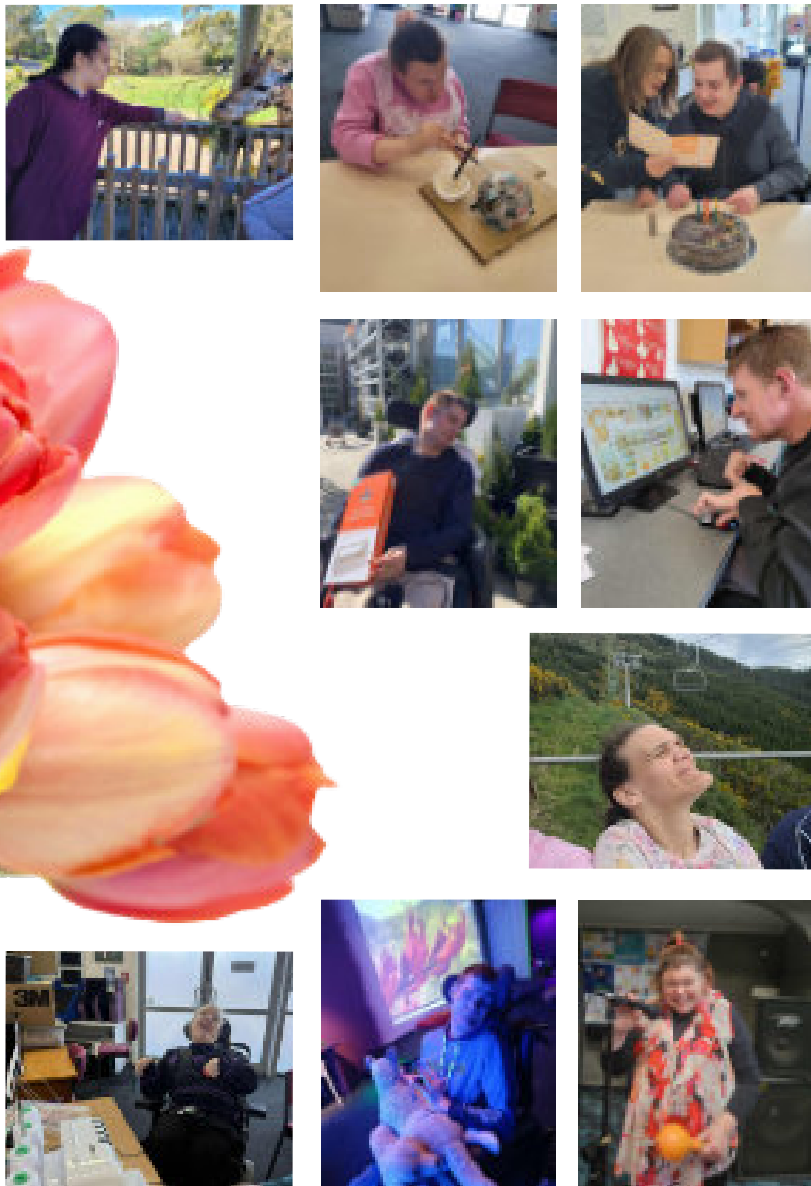
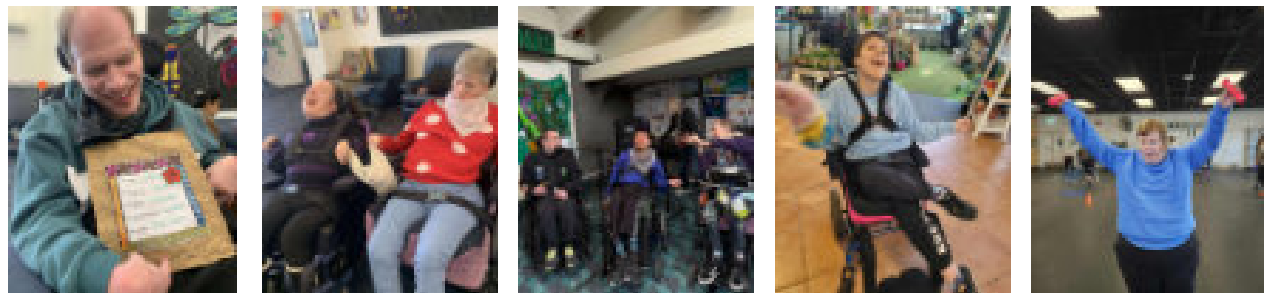


Tim is trying out the gun at the Air Force Museum





Sockburn



Talofa, Ni Hao, Bula, Namaste, Kia Ora, and a warm welcome to all!

We've had a fun-filled few months here at Sockburn, making the most of the warmer weather with plenty of adventures and celebrations.

Celebrations and Special Moments
August, September, and October have been busy months for us, filled with birthday celebrations and lots of fun outings. We've loved spending time together, exploring new places, and creating lasting memories.

Exploring Our Community
We've been lucky to enjoy several outings over the past few months:

- **Orana Park:** Some of us had the chance to meet and interact with the amazing animals.
- **Willowbank & Local Parks:** Others explored the beautiful green spaces in nearby communities.
- **Christchurch Adventure Park:** We made the most of the free entry and had a fantastic day of outdoor fun!

Speech Group Socials
Our speech group continues to enjoy monthly coffee meet ups at the café next door — always a highlight full of good chats and smiles.

Creative Projects & New Resources
We've been putting our new overlocker to good use, creating pillowcases, cravats, and aprons. A huge thank-you to Amy for all her hard work in acquiring new resources — especially the Guided Hands, which has become a new favourite in our centre!

Grateful Hearts
We're so thankful for every opportunity to explore, connect, and create together.

We hope you enjoy our photos — each one tells a story of friendship, fun, and discovery.

Thank you for following our Adventures!

With gratitude,
Phillipah and the Sockburn team.

The arrival of the third van donated by Hugo Charitable Trust



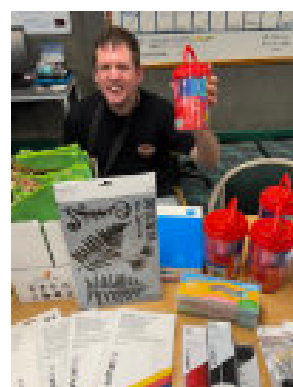
It has been a long time coming, but worth the wait! Our third van donated to the Chris Ruth Centre by the Hugo Charitable Trust has arrived.

A special thanks to Hopmans for their effort in tracking down a new wheelchair accessible van (it wasn't as easy as it sounds!). Thank you to Hales for fitting out the van with the wheelchair lift, and Sign Pursuit for doing the signage for the vehicles.

Lastly a massive thank you to Maryanne, Aoibheann and the Trustees of the Hugo Charitable Trust for making this happen. We are unbelievably appreciative of the support we have received. The brand new vans are a great edition to the centres, allowing us to take the people we support out to activities, appointments, and events.



Photos of the new van donated to The Chris Ruth Centre by the Hugo Charitable Trust.



We have also recently received funding from Frozen Funds for art and craft supplies and equipment.

Thank you to Our Supporters

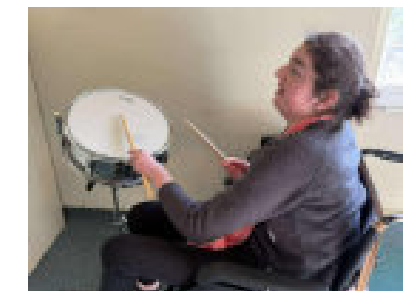
The Chris Ruth Centre has been very fortunate to secure funding for projects and activities this year, to provide opportunities for the people we support. We also received funding recently from MSD for personal development for staff and funding from Waimakariri Creative Communities Scheme for a mural project at the Kaiapoi Centre (photos to come in the next newsletter).



Thank you to the Blogg Charitable Trust for their funding for the Court Theatre to bring their touring show to Hoon Hay titled Nuku & Vai.



Thank you to MainPower Community Grants and Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board for funding the shade sail at the Kaiapoi Centre.



Thank you to the Estate of George Sevicke Jones for funding for musical instruments for the new music room at Hoon Hay.



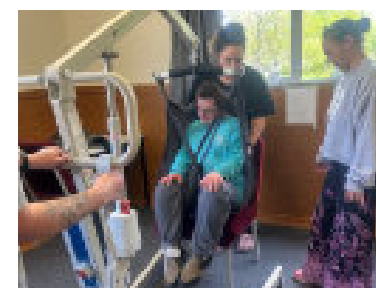
Thank you to Christchurch Casino Charitable Community Trust for funding for iClick controllers.



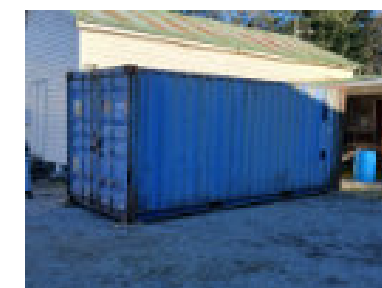
Thank you to Harcourts Foundation for three overlockers and sewing items for the other centres.



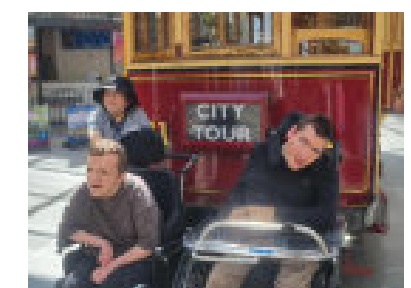
Thank you to the Kiwi Gaming Foundation for AED Machines for Sockburn, Kaiapoi and Bishopdale.



Thank you to the Mackenzie Charitable Foundation for the adult hoist for Ashburton Centre.



Thank you to the Ashburton District Council for funding a shipping container for storage for the Ashburton Centre.



Thank you to the Roy Owen Dixey Trust for funding for activities.

Thank you to Our Supporters



The Roy Owen Dixey Charitable Trust

Estate of George Sevicke Jones

Steady as You Go walking group





The Chris Ruth Centre

promoting a good life for adults with disabilities

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