

Brackenridge

LIVING GREAT LIVES

December 2010
Newsletter

Christmas in the Forest Concert 2010



The recent 'Christmas in the Forest' concert was again a great success and it was wonderful to see so many family and friends join us for this Annual Event.

We were lucky again with the weather and sun hats and sunscreen were the order of the day.

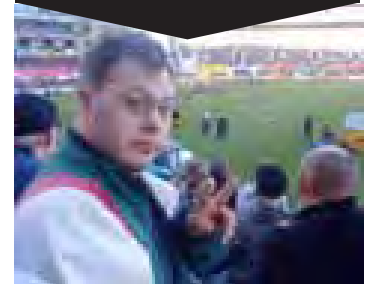
The BBQ lunch was followed an array of singers who entertained us before the arrival of the big fella himself!

A big thumbs up to the organising committee who worked hard to pull the day together and were rewarded with a great day enjoyed by all.



A night at the rugby

More out and about stories inside



An enthusiastic group of rugby fans headed off to AMI Stadium one winters afternoon to support the local team.

Everyone had a great time and enjoyed watching Canterbury beat Counties. From the stands we could see why Sonny Bill Williams had been selected for the All Blacks – of course we are not one-eyed cantabrians!!



Walk for Autism

Malcolm and Nigel along with Support Staff Janet and Glenn attended the 2nd annual walk 4 Autism.



It was a bit chilly to start off with but once we got moving it was all good, we completed the 10km walk, Malcolm was a bit tired by the end of it but Nigel could have gone round a couple more times! Both Malcolm and Nigel seemed to really enjoy them selves with Malcolm chatting away to lots of new people. After the walk we headed off to grab a sausage from the sausage sizzle before heading home.

Janet Harwood
Amoka Crescent





Stuart and David's Auckland Holiday

Hi everyone David and I had a fantastic time away in Auckland with Karen early in July.

The weather was fine except for a little rain on the first day. We went out to Waiheke Island by a boat and we enjoyed it very much. We then went on a explorer bus around the island some of the photos will tell you more. One day we went up the Sky Tower, that was awesome I thought. There was lots and lots of walking and we were all very tired

at times but we had lots of fun away. Another day we went to Kelly Tarltons to see the fish we took lots of photo's.

There was lots more to see around Auckland. We all had a good time away. Special thanks to Karen.

David and Stu
Boston Ave

Ordinary Life

Jessica Stuart with her Support Staff
Helen Hall



The people living at 9/150 Maddisons Rd with some friends watching the Bledisloe Cup - Go the All Blacks!



John Hitchcock celebrating his birthday at his home with family and friends



Frank Duke trying his luck at the Casino



Wesley Fraser being supported by staff at Clip and Climb to try rock climbing



Akaroa Adventure



We were lucky enough to spend Queens Birthday Weekend at a parent's lovely holiday home in Akaroa, the people who live at 3 Iraklis Close accompanied us.

The ladies enjoyed various activities such as going on the Akaroa Cat to see the Hector's dolphins and we were also lucky enough to see some Fur Seal pups which Vicki and Kirby got really excited about. We went out to various cafes' and to the local pub for a roast dinner. We all also enjoyed a visit to the world famous Giant's House.

Kate, Anne, Kirby and Rachel
Broken Run
Bronwen, Vicki and Cheryl
3 Iraklis Close

CONGRATULATIONS

Scott Wallace, Kirby Barton and Dylan Denley who all completed the activities required to achieve their Bronze Awards for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Tasks included an overnight camp out, road safety skills, swimming and being an office assistant.

They are now working towards their Silver Award for next year.



Brackenridge Mission and Values

Brackenridge has changed considerably since it first opened in 1999 and this year we have been looking closely at our Mission and Values Statements. Although our current Mission Statement and Values are pertinent we believe it

is timely to review these.

In doing this we have had to reflect on why Brackenridge exists and what values underpin what we do. We believe we exist to empower people with a wide range of learning and

associated disabilities to live very good lives as equal citizens and we do this through the provision of range of innovative services and supports.

Watch out in the New Year for further developments in this area.



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERING



2010 Zoo Doo

Peter began volunteering at Zoo Doo this year, his abilities, social interactions independence and confidence often limited his opportunities and ability to succeed. During the course of the year he has noticeably developed and grown immeasurably in his work ethic and abilities. The structure of Zoo Doo and, the manager Dave (whom I could not speak more highly of) and his team have afforded Peter the opportunity to work in a real environment and gain the respect of workmates. From starting as an 'individual' who was at the centre, Peter has blossomed into a team mate,

someone who works with others, looks for ways to assist and takes initiative to ensure work runs smoothly and efficiently. The work activities are of value and are meaningful. Peter takes care and pride in doing an excellent job. His quirks are accepted and work carries on. His communication is positive and he is thriving in the work environment.

Volunteering at Zoo Doo has made a big difference to Peter's life successes and has had such positive impact on his life and self esteem. As an organisation that makes a difference Zoo Doo is an example of worth.

Sasha Gurieveich as told to Vivienne Lorgelly

Portrait of a Swimmer

Sandy Ryan

This year Sandy began to swim at Centennial Pool weekly. From being unsure and not confident Sandy's confidence in the pool environment and her independence has grown; her enjoyment has been obvious. Sandy has been accepted at the pool by regular pool attendees who acknowledge her and make room for her to fit in. Her support at the pool is exemplary and has been critical to the development of Sandy's confidence and the activities success.

Vivienne Lorgelly

The Working Man

Geoff Pote



Geoff has had a good year working at the old stables; he has his routine in place and has an excellent relationship with his supervisor Carlene. The staff and owner of the Old Stables appreciate all Geoff's work and he is an appreciated member of staff.

As told by Karen Hopkins

D & S Contractors



The owners of D & S Contractors have had a booming year.

Work comes to them and highlights this year have been the purchase of a water blaster and petro hedger.

Education and Health & Safety is important to Both Shawn and David and this year have had developed their knowledge and skills through public workshops and education around motorised equipment at Saltens.

Saltens are supporters of S & D Contractors and their support is most appreciated.

As is all staff at Brackenridge for choosing S & D for their garden and maintenance needs.

Merry Xmas

Karen, Shawn and David

Contracting Workcrew



This year has seen the Workcrew grow and develop. More and varied work has been coming in and the introduction of Health & Safety education has been supported. Staff who support on the Workcrew have been vital to the success of the men and the work crew as a whole. Thoughtful and meaningful work around the garage and the sharing and teaching of skills has brought positive growth and development for the crew. Wider staff support for work has been most appreciated. The success of the crew is very much a shared one. Working together is providing better outcomes for people.

Thank You and Merry Xmas from Vivienne & Karen

Art

The Art programme had a successful beginning this year and was well supported by regular attendees. A lot of hard work went into the facilitation of the programme by Cassandra and Chelsea. The Programme will continue next year. Look out for 2011's start date.



Connectness December 2010

The Brackenridge website has had significant changes in the Christmas month. The blog has arrived; as has the Events calendar. People can now keep up to date with events and happenings as they happen, advertise their own event or group keep people up to date with changes or pertinent information as well as share their stories of support and experiences. Connectness is a part of daily life and incorporating the calendar and blog is positive step forward into the future.

Vivienne Lorgelly



Circles of Support

Circles of Support is something we have been striving hard to implement for all people we support at Brackenridge and has been an area of much focus over the past year; however we are struggling to achieve this goal. Circles of support was discussed in greater detail at the recent Family Information Evenings but in a nutshell it is about a group of who all care about a person getting together on a regular basis with

the person to help them achieve their dreams and aspirations. Many of the people we support do have friends and family involved in their lives but what defines a Circle of Support is the intentional purpose of the circle. Over the last year we have held a series of workshops for staff with one of the areas of focus being on Circles of Support/natural supports



and partnership with families. At the workshops we identified some of the barriers in implementing Circles of

willing to volunteer their time and energy to a person they care about Circles of Support will not exist. We will continue to focus strongly on Circles of Support so expect to hear lots more on this!

... effective Circles of Support only occur when committed/motivated people take the initiative ...

Active Support ASSID Conference in Brisbane 29 September – 1 October 2010

We were privileged to attend the ASSID Conference held in Brisbane this year. At this conference we made a poster presentation about Brackenridge and our journey of introducing the Active Support model into the organisation.

Attending the conference was a wonderful opportunity for us as trainers to learn of the latest research and information about Active Support. Some of the information we gathered was how Positive Behaviour Support interacted positively with Active Support and how challenging behaviour can be managed without negative consequence to the person. Focusing on the positives as opposed to negatives eventuates in dignifying the person you are supporting which allows the person to live a life without barriers.

Our poster was well received with many of the viewers very

interested in the details and were impressed that Brackenridge had taken the effort to personalize the Active Support documents to each individual person.

Our focus over the next year will be to build on our Active Support programme to ensure all of the people we support are active participants in their own lives and staff are "doing with" the people we support not "doing for".

Donna Robertson & Allan Netto
Active Support Trainers



Brackenridge Careerforce Graduation Ceremony



On Wednesday 1 September a Graduation Ceremony was held for staff who had completed Level 2 and Level 3 NZQA qualifications.

The ceremony was to recognise the achievements they had made in their Career Force studies and also in recognition of the importance of their skills for the future of Brackenridge services.

Brackenridge is committed to supporting staff with personal development and learning and gaining a recognised qualification and we are proud of our staffs' achievements so far.

General Manager Peter Campbell

and Chairperson of the Brackenridge Board present the certificates.

Career Force Foundation Skills Level 2 NZQA

John Alexander, Brydie Killick, Debbie Manhire, Carol Postlethwaite, Sharon Rothera and Isirelli Tawake.

Career Force Core Competencies Level 3 NZQA

Michelle Anderson, Phillipa Bondera, Harry Engel, Karen Hopkins, Wendy Johnston, Sharon Mackie, Chrissy McKeague, Benonia Saruwaka, Lioudmilla Stepanian and Isirelli Tawake.

How fantastic to see the young people we support enjoying 'ordinary life' experiences and by the smiles on everyone's face this holiday to the West Coast was a great success.

