



Spectrum Care Talent Quest



Lights, music and dance filled the Freeman's Bay Community Hall at Spectrum Care's second annual Talent Quest at the end of July.

There were 14 great performances with the entertainers coming from all parts of Spectrum Care. A large variety of items including singing, ceroc, a rock band, cultural performances and belly dancing, provided a stream of constantly changing entertainment.

Prizes were awarded in two categories – Singing and Dancing. John Tekiri was first in the singing category and Mahui Foto topped the dancing one with his cultural performance. Prizes were also awarded to second and third places. Each winner received a certificate and Westfield gift vouchers.

Wayne Anderson was the celebrity guest judge and delighted the audience by singing three songs. His performances were high energy, lots of fun, and were obviously greatly appreciated by the crowd.

Everyone seemed to have a great time and the environment was friendly, safe and very supportive.

Well done to all our performers and special congratulations to our winners in both categories. You all did an awesome job.



Singing:

- 1st Place - John Tekiri
- 2nd Place - The Band (Thomas Tolley, Thomas Castle, Martin Euston)
- 3rd Place - Dwayne Bell

Dancing:

- 1st Place - Mahui Foto
- 2nd Place - Grace Dyer
- 3rd Place - Joy Richardson and Kevin Widdowstein



A special thank you goes to each of the following people:

- Warren Herring, Patrick Brady and Wayne Anderson for being such excellent judges
- Mike Bernard for being a high-spirited, exciting MC
- Photographers Nora Butler and Thomas Tolley
- Wichmon Tavioni and Chris Higgins for awarding certificates to all the performers

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International Day of People with Disabilities – 3 December 2007



This United Nations awareness day is a great occasion to celebrate New Zealand's leading role in the international community of advocating for people with disabilities. It is also an opportunity to raise the awareness

about the need for further integration of people with intellectual disabilities into society.

Everyone is welcome to join Spectrum Care on the afternoon of Sunday 2 December at Aotea Square, Auckland City.

Please contact Roxanne de Bruyn on 634 3790 ext 326 for more information.

Leadership Team Update

Last year the sunflower was officially incorporated into our branding. It represents the people with intellectual disabilities that we support. The sunflower always follows the sun; the shadows lay behind them, but to be at their best they need to be supported.

This year, Spectrum Care unfurled its petals and bloomed further, growing stronger, and becoming taller, building new support.

The organisation drew strength from its Outcomes Program which is pivotal to our person-centred value. Organisational support to help individuals achieve their personal goals in a structured and measured way has received nourishment from organisational-wide training in both Outcomes and in Social Role Valorisation – a program delivered to all staff that embeds within Spectrum Care the notion that every individual has intrinsic value and which we have renamed “Your Life Matters”. Our Aspirations Program providing developmental activities for our people anywhere, anytime, anyplace is fertile ground for people hungry for new experiences.

Like the people we support, Spectrum Care needs to be supported. We have been fortunate to partner with some great organisations. Together with the University of Auckland we have grown a Bachelor of Human Services degree with papers in intellectual disability customised for organisations like ours. Student placements from the University of Auckland and Unitec

at graduate and post-graduate levels evidence our reputation as a place for professionals to grow in the sector. Our productive partnership with Te Roopu Taurima, which grew from the same seed as Spectrum Care, sees us helping each other in business continuity situations in hard ground and socially in soft ground. Our service is founded on our staff and so we are working with the Public Service Association to find ways to make our own garden a good place to grow, to keep ourselves strong by keeping our good people.

Despite all our hard work, sometimes and thankfully rarely, we get buffeted by winds that damage us. The measure of any organization is not the strength of the wind or even the damage it does, but the attitude we display in responding to it. It is in the calm after these storms that a great organization will find opportunities to learn and grow stronger.

We have a drive to grow strong. Our third season of leadership courses is due with another 12 staff gaining the skills that will take us to that special place in the sector – the place occupied by the tallest and strongest. We are emerging as a strong entity among others. Presentations at the World Quality Congress, the National Organisational Development Conference and the Australian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability are examples of where we have stood tall. Our Certification and Accreditation results - the maximum 3 years

for each – and the warm shower of complimentary comments gave strength to our commitment to our values. We provided help to other smaller neighbours in disaster planning, and have contributed actively in developing the workforce around us that has been neglected by others for so long.

Our image has changed with a newly re-branded website still under-development and favourable international responses to the changes remind us that we are on the global stage and that is the place where we will ultimately be measured. There is still a long way to grow, but we have done much of the stretch already and are hungry for more.

Brett Marsh

General Manager Organisational Development



Brett Marsh



Chris Higgins



Kim Casey



Warren Herring

Spectrum Care Travels (*in our own words*)

David Oliva's Holiday

David Oliva went on a three day holiday to Rotorua, Taupo, Napier and Hastings on 15 August 2007. This was an unprecedented initiative of Kamata Lelei House and everyone was extremely excited about David going on this trip. He thoroughly enjoyed his holiday which was full of thrills and excitement. He enjoyed watching the Huka Falls and going for bush track walks. He especially liked the dolphin shows and going to Marine Land to watch an assortment of marine animals such as fish, sharks, turtles, eels, snakes and lizards. He also had a chance to visit the Napier Aquarium which seemed to be a very stimulating and sensory experience for him.

David dined out on all three days at various food outlets like McDonalds, Burger King, KFC and Valentines which enhanced his enjoyment. This holiday was not only for pleasure but also offered an ideal opportunity for David to get integrated with community life and experience the social interactions which define a



community. Such trips are an ideal way of instilling the essence of normalisation, enabling individuals to belong to the community rather than just being in it.

David appeared to really enjoy the trip and it seemed to boost his self esteem. It was very successful and the staff are very enthusiastic about organising more trips like this in the future. I wish to thank the service coordinator and the service manager for endorsing the trip.

Jit Maharaj

Community Support Worker

Special thanks to Jit Maharaj for supporting David during this trip.



Anthony and Robert go to Rotorua

We went to Rotorua on 8 July.

Robert and Anthony saw the geysers and hot pools. We went to the Agrodome to see the sheep show and all the different types of sheep.

Both boys totally enjoyed this experience as you can see in the photos. It was a great time had by all!

Emma Beynon

Young Cottage

Duavata Lomani – Tongan Trip: 04th August – 15th August 2007

Over the past twelve months preparations took place behind the scenes to provide the opportunity for two of the men residing at Duavata Lomani – 8A Tutere Place, Papatoetoe - to be supported on a holiday in Tonga.

Their families and staff felt that both men would benefit from the journey to Tonga as James Aholelei and Vaiola Taliai are of Tongan descent.

The transformation that took place during this journey of discovery was not only enlightening for James and Vaiola but also for the staff that supported them on their journey home. They thoroughly enjoyed their holiday and experiences. This was marked by their expressions of delight and laughter as they embarked their tours and discovered their homeland, which is enriched by its ancient culture, sounds and sheer tranquillity.

Being home meant being embraced by families and by the people of their motherland, being

adorned by love and acceptance of being home. Being home also meant being immersed in the true heart of Tonga, being part of the people, being part of the community and sharing the wealth of its love.

It was heart warming seeing Vaiola becoming more alert with his surroundings as we went to familiar places, hearing him forming words where there was once silence, and seeing his smile lighten up his face. James dancing with family, friends and loved ones was a joy to witness.

Of the many sights we visited, we were blown away by the Mapu 'a Vaea (The Chiefs Whistle) blow holes as they roared towards the sky from ocean floors, taking in the magnificent cliffs of Hufangalupe where tales say the world ends as the ocean crashes beneath its walls. The Natural Land Bridge is Mother Nature's creation and has stood for centuries. Paying tribute to the Ha'amonga 'a Maui Trilithon was a momentous experience as old stories explain its purpose but not how it got there.



James and Vaiola dined and danced at cultural evenings, took in the sun at coastal beaches and watched the setting sun as it faded into the horizon. They lapped up royal treatment on a Boat Trip to Pangaimotu Island and made new friends along the way.

It was a privilege to be able to share this experience with James and Vaiola. Tears and songs bid farewell to the "Sons of Tonga" as we returned to New Zealand.

This has truly been a remarkable holiday for James and Vaiola. It was supported by wonderful staff and it was truly meaningful for them.

Puna Tekii-Sila

Weekend Oncall Service Coordinator



14 Day North and South Island Bus Tour

Ki ora. My name is Nicholas. I live at Brookview Court. My support person Fay and I went on tour.

Day 1 – Hamilton/Auckland

We were collected from Brookview by the “Road Cat Shuttle” at 2pm to transfer us to the Mercure Hotel in Auckland. That evening we met our tour director, Nellie and the coach driver, P.J. Our group consisted of Australians, Italians, English, Irish, South Africans, Brazilians and three Kiwis (our Tour Director was Australian).

Day 2 – Auckland / Waitomo Caves

Enjoyed Waitomo Caves. Wasn't too keen on the boat ride – it was too dark. Arrived at Hotel Ilois Rotorua. We enjoyed a hangi dinner and entertainment at Matariki.

Day 3 – Rotorua Sightseeing

We shared the beauty of Te Ruia, the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve. In the afternoon we visited the Agrodome.

Day 4 – Rotorua/Wellington

We travelled through extensive pine forest to Taupo and stopped to view the Huka Falls. The weather wasn't too kind to us as the views of the three mountains were covered with cloud. Enjoyed a picturesque drive into the capital city of Wellington and stayed at the Mercure Hotel.

Day 5 – Wellington

Enjoyed a sightseeing tour of Wellington including the Beehive, parliament buildings and panoramic views from Mt Victoria. Later we joined the Inter-Island cruise across Cook Strait into Queen Charlotte Sound before arriving at Picton. We stayed at the Beachcomber Inn in Picton.

Day 6 – Picton/Christchurch

We travelled across the rugged coast and saw New Zealand fur seals en route. Our coach driver stopped so we could purchase freshly cooked crayfish – yum! We continued along the coast to the city of Christchurch, known as the Garden City. We stayed at the Elms Hotel

Day 7 – Christchurch/Mt Cook

We drove through the colourful patchwork plains of Canterbury. We visited beautiful Lake Tekapo and viewed the Church of the Good Shepard. Passed Mt Cook National Park, which is home to NZ's highest mountain. We stayed at the Heritage Hotel in Omarama.

Day 8 – Mt Cook/ Dunedin

We followed the course of the Waitaki River, passing the hydro-electric dams at Waitaki and Aviemore. Travelled through Oamaru, famous for its white, limestone buildings before continuing south to Dunedin which was founded by Scottish settlers. We arrived at the Saville International Hotel.

That afternoon we boarded the Taieri Gorge Railway train and crossed magnificent stone and wrought iron viaducts. We travelled through a series of tunnels with rock walls only inches from the side of the train. It was an awesome trip!

Day 9 – Dunedin/Te Anau

This morning we visited the Cadbury World Tour. We enjoyed a guided tour through one of the world's best known chocolate's factory. The chocolate waterfall was of special interest. We stayed at the Kingsgate.

Day 10 – Milford Sounds

We travelled south towards Fiordland through some of New Zealand's magnificent alpine country. Drove through the Homer Tunnel, which is one mile long and completely hand hewn. We stopped briefly at the chasm before arriving in Milford Sound. We cruised the serene waters of the Milford Sound with Mitre Peak and Bowen Falls high above us. That afternoon we continued to Queenstown and stayed at Aspen.

Day 11 – Queenstown

Went for a ride on the Gondola then had lunch. We had the afternoon free and shopped until we dropped!

Day 12 – Queenstown

Visited Arrowtown, a colourful township steeped in local history. Then we travelled through the Kawarau Gorge and climbed over the Haast Pass. We enjoyed our Haast River safari and jet boat ride. It was awesome! We stayed at the Fox Glacier Hotel.

Day 13 – Fox Glacier

Because the weather was unsuitable, we were unable to take a scenic flight over Fox Glacier, Franz Josef and Mt Cook. At Hokitika, Fay purchased a beautiful greenstone. We continued along the coast to Punakaiki to see the pancake rocks and blowholes before travelling to Christchurch.

We had the opportunity to join the famous Transalpine Train at Arthurs Pass and journey over the Southern Alps and Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. We stayed at the Elms Hotel and enjoyed a three course meal for our farewell dinner. It was very sad to say goodbye to our new friends.

Day 14 – Christchurch

At different stages during the day we all departed to our own destinations. We flew from Christchurch at 6:10pm; the last to leave the hotel. We arrived back home in Hamilton at 7:50pm. What an experience!

Nicholas and Fay

Robyn and Eva go to Taupo

On the 20 September 2006, Robyn Takarei and Ena Tewera from Fair Oaks travelled to Taupo for a holiday. That evening they both went to the Wairakei cultural evening which consisted of a Pouwhiri then a tour of the village to see carving, flax weaving,

and stick games. Afterwards we all enjoyed a beautiful hangi meal and a concert. Up early the next morning and travelled to Mt Ruapehu. Not a very nice day but the ladies had their photos taken in the snow. Back home to Pukekohe the next day after a couple of very hectic but fun days.



A Trip to Waiheke Island

Danny Mataio and David Tia went to Waiheke Island on 19 July 2007 and had a picnic on the beach. They caught a ferry from Half Moon Bay and the boat trip was extremely exciting. It was a wonderful outing for both of them.

In the past, such trips were just a fantasy, but it is very gratifying to see them become

a reality. One of life's greatest joys is helping to realise the dreams of those you love. It is a privilege for Kamata Lelei staff to be able to provide opportunities for the residents to become fully fledged members of the community. Well done!

Sanjay Kumar

House Leader



Introducing Helen

My name is Helen Mulford and I have the privilege of being the Advocate for Spectrum Care.

I am originally from Wellington and currently reside in the Howick area with my three, extremely energetic boys and two small, noisy dogs.

My previous employment includes running three friendship centres for an organisation called 'Communicare' which runs a total of 22 Centres in and around Auckland for those aged over 65 years. I was responsible for the centres situated in Onehunga, St Heliers and Panmure. The centres are a place in which people from Resthomes, IHC homes and those living alone could come to interact with others in a stimulating environment. I was with Communicare for four years and thoroughly enjoyed the work and the people involved.

I have also been a Barnardos caregiver, an Age Concern Field Officer (working in the abuse and neglect section) and a

Support Worker for adults with disabilities undertaking independent living. I have a qualification in Social and Community Work and I am currently studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in Politics. My most enjoyable work so far has been serving as a volunteer for four years with the Riding for the Disabled.

The role of Advocate is an extremely interesting one and I look forward to familiarizing myself with the responsibilities it entails. It is a very privileged position as it allows me to be exposed to all aspects of Spectrum Care's service delivery. It also enables me to meet with, and advocate on behalf of, the people who access the service. Over the coming months I hope to meet with every person who has either a direct or indirect relationship with Spectrum Care. My experience so far has highlighted the professionalism of the service and the dedication to ensuring Spectrum Care has its service users' needs and well being at heart.



Above everything else I will be endeavouring to learn more about the various aspects of the organisation. My focus will be listening to the service users and those closest to them to ensure the service is doing what it strives to achieve: Supporting people with an intellectual disability to experience a great life.

Helen Mulford-Tyler

Advocate

Helen usually works Mondays and Wednesdays 9am to 4.30pm and Thursdays 9am to 3.30pm. You can contact her on 09 634 3790 ext 312 or email Helen.Mulford-Tyler@spectrumcare.org.nz

Asian Services

Asian Services at Spectrum Care started in June 2005 as a new part of the Community Cultural Services. It is now over two years since I took up the role in setting up the new services.

Currently, we support more than twenty people and their families and support workers. They consist of Chinese people (from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia and Vietnam) and Koreans. About half of them live in Spectrum Care homes and the rest live with their families.

The primary purpose of the Asian Services is to provide support services to people in a culturally appropriate way. This is usually done in partnership with other teams.

The majority of people supported by the Asian Services are referred by our Behaviour Support Services. The two services are under the same management team and work closely in providing behavioural support programmes to Asian people. These include people in our Adult Services, and Child Youth and Respite Services.

As the Asian Services Advisor, I have also provided support and advice to colleagues in the Home Support Services, Aspirations Services, Property Management team and the Communications Advisor on cultural issues.

As in other health services, disability services are often not used adequately by Asian people because of lack of information and for cultural reasons. Over the past two years, we have promoted our services to Asian communities through setting up information desks at community meetings, a live interview at a Chinese radio, and a press interview of an Asian man whom we support by an English newspaper for Asian people.

We liaise with community organisations such as TANI (The Asian Network Inc.), CNSST (Chinese New Settlers Services Trust), NZCYT (New Zealand Chinese Youth Trust) and Autism New Zealand, Auckland Branch (Chinese Section). Over the last two years, there has been a steady increase in the number of Asian users of our service.

Within Spectrum Care, awareness of Asian cultures has been promoted in our staff newsletter. A column on Asian Cultures was started in August 2006, introducing Confucius Sayings, which is a major influence for many Asian cultures. The column also covers Asian teachings that are of Indian origin. A lot of our colleagues have learned of the service through reading the Asian culture column.

We thank our colleagues who are passionate about their work and are doing so much for

the Asian people. It has been a pleasure to work with you in exploring new and different ways of supporting our people and their families.

Ian Chan

Asian Services Advisor

Ian works part-time on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning. He is based at our Onehunga office. You can contact him on 09 6343790 ext 339



MOORE Gallagher

PRINT AND DATABASE SOLUTIONS Thanks to Moore Gallagher for helping to distribute Across the Spectrum.

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'Across the Spectrum' is aimed at celebrating the achievements of individuals with an intellectual disability as well as promoting awareness and understanding of disability issues. If you would like to receive 'Across the Spectrum' regularly, or know of anyone who you think would benefit from a copy then please let us know. 'Across the Spectrum' is mailed out quarterly.

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