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Neemia's team take Silver at the Special Olympics World Games in Athens!

Neemia Auva'a (who is supported by Spectrum Care) arrived back in New Zealand on Friday 8 July after a very successful trip to Athens with the New Zealand basketball team at the Special Olympics World Games.

His team won a Silver medal in the third division – the highest division in which a New Zealand team has ever competed – which was a great achievement.

Neemia has worked steadily for four years to achieve his goal of making a New Zealand team and representing his country at basketball. So, it was a real life highlight for him!

Overall, the New Zealand team won 34 medals – which was the best-ever team performance – and many athletes achieved 'personal bests' along the way.

Jocelyn Sweney – Service Coordinator



Showcase Talent Quest another great success!

Our annual Showcase Talent Quest Grand Final (held on Friday 29 July) was a great day out for the many people in attendance, with an array of highlights that included dinosaurs, traditional dancing, a wonderful Samoan love song and a rousing Country and Western performance by one of our celebrity judges, Dennis Marsh (pictured right, centre).

Dennis has released 23 albums and received four Platinum and 10 Gold awards, making him one of New Zealand's top album award winners.

Our second celebrity judge was Logan Swann – the second highest-capped player ever and the highest try scoring forward in the Vodafone Warrior's club history.

While all the finalists put on stellar performances, John Mana came first with his cultural dance from the Cook Islands; William Webb came second, singing 'My Little Corner of the World' and playing his violin; and Aaron Gardner came third, showing off his special talent of memorising all the pages of an Auckland region map book!

Our thanks goes to First Scene for providing the great stage props of Elvis and a clown, which really gave the event a 'sense of occasion'!

A special and heart-felt thanks goes to all those who helped make it such a wonderful day.

We'd also like to offer a big 'Thumbs Up' and congratulations to all the participants, including Raquela Syred who put on an absolutely stellar guitar and vocal performance.



Annette Lockwood achieves Degree in Human Services

I started with Spectrum Care in December 2000 as a casual, working between houses, and then part-time, before becoming full-time. In 2002, I was promoted to House Leader and have held the role for nearly nine years.

I have a son who lives in a Spectrum Care residential home and it was my years of experience raising him that made me decide to work for Spectrum Care.

As a child, I grew up around my great-grandfather, who had a physical disability and used a wheelchair to mobilise.

Then, having my own son with an intellectual disability gave me the incentive to give back my years of experience to help others with both physical and intellectual disabilities.

In 2008, I decided to broaden my interests in disability more and enrolled at the University of Auckland for a Bachelor's degree in Human Services, majoring in Disability.

This degree has taken me three-and-a-half years to finish, throughout most of which I both worked and studied full-time (I studied part-time for the last six months of the degree).



I have now completed all 24 papers and will graduate in September, receiving my Bachelor of Human Services.

At times, it's been a long, hard journey to get there, and there were times I could have given up and tossed it all in. But with lots of perseverance, discipline and support from other to keep me motivated and focused, I've now done it!

Annette Lockwood – House Leader



Zac joins Spectrum Care's interview panel

Zac has been making some great progress recently with considerable support from his Outcomes Broker Fiona O'Connor.

Fiona has put a lot of groundwork in trying to get Zac filling his days with activities that are meaningful to him.

Although he's had to overcome some hurdles, Zac is now volunteering at the local recreation centre, doing inventory and running ball skills classes.

He's also applied and done some training to work on reception here at Spectrum Care's head office.

Just recently Zac has been a huge asset to the Outcomes Broker interview and recruitment process, which Fiona nominated him for and coached him through.

All of this achievement is a testament to Fiona's dedication and passion for the Outcomes Broker role and to the people that we support. She has worked alongside the residential team and Zac to get some great things happening in his week and they are just getting started!

It's been very inspirational to watch this fantastic journey that Fiona and Zac have been sharing.

Ainsley Darvell – Aspirations Manager

Pippa presents our Chief Executive with a sunflower-themed artwork

Pippa is a wonderful artist who's featured in *Talking Point* a number of times and also in *Across the Spectrum*. Pippa entered the IHC National Art Awards held in Wellington this year with two paintings – one of a butterfly and another of a flower.

Recently, Pippa visited our Chief Executive – Chris Harris – and presented him with a beautiful sunflower-themed painting. The artwork is spectacular and is now gracing Chris' office wall.

Thanks to Pippa for such a wonderful gesture – we're all very impressed with your talent!



Our Pacific Cultural Group lights up Showtime Mangere

The Pacific Cultural Group performed at the Showtime Mangere at the Mangere Arts Centre on the evening of Wednesday 1 June 2011.



Faye, Tua, Everitt, Vaha, John and Hope performed with panache and flair, and the community spirit was positively overwhelming. Many thanks to Faafili, Tali, Jasmine, and Rere Toru and the tutoring team for supporting their performance.

Much appreciation also to staff from Poetiare, Prangley, Kamata Lelei, Ashton and Te Akapuanga, Cilla Pele, Kirsty Allison, Jade Hopkins, Gaylene Wahitapu, Faleulu Mataia, Ainsley Darvell and Savea Amerika Wilson for their support.

Nite Fuamatu – Outcomes Broker

Leanne, Paul and Chuong complete 100 hours of literacy and numeracy training

Congratulations to Leanne, Paul and Chuong on completing 100 hours of literacy and numeracy tuition with Regent Training Centre.



Over the past four months, they've enjoyed their study and shown their keenness to develop their literacy and numeracy skills. They've consolidated their abilities to read and write single words and they've also developed basic skills of adding up numbers with 100, as well as counting up money to a value of \$100.

Paul and Leanne drew a picture to show their feelings of completing the course. In the picture, Paul demonstrated that he feels he's climbing up the hill, while Leanne demonstrated that she feels confident to go shopping on her own.

Lisa Zhang – Service coordinator

A merry Pasefika Xmas is guaranteed – thanks to the Sunflower Express!

I was extremely happy to see the ash cloud from the volcano in Chile lift enough so I could fly down on the Friday afternoon as planned – the thought of an eight-hour drive on Friday and then another back on Sunday after the marathon wasn't that palatable!

I arrived at 7am at 'The Cake Tin', aka Westpac Stadium, for the pre-race rituals and briefings.

At 7.30am, the gun went off and 402 runners took off along the promenade. Crowd support was mixed but the officials enjoyed getting jellybeans courtesy of yours truly - they do such a great job at events and I'm sure they're under-appreciated by so many.

By the 7k mark, my foot injury from earlier in the year flared up and required stretching out every few minutes. By the time the 8k mark passed, I had to stop and pull out, limping back to the first aid vehicle up the road.

The official race result for me was what's known as a DNF. They say it means 'Did Not Finish', but I prefer to say it means 'Did Nothing Fatal'!

It was a disappointing way for the race to end, but I take some solace from the fact that we still achieved a fantastic result for the Pasefika Christmas Party, raising over \$1000 in donations.

Thanks for all your support and encouragement. Rest assured, the Sunflower Express will rise again!

[Aaron Overington](#) – Information Technology Manager



Gair and Roy tear up the trails in Woodhill forest!

[Gair and Roy from Relko](#) had a great day out in the Woodhill Forest in Helensville recently – and, coincidentally, it was Roy's birthday, too!

They're both into cars and trucks, and wanted to try something new as part of their Outcomes goals, so they decided to have a go in a four-wheel drive off-roader.

Colin, the driver from Trackwise, was really friendly and helped make the experience really fun.

He drove Gair and Roy around the track, through the forest, and through deep puddles and ditches that really put the off-roader through its paces.

Some parts of the forest were really steep and narrow, and some parts were really muddy.

Here are some photos of our day out as you can see we had a great time!

Thanks to Vincent Harding for his fantastic support.

[Sarah Allan](#) – Outcomes Broker



Recognition and acknowledgment for John Mana's Outcomes progress

John has done really well in maintaining his independent living. He has been getting around here and there independently, and has been doing his own washing and making sure his clothes are folded and put away in his room.

John has kept his bedroom clean and rearranges the furniture with the help of staff.

He wrote up the groceries shopping list once this month and went with staff to do house shopping at Super Value.

John managed to change his own bus card from the Go Rider card to the new HOP card without staff's help. He's also been to the bank once this month to withdraw his own money.

John likes to go to the Otara market on Saturdays for which he packs his busking gear on the night before and leaves the house early in the morning.

This was one of the best months for John, as he started the month with his dinner outing with his friend Tūa. Staff helped him organise the outing by ensuring Tūa had been invited and there was money for them. At dinner, John said he had a wonderful time with Tūa and both of them enjoyed the meal.

Straight after the dinner, John went with his flatmates to the Special Olympics disco that was held in Manukau.

John mentioned to staff that he enjoys dancing and meeting different people from other services.

On Saturday 21 May, John was invited by his friend David to go to the watch a rugby game at Eden Park. John said he had an awesome time out with David and he really enjoyed watching the rugby game. He was very excited that he got to see some of the very famous rugby players from New Zealand and South Africa.

John said he would like to go again and has thanked David for the free tickets. On Tuesday 24 May, John went to the Stardome with his flatmates Nga and Shanon.

John has joined the Pacific Cultural Group and has been to their practices at the Hub on Tuesday nights. John likes to showcase his Cook Island dance skills and is a fast learner. He's proud of his heritage and likes to perform in front of people.

John and his group performed at the Mangere Art Centre on Friday 3 June [which is also profiled in this issue].

John has been actively supported this month in getting to the bank to withdraw his money and has been to the Warehouse to purchase a new pair of shoes and shavers.

He was also supported by staff on the day he went dinner with Tūa and taking him to the disco. John went to the airport lookout twice this month and also went to Western Springs Park.

Kirsty Allison – Service Coordinator



Jackie joins nationwide project to help Christchurch

Jackie Edge recently joined in the community spirit to help support Christchurch. Using hand-over-hand support, Kathy Depiazzi started to knit a scarf which would be part of a charity effort supported by Glassons clothing stores.

Jackie loves attention and the fact that she was involved in a nationwide project to give support to those in need was a way to say that Spectrum Care people are continuing to support others with positive actions to show the we care.

Jackie also received a certificate of participation from Glassons acknowledging her contribution.

Nora Butler – House Leader



vision:

people with disabilities living great lives

values:

person centred

Responsive to the person; individualised services and support

innovation

Pioneering and looking for better ways

commitment and passion

Creating and maintaining a high-performance culture, where we are passionate about what we do

partnership

Working successfully together with others, valuing each other's contribution

excellence

Leading the way

Anthony's jet boat experience is a lifetime highlight!

Anthony (supported by his key workers) recently had one of the most exciting experiences of his lifetime – careering around the Waikato River in a jet boat!

He showed good hand signals and there were lots of smiles while rushing up and down the Waikato River. He also showed a lot of interest in majestic Huka Falls, and spent about half-an-hour enjoying the view and sound of the rushing water.

Anthony also spent a night in a motel and had a great time going out for dinner.

Naveen Kishor – Residential Services



Across the Spectrum available by email. Register now!

As part of achieving Spectrum Care's ongoing vision of 'people with disabilities living great lives', we're constantly looking for opportunities to streamline our activities and provide higher-quality support to our service users.

To this end, *Across the Spectrum* is now available via email, with the aim of making more resources available to support our service users in living great lives.

If you'd like to receive *Across the Spectrum* by email, please send your email address to: newsletter@spectrumcare.org.nz, or simply go to our website (www.spectrumcare.org.nz) and join our mailing list in one easy step.