

# across the spectrum

for the people, families and communities of Spectrum Care



Issue: 73 – Spring 2011

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## The Kaipara Cannonball

The 'Kaipara Cannonball' train journey on Monday 5 September saw nearly 300 people riding the train from Auckland to Helensville, where they enjoyed browsing the market and exploring the picturesque town.

Gregory and David from De Brett, Grant, Bernie, Douglas, Richard and Peter from Bruce McLaren, Dale and Harlem from Hepburn, Ross from Rosewarne, and Christopher and Amanda from Helga were all very excited to take part in the journey and, despite some unexpected events, had a wonderful day out.

On the way home, one of the carriages derailed at Henderson as it was running through a siding to get back on the right line after Waimauku (bypassing some infrastructure work). This meant passengers had to transfer to buses for the rest of the return trip.

Everyone seemed to take the whole thing in good spirits and the KiwiRail maintenance crews turned out to re-rail the carriage and repair the track.

David and Gregory dressed up in old-fashioned clothing especially for the trip and enjoyed seeing the steam escape from the train and scare all the cows on the journey.

Congratulations to Tui Stevens and Nora Butler for taking it upon themselves to organise the trip.

[Jamie Shirlaw](#) – Outcomes Broker



# Elvis show a hit with Scott and Kenny!

Dear Audrey, Brenda and Sione,

Thank you very much for entrusting Scotty and Kenny into our care last Saturday night. It was a pleasure to have the boys' company and we know they enjoyed Che Orton's Elvis Show!

As you may know, Che Orton was the winner of the 2009 Elvis Down Under competition in Upper Hutt. He also had a guest Elvis share part of the show with him – Steve Fitter, who won the 2011 Elvis Down Under competition.

Well, we picked up the boys at 4.30pm and got to the Henderson RSA just after 5pm – in time for the early bird dinner special of \$10 per meal.

We had a nice, cosy little corner of the room to sit in, near the front of the stage and with easy access onto the dance floor.

The boys watched as Che and Steve set up the stage with their sound equipment – something I guess they may not see too often!

Then the show began with Che coming out in a gold jacket. He sang lots of songs and then had a little dance-off competition on stage with some of the ladies, picked out of the audience, to 'Rock-a-Hula'.

A little later after that, he had another little dance-off competition with some of the men from the audience to 'Shake Baby Shake'. Scotty and Kenny were chosen, and Scotty came up tops with Kenny close behind!

After that, Steve Fitter came out in his black leather outfit for a set of songs, then back to Che in his white 'Elvis' suit, followed by Steve in a white 'Elvis' suit, then Che again in a black 'Elvis' suit.

It was a real fun night and, at the end, Scotty and Kenny sat and relaxed with their last drinks and watched the sound equipment being packed up.

We got the boys home by 1am!

I hope they like the photos I've done for them as a memory of a great Saturday night!

If they wish, they can take the photo frames along to Che's normal Friday evening at the Manurewa RSA and Che can autograph the frames for them.

Look forward to seeing you again!

Love and TD-bear hugs, [Janice and Stephen](#)





## Life of Choice launched for the people we support

The Life of Choice initiative is Spectrum Care's key strategy to support at least 20 individuals to have more choice in how they live and the supports they receive.

Our aim is to work with each individual (and their family/supports) to improve their living arrangements, daily activities, community participation and the achievement of Outcomes goals.

It's a very exciting initiative for our organisation and, most importantly, for the people we support.

More detail and updates will be provided in coming issues of *Across the Spectrum*.

Warren Herring – General Manager (Operations)



## John celebrates his 60th birthday in style!

Albany Sports Bar and Cafe recently hosted the 60th birthday party of John Stallworthy of Relko House. Everyone had a great time and the venue was sublime for such a gathering.

Albany Sports Bar and Cafe were fantastic hosts and have offered Spectrum Care service users and staff VIP status, which will entitle us all to special prices for venue hire and catering there.

Albany Sports Bar can be contacted on (09) 415 4552.

A huge thank you to them for their hospitality and a giant Happy 60th Birthday to Mr Stallworthy.

Jessie Buchanan – CSW



## David achieves his Outcomes goal

David Mathewson's Outcomes goal of attending art and craft classes was achieved last month and he made a beautiful set of Christmas paper napkins.



The ladies in the class were very impressed and David was very happy – smiling and shaking hands with everyone.

David has done very well with his goals over the past year and he's also started making Christmas wreaths to complement his napkins.

A sample of these will be on display at the Hub next month and David is happy to make and sell them to order.

All the staff at [Delta House](#)

## Paul and Jackie launch 'Creative Enterprises'

I have now developed my own business known as 'Creative Enterprises' (along with Jackie Edge) and I hope to be selling flower and vegetable seedlings, produce, art work, aprons and home baking at some of the local markets from November.

I really like coming into the Hub each month to sell my creations to the staff who work in the office and to those of you who visit from the houses, and would like to continue to do this as I really enjoy socialising with everyone, as well as being able to make a bit of money for myself.

Paul Lakisoe – service user



# The passing of an extraordinary lady

This month saw the passing of an extraordinary lady with an extraordinary story. Dawn Margaret Campbell was born on 20 September 1936 in a time when a value system was so different to ours of today. Born to a single mother of only 15 years of age, Dawn was only 15 months of age when she was taken from her mother (along with her newly born sister Aloma Lockwood) and adopted out to separate families – Aloma to a family in Birkenhead and Dawn to a family in Whangarei, each too young to know about the other.

Seventy years on, Aloma wanted to learn more about her past and searched all of Auckland for her mother, eventually finding her in a rest home. Having no firsthand knowledge of her early years, Aloma was delighted to discover she had a sister as well and sought the challenge of discovering Dawn's whereabouts, which at the time was Whangarei.

After scouring the entire electorate role, with the help of her husband Graham and daughter Janene, Aloma finally discovered a contact number of her adopted parents which through further investigation tracked Dawn down to Grotto house in Spectrum Care.

With the amazing support of Dawn's key worker, Lorraine Herewini, Aloma was able to reconnect with her past and Dawn finally met the family she missed out on all these years, including her real mother.

Since this initial meeting Dawn's relationship with her sister blossomed and the connection they had was irreplaceable, Dawn adored her sister and the feeling was reciprocated in every special moment they shared.

Aloma and her family were always made to feel welcome in Dawn's home and the relationship they had with Dawn's staff is something to be commended.

But there is surprise twist to this remarkable story, as during the years Aloma was searching for her sister, her own daughter-in-law Annette was covering as Service Coordinator for Spectrum Care in the very house Dawn was living in.

Unbeknownst to anyone, this extraordinary connection existed at Grotto house and perhaps it was through the determination of Aloma (and maybe even through the laws of chance) that ensured these lovely ladies finally reunited.

Dawn and Aloma's story features in numerous regional newspapers and they became local heroes as a result. Dawn's story also features prominently in Spectrum Care's *Extraordinary Journeys* book.

Sadly, her journey has now come to an end. Though we will always miss Dawn and what she contributed to each one of our lives, fortunately we have her story which will live on for many years to come.

Jade Hopkins – Acting Service Coordinator



# Spectrum Care athletes compete in Trans-Tasman tournament

Four CYR athletes – Lance Heta (Coronation), Terei Tuaivaafau, Anton Moses and Zac Wicht (all from Motatau) – headed down to Wellington recently to participate in the inaugural Special Olympics New Zealand Trans-Tasman basketball and football tournament, taking on five Aussie state teams, as well as 10 teams from other Special Olympics clubs around New Zealand.

Supported by their three coaches, including Team Manager/Head Coach Frank Matatahi (Pallant), and Caroline Leong (CYR), these four young men are members of the Special Olympics Manukau Basketball Team and have been training hard out for this tournament over the past few months.

Our thanks must go to Paul Teio (Pallant), who's been able to secure the use of the Tangaroa College's Community Sports Centre for the team's extra training sessions.

The games are being played at the new Wellington Indoor Community Sports Centre in Kilbirnie and the team is staying out at Silverstream, Upper Hutt, near the Hutt Park football venue.

Check out our next issue of *Across the Spectrum* for results from this tournament!

Caroline Leong – Team Leader



# Murray and Heather celebrate their half centuries!

Murray Green turned 50 on Monday 26 September and Heather Bell turned 50 on Sunday 18 September, and both shared a wonderful birthday celebration.

The Buscomb team worked together to organise the combined 50th party with family and friends on Wednesday 21 September.

They each had a lovely individualised cake (baked by Tui Stevens – the House Leader at Bruce McLaren) that represented their personalities. The cakes were iced by Nora Butler, the House Leader at De Brett.

Miria organised a fantastic Maori carving that had each of their names and '50th' carved onto them.

Murray's was a manaia that symbolised 'Spiritual Guardian', 'Prosperity', 'Success', 'Safety for Travel', 'Growth', 'New Beginnings', 'Harmony' and 'Peace'.

Heather's was a New Zealand stag horn and double manaia that symbolised 'Spiritual Guardians', 'Growth', 'Life Harmony' and 'Peace'.

It was a very special and emotional day, with Murray's brother John and Heather's aunty Sheryl both in attendance.

Staff worked together to prepare a lovely lunch that was culturally diverse and enjoyed by all.

Graham McCardle, from the Helensville Country Music Club, and two lovely ladies entertained us for the day with their wonderful singing.

Heather and Murray enjoyed their music so much they each bought one of Graham's CDs!



Heather and Paul Lakisoe also sang to their guests with the musicians.

On the day of her birthday, Heather went to Valentine's with her aunty and family.

Likewise, on the actual day of his birthday, Murray went up to Tutukaka and stayed at Ocean Resort, where he went to a birthday party with his twin sister Selina, along with family and friends. Murray bought his twin sister a matching gift like his and had an awesome day.

Vicki Quist – Service Coordinator

## David's gastronomic journey begins



David from Cartmel attends a cooking class out in the community where he's given a recipe to follow and have staff assist him with when to add the ingredients and how to stir the creation.

Staff take these recipes home and give David the opportunity to practice while preparing the evening meal.

Staff expand on his skills by providing other recipes, for example, scones.

Shown in the photo is David creating a delectable stir-fry at home following the cooking classes.

Congratulations to the staff for their diligence in taking David along to his cooking classes and realising that he is learning skills that can be applied in a home setting.

Jamie Shirlaw – Outcomes Broker

**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

# Jeremy and Gregory's Rotorua holiday



**Day 1:** On Wednesday 28 September, the boys sat off on their five-day holiday in Rotorua.

The trip started off on a beautiful sunny afternoon and our first stop was at the Big Mac in Hamilton.

We arrived at our destination at 4pm and grabbed the key of the accommodation from the Mobil Station. The boys were excited and looking forward to the days ahead, but first things first. We unloaded our gear and the boys chose their bedrooms, while one of the staff went to Pak'n'Save to get some groceries for the next few days. The Master Chef for the trip was Herman and the first meal was on his behalf. It was 'kapai' and yummy. Early to bed the first night for everyone.



**Day 2:** Our first activity and outing was to visit the world-famous Agrodome sheep show. Jeremy and Gregory got some photos with some of the four-legged characters that were in the show.

We then visited the Woollen Mill, Wool n Crafts, Shearing Shed, Souvenir Shop and the Farmview Café.

**Day 3:** We started off with a tour of the Rainbow Springs and Lion Park Wildlife. The boys got to know a bit of general knowledge about how the kiwi survives in the wild, plus they both held a kiwi egg which weighed two kilos!



The next visit was to the Lion Park. The boys had a photo taken with the lion statue first at the entrance of the park.

Jeremy patted the lion cub, walked through the Wildlife Park and, to top it off, viewed the lions as they were being fed by one of the keepers. The boys were tired at the end of the day.

**Day 4:** The boys had a good sleep in. We took things easy this morning and had a late breakfast.



Then, after midday, we were back on the road – this time heading out of Rotorua to find Waimangu Road 14kms away on State Highway 5, heading toward Taupo.

Guess what? The boys got lost! We stopped along the way and asked for directions and, when we finally arrived at the destination, the news was not good for the wheelchairs, but the scenery was awesome.

**Day 5:** The day started off with the tour at Te Puia cultural centre and home of the world-famous Pohutu geysers, the National Carving School, Mud Pool and the Pikirangi Village to get the feel for what life was like in the past.

To end our holiday, we went for a lunch and cruise on the Lakeland Queen Cruises on lake Rotorua.

Puna Sila and Herman Tousoon – Service Coordinator and CSW

## 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](mailto:newsletter@spectrumcare.org.nz), or simply go to our website ([www.spectrumcare.org.nz](http://www.spectrumcare.org.nz)) and join our mailing list in one easy step.