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Hello {merge:(field:FirstName)}

bookmark **Cocktail Evening & Auction**

Friday 8 April 2011

Autism NZ Inc - Auckland branch is running a cocktail evening and Auction to raise funds and awareness around World Autism Awareness Day (2 April) on 8 April 2011. In light of the recent tragic Christchurch earthquake however, the Committee of Auckland Branch have unanimously voted to share a percentage of the profits of our Cocktail Party and Auction with the Canterbury Branch.

A portion of every ticket sold and every item auctioned will be supporting families with ASD members in Canterbury. We can only imagine the additional emotional strain the earthquake has caused to families already stretched in caring for their loved ones.

If you are going to Dig Deep and contribute to a relief fund, why not either buy a ticket or get out there and sell them? If every one of us sold a ticket or got an item donated for Auction, we could really make a difference in the lives of our Canterbury members at this tragic time.

We would like to advertise this event as widely as possible and have attached an invitation for you to send out. You may wish to send this with your personal invitation to selected people as well as to your wider address book. The invitation can also be printed off and given to people. The further afield we can advertise this event, the more likely we are to sell tickets.

Thank you

Thank you to Harvey Norman's, who have donated a fabulous lounge suite for the upstairs area of our Branch. This consists of a 3-seater, a 2-seater and a single chair.

Thank you to our Committee member Gaylene Chambers, who competed in the REAL Women's duathlon in Orewa this month to raise awareness for Autism Spectrum Disorders and raised \$200 for the cause.

Welcome to our new Committee Member for 2011, Malcolm Robertson

bookmark

Employment

Carer/Educator - we need someone special for this exceptional opportunity

- Take your skills and experience into an environment that will allow you to travel whilst making a real difference...
- Full time, live in position

Our clients live six months of the year in New Zealand and the other

bookmark

Book Corner

six months in Hong Kong. They have three children; the eldest is four and has been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome.

The children have live-in nanny care, this role is a specialist one working specifically with the four-year-old giving her one-on-one attention to assist her to be the best that she can be. You will also be involved with the younger children, just not to the same extent. This position sits within a group of staff working for the family across a wide spectrum from security, housekeeping and groundskeepers to childcare.

You must bring relevant qualifications and experience working with, or exposure to, children who have been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

We will need you to have the interpersonal skills and relationship abilities to work within an environment of this nature. It will be essential that whilst you respect the wishes of the parents, you are able to influence and advise them around the best care for their daughter. A current passport and full driver's license are essential; if you have experience travelling overseas this will be highly regarded.

Remuneration and benefits are exceptional and include all living costs.

To apply for this position, please contact Ruth Clavis at H2R Consulting on 09 368 7300 or visit Hot Jobs at www.h2r.co.nz and refer to job # 14501. All applications will be acknowledged by email.



bookmark [BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH Fundraiser](#)

Great prizes to be won - see [attached flyer](#) for all the details



bookmark [Thoughts from the Branch Manager: Branch Update 2011](#)

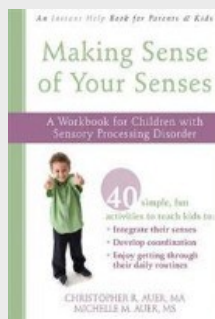
The Auckland Branch has had a massive makeover to see the New Year in.

We have 4 new staff members:

- Karen Lonergan
Branch Manager
- Emma Cutts
Team Leader
- Service Delivery
- Jo Lloyd Bell
Programme Coordinator
- Luminita Sprague
Information Coordinator

See [staff profiles](#) below for more information

The past month has been a busy



Making Sense of Your Senses

A Workbook for Children with Sensory Processing Disorder

Christopher R. Auer and Michelle M. Auer -
Published January 2011

40 simple, fun activities that teach children to:

- Integrate their senses
- Develop coordination
- Enjoy getting through their daily routines

Children with sensory processing disorder (SPD) react strongly to certain sounds, textures, or other sensations, or appear unusually numb to sensory stimulation.

They may panic and throw tantrums when they feel overwhelmed by stimuli, or seek out intense sensory experiences. Many have difficulty with motor skills. These symptoms almost always lead to social and behavioural problems, but children with SPD can learn to overcome many of these symptoms and balance their senses.

Making Sense of Your Senses is a workbook designed to help children with SPD reintegrate their senses and develop awareness and understanding of their SPD. While these activities can stand alone, as each focuses on a specific skill, all of them help children develop strategies to counter the tests of daily life, including morning routines, mealtimes, and classroom functioning. Many activities also involve physical activity, as becoming physically adept helps kids with SPD keep from becoming overwhelmed.

Ages: Children

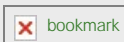
Recommended for: Parents and Professional Psychologists

Price: AUD - \$46.95AUD - (Includes GST, postage & handling)

NZ - approx. \$61.03 NZD (includes postage & handling)

For pricing for all other countries please email info@thebrainary.com

Events



bookmark [The Glenbrook Vintage Railway is having a](#)

[Thomas event](#)

[5-6 March 2011](#)

The branch will be at this event over the two days, taking donations and giving out information.

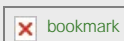
Location: Glenbrook Vintage Railway is an easy 50 minute drive from central Auckland. Take the Drury or Pukekohe off ramp from the Southern Motorway and follow the main route towards Waiuku. Turn into Glenbrook Station Road. Unfortunately there is no public transport available to the Glenbrook Station.

*Special All-inclusive fares apply - Adult \$20, Child \$10, Family \$55 (2 Adults and up to 4 children), Children under 4 yrs - Free.

* Included in the fares are a 12km steam train ride, a ride behind a real Thomas, and all children's entertainment. Thomas will be joined by full-sized Rusty, Trevor, Terence and Caroline. Bulgy the Bus will be offering rides around the countryside (\$2 per person). And of course Sir Topham Hatt, the Fat Controller will be in charge! Gates open at 9.00am, and two steam trains will be operating, with departures from Glenbrook Station at 30 minute intervals from 10.00a.m. till 4.00p.m.

For more information check out their website: [The Railway Enthusiasts Society](#)

Definitely a great day out for any railway enthusiasts of any age!



bookmark [Minds and Hearts Seminar](#)

[Work with the mind through the heart](#)

Specialists in Asperger's Syndrome and autism, Minds & Hearts was conceived to meet the enormous need for specialist services for people with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs).

Professor Tony Attwood, leading expert on autism spectrum disorders, is the Chairperson of Minds & Hearts.

Seminar in Auckland details: 1st April 2011, 9:00 am - 1:00pm

\$105.00 including GST and morning tea

For more details and to register click on the link below:

[Autism New Zealand Inc - Hearts & Minds Seminar](#)

time for the team with the running of our January Holiday programme being a huge hit and settling into our roles. The team come with a vast amount of experience, knowledge, skills and qualifications but most importantly with a huge amount of energy, drive, motivation, commitment and passion. We are all currently gearing up for Autism Day, The Cocktail Party Fundraiser and Appeal Week amongst other things so expect to see our faces out in the community.

- Karen Lonergan



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[Schools Invited to Join Multicoloured Mayhem Day](#)

April 2nd has been declared World Autism Awareness Day by the United Nations and to mark the event we are inviting New Zealand schools to participate in Multicoloured Mayhem Day on Friday 1 April, 2011.

Your school can have fun while raising awareness and funds for Autism. Multicoloured Mayhem Day is like a mufti day only bigger! Everyone is encouraged to wear as many different colours as possible.
[Click here to download an information pack.](#)



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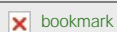
[Living with ASD - Strategies to Cope](#)

Jen Birch, author of *Congratulations! It's Asperger Syndrome*, will give her own perspective on, and experience of, living with her condition.

Auckland, Monday 11th April 2011, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Disability Resource Centre: 14 Erson Ave, Royal Oak

For more information and to register, please click on the link below:
[Autism New Zealand Inc - Living with ASD](#)



bookmark

[Annual Appeal Week](#)

[1st-7th June 2011](#)

We require collectors for our Annual Appeal Week. We have confirmed Community Sites at the following locations & dates:

Glenfield: 2nd & 3rd June
Takapuna 3rd & 4th June
St Lukes 3rd & 4th June
Manukau 4th & 5th June
Henderson 4th & 5th June
Eastridge Shopping Centre: 5th & 6th June

Please email Autism NZ Inc Auckland Branch Auckland@autismnz.org.nz with the times and site you are available to assist.



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[Southern Stars Charitable Trust presents](#)

[Kids Big Day Out - 19th March 2011](#)

We have been kindly given 100 complimentary tickets to offer to our members and they will be given on a "first come, first served" basis. Please contact the Autism NZ Auckland Branch.

[View flyer](#) for further information on this wonderful event.



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[School Holiday Programme](#)

[1st-7th June 2011](#)

Kia Ora! My name is Jo Lloyd and I am the new Programme Coordinator for the Auckland Branch of Autism NZ.

The holiday programme we currently run is provided for school aged children who have an Autistic Spectrum Disorder. This programme helps provide continuity for the children during the holidays, whilst providing valuable respite for parents and careers.

At present the programme is only being run out of Mt Richmond Special School in Otahuhu. We realise this is not a location that will be accessible to everyone, which is why this year we are endeavoring to be able to offer more of our families on the North Shore and central Auckland programmes closer to home later in the year. We are currently reviewing the programme and looking at making different programmes for different needs, ages, requirements. We are really excited about how it is all **shaping up for the rest of the year. In the meantime we will be offering a fun, interesting and active holiday programme for the April school holidays.**

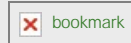
The April programmes will run Monday 18 April -Thursday 21 April (with Friday 22 being a public holiday) and then Tuesday 26 April -(with Monday 25 being a public holiday) - 29 April.
The programme will run from 9am to 3pm.

We will be offering fun and educational on site activities such as Art and Music Therapy and sensory play as well as some awesome offsite trips to **Kelly Tarltons and trips to the park etc.**

programme is designed to meet the children's needs and a form is sent to you prior to the programme to gather as much information as possible about your child to ensure that they are safe and of course that they have a great time! We are more than happy to arrange a home visit and go through this information with you prior to the programme should you feel **this is necessary**.

The cost is one carer support day per day or \$85.50 (including GST). There is a charge of \$12 per day to cover the costs of activities, which is required at the time of registration.

For more information or for any questions you may have regarding the holiday programme please, do not hesitate to phone me on 846 09 13 or email me on jo.loyd@autismnz.org.nz



Auckland Branch New Staff

Here is a brief introduction to the new staff who have joined the Autism NZ team in 2011:

[Karen Lonergan - Branch Manager](#)

Kia ora Koutou katoa

Ko Tamatekapua Te Tupuna
KO Te Arawa Te Waka
Ko Te Arawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa nga Iwi
Ko Ngati Whakaue te Hapu
Ko Ngongotaha te Maunga
Ko Rotorua te Moana
Ko Karen Lonergan taku ingoa

Hello to everyone

My ancestor is Tamatekapua who was the captain of the Te Arawa canoe
My canoe is Te Arawa
My tribes are Te Arawa and Ngati Tuwharetoa
My sub tribe is Ngati Whakaue
My mountain is Ngongotaha which is in Rotorua
My water is Rotorua

I am very excited to be apart of the Autism whanau and look forward to working with you all.

[Emma Cutts - Team Leader Service Development](#)

I have been working with children with Autism for the last 10 years, most recently as the Lead Advisor for a team of ASD specialist teachers in **London**. **As a teacher myself I have a special interest in inclusive education**, especially in ensuring teachers have adequate training in this area. I am also passionate about providing families with the knowledge and **practical skills to ensure their children reach their full potential**.

[Jo Lloyd - the Programme Coordinator](#)

Kia Ora, my name is Jo Lloyd and I am really excited to begin the challenge of becoming the Programme Coordinator for the Auckland Branch, and am **thrilled to have the opportunity to work for Autism NZ**.

I have 2 boys - Max 11 and Elliot 8 who has Asperger's. Over the years I have become very interested in ASD. I am always keen to learn more about Autism and Aspergers and often have my nose stuck in a book on related subjects and am currently reading Temple Grandin's infamous "Emergence".

I have a pretty diverse background which has generally revolved around the media and in the creative industries so this will be a massive and exciting change of environment for me. When I'm not organising the holiday programme, organising carer support forms, sweet talking Kelly Tarlton's for a discount and finding out how to make splatter art ... I moonlight as a Marriage Celebrant in Auckland and also as an Actor (mainly stage work and the odd TVC). Between all of this and my 2 gorgeous boys I have a lovely little home by the sea in sunny Beach Haven which, when I'm home, is where I like to turn up the stereo, pour a glass of wine, put my feet up and count my blessings every day.

[Luminita \(Lumi\) Sprague - Information Coordinator](#)

I am originally from Transylvania, so a word of warning: I've probably heard all the vampire jokes you can think of, mwah ha ha ha ha!

Joking aside, I'm very excited to be in this role, as since my "sonshine" Dayton was diagnosed with ASD over 5 years ago I have been constantly reading, researching and participating at workshops and seminars on autism and Asperger's syndrome, and would love to pass on my knowledge to other parents.

Originally a qualified English teacher, I then went on to be the International Liaison Officer in a prestigious University in my native Romania, and since making New Zealand home nearly 10 years ago I have worked in the rag trade and real estate administration - so yes, I do have

the sense of humour prerequisite! - and now I am ready for new challenges
- and to think differently.

I am looking forward to being part and parcel of this fantastic team of professional, dedicated and energetic people, and I truly hope I will make my mark, as I always like to.



Autism New Zealand Inc.
Including Asperger Syndrome and Related Disorders