



- In this issue:
- ▶ Obituary - Mark Davey
 - ▶ Branch News
 - ▶ Committee News
 - ▶ Thank You
 - ▶ The Youth Asperger Social Group
 - ▶ Thomas the Tank Engine Artwork
 - ▶ A Word from Emma
 - ▶ Funny Things in the World of Autism
 - ▶ Dynamic Play Approach
 - ▶ Asian Family Autism Support Group
 - ▶ We interviewed Shirley
 - ▶ Happy Corner - Lifekidz

Autism Auckland

Training Programmes

Get Involved

Needing Support
Autism Book Store

Donate Now

Hello {merge:{field:FirstName}}

OBITUARY - MARK DAVEY

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Mark Davey, a special member of our adult Asperger community. Mark died on August 3rd in a car accident. He often attended our Adult Asperger Social Group and Drop-in and while he struggled greatly with socialising he made the effort to join in and make friends, and kept coming back even when he found it really difficult. We applaud Mark's courage and will remember him for his gentle, sensitive nature and his determination to better himself. We will miss you, Mark.

Our sincerest condolences to Mark's family, our thoughts are with you at this very difficult time.

Our August News

Another busy month has passed by. Here are some highlights:

One of our members, Andrew Hall, has had a very successful sculpture exhibition - Comedy-Horror Exhibition - using recycled metal and discarded items. The holiday programme was yet another success story where all the children were treated to activities including dance, music, extreme trampolining just to mention a few. The support groups have had another great month with numbers high despite the chill factor outside. The monthly meetings with Emma and Neil seem to be going well with good numbers attending, which is great. We also farewelled Kidz Psychology, which are now situated on New North Road. We are excited to bring to you two new and interactive features - Funny Things in the World of Autism and The Happy Corner. The former is Neil Stuart's brainchild and it basically involves parents/whanau/ extended family sharing with us funny things their children have said or done, so please do email us with your stories. The latter is a community post spreading the word about high quality service providers/ holiday programmes/ after school care/ recreational centres etc. that our members have benefited from and think would work for other families with a loved one on the spectrum - we look forward to hearing from you! Please email us at auckland@autismnz.org.nz
Enjoy the August news!

Committee News

We invite members to attend our Annual General Meeting.

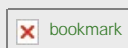
When: Thursday 20th October 2011.

Where: 65 Morningside Road

Time: 7.30pm

Please RSVP your attendance to Auckland@autism.org.nz by

Monday 17th October 2011.



Thank You

A very, very special THANK YOU! to Mr Paul Jamieson, who has gifted our Branch 6 valuable books for our library. Not only are these books on our "to purchase" list, but they are also brand-new and are titles that will be very popular with our members.

AUTISM NZ AUCKLAND BRANCH SUPPORT GROUPS:

YOUTH WITH ASPERGERS/ HIGH FUNCTIONING AUTISM SOCIAL GROUP
We meet on the 1st Sunday of each month. 12.00-2.00pm at 65 Morningside Dr., St Lukes.
Facilitator -Sushila Krishnamoorthy on sjsk@xtra.co.nz
Mob. 021 102 06 40 or Natasha Delgarno on natasha.delgarno@autismnz.org.nz
Mob. 021 393 846

ADULT ASPERGER & AUTISM SPECTRUM SOCIAL GROUP
This is held on the 3rd Saturday of the month 3:00-5:00p.m., 65 Morningside Dr., St Lukes. Contact Natasha Delgarno on natasha.delgarno@autismnz.org.nz/
021 393 846 or Jen Birch on jenbirch@actrix.gen.nz

ADULTS ASPERGER SYNDROME/HIGH FUNCTIONING AUTISM

DROP-IN

Venue : Rear of building. 65 Morningside Dr., St Lukes.

Dates : 1st Tuesday of every month.

Time : 12-2pm

Contact Natasha on natasha.delgarno@autismnz.org.nz or on 021 393 846

WOMEN WITH ASPERGERS GROUP

Meets 1st Saturday of every month (except January)

3.00pm-5.00pm at 65 Morningside Dr.,

St Lukes

Facilitator Christine Lee - christine.mansford.lee@gmail.com or Natasha on natasha.delgarno@autismnz.org.nz ph. 021 393 846

**Autism N.Z. Inc
Auckland Branch Staff**

Luminița-Lucia Sprague -
Information Coordinator

Karen Lonergan -
Branch Manager

Emma Cutts -
Team Leader
Service Delivery

Jo Lloyd -
Programme Coordinator

Christine Birrell -
Outreach Liaison Officer

Natasha Delgarno -
Adult and Youth
Liaison Officer

 bookmark

The Youth Socials Is Their "Hang Out" Place

By Sushila Krishnamoorthy, our Youth Asperger Social Group facilitator

The youth socials took off in January 2009. I am proud and delighted to see the journey of the youths in these three years. Read more here.

Thomas the Tank Engine Wall Artwork

Helen Mander, stay at home mum to 2-year-old Scotty who has ASD, started "Jiggedy Jigs" as a way to bring in a little extra money to help out with Scotty's treatment costs, but also to give her a bit of an outlet. And what better name for her project than "Jiggedy Jigs" - her family's nickname for Scotty. Click here for further details.



The large canvases are 30 x 40 inch (76cm x 102cm) and 1.5 inch deep (3.8cm)

Parent Education/Support coffee morning

This month we are going to be covering the topic of puberty. We will look at different ways this can be approached including specific social stories and visual timetables. The session will be on September 9th from 10.30 to midday at our branch in St Lukes.

[READ MORE](#)

Funny Things In the World of Autism

And now to some seriously funny stuff! We are starting off our new feature with two pearls from our staff members, Tanya and Luminița. We know how funny and random our special children can be, and we look forward to being flooded with other examples of,

well, thinking differently. Email us at auckland@autismnz.org.nz with your stories.

I'm having some house renovations done at the moment and I told my 9-year-old girl that the builders were here. She went outside and said to each one of them in turn: "Hello, Bob! Hello, Bob! Hello, Bob!" (Tanya Catterall)

My 8-year-old son saw the materials for Autism Awareness Week in my car and asked what they were. I told him it was stuff from work that would help people learn about autism. "Have you heard this word before? Do you know autism?" The answer was quick: "I know autumn!" (Luminita-Lucia Sprague)

One in 150 children is diagnosed with autism.

Our vision is to see each and every person with autism reach their fullest potential.



Dynamic Play Approach

The first course of the Dynamic Play Approach was run in Auckland in June and 5 families took part. The aim of the course is to increase adults and particularly parents' confidence playing with their child with Autism. Read more [here](#).

Asian Family Autism Support Group

We have some excellent news for all those Asian families out there who have been asking for a support group. 'Asian Family Autism Support Group' was started recently, for which 10 Asian parents gather monthly. It is held on the last Wednesdays of the month in Wilson Trust. The contact person for the group is Im Soo Kim, who is a cultural case worker/social worker for the Child Development Service (WDHB) as well as the father of a 14-year-old boy with autism. Please contact him on 447 0115/ 021 245 6171 or email: ImSoo.Kim@waitematadhb.govt.nz

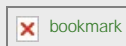
We interviewed Shirley,

mother of a child recently diagnosed with Autism, who had just completed the EarlyBird Programme.

Q: You'd just got a diagnosis of Autism - how did you feel?

Shirley: I was angry because I wanted instant answers to what services were available. And frustrated that I couldn't help my son at that time.

Read the interview [here](#)



Happy Corner - Lifekidz

Finding the right holiday programme or after school care centre for a child is not always a straightforward, easy experience. Sourcing one for a child with special needs can have even more challenges and angles to take into consideration.

As the mother of a child on the spectrum, I am grateful that Lifekidz came into our lives at a very difficult time - when my little boy was really struggling at the centre he had been at. He is now happy, safe and secure, which is a reflection of the high quality care and warm supportive environment he benefits from at Lifekidz. To find out more, visit www.lifekidz.org.nz (Luminita-Lucia Sprague)



Autism New Zealand Inc.
Including Asperger Syndrome and Related Disorders

The views expressed in this newsletter and any advertisements are not necessarily those of Autism New Zealand Inc. (Auckland Branch). From time to time, in the interest in providing the widest possible range of information to our members, we may include some of the new approaches to autism now available. This does not however imply Autism New Zealand Inc. (Auckland Branch) endorses any particular approach.