



Autism New Zealand Inc.

Including Asperger Syndrome and Related Disorders

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Please inform us if you would like to unsubscribe to this newsletter

Manawatu Branch Newsletter

December, 2009

Manawatu Autism NZ Local Branch Information:

Manawatu Autism NZ Support Group:

Our local Manawatu Autism NZ Support Group had our last meeting in November for 2009. We have had great attendance to this group over the year, averaging about 12 people each month. This has included committee members, adults on the spectrum, parents, grandparents, other family members and whanau, and also professionals with an interest in ASD. Manawatu Autism NZ have been able to fund the cakes and coffee

for this group and these are delicious at Café George! Thank you also to the staff at Café George for being so helpful. This group will start up again in February, 2010



Branch Coordinator's Resignation:

I have recently resigned as the Coordinator of the local Manawatu Branch of Autism NZ and will have my last day on Thursday, December the 17th.

Next year I will be starting a new job teaching in the Special Needs Provision at Awatapu College. This is an exciting new role and I'm looking forward to having some of

our local members children in my class!

It has been great working for Autism NZ and I will remain on the Committee next year, so will still see our members at the Café George Support Group. A new coordinator will be appointed next year.

Levin Support Group Developments:

We have had a number of people contact us highlighting the need for a support group to be set up in Levin. Karen Iverson from CCS Disability Action has kindly offered to facilitate a meeting in Levin, which people can attend to discuss this need with two of our local Manawatu Autism NZ Committee members. We will confirm the date and venue for this meeting early next year.

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Visit to MP Iain Lees-Galloway:

Susan Forbes our local Manawatu Branch Chairperson and I have been invited to meet with MP Iain Lees-Galloway on Monday the 7th of December. He has asked us to discuss the services Autism NZ offer in the Manawatu. He would also like to know any issues relating to ASD that our local members would like to raise with him. I recently emailed all our local members and asked if they have issues they would like us to discuss. So far I haven't had any responses. If you have something you would like us to take to our MP please let me know by next Thursday 3rd of December so we can record it ready to take with us to the meeting.



Autism NZ Manawatu Provide Funding for PECS Course for Parents:

Autism NZ Manawatu were able to provide funding for two parents who requested support to attend a course in Auckland on PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System). These parents have provided us with some feedback below. If you identify a course you would like to attend you can make an application to Autism NZ Manawatu who may be able to support you with funding for the costs of the course or part of it.

The course was fantastic. We are so very thankful for the funding which enabled me to attend the Pecs course. The PECS course was informative, practical and so very essential. This course has now given me the skills to assist, develop and extend communication skills for our son on a daily basis. I am now able to pass on the knowledge to my husband and other family members so that we can all work together to support our son and increase our understanding of the partnership between communication and Autism. The manual that you are given is an excellent resource and through myself attending the course I feel more positive as a parent and also more confident to support my son and how he communicates.

Thank you so much for your support in the process for funding.

Regards Anne and Dan

I had the opportunity to participate in the PECS training during September 2009 thanks to the funding provided by Autism NZ Manawatu. I think

that PECS gave many tools to use with my son but perhaps the most important thing from my perspective was that I was able to realise where my child is with his communication skills, not just speech. This is to say that after PECS, I have come to have better expectations for my son. Like any other aid, PECS has very good things but perhaps is not for everybody, however, we had the chance to see for ourselves thanks to the support of Autism NZ and the commitment of Paula who is always there to give the best of her.

I nevertheless encourage any parent to participate in the PECS training and if it works for your child, then that is great!

Paola



Autism NZ National:

Autism Candle:

Candles of NZ have produced a candle for Autism. This is now available and can be purchased online by following the link [Autism flicker candles](#) From every sale Autism NZ will receive \$8 which is a wonderful donation.



Special Offer From Slingshot:

From Jon Boyer – Autism NZ's National Funding & Communications Manager.

Slingshot has recently launched their new Mobile services. To celebrate, and to thank Autism NZ for our support they've got a special mobile offer for us – they're offering 6 months free mobile access charges. Slingshot has two mobile plans, check out the rates below



25c per minute



50c per min for your first minute
40c per min for 2 minutes
30c per min for calls 3 minutes or longer

For more on Slingshot Mobile and the text and data add-ons click [here](#).

In addition to this, don't forget that simply by being a Slingshot customer you'll be giving back to Autism NZ – every month Slingshot donates a portion of your monthly bill back to Autism NZ on your behalf – so it doesn't cost you anything extra.

If you would like to join Slingshot mobile, or to find out more, send your details (name, contact phone number & email address) through to me (Jon) to be passed on to Slingshot

Jon.Boyer@autismnz.org.nz. Someone from Slingshot will give you a ring to go over the finer details.

The fine print:

MegaTalk is \$20 per month after the 6 months free and has a 12 month contract period.

Courses:

Dr Tony Atwood coming to Palmerston North in 2010 :

Palmerston North, Friday the 30th of April, 2010.
The seminar is titled 'Understanding Autistic Spectrum Disorders'. It includes information on managing challenging behaviours in children with Autism and Strategies to reduce being bullied and teased.

To find out more information or register, Email jo@creatingsuccess.co.nz for a registration form or register online at www.creatingsuccess.co.nz



Sue Larkey: Teaching Strategies and Behaviour Support:

Wellington, Tuesday the 10th of March, 2010.
Course Content:

Teaching Strategies: •What is ASD? •autism learning style •visual strategies •social skills •teaching play •transitions •how to motivate.

Behaviour Support: •What are ASD behaviours? •what to do with special interests •strategies for home •strategies for school (pre-school, primary and secondary) •sensory issues in relation to toileting, sleeping, clothing, eating, etc •repetitive and obsessive behaviours •dealing with anxiety.

Who should attend? Teacher Aides, Teachers, School Principals, RTLBs, SLTs, GSE Staff, ESWs, Kindergarten Teachers, Psychologists, OTs, Families.

To find out more information or register, Email jo@creatingsuccess.co.nz for a registration form or register online at www.creatingsuccess.co.nz



Parent 2 Parent Course: Advocacy Support Training:

This course is for parents and family/whanau members interested in learning more about advocacy skills. The 12 hour course covers assumptions (and the dangers of making them), questioning skills, active listening, planning and researching. It will be held in the Manawatu in May 2010. This training is **free** to parents and family/whanau members. We are now able to offer staff members from other organisations limited places on these courses, for a fee of \$360.

Please contact National Office to register your interest. Website: www.parent2parent.org.nz or email Ruth Taylor on ruth@parent2parent.org.nz

“Anybody would benefit from this course – not just a parent with a child with a special need. It’s great to do just for yourself, to use in everyday skills. We use advocacy everyday with out realising it.”



Information, Contacts, Links and Resources

Interview With 9 Year Old Boy About His Brother With Asperger’s:

Click on this link to watch a video clip of a 9 year old boy talking about having a brother with Asperger’s. [Video clip](#)

This clip is from the NLConcepts website <http://www.nlconcepts.com>



Unique Awares International Online Autism Conference:

This annual international online autism conference - opens on Monday, November 30, 2009, and runs for a week. This event - which Professor Simon Baron-Cohen has called "the finest online conference of its type on the planet" - is run by Adam Feinstein, editor of Awares, the pioneering website of Autism Cymru, Wales's national charity for autism.

More than 60 of the world's leading autism experts will be taking part, as well as thousands of delegates. Among those who have already agreed to participate are: Professor Simon Baron-Cohen, Professor Susan Leekam, Dr Gary Mesibov, Donna Williams, Dr Wendy Lawson, Dr Susan Folstein, Dr Darold Treffert, Stephen Shore, Thorkil Sonne, Dr Manuel Casanova, Dr Connie Kasari and Dr Pamela Heaton.

Topics of discussion will include: education, behavioural issues, language impairments, neurology, genetics, immunology, Asperger's syndrome, autism in adolescents and adults, employment, sensory issues, socialising difficulties and related conditions.

This conference is open to anyone with an interest in autism: parents, carers, teachers, clinicians and other professionals, as well as individuals with autism themselves.

You can register at <http://www.awares.org/conferences>

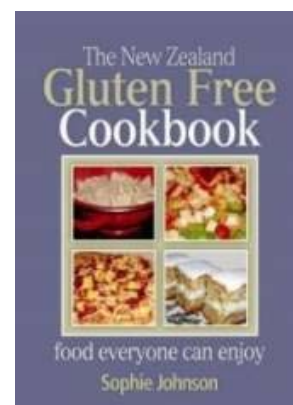
For further details, contact Adam Feinstein at: adam@autismcymru.org

The New Zealand Gluten Free Cookbook:

By Stephanie Johnson

This book contains over 90 delicious recipes and is ideal for gluten free children and adults, those who are intolerant and those wishing to be gluten free for health benefits.

These are recipes that can be enjoyed by everyone regardless of whether they are gluten free or not. Find out more about this book on the Solutions website <http://www.solutionsnz.com>



Looking Up Autism Newsletter :

'Looking Up Autism' is a monthly international autism newsletter. It was launched in 1998 and contains about 40 pages of the latest research, news and views from the world of autism. Further details, as well as selected free articles, can be found on the website at: www.lookingupautism.org They have also just launched a smaller, 16-page PDF edition containing selected articles from the hard-copy version.

Human Rights Commission Survey :

The Human Rights Commissions would like people to fill in a survey to help inform the early planning stages to develop of the next Human Rights Action Plan. It has **only two questions**, [website link - human rights survey](#)

Have a wonderful Christmas everyone and all the best for 2010!

Autism NZ Manawatu

