



Autism New Zealand Inc. Auckland Branch

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Hello {merge:{field:FirstName}}

## Welcome to our May newsletter!

### Branch News: Sovereign Sunshine Charities Award

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure to advise on behalf of the Auckland Branch Committee that Autism NZ Inc was the winner of the Sovereign Sunshine Charities vote by receiving 27.5% of the votes cast. Autism NZ Inc will receive \$2,750.00 plus an additional donation from Sovereign's up and coming Sunshine Fundraising Day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Auckland Branch Members that participated and voted.

Davina Speakman

Chairperson  
Autism NZ Inc (Auckland Branch)

### Event: Transition Expo 2011 The Progression from School to Community Life

Parent & Family Resource Centre and Ministry of Social Development are hosting a Transition Expo ('the progression from school to community life') on 7 July at AMI Stadium, St. Johns, Auckland. The Expo features most Auckland Transition Providers and an array of leisure, recreation, sports and information providers. Life beyond school is an important decision for any young person and requires planning and knowledge. This Expo is suitable for all ORS-funded students aged 14-21 years, parents, family members, caregivers, education experts, career advisors, school transition coordinators, teachers and all those involved in the care of a young adult with a disability. Further information is available on the PFRC website at [www.pfrc.org.nz](http://www.pfrc.org.nz) or [click here](#) for further information

#### Autism NZ Auckland Branch Support Groups

YOUTH WITH ASPERGER SYNDROME/ HIGH FUNCTIONING AUTISM SOCIAL GROUP

A huge THANK YOU to young Kip Simpson of Matakana School! [READ MORE...](#)

We meet on the 1st Sunday of each month. 12.00-2.00pm at 65 Morningside Drive, St Lukes.  
Contact the facilitator - Sushila Krishnamoorthy on [sjsk@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sjsk@xtra.co.nz)

#### ADULT ASPERGER & AUTISM SPECTRUM SOCIAL GROUP

3rd Saturday of the month 3:00-5:00p.m. at 65 Morningside Drive, St Lukes (rear of building). Please contact Natasha Delgarno on [natasha.delgarno@autismnz.org.nz](mailto:natasha.delgarno@autismnz.org.nz) or Jen Birch on [jenbirch@actrix.gen.nz](mailto:jenbirch@actrix.gen.nz) for further details

#### ADULTS ASPERGER SYNDROME/HIGH FUNCTIONING AUTISM DROP-IN:

1st Tuesday of every month, 12-2p.m. 65 Morningside Drive, St Lukes, rear of building. For more information, contact Natasha Delgarno on [natasha.delgarno@autismnz.org.nz](mailto:natasha.delgarno@autismnz.org.nz)

#### WOMEN WITH WOMEN WITH ASPERGERS GROUP

Meets 1st Saturday of every month (except January) 3.00pm-5.00pm at 65 Morningside Drive, St Lukes (rear of building) Facilitator Christine Lee - email [christine.mansfield.lee@gmail.com](mailto:christine.mansfield.lee@gmail.com)

#### Sport and Fitness: Autism Soccer League

Autism?  
Asperger's?  
ADHD?  
Socially/behaviourally challenged?  
Want to play SOCCER??  
You can... join us!!

We are trying to set up a club for children like our own son who are keen to play soccer and develop their skills, but are not suitable for a mainstream competitive league - with so many rules and regulations and little



Kip Simpson with Karen Lonergan (left) and Emma Cutts

To read Kip's story and for photos, go to <http://www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/KipSimpson/>

## Numicon for Students with Autism

Is your child struggling with Maths?  
Confused by sequencing of numbers?  
Having trouble understanding the relationship between numbers?  
Do you need opportunities to extend and challenge your child's abilities?  
Want an answer for home and school ?  
Numicon is different from most maths programmes in using structured images or patterns to represent numerals and to encourage understanding through relationships between numbers.  
**Read more [here](#).**

## Y-Stars Dance Movement

Does your child love music? Enjoy movement? Do they struggle in social groups? Is communication a challenge? Do they lack peer relationships? **Dance Movement Therapy** is an innovative approach that combines social skills, emotional literacy and communication with fun, movement & dance based activities. Offered by New York trained Dance Movement Therapist Anaia Treefoot.  
Individual and Group Programmes available!



## Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork for Autism Spectrum Disorders -

A Guide for Parents and Caregivers  
by Virginia S. Cowen

Massage techniques are widely and effectively used in treatment of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) to address sensory issues, **motor problems and touch receptivity**. **Read [here](#)** about this practical guide which shows how massage works, how the body senses touch, and how touch therapy can benefit children with ASDs.

## Redhill Primary Autism Awareness Mufti Day

tolerance and understanding for those a little bit different. We envisage our soccer league will allow for the many and varied behavioural quirks which characterise our unique kids, especially those 'negative' behaviours, whilst still giving them the opportunity to participate and enjoy a team sport, and parents will not be left cringing on the sideline. We believe in participation without judgement and most of all fun.

So if your child is aged 5-10, keen to play soccer, not suitable for a regular team, we would like to help!

Please contact Melissa or Kevin to register your interest or for more information. Ph 021-456-354 or 0275-707-242  
Email: [mjekos@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:mjekos@slingshot.co.nz)

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

Karen Lonergan -  
Branch Manager

Emma Cutts -  
Team Leader  
Service Delivery

Jo Lloyd -  
Programme Coordinator

Luminita Sprague -  
Information  
Coordinator

Natasha Delgarno -  
Adult and Youth Liaison  
Officer

Christine Birrell -  
Outreach Liaison Officer

We are pleased to bring you photos from the fundraiser organised by Brian Pulefolau at his son Roman's school, Redhill Primary, on Autism Awareness Day (see our April newsletter)



Redhill School Presentation - Roman Pulefolau second on the right



Redhill Primary Mufti Day Winners with Brian Pulefolau  
(back row, right)

## Placement Parents Required - The Nanny Centre Wants You!

The Nanny Centre is a training centre for Nannies and as part of their training students are required to do a home placement with a child with a disability under the age of 5. They need placement parents in all areas of Auckland, so if you have 2 or more children under the age of 5 you and would like to participate, [please click here](#) for more information and to register.



## Beating Dyspraxia with a Hop, Skip and a Jump

A Simple Exercise Programme  
for Home and School

by Geoff Platt

Children with dyspraxia often have reduced motor skills including balance, timing and coordination, as well as weak muscles - something recent research suggests may be not only a symptom, but a cause of the condition. It is no wonder then, that they will do everything in their power to avoid gym class! The exercises presented in this book are simple, can be taught by anyone and do not require specialist supervision or equipment.



## Non-Verbal or Trouble Communicating?

GoTalk - Pocket Version

*A note from Karen Simmons, Founder of Autism Today*

"Communication was always a challenge for my son Jonny, even though he could speak. If you're a parent of a non-verbal child with autism, I know you must have a lot of pain in your heart.

**Being in your shoes is not easy!**

Finally though, I found a convenient device called GoTalk"

This small, lightweight and easy to use device is the perfect non-verbal helper. To read more, [click here](#)



**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.