

Thinking Differently

The quarterly newsletter of *Autism New Zealand Inc.*



THE FACE OF LOOTING: ASD in the spotlight.

It's been nearly 10 months since Canterbury's fateful 22 February earthquake that brought the city to a standstill and devastated so many lives. We know that many individuals and families whose lives are affected by ASD have found the effects of the earthquakes particularly difficult.

One of those people, Arie Smith-Voorkamp (who has Asperger's Syndrome) has had a more difficult time than most. Most of our readers will probably be aware of Arie's story – in the days following the devastating quake, he and his partner were found in an abandoned building in central Christchurch, where he was attempting to remove two antique light fittings.

Both Arie and his partner, Michael Davis, were chased, caught and arrested and Arie

became "The Face of Looting" in the media as the authorities went public with a 'no tolerance' approach to looting in the city.

Both were charged with burglary and held in custody – Arie for 11 days and Michael for 6 weeks. Charges against them both were eventually dropped in late August, six months later.

Their story of arrest and time in the justice system is a matter of public record and we won't go into it in too much detail here – you can read plenty about the case online – but Arie's experience has highlighted the issues that surround people on the spectrum in the criminal justice system that we want to highlight here.

ASD in the justice system

Arie's case first came to our attention just after he was arrested. His foster sister, Shannen Davis, contacted Robyn Young in our Christchurch office asking for help. Shannen was well aware that her foster brother had an obsession with collecting antique light fittings, and that this obsession was a result of him having Asperger's Syndrome.

"Shannen was very worried about her foster brother and



was doing her best to get Arie the support he needed. She knew that being in jail would be very traumatic for him and she wanted both the police and his prison officers to be aware of his condition and how that impacted the way he behaved under stress, especially. She genuinely feared for his safety," explained Robyn.

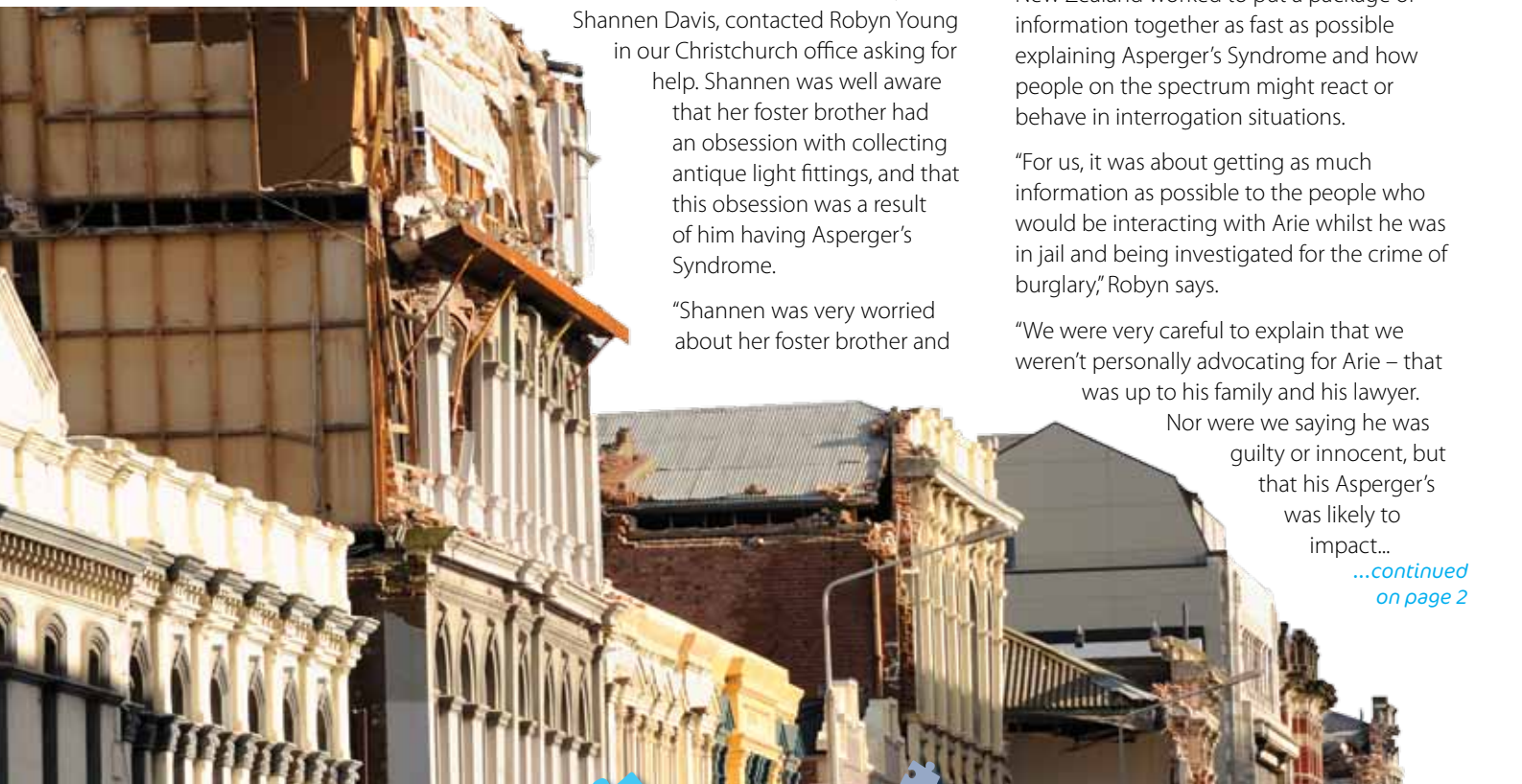
Robyn and other colleagues at Autism New Zealand worked to put a package of information together as fast as possible explaining Asperger's Syndrome and how people on the spectrum might react or behave in interrogation situations.

"For us, it was about getting as much information as possible to the people who would be interacting with Arie whilst he was in jail and being investigated for the crime of burglary," Robyn says.

"We were very careful to explain that we weren't personally advocating for Arie – that was up to his family and his lawyer.

Nor were we saying he was guilty or innocent, but that his Asperger's was likely to impact...

*...continued
on page 2*



Autism New Zealand Inc.
Including Asperger Syndrome and Related Disorders



IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 Welcome
- 3 Meet the Team
- 4 Changes to the Board

- 5 Parent's Voice: Frances' Story
- 6 Library Update: End-Of-year Clearance
- 7 Conference 2012: Call for Papers
- 8 Sponsors and branch contact details

THE FACE OF LOOTING: ASD in the spotlight. *(continued from front page)*

...the way he answered questions or interacted with authorities, as well as the motivations around the alleged crime itself.”

Simon Buckingham, a lawyer who has Asperger's Syndrome himself also raced to Arie's aid. "I heard about it the same way we all did – through the media – and was very keen to help out however I could. I certainly appreciate how difficult the justice system can be for people on the spectrum to navigate," says Simon.

Simon says that Arie's case highlights the fact that it's not just the police who are lacking in enough knowledge of ASD – it's also the lawyers and the judges as well.

"Even I struggled knowing how to manage Arie's case and I have Aspergers. Thanks to a lot of support and donations from the ASD community around the country, I was able to fly down to Christchurch for his second hearing and we entered a guilty plea. I wasn't happy about making that plea, but with my limited experience in the criminal justice system, it was the best option available," Simon explains.

It was thanks to the increased publicity around the case and the fact that Janet Macintyre did a very thorough piece on 'Sunday' – the current affairs programme that lead to Jonathan Eaton (a high-profile defence barrister, based in Christchurch) taking Arie's case on pro-bono.

Mr Eaton was able to get the guilty plea vacated and arranged for a psychiatric assessment, which later formed the basis of the charges being dropped against both men (Arie's partner, Michael's defence was that he had followed Arie into the building in an attempt to stop him because he knew that Arie was worried about those light fittings being destroyed and was worried Arie would get caught).

Like almost everyone involved in the case, Simon believes that whilst the increased media coverage was very difficult for Arie and his family, some good has come from the experience. "This case has seen an increased awareness of both ASD and the fact that there is a huge need to know more about it within the justice system. I also saw the ASD community put aside any differences they had and come together to work for Arie. It was a good thing."

A medical perspective on a criminal problem

Dr Paul Taylor is a paediatrician working out of Nelson Hospital and he works with

children throughout the upper South Island and Wellington regions. He has a keen interest in ASD and how it is managed in the justice system.

"Studies indicate that around 13% of the prison population has an Autism Spectrum Disorder. This is greatly disproportionate to the general population, where about 1% of people are affected. To be fair, that information is limited and much more research is required, but it does point to an alarming situation for people with ASD," says Dr Taylor.

"People with autism are significantly disadvantaged in the criminal investigation process. Many simply don't have the skills to deal with interrogation, court appearances or jail. Many suffer from high anxiety, which makes it very difficult for them to react properly to questioning."

"For example, I once assessed a patient who was arrested with a stolen computer. He was repairing it for whoever stole it and wasn't aware it was stolen. He wasn't able to explain otherwise and genuinely didn't realise the predicament he was in. Eventually the case was dismissed but only because his lawyer obtained a medical opinion that pointed to ASD," explains Dr Taylor.

Dr Taylor is determined to see a change in the way people with ASD are treated in the justice system. In fact, when we spoke to him for this article, he was returning home to Nelson after a visit to Wellington where he was speaking to a group of judges about ASD.

"It's about providing information. The police acted the way they did in Arie's case because of a lack of information. And the police are not alone – that lack of knowledge is reflected in the wider population, so we have to start with parents and teachers and build from there. We need to find ways of developing knowledge through existing health and education services."

Where to from here

Helping to improve the understanding of ASD in the Justice system is one of the key Strategic Goals identified by Autism New Zealand and Alison Molloy and Matt Frost have recently held a productive meeting with Andrew Becroft, the Principal Youth Court Judge and have had several conversations with officials from NZ Police about helping to upskill frontline staff from around the country.

We will keep you updated on developments.

"People with autism are significantly disadvantaged in the criminal investigation process. Many simply don't have the skills to deal with interrogation, court appearances or jail."





Welcome

Where has the year gone?

As I write this we are building up to the General Election and I feel safe in predicting that there are unlikely to be many surprises. Over the last two years we have been working hard to build good working relationships with MP's and Ministers from most political parties.

We have succeeded in increasing the understanding of autism and the issues faced by our members within the halls of the Beehive but there is still much work to be done to translate this understanding into real action and meaningful monetary support. We held what we want to be the first of many Cross Party Discussions with politicians in September and hope to hold another of these early in the New Year when the election and holiday dust has settled. John Grealley, as an adult on the spectrum and as a parent, ably represented these views to this group.

I am pleased to announce that the recent AGM confirmed Life Membership on Wendy Duff. Wendy was, until recently, the President of Autism New Zealand and has been very active in many roles both at branch and national level for several years. Wendy joins a short but distinguished list of Life Members which also includes Marion Bruce,

Bob Burns, Sue Robertson, Chris McGuire and Richard Belton.

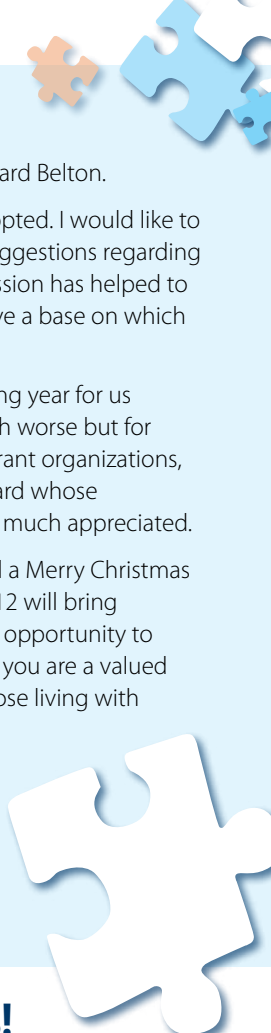
Also, at the AGM, the revised Constitution was adopted. I would like to thank everyone who sent in their thoughts and suggestions regarding the changes that were proposed. I think the discussion has helped to make the document more robust and we now have a base on which to move the organization forward.

In common with most charities, it has been a testing year for us financially, although things would have been much worse but for the generous support of our donors and several grant organizations, particularly Pub Charity and the Lottery Grants Board whose investment in Autism NZ was both significant and much appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy and safe New Year. No doubt 2012 will bring challenges and triumphs and I look forward to the opportunity to continue the work that this organization, of which you are a valued member, does to make life just a little easier for those living with autism in our community.

If you'd like to view this year's annual report, it will be available on our website after 15 December.

- Alison Molloy, CE Autism NZ



MEET THE TEAM

Nicky Murphy, National Office (CHCH)



Nicky Murphy has been a very important part of the Autism NZ team for just over three and a half years. Like most of us at Autism NZ, Nicky's role has evolved over time and right now, she's an information officer who answers the 0800 Autism number, providing parents, teachers and people on the spectrum with

information and support whenever they need it. She also manages our website, and she manages it all in a part time role!

Nicky is passionate about supporting people with ASD, and is also deeply involved in her work with the Cystic Fibrosis Association because she has cystic fibrosis herself. In fact, it was her work with Cystic Fibrosis that brought her to Autism NZ.

"I was approached by the staff at CF NZ about the available position at Autism NZ and thought the job sounded perfect. I liked the idea of working for another not-for-profit organisation that works hard helping others on their journey through life," Nicky explains. She hasn't looked back since.

"I thoroughly enjoy working for Autism NZ! Every day is different and I am constantly learning new things. My colleagues are so wonderful to work with and everybody is passionate about their job. We all strive for the same goal to help those on the spectrum."

Nicky's life is not all hard work and no play, though. In her spare time she likes to read and spend time with her family and friends.

Sell your house with Harcourts!

In the last edition of Thinking Differently, we were very pleased to announce a new and unique funding relationship with Harcourts, the NZ-wide real estate agency. Harcourts have arranged to provide us with 10% of the commission when selling any of Autism NZ's members (including their families or friends) properties.

This has the potential to be worth an enormous amount to Autism NZ, which will mean we can increase the services and support we provide for New Zealanders whose lives are affected by ASD.

We're pleased to tell you we've already begun to see the benefits of this relationship, with a house sale going through this system as we speak.

So, how can you take advantage of this great way of supporting Autism NZ? It's quite simple, really. If you're planning on selling a house, or you have an investment property that you require a property manager for, make sure you factor Harcourts into your considerations. And spread the word – tell your family and friends as well!

All you need to do is to call 0800 harcourts or email referral@harcourts.co.nz when you decide that you would like to sell your property. Tell them that you want to support Autism NZ and Harcourts will then record that you are wanting 10% of your full commission to be given to us and will have a local agent contact you.



Changes to the Autism NZ Board

We're very pleased to welcome Glenys Fry, who replaces Wendy Duff as President of Autism NZ. Glenys has been a member of the board for five years and we look forward to her leadership over the next few years. Also voted in at the recent Annual General Meeting was new board member, Lachlan Mackay.

We're delighted to welcome Lachlan to the board and look forward to working with him as he helps the board steer Autism NZ into the future. We asked both Glenys and Lachlan to introduce themselves to the wider Autism NZ Community:

Glenys Fry



I would like to introduce myself to those of you I have not met. I am Glenys Fry, I live in Christchurch and am married to Chris. We have three children. Sarah and David are adults pursuing their own careers in Fashion and Engineering.

Michael our youngest son is 19 years old and has autism. He currently attends a Special Needs Unit at Hillmorton High School however next year he will be finishing there so we will be moving into the world of Adult Services.

I have been part of Autism New Zealand for the last 15 years. I joined when Michael received his diagnosis at the age of 4. The following year I attended my first Conference in Wellington and was hooked into the organisation. I realised this was where I could learn all that I needed to know and gain the support I would require to help Michael achieve his potential.

My initial involvement was with the Canterbury Branch Committee as the member coordinating Coffee Mornings, later I moved on to administer the Holiday Programme with the assistance of two other committee members and later became Branch Chairperson for three years.

I have remained on the Canterbury committee supporting others to lead and grow our branch and more recently as the person who spend hours compiling grant applications so we can continue to support families. In 2006 I joined the board and many of you will remember me from the period when I stepped in as President while Wendy worked for us.

My vision for Autism New Zealand is that we will become a strong leader in the ASD field and a well-known organisation throughout the country. ASD needs to become more widely known and understood so we can deliver better outcomes for our children, young people and adults in all areas of life.

We will all need to work together with a cohesive and targeted approach for this to happen and I invite you to come on board with that vision.

Finally I would like to thank Wendy for her tireless work as President. She is remaining on the Board for a further year and I am sure she will still be out there championing for ASD long after she finishes on the Board.

Lachlan Mackay

Lachlan was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome at the age of 6 and his family early on in the piece became members of Autism New Zealand. Lachlan chose in 2007 to seek individual membership of the organisation and renewed that membership with vigour earlier this year.



Lachlan says "the desire to contribute to the vital work Autism New Zealand does and to officially advocate for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders has been a long held dream". He also stated strongly that "there is a real global need for understanding, assistance and appreciation required in order to meet the needs of those who have Autism Spectrum Disorders and to create a healthy and happy lifestyle for all those affected by Autism".

Therefore he is honoured and privileged to be given such an opportunity with a worthy and essential organisation and looks forward to rising to the challenge in the assistance of creating a better world for individuals with ASD's and their families, to live in.

Lachlan has been involved, as a volunteer, with non-governmental organisations for the past 10 years and is currently a National Vice-President for the United Nations Association of New Zealand and a member of the Wellington City Council's Accessibility Advisory Group. He is currently finishing a Diploma in Management and a Diploma in Marketing at the Wellington Institute of Technology.

In addition to his advocacy work on Asperger's Syndrome and other disabilities, he is also involved in promoting the causes of peace and interfaith dialogue through his work with various other organisations.

When he is not studying, advocating or volunteering, he can be found, letter-writing to far flung places, organising events and reading the countless books he has collected.

Parent's Voice – Frances' Story

By Marie Fitzpatrick

I've known Frances since she was born – since before that, if you want to get technical, because I met her parents at an antenatal class I was helping out with when my son was about a year old. Frances' mother and I got on well and soon became good friends.

Frances was a cute baby and she was soon followed by a younger sister, which meant the usual chaos that comes with living in a household with two children under two.

I knew her mum was finding it tough as Frances and her sister grew through toddlerhood, but I just assumed it was because it's a tricky thing, juggling a job and two young children – I certainly found my own two kids enough of a handful!

So when Frances' parents told me earlier this year she had been diagnosed with high-functioning autism, I probably should have been more surprised, but given I've been writing this newsletter for a few years now, it all just suddenly 'clicked'.

As her mother explains it, people often described Frances as 'a character' or 'quirky'. As a regular babysitter of Frances and her sister, it's been good to be able to embrace her interesting way of thinking and understand why she acts the way she does.

I recently sat down and asked Frances' mother to take me through their story of discovering Frances was on the spectrum.

"We always suspected that Frances was different, that she didn't manage things in the same way her peers did, even from when she was quite young," explains Frances' mum. "It was always quite challenging. We didn't guess that it was autism, but she was really over-sensitive, really struggled with a change in routine or meeting new people. Something didn't quite seem right."

"And then her father was diagnosed with ADHD and high-functioning ASD. His diagnosis triggered a lot of reading because we were trying to work out what it meant for him and us as a family. This reading cast Frances' behaviour in a whole new light – suddenly things started to fit."

"Frances had struggled during her first year at school – there were issues around relationships, social situations, and she struggled to cope with change. There were lots of days where she would seek

comfort in the quiet of the library or would spend morning tea and lunchtimes walking around the school on her own, taking time away from the other children. She'd mention having hidey holes at school, and we began to be concerned for her safety."

"By the time Frances was at the end of year one, we were referred to Dr Paul Taylor and his diagnosis was swift – that Frances had a highly functioning version of Autism. The diagnosis made a huge difference, because as soon as we knew, we were then able to use that knowledge to get the support she needed, both at school and in the rest of her life."

"The school was very supportive, they arranged things so Frances had the right teachers for the following year and they monitored her at lunch and morning tea. And although the social interaction stuff is the more obvious challenge for Frances, she also has a wandering mind, and her teachers have been able to help her focus - which has improved her literacy enormously. It has highlighted the importance of a whole-school/whole-community approach to inclusion."

"She's just blossomed this year. She's got a great little circle of friends and is learning new things all the time."

"The diagnosis also changed our parenting. While parenting can still be an ongoing challenge, the diagnosis explained a lot of the behaviours that used to frustrate us, and we were able to shift from a deficit model of parenting to a more understanding model. A good example of this is that when she came home from school in year one and told me she spent the whole day alone, my fear of her not having any friends would kick in and I saw it as a major problem. Now I realize it's because sometimes she needs to be alone. And I work with her to make sure she knows how to reconnect in again."

"We haven't used the word 'autism' with Frances – she knows that her brain works differently, but she has never heard the word. She understands that it gives her strengths that others don't have, and she also understands it makes some things harder."

"We're hoping that because she's had an early diagnosis, she will be better supported and won't have the same difficult and confusing life that her father has."

Frances, right, plays in the Wellington snow with her sister



Take advantage of our library and bookstore!

Autism NZ is very proud to be able to offer the books and other resources we've gathered together in our library and bookshop to our members. Providing information and support is a huge part of what we do, and we've worked hard to find and purchase the sorts of books and resources that will help our members on their path with ASD.

With more than 700 books, DVDs, games, learning tools and other resources, our comprehensive library collection is available to anyone at anytime. And we're adding to it all the time! Many of our books and other resources are available for purchase as well – and you don't have to be a member of Autism NZ to take advantage of our great service.

It's all very well having a great selection of resources, but it's even more important that we're able to connect our members up with the right book for their specific circumstances. Which is where our two Information Officers, Marion Johns and Nicky Murphy come in.

Both Marion and Nicky are very knowledgeable about the resources available within our library and shop and are just a phone call or an email away from being able to help you find the right information for your specific circumstances.

Whether you're a parent new to ASD trying to make sense of your child's recent diagnosis of autism, or a professional looking to extend your own knowledge on ASD, then Marion and Nicky are here to help you find just what you need.

We've already introduced Nicky Murphy in our "Meet the Team" section elsewhere in this edition of Thinking Differently (make sure you check it out on page xxx), so we asked Marion to introduce herself as well:

"I've worked with Autism NZ for just over two and a half years, and I love my job as Information Officer. Together with Nicky, I answer the 0800 Autism calls – which can range from parents with a new diagnosis, or those seeking further info about strategies, resources,

etc as their child develops and grows older. The calls also come from professionals – doctors, teachers, senco, etc who are looking for further information and strategies for people with ASD."

"I really do understand what it's like at the beginning for a family whose child has just been diagnosed with ASD – my 12 year old daughter, Casey, has autism – and I'm passionate about learning as much as possible so we can help Casey and my family. This has led to me becoming involved with Autism NZ, because I want to be able to help others on their journey with ASD."

"What gets me out of bed in the morning to go to work? That's easy. I get to provide quality information to families new to ASD that I would have loved someone to have told me when I was starting the journey. It's great providing quality information that is strategy-based and informative, which in turn empowers people to help their family members and give them the tools to help themselves."



End-of-Year Clearance Specials!

Our shop is having an end-of-year clearance sale on some great books and other resources. Limited stock applies on some of these items. For further information or to make an order for any of these items please visit www.autismnz.org.nz/shop or call us on 0800 AUTISM (0800 288 476). These specials are only available to Thursday 22nd December or until stock runs out.

Achieving Best Behaviour for Children with Developmental Disabilities: A Step-By-Step Workbook for Parents and Carers
By Pamela Lewis

Was \$40.00 Buy Now \$25.00

Accessing the Curriculum for Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders: Using TEACCH Programme to Help Inclusion
By Gary Mesibov and Marie Howley

Was \$62.90 Buy Now \$45.00

Asperger's Syndrome & High Achievement
By Ioan James

Was \$40.00 Buy Now \$25.00

Pathways to Play! Combining Sensory Integration and Integrated Play Groups
By Glenda Fuge and Rebecca Berry

Was \$59.00 Buy Now \$40.00

The Autistic Spectrum Parents Daily Helper: A Workbook for you and your child
By Philip Abrams, Leslie Henriques and Dr. Lorna Wing (Foreword)

Was \$40.00 Buy Now \$25.00

Asperger's Syndrome in Young Children: A Developmental Guide for Parents and Professionals
By Laurie Leventhal-Belfer and Cassandra Coe

Was \$49.90 Buy Now \$35.00

The Chameleon Kid - Controlling Meltdown Before He Controls You
By Elaine M. Larson

Was \$33.00 Buy Now \$20.00

Teaching Children with Autism and Related Spectrum Disorders
By Christy L. Magnusen

Was \$46.00 Buy Now \$30.00

Meaningful Exchanges for People with Autism: An introduction to augmentative and alternative communication
By Joanne M Cafero PhD

Was \$29.00 Buy Now \$19.00

Engaging Autism: Using the Floortime Approach to help children relate, communicate and think
By Stanley I Greenspan & Serena Wieder

Was \$55.00 Buy Now \$39.00

Playing it Right Social Skills Activities: Social Skills Activities For Parents and Teachers of Young Children with Aspergers, Autism and PDD
By Rachael Bareket

Was \$65.00 Buy Now \$50.00



CONFERENCE 2012

Challenging the Myths: Leaving behind the stereotypes.

Call for papers, posters and other contributions

Submissions are invited for contributions to the programme for the National Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders "Challenging the Myths: Leaving behind the stereotypes" hosted by Autism New Zealand Inc.

The Conference is to be held at The Aotea Centre in Auckland, New Zealand from 7 to 9 September 2012.

We would be pleased to receive abstracts describing papers or posters, relating to autism spectrum disorders for the following streams:

- Education and Training – Inside and outside the autism community
- High and Complex Needs
- Living with Autism and ASD – Persons with lived experience, families living with Autism and ASD
- Research and Government

Papers will be accepted for presentations of 45 minutes (35 mins + questions) or 1 hour (50 mins + questions) duration (please state your preference).

Posters should be no bigger than A0 (841mm x 1189mm).

Abstract/Descriptions

Papers and poster presentations should be relevant to autistic spectrum disorders. Poster presenters and authors are asked to submit their abstracts or descriptions, limited to 250 words to: pat.gluck@autismnz.org.nz.

The proposals should include: The paper or presentation title, name and affiliation of author/s, topic keywords, theme, and mailing address, email address and phone number. Presenters and authors are also asked to include a short biography of 100 - 200 words.

Abstracts must be received by 28 February 2012 and emailed to the above address or mailed to: Conference 2012, Autism New Zealand, PO Box 12599 Thorndon, Wellington 6144

The Conference Committee will review all papers received and acceptance or non-acceptance will be notified by 31 March 2012 or as soon thereafter as possible.

Make a Difference Fund Grant: Addressing barriers to employment

Further to the piece in our previous newsletter, Autism New Zealand is excited to announce that we have been successful in gaining \$60,000 from the Ministry of Social Development's Making A Difference fund.

The focus of the project is on "Addressing Barriers to Employment" for adults on the spectrum. An exciting aspect is that the project is based around the concept of adults on the spectrum already in work mentoring other adults who are preparing for employment.

The project works in two phases. The first phase is that six mentors from around the country will be selected to receiving training in mentoring and leadership skills from two experienced people (one of whom will be on the spectrum). These sessions will mainly focus on developing leadership and facilitation skills in the mentors and also giving them an understanding of how to teach adults and what employment services are available for people on the spectrum. This phase will begin later this month.

The second phase is that three two day workshops will be held in centres around the country for people on the spectrum who feel they are ready to undertake work and would like a supportive environment in which to learn the skills to do so.

These workshops will be run by people on the spectrum for people on the spectrum. This is expected to start in March- April 2012 so look out for more information in the next newsletter.

Autism New Zealand will be calling for nominations shortly from people on the spectrum who would like to mentor other adults on the spectrum into employment. We are very thrilled to be undertaking this project and look forward to updating you on progress in future editions of *Thinking Differently*.

Training Update

We are in the process of scheduling training and seminars for next year, including help! and Earlybird training courses. If you'd like to participate in one of these courses, please don't hesitate to let us know – it will help us plan.

If we get the numbers to run a course in an area, we're more than happy to arrange one, so please don't hesitate to let us know if we can help.

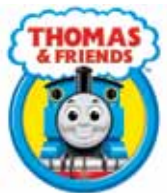
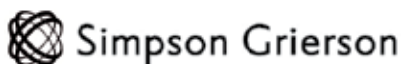
To find out more about our training courses, contact Pat at the Autism NZ office on 04 470 7616 or email pat.gluck@autismnz.org.nz.



Our Supporters

We are forever grateful to our supporters and funders, whose contributions go a long way towards making a difference to our members.

We'd like to say a special thanks to **Pub Charity**, the **Lottery Grants Board** and **BayTrust** for your funding support; and to **Y&R**, **Simpson Grierson**, **MedicAlert**, **Haven Licensing**, **Flicker Candles**, **Newsletters Ltd** and **Harcourts** for your ongoing assistance.



Sling Shot is 'Raising the Flag' for autism

Raising the Flag empowers Slingshot customers to choose to have a portion of their monthly bill donated to an Autism NZ Branch. Then each month, Slingshot will send us a cheque to help those affected by an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

To join Slingshot for internet and tolls, visit www.slingshot.co.nz/autismnz or phone **0800 89 2000**.

If you are already a Slingshot customer, simply let them know you want to be part of this programme and they'll link your account.



Shine a light for autism

The official Autism Candle is made with 100% natural soy wax, a pure cotton wick and is infused with coconut and lime. It comes in a specially designed tin which is easy to post and makes for a great gift.

Created by the award-winning Candles of New Zealand and available from Stevens stores nationwide or Flicker Candle Emporium's boutique website: www.flickercandles.co.nz

\$8 from each candle sold is donated to Autism NZ



Our Branch information

Our branches have a lot more information to share than we are able to include in this newsletter, so please visit www.autismnz.org.nz to find out what is happening in your region.

Branch	Address
National Office 04 470 7616 info@autismnz.org.nz	PO Box 12599 Thorndon, Wellington Ground Floor, Molesworth House, 101 Molesworth Street, Wellington
Auckland 09 846 0913 auckland@autismnz.org.nz	PO Box 41420 65 Morningside Drive St Lukes Auckland 1025
Bay of Plenty 07 571 0003 0800 571 000 bayofplenty@autismnz.org.nz	PO Box 841 Tauranga 3140 Compass Community Village, 17th Avenue, Tauranga 3112
Canterbury/West Coast 03 343 2225 canterbury@autismnz.org.nz	PO Box 42014, Christchurch 8149 Level 1, Trevinos Building, 22 Riccarton Road, Riccarton, Christchurch 8011
Gisborne 06 868 8826 06 863 3380 gisborne@autismnz.org.nz	5 Douglas Street, Okitu, 4010 Or C/O The Poverty Club, Cnr Childers Rd & Customhouse St, Gisborne
Hawkes Bay	Serviced by National Office
Manawatu 0800 AUTISM (288 476) manuwatu@autismnz.org.nz	PO Box 4624, Palmerston North 4422
Northland	Serviced by National Office
Nelson / Marlborough 03 539 0285 nelson-marlborough@autismnz.org.nz	PO Box 18, Upper Moutere 7144 107 Martin Road, Upper Moutere Nelson
Otago 03 474 9640 otago@autismnz.org.nz	PO Box 13102, Green Island Dunedin 9052 514 Great King Street, Dunedin 9016
Southland 03 216 5019 southland@autismnz.org.nz	C/O 153 Conyers St, Invercargill 9812
Taranaki 06 769 5958 taranaki@autismnz.org.nz	Communication House, 62 Powderham Street, New Plymouth 4310
Taupo 07 376 8272 taupo@autismnz.org.nz	100 Horomatangi Street, Taupo 3330
Waikato (07) 846 3351 waikato@autismnz.org.nz	108 Grandview Road, Nawton, Hamilton
Wanganui 06 343 2082 wanganui@autismnz.org.nz	C/O 180 Upper Roberts Avenue, RD14, Wanganui 4584
Wairarapa	Serviced by National Office (opening soon)
Wellington 04 472 1007 Ext 810 wellington@autismnz.org.nz	PO Box 12599, Thorndon, Wellington Ground Floor, Molesworth House, 101 Molesworth Street, Wellington

Sell your home with Harcourts

If you or someone you know is planning on selling and choose Harcourts, they will donate 10% of the commission to Autism NZ. Conditions apply, so please see our story on page three for more information.