

Thinking Differently

The quarterly newsletter of Autism New Zealand Inc.



Celebrating ASD in New Zealand CONFERENCE 2010 HIGHLIGHTS



Autism NEW ZEALAND
Celebrating ASD in New Zealand

We were lucky enough to have Gary Mesibov attend our recent conference as a keynote speaker.



Gary was the Director of Division TEACCH at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for 19 years. This internationally recognised statewide programme is one of a kind in its pioneering approaches to service, treatment, training, research and the education of individuals with autism. Gary now serves as Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, and Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychology.

Gary Mesibov speaks highly of Autism New Zealand

Preparing people with ASD for adulthood is an important issue. We are learning that students with ASD, just like everyone else, will live many more years of their lives as adults than they will as children, yet we're not sure what they'll be doing and how best to prepare them for these unknown futures.

"There were many standout moments and most involved the very kind and gracious people I met throughout my stay"

Gary's presentation looked at what we have learned about long-term needs and possibilities and described some of the skills that have been shown to be the most valuable for successful, productive and satisfying futures for these students. Understanding these needs and skills and having strategies for helping students with ASD to develop personal attributes and competencies can provide the foundation for successful education programmes.

We spoke to Gary about his trip to New Zealand and what he thought of the conference.

"I was thrilled and honoured to be asked to speak at the Autism New Zealand Conference," says Gary. "I enjoy talking about my ideas and the programmes I have created to people around the world, so this was a great opportunity for that."

Continued over page...



"Some amazing sessions and talks"



"Wonderful dinner on Saturday - fantastic"



"Great content!"



"Great venue - perfect"



Autism New Zealand Inc.
Including Asperger Syndrome and Related Disorders

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Celebrating ASD in New Zealand Conference continued...

Gary had never been to New Zealand before and had heard a lot of wonderful things about it from people who have travelled here, including his son and daughter-in-law, so he was excited to get a chance to see our lovely country first-hand.

Gary tries his best to ensure his audiences are happy with his presentations and hopes he didn't disappoint those attending.

"People were very kind and gracious in the feedback they gave to me so I am hoping my work was of interest and benefit to the people who took the time out of their busy schedules to come and hear me speak," he says.

Gary was pleased to be able to attend the entire conference. "The presentations were thought-provoking, interesting and represented a very wide and fascinating range of topics," Gary said. "I liked the diversity of ideas and people. Also the atmosphere was wonderful – informal, friendly, but also very profound and thoughtful."

We're proud that we made such an impact on Gary.

"There were many standout moments and most involved the very kind and gracious people I met throughout my stay," he says. "Wellington is a really lovely city, with lovely people. I'd highly recommend attending future conferences to everyone involved in the ASD community."

And Gary also learned a few things from us. "I think New Zealand has a combination of specialised and inclusive programmes for students with ASD as we do in the United States," he says. "But the balance in New Zealand is more on inclusion, where we have a larger number of more specialised programmes and training. It was interesting for me to see and think about some of the strengths and problems with each approach."



Exhibitors share their wares...

We would like to say a big thank-you to the companies who exhibited at the conference. Their products and services are an integral part of the treatment and management of people with ASD and the conference would not have been such a success without their support.

Thanks to:

Randstad, Altogether Autism, IHC, Guidelines Group, SmartMum Jewellery, Books By Josie, DTSL, The Sensory Corner, MagnumMac, MedicAlert, Fragile X Trust, Footprint Books and Logical Toys.



Welcome

I can't quite believe that yet another year has nearly disappeared! This time last year, I had just participated in my first branch training weekend and it was great to welcome back some familiar faces to my second one, which was held in early November here in Wellington.

It was also great to see a number of new committee members there and I am looking forward to ongoing conversations with them over the next year or two.

Much of what we discussed over the weekend centred around clarity of roles for committee members in the new environment resulting from the way Autism New Zealand conducts its business. With the implementation of the Board's Strategic Plan and the branches' business planning process this year we were all agreed that the focus is 'National Voice - Local Flavour'.

Peter Smith (Wanganui) and Scott Marshall (Waikato) gave an excellent presentation

about the programmes they run in their branches. This stimulated a great deal of discussion and branches seemed to really like the idea that Autism New Zealand will be developing programmes that will be run all over the country, allowing branches to share ideas with each other.

As the year draws to a close, it is timely to remember that families often experience greater levels of stress during what, to many others, is an opportunity to relax. In this newsletter we have asked you all to consider whether you can make a contribution to help us help those who need it most.

We will continue to work with government and other organisations to help them focus on what is a priority for us and for you as members. However we, like many other medium-sized not-for-profits, continue to operate on 'the smell of an oily rag', which is not a sustainable position to be in. We appreciate your thoughts and donations where possible.

I wish you all an enjoyable time over the summer break and look forward to increased contact with many of you in the New Year.

Alison Molloy
Chief Executive

Branch update: Taranaki

Recently at the Taranaki branch we have been working hard to increase awareness of ASD and raise the profile of Autism New Zealand.

Beginning 22 September and held over three days, the New Zealand Resource Teachers Learning and Behaviour Association held its annual conference in New Plymouth. The conference aimed to 'Energise the spirit with brave words'.

Our Taranaki branch members did just that, manning Autism New Zealand's stand for the whole conference and distributing information booklets and other resources.

We are pleased to say there was a lot of positive feedback on the day, with many people approaching our stand to ask questions and learn more about autism.

On 13 October, we held our AGM, which went off without a hitch and featured four informative guest speakers on a range of topics. So far all the feedback has been exceptionally positive.

In late November, we represented Autism New Zealand at the Paediatric Society of New Zealand's 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting where we had an exhibition stand to profile and raise awareness of autism.

New Autism Advisory Group

A new advisory group has been established to communicate with government agencies and senior government officials on work programmes involving people with autism.

We received 35 expressions of interest to join the new group and 20 of those people have been accepted. They are:

Alison Molloy	Andrea Ford	Matt Eggleston
Andrew Marshall	Ava Baker	Paula Jessop
Barry Kiwara	Brian Pulefolau	Susan Haynes
Caroline Hearst	Cheryl Palmer	Martin Matthews
Debbie Fewtrell	Gabrielle Hogg	Megan Chapman
John Grealley	Lyn Doherty	Sarah Turnbull

This is an outstanding group of people who have many levels of experience with autism, including those who live with autism as well as family, and clinical, disability, education and social welfare service deliverers.

Some have been involved with autism advisory groups in the past, which we believe will provide a sense of continuity; and those who haven't will bring brand new contributions and provide fresh insights.

As their focus evolves, the group will be seeking advice from people with specific expertise to ensure any gaps in knowledge are filled.

The first meeting of the group was held on 1 December 2010. We look forward to reporting on their progress in the next edition of *Thinking Differently*.

Candles of New Zealand

Taking the Tauranga Chamber of Commerce/ Westpac Tauranga Business Awards by storm

We would like to say a big congratulations to Steven and Nicola Farrant, owners of Candles of New Zealand, who recently won the Community Service/Social Responsibility Award at the Westpac Tauranga Business Awards.

When their son Ollie was diagnosed with autism, they created a candle to raise funds for Autism New Zealand and it was their support of our organisation that impressed the judges. We spoke to Toni Palmer, one of the two judges in this category of the Westpac Tauranga Business Awards.

"For a developing and emerging business, it's great to see the commitment Candles of New Zealand are making by donating part of their sales to Autism New Zealand," says Toni. "They're not just doing

this as a marketing ploy, but are involved because they believe in the cause, and that's a rare thing to find in these economic times."

Steven adds that he is proud that the candle not only raises awareness of autism, but also serves as a tool for parents and caregivers of people on the spectrum to use to relax and unwind, so it serves more than one purpose.

Congratulations again to Steven and Nicola and thank you for your wonderful support.

Christmas is just around the corner and the candles would make the perfect gift for family and friends.

You can buy them directly from the Flicker Candle Emporium store in Tauranga or through their online store, at www.flickercandles.co.nz. Candles cost \$18.45 each, with \$8 from each sale being donated to Autism New Zealand.

At the time of writing this article, Candles New Zealand had just heard that Stevens Homeware Stores have agreed to stock the Autism candle in their 30 stores nationwide.

"I approached Stevens Homeware Stores after our recent success and we are delighted that they have agreed to stock our Autism candle," says Steven. "It will give us national exposure for a cause very close to our hearts. Keep an eye out for it in a Stevens Homeware Store near you!"



Meet the Board

Here, we introduce you to all the different members of Autism New Zealand's Board.

Glenys Fry

Glenys Fry is the Board secretary. Glenys, who has an 18-year-old son with ASD (he was diagnosed at age three), has been involved with Autism New Zealand for many years.

As a positive, forward-thinking person, Glenys has big goals for autism awareness: "I dream of autism being as well known as other health issues, with people understanding what it means for our families to live with autism," she says.

Glenys is a very busy woman – operating a rental property business with her husband and holding down two other part-time jobs. "When I'm not working, I enjoy walking and cycling around Kaikoura, and also reading, sewing, gardening and, when I get time, cooking."

Angela Arnold-Saritepe

As Senior Lecturer of Applied Behaviour Analysis in the University of Auckland's Department of Psychology, Angela Arnold-Saritepe has over 20 years' experience working with individuals with ASD.

"My research and academic background is what I bring to the Board. I have worked with many people who have ASD, so I understand the breadth and individual differences in people on the spectrum," says Angela.

Angela was Auckland Branch Chairperson in the 1990s, before moving overseas to pursue her academic career. She has been involved with Autism New Zealand for many years and has a wealth of knowledge on the subject.

When she's not at work, Angela likes to spend time with her family and exploring native fauna and flora. "My son's fascination with birdlife and insects has rubbed off on me!"

John McKeown

Principal of a special needs school in Auckland, Autism New Zealand Board member John McKeown is a passionate professional, working closely with young people who have challenging behaviours and circumstances.

"I enjoy turning ideas into practice and, with experience, have developed a practical understanding of how things can work effectively, which I believe is valuable to the Board," says John.

John represented the New Zealand Special School Principals' Association on the Ministry of Education's Autism reference group back in 2002. This led to the Joint Ministries Guidelines Group, which produced the ASD Guidelines in 2008.

"My work with Autism New Zealand is something voluntary that allows me to give back to the community."

Outside of his professional and volunteer work, John has an interest in playing music and is a budding amateur photographer.

Jen Birch

At the age of 43, and quite by accident, Jen Birch was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome. Like many others in her situation, she joined Autism New Zealand for information and, of course, support. After a while, though, she found herself becoming more involved with the organisation.

"Before becoming a Board member, I was on the Auckland Branch Committee for several years. I also help to facilitate Auckland's Adult ASD Group," says Jen.

With the unique perspective gained from being on the autism spectrum herself, Jen's insights make her a valued member of the Board.

Jen also works at various part-time jobs, including as a regular filing clerk in an office. Her real passions, though, lie outside of work.

"I enjoy reading and visiting the library, participating in church activities and planting things in my garden, although I'm not so good at pulling the weeds out!"

Heather Clay

Working in mental health services for many years and with a daughter on the spectrum, Heather Clay has a long connection with our organisation.

"I've been involved with Autism New Zealand for many years now. For about 12 years I was on the Canterbury Branch Committee, and now I'm continuing my association with the organisation as a member of the Board," says Heather.

Heather's history of clinical work, combined with her extensive involvement in disabled sport, means she knows what people are capable of if they receive the right input and aren't discriminated against.

"I recently attended the Winter Paralympics in Canada and watched a young Kiwi who can barely walk win gold in the men's slalom, standing. It's amazing to see people achieve like that."

Outside of her job as a social worker in Wanaka and Upper Clutha, Heather really enjoys taking advantage of the great outdoors.

"I especially like snow sports, in particular

Nordic skiing but also tramping, cycling and equestrian."

Martin Wylie

Martin Wylie knows a thing or two about the business world. Originally a lawyer, he has been involved in the telecommunications industry for over 20 years now.

"I was the Chief Executive of CallPlus and Slingshot for five years and was previously CEO of Ihug. Before this I was Company Secretary at Telecom," says Martin. "I was also CEO of health insurance company Aetna for number of years."

Martin's affiliation with Autism New Zealand began when his youngest son was diagnosed with autism.

"Like a lot of people, I wasn't that aware of ASD until I had a child on the spectrum. After my son was diagnosed, I became involved with Autism New Zealand," explains Martin.

With his extensive background in the commercial sector, Martin's experience is a valuable resource for the Board.

"I bring to the Board the know-how to make sure finance and administration are run in a commercial fashion. With our limited resources, we have to strive to deliver the best services and outcomes for our members."

Outside of working, Martin spends his time raising his young family and is a keen boatie.

George Kingi

Working in the field of education for over 40 years, George Kingi has spent his life teaching kids all over New Zealand.

"I started out as a teacher, then was principal in several schools all around the country, and later on I also worked for the Ministry of Education. I've spent a lot of my time helping young people in their learning," says George.

Now retired, George became involved with Autism New Zealand after discovering his grandson was on the spectrum.

"I didn't really know what it was at first, so I tried to find out as much about it as I could," says George. "This led me to Autism New Zealand."

George is involved with his local iwi and believes this can give him some insights.

"I feel as though I bring a Māori perspective to the Board, which can be valuable at times."

George is enjoying his retirement, and having the time to develop his keen interest in woodwork and get out for a round of golf.

Respite Care

A mother's concern for her son's future

Janine Alexander's son was diagnosed as 'severely autistic' at the age of three and will soon be turning 17.

Parents of a child on the spectrum need to be aware that out of home respite care is not available in a lot of areas throughout New Zealand once their child reaches 17, and Janine is on a mission to rectify this.

Steven attends Arohanui Special School and has been receiving respite care at Sturges House, run by the Spectrum Care Trust, since the age of eight.

Although Janine is eligible for carer support, she has found it difficult to manage because of the amount of time it takes for Steven to feel comfortable with someone and the high turnover in caregiver staff.

"He's semi-verbal but has no conversation skills, although he does get his point across," says Janine. "However, it takes him a long time to trust someone and we were getting to the point where we were spending a huge amount of time working with a new caregiver, training them up and

building a rapport, only for them to move on to another position."

Janine believes that respite care is the best option for Steven as it gets him out of the house and builds on his social skills, amongst other important things.

"Anxiety is a major problem for Steven so the big difference is that Steven knows the people at Sturges House and they know and care about him. He goes to the same place four days a month (including overnight stays), and sees the same caregivers each time, which makes a real difference," says Janine. "He doesn't get to have sleepovers at friends' houses, so the benefits of the social contact are also great for him."

It also gives Janine and her family a well-deserved break. Janine admits that it has taken a long time to make this arrangement work for Steven and is disappointed that the care will not be funded or available from the time he reaches the age of 17.

What about residential care?

Without the choice of respite care, the only other option is residential, but that's not what all families want for their children.

"There's a big hole in the family when he's not here and we miss him when he's away," says Janine. "It's not about finding somewhere to send Steven; he needs it just as much for his own growth. The best place for Steven right now is within our family where he is valued and cared for, where he can continue to mature. We just need a little help. Even if residential care was an option for us, it is also difficult to access and has its own waiting list."

The sad thing is, his current respite facility would love for him to stay but, without funding or the appropriate contract with Ministry of Health, it's just not possible. The health authorities also add that it's not appropriate for Steven to be in care with smaller children because of the age gap, even though Steven has the mental age of a five year old.

Where to from here?

"I kept hearing from the Ministry of Health that families were telling them they didn't want out of home respite care and I wanted to

prove to them that there are actually a lot of families who would choose this if it was an option."

For the past year, Janine has written to MPs, the MoH and others, but to no avail. "So, I decided to call a meeting to discuss the fact that families are not all the same. Many of us with children on the spectrum would rather have our children living with us as well as having the opportunity to attend out of home respite care too," says Janine.

A total of 50 families turned up to the meeting, along with representatives from the MoH and Taikura Trust. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Principal of Oaklynn Special School, Colleen Smith.

"We were really pleased to have the support of both Oaklynn and Arohanui Special School Management as they are also aware of the need for quality respite care for families," says Janine. "Alison Molloy, our CE, also came along and was very supportive. She made a valuable comment that this is not just a regional problem, but a national one."

It is pleasing to note that the Ministry of Health's Disability Support Services are currently trialling a flexible service respite option for clients in the Nelson region and the results will be available in a couple of years.

At this stage, Janine is waiting to hear from the MoH about their feedback from the meeting and is planning to hold another meeting in the future.

"In the meantime, I'm going to do all I can to raise awareness of the lack of respite care and to give my son the opportunities in life that he is entitled to. We have seen the benefit to Steven and the rest of our family having time out from each other and we need this to continue."



Wendy Duff

When Wendy Duff's son was first diagnosed with ASD, she quickly got in touch with Autism New Zealand.

"I started out as an Auckland committee member, and then joined the national Board in 2000, moving into the role of National President in 2005," says Wendy.

With her son now 16, Wendy has first-hand experience at being a parent of a very high-needs child with ASD and severe behaviour problems.

"I know how difficult daily life can be for parents," explains Wendy. "I know where the gaps are in the system and where it's letting down families and those with ASD."

A huge advocate for those with ASD, Wendy would like to see the hard work she and Autism New Zealand are doing bring about real change for families and people affected by ASD.

"I'm able to stand up and fight the system and be an advocate for change. By working through these challenges, I'm hoping to create a pathway that is more effective for families following behind me."

Autism NZ Annual Report 2010

Our 2010 Annual Report is now available and we have included a summary of the President's report below. If you would like a full copy of the Annual Report, please contact National Office on (04) 470 7616.

President's Report

There have been a lot of positive changes for Autism New Zealand during the last year.

Chief Executive Alison Molloy and her team have played a large part in this, which was reflected in the feedback we received from attendees at our conference in September. Members have also reported that they feel that Autism New Zealand is well on its way to achieving a more professional profile. A big thank-you to Alison and her team for their continued commitment and tireless efforts.

Thanks also go to everyone involved with the re-location of our National Office from Christchurch to Wellington. I'm pleased to say the move went without disruption to the provision of services and information.

You won't be surprised to hear that the recession has made an impact on our funding during this financial year. We have managed the impact to some degree; however, we are still a long way from a financially sustainable position, which will continue to be a priority for the Board. But the good news is that for the first time we now have fully consolidated accounts for the organisation.

Strategic Plan

Our Strategic Plan was developed and approved by the Board and provides us with clear, measurable national goals and a well-defined direction towards becoming a national voice. Four key issues within the Strategic Plan are:

Respite Services

While the Ministry of Health is reviewing the need for such services, we are progressing at a faster pace by undertaking our own research, developing a feasibility study and working with a group who are planning to set up a new respite centre.

Adults

Autism New Zealand has spent time this year working with several organisations to identify best practice approaches to improving opportunities for employment, social interaction and other means of support for adults where required.

Expert Panel Group

An 'Expert Panel Group' has been established to provide the organisation with expertise on medical matters, including therapies and other interventions.

Excellent Service

We will continue to work with other organisations to ensure that the quality and appropriateness of our services support families, people on the spectrum and the professionals who support them.

Disability Services Consumer Consortium

I attended the Disability Services Consumer Consortium in 2009. Its role is to provide advice and input to planning processes and the development of policy and services. The

consortium will provide the link between Disability Services and the people who receive its services.

Branch Committees

I would like to thank the 13 branch committees for their continued - unpaid - commitment throughout the past year. You are critical to the success of our organisation at both a regional and national level and I am looking forward to good things in the months to come.

Board

I would like to thank our Board for the significant number of hours they have put in behind the scenes, which has resulted in substantial progress for them as a governance body.

My sincere thanks go to Margaret Mikaere, who officially finished with us in August 2010, for her efforts as our Cultural Advisor over the past two years. Margaret was replaced by George Kingi from Wellington as the newest Board member.

Martin Wylie, John McKeown, Glenys Fry, Heather Clay, Angela Arnold-Saritepe and Jen Birch will continue their roles into the next year.

Wendy Duff
PRESIDENT



Meet the Team : Matt Frost

"I'm committed to making sure people with unique challenges can overcome these and lead ordinary, or even extraordinary, lives," says Matt Frost, our Research and Policy Analyst.

Helping people overcome challenges is something Matt can identify with because he has had to overcome his own. Diagnosed as being on the spectrum, Matt has achieved University Honours and was the Chairperson of the New Zealand ASD Guideline Implementation Advisory Group for two years.

In his role at Autism New Zealand, Matt prepares discussion documents and policy submissions for us, while also working to increase the advocacy profile of the organisation.

"I used to have contact with Autism New Zealand and was really pleased to come and work for the organisation," says Matt. "Making positive changes for people, on both an individual and systemic

level, is something I find really rewarding."

Outside of Autism New Zealand, Matt is kept very busy with his passion for helping people and does voluntary work for a number of organisations.

"I'm a member of the National Executive Committee of the Disabled Persons Assembly, and I'm also Secretary of the Karori Park Sports Club and the Karori Cricket Club.

As you can imagine, this doesn't leave Matt with a whole lot of spare time! However, he can always squeeze in a couple more things. "I like to keep up with current events and all things related to sport, especially the cricket!"



Parent's voice

Sharon Bain, a born Kiwi battler...

Sharon Bain's grandmother gave her some good advice when she was a young child: "Put one foot in front of the other and keep going."

Sharon, now a mother of two and Service Support Coordinator for Autism New Zealand Otago Branch, has had her fair share of ups and downs in life, but her grandmother's advice has kept her going.

Born with scoliosis (curvature of the spine), which has resulted in having 11 back operations and suffering from Type 1 diabetes, Sharon's had her fair share of tough times.

And along came Luke...

Sharon's son Luke (now 11 years old) was diagnosed with autism at the age of two.

"To be honest, we thought he was deaf," says Sharon. "He wasn't talking like his older brother Regan was at that age, not even saying 'Mum'."

So Sharon took Luke along to a specialist for a hearing test. But it was soon clear that his hearing was fine, so they went to a paediatrician for help, and Luke was quickly diagnosed with ASD.

Sharon didn't know much about autism so her sister called the 0800 number and asked for some information on autism. A parent pack arrived a few days later.

"I had no idea what was ahead of me. I knew Luke needed me and that I had to try my best to upskill myself through reading and research, which I did," Sharon recalls.

Over the years, Luke's behaviour became more challenging and Sharon discovered that he had some pretty serious sensory issues, food being one of them. He also had a real fixation on his Thomas the Tank Engine gumboots.

"I must have gone through about 30 pairs over the years," says Sharon. "Once he grew too old for one specific pair - the only pair he would wear - we had to cut the toes out of the front just so he could fit into them. If we tried any other type of shoe or gumboot, he would just throw up."

As Luke was reaching school age, Sharon was finally offered a place on an Earlybird course after being on a waiting list for two years. And this is when her relationship with Autism New Zealand began.

"I wish I'd been able to attend the Earlybird course years earlier; it's a wonderful programme," says Sharon. "But because of a lack of knowledge about what Autism New Zealand could offer families in my area, it took two years to get the minimum number of six families required to run the course," Sharon says.

This 'lack of knowledge and support' in Otago inspired Sharon to call a public meeting to discuss starting a branch of Autism New Zealand - and over 60 people turned up!

"I had no idea there were so many people in my community who were struggling and needed support," Sharon says.



Supporting her community through Autism New Zealand Otago Branch

With school going well for Luke, Sharon set up the Autism New Zealand Otago Branch from home and rented a room at the local church for monthly support group meetings. The Otago branch really took off.

"It all got too big for me," says Sharon. "I was doing about 30 voluntary hours a week and just couldn't give any more time voluntarily. So, the National Office decided to give me a paid job!"

The Otago branch now shares an office with Parent to Parent, which is a logical partnership. They work closely together and share office and other running costs.

Sharon's role as Service Support Coordinator includes running the office, providing face-to-face support, promoting Autism New Zealand programmes, sending out newsletters, organising guest speakers and running support group evenings and coffee morning groups. But that's not all.

"We've just started coffee groups in rural Otago areas as well and have run a great fundraiser based on the Amazing Race, which was heaps of fun," says Sharon.

A well-deserved nomination

It's no surprise that Sharon still puts in the voluntary hours on top of her paid work and she was recently acknowledged for this with a nomination for a Kiwi Battler Award.

Jeni Dickie, who has a daughter with ASD, lives in Dunedin and came across Sharon when she was speaking at her support group evening.

"After meeting Sharon at our support group I'd often give her a call to pick her brains. She works so hard at what she does, and not only for her own family; she puts herself out there to help others. She's easy to talk to and cares about everyone," says Jeni.

Sharon was nominated along with 500 other New Zealanders and was shortlisted to the final five. Although she didn't take out the national award, Sharon is proud to have got that far.

"It was awesome," she says. "I'd already decided I would take Luke to Wiggles World in Australia if I won. But that will have to wait!"

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 the **Cookie Time Charitable Trust**, the **Lottery Grants Board**, **Pub Charity** and **Lion Foundation** for your funding support; and to **Y&R**, **Slingshot MedicAlert** and **Haven Licensing** for your ongoing assistance. We'd also like to welcome on board **Pelorous Trust** as our most recent supporter.



Great wine for a great cause

It's nearly Christmas and you are probably looking to stock up the wine cellar – you can now do so and help Autism New Zealand at the same time! We have joined with three other charities and a Nelson winery to launch Wines for Compassion. One hundred percent of the profits from these wines come to the charities involved. High quality wines at wonderful prices and you are helping Autism New Zealand at the same time – what could be better!



Go to www.compassionwines.com to order today.

Fashion meets charity

A great new concept in helping charity has just been launched – www.the-collection.co.nz is a niche auction site where the fashion conscious and charity-minded can give and shop at the same time, 365 days of the year.

The-collection is the place to build up your designer collection and give to your favourite charity's 'collection' box.



This newsletter was brought to you by:

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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.

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