

President's Report AGM – Sunday 17th October 2010

At this year's AGM, I would like to start the meeting with a minute's silence in memory of a great man who was a husband to Madhwi, son to Ed, a current Board member and most of all, friend of the Society, the late Todd Fernie.

Todd's life tragically ended far too early on the 14th December 2009, at the age of 39. Todd would have been 40 in July and it would have been great if Todd was still with us at today's AGM. Todd's sense of humour and presence at meetings or gatherings would always brighten up the occasion. Todd was a great champion for disabled people and students at AUT and he influenced many people that he had dealings with.

Todd was elected to the Society's Board back in October 2007 and was also one of the two Society appointees on the Board of Iris Ltd up until his passing. You were a great bloke Todd. The Board is currently looking into ways that his legacy can live on through a scholarship in his memory.

Our condolences also go out to the families of the other members of the Society who have passed away within the last year.

This year marks a very important milestone in the Society's history. 60 years ago the Spastic Fellowship was formed in January, 1951. The Fellowship then evolved into the Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand, and on the 12th March 2011 at the Auckland Museum, we will be celebrating the 60 years that the Society has been in existence and recognizing the people that have been involved in growing the Society into what we have today. Invitations will be sent out in November and we look forward to celebrating the occasion with our members and invited guests.

As of 1st October 2010, the Cerebral Palsy Society has 829 members, throughout NZ. Of these members, 696 have renewed their membership after the 30th June 2010. Of the total 829 members, 738 have Cerebral Palsy - 514 live in the North Island (318 in the Auckland region) and 224 live in the South Island (134 in the Canterbury region). As a result of these members spread throughout New Zealand, Janet Chapman (Members Manager) has visited many parts of the country, from Northland to Southland, to meet with as many members as possible.

The Society has now grown in size to 4 full time staff, 3 part time, and one contractor, they are; Harvey Brunt, Michael Northcott, Janet Chapman, Luke Morris, Ross Flood, , Amy Hogan, Dominic Hager and Paul Munckhof. Luke is the most recent employee and started in the position of Director of Boccia on the 1st September. A warm welcome to Luke, we hope that Boccia has a good increase in membership as a result of Luke's work over the next 12 months.

On behalf of the Board I would like to offer our thanks to Harvey, Janet and Michael for organising all of the various Society events over the last 12 months. From Member's lunches and brunches to Boccia tournaments to Trots Nights to Cabaret Nights to Interact Theatre, each year there are new events on offer and we really do appreciate the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that these events can go smoothly and are a success for all who attend.

Thank you once again to Ross and Paul for continuing to do a great job with uploading and maintaining content on the Society's website and for editing and producing 'The Review' each quarter. Well done guys.

Dominic Hager has been assisting Harvey and the team with administration duties and Amy Hogan is currently conducting research into "CP through the Life Span". Thanks Dominic and Amy for all of your hard work so far and we look forward to Amy's findings into the research over the next 12 months.

The social events over the last 12 months that have been organised by Harvey, Janet and Michael have been very well attended by members, their families and carers and are always enjoyed by all in attendance. It is great to see that new people are attending these events for the first time and enjoying the company of other members.

The 2009 Christmas lunch in Auckland had just under 200 people attend, the Christchurch lunch had 92 people attend. This year, the AKL mid winter lunch was replaced with a Cabaret dinner and show in Auckland and 163 people attended. By all accounts the "Diva troop" put on a great show and everyone danced well into the night. 56 members also attended a Cabaret show in CHC. Janet has also organised members brunches in other smaller towns and cities throughout NZ.

Thank you Janet and Harvey for ensuring that these events are such great successes and well attended by members of the Society.

Over the last 12 months, Harvey and Michael have been busy managing and running the below programmes that the Society offers, as well as Janet encouraging members to take advantage of the programmes on offer throughout her tour of the country. The current programmes are:

1. **getOutThere** – we now have 421 members with Cerebral Palsy using this programme, utilising the benefits of subsidised taxi services throughout New Zealand. There are now 43 Taxi Companies taking part in the programme.
2. **getThis&That** – there are now 208 members with Cerebral Palsy using this programme to purchase small items to support their daily living needs. There are 20 suppliers throughout New Zealand who have agreed to accept the Society's getThis&That vouchers.
3. **getStructured** – 15 members and their families have now signed up to use this programme to get their wills/legal paperwork in order so that in the event of death in the family, those members with Cerebral

Palsy will be looked after. Over the past 12 months, the Board has reviewed this programme and provided greater financial assistance in recognition of the high cost of setting up a trust or will. The Society will contribute 90% (up to a maximum of \$1500+GST) of a lawyer's bill to set up a will or trust and we hope that over the next 12 months, the uptake on this programme continues to grow.

- 4. getOnYourTrike** – there are currently 27 members taking part in this programme, by the end of this year it is expected to be over 40. Chris Haverkort and his team have been making the tricycles for children with cerebral palsy to use. It is wonderful to see that children can keep up their therapy, as well as having fun, by using these tricycles. Thanks Chris for enhancing the lives of our younger members and their families.

The Board and the General Manager review these programmes throughout the year to ensure that they are benefiting all members. We still feel that they go a long way to empowering and enhancing the lives of our members with Cerebral Palsy, and their families.

This year, as in the past years, the Boards of the Society and Iris Ltd had their joint strategic planning session in March. This annual event enables both Boards to work together and for Harvey and John Wade (CEO of Iris) to update both Boards on financial performance to date and budgetary planning. These sessions provide a great opportunity for the Boards to interact and ensure that business and strategic plans are being adhered to.

Like at lot of other company's, Iris Ltd had a difficult year with some of their business units, however it still achieved a financial result better than budgeted and provided a dividend to the Society to help fund the programmes that the Society offers. Iris was re-branded in November last year and John Wade and his senior management team are continuing to ensure that Iris provides the highest quality of service and care to all of its clients. We hope that over the next 12 months, Iris can obtain some new service contracts, which will in turn result in continued financial returns for the Society.

Back in April this year, Harvey, Tracy Wadsworth and I had the opportunity to present an oral submission to Heather Roy and other members of the Special Education Review panel in Auckland. We presented the Society's case on behalf of our members and their families who would be affected by the cut in special education funding. This was the first occasion that we have been able to advocate on behalf of our members at such a forum and we look forward to advocating more at the ministerial level.

Cerebral Palsy Society – Director Retirement

On behalf of the CPS Board, I would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to the 3 board members who are retiring from the Board at this AGM, they are: **Daniel Aldersley, Paul Munckhof and Amy Hogan**. Amy is not retreating as she is an employee and Paul as he is a contractor, the new constitution that was approved at last November's SGM does not allow for employees or contractors of the Society to stand for election onto the Board.

Daniel Aldersley is retiring after 3 years of service to spend more time with his family and was elected to the Board at the AGM of October 2007, in 2008 Daniel was elected as the Vice President. Daniel has been very supportive over his years on the Board and we will certainly miss Daniel's financial knowledge and skills at Board meetings as well as his services on the Investment and Grants Committees. Lucky for the Society, Daniel has agreed to continue on as one of the Society's representatives on the Board of Iris Ltd, so his skills are not completely lost to the organisation. Thank you Daniel for all of the energy and time that you have put into the Society over the last 3 years, we shall certainly miss you at our Board meetings.

Paul Munckhof was elected onto the Board at the AGM of 2005. Over the last 5 years, Paul has invested a huge amount of personal time and energy into the Society and its subsidiary, being a Board member on Iris Ltd as well. In the 2006 New Years Honours list, Paul was made a Member of the NZ Order of Merit in recognition for Paul's services to disabled sport, in particular Boccia NZ. Paul has certainly been a very strong advocate for people with Cerebral Palsy within NZ and he has been on the Board during some very challenging and rewarding times over the last 5 years, not to mention Paul's health issues, which has never impacted on Paul's commitment to the Society. Thank you Paul for all of your support and for helping to build the Society into what we are today, without you on the Board, things may have certainly taken a different turn. All the best Paul, hopefully now you have more time to work alongside of Ross in doing a great job producing the Review and looking after the website.

Amy Hogan (and Bonnie) was elected onto the Board in October 2008 and I will certainly miss Amy's expert knowledge relating to Cerebral Palsy and her support and input while attending the many board meetings and strategic planning sessions over the last 2 years. Thankfully, like Paul, Amy's wisdom is not lost to the Society and she will continue on with her research role - "CP through the Life Span". We look forward to hearing about your findings in your reports back to the Board over the next 12 months Amy. All the best with your research.

To the existing board of Tracy Wadsworth, Rosaline Fuatai, Red Nicholson (appointed in July) and Harvey Brunt (ex-officio), thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Society over the last 12 months. I truly appreciate your involvement on the Board and thanks also to your families for the many hours that you are away from home on Society business over the last year. To the new Board members that are being elected today, welcome onboard and I look forward to your contribution and the skills that you will be bringing to the Board over the next 12 months.

Over the coming year we have a very busy period ahead with preparations for the 60th Anniversary celebrations well underway. We are also looking for somebody to take on the role of Patron of the Cerebral Palsy Society in order to further increase our public awareness during this time of celebrating our past and looking forward to the future.

Earlier this year the Board reviewed the Mission Statement of the Society and we came up with the following - **"To enhance the lives of people with cerebral palsy throughout NZ, by empowering them to make their own choices"**, we hope that this has in fact been the case for you over the last year and for many more to come.

Karl Sangster, President of the Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand Inc