

## President's Report – AGM 2009



Today we start the process of accepting the proposed new constitution. It has taken much discussion to get to a stage where the board is comfortable with the document being presented to you. We hope to get a 75% acceptance at this afternoon's meeting in order to progress to the next stage of member's ratification. I would like to thank Daniel Aldersley and Peter Atkinson for their assistance and also the Board for the long hours to get this document ready to present to this meeting.

Since last year's AGM, we have had a 26% increase in financial members, we now have over 536 current financial members. There are 392 members in the North Island (319 in AKL), 142 members in the South Island (93 in CHC) and 2 overseas based members, we are now a truly New Zealand based Society and the Board look forward to expanding to other parts of New Zealand over the coming year.

The Society's employees: Harvey Brunt, Michael Northcott, Janet Chapman and Ross Flood have had another busy year organising events throughout NZ from member's lunches, boccia tournaments to 'nights at the trots'. On behalf of the Board I would like to offer our thanks to Harvey, Michael and Janet for the hard work put in over the last 12 months and for enhancing our lives as a result. Paul Munckhof and Ross Flood continue to do a great job on our website and with our quarterly publication, 'The Review', thanks guys.

The social events that have been organised and run by the team have been very well attended by members, their families and carers and have been memorable occasions. It's great to see so many members using their getOutThere vouchers to attend these events.

The 2008 Christmas lunch in Auckland had 168 people attend and the Christchurch lunch had 78 people attend. Both lunches were great occasions; many laughs were had (especially during the AKL floor show) as well as great food!

The Society boccia tournament organised by Harvey and the team over the last year was well attended by members throughout New Zealand. It is a very successful tournament and keep people coming back year after year.

On the night of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 95 members and carers attended a night at the trots at Alexandra Park in Auckland. Janet Chapman managed to secure a wonderful venue and by all accounts from those who were able to attend, this was a fantastic evening and one which we look to have as a regular event. We are looking to organise a similar event in Christchurch for our South Island members over the coming months.

The 2009 Mid Winter Christmas lunch in Auckland had 176 people attend and the Christchurch lunch had 73 people attend. Both lunches had a great participation from members, families and carers. On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July I was fortunate, along with Janet Chapman and my wife Lon, to represent the Board at the Christchurch lunch at the Latimer hotel, it was great to be able to meet so many of our Christchurch members on this day.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, Playback Theatre returned to act out experiences of members of the Society at Erson Ave. This was another event which brought much humour to those who attended and looks to be another regular event in the Society's social calendar.

Over the last 12 months, Harvey and the team have been busy managing the existing programmes as well as encouraging members to take advantage of the programmes on offer. The three main programmes are:

1. **getOutThere** – we now have 296 members signed up to this program, who are enjoying the benefits of subsidized taxi services throughout 20 regions in New Zealand. We hope to get more taxi providers on board as we increase our membership base in other parts of New Zealand, and that members continue to sign up and take advantage of the subsidized transportation that this programme offers.
2. **getThis&That** – to date 73 members with Cerebral Palsy have used this program to purchase small items to support their daily living needs.
3. **getStructured** – 4 families, who are members are using this program 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.

The Board believes that these programmes, plus the newly introduced getOnYourTrike programme, go a long way to empowering and enhancing the lives of our members with cerebral palsy, and their families.

The Boards of the Society and Focus 2000 Ltd had their joint annual strategic planning session in March. This annual event enables both boards to work together and for Harvey and John Wade (CEO of Focus 2000) to update the Boards on financial performance to date and budgetary planning. These sessions provide an opportunity for the Boards to interact and ensure that business and strategic plans are being adhered to.

Focus 2000 had another successful year and continues to grow and service more clients each year. Over the next few weeks, Focus will be going through a re-branding exercise, please keep an eye out on the Society's website to see what the new Focus brand looks like. John Wade and his senior management team have done a wonderful job over the last 12 months in providing the highest quality of service and care to the clients, and this has resulted in a good financial return for the Society.

Harvey, myself and Dianne Kidd (Focus 2000 Chair) had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister John Key at his Huapai Electorate office back on the 27<sup>th</sup> August. This meeting was to discuss the proposed cuts in therapy

entitlement at 23 schools. John Key indicated that the funding was not going to be removed, however this was another good example of both the Society and Focus working together for the benefit of our membership.

#### **Cerebral Palsy Society – Director Retirement**

On behalf of the CPS Board, I would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to the 2 board members who are retiring from the Board at this AGM, Dave Thomas and Immanuel Koks.

Immanuel Koks was elected to the Board at the AGM of October 2007 and has now taken up study in Canada and unfortunately can no longer be on the Board. We will certainly miss Immanuel's expert wisdom on all things relating to Cerebral Palsy and his input at board meetings and strategic planning sessions. We would always welcome him back to the Board when he returns to New Zealand as his skills and knowledge were invaluable.

Dave Thomas was elected at last years AGM as Secretary/Treasurer and was immediately appointed to the Investment Committee, as well as being heavily involved with CPS Board activities. Thanks Dave for volunteering your time over the past 12 months, we will certainly miss your experience and financial knowledge at Board level.

To the existing board of Daniel Aldersley, Todd Fernie, Tracy Wadsworth, Paul Munckhof, Amy Hogan, Rosaline Fuatai and Harvey Brunt (ex-officio), thanks for your continued support (and your families) and your dedication to the Society over the last 12 months. It can be a hard road at times and I truly appreciate your involvement on the Board.

Over the next year, the Board has identified Research, Advocacy and increasing membership in new regions as key areas to focus on. We have begun a research project that will provide valuable information for our members and identify areas where programmes or services are required. We are in the early stages of planning for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cerebral Palsy Society which will be happening in early 2011.

Thanks you for your attendance today and for supporting the Society. I would also like to acknowledge once again Harvey and his staff for helping to make this year a memorable one and for making the Society relevant to our members and their families.

Yours sincerely,

Karl Sangster  
President of the Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand