



New Zealand Foundation for CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION

MAXIMISING THE ABILITY IN DISABILITY

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From the National Coordinator, Rebecca Courtney



It's been a busy and rewarding period for the NZ Foundation for Conductive Education, and I'm pleased to share some of our recent highlights with you.

Strategic Planning

We were fortunate to recently have an invite from Forsyth Barr extended to us – thank

you to Nicola Smithson and Simon Bowden for leading the NZFCE Board through a strategic planning day around creating sustainable funding for Conductive Education. We were also joined by Patron Chris Harris, Life member Sir Wayne Smith and Ambassador Brad Mooar who all once again gave their time so generously.

Fundraising

Conductive Education Awareness month and Wheel-a-thon was again well supported and it has been fantastic to see several of our Affiliate Centres get in behind raising awareness and funds for their organisations with over **\$15,000** raised between those that participated. Check out the story Stuff ran on the ACET event. <https://www.thepress.co.nz/nz-news/360799885/crusaders-cricket-stars-go-wheelie-hard-disability-fundraiser>



"Leadership & Laughs"

Our *Leadership and Laughs* fundraising Breakfast was an outstanding success. Filled with Leadership gems and plenty of laughs it raised over **\$55,000** to support our programmes and services. Thank you to Emm and Terry McCartney NZHL Canterbury Metro for sponsoring the event and MintHC for providing all of the marketing material pro bono. Also thanks to Sir Wayne Smith and James Laughlin for the idea, the content and many of the auction items. Thank you to Rachel for sharing her touching story about what Conductive Education has meant to her whānau, to Scott Robinson and Gilbert Enoka for giving up their morning for NZFCE and all of those who purchased tables, donated items and supported the event.



With The Crusaders

In May our Canterbury Affiliates were invited to attend the Crusaders - Chiefs game and participate in the Crusaders Guard of Honour with past alumni and the players families. This was a unique experience for our people and their whānau. Thank you to the Crusaders management for the invitation.



New Ambassador

We have a new Ambassador! We are delighted to welcome Vicky McFall on as an official NZFCE Ambassador. Vicky joins our wonderful team of ambassadors. Vicky has attended our programmes since she was a baby and now attends Adult Conductive Education Trust. She loves attending events and promoting the work our Affiliates do.

Attitude TV Story

Attitude TV ran a fabulous story on our Chairperson Craig Nielsen and his son Zak, I can highly recommend you take 20 mins out of your day to watch this moving story that highlight's Craig's dedication to Zak and to the disability community. <https://youtu.be/gaT3exkBHFE?si=cOBFPBerO0WgAhmd>

Time now to grab a cuppa and enjoy reading what our wonderful Affiliates have been up to around the motu.

Ngā mihi nui, Rebecca

GlowKids – Auckland



Kia ora e te whānau. My name is Rhiannon Schroder. I am the new Centre Manager for GlowKids. I'm beyond excited to step into this role and look forward to getting to know all GlowKids tamariki and whānau!

I've had the privilege of working in Early Childhood Education for 16 years. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to manage and teach at a range of centres, and I've seen firsthand how powerful early intervention and strong relationships can be for tamariki.

I'm passionate about creating a nurturing, respectful environment where tamariki can thrive with a heart-led, holistic approach to their learning. I believe in the importance of building trust and open communication, not just with children, but with whānau and the teaching team too.

This year GlowKids took part in the Wheelie Awesome Wheel-a-thon! On the 28th August we held a wheelie fun day for the tamariki and with the support of our whānau raised \$1940. Thank you to all our whānau for all their support.

We will welcome back Bria next term as an OT student. Bria was previously our administrator and will be joining us in term 4. We will also be welcoming another OT student (TBC) and look forward to supporting them on their learning journey at AUT.

A big thank you to *Tui Gardens* for their kind donation towards our spring garden, we are all looking forward to learning about sustainability and watching our kai grow.

Thank you also to *The Kindness Collective*, who will soon be supporting a renovation of our playground, ensuring everyone has accessibility to all areas of our playground and equipment that meets our individual needs.



Conductive Education Woodstock Primary – Hamilton

Farewell from Bronwyn – It is with mixed emotions that I write my last newsletter piece before moving on to a different area in specialist education. After 19 years at Woodstock school, ten in Conductive Education, it is going to be a very sad ending to the term. My time here has been such a rewarding and special chapter of my life filled with wonderful students and supportive colleagues. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight my wonderful staff and the children that I work with. I am incredibly lucky to have amazingly dedicated and fun people that make all learning enjoyable and possible for all our children. From racing around in colour runs, cooking up a storm, learning all methods of communication, getting right into messy sensory play and

taking care of all physical and personal cares. Thank you to the team at CEU Woodstock!

Welcome to the new leader of the Woodstock Conductive Education Unit, Emma Stewart. Emma is not new to Conductive Education as she has been a teacher in the unit at Woodstock.

NZFCE were delighted to be able to fund through their professional development fund both Emma and Principal Paul Wine to visit Harakeke and Addington Te Kura Taumatua recently. Paula and Emma spent time with Bridget Manson Harakeke Manager and Principal Donna Bilas. This is one of the strengths of the Conductive whānau, we are fortunate to have a network of affiliated centres that are happy to share and support each other.



Harakeke Unit at Addington Te Kura Taumatua – Christchurch

Kia ora koutou

Term 3 has been a vibrant and busy one for our tamariki and team as we dove deep into the schoolwide theme of "Oceans", with a big build-up to our whole school production of Disney's *Finding Nemo Jr*, which was performed this term to much excitement and applause!

As part of the production, our unit joined forces with the junior school to become part of a colourful coral reef ensemble at the front of the stage. In preparation, we had a blast tie-dyeing our own t-shirts to wear as part of our costumes – a fun, creative activity that gave each student the chance to contribute to the show in their own unique way. They also got to wear caps that were decorated as coral reefs too.

Our learning has been filled with discovery, imagination, and hands-on exploration. In sensory sessions, we've engaged with all things under the sea – from sharks and fish to jellyfish, seaweed, waves, and of course, everything about *Finding Nemo*. These sessions have been rich in language, movement, and sensory experiences, helping our students make real-world connections in fun and meaningful ways.



In science, we've been diving into non-fiction, learning fascinating facts about a wide range of ocean creatures – including sharks, octopuses, penguins, jellyfish, starfish, sea turtles, and coral. We've also carried out lots of hands-on experiments to help us understand the special features and adaptations these animals use to survive in their environments – from blubber insulation, different types of shark teeth, and how jellyfish move, to octopuses squirting ink and starfish regrowing their legs. These interactive sessions have sparked so much curiosity and wonder in our learners.

Each week, we've also "travelled" the globe through our weekly country study, where we learn a little about a different country – and then try our hand at cooking a recipe from that place. These sessions have offered exciting new tastes, smells, and cultural connections, and have become a real highlight of our week.

Of course, we also participated in Wheelie Awesome Month again this term – a much-loved part of our calendar. We were thrilled to meet our goal for wheeling kilometres 80kms each, and our students showed determination, joy, and teamwork throughout. While we've reached our movement target, our fundraising efforts are ongoing, and we're so grateful to everyone in the community who continues to support our learners and programmes.

As always, our team continues to weave the principles of Conductive Education through every aspect of our learning, ensuring that every activity supports communication, movement, independence, and confidence. It's been a joy to watch our students thrive in such a dynamic and engaging environment.

We're incredibly proud of the mahi our learners have done this term – and we're just as proud to be part of such a supportive and creative school community.

Harakeke Team



Conductive Education Taranaki – New Plymouth

Kia ora koutou, from the CE Taranaki team.

It has been a lively and rewarding few months here, with plenty happening both inside and outside the classroom. Our roll has remained strong, keeping our Conductors and therapists very busy each week.

This past term, we sparked curiosity and creativity in the classroom as we explored a variety of occupations. This topic offered wonderful opportunities for role play, practicing social interactions and learning about the people and places that make up our community. Some groups discovered the charm of traditional snail mail, while others took on the responsibility of buying milk for the office from the local dairy.

Whānau involvement continues to be a highlight, with many happy faces at our annual Wheelie Awesome Wheel-a-thon event, held mid-September. A wheelie awesome Sunday afternoon completing laps, bouncing on the bouncy castles, eating sausies and steak sammies, getting in to win the raffles, stocking up on delicious baking, and leaving looking a little different with a gorgeous face paint. Once again our community came together to support us and we are truly grateful.

Behind the scenes, our Board and staff have been progressing work on our Early Childhood Education initiative. It is an exciting project, and while there is still plenty of planning to do, we are feeling optimistic about what this could mean for families in Taranaki.

AAC for the Win!

This year has seen exciting progress and growth in our tamariki with their use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) within the classroom and in their wider learning environments. Conductive Education Taranaki is all about multimodal communication and we actively use NZSL – New Zealand Sign Language – in our sessions alongside spoken language to support children's understanding and offer an additional or alternative means of expressing themselves. One way we do this is planning a Sign of the Week that reflects our termly theme and the focus for that week in the classroom. Term 3 saw us focussing on 'Occupations' and our chosen signs were verbs and describing words related to each occupation. A standout sign which the kids loved to use was 'loud' – such a useful word! Another way we use AAC is through modelling of device-based communication systems such as *TD Snap* and *Proloquo2Go* on our CET iPad; It's been exciting having our own device to incorporate in speech sessions and the classroom, and to take into the community to show kindergartens what AAC can look like for our tamariki. Our children who have their own devices also bring these to session, and they love to share how they're feeling or share news from the previous week during circle time at the start of each session. Last week, our Speech and Language Therapist, Cara, observed a beautiful multimodal circle time. It was a wonderful opportunity to reinforce that every way of sharing our thoughts—whether through speech, sign, a communication device, or a combination—is equally valid.

As always, we are proud of the resilience and enthusiasm of our tamariki and grateful to our whānau, staff, and community supporters who make our work possible.

Ka Kite anō,

The team at Conductive Education Taranaki





Neuro Connections – Auckland

This winter has been a busy and rewarding season for our team and clients at the Neuro Connection Foundation.

We've enjoyed coming together for social fundraising events, including a cosy Devonshire Tea and our much-anticipated Annual Soup-er Winter Warmer fundraiser. Both gatherings provided not only delicious treats but also wonderful opportunities for connection, laughter, and strengthening the sense of community that our centre is known for.

Like many, we've also felt the effects of the winter cold and flu season, with client attendance impacted at times by illness. Despite these challenges, our classes have remained full of energy, and we are proud of the resilience and dedication our clients continue to show in their rehabilitation journeys.

We were also delighted to represent our centre at the Disability Connect Transition Expo, where we connected with families, young people, and other providers. These opportunities allow us to share our services, build new relationships, and reinforce our commitment to supporting people living with disability in West Auckland and beyond.

Through all these activities, one thing remains constant - our passion for empowering clients to lead more independent, connected lives, while fostering strong relationships within the wider disability community.

*Warm wishes,
The Neuro Connection Team*

Conductive Education Wellington Trust – Wellington

This year is flying by, and it's wonderful to see the children enjoying more outdoor playtime as the weather warms up again!

Our tamariki and their whānau enthusiastically participated in the Wheel-a-thon this August, joining forces with Naenae Primary School for an unforgettable event. There were classic cars that captured the children's attention and they all did a great job decorating their 'wheels' and the teachers looked awesome in their costumes.

We raised nearly \$1000 for our building project - what an incredible achievement!

In July, we bid farewell to our Early Childhood teacher, Vichelle. We were fortunate to have two amazing relief teachers, Colleen and June, step in to keep our centre running smoothly. Their calm presence and gentle interactions have been a hit with the children, who are thoroughly enjoying their time with them.

Despite the winter chill, our tamariki have continued their horse-riding and swimming activities. They also had an exciting trip to Te Papa at the end of last term, where they engaged in some fantastic interactive learning activities.

As we approach the end of the year, we have a few children preparing for their last term with us before heading off to school. It's a time of mixed emotions for everyone, but we're excited to see them embark on their new adventures!



Conductive Education Canterbury – Christchurch

Spring is well and truly here, bringing with it some wild weather – but also the joy of blooming flowers and vibrant blossoms across Ōtautahi. Our tamariki have been making the most of the sunny days, enjoying time outdoors and working on a range of gross motor skills. Over the past two terms, it's been exciting to see their progress in coordinating movement and building balance as they explore riding bikes, trikes, and scooters. This development was on full display during our *Wheelie Awesome Wheelathon* in August. A huge thank you to all our CEC whānau who took part – your enthusiasm and support made it a memorable event!

As the end of the year approaches, we want to take a moment to acknowledge those who offer us ongoing support. *He rau ringa, e oti ai* – many hands make light work – and this couldn't be more true when we think of the wider CEC whānau who generously give their time, resources, and fundraising efforts to support our centre.

A special thank you to Villa Maria College, who reached out last term to engage in the *Brain Box Initiative* – resource boxes thoughtfully created around each child's individual interests. Their generosity extended to our friends in Harakeke at Addington Te Kura Taumatua, as more students wanted to participate than we had tamariki. The care and creativity poured into each box was evident. Ngā mihi nui to everyone involved.



We also want to acknowledge Nico Wildbore, a former CEC participant who continues to give back by volunteering in our programmes. Last term, we celebrated Nico's graduation – a milestone that reflects incredible determination and hard work. Congratulations, Nico! We're so proud of you and grateful for the ongoing support from you and your whānau.



We're also deeply appreciative of NZFCE and the support they provide to our organisation and the wider CE whānau across Aotearoa. This term, CEC whānau were thrilled to take part in a Guard of Honour at a Crusaders rugby match alongside other CE centres and kura in Ōtautahi. Through NZFCE, we've also accessed the Wellbeing Fund for staff and the Professional Development Fund – two fantastic initiatives that strengthen our team and our impact.



Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the funders who have supported CEC over the past year: New Zealand Community Trust, Lottery Community Fund, Rātā Foundation, Kiwi Gaming, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, Pub Charity, and Mainland Foundation. Your contributions make a real difference in what we can offer and how we support our CEC whānau.

Wishing you all a joyful and fulfilling end to 2025 – from everyone at CEC.

Adult Conductive Education Trust – Christchurch



Wow, here we are almost at the end of the year and what a year it has been for ACET. We continue to be amazed by how our programmes have grown this year, particularly the feedback and acknowledgement from the wider community. Over this past term we welcomed staff from the Christchurch City Council to observe our gym session. The local council is keen to learn ways to make their gyms more accessible for the disabled community and they were impressed by how much our people did and how they accessed the equipment on offer. Here's hoping that more accessible equipment is available, so our people have choice around what they do in their local community.

At the end of August the sun was shining for our wheelie active fun day celebrating Conductive Education Awareness Month. A wheel around the reserve was lots of fun as well as games, sausages and socializing. Chris Harris, Patron for NZFCE and Brad Mooar, NZFCE Ambassador were on hand with the Super Rugby Pacific Trophy to add to the festivities. A highlight for the day was welcoming Vicky McFall to the ranks of NZFCE Ambassador and



acknowledging the significant contribution she makes at both a local and national level. We are so proud to call Vicky one of our own and want to celebrate and acknowledge her and this great achievement. Special thanks to Chris, Brad, Councillor for Papanui Victoria Henstock, Rotary Club of Papanui, Braintree Wellness Centre, Papanui High School Students and of course all our people who supported the event.

We would also like to thank the wider ACET whānau for their support over the last few months, particularly we would like to acknowledge those who fundraised on our behalf during August by taking part in our month long wheelathon. Special mention goes out to Team Pedal

to the Metal for their efforts, clocking up 1000kms on their wheels.

Finally, thank you to our generous contributors: our Staff, Board Members, Volunteers and ACET whānau; Lottery Community Fund; Rātā Foundation, Kiwi Gaming and COGS. Without their contributions we would be unable to run our programmes.

Enjoy the rest of the year, from the team at ACET.

Te Pukenga News – Cashmere Christchurch

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou katoa, warm greetings to you all.

Spring has certainly SPRUNG early in Canterbury, with the beautiful blossoms flourishing, and the daffodils lining the paths and gardens. Here at Te Pukenga we have been experiencing the changeable weather that Spring brings, and enjoying the warmer weather by getting out and about in our environment together.

Our Young People continue to thrive and enjoy their learning experiences within Te Pukenga, and some of our Senior students enjoyed the High School HOLLYWOOD formal. A chance to dance the night away and dress up to the nines.



Welcome to Conductor Bori Toth

"Many of you may remember me as a familiar face. I first joined the Te Pukenga team in 2019-2021. I am originally from Hungary and bring with me a wealth of international experience in Conductive Education. I am delighted to have rejoined Te Pukenga from Term 3 as a part-time CE practitioner, working on Fridays from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

I have comprehensive knowledge in Conductive Education and a true passion for teamwork. I enjoy working within multidisciplinary teams and love translating creative ideas into effective programmes that inspire and motivate children to learn and thrive. My family of four, including my two daughters, enjoys hiking and traveling whenever we can. Together we love exploring new places and finding adventures in nature.

I truly appreciate the way Te Pukenga looks after the young people, and I feel happy and privileged to be part of the team once again."

- Bori Toth



Wana Tamariki – Hamilton

Spring is in the air, and we are very grateful after a term of illnesses with our tamariki, their whānau and our team. We are looking forward to the warm weather chasing all the bugs away! Winter is a great time for us to connect with different groups within our community. This year, we met with several Plunket teams, Explore Wellbeing and a women's business group, facilitated by Forsyth Barr in Hamilton. We love sharing our service and history with our community!

Some highlights for us for the term are the return to our Ruru group of 2 of our tamariki who have had extended time away. We really missed them and it has been great to see how much they have grown and their learning while they were away. We have had lots of 5th birthdays -- it is so exciting to support tamariki and their whānau on the next stage of their journey with getting ready for school. We received funding from *The Lion Foundation* to purchase a vibration plate and we are so excited about how this is going to support the existing intervention for our tamariki.

Winter weather and bugs impacted the Wheelie Awesome events we had planned during August. However, our Silly Sock fundraiser is still on. This is such a fun thing to do and we are looking forward to our Silly Sock day in October. We have found that touting our socks is a great way to inform people about what we do and to get support from people who have not heard about us before. The tamariki all enjoy being part of this with the team.

Based on whānau feedback, we are developing workshops so whānau can learn some new skills to support their tamariki. First up we have toilet training, with a big focus on time for peer support amongst caregivers as well, also something that our whānau wanted moving



forward. Other workshops that are coming up include: "Sensational Kids" and "So what is regulation?" Being able to be responsive to the needs of our whānau is such a privilege and we thank our funders for supporting us to do this mahi.

Conductive Education Southern – Invercargill

Conductive Education Southern is proud to announce the launch of our new website – a fresh, accessible hub for whānau, professionals, and the wider community to explore our services, values, and resources. The site reflects our commitment to client-centered practice, cultural responsiveness, and continuous improvement. Thank you to NZFCE for supporting us with funding for this website.

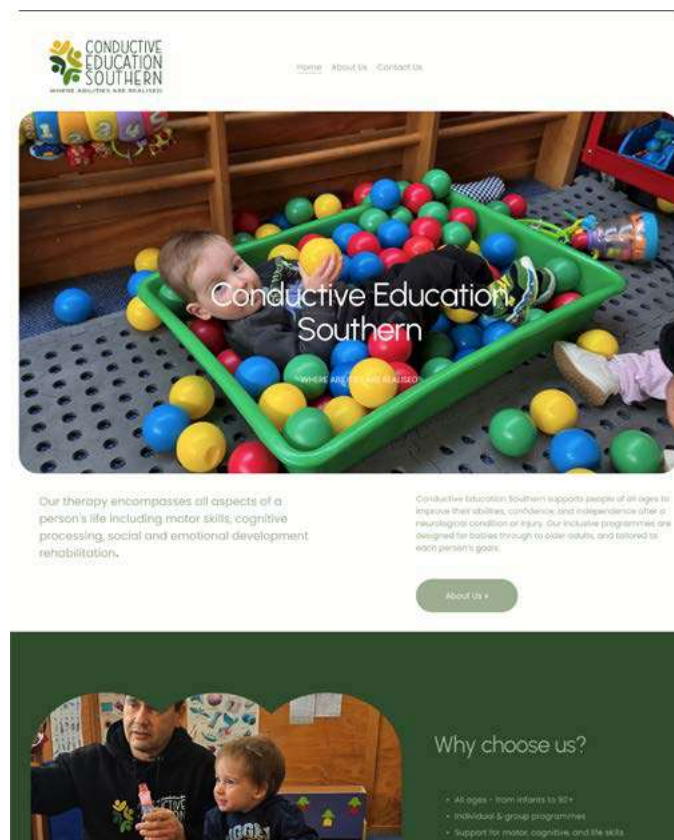
Explore more at: www.cesouthern.org

As we continue to refine our systems and deepen our impact, we're humbled by the voices of those who've journeyed with us. One recent survey captured the heart of what CE Southern strives to achieve:

"Tyler will now let me (mum) get a puzzle and he will attempt/complete it. Before attending CE: Tyler would self-injure when I got a puzzle out for him. This, I consider, to be life changing!"

"It's a life changing service to those who need it! I'm disappointed I didn't know about Conductive Ed. sooner..."

These reflections remind us that progress is not just measured in milestones, but in moments of trust, connection, and transformation. We're deeply grateful to our clients and families for walking alongside us – and we look forward to welcoming new whānau through our digital doorway.



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