

WHAT'S UP AT THUMBS UP?

Message from Service Manager

Kia Ora Friends & Families of Thumbs Up,

2013 has been a busy and exciting year at Thumbs Up, as we have transitioned into the new organisational structure. With a new vision to pave the way for our service over the next five years, we have spent this year busily implementing some of the key ideas that came out of our strategic planning in February.

A major focus has been the development of high quality Individual Personal Plans and this work will become an even bigger focus in 2014, now that the day to day programme is running smoothly.

We have achieved our goal of delivering some one-to-one time for every service user in order to truly provide an individualised programme for every young adult we work with.

This year we provided over 250 hours of community contribution through voluntary service and we hope to double this number in the coming year. A major focus in 2014 will be the development of more work experience / volunteer roles in the community. I invite organisations to consider if there are any small jobs or tasks that one of our young adults can do for you, and to contact me to discuss possibilities.

Thank you to all the trusts, organisations and individuals who have supported us this year in a range of ways, from financial donations and support through to access to services for free or at reduced costs. We were pleased to have the opportunity to express our appreciation at a special function on November 28th (see insert).

Thank you to the Thumbs Up Trust Board who have worked tirelessly this year to ensure the service has the best possible start under the new structure. Thank you to the staff of Thumbs Up for all of your hard work throughout the year – you should be very proud of what has been achieved this year.

Last but certainly not least, thank you to our young adults who attend our service. Every day you come to Thumbs Up ready and enthusiastic about the day ahead. You are all amazing young people and I feel honoured to be able to be there alongside you for a small part of your journey.

Merry Christmas everyone and a Happy New Year!

Briany



Issue 17

Dec 2013



With easels made at woodwork ↑...
and using them in art. ↓



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Welcome to New Staff Joining Thumbs Up 2nd half of year

Support staff: working with our service users to support them to learn and grow and be active participants and contributors to their community—and to have fun!

Back row:
Karen Surridge
and Lia Haar-
Strang

Front row:
Fiona Kraiger
and Rachel
Coward



Programme Support Coordinator: This is a new role, which focuses on the development of individual personal plans with and for our service users and finding and creating opportunities for them to meet their goals.



Erica Murphy

Finance Officer: This position was established to take over the tasks previously done by our volunteer, Nathan Maclean (thank you, Nathan). If you have any questions about payments, ask Fiona.
(accounts@thumbsuptrust.org.nz)



Fiona Blacker

Special Olympics Champions from Thumbs Up

The National Special Games, which occur every four years, were held in Dunedin from November 26th until December 1st. Jill Westenra, our community recreation facilitator, is also the athletics coach and sports co-ordinator for the Special Olympics Hutt Valley team. She led a delegation of local athletes, including Thumbs Up service-users Phillip Lett (athletics) and Brian Mills (swimming).

Congratulations to Brian and Phillip who won an impressive array of medals:

Brian: gold in 50 metre backstroke, silver in 4 X 50 metre relay, Bronze in 25 metre freestyle and 5th in 50 metre freestyle.



Phillip: gold in 50 metre run, bronze for 4 X 100 metre relay, 6th in 100 metre run, and Participation Ribbon for Standing Jump. (Phillip would have won this, but his jump of 1.48 metres was over the maximum length of 1.40 metres. In his training and pre-events Phillip's maximum jump had been 1.10 metres, so he really rose to the occasion at the Special Olympics!)



Brian

Phillip

Term 3 2012



Thumbs UpTrust Contact details

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Trustees:

Chairperson: Richard Bialy

Deputy Chairperson: Mike Browne

Treasurer: Rose Chadwick

Secretary: Lynn Bialy

Trustees: Lisa Bartosh, Jillian Green,
Margaret Perry

Email: trustees@thumbsuptrust.org.nz

Our website:

Thumbsuptrust.org.nz

Supporters of Thumbs Up 2013

Grants and donations:

Pelorus Trust

Hutt City Council

Upper Hutt City Council

Petone Lions Club and other Hutt Valley Lions
Clubs

Lloyd Morgan Lions Club Charitable Trust

Winton and Margaret Bear Trust

Rehabilitation Welfare Trust

Hutt Mana Charitable Trust

Hutt Valley IHC Association

Spacewise Shipping Containers

Petone Senior Citizens

Services

Jo Young from Petone Physiotherapy

DLA Phillips Fox

Gillespie Young Watson

PC Patch

Avenue Service Station

Fine Signs

Pak 'n Save

Vertia Solutions

Wigley and Roberts

Futrix

Grants and donations received Term 3:

We very gratefully acknowledge the grants
received from following organisations in term 3:

- Upper Hutt City Council Creative Communities: \$1000 for preparation and performance of end of year drama production/variety show.
- Upper Hutt City Council Community: \$1000 towards the salary of our programme support coordinator.
- Winton and Margaret Bear Trust: \$7000 towards the music therapy/community music programme.
- Rehabilitation Welfare Trust: \$2000 towards the Community Recreation programme and the salary of our Community Sports and Recreation Coordinator.

Upper Hutt City Council, Winton and Margaret Bear Trust and the Rehabilitation Welfare Trust have all been loyal and much appreciated supporters of Thumbs Up for several years.

We also thank our friends from the Petone Senior Citizens who have donated \$200 towards operating costs.



Thumbs Up Celebration with Friends November 28 2013



Brian Yeoman and Andy Leslie (Pelorus Trust)



Hon Trevor Mallard



Andrew, Melissa, Rose, and Merryn (Thumbs Up) and Hon Trevor Mallard



Adrienne Manthel (Riding for Disabled), Sacha and Debbie (Thumbs Up)

There was much to celebrate and many to thank at this special occasion.

With the generosity and support of many individuals and organisations, the Trust has successfully completed its first year of independent operation of the service. We have established a good assets base, a dedicated and enthusiastic team of staff, and a continually developing and improving programme for our service-users.

A plaque acknowledging Thumbs Up's many supporters since the service began in 2007 was unveiled during the evening by Hon Trevor Mallard, MP for Hutt South.

The second exciting event which we celebrated on the evening was the imminent purchase of the land on which the Thumbs Up hall is sited, owned by Wellington Anglican Diocese (on behalf of St Augustine's Parish). The subdivision of the land has been a long and complex process, begun in 2012, and only just recently completed.

The land purchase has been made possible through the support of Pelorus Trust, which provided grants in 2012/2013 for this purpose. In previous years Pelorus Trust has given grants to refurbish the toilets and to create a garden. Pelorus Trust's contribution to the quality of our facility, and to ensuring we have a secure future in the heart of Petone has been enormous, and a plaque noting its status as Major Supporter was unveiled during the evening by Brian Yeoman and Andy Leslie, trustees of Pelorus Trust.



Matt Linley (Winton and Margaret Bear Trust)



Simon Edwards (Hutt News) and Richard (Chairman, Thumbs Up)



Mike Henderson (Petone Community Board), Noel Scherp and Rex Bullard (Lions Clubs)



Prue Lamason (Hutt Mana Charitable Trust and Wellington Regional Council) and Richard (Chairman, Thumbs Up)



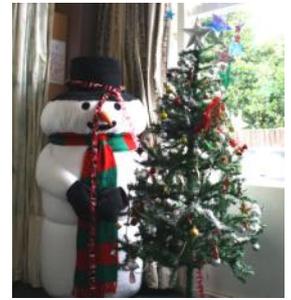
Holly and Karyn (Thumbs Up)



Des, Louise and Miriam (Thumbs Up)

Thumbs Up Christmas Party and Variety Show December 19 2013

It was show time on the last day of Thumbs Up for 2013. It was like watching a version of NZ's Got Talent as we were constantly entertained by a huge variety of performances. We had displays of physical agility and strength, with Jill and Rachel leading a group in an aerobics display and Fingal and Corey and friends doing a press up and clapping demonstration. Mathew and Melissa danced in the roles of Danny and Sandy from Mathew's very favourite musical, Grease, while Adam and John Paul sang Boulevard of Broken Dreams. A percussion trio (Adam, James and Tuese) accompanied John Paul on the guitar for a Johnny Cash number; Tuese played Jingle bells on the piano; and Daniel L played the guitar and sang Father and Son.



In a Movement to Music item, a group used their bodies to creatively express their response to the music and some words chosen by the audience (squeeze, push, expand, etc).

We got an excellent insight into the drama work done over the year, with a video show of an earlier performance, "Room on a Broom", a slide show of some of the drama classes, and a live performance of "The Elements". Through movement and the use of different colour ribbons, the four elements of water, fire, earth and air were portrayed. Just to show that the young adults were not the only ones with talent, staff took to the stage, wearing funky clothes and coiffures, as they showed off their dance moves!

Everyone enjoyed a barbecue lunch and a special afternoon tea. The afternoon finished with Awards recognizing a special contribution and quality that each young adult brings to Thumbs Up, and then it was Secret Santa time!

