

WHAT'S UP AT THUMBS UP?

News Flash from
Thumbs Up!

Issue 25
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Happy New Year from Thumbs Up!

Zoo Sleepover

Thumbs Up went on another expedition; this time to the Wellington Zoo. The weather unfortunately didn't show up for the Thumbs Up crew but everyone made the most of it and enjoyed the night tour and the excitement of a night away from home. In the morning we went on another tour and got to feed some animals. Overall it was a great night away and now we are busy planning for our next trip away in 2017 which will be an Outward Bound Course.



Rimutaka Gym

We are excited to be back at the Rimutaka Gym again this year. We have seen a lot of progress with everyone including development of balance, coordination and overall team work. Everyone worked hard last year to achieve the certificates the gym offers to those who complete all the gym tasks. A huge thanks to Rimutaka Gym and all it's staff for your awesome support of Thumbs Up!



Thumbs Up At A Glance!



Seth enjoying music at Petone Library



Above: Matty getting ready to sail



Miriam & Holly doing music at Petone Library



Having fun with the parachute. Andrew having fun in the foam pit

Left: Corey out and about



Above: Abi having morning tea and a story at Petone Library



Tuese Jamming at Kimi Ora School



Left: Adam playing a pirate in drama . Above: Merryn, Adam & Kate jam on the Ukulele and Matt kicks back with Santa on Jackson Street



A recent heavy duty walker upgrade means Karyn can hang out at the beach with the best of them! Thank you Trevor!



Thumbs Up At A Glance



Left: A relax and stretch after lunch

Right: Jessica horse riding in Waikanae

Below: James hanging out at Thumbs Up



Right: Seth shows off his boxing style in Bend & Stretch group

Left: Matty relaxing at Thumbs Up before lunch



Who wants fish for dinner? Meaty & Phillip show off their catch!

Shannon Hennig Inclusive Communication Programme

Another year has passed and we have continued working with Shannon to increase communication for all of the people we support. There has been so much progress over 2016 and it has been really exciting to see everyone increasing their communication skills. We have a number of people who have developed their vocabulary to include many new words, others who have learnt to say "no" and exercise their right to choose and others who have developed their reading and writing skills. The staff have reported many achievements in this area in our weekly 'highlights' and everyone has been excited and inspired by the success of the programme. We have been fortunate to have the support of the Infinity Foundation who have generously provided grants for Shannon's work with Thumbs Up. We are very grateful for the support and could not provide the high level of programme we do without the assistance of grants like the ones from Infinity Foundation.



Goodbye to Ruth!

After 5 years with the Thumbs Up family Ruth has retired to travel New Zealand with her husband in their new campervan!

We wish you both happy travels. We will miss you Ruth!



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MAJOR SUPPORTER

Thank You

We would like to say a big thank you to Will Rice. Will has been volunteering with Thumbs Up throughout 2016 and will continue his voluntary work with us in 2017. Will originally came to Thumbs Up under an internship through Weltec Petone. After Will's course came to an end he decided to stay on and continue supporting our work. We really enjoy having Will on board and would like to say thank you again Will for all your hard work and your commitment to working with Thumbs Up and our young people!



Supporters of Thumbs Up 2016

Pelorus Trust
Upper Hutt City Council
Infinity Foundation
Lions Club
Hutt Mana Trust
Molly Vance
Hutt City Council
TG Macarthy Trust
NZ Inclusive
Winton and Margaret Bear
Penrose Trust
Frozen Funds

Ongoing Service Support

Wellington Community Trust
Jo Young Petone Physiotherapy
DLA Phillips Fox
Vertia Print
Avenue Service Station
PC Patch
Fine Signs
Stevens Motors

Volunteers

HR at Work
Trevor Lacey - Handyman Kelly - Gym Volunteer
William - Volunteer Kane - Volunteer

Thank you for donations received August - December

Natasha—Volunteer Weltec
A big thank you to **Upper Hutt City Council** for \$1000 towards the costs of our Program Support Coordinator

Thank you to the **Frozen Funds Charitable Trust** for \$3000 towards setting up a self-sustainable art gallery for our visual artists.

We are grateful to **T G Macarty** for their ongoing support for our Music Therapist and their grant of \$7500.

Thank you **Infinity Foundation** for your ongoing support of our communication programme, you really open up our worlds with your donation of \$4197.60 towards the cost of our communication therapist.

A major thank you to **Pelorus Trust** who has granted us \$72,250 for a new wheelchair van. This will enable us to continue to provide our program out and about in the community. Without your support we would not be able to provide our Service!

We also received a lot of support for our next adventure in March, our Outward Bound Course in Anakiwa. A big thank you to both **Infinity Foundation** for \$20,000 and **Wellington**