

THE CONNECTOR!



DAVID SHARES HIS BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER 2010

My name is David Smith . I receive supported living services. My birthday was on 7 August and I had a really great 50th birthday party which I celebrated at Breakers in Hastings. It was more than I expected.

It was my idea to have a celebration and I received support from my support person Maggie, who helped me to send out invitations and then to sort out the arrangements.

Working together made it easy and it didn't take long to organise everything. I got a big surprise when a birthday cake with candles for me to blow out surfaced, as I didn't expect a cake. It was the first party I have had for many, many years. I really enjoyed the whole occasion. Everybody who came to share my special day had a wonderful time.



David Smith
Hawkes Bay

THE LIVING WELL AS A DISABLED PERSON PROJECT

Are you interested in taking part in some research aiming to:

Explore ways disabled people stay (or become) healthy?

Hear your view on the best ways for disabled people to take part in physical activity and eat healthily?

See the leaflet at the end of this newsletter for more details. If you are interested, please see AUT directly or speak with your support worker.

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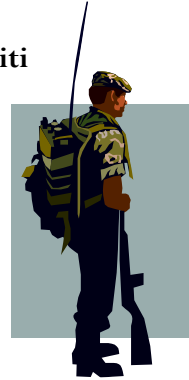
PETER WAS A SOLDIER

Peter was a soldier in the army overseas. He knew that one day he would have to go back to work and he didn't want to because he had seen so many bad things happen over there. He had just got married three months ago to his lovely wife.

He didn't know how to tell her about this knowing it would break her heart in two, but he knew that his boss might ring her up. He made up his mind that he would tell her "You know that I love you so much Anne". "Yes Peter, I do know". "Anne I have something to tell you". He sat her down and held her hand while he told her the news "You know how I am a soldier in the army, well there might be a chance that I have to go back to work. I don't

want to because I am so worried about what is going to happen to our family. I have seen so many of my friends die over there my love. If anything happens to me I want you to know that I love you very much.

Written by Louise—Kapiti



SEEKING MR RIGHT!

Hi my name is Cindy and I am looking for Mr Right who is a nice guy. If you are interested please ring Cindy 's Co-ordinator on 042987703 or talk to your Co-ordinator.



NEWS FROM WELLINGTON

Wellington has had a quiet winter with most people concentrating on keeping warm and staying well. So far we have been very lucky avoiding the worst of the winter bugs going around.

We have certainly been keeping the local government aware that we are around with protesting with SAFE and about the new expensive bus pricing that is coming in. We have also been organising plenty of social gatherings to ensure we have lots of fun and laughter over the chilly winter days.

We have also welcomed Louise back to Wellington and farewelled Walter to the Hutt Valley. We wish them the best in their new homes.

RACHEL THOMPSON—STUDIES

In April this year, Rachel (along with 12 others from across New Zealand), took part in the first of four PARTNERS – influencing change conference in Wellington. Here they learnt about the history of disability services in NZ, the role people of different abilities take in directing services, and the principles for guiding change to improve present day services. In May, the group met again where they learnt about the importance of futures planning and self-determination for people with impairments, and gained an understanding of the principles of choice and control of resources in futures planning. The third conference was held in July where the focus was turned to advocacy and human rights. The fourth and final conference “was a bit sad” said Rachel, “because we all knew it was the last one”.

This time the group explored the importance of staying informed and monitoring the media, and the role stereotyping plays in the media and ways to counteract these.

Each session ran over a Friday and Saturday and all participants stayed at the Abel Tasman Hotel together, “It was nice going out for lunch and dinner together too” Rachel adds, “it was also a great opportunity to meet different people from all over the country and I learnt heaps too”!

Rachel Thompson—Kapiti



ANNE WRITES TO HELEN CLARK!

Anne wrote the following letter to Helen Clark and received the reply (right):

Hi my name is Anne Devlin. I live in Wai-kanae. For many years I had a dream that was to meet Helen Clark. This came true in 2008 at Coastlands in Kapiti. Since then I've received some letters from Helen.

This is the recent letter I'd like to share with you. This has been achieved by the help of my support workers from Community Connections.

Anne Devlin—Kapiti

United Nations Development Programme
The Administrator

Anne's Letter → ? To
Both published Please



28 April 2010

Dear Anne,

Since I came to New York last year to take up the position of Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), many people, including you, have written kind letters of congratulations on my appointment and sent their best wishes to me.

Thank you for taking the time to write. It really was a pleasure to receive so many letters from home.

Last week marked the first anniversary of my arrival at UNDP. The time here has passed very quickly. For me, "busy-ness" has always been happiness, and I am enjoying what I am doing.

For all who are interested in following what I am doing, the UNDP website has a page for the Administrator. On that you will find my speeches and lots of photos. UNDP also has a Facebook page.

Once again, many thanks for writing.

Kind regards,

Helen Clark

Helen Clark

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PAUL HOLMES

Well done Paul on completing your NZQA unit standard!

Paul now has a job in a local café two days a week.

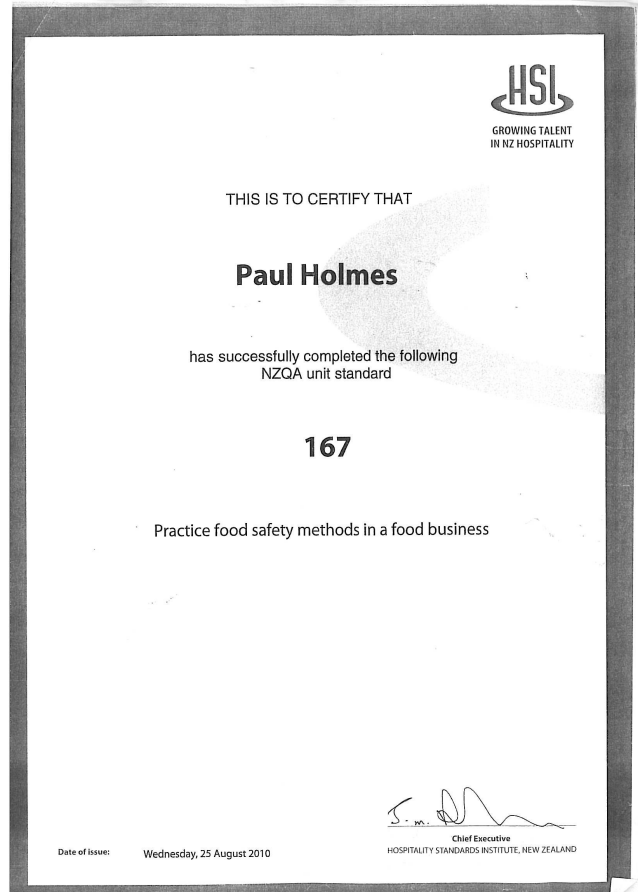
1/7 Hinemoa St

Paraparaumu

PO Box 563

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Thank you to everyone who contributed an article to this issue. Please feel free to send any ideas or articles you would like published to Tanya at the address above! If you have put an article forward and it is not included this month, don't worry, it will be in our December issue.



JENNI'S GOALS

Hi my name is Jeni and I live in Kapiti. I would like to share my goals for 2010 and 2011.

I am currently doing three courses—Te Reo, Cooking and Human Biology. I do these through correspondence. I enjoy studying this way as all the work gets delivered to my home.

So far I've achieved managing my own time and am doing this very well.

I hope to achieve these by the end of 2011.

Jenni Dale—Kapiti

BENEFITS OF NETWORKING

We recently held a meeting at the Hutt office & invited Annie the community officer from the Alzheimer's Association to attend & give our team some training.

We support a woman called Louise who has Fronto Temporal Lobar Degeneration (a very long name for Picks Disease)

Louise's support team shared their stories both those of success and the stories of times when things had not go so smoothly. There was a lot of laughter & we all learnt a great deal from one another's experiences.

Annie brought her many years of experience working alongside people with Dementia to the meeting and written information; she answered many questions and gave us some wonderful ideas to introduce to Louise's support. Louise's sister was present, she is a big part of Louise's life & was able to provide us with insight into Louise's history prior to our becoming involved in her support.

Organisation such as the Alzheimer's Association has a wealth of knowledge and community support for families and services like Community Connections. They were so open to making themselves available to enable us to give the best support possible; what a wonderful service.

What a wonderful team of support people Louise has around her, they are an innovative, dedicated, group of people who bring humour and wonderful resourcefulness to her support.

Joe Nash—Hutt Co-ordinator

JOURNEYS TO INCLUSION

One of the most powerful things about the arts is that they challenge our thinking, change attitudes and behaviour, and can encourage a diverse and an inclusive society.

In response to the shift in thinking being driven by the disability community, creative spaces are becoming increasingly open to exploring ways of becoming more inclusive. This is not just about equal access to shared exhibition spaces but about opportunities for disabled and non-disabled artists to work alongside each other. But these are still pioneering pathways, often raising more questions than answers.

Shannon Norton her support worker Catherine Timpson and myself all attended this Hui on Tuesday the 21st at Newtown Community Centre. It was a great networking. We attended different workshops and shared our thoughts on inclusion and how we as organisations make an inclusive society where by people with disabilities can attend art workshops and work along side those without disabilities.

The three of us due to late enrolment were booked into the following workshops. Models of best practice and collaboration and resource sharing.

Catherine, Shannon and I are going to get together and work on a presentation so further information on this can be accessible to those in our organisation who want to learn more.

Geoff Kelly—Hutt Co-ordinator

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CCSLT.ORG.NZ