



Community
Connections
Te Hāpori Āwhina Tāngata

THE CONNECTOR!

Volume 26 ~ Bumper Edition ~ Spring 2015



*Theo at the National War Museum,
read Del Martin's report on page 7*

Contents

Page

Going for gold! <i>By Tim Clayton</i>	3
At the pool <i>By Tracy Wade</i>	3
Shave for a cure <i>by Carol Foster</i>	4
Pot luck mid-winter Christmas dinner <i>By Elaine Corby and Kay Pedersen</i>	5
Working at Bay Cuisine <i>By Brendan Lloyd</i>	6
Te Papa trip <i>By Del Martin</i>	7
My big 50th birthday bash <i>By Tim Morgan</i>	8
Buying my first home <i>By Caroline Doherty</i>	9
Community futsal help needed <i>By Damian Duncan</i>	10
My blanket <i>By Louise Bulled</i>	11
Friends forever <i>By Maria Filacouridis</i>	11
The White Cross <i>By Tim Morgan</i>	12
My artwork <i>By Paul Holmes</i>	13
New to town <i>By Nathan 'Waka' Miller</i>	14
How I met Helen Clark <i>By Anne Devlin</i>	15
Learning to Drive <i>By Anne Devlin</i>	16
Happy meals = happy me <i>By Jeff Dodd</i>	16

Community Connections

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The deadline for the next issue: Friday 27 November 2015

Please send stories and pictures to Michelle,
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Going for gold!

By Tim Clayton

I recently went away to Auckland to try out for the intermediate slalom competition for the Special Olympics. I achieved 'Gold' and had a fantastic time away.



Tim on the podium

At the pool *By Tracy Wade*

One of my goals was to do aqua jogging. I have started doing this at either the Huia Pool or the Naenae Pool in Lower Hutt. I feel great when I'm in the water – it's lovely, the freedom of just moving around in the water. I enjoy getting into the spa afterwards.



Tracy enjoying the water

Shave for a cure

By Carol Foster

My Dad died of cancer a few months ago. After losing him I decided I wanted to raise money for cancer, by shaving off my hair. I also wanted to honour my Dad! People didn't think I would do it but I just said to them, 'It's only hair, it'll grow back'.

I shaved my hair at the Cancer Society, on Wednesday 26 August 2015, surrounded by lots of people that I had asked to be there to support me. I would like to thank Tynisha, Fiona, Bruce, Donna, Jo, Caroline, Blair, Judy and the other people at the Cancer Society for supporting me.

If you feel brave, you could help those fighting cancer and shave your head like I did.

I am happy I did this, except my head's a bit cold now! But hey, if I can do it, you can do it!



Carol before and after

Pot luck mid-winter Christmas dinner

*By Elaine Corby and
Kay Pedersen*

Elaine and Kay hosted
this dinner together.



Elaine (on the left) and Kay (on the right)

They decided to have
a pot luck dinner for their friends and the friends they have
made through Community Connections.

Kay and Elaine flat together in Hastings. They hosted the
dinner independently, without any support staff. Kay and
Elaine set aside time to discuss what food the people
would bring to the dinner. Kay invited the people by ringing
them up and suggesting what food to bring. She also
told them the day and the time to come. Elaine cooked a
fantastic pavlova for their pudding and Kay cooked healthy
steamed vegetables.

The menu for the night was roast chicken, roast vegetables,
chicken nibbles, shepherd's pie and fish pie. For dessert
there was pavlova, fruit salad, cream and cheesecake.

Everyone enjoyed the food as well as each other's
company that evening. The dinner started at 5.00pm and
everyone had such a wonderful time that the last person
didn't leave till 10.00pm.

Working at Bay Cuisine

By Brendan Lloyd

I work at Bay Cuisine all day every Friday. The first thing I do when I get there is to mow the lawns.

After this I go out in the delivery truck with Dave, delivering meat and processed meat products.

First we go to Goodtime in Onekawa, then to Taradale Masonic Rest Home.

After this we go to Angkor Wat in Taradale. Then we go to Hastings to BJ's, then Breakers, then Angkor Wat Hastings. After this we go to Mary Doyle Rest Home, Iona Girls' College, and Hereworth Boys' College – all in Havelock North.

Once we've done these deliveries we bring the truck back to the depot in Napier. We load up the truck again and then do deliveries all around Napier CBD.

It's back to the depot after this. Sometimes I do other jobs at the depot, like taking the rubbish out. I really enjoy my job at Bay Cuisine!



Brendan relaxing

Te Papa trip

By Del Martin

In July Bruce and I went into Wellington with Kazu, Wendy, Walter, Keith, Theo and Damien. Bruce Saunders and I had to catch 8 buses there and back, which Bruce thoroughly enjoyed.



Bruce outside the National War Museum



Theo with the Te Papa donation box

We went to the ANZAC display at Te Papa and saw all the giant soldiers up close. Although it was quite overwhelming to stand in front of the huge figures, it was really exciting. Bruce's favourite part was trying on all the different hats that the soldiers wore back in WWI. We even put poppies in a special place to commemorate the soldiers who lost their lives. On our way out the door, Theo decided he would like to take the donation box home and it was a huge laugh watching him trying to pick up the box.

Then we caught another bus up to the National War Museum. We saw the Unknown Soldier's resting place. Inside the museum there were lots of poppies and crosses.

It was a really happy day. Lots to see and lots of buses to catch!! We all had a great time. You can read my full story on our website: www.ccsfl.org.nz

My big 50th birthday bash

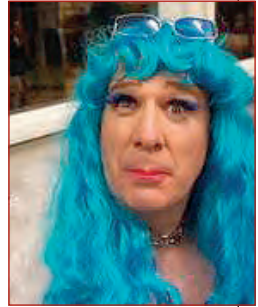
By Tim Morgan

I have been busy for the past 5 years planning my big 50th birthday bash. I invited all my family and friends and support workers to a dinner and dance on Saturday 5 September at the Te Aro Community Hall, Wellington. (My birthday was on 3 September.) I dressed up for my big night as the theme was Priscilla Queen of the Dessert. I arrived in style, by limousine!

The hall was decorated with balloons and flowers. We had a great time with lots of dancing and great Creole food. My mate Steve Logan made a wonderful big Jambalaya. I danced to the tune of 'Jambalaya' with Steve and my boss Shaun from Logan Brown (I am a kitchenhand there). To top it all off, I had a fantastic birthday cake, big thanks to Adele.

My brother John was the MC. He came all the way from Fiji, and older brother Jason and his son and a niece came from Auckland.

But I am going to leave my 60th milestone to my nieces and nephews to organise! Family and my support workers all helped out but it was still a lot of work. The next day I was very tired and sore from dancing!



Tim as Margarita



Tim's birthday cake

Buying my first home

By Caroline Doherty

My husband Blair and I have just brought our own home. We did this by doing a budget each week and by working and saving hard to achieve the goal of owning our own home. While we were saving for our house we were still able to enjoy life by going on trips overseas and in New Zealand with our friends. Our dreams have all come true!



Caroline and Blair in front of their new home



Caroline and Blair at their new home

Community indoor soccer/ futsal help needed

By Damian Duncan

I was running community indoor soccer/futsal in Upper Hutt. We had a great time playing the game and it was a great opportunity for us to meet other people in the community. Unfortunately, I had to stop this at the beginning of this year due to running costs and availability of the venue.

Now I am more than ready to get back into action and start playing the game! I would like to meet people who are keen to play futsal with me, and also to help me run the group!

This is a very friendly and casual game, not competitive and serious, so no experience is needed. I just want to have fun playing futsal and meet new people. If you want to help me with this project, please contact me.



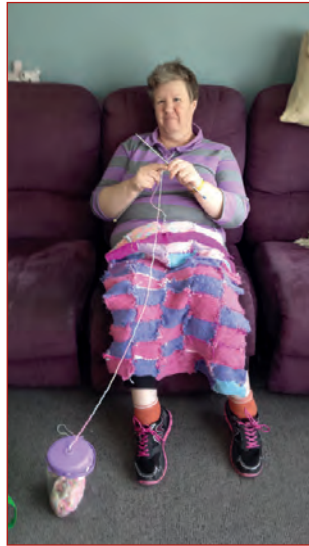
Email: [Damian Duncan at
indoorfootballer@gmail.com](mailto:Damian Duncan at indoorfootballer@gmail.com)
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My blanket

By Louise Bulled

I am making a blanket for myself with different colours in it. On a Monday afternoon I go to art class at the Island Bay Community Centre. I have made some wonderful new friends there. I love going there – I have lots of fun with my friends. Two of my best friends from the art class came to my birthday dinner two weeks ago on my birthday.



Knitting my new blanket

Friends forever *By Maria Filacouridis*

No matter how far away you are, I am always there and one call away if you need me. I would give you my heart if I had to.

You are my sister – someone who is angel and if I need you I know you v be there for me.

Only one phone call away and I am there for you.



The White Cross

By Tim Morgan

For much of the past year, I have been researching and writing the story of my great uncle Ellwood Montagu with the help of my support worker, Valerie Smith. Ellwood was killed in 1918 at the age of 25 on the Western Front in France, towards the end of World War I.

When I visited my grandmother's house in Hokitika as a child, I often looked at a picture of a dashing young man in a soldier's uniform. I always wondered 'Who was this guy?'

After chasing information such as Ellwood's war record and many visits to libraries, I wrote about him from when he joined the army in 1915 to when he died. The story is called 'The White Cross'. I often stayed up until 2 am writing!

I read 'The White Cross' on Wellington's Access Radio on ANZAC Day. In July the *Cook Strait News* had a story about my efforts and quoted from 'The White Cross'.

I don't want Ellwood and all the young men like him who died to be forgotten. You can read the full story of my great uncle on our website: www.ccslt.org.nz.



Tim wearing his great uncle's medals.

*Photo by Emma Morgan,
Cook Strait News*

My artwork

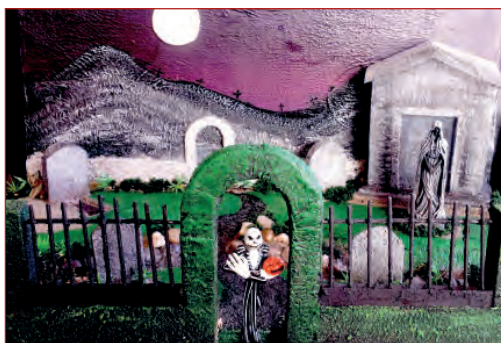
By Paul Holmes

This is what Paul has been doing at Vincents Art Workshop. He has put two pieces into the IHC and Vincents art exhibitions.



Paul with his 'Please Touch' artwork on display

Paul's recent artwork is now on display at Vincent's Art Workshop for their Winter Show exhibition. This is Paul's second piece of art to be on display for the public. Paul has named this masterpiece 'Please Touch'. His concept is to create a tactile piece of art inviting and encouraging people to enjoy art by feeling. The lower part of his artwork has the name 'Please Touch' written in Braille.



Paul with his 'Crypt' artwork

New to town

By Nathan aka 'Waka' Miller

I have recently moved from Paraparaumu. In 2006, I was involved in a terrible accident while living in Japan which left me with brain injury. Despite this I still love to live a full and enjoyable life.

I enjoy being very active and having new opportunities and I am very fortunate to have positive surroundings with a great support team. I am studying my diploma this year at The Learning Connection in Taita to gain more skills in arts and creativity.

Here is one of the many art pieces I have created over the years.

Please introduce yourself and say hi if you see me around as I like to meet new people.



Waka with one of his pictures

Learning to drive *By Anne Devlin*

It all started when I hopped into my Mum and Dad's car one day. I pretended to put the car into reverse and back down the driveway. Then I pretended to drive around the streets of Waikanae. Then one day Dad hopped in beside me and told me to drive up and down the driveway. My Mum didn't see my Dad beside me in the car and freaked out!

One day I decided to go for my car licence for real. My Dad gave me driving lessons as he is a qualified driving instructor and I passed with flying colours! I didn't feel scared because my Dad was beside me.

My main challenge was to drive on the main highway by myself. One day there was a storm and I had to drive to Paraparaumu to buy my sister a present for her birthday. Mum and Dad were not home so I decided to get in the car by myself and drive there. Once I was on the highway

I said to myself, 'Hey I can do this! As long as I keep my following distances I'll be fine'. Ever since then I have been fine driving on the highway.



Anne and her father by her car

How I met Helen Clark

By Anne Devlin

In 2008 when I moved into my house, I wanted to make my dream come true to meet Helen Clark. She was our country's prime minister at the time. Sure enough I did get to meet her. She was visiting Coastlands and Bonnie asked one of her body guards if I could give her a hug or not. I more than met her I hugged her! Before that she read what my top said that I had on that day. It said 'Love is in the air.'



Anne meeting Helen Clark

Before I met Helen Clark I wrote her a letter. She wrote back to me and I have her letter framed on my lounge wall. I also gave her a Christmas pressie when I saw her.

Happy meals = happy me *By Jeff Dodd*

I am feeling very happy and very excited. I am nearly a master chef. Only a few months ago, I didn't even know how to turn on the stove and now I can cook three meals by myself! One of these is spaghetti bolognese – it's very easy. I always like to make enough for two or three meals at a time so I can freeze some.

You can read the full recipe on our website: www.ccslt.org.nz



Jeff cooking his "chef's delight"