



ADSA - PO Box 13385 Onehunga Auckland Ph (09) 636 0351 Fax (09) 636 0354
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E-News from Auckland Down Syndrome Association Inc

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BUDDY WALK – SUNDAY 21 MARCH 2010

Wanted: a few very motivated people for our organising committee.

We have had two people pull out, one due to family circumstances and another due to work commitments. We are looking for 2 or 3 people that are very good at fundraising and organising. Our next meeting is on Wednesday night 9 December at our office in Onehunga. If you think you can be of help, please contact me, Christel, on 636 0351 or send me an email clo@adsa.org.nz.

We are again running a cake stall, so if you want to do some baking for us, email me your name and what you think you will be baking and I will add your name to our list.

And if you can help the association by donating an item for our silent auction, our raffle or for the goodie bags, please contact me, Christel, at the office on 636 0351 or clo@adsa.org.nz

MAKATON COURSE

If you are interested in attending a Makaton beginners course, please email me at the office. I am currently liaising with Liza from Makaton to see if we can run another course in the new year here at the office. This will be a night time course, held over two evenings. If you are interested, please let me know. Makaton has no other courses planned in the near future.

DOWN SYNDROME: SUCCESS IN SCHOOL (COURSES PLANNED FOR 2010)

For information on our courses for term 1 2010 please go to our website www.adsa.org.nz. There is now an option to register via our website.

The full one-day courses are designed for:

- junior classes (years 1-3) Thursday February 25, 09.30am – 4.30pm
- middle school (years 4-6) Wednesday March 3, 09.30am – 4.30pm
- and senior level (years 7-12) Tuesday March 16, 09.30am – 4.30pm

These courses are presented in conjunction with the Auckland Down Syndrome Association and Ministry of Education: Special Education and are held at their offices, cnr Edwin Street and Normanby Road, Mt Eden. Cost \$100 per person. Morning tea and lunch provided. Places are limited. **Registration is secure with payment.**

MUSIC GROUP (RESEARCH STUDY) FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME

We currently have 9 families who have expressed their interest but we still need more. Once we have 10 or more families interested, we will organise an initial meeting here at the office in Onehunga.

- The study will look at the effect of a music programme on the general and pragmatic development of communication skills in children with Down syndrome.
- The age group that would be involved, would be 4 to 8.
- About 10 children would be needed for the study.
- The children will be randomly placed in two groups. One group will have a music session twice a week for 5 weeks and the other group will have an arts and craft group twice a week for five weeks.
- Both groups will be given a music tape at the end of the study. There is also the possibility of an ongoing weekly music group for any of the 10 children who are interested.
- Language samples and assessments will need to be done, but I can arrange to do those at home or at a place convenient to us all.
- A summary of the results of the study will be available to all participants at the end of the study.

This will be a very exciting study. I have worked for years as a teacher and a Music Therapist with children with disabilities. Currently I am the Team Leader for the Play Specialists at Starship Children's Hospital. Children with Down syndrome love music (as you will probably know) and through experience I know how well they react to music groups. The music groups will involve different instruments (also those that the children can play themselves), lots of singing, dancing and lots of fun and joy. You will enjoy it as much as they will!

Please contact the office if you would like to participate in this research project (clo@adsa.org.nz or 636 0351).



HOW THE GNOMES STOLE CHRISTMAS-Saturday 5 December

Southern Stars Charitable Trust are pleased to be able to provide you with free tickets to the upcoming production of "*How the Gnomes stole Christmas*" at the Logan Campbell Centre, ASB Showground, Greenlane Road West. This production is in aid of "Ronald McDonald House Auckland".

One ticket entitles 1 adult and 2 children 0-14 years to general admission.

There are shows at 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm.

Please email the office at clo@adsa.org.nz with your address and I will pop them in the mail for you.

AUCKLAND'S SPECIAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The special children's Christmas party will be held Saturday 12 December at the ASB Showground in Greenlane. It will run from 11 am till 2.30 pm and during this time the children will be treated to a star-studded show featuring celebrities, many local and national performing artists, face painting, merry-go-rounds, jumping castles, free give-aways plus the children get to meet special sporting celebrities and of course lots of food!

The children will be taken, by age group, through Santa's cave and will receive their presents.

This is by invitation only and for the age group birth to 12 years. **One invitation entitles one child plus parent/care giver to attend this day.**

If you are interested in attending, please email the office clo@adsa.org.nz or ring 636 0351. We have a limited number of tickets so first come first serve.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

I have the holiday programmes for Recreate and disAbility.Rec.

If you are interested in receiving these, then please email me, Christel, on clo@adsa.org.nz and I will email them to you.

AUCKLAND DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION YOUTH GROUP (for boys and girls 12 to 18 years)

After a hesitant start (only 2 people attended the first event in September) there is now a core group of 21 and every month more youth join up!!

On Saturday 5 December, at the Jack Dickey Community Hall, Greenlane, there will be a Youth Group Christmas Party/Disco. Flyer attached.

GIRLS CLUB – for girls aged 8 to 10 years

To all those interested, we are meeting at the One Tree Hill Domain (the park by the Auckland Stardome & Observatory) this Sunday 29th November at 10.30am. Come along and meet some new friends. For more information please contact Desireah Lyn on (09) 411 5053 or 021 0317175.

AUCKLAND DISABILITY PROVIDERS NETWORK INC. – newsletter attached.

SPECIAL FRIENDS ONLINE

Hi there, my name is Maya and I live in Wales, United Kingdom. I am working for a charity as a volunteer and contacting you to have a look at their Social Network for people with Learning Intellectual disabilities www.specialfriendsonline.com. This is a fantastic site for people to make friends in a safe environment, also for parents and carers, special Olympic members, Buddies and professionals. I hope you visit the site, it is free, and I look forward to meeting you on Special Friends Online.

Please let anyone else, who could be interested, to know about it!

Kind regards, Maya. Email: maya.amicus@gmail.com

BREAKFAST TV AND PAUL HENRY

IHC would be very grateful if you could help us to complain about an item on Breakfast TV this morning. In the item Paul Henry refers to Susan Boyle (the singer who won Britain's Got Talent) as 'retarded'. He laughs and says she was starved of oxygen at birth and has an intellectual disability. He then say "If you look at her carefully you can make it out".

I have put the link to the relevant section on Breakfast TV below (you have to watch the National Bank ad first, and then listen to a few seconds about Maggie Barry.)

<http://tvnz.co.nz/breakfast-news/breakfast-monday-november-23-3172249/video?vid=3172487>

If you want to complain could you please:

1. Email breakfast@tvnz.co.nz saying that Paul Henry's comments about Susan Boyle and intellectual disability were inappropriate and discriminatory.
2. Go to the Human Rights Commission online complaints form <http://www.hrc.co.nz/home/hrc/enquiriescomplaints/onlinecomplaintsform.php> and fill it out. Say that TVNZ is using discriminatory language about people with intellectual disabilities, making negative comments about their appearance and treating intellectual disability with derision and disrespect.

Please pass this email on to others so they can complain also. This is an opportunity to make it clear to Paul Henry and TVNZ that discrimination against people with intellectual disability is not acceptable, and that there are many people who are offended by the comments on Breakfast TV.

Thank you - Philippa Sellens-Communications Manager-IHC New Zealand Inc

BARNARDOS PARENTING COURSES – Information attached.

ART ADVENTURE HOLIDAY PROGRAM – Information attached.

MOTHER'S REQUESTS

- Leonie Gillespie wants to know where to buy appropriate swim wear for her daughter Samantha. Leonie says: "Sam is short, round and no breasts so all the styles just don't seem to work on her. I was looking at tankini type style." Any suggestions appreciated.
- Maria Holt is a parent of a 3 year old and currently living in Oamaru. The family is in Auckland at the moment and would like to talk with families in South Auckland with a similar aged child about services . Her telephone number is 298 5895.

GET-TOGETHER AT PARENT & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Wednesday 2 December from 10 - 11.30am.

This will be a monthly occurrence and will alternate between getting together during the week and the following month on the weekend. EVERYONE is welcome, bring a plate and see you at The Parent and Family Resource Centre, cnr Spring and Princes Street, 92b Princes Street, Onehunga.

An added bonus is PJ McCrae will be joining us to show us baby massage. This is suitable for infants 6 weeks old to those not yet crawling.

Have a great weekend.

**Christel van Baalen
Community Liaison Officer
26 November 2009**