



A Place Of Our Own Project

People First New Zealand held two successful forums to launch the book and Film called '**A Place Of Our Own**'.

Over 200 people attended the forums which were held in Christchurch and Hamilton. People attending were People First members and others with a learning disability, other Disabled people, staff and management of a range of Disability Support Services and Disabled peoples organisations, staff from the Health and Disability Commission, Needs Assessment and Service Coordination agencies, parents of Disabled children and other disabled peoples organisations.

Following the screening of the film the stars of the film were introduced to the participants attended. Sharon Haig and Murray Priest in Christchurch and Rolly Baker and Kevin Thompson in Hamilton.

It was great to have the Disability Clothesline project at the forum and also information about the Confidential Listening and Assistance service.

After lunch the open space process began and the facilitators invited the participants to build the afternoon's agenda. Topics discussed were; going flatting, employment, self advocacy, abuse and violence, safety.

Participants were asked to record the discussions which have been typed up and are available on the People First web site. The information gathered will be also be useful when developing future submissions and topics for future meetings.

These forums were the first time People First had invited participants that were not People First members or staff to a People First event and there has been great feedback.



From National Chairperson, Graeme Parish

Kia ora

It has been a busy time for People First.

We have finished A Place of Our Own project, the making of a book and film about people who used to live in institutions. To launch the book and film we held two successful forums and people talked about issues that were important to them. It was great to have the stars of the film at the forums. You can read what was discussed on the People First web site.

People First are very proud of the book and film and hope they will be used widely as training tools for people working in the disability sector.

People First has been going for over six years and it is now time to have a look at the constitution. This is going to be a big focus over the next year. Janet Doughty is leading this work and all members will be able to have their say about any changes that may happen.

Planning is well underway for the leadership forum which will be happening in November in Palmerston North. Five members from each region will attend a two day forum where a range of topics will be discussed.



After the leadership forum People First will hold the 2010 National Annual General Meeting. All members and Friends of People First are most welcome.

Keep up all the good work in the local groups and regions.

Nothing about us without us

Graeme Parish
National Chairperson

PEOPLE FIRST LEADERS ACHIEVE



Congratulations to People First member from Palmerston North, Hamish Taverner. Hamish has just completed the national certificate in Human Services. This is the base level qualification for disability support workers. Hamish supports a Disabled student in a local primary school during the lunch hour and also works at NZ Animal Breeding Trust. Hamish is also a Global Messenger for Special Olympics New Zealand and will be attending the Special Olympics World Games in Athens next year as a team member for New Zealand's ten pin bowling team. Well done Hamish.



Well done to Dunedin People First's Chairperson Phyllis McPherson who has recently completed the SAMS Partners in Policymaking course. This course is part of an international programme and was held over the past eight months. It provides leadership training to assist people with learning disabilities and families to make a difference in policy making.

PEOPLE FIRST STAFF CHANGES



National Manager

People First had a formal farewell to Janet Doughty from her role as National Manager and welcome to Cindy Johns in Wellington recently.

Janet had been the National Manager for the past 7 years and worked really hard to set up a strong organisation. It is great that Janet is still going to do a bit of work for People First she will be leading the look into the constitution.

Cindy is well known to People First having been part of the steering group to set up People First as an independent organisation back in 2003. Cindy has been acting in the National Manager's role for a year and People First are pleased she has taken on the role permanently.

Introducing New Regional Coordinators



Midland Regional Coordinator - Mary Barnett

Mary has been involved in the disability field for over 15 years. She has been the local Assistant for the Rotorua People First Group for 5 years and is looking forward to a new role as the Regional Coordinator for the Midland region. Mary also works for Voice Advocacy Trust in Rotorua where she provides advocacy for people with disabilities in a range of areas including finance, housing and service provision.



Top of the South Regional Coordinator- Charle Farnell

Charle began working alongside people with a learning disability over 20 ago. Charle has supported people within their local community, helped staff offer people choices and built networks of good support people in recreation groups. Charle managed a local specialist support team which helped people be more at ease in their home and out in their neighbourhood. She has also worked with a national organisation to monitor the quality of services that are available for people with a learning disability.

How people learn and effective teaching is Charles' passion and she has worked with programmes in Prisons, toward stopping violence, and with the Military, toward building partnership and cooperation. Charle has tutored and supported facilitators of parenting skill programmes throughout rural New Zealand, and tutored a number of art classes.

Charle believes that opportunity and experience help people make their own choices and develop a life that is individually satisfying.

Leadership development

Earlier this year People First was pleased to get funding to assist with leadership development from the Ministry of Health. This funding is being used throughout New Zealand to assist members to learn and participate in a range of meetings and activities. People First will also be holding a 2 day leadership forum at the end of November for 5 members from each region. At this forum there will be workshops on a range of topics delivered by Disabled leaders in New Zealand.

Midsouth Leadership team

The team is Graeme, Simon, Caroline, Stewart, John and Marg (Assistant).

The team meets once a week and works hard together. Some of the things they have been doing are:

- Preparing for and attending meetings at DPA, Canterbury District Hospital Board, Consumer Council, Wamakariri District Council, Ch.Ch City Council's Disability Advisory Group and Ch.Ch City Council's Kiwiable meetings.
- Making a presentation about People First.
- presenting to the students at the Polytech Work Skills Course.
- Preparing for the 'Dress for Success' presentation at the People First Leadership Forum in November.



Wanted Film Stars

Works4Us are still looking for some potential film stars.

We are looking for people with a learning disability who are working in open employment but have some and maybe receive a service from a supported Employment agency.

This is for the second part of the film about disabled people doing a "A job just like anyone else"

We are also looking for a person with a learning disability who is on a minimum wage exemption for part three.

If you want to star contact Dave Wickham on **0800 40 40 49**.



Two great launches of 'A job just like anyone else: Peter at work'

AUCKLAND

The Auckland team of Works4Us had around 80 people at the Manukau City Council on the 28th July to officially launch the film, A job like anyone else: Peter at Work.

The audience included Colleen Brown, a Manukau City Councilor, who welcomed the audience, a Senior representative from Progressive Enterprises, Anne Hawker, Principal Disability Adviser (MSD), Department of Labour Inspectors and senior staff from Workforce Auckland which is the largest Business Enterprise in the country.



The film was very well received and created a lot of discussion about the wages and conditions of work for disabled people. One of the aims of the launch was to introduce People First to a wider audience in South Auckland and this aim was certainly achieved.

The launch created a lot of interest and since then the Auckland team have been busy attending a number of meetings and presenting information about Works4Us. People First would like to thank Manukau City Council for their support with this event.

DUNEDIN

A great launch was also held in Dunedin bringing together employers, Government agencies, members, advocates and services. Guest speaker, Grant Cleland, CEO of Workbridge, outlined his findings from recent research that showed the positive influences of people with disabilities in the workplace and the many benefits for employers.

Facilitating the evening, Brigit Mirfin-Veich gave the audience questions to work on in groups. The film 'A job like anyone else: Peter at work' helped to focus on the successes and opportunities that are available for people. The evening succeeded in creating an opportunity for a network of individuals committed to improving the access people with disability have to paid employment in Dunedin to develop.

People First Otago believe that the initiatives taken have the potential to generate meaningful change in the lives of people with disabilities and it is our hope that we can continue the momentum generated by the forum. Thanks to Countdown Dunedin for their support.



Be a Friend of People First NZ

People First NZ have recently made a pamphlet about being a Friend of People First. We know there is a lot of in kind support happening around New Zealand at local and regional levels and the Friends pamphlet is a way of recording this. It would be great to be able to acknowledge all the people and organisations that support us. Also we know some people and organisations want to support People First but are not sure how. The Friend pamphlet is a way of having this conversation.



What is People First?

People First New Zealand is a self advocacy organisation run by and for people with learning/intellectual disability. People First New Zealand is part of an international self advocacy movement. There are People First groups in Canada, USA, England, Australia and other countries.

People First was set up in New Zealand in the 1980's and has been an independent Incorporated Society for 25 years.

There are over 25 local groups around New Zealand that are split into 6 regions. Each regional group votes for a Regional Chairperson. The 6 Regional Chairpersons make up the People First National Committee.

People First NZ provides information and advice about rights and supports for people with learning/intellectual disability. We also run courses for people with learning disability and deliver educational presentations to the wider community.

To find out more about People First NZ or to get information about learning/intellectual disability contact us by:

0800 20 60 70

mail@peoplefirst.org.nz

www.peoplefirst.org.nz

Po Box 9199
Marion Square
Wellington 6141

nothing about us without us

People First
Nga Tangata Tuatahi

People First New Zealand

Friends of People First

Support People First New Zealand

Notice of Annual General Meeting



When:

- on Sunday 28th November 2010
- 9am – 1pm
- followed by lunch 1pm to 2-30pm



Where:

Novotel Travel Lodge Hotel, Cuba Street, Palmerston North

RSVP:

- contact Cindy Johns or Crystal Fang on 04 3813242 or email mail@peoplefirst.org.nz

For more information go to www.peoplefirst.org.nz

PEOPLE FIRST NEW ZEALAND



Works4Us

Employment Advocacy Service



For more information call Dave on
Wellington: **04 381 3244**
Free phone: **0800 40 40 49**
Email: dave@peoplefirst.org.nz

DIAS



**Disability
Information
Advisory
Service**

Don't forget to call the DIAS service if you have any questions or concerns about learning disability. We can help advise you where to go to get help or information that you may need.

Call us on Wellington **04 381 3242** or free phone **0800 20 60 70**, Email mail@peoplefirst.org.nz

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ASB Community Trust
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