



## A message from the National Chairperson



Happy New Year everybody and welcome to the 1st Butterfly Express for 2016.

I hope everyone has had a good start to the year. We can already tell that it is going to be a busy year, with lots of things coming up, like the first National Committee meeting in March and the review of the Disability Strategy, led by the Office for Disability Issues. We are looking forward to seeing all of the entries for the 2016 Card of the Year at the National Committee meeting and choosing a winner. It's good for people to get their artwork out there and to get recognised for it and get an award.

There are lots of interesting articles in this newsletter, I hope you enjoy reading it. It is good to read all about the different projects we are doing at the moment and which funders are supporting us. Thank you very much to all the funders for helping us, it helps People First to keep strong.

I would also like to say congratulations to all the People First members who are doing such great work and getting nominations and awards. They do a marvellous job for People First and we are very proud of them.

Finally, the Leadership forum and AGM last year went smoothly and was very well run. I want to say a big thank you to all the staff for all their hard work to make it happen.

Kind regards,  
Hamish Taverner  
National Chairperson

## Local groups receive Community Award nomination

People First Whanganui and People First Manawatu were both nominated for Trust Power Community Awards in their areas for the work they are doing in the community. Manawatu President David Scott and Local Assistant Lia Hendricks attended the awards on behalf of their local group on 15th September 2015 and Whanganui President Kieran Scott attended the ceremony in Whanganui on 11th October 2015 so they could accept the award if they won. Unfortunately neither group won the award but the fact they were nominated was a huge boost for the local groups and shows that the groups are doing great work, promoting the rights of people with a learning disability and encouraging people to speak up.

Congratulations Manawatu and Whanganui. Keep up the great work!



**Manawatu President  
David Scott**



## Making connections with the local Council

In late 2015 a funding application was submitted to the Western Bay of Plenty District Council by the Te Puke People First group. In order to support the application, Regional President Jodie Turner attended a meeting with the grant committee and gave a presentation based on her own personal journey. Jodie strongly believes that People First has supported her to grow and be part of her local community.

Jodie's story gives a very strong account of how important the grassroots – local People First groups – are, and how they can play a part in transforming people with learning disability into confident and independent members of their own communities.

While, through the role of Regional President, Jodie has now spoken publicly on many occasions, this was her first time speaking in front of 15 Councillors and she was very nervous at the start. During the presentation, Regional Coordinator Yi Small noticed Jodie's voice getting louder as she gained her confidence. All of the Councillors said they enjoyed and were inspired by Jodie's presentation, thanking her for the opportunity to learn more about People First and for her excellent work in her role. Jodie is very proud that she took on the challenge and did so well.

Great work Jodie!



**Jodie and Yi (Midland Region Coordinator) at Western Bay of Plenty Council**

## A new office for People First MidSouth

The People First office in Christchurch was first established way back in 2008. It was with some sadness therefore that we moved to a new location at the end of last year. It was a large and roomy office but as rental costs have risen and funding decreased we decided to move to the Christchurch Community House, at 301 Tuam Street.

The Community House has a bus stop outside which will be handy for members who rely on public transport. As tenants of Christchurch Community House, we have access to:

- 3 small meeting rooms
- a hot desk
- reduced costs on meeting rooms 1 and 2
- a really good, low-cost photocopier.

Members pitched in to help move to the new office and it is good to know we are now in a building that has been strengthened to withstand any future earthquakes.



**Left to right: Warren Cresswell, Simon Atkinson, Benjamin Morris, Shane McIntroe and Kayla le Gros.**



**Ben Morris, Shane McIntroe, Simon Atkinson and Kayla le Gros have a break on moving day!**

# And the award goes to....

For many on the People First National Committee, the honour of choosing who will be given the annual Leona Gitmans Te Aranga Award for self advocacy is one of the best parts of their job.

In November 2015 the award was presented to long-term People First Christchurch member, Simon Atkinson. Having represented the organisation on many groups and in many roles over the years, it was felt by all that Simon truly deserved the award.

During his time he has:

- been the Christchurch Local Group President;
- been the MidSouth Regional President;
- been a member of regional leadership projects;
- been part of People First's **Works 4 Us** employment advocacy service;
- led Speaking Up courses;
- presented at conferences in both New Zealand and Australia.

Simon has a passion for all things to do with transport and researches what is happening in NZ and around the world to make transport more accessible for disabled people. He represents People First on the **Christchurch Total Mobility Committee** and the **Accessible Transport Action Committee**.

Simon has also been a member of the **Christchurch City Council Disability Advisory Group** and has been involved with the **Standards and Monitoring Service (SAMS)**. In 2009 he was selected to visit Japan as a NZ disability sector representative in the **Young Core Leaders of Civil Society programme** run by the Japanese Government.



Simon has a great talent for networking and is very well known. He travels widely around New Zealand taking in the sights, always promoting People First and selling the wooden products which he makes in his small business. In his local group, Simon takes an interest in all the members and often comes to meetings laden with goodies to share. He reports back to the group about all of the meetings he attends.

In recognition of his achievement, Simon received a beautifully carved pounamu (this year's adze was made from greenstone from Hokitika, and carved in Gisborne), \$500 and a mattress topper from the Gitmans family business, **Slumbertop NZ** – a memory foam and comfort specialist, set up to cater to the disability sector.

Check out their products at [www.slumbertop.co.nz](http://www.slumbertop.co.nz)

**Congratulations Simon on your wonderful achievement.**







## Working in partnership works

As a not for profit organisation we are continually told to make sure that we have a wide stream of funders to ensure longevity. None of People First NZ's funding is ever certain so we have been working hard to build new networks and strong relationships so that people with learning disability continue to have an independent voice in New Zealand.

*"One of the main lessons I have learned during my five years as Secretary-General is that broad partnerships are the key to solving broad challenges. When governments, the United Nations, businesses, philanthropies and civil society work hand-in-hand, we can achieve great things."*

Ban Ki-moon

## A new national partnership for People First

**Did you know that People First now has 6 office spaces across New Zealand?**

The **Lion Foundation** funded People First NZ for the first time in 2015, contributing funding towards office rent and telecommunications. Janet Doughty, Funding Manager says "I am really excited to have another funder on board with People First. The Lion Foundation is well known for investing in very worthwhile reputable organisations and projects. It's great to see they value the work of People First New Zealand".

Janet asked Marcus Reynolds, Relationship Manager for the Lion Foundation "What was it about People First that initially took the Lion Foundation's interest and made you think this is an organisation you could fund?"

"The Lion Foundation love being involved with organisations like People First because it reminds us of why we exist in the first place. An organisation that teaches the community about respect, inclusion and equality deserves as much support as possible. We're both excited and humbled by our partnership with People First."

**Thank you Lion Foundation.**



Henry Ford said

*"Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success".*

**Te Pou** has invested into People First's leadership development for 6 consecutive years. The leadership programme is run both regionally and nationally and has had a significant impact on People First's leadership succession. Each year People First is getting new younger members and this funding allows People First to work with a lot of these younger members, which helps build their skills early in their lives. It is often after the national leadership forum where we see members show interest and have the confidence to step up into leadership and representative roles for the organisation.

We asked Manase Lua, Disability and Pacific Workforce Manager "Te Pou has now funded People First NZ's Leadership Development Project for 6 years in a row. What part of People First's leadership projects do you and your team get excited hearing about?"

"Te Pou o Te Whakaaro Nui (Te Pou) is New Zealand's centre for mental health, addiction and disability workforce development. The Disability Workforce Development Programme within Te Pou administers training grant funding on behalf of the Ministry of Health. People First have accessed our consumer leadership development grants over the years, and Te Pou acknowledges how this investment has helped to develop leadership within People First's member base. These leaders have in turn been able to fill diverse and high level roles around the country. Having the voice of disabled people at important levels of the sector is vitally important and Te Pou are proud to have played a part in supporting this to occur through our grants programme."

**Thank you Te Pou.**

**The Frozen Funds Trust** is another strong supporter of People First and our projects.

'Frozen Funds' was the name given to the interest on patients' welfare benefits paid into psychiatric and psychopaedic hospital trust accounts in the 1970s and 80s. The interest money was kept by the institutions to fund such things as recreational projects. In 1987, this practice ceased and the interest money was taken from the hospitals for payment to the people who owned it. Over half of the interest money was returned to its owners in the early 1990s.

The Government then decided that the unclaimed balance of the funds should benefit people who used mental health and intellectual disability services. A charitable trust was established.

Janet asked the Frozen Funds Trust Board "The Frozen Funds Trust must get more applications for funding than you can fund each year. What kinds of outcomes are you looking for when you are choosing which projects to fund?"

"They need to benefit first and foremost those two groups in our constitution, people who use or have used mental health services and people with an intellectual disability. The two groups who historically were housed in psychiatric hospitals, from where the money came."





"We then consider if the application fits the theme for the year. We set a theme to try to target money into areas where we think we can assist people to get good outcomes and also areas that may not be funded well by government."

"We consider how many people may benefit from each application and try to get the widest spread were we can, but we also sometimes consider applications that can make significant difference for an individual."

People First is planning to use this funding on a project to network with Rotary to promote better employment opportunities for people with learning disability.

**Thank you to the Frozen Funds Trust for funding for this project.**

People First NZ has many other funders and supporters at all levels of the organisation who all contribute towards the success of People First and the members.

Watch this space in the next edition of the Butterfly Express to learn more about People First NZ supporters and funders.



## "I feel listened to, instead of talked about and told what to do"

From the 18-20th November 2015, People First New Zealand held its National Leadership Forum and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Auckland. As has been done for the last 6 years the forum has been held, the first 2 days were spent focussing on leadership, within the organisation and in the wider community. It is a practical, fun way for the members from around the country to show each other what they have been working on throughout the year and share the learning.

This years' presentations were on topics close to the members' hearts:

- having a safe and happy home, free from bullying
- say NO to bullying
- recognising what kind of leaders there are and being more self-aware
- healthy lifestyles – exercise and nutrition
- living a good life
- and surveying disability service providers on their knowledge of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



**People First Midland members Glenn Morgan and Cindy Roscoe talking about bullying.**





As well as having the opportunity to speak in public – for some, the first time – the forum also gave members the chance to hear from speakers like Jade Farrar, Robert Martin and David Corner about leadership, the UN and Inclusion International.

Feedback from members who attended was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of members reporting on their feedback forms that they had gained new skills and knowledge from being at the national forum.

Communications Manager Alexia Black and Funding Manager Janet Doughty were kept busy throughout the 3 days running a photo booth and collecting people's thoughts:

"I'm usually a shy person but it's been okay here because people are friendly and kind."

"Before my presentation I was a bit scared, but after the presentation I felt happy."

"In the community we don't get listened to. At People First, people talk slow and we can understand. In the community they talk, talk, talk, talk, talk! Double Dutch!"

"It has changed my life and I can get up and not be scared about making mistakes."

"I feel listened to instead of talked about and told what to do."

The AGM was well attended and upbeat. The financial report showed what a sound position the organisation is in financially and members appointed a new Auditor for 2016. Guest speaker and Life Member JP Edwards stole the show however, with a live interview about his time with People First. JP said that he was both honoured and humbled to be asked to speak at the AGM.



**Guest speakers Jade Farrar and Robert Martin**



**Life Member JP Edwards and Funding Manager Janet Doughty**



## Contacts

### National Office Address:

Level 4, 173-175 Victoria Street,  
Wellington 6011

Mail Address: PO Box 9199,  
Marion Square, Wellington 6141  
Phone: 0800 20 60 70,  
(04) 381 3242  
Fax: (04) 381 3242  
mail@peoplefirst.org.nz  
www.peoplefirst.org.nz  
www.facebook.com/peoplefirstnz

### National Manager:

Cindy Johns  
(04) 381 3242  
(027) 6841 061  
cindyjohns@peoplefirst.org.nz

### National Finance Manager:

Crystal Fang  
(09) 579 1588  
(027) 688 8048  
crystalfang@peoplefirst.org.nz

### Communications Manager, Easy Read Translation Service:

Alexia Black  
(027) 428 9747  
alexia@peoplefirst.org.nz

### Funding Manager:

Janet Doughty  
(027) 869 9790  
janetdoughty@peoplefirst.org.nz

### North Island Team Leader, Northern Region Coordinator

Kaeti Rigarsford  
(027) 575 4000  
kaeti@peoplefirst.org.nz

### Northern Region President

Raymond Thoumine

### Midland Region Coordinator

Yi Liang Small  
027 512 1226  
yi@peoplefirst.org.nz

### Midland Region President

Jodie Turner

### Central Region Coordinator

Anne Marie Kirkpatrick  
(027) 856 2230  
04 381 3242  
annemarie@peoplefirst.org.nz

### National Chairperson, Central Region President

Hamish Taverner

### South Island Team Leader

Pam Shanks  
(027) 440 0279  
pam@peoplefirst.org.nz

### Top of the South Region Coordinator

Darlene Purdie  
(027) 206 4067  
darlene@peoplefirst.org.nz

### Top of South Region President

Don Neal

### MidSouth Region Coordinator

Margaret Matheson  
(03) 366 4210  
(021) 931 715  
marg@peoplefirst.org.nz

### MidSouth Region President

Craig Bellis

### Southern Region Coordinator

Gerry O'Farrell  
(027) 542 4916  
gerry@peoplefirst.org.nz

### Southern Region President

David King



0800 20 60 70



mail@peoplefirst.org.nz



www.peoplefirst.org.nz



www.facebook.com/peoplefirstnz

