

Otago Down Syndrome Association

No. 7 – April 2014

World Down Syndrome Day 2014





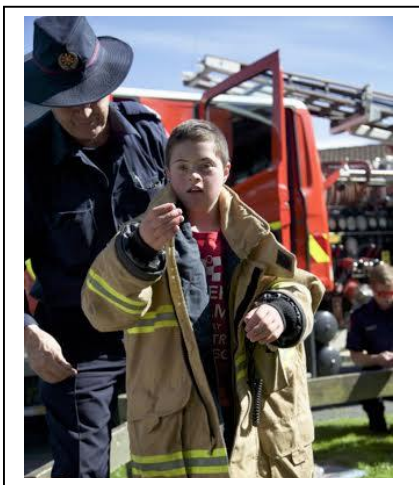
Thank you to everybody who helped us celebrate World Down Syndrome Day

Thank you for your donations:

St. Clair School, Dunedin Hospital Child Care Centre, Dunedin School of Dentistry, Kerruish Family

Thank you for your support on the day:

Dunedin Fire Brigade, Ben Smith & Phil Burleigh from the Highlanders, Vic Holloway from the Robert Burns Pub and Carlos Biggemann



Contact Details
Karola Franklyn
Jean Melville
Graeme Franklyn

President and regional contact person
Secretary
Treasurer

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Children with Down Syndrome at School - Seminars

Thanks to grant application funding from **Kingston Sedgewick Trust** and **Otago Community Trust** we were able to run three courses for teachers in term one. First, we had an overview on the Downs Ed International *Reading and Languages Intervention for Children with Down Syndrome*, which was attended by over sixty teachers, professionals and parents. On the 13th of March Margi Leech from the ADSA introduced teachers and parents from primary through to high school level to the *Numicon* maths programme during a one-day course. On the 20th of March Jane Wendelken from Talklink and Lisa Gallagher from CARA focussed on communication in their course *Creating Communication Opportunities during the School Day*, which was attended by teachers from as far afield as Dunstan. We will follow these up with a survey, so that we can provide teachers with the support they ask for. We are planning to offer another, intensive Talklink communication course as well as a course in Central Otago, and we would also like to accommodate teacher aide meetings and training.

IHC Library

Use the **ihc** online library. Very easy to use. Just look for a book, an author or a key word (e.g. Down Syndrome). Once you have signed up, the book is sent to you free of charge. Lending time is usually four weeks. The only cost involved is for posting the resource back to the **ihc**. Look them up under <http://ihc.infospecs.co.nz/>

AttitudeLive - new disability website - attitudelive.com

Watch: The Lily Harper Show (Attitude Live on Easter Sunday)

Be. Employed launched to support employers of disabled workers

The Employers' Disability Network was started in 2010 to support disability awareness in employment practices and encourage employers to employ disabled workers. The network has recently joined with the Be. Institute to create Be. Employed, to further develop the accessible employment movement. With 60% of disabled people unemployed, there is much to do to create a fully accessible employment environment. www.beaccessible.org.nz/be-employed

Find us on facebook!

Otago Down Syndrome Association. We are a secure group site. Find out about what is happening in the area and stay in touch with other members.

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My name is Rebecca and I am the music therapist for Soulbird Music Therapy - a new music therapy service here in Dunedin. I am making contact with those in the community who may be interested in knowing there is a music therapist working here now.

I qualified as a registered Music Therapist from the New Zealand School School of Music over eight years ago and have worked as a Music Therapist at the Raukatauri Music Therapy Centre, in a special education unit for children with special needs and at a clinic in the Mental Health sector. I recently moved to Dunedin and am eager to connect with groups and parents/caregivers who may be interested in private music therapy for their children or hosting an information seminar about music therapy.

Music therapy can help address many different needs including developing communication skills, building self-esteem and self-confidence, build relationship skills and work with emotional or psychological issues. While each music therapy session is different and varies depending on the client's needs, the general idea of each session is to use the music as a way of connecting with and creating a relationship between the therapist and the client. This can include improvised play and structured play (the use of pre-composed and familiar songs). I prefer the client-led approach which meets the client where ever they are at the moment they enter the room, and focuses on sharing music with the client to encourage and elicit change within the outlines of their goal and focus areas. This link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ANdV3xeKE> is a tv programme that I was privileged to take part in, that follows the stories of clients from the Raukatauri Centre and Carlson School for Cerebral Palsy. It also has some footage from within sessions that you may find interesting.

Soulbird Music Therapy also offers workshops and seminars, or free talks for parent support groups in the community.

I invite you to check out my website www.soulbirdmusictherapy.com and please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have or for further information:

Email: rebecca@soulbirdmusictherapy.com

Phone: 03 929 4840

Website: www.soulbirdmusictherapy.com

Contact us if you have any suggestions, ideas, questions or comments.

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