

AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

Hello from Auckland!
We'll here we are a little late with our newsletter for 2016.

We here in Auckland started the year with a pretty rocky road to navigate (more to be revealed). Resignations, positions to fill and a lack of \$\$\$.

Prior to all of the above mentioned trials and tribulations and successful outcomes, the end of 2015 finished on a high with the gifting of "Christmas Boxes" to a number of our clients. Jo and Jane delivered approximately 20 into the HD community. The boxes were a gift from the "Christmas Box" organisation which Leanne Knox played an integral part in getting these boxes donated to HDAA. Thank you Leanne.



Giftng of boxes

It is with regret that I inform you, our readers, that Jane Bentley, a lot of you will know Jane, left us at the end of January for other pastures. Jane was a well-respected employee at Huntington's Disease Association Auckland for eight years. We miss her great sense of humour, her caring and nurturing nature, so, we say to Jane "for all the caring, all your caregiving, thank you". We wish Jane all the best for her future endeavours, both in her career and personal life.

On that note along with the departure of Jane, we also lost our long time standing Chairman of the Board, Mark Dunlop, who for family and business reasons tendered his resignation forthwith, BUT, there is more. Our esteemed Treasurer, Trevor Lowe, a few weeks later, due to external pressures stepped down as Treasurer, but, to this day remains on the Committee. PHEW!!!

In light of these resignations we found ourselves with some serious work cut out for us, not only to replace Jane, Mark, Trevor but also a conference to organise and funds to be raised. With great pleasure we welcomed Chris Malcolm (a member of the committee) for putting his hat in the ring to be our "Interim Chairman". Chris has been on the committee for a number of years now and will be a great asset to lead HDAA forward. A great big thank you to you Chris.

With the Chairman's position filled we then looked around the committee for a Treasurer, lo and behold HDAA had previously welcomed onto the committee Matt Hobbs. Matt has an accounting background, who better to be our "Interim Treasurer". Matt graciously accepted and was voted in by the committee. A big thank you to you Matt Lyn Dyson also joined our committee, Lyn has a back ground in nursing so has been a great resource for Jo.



Committee photo

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We would like to welcome Dipika MacKenzie as our new Community Support worker. Dipika commenced work with us on 2nd February, 2016. Dipika, has a great sense of community awareness, a caring and positive outlook for all HD families/whanau. If you have not met her yet please do not worry as she is getting around to everyone, for those of you who have met with Dipika I am sure you will join us in our welcome. "Welcome aboard Dipika, great to have you."

Brain Day 2016

The Centre for Brain Research's Brain Day was held during March, we had a great time there once again. A huge thank you to our volunteers and staff that helped man our booth - special shout out to everyone that came and saw us on the day.

Thank you to the CBR and the Neurological Foundation for another great event. Looking forward to Brain Day 2017!



HDAA table at Brain Day 2016!

Unfortunately, we have not as yet been able to secure funding for a carer's retreat, but, have not given up. We will, however, be holding carer's days in August and November and as there will be limited spaces not everyone will receive an invitation, for that I apologise.

We continue to cover the Northland region. The Clinical Huntington's Disease Regional Service is being well attended at the Whangarei Base Hospital, due to this we will be holding 3 monthly clinics and home visits, for information re our clinic/visits to Northland please contact: admin.hda@vodafone.co.nz.

On our overnight stay in Northland we stay at Flames International Hotel. The management at Flames support our stay thru a very reasonable and discounted rate, thank you Flames International Hotel.

So from Huntington's management team and staff, stay safe, stay warm and stay smiling.

Jo, Dipika and Jacqui

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