

McKenziePlus

NEWSLETTER NO. 8 Kōanga 2022



McKenzie Centre
Realising a child's potential

MATARIKI CELEBRATION

Many of our whānau enjoyed a wonderful celebration of the Māori new year at McKenzie Centre on Thursday June 16. It was a great time for connection – with whānau coming together and spending time under the fairy lights!

We shared some kai, created stars to add to our Hiwai-i-te-rangi Wishing Tree, completed a star treasure hunt, found some new things in our clothes/toy swap, sang a couple of songs together, took photos in our starry photo booth and everyone went home with some vege seedlings for their māra kai, in acknowledgement of this time of planning, growth and looking after the earth.

Despite the cold temperature, fingers and bodies were warmed by the hot chips and the hot drinks, and we came together to remind ourselves of the importance of celebration, remembering, planning, and most importantly connection.

Special thanks to everyone for coming, to the team of organisers, and to Mitre 10 Te Awamutu for the plant donations.



TRISHA'S 25TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

We celebrated Trisha's 25th anniversary at McKenzie Centre in July with her family, trustees, McKenzie Centre and some of the Enrich Group current staff.

In the 25 years that Trisha has been with McKenzie Centre, she has been able to follow her passion: creating a better life for families and whānau.

Trisha started at McKenzie Centre in 1997 as an occupational therapist and took on the newly created centre director role in 2006.

Trisha said she felt incredibly lucky for all of the opportunities her work at McKenzie Centre has created.

However, McKenzie Centre has been incredibly lucky with Trisha. The Centre would not be where it is today without her vision, dedication, creativity, resilience and passion. The service that McKenzie Centre has provided over the years has always been innovative and responsive to the ever-changing needs from our children, whānau and the community.

Trisha is a one-of-a-kind leader who looks after all the people that she is involved with - staff, whānau, tamariki and the community, with one thing in mind 'to realise a child's potential'.

Thank you, Trisha, for all your mahi. No words can describe how lucky we are!



The plate that the children decorated for Trisha.





A BIG Thank You To Our Much-Valued Quiz Night Sponsors & Donors

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OTHER KEY DONORS

New World Whakatane
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 Stuart Hamilton
 Ethos Cafe



Congratulations to the winning team Momentum!

UPGRADES TO MCKENZIE CENTRE



Thanks to generous funding from The Lion Foundation, the Glenice and John Gallagher Foundation, the Wilson Home Trust, Grassroots Trust and donations from Mark and Glenda Hatwell and Carol Taylor and Brendon Carroll, we have wonderful, new double-glazed and top-opening windows.

This will keep our whare warmer in winter, cooler in summer and create better air flow to keep our centre well ventilated! A very big thank you to Lillian Martin who organised this project to a successful completion.

We also have beautiful, fresh-looking walls in the playroom, thanks to one of our dads, Chris Metcalfe, and his company Polygonomy Ltd. Chris very kindly donated his time for this project to us.

With these changes and additions McKenzie Centre is looking fabulous!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL QUIZ NIGHT

McKenzie Centre celebrated our fourth quiz evening on August 22. It was a long time in planning as Covid-19 has affected us since 2020!

There is no doubt that organising an event like this is a highly orchestrated effort, involving many parties to make the event a success.

We would like to thank Lillian Martin, Business Support Coordinator, for pulling the event together so successfully.

The quiz night offers McKenzie Centre the opportunity to fundraise, strengthen our relationships and build support. We are also able to raise awareness of the Centre and provide our wonderful donors and sponsors recognition and appreciation.

SOME WORDS FROM OUR SPONSORS

"Thanks Trish it was awesome to catch up. So cool to see McKenzie Centre going strong! Appreciate your kind words, we love what you do and its cool to see you be able to keep doing it."

Jeremy Bennett, New World Whakatane

"Another big 'thank you' to the suppliers of the food and drinks; the amazingly generous donors of our fabulous prizes (the silent auction quilt we successfully bid for is beautiful!); all our volunteers including the Hillcrest High students; Waikato Diocesan School for hosting us; our Quiz Master Stuart Hamilton and his team who donate their time; all those who made auction bids; and of course to everyone who supported us by attending. The funds we raised are critically important to our financial well-being. We look forward to seeing you at our 2023 Quiz Night."

Ken Williamson, trustee

And lastly, thank you to everyone – our 2022 Quiz night was a huge success and your contribution helps us to continue to provide our services to those in need and realise the potential of disabled children in our community.

WHĀNAU WORKSHOPS AT MCKENZIE CENTRE

Whānau development is a primary focus of the McKenzie Centre journey through connections, advocacy and education.

We know the overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of whānau, empowering them on their journey by placing whānau in the Driver's Seat.

Caregivers immediately feel supported, build connections, increase their confidence and ability to advocate as well as develop their own personal skills and knowledge.

"He has just gone above and beyond now. He's started talking! He is even putting words together, asking where people are going and following instructions for the first time. He is coming on in leaps and bounds."

Quote from a McKenzie Centre parent on her second week attending online workshops.

Workshops cover a variety of topics and provide whānau with specific goals, a plan, resources and activities as well as strategies which supports their child to learn.

Online workshops are a new venture for us and we are consistently exploring how we can do these more effectively and for a wider range of people.

Our workshops are free or low cost, typically using online delivery because this method is flexible and spreads our reach across the greater Waikato region.

Whānau feedback is critical and it enables us to adapt, respond and expand on our service options.

Keep an eye out on our website for upcoming workshops [HERE](#)

Siobhan Patterson
 Speech Language
 Therapist and
 Workshop Convenor



Siobhan is a speech language therapist with extensive knowledge in early intervention settings and schools. She has worked in specialist behaviour support services for all ages.

"I really enjoyed Siobhan's workshop. I am definitely going to incorporate the strategies taught in this workshop to continue to help my son's language development in fun and creative ways. I loved coming up with creative strategies to redirect certain behaviours and reinforcing the idea of child's play being a great opportunity to build on language"

Quote from a parent who has attended McKenzie Centre for over 12 months.



SEEKING SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT

TRANSFORM A CHILD'S LIFE AND BECOME A SPONSOR FROM JUST \$110 PER TERM.

McKenzie Centre is a trusted early intervention centre. We were established in 1984 and since then have supported thousands of children with disabilities and their families.

We develop specific strategies, in partnership with families/whānau, to promote each child's development. These strategies are child-centred, play-based and family focused.

We regularly hear from whānau about the impact our staff make on their children's lives.

"We love the McKenzie Centre. It's so amazing having regular input from trained professionals in a child friendly environment. We always learn something and can action changes at home." – J.M

We want to include everyone but because of financial worries some families struggle to attend. So, we are asking for your support for the early childhood intervention some children desperately need.

WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP...

We are seeking your help and assistance so that we can continue to provide our services to everyone in need, regardless of their financial situation.

We are reaching out to compassionate individuals and organisations for additional support.

We already have some wonderful supporters, but we are always excited to work with other partners in the community and we hope you will join us.

To view our full sponsorship letter – please click the link [HERE](#)

STAFF COMINGS AND GOINGS

A WARM WELCOME TO:

Angela Li Calsi

I graduated from the University of Canterbury in 1990 with a Diploma of Teaching (primary), Diploma of Speech Language Therapy and Bachelor of Education.

I worked for the Ministry of Education for 29 years as a speech language therapist, twelve of these exclusively in Early Intervention.

In October 2020, my son and I opened a sustainable grocery/refillery in Morrinsville. Now, I work part time in our store and two days a week at McKenzie Centre.

I am passionate about the power of communication and its ability to allow a person to succeed to their potential.



Larissa Alsemgeest

I am Larissa, I have recently graduated in Early Intervention after many years in early childhood education. I wanted to further develop my passion for helping children and whānau.

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my partner and three children exploring nature.



Keren Edwards

Kia Ora. I am mum to three wonderful children, the youngest is Isla who is five and has attended McKenzie Centre since 2018. Before I had our children I worked as a practice nurse, then a stay-at-home Mum for eight years.

Now I am excited to be part of the McKenzie Centre team, working in the Tuakana role, to connect with and support other families as they walk similar paths to ours.



FAREWELL and THANK YOU to Angela Amai - Tuakana

CONGRATULATIONS to Suzanne Kok, service manager, and Chrissy Douglas, speech language therapist, who are both expecting babies and taking parental leave to enjoy their new arrivals.

Poipoia te kākano, kia puawai
Nurture the seed and it will blossom.