



2017 – A year in review

Well here we are – almost at the end of 2017! We have had a very productive year and I thought it might be good to recap and update you with the latest news!

Taranaki is open for business!

The highlight for me this year was attending the opening of the New Plymouth Conductive Education Centre at Westown School. A lot of time, energy and advocacy has gone into this by Craig Nielsen and his fellow “beavers” and to see this come to fruition with the official opening on 01 December was fantastic. Westown is a lovely school with a really warm atmosphere and it was wonderful to hear Kim Theyers, Principal, talk about how thrilled they are to have Conductive Education as part of their school community. Isn’t it amazing what parents and communities can achieve! I did indicate in my address that I was saddened to think how hard the families had worked to create a long-term option for children in Taranaki when I, along with some other families had tread the very same path more than 25 years before. It certainly doesn’t seem to be any easier in 2017 – even when we have a Government who is so focused on choice and control sitting directly with families. I think we forget that Conductive Education in New Zealand has a long history behind it – so it is disappointing when the same barriers seem to exist.

Ride of the Legends

The above event was the result of lots of work and commitment from lots of people but was well worth the effort. Our riders did us proud! NZFCE Advisory Trustee Linda Harris and I were living and breathing this event for many months! The promotion that Conductive Education received was fantastic and it is important that we focus on continuing to build on the profile that we received. Thanks must go to the Mediaworks Foundation for their support!

Conductive Education Canterbury Celebrates

CEC celebrated its 25th birthday at a dinner event in November. We had people travelling from as far afield as Auckland and it was so lovely to connect with families and ex clients (now adults!) who had been through the programme over the years. The photo presentation rekindled lots of memories and showed how those babies and pre-schoolers had grown into such wonderful adults! Grant Slevin who has supported CEC for a lot of those 25 years and remains as President today, was recognised with a Life Membership of Conductive Education Canterbury for his commitment and dedication to the organisation. Grant was clearly shocked by this presentation, but it was very well deserved!



Gary Endacott

The NZFCE Board were very sorry to farewell an Advisory Trustee at our last Annual General Meeting. Gary has provided wise counsel and great advice over the years – both from the perspective of a person with Cerebral Palsy and also in his role as Disability Advisor for the Ministry of Education in Christchurch.

Gary was presented with a pounamu taonga in recognition of the significant contribution he has made to NZFCE.

Thank you Gary.

Strategic Plan

We managed to tick off lots of items on our strategic plan this year which was fantastic! As a result of feedback from our centres we have now developed a draft marketing plan for 2018. We are meeting with a marketing expert who works in the not-for-profit sector who will also give us some guidance as to what might assist us to get the word out into the community about Conductive Education. We are always open to any ideas that our centres and supporters might have – so give us a call if you have any lightbulb moments.

NZ Home Loans – Canterbury Metro

We were incredibly grateful to Emm and Terry from NZHL for their sponsorship during the Ride of the Legends and were so pleased to host them at Conductive Education Canterbury for morning tea recently. Emm and Terry love the work of Conductive Education and are keen to continue a relationship with us. We look forward to working with NZHL Canterbury Metro in the future!



Conductive Education – Dunedin

Judit Varadi has commenced providing Conductive Education programmes in Dunedin – at a lovely place called Port Chalmers. This is in the beginning stages but numbers are building which is exciting. We look forward to supporting Judit where we can and hopefully witnessing the birth of another affiliated Conductive Education Centre in Dunedin. Keep up the good work Judit!

Professional Development Fund

NZFCE has supported 17 professional development opportunities during 2017 which we are delighted about. Because this fund has been so well supported we are increasing the budget by 20% in 2018. We look forward to receiving new applications!

Centre Survey

Thank you so much to centres for providing information so that NZFCE could up-date the picture of Conductive Education nationally. We are supporting in excess of 280 clients throughout our 11 centres with an increased range of disability types – people on the autistic spectrum is one of the growing groups. It just confirms what we already know, the way that Conductive Education teachers with task series, routines etc. is beneficial for so many people. Our services also serve a wide ethnicity base with 37% identifying as non-NZ European and of this 16% as Maori and 12% Pasifika.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this year and I am excited to see what 2018 will bring!

In the meantime, have a restful, happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes

Sally Thomas
National Coordinator

