

# StrongVoices

EMPOWERED LIVES

Spring 2023

Ready for anything

Spotlight on  
candidates

I had a dream to  
win gold



**ihc**

IN YOUR COMMUNITY



# Kōrero

It's election year. I am not sure who I will vote for; I am still finding out what the different political parties have to offer. I also want to know more about the candidates who are standing for election.

I think we all want a government that can improve the quality of people's lives.

We all want to be safe, have a roof over our heads, have enough food, be healthy, have meaningful things to do, have people we love and have people who love us. We want to belong, to be included, and we want to contribute to our communities. We want freedom to do the things we want to do with the money and support we need.

For a government to improve the quality of people's lives – to make informed decisions, to fix things before they get worse, to find the best solutions to problems, to know what works well and where tax money can be put to best use – they need good information about who we are, what our situations are and what matters to us.

IHC recently completed research using the Integrated Data Index (IDI) managed by Stats NZ. It highlights key areas that need to be improved if people with intellectual disabilities are to enjoy good lives. Despite some improvements in the wellbeing of people with intellectual disabilities since the Government's last health and wellbeing report 12 years ago, further improvements are needed. It is necessary for the next government to put a higher value on gathering and collating solid information on the needs of disabled people, instead of guessing. (See the story on page 3.)

IHC is holding a 2023 Election Forum at the Wharewaka Function Centre in Wellington on 20 September at 4pm. It will be an opportunity for people with disabilities and their supporters to meet and listen to candidates standing in this year's election. Disabled voters can ask candidates questions to increase their knowledge and understanding of the plans political parties have for running our country. (See the story on page 5.)

Answers from election candidates to the following questions may shed light on how inclusive their policies for disabled people are, in a population where one in four people has a disability:

- What will your party do to address the lack of affordable and accessible housing for people with disabilities on low and moderate incomes and their families?
- What could your party do to increase the life expectancy of disabled Māori?
- How could your party address the high unemployment rate of New Zealanders with disabilities?
- What is your plan for ensuring that disability issues and the community are front and centre in your planning and execution of emergency management plans and your climate agenda?

For more information on the Election Forum contact Shara Turner on 0800 442 442 or [shara.turner@IHC.org.nz](mailto:shara.turner@IHC.org.nz).

**Tania Thomas**  
IHC Director of Advocacy

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### Join the conversation:

We want to keep you posted. Be the first to read the news and views across the IHC Group and disability sector. We'd love to hear from you.

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 [www.ihc.org.nz/strong-voices](https://www.ihc.org.nz/strong-voices)

### Cover image:

If it's Friday, the guys from Switch will be out and about and learning something new in their community. Switch is an IDEA Services youth service in Dunedin. Pictured on the headland above Smaills Beach are Denderah Gould (standing) and Katie Beamish with border collie Oscar. Photograph: Nicole Bezemer.

### Back page image:

Look out for the kapa haka festivals being held throughout the country, starting with the Southern Region Kapa Haka Festival on 26 September at the Aurora Centre in Christchurch.



# New data paints a clearer picture of people's lives

IHC

Researchers working for IHC are now finalising a report that for the first time in years presents a much clearer picture of what it means to have an intellectual disability in New Zealand.

IHC has been frustrated for a long time about the lack of information collected by the Government on the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. If people are invisible, then it's easy to overlook the services and support they need to live good lives.

IHC Director of Advocacy Tania Thomas says we can't keep guessing what people need. She has called for the Government to place greater value on gathering and collating solid information about the needs of disabled people.

She says good data helps us see what more we should be doing in support of disabled people. It shows where there is unfair treatment in the intellectually disabled population compared with the general

population. And it helps New Zealand meet its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

IHC commissioned research team Kōtātā Insight to dig into a huge database to try to find out more. The decision was made after hearing that neither the Ministry of Health nor Whaikaha, the new Ministry of Disabled People, had any plans to update the Health Indicators for New Zealanders with Intellectual Disability

report, now 12 years out of date.

The researchers have combined statistical data from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI), one of the more comprehensive linked datasets in the world, with the lived experience of intellectually disabled people. Their research covers a wider scope, reaching beyond health into many areas of the lives of intellectually disabled people.

The IDI holds de-identified data on individuals and households in New Zealand, collected from government agencies, surveys, and non-governmental organisations. It allowed researchers to identify intellectually disabled people and examine wellbeing across health, employment, income, education, crime and child welfare. This large dataset also allowed the researchers to explore diversity within the intellectually disabled population.

There is information about nine million people in the database, mostly from the 1990s and 2000s, including information on temporary migrants and deceased people and other historical data.

Researcher Keith McLeod says the project was an eye-opener for him. "It made me think about things I hadn't thought about – how we support people as they age and the role of government."

Colleague Luisa Beltran-Castillon says she was pleased that in drawing the data from the IDI, they were able to tell more of a story about people's lives, not just their health. "I could see a story of how people lived," she says. The report reveals who people with disabilities live with, where in the country they live and what factors influence these things.

IHC Advocate Shara Turner, who has

been working with Kōtātā Insight, says the research sheds light on the experiences of a group of New Zealanders who are too often made invisible by policy. "The results can be used as evidence for advocates and policy makers to design and prioritise more effective support, as well as enabling the country to better report on progress against the priorities in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities."

Shara says not much has improved for people with intellectual disabilities, and certainly not in terms of money in their pockets in the past 20 years relative to the cost of living. The personal allowance for people living in residential care was \$45 a week in 2003. In 2023 it was \$75. "Things aren't great, but there are things we can do."

Shara will be presenting the results of the research at the Australian Social Policy Conference in Canberra in September and at the Delivering Disability Services Conference in Auckland in October.

The Kōtātā Insight report is the first effort at providing a comprehensive set of monitoring indicators that report on the lives of people with intellectual disability. The database can be used for further research and the code developed can be used to update the indicators in the future.

The researchers plan to provide a final report with data and analysis that becomes a valuable resource across the sector. Luisa Beltran-Castillon says that as well as the report they will be creating a data set that can be picked up and interrogated by other disability researchers. Keith McLeod says the computer code developed for the research will also be freely available to other researchers.

**Previous page:** Hutt Valley woman Heather McGregor at home with her housemates and IDEA Services support worker. If people are visible in government policy and planning, it's easier to provide the services and support they need to live good lives.

**Left:** Research project team (front row, from left) IHC Advocate Shara Turner and Kōtātā Insight researcher Luisa Beltran-Castillon. (Back row, from left) IHC Self-Advocacy Coordinator David Corner and Kōtātā Insight researcher Keith McLeod.

*"It made me think about things I hadn't thought about – how we support people as they age and the role of government."*





# IHC turns spotlight on election candidates

IHC

**IHC is hosting a public meeting with election candidates to find out how they intend to make lives better for disabled people if they are elected.**

IHC's 2023 Election Forum will be held on 20 September at Te Wharewaka o Pōneke on Wellington's waterfront, and live streamed to allow participation nationwide.

IHC Advocacy, which is organising the event, is encouraging everyone to come along with a question for the candidates or to email them to [advocacy@ihc.org.nz](mailto:advocacy@ihc.org.nz).

"People with intellectual disabilities should be able to have their say in the way the country is run," says IHC Director of Advocacy Tania Thomas.

Tania says that the political system – from voting to understanding what each party stands for – is complicated for everyone but including people with intellectual disabilities is crucial and something that can easily be managed with a bit of planning.

"We need to make voting facilities accessible, provide good lead-in times with easy-read information, and Q&A sessions in person and online. Political parties should provide their stance and plans for ensuring good lives for people with disabilities well ahead of time in accessible formats, and try to connect with disabled persons' organisations and family and whānau carers."

Candidates from all the political parties have been invited to the forum. Tania says unless politicians are prepared to take an interest in the issues faced by disabled people, they will be leaving out a large section of the population.

In the lead-up to the General Election on 14 October, IHC also intends to turn the heat up on education. The political parties' commitments to students with intellectual disabilities will come under the spotlight not only at the Election Forum but also in an IHC advertising campaign to end discrimination at schools.

Up to 120 people are expected to attend, with many more expected to join the live stream.

**Above: Disabled people and supporters at the 2020 IHC election forum in Wellington. (From left) Peter Knighton, President, People First Wairarapa; Sue Hobbs, Safeguarding Adults Consultant; Emmet Dale, Vice President, People First Kāpiti; Elizabeth Bennett, People First Central Regional Coordinator.**

## 2023 Election Forum

Date: **Wednesday  
20 September 2023**

Time: **4pm**

Place: **Te Wharewaka o Pōneke,  
2 Taranaki Street, Wellington  
waterfront**

.....  
This event will have New Zealand Sign Language interpreters and be live captioned.

Get your questions ready for the candidates. Here are some starters from IHC Director of Advocacy Tania Thomas:

- What will your party do to address the lack of affordable and accessible housing for people with disabilities on low and moderate incomes and their families?
- What could your party do to increase the life expectancy of disabled Māori?
- How could your party address the high unemployment rate of New Zealanders with disabilities?
- What is your plan for ensuring that disability issues and the community are front and centre in your planning and execution of emergency management and your climate agenda?



# Candidates urged to give fair treatment to disabled students

IHC

**With the General Election only two months away, IHC is turning up the heat on election candidates to commit to fairer treatment of disabled students in schools.**

IHC is running an advertising campaign asking candidates what their parties will do to make sure every disabled child can belong and learn at school, and how they will make sure every teacher has the knowledge and support to teach students with disabilities.

For years IHC has been telling the Government that disabled students are not getting the education they are entitled to. "Disabled children have been treated unfairly by the education system for decades," says Trish Grant, who has been leading IHC's fight for inclusive education. It's a fight, she says, that is all about human rights.

A complaint lodged against the Ministry of Education 14 years ago is close to a hearing in the Human Rights Review Tribunal.

IHC believes all learners should have the right support to take part and achieve in education.

IHC wants all voters to ask their candidates: What will your party do to make sure every disabled child is able

to belong and learn at school?

The right to belong at school means being given the opportunity to go to school camps with classmates and to join in all the activities schools offer. Students also have a right to look forward to a future where they can join the workforce and participate in their communities.

IHC's education complaint has never been directed at schools and teachers, but at the system that does not give schools enough resources, or teachers enough support and training to help disabled learners reach their potential.

Complaints about the education of disabled and neuro-diverse students reached a tipping point late last year with three reports echoing the concerns IHC has been raising.

In September, the Education Review Office (ERO) released two reports saying the families of many disabled learners were being discouraged from enrolling their children in early childhood services and schools. ERO found that as many as one in four parents were being asked to keep their disabled child home and that teachers did not have the training, support or capacity to teach students with diverse learning needs. It recommended the agencies report

improvements by July this year.

Then in November the report of a six-month Ministry of Education Highest Needs Review was released. The review, which received more than 1000 submissions, highlighted an urgent need for change because the current rigid funding system created discrimination and lifelong disadvantage for students, families and schools. The Government outlined a 10-year plan to turn the system around.

IHC has this year been talking to families and schools and gathering evidence and witnesses for the Human Rights Review Tribunal hearing. The hearing is likely to be in mid-2024.

Trish says families and others who have direct experience of difficulties involving disabled students can log their experiences on the IHC website at [campaigns.ihc.org.nz](https://campaigns.ihc.org.nz) or email [advocacy@ihc.org.nz](mailto:advocacy@ihc.org.nz)

"We will make contact with you when the formal evidence-gathering phase begins."

**Above: The right to belong at school means being given the opportunity to go to school camps with classmates and to join in all the activities schools offer.**

# Students give thumbs-up to IHC's money game app

## SECTOR

**IHC's game app to help young people with intellectual disabilities learn to manage money – and life – is being put through its paces by students in some Wellington secondary schools.**

The app, Stand Tall, developed with online gaming company InGame, challenges players to think about their day-to-day spending choices.

Players can play at their own pace and repeat stages if necessary, and a voiceover option is also available. The game is designed to be played by individuals, but it also works well as a group activity.

Phil Clarke, IHC Head of Library and Information Resourcing, says students at Wainuiomata High School and Hutt Valley High School are the latest to try the app.

"The kids loved it, and they loved creating their own avatar," says Head of Learning Support at Wainuiomata High School Emily Goldie. She says they were impatient for the group session to be over so they could have a go.

"They needed help initially setting it up but, once they understood, it was really easy to use." The students ranged in age from 13 to 21 years. "Obviously the older students got more out of it because that is who it is aimed for."

Emily says it's a great tool for use in conjunction with other teaching – at home with parents and in supported living with a carer – and it tackles the hardest transition: leaving school.

Heather Lear, Head of Tautoko, the Supported Learning Centre at Hutt Valley High School, says not all of her 15 students were familiar with gaming scenarios but enjoyed exploring the app and being immersed in a digital world where they had to make their own decisions. "We did it in small groups and it was good to see some of the students being supported by the more capable ones."

The keener ones were inclined to race ahead. "There is a danger of students clicking through and not actually thinking about it," she says. "I have been looking for something similar to this for a while. It's really hard to find life skills stuff pitched at the right level."

Phil says the game app was showcased at the New Zealand Disability Support Network Conference in Wellington and at the Next Steps Expo 2023 in Christchurch in July. The expo was for young disabled people and their whānau to discover what was available when considering their next steps after school.

Stand Tall will also feature at the

uLearn23 conference in Auckland and the LIANZA (Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa) conference in Christchurch in October.

The Holdsworth Charitable Trust donated \$20,000 in seed funding for Stand Tall, and \$75,000 was contributed by the Ministry of Social Development. Other supporters are the Dines Family Charitable Trust, Avanti Finance, Glenn and Sonja Hawkins and SkyCity Auckland Community Trust.

There is a web version of Stand Tall, and it can also be downloaded free on Google Play and Apple iTunes.

"We are open to presenting in-person or remotely to interested schools," Phil says, and he invites schools to get in touch with him on philip.clarke@ihc.org.nz

*"The kids loved it, and they loved creating their own avatar."*

**Below: Engrossed in the game at Hutt Valley High School are (from front left, clockwise) Damyen Field, Taylor Rigby, Krystal Te Momo Pope, Gizel Gilbert, Brayden Bain and Olivia Buckham.**





# ‘I had a dream to win gold’

IHC

**“I had a dream to go to the World Games and win gold,” said Invercargill powerlifter Lynett Williams at the 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Berlin in June.**

After her final lift she told coach Sonia Manaena, “I did it, Coach” and “I am proud”. So were all the friends who greeted her on her arrival home with banners and whistles and a haka performed by students of Te Wharekura o Arowhenua. She has been supported by IDEA Services since 2011 and she started powerlifting eight years ago.

Lynett, 30, won a gold, two silvers and a bronze, topping the medals for the New Zealand squad. She was stunned by the welcome saying, “I was shocked”.

The New Zealand Special Olympics team earned a record 34 medals – five gold, 17 silver and 12 bronze. The 39 athletes in the squad joined 7000 other athletes with intellectual

disabilities from 190 countries to compete in the nine-day event.

In Parliament, Sports Minister Grant Robertson congratulated the squad, not just for the medals won but for the many strong performances that exceeded personal bests.

He singled out Lynett for special mention, along with: Kāpiti footballer Cole Bailey who scored the first-ever goal at a Special Olympics World Summer Games; the team’s oldest member, Tauranga tenpin bowler Len Just, at 55, who won a gold and two bronze medals; and bocce player Aaron Campbell from Levin, who won New Zealand’s first gold medal of the competition.

Lynett lifted 105kg in the deadlift to win the gold. She won silver for the squat and silver overall. She won bronze for the bench press lift. The squad’s two other powerlifters, Ryan Stewart from Dunedin and Bay of Plenty powerlifter Caroline Tangitau, each won four silver medals.

New Zealand’s two remaining gold medals were won by Auckland golfer Mitch Brown and sprinter Melissa Cash in the 100m.

“I am confident these World Summer Games will have a lasting impact on Special Olympics worldwide and in New Zealand,” said Head of Delegation Rowena Massey. Around 80,000 spectators watched the opening ceremony at the Olympiastadion.

Rowena says the medals are an important recognition of achievements, but medal counts don’t always tell the full story. “We also look at athletes like our swimmers who ended up with two bronze medals but smashed personal bests every day in the pool and gave some top swimmers a real run for their money.”

One of those swimmers was Bella Lammers, who is the toast of the Selwyn swimming community after claiming a bronze medal. The 21-year-old from Rolleston finished third as part of the New Zealand team in the 4x25m relay.

“I am so famous. I have been on TV, so all my dreams have come true,” she said. Bella is supported by IHC company Choices NZ.

Meanwhile, the New Zealand football team won their first seven-a-side game on day three of the competition by beating an impressive Austrian team 7-1. Unfortunately the team was eliminated from the tournament a day later, after a narrow 6-4 defeat to Switzerland. Conor McCarthy from the Hutt Valley scored four stunning goals.

**Above: The New Zealand squad celebrate after the games at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. Lynett is with Hutt Valley footballer Conor McCarthy and swimmer Bella Lammers.**

**Left: Lynett Williams’ medal tally put her at the top of the squad.**







# IDEA Services first to manage medication online

## IDEA SERVICES

**The online medication management platform ICHART has now been successfully rolled out to almost 600 residential homes across Aotearoa, making IDEA Services the first disability service provider in New Zealand to introduce an online system.**

ICHART links support workers, GPs and pharmacists online and in real time, and replaces an outdated manual paper-based process.

Although plagued by COVID-19 disruptions, staff shortages and extreme weather events, the project team battled to get the last few areas to go live in the middle of this year, bringing on board more than 1000 GPs and almost 100 pharmacies over the past two years.

Prue Lennox, Director of Nursing, says IDEA Services is already seeing the benefits.

“Our goal when we decided to adopt ICHART was to better ensure the right medication was being delivered to the right person at the right time,” says Prue. “Our Clinical Team now has remote and full visibility

of medications, which makes responding to clinical requests for support considerably more effective.

“On-call support for palliative care, for example, has greatly improved by making it easier for staff to give pain relief.

“A significant part of introducing ICHART was to comprehensively review current prescriptions for all people we support, allowing us to pick up on poor prescribing practices that have now been corrected,” she says.

Through this process, IDEA Services has seen a reduction in incident reports relating to medication by more than a third since introducing ICHART.

Prue says the new system is making medication rounds a lot easier and less time-consuming for support workers, allowing them to spend more quality time with the people we support.

“Most GPs and pharmacists are also finding it very easy to use and, for the people we support, this

has meant beneficial medication changes,” says Prue. “It has been incredibly helpful for specialists and consultants supporting people in our services where face-to-face visits haven’t been possible.

“We’re able to proactively respond to Pharmac supply issues because we can report who is on what medication and manage it effectively ahead of time.”

Unfortunately, a small percentage of doctors were not willing to adopt the ICHART system, meaning there are still some people we support on the paper-based system. The Clinical Team is now working with these areas to explore options for transitioning people to the new system.

Area reviews are under way to continue education and support, particularly for staff joining the organisation.

**Above: ICHART is a cloud-based system that gives community pharmacists, general practitioners and aged-care professionals real-time access to their patients’ medication information.**

# Choices designs a strategy for success

## CHOICES NZ

**The experiences of disabled people are being used to help IHC company Choices NZ decide its future direction.**

Choices NZ provides flexible support services, including employment services and life coaching. The Choices Board will be working with four people it supports for several months to develop its future strategy.

“To come up with innovative ideas, we need a room of innovative people who understand intimately what is most important. Who better than the people we support?” says Board member Sam Johnson, founder of the Student Volunteer Army.

Fellow Board member Ashlie Brink says Choices clients are role models to achieve change in the community. The role of the Choices NZ Board is to ensure these role models can shine. “One cannot happen without the other nor should it. Without ... our clients’ voices, all we are left with are opinions and little action,” she says. “Choices NZ is about choices and not about opinions.” Ashlie lectures in education at Te Rito Maioha – Early Childhood New Zealand.

*“I feel like everything is getting a bit smoother [in] my life at the moment.”*



Donna Mitchell, IHC General Manager of Service Development and Strategy, says it’s important for the Board to understand the disability environment when designing a strategy to enable good lives and give more choice and control to the people we support.

The advisors are Hamish Taverner and Courtney Ratana from Palmerston North, Grace Finaulahi from Feilding and a young man from Porirua being supported through the Choices NZ Employment Service. At their first meeting with the Board, in June, they described how Choices had enabled them to make changes in their lives and achieve goals.

Hamish, 58, lives in his own home in Palmerston North and has a strong background in self-advocacy. He is a member and former Chair of the IHC Rangitikei Association and a former National Chairperson and now Central Region President of People First NZ. Hamish was awarded the Attitude Leadership Award at the 2017 Attitude Awards.

His Choices life coach helps him with cooking and keeping on top of running his house.

Courtney, 43, had never had a job when he started with Choices and was living at home with his

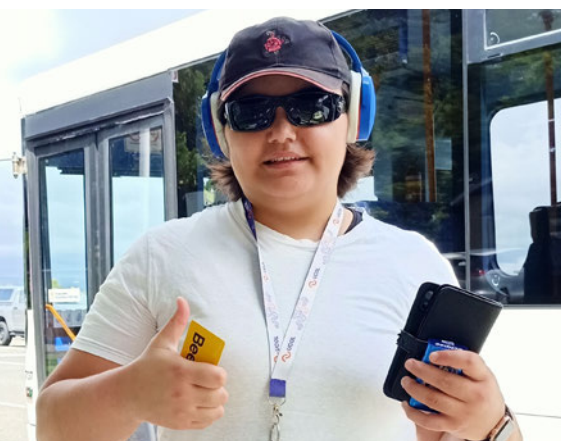
mother. He has now been in paid employment at the Lido Aquatic Centre in Palmerston North for more than a year. This year he moved into a flat and started playing golf at the Manawatu Golf Club, making new friends, developing his skills and dreaming of becoming a competitive golfer.

Grace, 23, has grown in confidence since signing on with Choices. She volunteers at Feilding High School, helping special needs students, and with New Zealand Riding for the Disabled. She is now living a more independent life since moving out of home and into a flat, and she has new-found freedom after learning how to catch the bus into Palmerston North to attend an art class and meet her life coach.

“I feel like everything is getting a bit smoother [in] my life at the moment.”

**Above: The Choices NZ Board and advisors (from left) Hamish Taverner, Board Chair Suzanne Win, Grace Finaulahi, Ashlie Brink, IHC Group Chief Executive Ralph Jones, Courtney Ratana, Chief Operating Officer Joan Cowan and Sam Johnson.**

**Left: Grace Finaulahi enjoys catching the bus for trips to and from Palmerston North.**





# Accessible tours brought light show up close for everyone

IHC

**It wasn't quite dark, but the lights and sights of LUMA 2023 filled the Queenstown Gardens with mystery and excitement.**

Two groups from IDEA Services in Invercargill and Gore made the round trip to Queenstown for the show over King's Birthday Weekend in June and for the first time they were able to get up close to the installations without having to battle crowds.

This year the LUMAbility Southern Light Project offered accessible tours of LUMA outside normal operating times to avoid the crowds and traffic congestion.

Lee Kruskopf, Service Manager for IDEA Services in Invercargill, took a group to LUMA in 2021 and says while the staff had been very helpful in getting them parked near the entrance, those in wheelchairs had struggled to get close enough to the installations and others had difficulty with uneven surfaces and crowds.

Lee provided that feedback to LUMA and became involved in developing the LUMAbility pilot. Accessible tours were run over the weekend from 4pm to 5pm.

"It wasn't dark, but it was good to see the people we support going around at their own pace and not being pushed around by the crowds," she

says. "By the time we started it was probably dusk. As we moved through, it darkened. There was nothing in the park that was off-limits."

As they finished the tour, the food vendors were beginning to set up for the evening rush, but the IDEA Services groups had already decided to meet up for a burger on the way home.

Lee says two installations were a hit with the groups – *Flight of Fancy* by Adventures in Wool NZ collaborators and *The Giggle Tree* by artist Hannah Walker. *Flight of Fancy* was a greenhouse with woollen plants and creatures and Lee says everyone loved it and wanted to go home and knit some "creepy, crawlies of their own".

Tim Buckley, of the Luma Light Festival Charitable Trust, says four groups took advantage of the accessible tours. LUMA has been running since 2015 and this was the first outing for LUMAbility – sponsored by Queenstown Airport. "It was a pilot project. We used it as an opportunity to get as much feedback as possible," he says. "We have had input from a number of people now and the airport has expressed a wish to take it further."

**Above: *The Giggle Tree* by artist Hannah Walker was a favourite installation. Photograph by Amy Galloway.**

**Below: Allan Hardaker and Support Worker Rowie Karena-Tutapu admire *Bloom* by artists Angus Muir and Harris Keenan.**



# Kāpiti artists take two of the top prizes in IHC Art Awards

IHC

**Young Kāpiti Coast artist Max Hinds-Brown has won the IHC Art Awards for 2023 with a beautiful retro painting of a red chair.**

There was a strong showing by Kāpiti artists in this year's awards, with them winning first and third prizes.

Max's *Red Chair* was the top pick out of 493 entries from artists with intellectual disabilities and picked up the \$5000 first prize. The work brings out the detail and textures of the fabric and the strong elegance of the design. Max, 19, mostly does his art at Paraparaumu College but he also takes an art class at The Shed Project in Paraparaumu.

The painting is based on a chair at Te Waka Huia o Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho – Wellington Museum. Max particularly liked the shading on the chair and background. It is his favourite museum and has inspired some of his other artwork.

Second place and a \$3000 prize went to Courtney Youens, for her collage *My Dad*. "I made a portrait of my Dad," she says in her artist statement. "He likes cars and helping people. I used handmade paper. I ripped little pieces of paper to add detail to my design."

Courtney, 21, does her art at The Papermill in Whangārei.

Third place and \$2000 went to Erena Wylie for her beautiful *Korowai Tui Cloak*. Erena, 39, works at the Kāpiti Art Studio.

The cloak's 304 feathers are made of recycled bicycle tyres. It took Erena hundreds of hours to cut and colour the 'feathers' and weave them into the cloak. Erena says she's taken over her lounge at home, which has now become her 'lounge studio'.

Dannevirke High School student Ryko McAvoy-Hope, 16, won the

Youth Award and \$1500 for *Farmer*.

"I put the road in and then I put the buildings in," Ryko says. "The front of the picture is myself. I do farm work during most of the weekends."

The Youth Award is for entrants aged 13 to 17 and an exciting trend is the number of younger artists entering the competition since the Youth Award was introduced in 2021. This year 58 young artists entered.

The winner of the L'affaire People's Choice Award, which ran for two weeks at the end of July, will be announced in August.

Twenty years of stunning art was celebrated in the Capital on 20 July at an anniversary celebration attended by a number of past winners and judges. The event was held in a pop-up gallery in central Wellington, where all 493 entries in this year's awards were being exhibited. It was the first time in the national competition that all the entries had been exhibited together.

The IHC Art Awards, supported by the Holdsworth Charitable Trust and L'affaire, has been running since 2004. Previous winners have gone on to exhibit their work throughout Aotearoa and overseas.

The exhibition was held from 12 July to 9 August. Any artworks that didn't sell in the gallery will be sold on Trade Me later in August, with 100 percent of the sale or auction money going to the artists.

Art Awards Ambassador and IHC New Zealand Patron Dame Denise L'Estrange-Corbet celebrated artists and winners past and present, telling the audience that she longed for better recognition of them and their work.

The judges this year were Tim Walker, Auckland-based Arts and Culture Consultant; Mark Hutchins-Pond,

Webb's Art Specialist and Elizabeth Caldwell, Director Art & Heritage at Experience Wellington.

"It seemed daunting, but it was actually great to walk into the gallery completely chock-a-block with nearly 500 artworks," Tim says. "There was so much colour – and once we started looking and talking among ourselves as judges, we each drew attention to some really extraordinary works."

Elizabeth says she was very impressed with the range of work submitted as well as the quality. "We were tough judges, looking for a compelling combination of technical skill and imaginative flair with regard to the ideas being expressed."

Mark says what struck him most about the installation of the entries was the sense of energy and joy. "There was so much colour and vitality in the artworks, it was impossible not to smile and feel uplifted in their presence.

"As Elizabeth has said, we were tough judges; revisiting and scrutinising each work a number of times before coming to our decisions on whom we should award the prize to."

**Main: Winner of the IHC Art Awards is Max Hinds-Brown, with *Red Chair*.**

**Top: Courtney Youens won second prize with her collage, *My Dad*.**

**Middle: Erena Wylie cut, coloured and wove 304 feathers into her *Korowai Tui Cloak*, winning third prize.**

**Bottom: Youth Award winner Ryko McAvoy-Hope takes centre stage in his painting *Farmer*.**





## Photographers get ready for their own show

IHC

**Photography has always been a feature of the mixed media IHC Arts Awards, with strong images competing for attention among hundreds of paintings, drawings, sculpture and textiles.**

Last year IHC launched a separate competition – Capture the Moment – to give photographers their own platform to showcase their art.

This year, photographers entering Capture the Moment were given the theme ‘Your Aotearoa New Zealand’. Three judges: IHC Patron Dame Denise L’Estrange-Corbet, Wellington commercial photographer Anna Briggs and Hawke’s Bay photographer Shayne Jeffares were given the job of selecting the top images. Winners and finalists will again be showcased at FOTO FEST in

Hastings from 15–25 September and are available for purchase.

Shayne says when he is judging he will be looking for composition but also something more. “It’s going to be something I see and I am going to go wow! and then look to see any skill that will add impact.” And, he says, he always loves images with people in them, that tell a story.

Anna says she is looking for an image that will draw her in by its subject matter, but keep her engaged because of its composition, use of light and colour or lack of colour. “A good mix of these elements make up a great image for me and will take me on the photographer’s journey.”

FOTO FEST, established by Shayne last year, includes exhibitions,

workshops and competitions with something for everyone to get involved in – with or without a camera.

The photography competition has gone from strength to strength, in partnership with FOTO FEST. In 2022 more than 400 people viewed the Capture the Moment finalists at a venue shared with images from the Hawke’s Bay Photographic Society.

The number of entries in Capture the Moment 2023 has doubled to just over 150 and the top images will be exhibited in central Hastings.

**Top left: *Dunedin Railway Station*, by Callum Flett, was the winner of the 2022 IHC Capture the Moment photographic competition.**



# Giving it up for the IHC Art Awards

IHC

**Four exceptional works by three prize-winning IHC Art Awards artists have been selected to showcase a limited edition run of AF Drinks' 31-pack of non-alcoholic cocktails.**

The designs feature work from artists Jordan Chow, Michael Nathan and Cherie Mellsopp. The artists were paid for each of their artworks and, for every pack sold, AF Drinks will donate \$20 to support artists through the Art Awards.

Much of Jordan's art is influenced by a passion for animals as well as a methodical, focused approach to his work. Two of his paintings, *Donkey* and *Zebra*, feature on the AF Drinks packaging. *Zebra* was a top 30 finalist in 2019 and another of Jordan's paintings, *Donkey and Brachiosaurus*, won first place in the 2013 Art Awards.

Cherie, who works out of the Sandz Studio in Hamilton, has been entering

the Art Awards since the early days of the competition. She won first prize in 2009 but it was her entry from a decade later, the detailed and delicate *Mesh*, that was picked for the AF Drinks collection.

Michael, from Auckland, painted the fourth work chosen to feature. *Infinity Part 1* is an intricate painting that, he says, is like a never-ending story. He has taken a break from his art in recent years, but is likely to pick up the brush again.

The collaboration was the initiative of IHC Patron and Art Awards Ambassador Dame Denise L'Estrange-Corbet. Dame Denise says it's a perfect match for IHC and she's grateful for the forward-thinking approach of the Auckland-based company which is helping a community of talented artists.

AF Drinks founder Lisa King says that creativity is at the heart of what



AF Drinks does. "To work with and raise awareness of these inspirational artists with IHC is such a fantastic opportunity and one we're proud to support."

**Top: Initiator of the AF Drinks project Dame Denise L'Estrange-Corbet (left) shows off a box of the Mesh-designed box with artist Cherie Mellsopp.**

**Above: The range of alcohol-free drinks inspired by IHC winning artists.**



## Volunteers work to protect a unique coastline

### IDEA SERVICES

**For 10 years some environmental warriors have been battling to protect the Castlecliff sand dunes at Whanganui.**

A team of around eight people from IDEA Services turn up on Tuesdays to plant and care for native species on the grassed areas of the 'back' dunes with Graham Pearson, Coordinator of Castlecliff Coast Care.

The Castlecliff coast is part of the longest unbroken dune system in Aotearoa, stretching from Pātea in South Taranaki to Paraparaumu on the Kāpiti Coast north of Wellington – “and then it kind of extends inland”, Graham says.

The rear sand dunes are tall and run north-west to south-east. The Castlecliff Coast Care group has been planting in the dunes since 2007, replacing invasive weed species, such as the Australian wattle, on the back dunes with eco-sourced native plants common to the region.

Castlecliff Coast Care volunteers are also planting the 'foredunes' with the native sand-binding species spinifex and pingao. These do the best job of growing low, rounded sand dunes by binding the sand and rebuilding the dunes after a storm. They also stabilise dunes degraded by human damage.

The IDEA Services volunteers work along the back dunes with Graham, planting larger native trees. In winter – the planting season – it's Graham's job to keep one step ahead of them by digging 15 to 20 holes a week, ready for the new plants. The volunteers add wet newspaper, mulch and fertiliser tablets and then plant the trees.

“We have help from all sorts of community groups, firms, schools, kura and guides. Most are one-offs, but IDEA Services has been terrific at helping on a regular basis,” Graham says. “They come most weeks unless the weather is horrible,” he says.

Sam Fiso Luamanuvae and Stuart Mitchell have been volunteering longer than just about anyone else. “People like Sam and Stu are great at planting, having taken on what needs to be done, and get busy straight away,” Graham says. “Others just seem to enjoy being out and about, but always greet me happily.”

IDEA Services Support Worker Ben Ander is often out with the volunteers. “We try to go every Tuesday. In wintertime, obviously, it's weather dependent. In the winter months, we go in the afternoons once the grass has dried out.”

Ben says the group doesn't work directly in the dunes, but in several grassed areas between the reserve and rear dunes that are easier underfoot.

Stuart is not sure how long he has been volunteering, but he's been involved from the start. He lives in an IDEA Services residence in





**Top: Craig Nichol, Roger Wallace, Sam Fiso Luamanuvae and Shyla Richardson-Joyce.**

**Right: Ben Ander, John Lennox and Craig Nichol.**

central Whanganui and walks the 2.5 kilometres to volunteer each week. Ben says they always give him a lift home.

The work also involves weeding around the plants and picking up rubbish. Stuart says he enjoys picking up the rubbish.

Shyla Richardson-Joyce has been volunteering for two or three years. For her the enjoyment is more about being near the sea. "I have walked up the hill. I like planting up there and standing up there too. There are all kinds of different places you can look at while you are standing up there." She says she enjoys looking at the sea most.

By the time National Volunteer Week came around in June, these IDEA Services volunteers had clocked up 1694 volunteer hours worked since August 2013.



# Former IHC President challenged beliefs about disability

IHC

**Dr Terry Caseley devoted his career to making sure people with intellectual disabilities were given the chance to live their best lives.**

The former President of IHC and influential Christchurch paediatrician died in Christchurch on 18 May 2023, at the age of 89.

His term as President of IHC, from 1979 to 1988, coincided with a time when attitudes about intellectual disability were undergoing huge changes and IHC was expanding rapidly as services for disabled people moved from institutions into the community.

Terry graduated from Otago Medical School in 1957 and went to Britain to study paediatrics. He returned to Christchurch Hospital in 1966 and became a member of IHC that year. In a 1999 interview he recalled his first contact with IHC. "I went to a meeting and during a discussion said how important the family was in terms of the child with the disability. I was encouraged to take an interest in the local branch of the Society and was happy to do so."

In 1969, when IHC established a sub-committee for autism, Terry was asked to convene the first meeting of the parent group. This subcommittee became the Autistic Association and the forerunner to Autism New Zealand.

Colleague and friend Dr Patricia Champion described a 35-year clinical collaboration with Terry that led to the establishment in 1978 of what is now the Champion Centre. "With his support, commitment, professional generosity and faith in me, the New Zealand landscape around disability changed for ever and for the better."

She described a new model of clinical practice they established with specialist clinicians working together, providing interventions and family support in a community-based setting.

"This thinking was largely outside the belief system of the day, as to where 'disability' sat. Unsurprisingly there were many roadblocks and challenges along the way. But Terry was not to be put off. He used to say to me, 'We will find a way, because it is the right thing to do'.

"And slowly we began to shift the narrative from the disability label defining a child towards a more valid understanding of a child's right to develop their potential, whatever that might be.

"Terry embraced this belief as a fundamental human right and never wavered from it, standing up for parents, for their children, and positively influencing the paediatric community along the way."

Sir Roderick Deane, who succeeded Terry as IHC President in 1988, recalled him as a dynamic, enlightened and successful president. "Terry had vision and leadership. He was utterly devoted to helping people

with intellectual disabilities."

He says Terry appreciated the many talents of those intellectually disabled people who had been confined for many years to institutions across New Zealand and worked with the IHC leadership to enable people with disabilities to move out of full-time hospital environments to resume normal lives in the community.

Terry was made an IHC NZ Life Member in 1988 and was a Life Member of the Paediatric Society of New Zealand. He is survived by his wife Ann and children Caroline, Jonathan, Sarah, David and Susan.

*"Terry had vision and leadership. He was utterly devoted to helping people with intellectual disabilities."*

**Below: Dr Terry Caseley, IHC President 1979 to 1988.**



# Master class inspires artists

IHC

**Indika Mendis has won the IHC Matariki Drawing Competition with a pastel drawing in which creatures emerge in an explosion of colour.**

Indika, 29, from Auckland, was one of 15 disabled artists who took part in an IHC Media online workshop run by prominent artist Michel Tuffery in the run-up to Matariki in July. The prize for the best drawing was one of Michel's Matariki (star) lasercut sculptures.

Michel Tuffery has exhibited worldwide and been honoured for his services, including being named a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2008 for his services to art. He says, however, his real reward is having the opportunity to enrich communities with art, and the drawing session was one of those moments.

"You were seeing me – the Michel Tuffery that just loves being with community and empowering other human beings, but I get more of a buzz from them," he says.

"I do work with a lot of interesting students who have learning difficulties and anxiety issues. There's a particular methodology I use; a structure that I use. I don't know where it comes from. Probably all the amazing teachers I have been around when I was growing up."

Michel, who is of Samoan, Rarotongan and Ma'ohi Tahitian heritage, was educated in Wellington. Having dyslexia made writing difficult, but drawing was his strength.

"I cried a lot. I was a sooky bubba when I was going to speech therapy and reading class – remedial. I used to have real bad anxiety attacks. And they said here is a blank page Michel – and here's a few little lines. You only have to write two, three lines Michel and then you can draw what you are thinking."

He says art is a way to communicate even when language is a barrier. He recalls teaching in France despite not being fluent in French. "It's a universal



language that is called art."

Michel says he formed an immediate connection with the artists at the workshop. "I felt their energy straight away and was familiar with their humour."

The IHC Media drawing session was inspired by Michel's Font series – woodcuts carved for each of his and wife Jayne's five grandchildren that are a visual diary of special times spent with them.

At the workshop, each of the artists started with a letter – the first letter of their name – and watched as Michel drew designs around the letters. The designs came from traditional Polynesian motifs – *kōwhaiwhai*, ferns and leaves, and weaving. Then it was the turn of the artists.

"I was quite taken aback by Indika's work," Michel says. "He executed it really well. He just enjoyed the moment."

Indika started with an 'I' as central to his design, and before the session was over it had been transformed with cats, sharks, a crocodile and a bee.

Michel, who chose the winner, congratulated all the artists. "I have to say I was pretty impressed by all the



entries. I could feel the energy and I did spend quite a bit of time just enjoying your mark-making process, and all the good colouration and all the elements that we talked about during the drawing process.

"Indika, I have to say your pastel cat, of all the elements that I talked through in the workshop, was a very good visual response. So, congratulations and Happy Matariki."

**Top: Artist Michel Tuffery with a new star design *Hawaii Makali'i* (Little Eyes).**

**Above: Indika Mendis won the IHC Matariki Drawing Competition with a pastel drawing of creatures emerging from the letter 'I'.**

# Linda wants to live for a long time

IHC



## Christchurch woman Linda Hider turned 70 in June, and she hopes to live for much longer

Linda is raising two of her grandchildren – her son’s 12-year-old boy and 11-year-old daughter – and wants to be there for as long as they need her.

“My son passed away in 2018; he had bowel cancer. He was only 39 when he passed.

“I made a promise to him that I would look after the kids to the best of my ability and that is what I try to do,” she says. “I hope and pray that they will at least have the life skills they need for the way ahead.”

“Kids, nanny is going to hang around until you are able to stand on your own two feet.”

Hearing Linda talk, she sounds strong. She is strong. But not so long ago it was a different story. Not only

were the children grieving the loss of their father, but Linda’s grandson was having rages and meltdowns and she was struggling to find the support he needed.

Working with IHC Family-Whanau Liaison in Christchurch, Linda was able to get a referral late last year for her grandson to see a paediatrician, who diagnosed an intellectual disability, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD).

“We knew there was something. We thought at first he may have been autistic because a lot of signs were heading in that direction.”

Linda says people looking on probably think her grandson is misbehaving. “It’s an invisible disability – you accept him for the way he is.”

She says the diagnosis has helped

her to get more support through LifeLinks, HealthCare New Zealand and the Florence Nightingale Agency. Her grandson now has a support worker each school-day morning to help him get ready for school, and an additional 10 hours for after-school activities. He also has respite care every second weekend.

“It’s amazing. It’s taken a long time to get support and we have had to fight for everything we’ve got. Now we have got the support in place life has got a lot easier than it was two or three years ago.”

She knows too that there are other grandmothers and carers who have still to get the support they need. Linda has been working with IHC Family-Whānau Liaison to get a grandmothers’ support group going. There has been a lot of sadness in Linda’s life. Only three of her six children survive – two died very young – and her husband passed away when he was 48.

“But I have always had a policy – you are given what you need to learn life’s lessons.”

Linda has been diagnosed with a brain aneurysm and says she has been receiving a lot of prayer and help from her local church.

“I had my last MRI a month ago and my aneurysm is now healing itself. My faith means a lot to me, and the children are brought up in that environment.”

Linda quotes movie character Forrest Gump: ‘Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you’re gonna get’.

“Out of that comes, ‘I love you Nana’ from both. We have lots of downs – but we have a lot of ups as well. When you get a couple of little arms around your neck – that’s all you need,” she says.

“I am proud of what I have achieved, and I am proud of what the kids have achieved.”

**Above: Linda Hider gets up very early each day to find some quiet space for a cuppa.**

# Performers test revamped theatre

## IDEA SERVICES

**Singers, dancers and musicians from IDEA Services recently put a newly upgraded community theatre in Wellington through its paces.**

Performers from throughout Wellington, the Kāpiti Coast and the Hutt Valley took to the stage in the Cultural Club Activity Showcase. The event was a first for Culture Club and the first to make full use of the theatre's new lighting rig and projector at the Newtown Community and Cultural Centre.

The concert for friends and family included a kapa haka performance led by Matt White, a set of songs from the Kemp Street Choir and music with Island Bay musician Andreas Lepper.

Service Manager Elvis Trocio says the Culture Club performers get together every week. The choir meets on Mondays, the kapa haka group on Thursdays and musicians get together with Andreas on Fridays. "This is an IDEA Services initiative. We [thought] how about we combine our areas and just create a group in which everyone could participate?"

The kapa haka group of around 20 people meets at Ngā Hau e Whā o Maparāangi Marae in Newlands, north of Wellington. Along with music, their sessions include weaving and storytelling. Their showcase included Ti Rakau, the traditional Māori stick game, and the presentation of pepeha from three people – Rosemary Malcolm, Mahirangi Adams and Brian Rapana.

Elvis says the Culture Club would keep the focus on Māori culture through the Matariki celebrations and would then shift to explore the Samoan culture for several months.

Service Manager Esther Doleman, who helped to organise the show, says the activity programme has been running since the beginning of the year and has community support. "We tap into who we have in the community for knowledge."



She says around 15 people are in the choir and a further 10 do music with Andreas. "Different people come to different things. Every Friday there is a collection of people who go to his workshop and do improvised music and learn to play musical instruments. The choir is led by one of our employees, Kate Dean. They find songs that they like singing."

The Newtown Community and Cultural Centre reopened in May after a two-year, multi-million-dollar upgrade, including a complete internal refresh and refit, a full renovation of the iconic theatre, and the installation of a lift so everyone can now access the first floor.

Newtown Community and Cultural

Centre Kaiwhakahaere / Manager Eryn Gribble says this was the first event to use the stage lighting in a more formal way. It also used the house sound system for backing tracks for various groups and the wireless microphones. "Our layout is more accessible – before it was rather hard to work out where you were going in the space. This has been resolved – our hallways are wider as well."

**Top: Culture Club Showcase performers (from left) Denise Dennehy and Rosemary Malcolm.**

**Bottom: Presenting their pepeha (from left) Rosemary Malcolm, Mahirangi Adams, Support Worker Sonia Malcolm and Brian Rapana.**





## ANZ goes to work on some easy-to-read documents

IHC

**ANZ is making its banking services accessible to more customers by creating easy-to-read documents.**

Earlier this year the bank sent a team to an IHC Easy Read training session run in Wellington by the Council for Intellectual Disability in New South Wales.

ANZ Senior Manager Customer Vulnerability and Accessibility Fiona Terry says the team was inspired by the course and keen to establish some of the ideas in New Zealand.

Since then, ANZ has established an Easy Read working group and created its first document – the complaints process.

Fiona says banks need to take account of all their customers. “ANZ New Zealand has joined its parent company in Australia in making a public commitment to becoming more accessible. This isn’t only about the physical design of its banks but about trying to make its products and language more inclusive.”

She says Easy Read is an example of how ANZ is trying to do better. “By being more accessible, we help avoid vulnerability. We know that people experiencing vulnerability are less likely to voice their concerns but if we have done something wrong, we really want to know about it.”

ANZ will road test the document with disabled people to help the bank understand more about the lived experience of disability and what other documents could be translated to Easy Read.

Fiona says the bank is working to ensure all stages of its product and service developments are more inclusive. “An example of this is having greater diversity in the people we approach for our research and user-testing processes, and testing for accessibility as we design and develop.”

She says ANZ acknowledges that not all bank customers are looking for the same kinds of things in terms of services and products.

The Easy Read training was organised by IHC Advocate Shara Turner and attended by people from government agencies and other disability organisations. The training started with a talk about what Easy Read is, and participants went through some practical examples. They had each been asked to bring a document they wanted to simplify and, using this, created their own Easy Read document for feedback from the trainers.

Along with the Easy Read training, Shara provided training for people with intellectual disabilities who want to be testers for Easy Read documents.

Shara says documents are a good start. “It’s not an Easy Read journey, it’s like a journey to inclusion.” It is about understanding that people who need to read an Easy Read document, would also love to know about whatever else is happening too.”

Community and disability groups, including IHC, have been working with the New Zealand Banking Association in the ‘Older and Disabled Person’s Group’ to find ways to make banking easier for these groups. Recently this has been given a sharper focus with tighter rules around who can support people to operate bank accounts – along with the end of cheques.

*“It’s not an Easy Read journey, it’s like a journey to inclusion”*

In 2020 the banks agreed to Guidelines to help banks meet the needs of older and disabled customers, a supplement to the Code of Banking Practice, designed by the group. New laws will soon require banks to have an approved fair conduct programme – a significant element of this being fair treatment of customers in vulnerable circumstances. The banks are working on building their fair conduct programmes now, and these are expected to be in operation early in 2025.

# Notice of 2023 Annual General Meeting

## Notice is hereby given of IHC New Zealand Incorporated's Annual General Meeting to be held at

4pm Friday 27 October 2023

Lambton Rooms 2 & 3, InterContinental Hotel  
2 Grey Street, Wellington

### Draft Agenda

1. Calling of Meeting
2. Obituaries
3. Welcome
4. Apologies
5. Meeting Rules and Procedures
6. Confirmation of Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
7. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
8. Presentation of Annual Report, including reports from the Board Chair, Group Chief Executive, Member Council and Board Committees
9. Board Appointments Committee – Appointment of Board Members
10. Remits
11. Election of Patron
12. Appointment of the Auditor
13. Annual Membership Subscription
14. General Business
15. Next Meeting
16. Thanks and Closing

### 2022/23 Annual Report

The 2022/23 Annual Report and financial statements will be available at the Annual General Meeting. They will also be available via the IHC website prior to the Annual General Meeting at [www.ihc.org.nz](http://www.ihc.org.nz)

Ralph Jones  
IHC Group Chief Executive

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Ralph Jones, Chief Executive  
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DNZM

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# Nau mai haere mai

We hope that you can join us in celebrating this year's regional kapa haka festivals.

## Ngā Tāngata Manawa o te Tai-tonga Kapa Haka Festival in the Southern Region

**When:** 10am-4pm

Tuesday 26 September 2023

**Where:** Aurora Centre, Christchurch

## Te Wakatini Kapa Haka Festival in the Midcentral Region

**When:** 10am-4pm

Wednesday 11 October 2023

**Where:** Clarence Street Theatre, Hamilton

## Te Hoenga Waka Kapa Haka Festival in the Northern Region

**When:** 10am-4pm

Thursday 26 October 2023

**Where:** Bruce Mason Centre, North Shore

## Te Ngākoutaki o ngā Kāhui-maunga Kapa Haka Festival in the Central Region

**When:** 10am-4pm

Tuesday 7 November 2023

**Where:** Community Sports Centre, Jubilee  
Stadium, Whanganui