



NorthAble
DISABILITY SERVICES

NorthAble Information Update 10/02/2016

NorthAble receives information from our many networks which we disseminate through this update. Feel free to share this or to contact us for further information or use the details below to contact directly. Place an Update notice.

Phone: 09 430 0988 / 0508 637-200.

Email: drc@northable.org.nz.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthAble>

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In the News

Taxi law changes could hurt disabled passengers . Stuff.co.nz 3/2/16. Concerns have been raised that legislative changes to taxi services could have implications for disability transport services. The Ministry of Transport has launched a consultation paper on small passenger services such as taxis, private hires, and ridesharing. The changes are proposed as a way to adapt to services like Uber, which have emerged since the sector's rules were established in the late 1980s.

Disability Strategy reference group gets to work. New Zealand Government Press Release. 5 /2/16. People will have an opportunity to have their say on the Disability Strategy through public consultation taking place during 2016. The Strategy was initially agreed in 2001 and will now be looked at to see whether it remains fit for purpose. The group will work with disabled people, their families, the disability sector and others to develop this new vision for New Zealand.

Athletes exhibition stars. Northern Advocate, 6/2/2016, P3: A unique exhibition of artworks featuring some of the country's top Paralympic stars, including two of Northland's finest, is in the region as part of a nationwide tour. *Spirit of Gold* features works by Whangarei's Cameron Leslie and Dargaville's Emma Foy.

Kiwis in Aus shut out of disability services . Radio New Zealand News 7/2/16. Severely disabled children born in Australia are being denied access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) because their parents are New Zealand citizens. New Zealand Labour MP Phil Goff said it was a clear case of discrimination.

Diabetes camp a confidence booster for youth. Northern Advocate, 8/2/16, P5. Nineteen young Northlanders enjoyed a four-day stay at the annual Diabetes and Healthy Lifestyles camp this summer.

Fundraiser film. Northern Advocate 8/2/16 P3. The Brain Injury Association Northland will be screening the Will Smith movie *Concussion* as a fundraiser at Event Cinema on February 25. Tickets from Avantiplus, Persona Spa, The Papermill.

Tonga bites result in Zika. Northern Advocate 8/2/16 P22. Auckland 18-year-old Jen Byrn was diagnosed with Zika virus after a visit to Tonga. Zika is a mosquito-borne virus suspected of causing serious birth defects in unborn babies. There have been 10 confirmed cases – all contracted overseas – in New Zealand this year.

NZEI survey shows special needs students missing out. NZEI Press Release, 9/2/16. The survey revealed that around 16 percent of students were on schools' special needs registers, but nearly 90 percent of schools' special needs coordinators did not believe there was adequate support for students and their learning.

Union calls for extra support for special needs in schools. New Zealand Herald 9/2/16. An education union is calling for greater government support after its survey found only one-in-10 special education needs co-ordinators (Sencos) believed support for students was adequate.

Events – Seminars – Courses – Meetings

Spirit of Gold photoshoot: Wednesday February 10: If you're at Cape Reinga today, look out for a photo shoot to do with the *Spirit of Gold* exhibition of artworks by local and other Paralympic stars. The shoot is to show the exhibition on its way from the Cape to Bluff.

Special Olympics Whangarei: Wednesday February 10: Olympics Whangarei Aquatics/Swimming training starts.

LYNKZ Valentine's Day Social: Come and join LYNKZ for a Valentine's Day social, Friday February 12th from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 65 John Street, Whangarei. Tickets: \$5 per person. Bring a plate for snacks during the evening. Tickets available in person from LYNKZ or email michelle.watts@northable.org.nz or call (09) 430 3470 for more information.

MSD - Your Entitlements: Kaitaia and district Age Concern invites you to come along and listen to Alanajoy Brown – Seniors Specialist from Ministry of Social Development Be informed on what MSD entitlements you are eligible for and how to go about getting them. To be held at Cornerstone Christian Centre (formerly Kaitaia Baptist Church Hall) 79 Matthews Ave, Kaitaia Thursday 18th February 10.00 am – 12.00 noon.

Far North Wheelchair Basketball Competition: Come and show off your skills on the basketball court and enjoy an action packed evening! Wheelchair basketball is an exciting version of basketball that offers a great way to keep fit, develop new skills and meet new friends. The competition will be open mixed and will comprise teams of at least five. Basketball wheelchairs will be supplied. Date: Every Thursday from 18 February - 24 March, Time: 5pm - 7pm, Venue: Northland College Gymnasium, 62 Mangakahia Road, Kaikohe. Entry fee is \$50 per team. For more information and to register, contact Cheryl Smith on 0274343417 or cheryls@sportnorth.co.nz For more information, go to halbergallsports.co.nz/events. Join us on Facebook - search 'Halberg Disability Sport Foundation.

Alzheimers Northland is organising a free public talk in Whangarei by Professor Graham Stokes who has over 25 years experience in specialist dementia care practice and policy. The talk, on Monday 22nd February 2016 will be at the Capitaine Bougainville Theatre, Forum North, 2.00pm to 3.30pm.

Pasifica Fusion Festival: 27/02/2016 at the town Basin by the Waka in Whangarei – Great cultural festival with food and stalls – NorthAble will be attending along with many other great stalls.

Do you need help managing your osteoarthritis? Learn about Arthritis and causes of pain, help that is available and what you can do to reduce your pain. Day 24th February 2016, Arthritis New Zealand Office, Level 1 (Lift is available), 1 James Street, Whangarei. 11.00am – 12 midday, Osteoarthritis, 1.00pm – 2.30pm Osteoarthritis when joint replacement has been declined. Registration is essential. For more information contact Sue Baker Phone 0800 663 463 or 09 459 6100 or email sue.baker@arthritis.org.nz to register or for further information. No cost to attend, but Arthritis New Zealand welcomes donations.

Arthritis New Zealand Conference 2016 to be held on March 5th at Te Papa, Wellington. Registration fee: \$50 for Arthritis New Zealand members and \$75 for non members. Places are limited. Early Bird Registration closes 12/2/2016 to go in a draw to win luxury bed and breakfast for two at Bay Plaza. Registration closes on 20/2/2016. Registration forms available from: Dayleen or Karen on 0800 663 463 or dayleen.troke@arthritis.org.nz or karen.baker@arthritis.org.nz. Limited funding to support attendance of those with arthritis. Please call Karen on 0800 663 463 for further information.

Northland Secondary Schools Aquatics Event: March 9th 2016. 10am -1.30pm. Special Olympics NZ are currently looking for volunteers for this event so if you are able to help out in anyway please do not hesitate to contact me on 027 455 0062 or corip@specialolympics.org.nz for further details.

AGM Special Olympics Whangarei: Monday March 14: Special Olympics Whangarei Annual General Meeting 2016. Special Olympics Whangarei are looking for young, energetic people who are interested in sport or keen to give sport a go. If you are interested please do not hesitate to contact David Laird on 0211175234 or Andrew Langford on 0274383993 for further details on how to become a Special Olympics Whangarei athlete or even a volunteer!

Calling all volunteers – Ruakaka Surf Day! Would you like to be a Volunteer at our upcoming Surf Day for people with disabilities? Saturday 5th March 2016, 10am to 2pm - with sign in at 9am at Ruakaka Surf Lifesaving Club, Ruakaka Beach. Volunteers required for assistance in the water, BBQ, general assistance on land. Tiaho Trust are hosting another 'Ruakaka Surf Day' for people with any type of disability. BBQ will be provided for all participants and volunteers. For more information or a volunteer registration form, contact: Saffron at Tiaho Trust 0800 430 3406 or Email: saffron@tiaho.org.nz