



NorthAble Information Update 11/1/2017

NorthAble receives information from our many networks which we disseminate through this *Update*. Feel free to share and use this information. For further information or to place a notice, contact:

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In the news

Advocate hits out at continued abuse of disability car parks. Stuff January 10 2017. A disability advocate is calling for tougher consequences for drivers illegally using accessible car parks, after a survey finds the practice is rife. The national survey by CCS Disability Action found a third (31 per cent) of those parking in the 360 accessible car parks monitored had no permit to do so. There was virtually no improvement from when the survey was first done 10 years ago, when 35 per cent had no permit. In a related interview, 17 per cent of respondents (74 people) admitted to incorrectly parking in an accessible spot.

Mobility parking campaigns having zero impact. Stuff January 8 2017. Nearly one in five New Zealanders illegally park in mobility parking spaces, and for the most part, they get away with it. A report into the misuse of mobility parks released in October shows just three percent of illegally parked vehicles get ticketed. That number, said CCS Disability Action New Zealand spokesman Peter Wilson, should be much higher.

Wellington gets vote from British blogger as world's most wheelchair-accessible city. Stuff. January 10 2017. Wellington has received a travel blogger's vote as the world's most wheelchair friendly city – but at least one wheelchair user in the capital is less complimentary. The accolade came in an article in British online newspaper The Independent, in which travel blogger Anthony William declared Wellington the most accessible city for the disabled in the world. The Newcastle-based blogger, who writes as the Geordie Traveller, has been to almost 40 countries and is aiming to become the first wheelchair user to visit every country in the world. He has more than 5000 Twitter followers.

Principals need more "special-needs" support. The Southland Times, January 9 2017. Hundreds of New Zealand principals say they are unable to cater for special-needs students in their schools. More than 400 respondents to a New Zealand Principals' Federation survey said they needed more funding, staff, resources and better communication from the Ministry of Education to support special education. The ministry says it is aware "we still have much work to do" and is taking steps to address a "rising demand for services". More than 300 of the 490 respondents felt they were not well supported in educating students with high needs. Schools were topping up government special-needs funding.

Calls to end 'discriminatory' minimum wage exemption scheme for disabled workers. Stuff. January 2 2017. Disability advocates are welcoming moves to end a government scheme that allows people with a disability to be paid less than the minimum wage. Minister for Disability Issues Nicky Wagner said the Government was considering advice on possible alternatives to the current minimum wage exemption (MWE) model.

Z petrol station home to 'local legend' with MS. Stuff. January 3 2017. While living with multiple sclerosis, Gary Franklin is a long-serving employee of Z Energy, and formerly Shell, who has vowed to keep working. "I just looked forward and thought I would just keep going to work until I can't," Franklin said. As his condition deteriorated to the point he could no longer walk unsupported, Franklin moved in to a customer service role at the Shirley site. Franklin, 53, is still able to drive and uses a wheelchair to get to and from the car park. Once behind the till, he stands all day and uses the counter as support. Hattrick Services operations manager Anton Hutton said Franklin, who had clocked up 35 years with the company across different Shell and Z retailers and under various management, was a "local legend".

Got something to share?

Got something to share? Place your Northland disability and health related events, meetings, courses, news, information and situations vacant in *NorthAble Information Update*. Or want to be added to our mailing list? Email: drc@northable.org.nz.

Coming up in 2017

NorthAble hours. NorthAble @ 40 John St Whangarei has returned to normal hours from 9th January. LYNKZ @ 65 John St Whangarei: re-opens to clients 15th January. LYNKZ Dargaville returns 19th January. EQ+ @ 73 John St Whangarei: has returned to normal hours from 9th January.

Very important January meeting 2017 – Parkinson's Northland. Meeting to further discuss future options for the Parkinson's society Date & time: 18th January 2016 @10.30 to 11.30am Venue: Kamo Club, Meldrum Street, Whangarei. The major driver for holding this meeting is the effect the option of a national organisation with branches rather than divisions might have on the Northland Division. Phone: 09 437 6878. Email: northland@parkinsons.org.nz

Paralympics New Zealand are excited to announce a Para Cycling Talent Identification and Development Camp in New Plymouth, January 20-22, 2017. To enquire or register your interest in attending the 2017 Para Cycling Talent Identification Camp, please respond via return email to talent@paralympics.org.nz. Please note that attendees must be aged 12+ at time of participation, and must have an eligible impairment for Para cycling.

Two free trainings delivered next year in February. 13th February – Training specific to people who work with young people with FASD – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (or suspected of having FASD) . Relevant to health and community workers, teachers and teachers' aides, social workers, police etc. 14th February - Training for whanau and caregivers of young people with FASD. Diary now – huge demand expected, formal panui, registrations to come.

Achieve 2B is an inspiring intercultural Exchange Programme facilitating National and International exchanges for young people with disabilities in New Zealand. Host the first ever selected Achieve 2B student. She attends Pakuranga College and is a Year 10 Student who enjoys dancing and cross fit. She is a cat and dog lover so enjoys volunteering for the SPCA. She will be spending 4 weeks in Whangarei for the 1st Term in 2017 and is excited about having this new experience and is looking forward to being a part of another family and community. Become a host family! www.achieve2b.org.nz/ Telephone: 0800 223 822. Email: info@achieve2b.org.nz. Or www.facebook.com/achieve2b

Be. Accessible's Be. Leadership programme is accepting applications to next year's programme. Be. Leadership advances a more accessible society and a dynamic community of leaders who are passionate about accessibility, with the courage to host new conversations. It is a one-of-a-kind programme in New Zealand, taking participants through a year of exploration of different perspectives, questioning, laughter, self-discovery and accessibility-focused leadership. Applications for the Be. Leadership Programme 2017 are open now. Visit www.beaccessible.org.nz/be-leadership/about/ to find out more or to apply go to www.beaccessible.org.nz/be-leadership/apply/

Spirit of New Zealand The application process is open for the next Inspiration Voyage in February 2017 aboard the Spirit of New Zealand – this is an awesome, life changing training programme aboard a purpose built tall ship. The voyage is for young physically disabled people or who have other health issues aged from 16 to 20 years old. There is loads of support for people aboard and throughout the voyage where life skills and team work are the focus. More information: www.tiaho.org.nz/news/entry/spirit-of-adventure-inspiration-voyage-2017

Epilepsy support group meeting. First Tuesday of each month, next meeting 7th February. Epilepsy Association of New Zealand Inc Northland Branch invites you to attend a support group meeting in Whangarei: Come along and meet others living with epilepsy. The Northland Epilepsy Educator will be available to provide information and support. Everyone is welcome. Brenda Gardner Lounge, Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), 71 Bank Street, Whangarei, 10.30am to 12 noon. (morning tea provided). Phone (09) 4385498 or 0272916869 (Please leave a message). Email: northland@epilepsy.org.nz Public car park at the back of building. Public car park off Vinery Lane via Hunt Street.