



## NorthAble Information Update 21/12/2017

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

Phone: 09 430 0988 / 0508 637-200.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NorthAble](http://www.facebook.com/NorthAble)

Email: [drc@northable.org.nz](mailto:drc@northable.org.nz).

Web: [www.northable.org.nz](http://www.northable.org.nz)

## Events – Seminars – Courses – Meetings

### DECEMBER



**NorthAble main office** will be closed from 12pm on Friday 22 December 2017 and will re-open on Monday 8 January 2018.

The **EQ+ shop** will be closed from 12pm Friday 22 December 2017 reopening at reduced hours from Wednesday 3 January 2018 till Friday 5 January 2018 and will return to normal work hours from 8:30am Monday 8 January 2018.

Last day for the **LYNKZ** programme is Friday 22 December 2017 restarting Monday 15 January 2018.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at NorthAble.**

**20th: Whangarei Stroke Club.** Christmas function. Kamo Club 11.30am onwards. This is a free event for Stroke survivors and their carers. Come along and enjoy some great food, help celebrate Christmas. RSVP on 027 443 7388.

**21<sup>st</sup>: Parkinson's Northland:** Kerikeri Support Group. Thu, 21 December, 10:00 – 12:00. St.Johns Hall, Kerikeri. The Support Luncheons provide support for people with Parkinson's their caregivers and families. Just a social get together where we provide entertainment and guest speakers of interest to the group. Everyone brings a plate for a shared luncheon. Contact Trisha Ryan for more information. Phone: 09 438 4282 Email: [northland@parkinsons.org.nz](mailto:northland@parkinsons.org.nz)

**21<sup>st</sup>: Blind Foundation** Keri Keri Support Group. Thu, 21 December, 13:00 – 15:00. Herb Murry Meeting Room, Keri Keri Retirement Village. The support groups provide an opportunity to meet with others who are living with a vision loss. It offers peer support and is a safe forum to share concerns, ask questions and come up with ideas and hints. At times RNZFB rehabilitation staff or invited speakers will be present to share information with you. The purpose of the group is to provide peer support and information.

**22<sup>nd</sup>: Parkinson's Northland:** Whangarei Support Luncheon. Fri, 22 December, 11:00 – 13:00. Masonic Hall, 224 Maunu Road, Whangarei. The Support Luncheons provide support for people with Parkinson's their caregivers and families. A social get together where we provide entertainment and guest speakers of interest to the group. Bring a plate for shared luncheon. Contact Trisha Ryan for info. Phone: 09 438 4282 Email: [northland@parkinsons.org.nz](mailto:northland@parkinsons.org.nz)

**NEW! 22nd: One dollar bus fares** will be on offer as part of a day-long festive season promotion by Whangarei's CityLink bus service in the lead-up to Christmas. The service is administered by the Northland Regional Council and people can take the opportunity to ride the buses for just \$1 on Thursday 22 December. The joint initiative between the regional council and bus operator Ritchies will allow people to travel for just \$1 on any of the fleet's nine buses on 22. Trips can be made anytime from 6am to 7pm. More information about the Christmas cheer promotion is available from the regional council's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/NorthlandRegionalCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/NorthlandRegionalCouncil) or the CityLink web [www.citylinkwhangarei.co.nz](http://www.citylinkwhangarei.co.nz)

## Information of interest

**Faiva Ora** Community Innovation Fund now open. See [www.leva.co.nz/news/faiva-ora-community-innovation-fund-now-open](http://www.leva.co.nz/news/faiva-ora-community-innovation-fund-now-open)

**System Transformation.** In Sacha O'Dea's last monthly update for 2017 she reflects on what has been an exciting year for System Transformation. Nine months ago emails went out asking people in the disability sector to apply for the co-design group. The video outlines the plan for the start of 2018. [www://bit.ly/Dec17ST](http://www://bit.ly/Dec17ST)

**ERO to investigate special education in schools.** Morning Report – RNZ. 18 December 2017. The growing number of children with special needs has prompted the Education Review Office to conduct a national review of the issue next year. Groups including the Principals Federation and the Educational Institute say it will find widespread under-funding. [www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2018626766/ero-to-investigate-special-education-in-schools](http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2018626766/ero-to-investigate-special-education-in-schools)<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2018626766/ero-to-investigate-special-education-in-schools>

**Teens experience 'fear and harm' in secure mental health unit for disabled adults.** Stuff.co.nz. 17 December 2017. The CDHB raised concerns with the MOH repeatedly about the facility this year and complained the ministry failed to appreciate the seriousness of the situation and lacked urgency in its response. Children's Commissioner Judge Andrew Becroft said the issue was "highly concerning". [www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/99765730/teens-experience-fear-and-harm-in-secure-mental-health-unit-for-disabled-adults](http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/99765730/teens-experience-fear-and-harm-in-secure-mental-health-unit-for-disabled-adults)

**Sentenced reduced for intellectually disabled woman who stalked teenage sports star.** Stuff.co.nz. 16 December 2017. An intellectually disabled woman who was given a compulsory care order after stalking a teenage sports star has had her sentence reduced by a year. [www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/99922993/sentenced-reduced-for-intellectually-disabled-woman-who-stalked-teenage-sports-star](http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/99922993/sentenced-reduced-for-intellectually-disabled-woman-who-stalked-teenage-sports-star)

**LOCAL! Backdown on mobility parks.** Northern Advocate. 15 December 2017. Mobility parking spaces will remain free for those with a mobility permit in Whangarei after the district council adopted its reviewed parking and traffic bylaw.

**LOCAL! Charge ironic.** Whangarei Report. 14 December 2017. Re: The Report's story on page 9, Issue 07.12.2017 - surely the Whangarei District Council can see the irony in even considering to charge disabled people at all for parking in the CBD, while on page 14, one sees the WDC logo as a sponsor of a recent Expo that celebrated the lives of disabled people on the International Day of the Disabled Person - *Suzanne Liddall Whangarei*

**LOCAL! Disabled parking.** Gulf News. 14 December 2017. If you are not a disabled person, please don't park in the reserved area at Matiatia. - *Jan Smith, Ostend*

**LOCAL! Facebook feedback.** Northern Advocate. 13 December 2017. Disabled parking debate Danah Sharp I'm with you David, but . . . trying to find a disabled car park is very difficult, the disabled carparks are usually taken by NON card holders! If these were policed properly and NON card holders fined accordingly!

**LOCAL! Whangarei parking protests result in no charges for disabled spaces.** NZ Herald. 14 December 2017. Whangarei man David Seymour is calling it a "win for the little guys". Mobility parking spaces will remain free for those with a mobility permit in Whangarei after the district council adopted its reviewed Parking and Traffic Bylaw. [www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11959719](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11959719)

**Three Bills Drawn From The Ballot** The Scoop Team Article. 13 December 2017. [Education \(National Education and Learning Priorities\) Amendment Bill](#) This bill amends the Education Act 1989 to enable statements about the diversity of education provision to be included in the statement of National Education and Learning Priorities. - *Jan Tinetti*.

**Helping selectively mute kids speak.** Stuff.Co.nz. 12 December 2017. Research into the disorder is ongoing, but one theory is that selective mutism is a failure of the body's evolutionary response to danger. As a result, the brain reacts to the threat of social stress in the same way as a threat of physical harm, and the body instinctively freezes. [www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/99724553/treatment-for-selective-mutism-said-to-unlock-mute-childrens-ears-and-brains](http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/99724553/treatment-for-selective-mutism-said-to-unlock-mute-childrens-ears-and-brains)