



Aspiehelp / The Aspire Trust August 2017 Newsletter

Edited by Anna Melling

In this newsletter: Aspie Round Up - website is online and more, Leith is a Registered Social Worker, Indy the cat, About Altogether Autism's Talent Search

The Aspie Round Up Friday 17th and Saturday 18th of November

The website is now online!

<http://www.theaspieroundup.co.nz/>



We will be partnering with the University of Canterbury Disability Resources Centre to host workshops. The planned location is the Undercroft Seminar Room, below the Central Library at University of Canterbury.

Dr Stephen Mark Shore, Clinical Assistant Professor in Special Needs and Autism at Adelphi University USA, will send us a DVD about "Awesome Autism".

Stephen is himself Autistic. He is also the Patron of Aspiehelp / The Aspire Trust.

Pre-registration is available

If you visit the "Fees & Registration" section, you will find the relevant fees listed, and a form you can fill in to pre-register, and we'll let you know as soon as we're accepting registrations.

Please note that we will be giving an early bird discount!

Submissions are open:

If you would like to present a workshop, please get in touch. We aim to have workshops by people with lived experience on topics such as life, education, work, community and empowering people on the spectrum.

We would love to hear your stories of facing and overcoming barriers and challenges in your quest for living a meaningful life - either as a person with ASC or someone who supports people with ASC.

The deadline for submissions is Thursday the 21st of September.

For more information, visit the "Submissions" page on the website linked above. We look forward to receiving your submission!

Facebook page is online:

<https://www.facebook.com/theAspieRoundUp/>

Don't forget to like and follow to keep up to date with developments!



In Our Office

It has been a busy, exciting and rewarding month. Lots of new clients with many challenges (for us), excitement over the approaching Aspie Roundup, and rewarding in that Leith finally received approval for Registration as a Social Worker (the new “Government Gold Standard”). 40 years after completing the Post-graduate Diploma in Social Work, she now has two fancy Certificates (for Registration and Competency) and a smashing lanyard dangly thing which proclaims her qualification to all and sundry! Apparently there are only 450 people currently registered although there are thousands of people who say they are Social Workers. It is a very expensive exercise, which might be a clue as to why more people don’t put themselves through all the hoop-jumping.



*Our staff, clockwise from top left:
Leith, Olivia, Julie, and Anna*

Leith finally found herself another cat, a black “teenager” of 11 months called Indy, who is very friendly and lively. Indy quickly accustomed herself to the big outdoors (she had been a rescue cat) and is making friends all over the neighbourhood. However, no fear of her shifting camp, she sleeps on Leith’s bed every night and smooches whenever there is an opportunity!



Indy

Social evenings

Our regular social evenings are on the first and the third Wednesday of the month, at a venue near Church Corner at 7:30pm. (Please contact Leith for the exact location). We have board games, hot drinks and biscuits, and a selection of books from the Aspiehelp library available at every meeting. Please bring a \$2 donation.

The next meetings are on the 6th and 20th of September.
You are welcome to attend. (New members should contact Leith or Julie first.)

Conversation group

Our Aspiehelp conversation group meets fortnightly on Tuesdays at 2pm.

A get-together for people affected by Asperger’s Syndrome.

The next meetings are on the 29th of August and the 12th of September.

Please contact us if you’re interested in attending.

Our Patron is Stephen Mark Shore, PhD.

The Aspire Trust, Inc is a registered Charitable Trust.
Charities Services registration number is CC46192.

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Upcoming Fundraising Sausage Sizzles

We will be holding more fundraising BBQs over the next few weeks, spread between Mitre 10 Beckenham and Fresh Meats Barrington (Barrington Mall):

Saturday the 26th of August - Fresh Meats Barrington

Saturday 9th of September - Mitre 10 Beckenham

30th of September - Fresh Meats Barrington

7th of October - Fresh Meats Barrington

14th of October - Fresh Meats Barrington

21st of October - Fresh Meats Barrington

If you're in the area, come and visit, say hello and perhaps buy a sausage! We are always grateful for volunteers to help out with the sausage sizzles. Please offer even for 2 hours now and then.

Quote Corner

'If you've met one person with autism,
you've met one person with autism.'

- Dr. Stephen Shore



About Altogether Autism's Talent Search:

Last month, there were some links to surveys by Altogether Autism and Specialisterne, asking for information about autistic adults looking for work in New Zealand.

Below is an excerpt from an article on the New Zealand Herald, explaining more about this partnership and what they are aiming to do in New Zealand.

Follow the link below, or scan the QR code to the right to read the full article.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11890240



New programme helping autistic people into work

Less than 10 per cent of New Zealanders who have been diagnosed with autism are in full-time employment - but a new programme hopes to change that.

Altogether Autism has carried out a talent search of almost 100 people to identify who is working, who would like to be and what area they are working in.

The charity's national manager Catherine Trezona said, of the responses they had so far, 50 per cent of the people were unemployed. Of those who did have work, less than 10 per cent were in full-time employment while 10 per cent had part-time work and 20 per cent did voluntary work.

She estimated there could be about 80,000 New Zealanders on the autism spectrum who were looking for work.

The figures were in line with international research which found about 2 per cent of the population had an autism diagnosis but only about 20 per cent of those people were in full-time employment.

Trezona said those with autism often did not interview well because their social communication skills were different and they tended to be overly honest.

Neuro-diverse people would often tell potential employers they were not an expert in the area because they did not know everything about the topic when in fact they were more than qualified to do the job, she said.

With the help of Specialisterne Australia chairman John Craven, who is speaking at the Altogether Autism Conference in Auckland on July 19 and 20, the organisation has been approaching companies about the possibility of employing people on the autism spectrum.

Specialisterne is an organisation set up to help autistic people into jobs and work with them and their employer to get the best outcome for both.

One of those Trezona and Craven had already met with was Minister for Disability Issues, Nicky Wagner.

Wagner challenged the pair to pull together profiles of 40 to 60 autistic people who had particular strengths in areas within the state sector and she would consider whether any were suitable for jobs.

A spokesperson for the Minister said she was very focused on supporting disabled people, including those with autism spectrum disorders, into jobs that matched their unique talents.

But it was not a case of businesses taking on a charity case, Trezona said.

Neuro-diverse people often saw things in a different light making them good problem solvers - banks around the world employed them to manage security and detect fraud. They were usually very task-oriented and passionate about their work which meant they often lifted productivity.

Employers had also found that when giving autistic people the very clear, step-by-step instructions they often needed, it helped clarify the tasks for all their other employees.

The Specialisterne programme allowed autistic people with the relevant skills to do work experience for companies which agreed rather than going through the interview process. If that was successful, mentors continued to work with the employer and employee to make sure both were happy with the arrangement.