

## Chairpersons Report - Auckland Branch 2011/2012

The past year has been one of consolidation for the Branch with the committee building and maintaining the strength of work in recent years while experiencing some change. We as a Branch continue to be active and pro-active in achieving our goals for the CF community.

Auckland Branch continued to embrace the eclectic approach of our members to fundraising efforts during Awareness Week and throughout the year. Our success is truly a collective one and we extend our enormous thanks to you all for the various contributions you have so generously made for the benefit of our wonderful Auckland CF community. During the year Auckland Branch has had considerable success with various 'new' and 'proven' fundraisers. Money raised is used for many purposes, supporting the wide care and education needs of our community to the best of our ability. Our regular and ongoing 'spend' includes medical equipment, newsletters, hospital packs, food, supermarket and parking vouchers, PFRC rent, conference attendance and Branch Coordinator's salary.

### Fundraising Successes:

The new NZ Cystic Fibrosis '**Bubbles**' branding was launched officially during last year's Awareness Week (aka Bubbles Week). The new image, logo and merchandise was excitedly welcomed nationwide and CF Auckland members were enthused to raise money and awareness with our 'new look'. CF Auckland Branch raised \$34,379.00, a brilliant endeavour! The **Annual Street Appeal** was again extremely successful receiving amazing volunteer support from our CF Community, their friends, colleagues and from Auckland senior school students. We are thrilled with the uptake from schools to support us, many now doing so on an annual basis.

Our second year of selling **Chocolate Fish** was again a huge success. The **TradeMe charity auction** and **White Elephant Sale**, the sale of **Recipe Journals, Ladies Luncheon, \$65 for 65 Roses** campaign, the Baking Stall at the **Kowhai Festival** and sale of **Entertainment Books** have also raised substantial funds for the Branch. The committee wishes to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who involved themselves in raising money and awareness during the past year, acknowledging the generous 'time sacrifices' of many to do so.

Grateful thanks to Robyn Somerville, our Branch Grants Officer for the applications made throughout the past year. We acknowledge that in this time of economic uncertainty, success in gaining grants is increasingly difficult. Robyn has been successful in gaining grants from **North & South Trust** (\$10,000) supporting 23 of our members to attend the National Conference in May 2012; from **Contact Energy** (\$2,484) to cover costs of medical equipment; and from **Pub Charity** (\$4,008) to cover newsletter printing costs (with its new logo/image makeover). New leads for funding have recently been followed by Robyn and Amanda Blakey, and they have recently lodged a large application with the **Lottery Commission** for rent, auditing and salary expenses. Ongoing grant applications for medical equipment expenses will continue.

Hearty Towers recently received a super sized 52" TV which sits proudly on one of the communal lounge walls. This purchase was made with the final (leftover) money from a grant Robyn received during the previous financial year.

### Connection Success:

The **CF Auckland website** went 'live' in 2012 and is updated regularly with all Branch news and events. A 'hot tips' page is also growing following the addition of tips from the CF community that appear on Facebook groups, in newsletters, or after conferences and gatherings. Our **newsletters** are being added to the site, and we will soon have a collection of back issues for browsing. Links to other websites of interest, newspaper articles, and publications are also available. Following a successful recipe competition, all the recipes that were entered are available on the website.

Auckland's CF Committee continues to host **coffee mornings, ladies lunches**, and an annual **Christmas party**. Last year's Christmas event was held at the Ringers house in beautiful Coatesville, special thanks to Jo and Huw for hosting such a memorable evening. Our coffee mornings, which we aim to hold each school term, move around the City, and are a great place for CF mum's to meet likeminded CF mums.

The financial strain as a result of the economic crisis (not to mention earthquake recovery) has been deeply felt by our National Office team in this past year. It was wonderful to see so many of our branch members supporting **CFNZ's Galaxy of Cars, Taupo Iron Man** and the **Breathe** (Dance) events. From shaking donation buckets, frying sausages, driving in supporter stakes, encouraging athletes in their fundraisers, to purchasing event tickets, Auckland Branch was there. Thank you to those who of you who extended a helping hand to the National team. They do so much for the CF cause, including public promotion, advocating to Governmental departments, encouraging and funding CF

research, providing scholarships, facilitating conferences and supporting PWCF and their families in a myriad of ways - and accordingly make a huge positive difference to our CF family in Auckland and around New Zealand.

#### **Changes:**

Filling our exiting Chair, Jane Drumm's shoes as the new Co-chairs has been a huge learning curve! Our enormous thanks to Jane, committee members and the Branch Coordinators for their wonderful support and encouragement in the process.

As a Committee we welcomed two new members last year, Rachel Elliot and Chris Elliot. It has been lovely to have some new faces around the table and new ideas! Thank you for being so giving of your time and energy to assist the wider community, your efforts are truly appreciated.

After a year in the role of Auckland CF Branch Coordinator, Maria Teape left us to take on a role closer to home. Wendy Edmondson joined us in March this year and has done a superb job coming on board with the many and varied requirements of the role. We value Wendy's organisation, communication skills and her ability to keep her finger on the pulse. Thank You!

The Branch experienced a period of financial concern at the commencement of 2012 with our generous, long term benefactors needing to cease their regular financial gifts as a result of their own economic pressures. The committee spent considerable time assessing our financial spend, assessing priorities and goals. Even though our benefactors have been in a position to return their regular financial support to the Branch since then, relieving some of this financial pressure, it was a very worthwhile exercise for the committee to undertake.

Finding a new auditor was a challenge for us. Following recent changes in auditing requirements for charitable accounts, it was difficult to find an auditor willing and able to assist the Branch. However, we managed to secure one. Establishing a relationship with a new auditor is no mean feat, and gaining an understanding of how our Branch operates took a lot of time, communication and perseverance. A huge thank you to Allyson Harvey, our treasured treasurer who rose to the challenge.

#### **Thank you:**

In addition to thanking all our Branch Members and our Committee Members for the time and energy given we'd like to make special mention and give our biggest thanks to

-Sally Carron, our North Island fieldworker who continues to have the cause of Cystic Fibrosis and our community close to her heart.

-The CF teams at Starship and Auckland Hospitals for the excellent and dedicated care they provide to our members. We especially thank Jan Tate (CF Nurse Specialist at Starship) and Cath Lamont (Adult Services CF Nurse Specialist) for their unflinching support to people with CF and their families.

-Our wonderful and generous sponsors - Boehringer Ingelheim, Humdinger Design, Subway and the Howick Lions Club.

-To the family and friends who generously donate in memory of their loved ones. We sincerely thank you for your continued support.

It seems, as usual, that the previous twelve months have flown by. Helping the Auckland Branch provide as much support and care to PWCF, and their families, continues to be the sole aim of the Committee. The main challenge faced by the Auckland Branch is ensuring that the services we provide are sustainable and can be developed as the needs of the CF community change. The Auckland Branch is constantly growing – let's continue to share our experiences and what we have learnt, communicate our ideas, frustrations and hopes, and lean on each other when necessary: **these are the traits of an important and caring support network.**

Anthea Wendelborn  
Co Chairperson  
CFANZ Auckland Branch

Amanda Blakey  
Co Chairperson  
CFANZ Auckland Branch