

## Chairpersons Report 2010/11- Auckland Branch

Another good year for the Auckland Branch as our community connects more and grows stronger. A significant success for us this year has been raising more than \$35,000 during last year's Awareness week. Once again a sterling effort was made, with "many hands making light work" to achieve this excellent outcome for the benefit of all the people with CF and families of our branch.

Auckland branch has again had considerable success with grant applications and this funding has helped us with our Branch Coordinator salary and office expenses, the purchase of a lot of nebulisers and physiotherapy equipment and funding for petrol and parking vouchers that is such a help when attending clinic's. One of the greatest uses of a grant that we received this year is to fund a dishwasher, fridges and freezer and all sorts of equipment for Hearty Towers where our Lung transplant recipient's spend time recovering after their transplant operation. The reaction from people that we know inside Hearty Towers right now is that the Auckland Branch have made their lives easier while living away from home.

Money raised from Awareness Week and our other fund raisers is used for many purposes. Our amazing newsletter, purchasing a portable lung function unit for the testing of CF Adults, employing our Branch Coordinator and maintaining an office within the Parent and Family Resource Centre, purchasing Supermarket vouchers, Muffin Break vouchers, Tiny Bites vouchers and Subway vouchers –all helping to soften the impact of a hospitalisation and support our people with CF and their families especially when things are tough.

Last year Lisa Collins facilitated a very successful fundraiser that helped bring our community together- in a figurative way. The tea towel fundraiser saw many children and young adults draw a picture of themselves to be printed on to high quality tea towels and then sold throughout the community. Rumour has it that there were a couple of brave CF Team members from Starship who also drew pictures of themselves- channeling their inner Picasso.

Conferences have had good attendance in this last year. The Chairpersons Conference in September '10 had 4 members of the Auckland Branch attending working with representatives from other branches around the country and the Board to ensure that the way we run the branch is the best way possible and for sharing ideas...the triumphs and the trials. The national Conference was held in Wellington this year and the branch assisted 3 people with CF and 10 parents of children with CF attend. A huge amount of benefit is gained by people attending conferences the sessions are educational and high quality, the opportunity to talk with people from around NZ about CF and share stories and swap "tips" is a real gift. I encourage everyone to try and make the conference in 2012 as it will be held in sunny, quake free Auckland.

One major happening this year has been the resignation of our long time Branch coordinator Helen Geary. Helen had been with the Auckland Branch for an awesome 6 years and has built the job into what it is today...a very functional, efficient and responsive administration arm of the committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Helen for all her work and her dedication to the branch- as she has indicated that she will continue to help out as a volunteer with our Awareness Week Appeal.

I take this opportunity to welcome to our fold our new Branch Coordinator Maria Teape who although she has very big (once again figuratively) shoes to step into is doing an excellent job in her new role.

In October 2010 we again attended the Kowhai Festival in Warkworth...an excellent opportunity to raise funds and awareness about CF and for those of us who help with the actual stall....Shop and eat! The beauty of the Kowhai festival is the fact that so many people from our wider CF community

bake and make stuff for us to sell. We have the best fudge, marshmallow and cake makers in the country...I am looking forward to seeing what people come up with this year.

This last year has seen a rebrand of the CF logo and the emergence of theming for CF Awareness Week. The new letterhead and business cards are looking sharp and there is no more burnt orange to be seen. Having a crisp new modern brand will help us attract the eyes of the community and further grow the awareness of CF as a condition throughout Auckland.

Our grateful thanks to all the Auckland Branch committee members for the time and energy you all put into the branch. We must again make a special mention and huge vote of thanks to Allyson Harvey, our Treasurer, who the Branch has acknowledged with a Life Membership this year.

On behalf of the branch we also thank Sally Carron, our North Island fieldworker who always has the cause of Cystic Fibrosis and our community close to her heart.

The Branch sincerely thanks the CF teams at Starship and at Auckland Hospital for the excellent and dedicated care they provide for all our members. We are very fortunate to have such awesome Teams! We would like to especially thank Jan Tate (CF Nurse Specialist at Starship) and Cath Lamont (Adult Services CF Clinical Nurse Specialist) for the huge support and excellent advice they provide for people with CF and their families.

The Branch also thanks all our wonderful and generous supporters and friends

This year will be my last as Chairperson for the Auckland Branch and I thank you all for your continued friendship and support and assure the new Chair(s) of my ongoing support, friendship and help for this cause that is so important and so close to all our hearts.

Jane Drumm

CF Auckland Branch Chairperson

August 2011