

# CONFERENCE 2010 REPORT



## Sailing Together in Friendship

When Kathleen put her hand up in Wanganui for this Conference it all looked a bit like "Mission Impossible" especially after the great effort put in by Wanganui.

On 19<sup>th</sup> August at our first meeting Mary Gracie outlined just what was involved – and off we went. It was decided to split the Convenors job between Kathleen & Helen. Lynn W. to be Secretary, Marina Treasurer, Francis Exec. member and everyone else to be hardworking Committee members.

Arranging something when you don't know how much money you have, how many are coming and how much it will cost is a big challenge even for Diversional Therapists have to perform miracles regularly.

Being entirely sensible, after looking at all options and prices we booked Rydges, which was a building site at the time and offered by far the best location, space, room rates and hopefully everything we needed with a bit of glamour thrown in.

From the start, we wanted as much resident- and staff input for this conference as we could get. We set about getting as many people involved with the making of cushion/bags. Also samples of work that actually able to be done by our residents. Each personalized bag had at least six residents contribution.

Nearly twelve months later, after amazing amounts of work, arm twisting, favour calling and general diversional carry on, the time had arrived. Problems we didn't know we had were solved and our biggest help was Jane Verity making herself available (wow) and Career force for their generous donation to cover the cost of the AV and data systems. So many other nice things came out of the woodwork and we thank everyone for everything.

On Friday night Bill Tangariki from Waiperera Trust & Theresa & Violet welcomed everyone with a Powhiri just for us. Mary opened in her Maori cloak. All welcomes and speeches were carried out. After an amazing display by the wearable arts entries everyone was then off to the Casino or dinner. (my, there is a multicultural world out there!!)

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Saturday morning started with two excellent speakers Dr Hendrickson on Sexuality and Dr Birken on Challenging Behaviour. The first workshops started at 11 allowing a wide range of hands-on and informative topics

After a workman's lunch the second workshop group started. We cannot thank our workshop presenters enough for all their work.

Julie Sparks from, Health Ed. Trust spoke on education and the delivery of DT Qualification in the future.

This was followed by the Annual meeting.

Sixteen people graduated at the Graduation dinner. Congratulations to all the Graduated. Well done. The photos of this will be on website and hopefully we can get some input from those who graduated.

Sunday started off with a church service from Stuart Douglas in his kilt. Candles were lit for DT's & intention stones laid.

At 9.am Our celebrity guest speaker Jane Verity brought her "Spark of Life" program to us with all the passion she has for this. She not only made herself available to us but also donated one of her training packages which was won by Lynette from Taranaki who was over the moon with her prize. What a wonderful inspiring speaker Jane is.

The final speaker was Alun Chisholm from Toastmasters.

Gail had the job of distributing all the spot prizes and then the Conference was over for another year. Lunch followed.

We thank Rydges for all their help in running the conference. They thought they were getting some refined ladies who sat and talked. It was a bit of a surprise when we arrived with all our "stuff" for competitions, bags, workshops etc. and with the appetite of a football team. We enjoyed the new facilities, space, rooms and everything being together.

Thank you to everyone who attended (158 registrations), helped and we hope you had a good time and learned heaps.

**See you in Christchurch in 2011.**

**Helen Co-Convenor.**