

# CHRISTCHURCH SPECIAL NEEDS LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

## AUTUMN 2017 ISSUE



### IMPORTANT DATES

Library closed on Easter  
Saturday (15 April) and Anzac  
Day (Tuesday, 25 April).

Library AGM – 13 May

### VISIT US

109 Huxley Street, Sydenham

### CONTACT US

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From left to right: Gina Mintrom  
(library chairperson), Kiki Ringland  
and Charlotte Ganderton.

### COMMUNIQUE FROM OUR CHAIR

Hi Everyone, a large group of us attended The Court Theatre to see *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. This was one of the most interesting productions I have seen at The Court. To put on stage a clear indication of the confusion some of the community deal with on a day to day basis was remarkable, a great learning curve for many of us. Sometimes a visual message is more successful than all the reading and discussion can clarify.

This year is the 40th, yes, fortieth year the library has been in operation. It was started by educators in the field of special needs and we are very proud to be a part of it. There will be a celebration, yet to be arranged, later in the year.

We had a visit from Kiki Ringland, Governor of Kiwanis South Pacific. Kiki hails from Tahiti and her flying visit to Christchurch was a little on the cool side weather-wise. However, we are the very lucky recipients of a wonderful contribution to our funds and most grateful for the Kiwanis on-going support.

We have had carpet laid in the back of the library by the construction sets. It is quite a cosy corner.

We are using our Facebook page more often. Please share with your friends. Our AGM is on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Keep warm, Gina

Governor of Kiwanis New Zealand and South Pacific, Kiki Ringland, presented a generous cheque of \$2100 to the library during a recent trip to Christchurch. The funds will be used for home visits by library resource advisor Charlotte Ganderton to clients who are unable to

## AGM AND LUNCH – A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



*Library staff make sure the resources are in working order.  
From left: Sharon, Prue, Charlotte (front), Frances and Gina.*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT – WITH RESOURCE ADVISOR CHARLOTTE

Hello everyone, this heading ‘Food for Thought’ is an interesting and confusing piece of figurative language. Last night I saw the play ‘The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time’. In this play Christopher, a 15-year old boy, takes figures of speech literally, he also gets extremely upset if someone touches him.

Throughout the play and the book it doesn’t specifically say that he has an autistic spectrum disorder however it is recognised that Christopher has challenges and does view the world uniquely and of course he is unique.

Recent research by Juergen Hahn (published in PLoS Computational Biology) shows that by analysing biomarkers in a child’s blood they can diagnose an Autistic Spectrum Disorder(ASD) with 96% accuracy.

Usually children are not diagnosed with an ASD until they are at least two years old and can take another 12-18 months to start getting proper support.

Autism NZ has said that an early diagnosis will allow more time for health professionals to determine what kind of support a child needs, as every person with Autism has unique needs.

At the Special Needs Library we have a large number of resources to support children’s learning and specifically the ‘Do you learn differently’ area which has a very strong sensory component to the resource.

Please feel welcome to come and talk to me about any learning challenges that you are aware of and I will assist you or point you in the right direction for help.☺

Come along and have your say about your community special needs library at this year’s annual general meeting.

We like to make the AGM as user-friendly as possible and this year we’re holding it on a Saturday at 1.45pm, preceded by a provided lunch. All library members and interested parties are welcome to attend – and we don’t pressure people to join the committee.

Anyone wanting to vote, however, needs to be a financial member which costs \$5

**AGM 13 May 2017 at 1.45pm**



**Lunch at 1pm  
Special Needs Library  
109 Huxley Street, Sydenham**



## **EFTPOS ON ITS WAY!**

The days of trying to remember to go to the ATM for cash before visiting the library are nearly over. Eftpos will be installed within a month. This should make life easier for library users.

The eftpos will enable clients to hire resources and pay annual subscription fees but there will be no 'cash out' or credit card options.



*Long-time volunteer Henny Moot gets the Lucky job of unpacking, trying out and Cataloguing a shipment of new resources.*

## **RECENT RESOURCE ADDITIONS**

10277 Fill n Spill Hippo



For early movement skill development, the bright colours and unpredictable ball action encourages chasing the hippo across the floor. Balls are dropped into the hippo's mouth, and a gentle tip will send the balls rolling out while music plays.

See next page for more resources.

**Vacancy available for regular Thursday morning volunteer. Please contact Frances for further details - 332 0731**

**You can support the library by purchasing a copy of the latest Entertainment Book - due out soon.**



### **10279 Let's Get Talking: Do You Learn Differently?**

The prompt box gets children talking about their feelings and ideas and boosts oral language skills. To use, you lift the schoolhouse roof, pull out a card, read one of the 75 open-ended questions, then listen as students provide answers to child-friendly topics, such as what they want to be when they grow up, what they did on their last birthday and what they would do if they were invisible.



### **10278 Pop up Friends Train**

A learning adventure on a train with reward pop-up animals, animals sounds and colours activated by pressing buttons, flipping switches and turning the gear.



### **10280 Little People Playset**

Little People resources are used to develop social skills like sharing and taking on new roles. This one features cars, seven people, including police-officers plus a phone booth and a lamp post.

### **10276 Penguin Parade Timer**

Features rotating penguins in a jar for the stimulation of visual skills. Restricted for borrowing to those registered for a special needs membership account.

