

Southern Centre for **CONDUCTIVE** **EDUCATION**

Helping people achieve

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2012

MANAGERS REPORT

Kevin Wall, QSO Manager



Greetings everyone.

Wow, where has the time gone? It has been ages since we have published a newsletter! Life (and work) has been extremely busy for the last year, what with locating and recruiting a new Conductor (Zsafia) then locating and recruiting our third Conductor (Anna), then working through the maternity leave provisions for Judit, then continuously applying for community funding to keep Our Centre going, plus the regular day-to-day administration work, has meant there isn't much time for anything else.

Conductor Zsafia arrived mid-January 2012. Zsafia (Zsafi as she is known) is a new graduate Conductor and our appointment is her first full-time position since graduation from Peto mid-year 2011. Zsafi has settled in very well, has a wealth of knowledge and is very enthusiastic. Zsafi is with us for two years – hopefully longer. Zsafia has her partner – Thomas – here with her and we managed to find local employment for Thomas so here's hoping they both are happy with Invercargill, Our Centre, etc. Thomas was a policeman in Hungary before resigning to come out to New Zealand to join Zsafi.

Our next new Conductor was Anna – Anna arrived mid June 2012. Anna is a very experienced Conductor with over 8 years of Conductive services since graduation from Peto. Anna too is not only very experienced but hugely enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable on Conductive Education. Anna is here with us on a 12 month Contract – initially to cover Conductor Judit's maternity leave but if we can get our number of Conductive Education attendees up, we may be able to retain her for longer.

Judit ceased duty with Conductive Education Southern on 29 June 2012 to commence her fourteen weeks maternity leave. A short-time later, like Monday of the next week, Judit went into Southland Hospital to delivery her baby. Next day (03 July 2012) a beautiful bouncy baby boy – Benedek – was born. Judit and Benedek (and dad Richard) are all doing extremely well. Judit had her Mum come out from Hungary to support Judit during the later stages of her pregnancy and delivery of Benedek. Mum has now gone back to Hungary and Judit's brother has arrived to support the family too. Judit is ready to return to Conductive Education Southern on Monday 15 October 2012.

Then we will have three Conductors – which is excellent and means we can increase the number of Conductive Education attendees – already we have jumped from 25 a year ago to 35 – and we have room for more. We are also taking adults now – so we now take all ages – from babies right through to and including adults. We were the only Conductive Education Centre in New Zealand that does this. Presently we have two adults and have had four. Overtures are being made with other support agencies such as Stroke Foundation, Head Injury Society and the likes, seeking new adult referrals.

Once again we have the Santa Parade for 2012 coming up on Saturday 24 November 2012. Like last year, we intend having a Conductive Education float in this Parade. Keep this date free parents and Conductive Education attendees, siblings, etc.

We held our Annual General Meeting on 12 August 2012. Not the greatest turnout of CE Parents etc which tells me they are happy with the way things are going at Our Centre. At this AGM Trustees Miriam Erikson stood down and was replaced by another Conductive Education Southern parent - Vicky Findlay. Thank you Miriam for all your help etc while on the Board and Vicky, I welcome you onto the Board. We need a Board to attend to our governance matters, etc., and the Board currently has three parent representatives and three business people. This 'blend' works very well at Conductive Education Southern.

Our 2012 Christmas Children's Party will be held on Saturday 15 December 2012. I will get details of this event out to you all very soon, but do, please, keep this afternoon free for some fun and hopefully a surprise visit by the jolly man in the red suit.

Very soon we will be taking orders for our 2013 calendars. Watch out for the Order Forms.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Managers Report
- News from the Conductors
- Teddybear show
- Term 4 2012 dates
- Introducing Zsófia Varga
- Introducing Anna Szemes
- 2012 Santa Parade
- Heat Pumps at Centre
- Quilt Raffle Tickets
- 2012 Christmas Party
- 2013 Fashion Extravaganza
- Chocolate Fundraiser
- 2012 Annual General Meeting
- 2012 Southland Festival of Running

Managers report continued...

Thank you to the parents and Conductive Education Southern supporters for selling tickets in our Quilt Raffle. I also have chocolate bars coking out soon to be sold also. The profits from these certainly helps keep us afloat so your support and generosity is hugely appreciated. Thank you.

We also have our 2013 Fashion Extravaganza coming up on 05 April 2013 - at the Ascot Park Hotel. Early days I know, but time will soon slip by. Please keep this date free and attend our largest annual fundraiser as we need every cent we can raise.

As expected our annual costs have increased with the third Conductor so if you hear of any opportunity we can avail of to raise funds, please do let me know. In the meantime I am chasing every community dollar I can. In case you didn't know, it cost approximately \$260,000 per year to run Our Centre and we received just over \$100,000 from the Ministry of Health, so we have a huge shortfall to fill each and every year. On top of this I and the Board are very keen to get our own purpose-build premises but this will cost approximately \$500,000 plus land. We are working on getting the funds in to do this too but it is hard to achieve given the economic situation here in Invercargill and New Zealand.

Now the not-so-good news. Currently I am working on producing for the Board a review of our costs in particular the client donations made. We have not had a cost increase for a couple of years and none before that for about 5 years. I feel we need to make sure we do not under-value the incredible professional programme we have running at Conductive Education Southern and it may be (nothing decide yet) that we might have to increase our charges. Watch this space.

Finally, aren't the heatpumps we had installed in Our Centre (cost us \$10,000.00) an absolute asset. It is great to go into Our Centre on cold morning and find the place lovely and warm.

Enjoy your read of our Newsletter. Regards to all.



Reminder...

Term Four 2012 starts on
Monday 15 October 2012

It will finish on
Thursday 20 December 2012

TERM ONE 2013 STARTS ON
MONDAY 28 JANUARY 2013

NEWS FROM THE CONDUCTORS

The 2012 year got off to a wonderful start with the arrival of our new conductor Zsafia Varga and her partner Thomas in January and Anna Szemes, our third Conductor who arrived in June 2012. Both of them are settled now and enjoy discovering New Zealand's beautiful landscapes in their free times.

And from now on we together will write the reports and we are looking forward to work all the three of us together.

Judit would like to say thank you for all your support with my pregnancy dear parents/grandparents and the people at our centre. Thanks for your ideas (shops, midwife, etc...) used items (baby gear etc...) as it would be a really hard start for Richard and her without your help as we do not have family here in New Zealand. She says thanks for visiting them after baby Benedek was born. It meant a lot to her to receive those beautiful flowers, cakes, greeting cards and lovely presents for Benedek. She is excited about coming back to work with a totally different view about the children as a mum.

First of all we would also like to welcome all the new children, and their parents, who have begun accessing CE services this year.

We had 15 assessments since January 2012 what is a huge number. Most of them are babies with developmental delay and 4 of them have already graduated as they reached their goals very quickly. Two of our new clients are adults.

We also had 5 graduations in this year.

We can't stop talking about the great people at our centre who is working tirelessly for the cause because they believe that with CE they are helping to ensure that our children have the opportunity to achieve their greatest potential.

The half yearly Parents-Conductors Progress Reports and Individual Conductive Plan (ICP's) Meetings are coming on the first week of October 2012. Thank you Parents for making yourselves available and being part of this very important requirement. All this reporting is a requirement plus gives you an opportunity to tell us what you would like us to work on with your child.

And finally dear parents if you have got any questions about your child's development do not hesitate to talk to us or Manager Kevin.

Love, Judit, Anna and Zsofi



TEDDY BEAR SHOW

27 & 28 April 2013 are the dates for the annual Teddy Bear Show put on by Lesley the Teddy Bear Lady in Invercargill. This event has grown into a very large display of handmade teddy bears and is visited by a large number of our community. The 2013 Teddy bear Show has been designated by Lesley that the Show proceeds (entry fees etc) will be going to Conductive Education Southern.

More of this later but we will need some volunteer parents to assist on the day.



Introducing Anna Szemes

My name is Anna Szemes. I was born on 4th October in 1980. I come from Hungary from a small town called Turkeve. I have two brothers who still live there. I had an exciting childhood on the countryside, I used to go horseback-riding as my favorite sport then. I have been living in my home town until the end of Primary School.

I went to High School, and after the final exam started a 4-year degree course at The International Peto Institute in Budapest. I graduated as a Conductor-Teacher in 2003.

After graduation, I had started working in Hungary at an integrated Nursery School. It was a very interesting professional experience to be working with other professionals in a multi-disciplinary team setting.

In 2006 I had a great opportunity to be working for a few months in New York City at Standing Tall, which is a private Special School; since then I have worked in different countries such as Kuwait, different states of the United States and Norway.

In 2007 I have spent almost a year in Kuwait at Conductive Education School Kuwait for special needs. I have had my own conductive group, and also had individual sessions. I had a very unique experience in Kuwait.

In 2008 I went back to New York City to be working at Standing Tall again. They were having more clients then, and I had to teach as well using Alternative Augmentative Communication.

In 2009 I have started working for Conductive Education Inc. in New Jersey. I was a kind of travelling (itinerant) Conductor there, and usually had individual sessions with children and young adults with severe Cerebral Palsy.

New Jersey was followed by Dallas, Texas, where I was lucky to work at A Child Can Do All Things, which was a Centre offering Conductive Education for children aged between 6 months - 18 years. We had group and individual sessions as well.

In 2010 I went back to Standing Tall again. They had more professionals working there, and I could work with amazing Speech Therapists, and learn more about new Communication Programs. I have learnt a lot about Alternative Augmentative Communication at Standing Tall.

In 2011 I started to work for MOIRA, which is a Hungarian company. I went to Norway to work as a lead Conductor at PTO Centre, where I had completed short-term courses. We had group sessions there, and I could gain experience working with young adults as well.

In mid-June 2012 I came to New Zealand and the Conductive Education Southern Centre. I cannot wait to gain more experience working as a Conductor in New-Zealand, and to learn more about this exciting culture.



Introducing Zsófia Varga

Hi, my name is Zsófia Varga and I was born in 1988 in Budapest, capitol of Hungary. I was living in a village of 3000 people close to Budapest for 20 years with my family. I have two younger sisters (21 and 13 years old) and a brother (20 years old).

I finished my studies with great results in June 2011 in the International Peto Institute in Budapest.

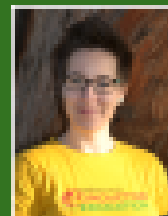
I am specialized in developing the kindergarten-aged children (3-7 years in Hungary).

I was working with all the types of Cerebral Palsy: tetraplegia, diplegia, hemiplegia, ataxia and athetosis. I was working in the spina bifida group for 3 years and I had the rare opportunity of working in the Babies group in the Institute where we developed 6 months-1.5 years old children. I also made my final practical exam in this group and it went very well.

I worked with 3 children who had Spinal Muscular Dystrophy (SMA) too which is a rare diagnosis. SMA was also the theme of my thesis and I am really interested in using the conductive education in their development.

After finishing the conductor's training I was applying for some jobs and finally I had this great opportunity for me and my partner Tamás to move to New Zealand. Now I am working for the Southern Centre for Conductive Education as a conductor. I am leading programmes for children with various diagnoses.

In my free time I wish to discover New Zealand, play squash, watch a lot of movies and read as much as I just can. My other hobbies are skiing, swimming and cooking.



2012 SANTA PARADE

This years Santa Parade is being held on Saturday 24 November 2012. Conductive Education Southern has requested the Parade Organisers allow our Conductive Education people and families to parade like we did last year. The Organisers are also endeavouring to locate a float for us to use.

Keep this date in mind – 24 NOVEMBER 2012



HEATPUMPS

Recently we had two heatpumps installed at Our Centre. Boy have these heatpumps made a difference with internal heating of the hall and especially at floor level.

They might have cost us nearly \$10,000 but well worth it. Everyone is now toasty warm.



QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS

Hopefully your raffle tickets for the double or queen bed size hand embroidered handmade quilt are selling well.

Remember this raffle closes 25 October 2012.

Drawing date (under Police Supervision) is 01 November 2012.

Please support your Centre and make the ticket sales (or purchase them yourself) as we want a complete sellout of this raffle. The quilt was made and generously donated to Conductive Education Southern by Dianne McGuire a supporter of our Conductive Education Centre. It is worth over \$600.00

Please get you ticket butts and money back to our Conductive Education Manager Kevin Wall.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Another date to keep in your diary – Saturday 15 December 2012

On this day Conductive Education Southern will be hosting their annual Christmas Party for our Conductive Education Southern people – siblings, families, etc all welcome.

Venue will be our Centre at the Gladstone Scout Hall. Time will be from 1.30pm. We are hoping the chap in the red suit will make us a surprise visit!

CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER

Conductive Education Southern has got Christmas wrapping paper for sale as a fundraiser for Our Centre. Get in early and get what wrapping paper you require.

Prices vary from \$1 to \$2 for a pack of 3 or 4 rolls of wrapping paper. See and purchase at Our Centre.





2013 FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA

We are all booked in and ready to rumble at our 2013 Fashion Extravaganza. Friday 05 April 2013 (the week after Easter) and it is all on.

So far we have secured about 6 of our required 16-20 stallholders, plus once again VNC Cocktails has agreed to very generously donate cocktails for all our attendees.

Keep this date in mind – 05 April 2013 – for a fun ladies night (and men too if they) Fashion Extravaganza featuring a number of Fashion Houses and differing sizes of clothes.

If you want to help this event, our biggest fundraising event for CE Southern, please do let Manager Kevin know. Thanks.



CADBURY CHOCOLATE BARS

Owing to a decline in the number of days (by The Warehouse Invercargill) that we can do the sausage sizzle at The Warehouse Invercargill, we have had to find a substitute fundraiser.

Every Conductive Education Southern family will be receiving a box of 24 Cadbury Chocolate Bars to sell. These bars (a mixture of flavours per box) sell for \$2.50 each – each box will raise \$60.00.

Please do help Conductive Education Southern stay afloat. Each year it costs hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep Our Centre operating and we need these fundraising ventures to ensure we have the funds to keep going.

Please do your bit to help us.



2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At our 12 August 2012 when we held our Annual General Meeting, a new Trustee was elected to the Board of Conductive Education Southern – CE Southern Parent Vicky Findlay.

Your Trustees handling our governance matters on our Board are:

Chairman: John Rhodes, Businessman and Grandparent of CE child Olivia Bartley

Secretary: Lynley Ramsay, parent of CE child Jackson

Treasurer: John Rhodes

Committee: Virginia Wilson, Lawyer and our Legal Advisor
Vicky Findlay, parent of CE child Francis
Dennis Hika, parent of CE child Anna
John Wallace, Businessman

Our Board is made up of three business people and three Conductive Education Southern parents. This "make-up" of the Board provides an excellent balance, ensuring the parents perspective is at the forefront. Plus providing the business acumen necessary for us to function.



2012 SOUTHLAND FESTIVAL OF RUNNING

McDermott's COACHLINE 10KM RUN/WALK

Judit our Head Conductor has decided to run her first ever 10km run. This will take place 11 November 2012. This run (or walk) starts at 10.00am at the Whitehouse Hotel Lorneville and goes down North Road to Bainfield Road, onto Queens Drive to Yarrow Street, then up Yarrow Street and into Surrey Park/Stadium Southland. The run/walk is to finish by 1.15pm.

Judit has decided to make this event, her first ever, a fundraiser for Conductive Education Southern. If you want to Sponsor Judit (and we hope you do) per km or for the whole run/walk please complete a Sponsorship Form available at Our Centre up till 10 November 2012.

Thanks for your support of Judit and Our Centre – and thank you Judit for doing your first ever Fun Run. Maybe next year you might want to try the Half Marathon or Marathon. Join Judit, Jack Lovett-Hurst and Greg at this event.

Thank you to our supporters - please support them

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