

# halberg news

DECEMBER 2011

## 2011 Westpac Halberg Awards

The All Blacks' 8-7 win over France in the Rugby World Cup final has added to a fantastic year of New Zealand sport - and the Trust is gearing up to celebrate!

On February 9 2012, the 2011 Westpac Halberg Awards will take place at SKYCITY Grand Hotel in Auckland.

The Awards are New Zealand's premiere occasion to celebrate sporting excellence, while also raising vital funds for the Trust's work to enhance the lives of physically disabled young people by enabling them to participate in sport.

This year New Zealand's athletes have proved their mettle not only on the rugby field, but on the basketball court too with the SKYCITY Breakers claiming their maiden ANBL title earlier this year. Our rowers, triathletes, swimmers, kayakers and other athletes have continued to storm the best in the world - and the black vest has featured on the podium across a number of other sports worldwide.

Halberg Trust Chief Executive Steve Hall says the Trust is looking forward to celebrating a big year for New Zealand sport.

"Our athletes have continued to perform in their major events this year and it doesn't get any better when our national sport of rugby, which is part of our DNA, wins the preeminent title at home for the first time in 24 years."

In a new development, Mr Hall says a 'Disabled Sportsperson of the Year' category has been added to the Westpac Halberg Awards. The winner of the 'Disabled Sportsperson' category will be eligible for the supreme Halberg Award along with the 'Sportsman', 'Sportswoman', and 'Sports Team' category winners.

"The 'Disabled Sportsperson' category is a welcome addition to the Awards and has the support of our leading disabled athletes and their national sports organisations," he says.

"Previously disabled athletes were eligible for the individual 'Sportsman' and 'Sportswoman' categories but after consultation with a number of the elite disabled athletes and their sports, we felt a separate category was both appropriate and warranted."

The 2011 Westpac Halberg Awards will also include the second annual 'New Zealand's Favourite Sporting Moment' Award, where the public will once again have their chance to vote for their most memorable sporting moment of 2011. Finalists for New Zealand's Favourite Sporting Moment will be announced late December, with all other category finalists announced on January 1st 2012.



Top-Bottom, Westpac CEO George Frazis and Richie McCaw, Valerie Adams and Andrew Mulligan, and Halberg Award Winners, the All Whites at the 2010 Westpac Halberg Awards in February 2011.

**Tickets to the 2011 Westpac Halberg Awards dinner on Thursday, 9 February at SKYCITY Grand Hotel are available at \$4,000 plus GST for a table of 10 or \$400 plus GST for a single ticket. Please contact [office@halberg.co.nz](mailto:office@halberg.co.nz).**

# CEO Update

2011 has been a very busy and important time for Halberg Trust, and as the year draws to a close, it is a good time to reflect on some of our achievements.

The Trust has continued to deliver a high standard of disability sport work in New Zealand communities and I'm pleased to report that we exceeded all of our SPARC targets. The 2010 Westpac Halberg Awards once again honoured and celebrated the excellent achievements of New Zealand's top sportspeople and administrators, and brought significant awareness and support to the disability sport work of the Trust. We also continued our important strategic development work which has already been undertaken to shape the future of our organisation.

The initial focus of this work was to clarify the purpose of the disability and sport work of the Trust, which, after considerable consultation with stakeholders and working groups, was confirmed as **'to enhance the lives of physically disabled young people, their families and communities, through enabling them to participate in sport'**.

The next phase of the process was to establish exactly how we should best do that - which is what we have focussed on this year. After much hard work and consideration, I am pleased to report that we now have a complete strategy to operationalise our purpose, and to truly deliver on the promise to make a difference to the lives of physically disabled young people by enabling them to participate in sport. From mid-2012 you will begin to see this strategy roll out in our communities.

To support this new operational framework we have commissioned a 're-brand' project to enhance awareness of these exciting developments. I very much look forward to bringing you news on the implementation of both the operational strategy and our new brand in future editions of Halberg News.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our many passionate and able staff, Trustees and stakeholders who contributed to another great year of service at the Halberg Trust. Without your support the Trust would not be able to do the vital work we do to enhance the lives of disabled young New Zealanders.

On behalf of the Trust, I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday season.

Steve Hall



## Tri Star opens gym floor to Halberg kids

In June, Mt Roskill's Tri Star Gymnastics Club opened its floor to Auckland's young disabled community for a Halberg Trust Have A Go Day, based on the popular fundamental movement skills programme, 'moveMprove'. The moveMprove programme was adapted so each activity station was specifically designed to be accessible for young people with a physical and/or sensory disability.

Halberg Trust Sports Opportunity Adviser, Chris Smith says the aim of the event was to use play and exploration to explore a variety of different fundamental movement patterns.

"Motor skills development is important for all growing children - especially those children whose disability means they face additional barriers to muscle development, balance and coordination. Tri Star's gymnastics-based fundamental movement skills programme is a highly regarded programme that has helped thousands of Kiwi kids to build these vital skills. We're thrilled to have had the opportunity to work with Tri Star to make this foundation movement programme accessible to Auckland's young disabled community," says Mr Smith.

As principal partner of Halberg Trust, Westpac supported the event with more than 25 volunteers on hand. Te Atatu Westpac Bank Manager Afiafi Leala says:

"For us the day was all about inclusion and having fun, and our staff had a fantastic time assisting participants on the wide range of movement equipment and activity stations."

Mr Smith says one of the key outcomes of the moveMprove programme is for children to gain more confidence when participating in a variety of sport and recreational activities.

"Since the Tri Star open day event in June, nine disabled young people have enrolled in an on-going moveMprove programme at the Mt Roskill club, a great result that will no doubt return great benefits for these young people and their families."



Young participant Jordan Marshall at the Tri Star Have a Go Day.

# Everyone Has a Go at “spectacular” Wheelchair Basketball tournament

The Northern League Wheelchair Basketball tournament spun into action in September, with teams from Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Auckland all vying for a coveted spot at the National Championships.

The tournament, which was sponsored by Westpac and hosted in partnership with Halberg Trust and Parafed, also included a Halberg Trust Have a Go Day, where people from the community were invited to take a free introductory wheelchair basketball session.

Halberg Trust Sport Opportunity Adviser, Dave MacCalman says the revitalised tournament gave spectators the chance to watch some of the country's best players take to the court at a frenetic pace, before trying the sport themselves.

“Wheelchair basketball is a fast paced, highly-skilled, action packed game with plenty of scoring - it's spectacular to watch and a lot of fun to play.”

“Essentially there is minimal adaption from the able-bodied game - the court size and distance from the hoops is the same, the only major difference is the travelling rule, whereby only two pushes of the chair is allowed once the ball is in your possession,” says Mr MacCalman.

Between tournament games, elite players joined Halberg Trust Sport Opportunity Advisers and volunteer staff from local branches of Westpac to introduce spectators to the sport.

“Like all sports, grassroots support feeds the pathway to elite competition and wheelchair basketball is no different - which is why these regional tournaments are so important to develop the game and its players in New Zealand,” says Mr MacCalman.

Westpac Communities Manager Tracey Challies says “Westpac has a five-year history funding activities with the Halberg Trust to provide more sports opportunities for disabled people in New Zealand”.

“The Northern League events have encouraged people with disabilities to feel confident enough to give wheelchair basketball a go - which is fantastic because it really is an incredible sport,” she says.



Young participant Harry Randall takes a shot at goal at the Wheelchair Basketball Have a Go Day.

## Halberg Hosts Sports Tournament for Disabled Youth

Over 130 Young disabled sports people from seven Auckland Secondary Schools competed at the third annual Halberg Trust Sport Ability tournament at Saint Kentigern School in November.

The tournament is a Halberg Trust initiative that aims to give young disabled people the opportunity to experience sport in a competitive environment.

Halberg Trust founder, Sir Murray Halberg and elite disabled sprinter, Cameron Calkoen attended the event and prize-giving ceremony.

Halberg Trust Sport Opportunity Adviser Chris Smith says experiencing the highs and lows of competition is essential to prepare young people for the challenges of competitive sport.

“The competitive components of sport are vital for building confidence and skills that can often pass over into other areas of our lives. The Sport Ability tournament is a unique event that provides a competitive environment for which physically disabled youth can experience and thrive in,” he says.

Mr Smith says tournaments like Sport Ability also give teachers and coaches a chance to identify

talented students who can continue on the pathway to elite competition.

“Seated volleyball and boccia are included in the Sport Ability tournament and are also Paralympic sports, and once again we saw some exciting talent emerge at this year's tournament,” he says.

Saint Kentigern School provided 50 year eight volunteer students to officiate the different sporting events on the day.

Principal Mr Geoff Burgess says the school's ethics and values are strongly aligned to being of service, and this is why they took such pride in hosting the event.

“At Saint Kentigern we challenge students to think about how their acquired knowledge and skills might benefit the community, both locally and globally,” says Mr Burgess.

Mr Burgess adds that the event provided the opportunity for year eight students to be taken out of their comfort zone, allowing them to show initiative and develop interaction skills.

# Youth Kick Start Spring with Adaptive Soccer Day

Greater Wellington's young disabled community kicked off the start of spring with an Adaptive Football 'Have A Go Day' at the Hutt Old Boys Rugby Club Gymnasium in August.

An initiative of Halberg Trust, Sport Wellington and SportZone Football, the event aimed to introduce football to young people with a physical, sensory or intellectual impairment, between the ages of 13 and 25.

Halberg Trust spokesperson Marguerite Christophers says the ultimate goal is to develop a regular Adaptive Football Programme to meet increasing demand from local teachers, students, parents and caregivers.

"This event is all about removing the barriers to participation and providing an opportunity to introduce young disabled people to the game of football.

"Hopefully by next August we will have enough young people to establish an on-going adaptive programme so more disabled youth can have the opportunity to play out-of-school football on a regular basis," says Ms Christophers.

Director of SportZone Football, Tony Morrison says adaptive football is a great way for disabled people to keep active and have fun in a safe and enjoyable environment.

"Recently SportZone has been running local adapted football programmes for adults and we've been blown away by how popular and beneficial the game can be for the participants."



A young participant kicks off the Halberg Trust Adaptive Soccer Have a Go Day in Lower Hutt.

"All of us believe that football is a fantastic way to get active and we're thrilled to be working with Halberg Trust to make the game more accessible to disabled secondary students and young adults, who may not otherwise get the same opportunities to play the game," says Mr Morrison.

Local Westpac spokesperson Julie Holmes says Westpac's volunteers love to take part in these events and are as always on hand to help make the event safe and enjoyable for everyone involved.

## Halberg Grant Keeps Little Angel Active

Ella Hickmott is having no trouble keeping physically active thanks to her very own set of climbing bars which are now a permanent fixture in her back yard. The bars have been professionally fitted with rubber padding thanks to an Activity Fund grant from the Halberg Trust, which is proudly supported by the Eagles Golfing Society of New Zealand. Ella's mother Trish Hickmott says the new monkey bars have been wonderful for her daughter, who has loved to climb ever since she was a toddler.

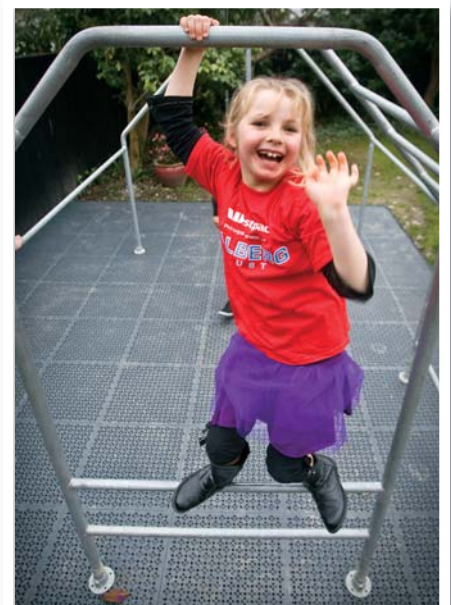
"We have spent hours climbing at almost every playground in the Manawatu, however most of them have bark underneath and they aren't always ideal for Ella's needs," says Mrs Hickmott.

Ella has Angelman Syndrome and has developed incredible upper body strength as a result of her love for climbing. However her lower body strength is less developed. This combined with regular seizures means she often falls while she's climbing. The Hickmott family decided to look at the possibility of building a padded climbing frame at their home to help keep Ella safe and active.

"We discovered the local Manawatu Mufflers built playground equipment, so my husband worked with them to build Ella a set of climbing bars in the back yard. We then contacted the Halberg Trust to apply for an Activity Fund grant for the rubber padding, and we were ecstatic to find our grant application was successful. Thanks to the Halberg Trust Ella can now spend hours safely doing the recreational activity she loves the most without us always worrying about her falling," she says.

Halberg Trust National Manager, Nicki Turner says the Halberg Trust is pleased to see how this grant has benefitted Ella and her family in so many ways.

"The Halberg Trust is very grateful for the generous support of its sponsors like the Eagles and Westpac who help make such a positive difference to the lives of people like Ella," says Ms Turner.



Ella Hickmott.  
Photo: Manawatu Standard.

## Afternoon Teas Celebrate Activity Fund Recipients

Children who benefitted from a Halberg Trust Activity Fund grant in the 2010-11 financial year celebrated at a series of afternoon tea events hosted by the Halberg Trust and Westpac in September.

The children all received grants from the Halberg Trust Activity Fund which aims to enhance the lives of young disabled New Zealanders by subsidising activities and equipment to enable their participation in sport and recreation.

The Fund is made possible thanks to fundraising support from the Eagles Golfing Society of New Zealand.

Halberg Trust National Manager Nicki Turner says the Activity Fund grants help to remove the financial barriers that can prevent disabled young people from participating in sport.

"The Activity Fund is a valuable source of financial support that provides more opportunities for children to participate in activities alongside their able-bodied peers."

"We subsidise a wide range of adaptive sports equipment and lessons, and also cover the costs of teacher aides so disabled children can attend outdoor education camps with their schools," says Ms Turner.

Eagles Secretary / Treasurer Peter Brownie says the Eagles' are proud to be long-term supporters of the Halberg Trust Activity Fund.

"We all know the important role physical activity plays in keeping well and these afternoon tea



An afternoon tea event at St Anne's School in Whanganui celebrated the Activity Fund grants that enabled students to attend school camp.

From left: Max Butcher, Julia O'Leary and Chantelle Pedley [mid left]: Brett Mitchell, Angus James [back left]: Westpac area manager Aaron Bremner, Halberg Trust Fundraising and Events Manager Grant McCabe and Manawatu / Wanganui NZ Eagles Golfing Society representative Graeme Rose.  
Photo: Whanganui Chronicle.

events celebrate some wonderful examples of how disabled young people have benefitted from their Activity Fund grants over the past 12 months," says Mr Brownie.

## Adapted Snow Sport Success in Otago

There was plenty of activity on the ski slopes this year with Otago's Adapted Snow Sports programme once again proving very popular with young people in the region.

A total of five weekends were held all together on the slopes of the Remarkables Ski Field in Queenstown.

Each weekend was full to capacity, with 12 disabled young people and eight volunteer physical education students from Otago University taking part in each weekend programme.

Halberg Trust's Sport Opportunity Adviser in Otago, Bridget Meyer says the adapted snow sports programme is an excellent initiative which allows young people with physical disabilities to experience the thrill and exhilaration of Snowsports.

"One of those young people is Boyd Daisley, who after just one season using the bi-ski has been identified as a talent to watch out for!" says Ms Meyer.



Boyd Daisley at the Remarkables Ski Field, Queenstown with a Remarkables volunteer.

# H<sup>2</sup>O Xstream's GOLDEN commitment to Disability Sport

In August this year, Lower Hutt resident and meningitis survivor Phil Thorn joined staff and special guests at H<sup>2</sup>O Xstream to celebrate the pool facility's prestigious GOLD Sport Access Award from the Halberg Trust.

The Halberg Sports Access Award officially recognises sports facilities that offer inclusive access for people with disabilities. The Award aims to enhance the lives of New Zealanders with disabilities by better enabling them to participate in sport and recreation.

Mr Thorn lost his eyesight, hearing and use of his legs after a battle with Meningitis in 2009. He is one of many people who benefits from the inclusive philosophy at H<sup>2</sup>O Xstream.

"I have gained a huge amount from my pool sessions at H<sup>2</sup>O and I am so thankful for the amazing staff and awesome set-up," says Phil.

"My sessions in the pool have had a great impact on my body and along with my gym sessions at Laura Ferguson Gym, have given me every possibility of getting back on my feet again."

"I am still in a chair and will be for a few more months but with more work in the pool and gym, there is a chance around Christmas time or early next year this dream of walking again will be a reality," he says.

Local Halberg Trust spokesperson, Marguerite Christophers says this GOLD Award is testament to the outstanding dedication H<sup>2</sup>O Xstream's staff, and the vision of the Hutt Valley Councils.

"This commitment at the top level has allowed the staff and management team at H<sup>2</sup>O Xstream to build excellent programs and equipment that has improved access to the pool for all members of the community," says Marguerite.

Mr Thorn's swimming instructor, Assistant Recreation Services Manager - Aquatic Operations, Kerry Granshaw, has been a driving force behind H<sup>2</sup>O Xstream's commitment to inclusive access.

The former competitive swimmer and self-confessed "born again dolphin" has spent most of her career helping people with disabilities gain confidence in the water.

"I believe that fundamental water skills are a crucial for everyone - perhaps even more so for people with disabilities as they often experience additional barriers to development and rehabilitation," says Kerry.

"I would strongly encourage other swimming facilities around New Zealand to embrace the National Disability Strategy and actively engage with the Halberg Trust to gain Sports Access Award accreditation," she says.

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## ACTIVITY FUND success stories

### Shakti Krishnan

Shakti is a talented young man who has found success early in his sporting career. Although born with a physical impairment (Spina Bifida), thirteen years ago, he approaches his life with gusto.

In only his second year snow-skiing, Shakti was selected for the New Zealand adaptive snowboard development team. He recently spent three days training at Cardrona and Snow Park, and had special coaching with the British Paralympic skiing coach. After more training back at Mt Ruapehu he went on to compete at the 100% New Zealand Winter Games.

#### Shakti reported:

*On the 18th of August I went down to Cardrona, Wanaka to participate in the Adaptive Snowboard Cross World Cup which was one of the events in the 100% New Zealand Winter Games.*

*There were two classes; Standing (amputees) and Sit-ski. I participated in the Sit-ski division. It was an open event and I was the youngest at 13 years old. After three runs I ended up third overall.*

*The difference between me and silver was six seconds, which I was extremely happy with as I had no expectations and I didn't think I would do so well. It was amazing.*

*My most recent competition was the North Island Secondary School Championships. I went with my school for four days but the weather decided that we weren't going to ski and the race was unfortunately cancelled. I had a great year skiing and I'm looking forward to many more challenges next year.*



Shakti Krishnan

A remarkable feat given Shakti picked up a mono-ski just over a year ago.

The Halberg Trust was pleased to be able to support Shakti with training and travel costs through their Activity Fund, which is proudly supported by the Eagles Golfing Society of New Zealand.

# International Collaboration Enhances Disability Sport Pathway

The First Minister of Wales, Rt Hon Carwyn Jones, New Zealand sporting legend, Sir Murray Halberg and the Executive Director of Federation of Disability Sport Wales, Jon Morgan were among special guests at an event to celebrate the developing disability sport relationships between New Zealand and Wales.

Hosted by Paralympics New Zealand and the Halberg Trust, the event on Thursday 8 September also marked 2011 International Paralympic Day celebrations in New Zealand.

Chief Executive of Paralympics New Zealand, Fiona Pickering says the Welsh Government and Paralympics New Zealand signed a MoU at the event, committing to base New Zealand's Paralympic athletes in Swansea leading into the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

"Paralympics New Zealand has a proud sporting history at the Paralympic Games and we are excited about furthering our relationship with Wales, where all the Oceania Paralympic Committee nations are also choosing to base themselves," she says.

"Several athletes and staff from Paralympics New Zealand have frequented Swansea and Wales already and discovered first-hand the outstanding quality of the training facilities and accommodation."

"I am very confident Wales is the perfect place to base the Paralympics New Zealand team in the lead up to the Games," says Ms Pickering.

The First Minister of Wales, Rt Hon Carwyn Jones says the Welsh Government is committed to providing the necessary support to all New Zealand's athletes in their immediate preparations prior to the London Games.

"Wales is committed to providing a first class environment for New Zealand's athletes and the combination of world class training facilities, proximity and quality of accommodation, access to state of the art support services together with a Welsh welcome that is second to none, is a compelling offer which has resulted in Paralympic New Zealand's decision to choose Wales," he says.



Sir Murray Halberg with Welsh First Minister, Rt. Hon Carwyn Jones.

The Federation of Disability Sport Wales (Disability Sport Wales) is recognised by the Welsh Government as its lead organisation for the development of sport and physical activities for disabled people.

The Federation, led by CEO Jon Morgan has grown its community programme from 1,200 participation opportunities per year in 2002, to 980,000 in 2010/11.

Over this period, Welsh Paralympians representing Great Britain have doubled in number to 31 athletes in Beijing, where they won 25% of Team Great Britain's gold medal haul.

Halberg Trust spokesperson Nicki Turner says the Halberg Trust has entered into a partnership with Disability Sport Wales which will further explore best practice between the two nations in the area of community disability sports development.

"Wales is consistently achieving above expectations, right from grass roots participation through to elite Paralympic level."

"This is a reflection of the country's commitment to prioritise disability sport across the board, and the partnership between Wales, Paralympics New Zealand and the Halberg Trust presents a great example of an international collaboration that will no doubt enhance New Zealand's disability sport pathway - from participation to elite competition," says Ms Turner.



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## Swim Day celebrates Halberg's Quake Fund Kids

Disabled children, teens and their families living in quake-struck Canterbury gathered at a special swimming event to celebrate their active and healthy lifestyles in the months since the earthquakes hit.

In June this year disabled children in the region were encouraged to apply for special funding from the Halberg Trust Earthquake Initiative to help them get back into their favourite sport and recreation activities.

The Earthquake Initiative is an extension of the Halberg Trust Activity Fund - a long-standing funding programme that enables disabled youth to take part in inclusive sport and recreation by covering costs associated with having a disability. The Activity Fund is supported by the Eagles Golfing Society of New Zealand.

The Halberg Trust's Principal Sponsor, Westpac sponsored the swimming event which took place at Graham Condon Recreation Centre on Sunday 2 October. Westpac volunteers were on hand to provide refreshments and assistance.

Local Westpac spokesperson Rose Cavanagh says: "These earthquakes threw almost everyone's life into disarray and as a close partner of the Halberg Trust, we've heard first-hand just how the quakes have impacted young disabled children."

"We support the Trust's mission to enhance the lives of disabled children by enabling their participation in sport, and this event is simply a chance to celebrate these courageous recipients, who have benefitted from the Trust's Earthquake Initiative," says Ms Cavanagh.

Halberg Trust Sport Opportunity Adviser for Canterbury Justin Muschamp says the Trust received an influx of applications from children and teens across the board - from those who required new or replacement equipment to enhance mobility, to those who have missed out on months of swimming lessons due to damage at community pools.

"Sport and recreation is an important component in Canterbury recovering from the recent earthquakes and the Halberg Trust Earthquake Initiative has assisted disabled children to recover by enabling them to participate in swimming lessons, and by funding adapted bikes."

"The event was about having some fun and celebrating the on-going active and healthy lifestyles of these courageous young people and their families," says Mr Muschamp.



Paralympic swimming champion and former Halberg Trust Activity Fund recipient Sophie Pascoe joins children in the water to celebrate their Activity Fund Earthquake Initiative funding grants.