

halberg news

July 2009

Auckland councils are removing barriers

THE AUCKLAND REGIONAL NO EXCEPTIONS DECLARATION OF INTENT WAS SIGNED ON 1 DECEMBER 2008 BY ALL THE CITIES MAYORS AS A STEP TOWARD MAKING ALL COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES ACCESSIBLE AND BARRIER FREE TO PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES.

The Auckland Regional Council, Rodney District, North Shore City, Waitakere City, Auckland City, Manukau City, Franklin District and Papakura District councils signed off on a No Exceptions Declaration which shows a commitment to providing opportunities for people with a disability in the greater Auckland region.

Halberg Chief Executive Graeme Taylor said the signing was a great start. "The Halberg Trust and ARPASS partners can now push on with the goal of creating a fully inclusive society where all disabled people are valued and have access to all council facilities."

For many disabled people, there are benefits to participating in physical recreation and sport, notably the increased social interaction, feelings of belonging to a wider community and creating opportunities for further skills development in their chosen activity. In addition, people with physical impairments who practice active living can enjoy better overall health, an enhanced immune function, and increased mobility.

The initiative titled 'No Exception Regions' aims to bring together organisations within a region to formally commit to providing access for people with disabilities.

There are three key areas to focus on as a No Exceptions organisation:

1. Providing facilities that are accessible to people with disabilities
2. Providing programmes that are accessible to people with disabilities
3. Training of key staff in the No Exceptions training programme.

The seven local councils of Auckland and the Auckland Regional Council have undertaken facility audits on a selection of their key sport and recreation facilities to determine the level of accessibility for people with disabilities. Across the Auckland region, 60 recreational centres, aquatic facilities and parks have been audited by Barrier Free New Zealand and more than 350 staff members have undergone No Exceptions Training presented by Halberg Trust Sport Opportunity Advisers around disability awareness and how to provide greater access for disabled people.

The Hibiscus Coast Leisure Centre is one of the Rodney District facilities that has just received the Halberg Trust SportAccess Gold award for their high level of accessibility and ongoing commitment to disabled people within their community. The Leisure Centre is an all-purpose leisure facility providing competitive, instructional and leisure exercise opportunities. They pride themselves on being accessible to all of the community.

Halberg Trust CEO heading back home



THE HALBERG TRUST IS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOLLOWING THE DECISION BY GRAEME TAYLOR TO STEP DOWN FROM THE ROLE.

Taylor, Hawkes Bay born and bred and who still calls Napier home, has decided that "almost four years of commuting most weekends has started to catch up with me". He leaves at the end of July to take up a position as general manager of the Napier Masonic Trust, with responsibility for a retirement village complex in Taradale.

"Leaving a wonderful organisation like the Halberg Trust is without doubt one of the hardest decisions I've had to make," says Taylor, who took over in September 2005 from long-serving Trust CEO Dave Currie. "But recent events, particularly back in Hawke's Bay, have made me realise the importance of being close to your home, family and good friends."

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be involved with the Trust, the great staff and trustees and particularly Sir Murray, a truly amazing man for whom I have so much admiration. But it is just time for me to return home."

Halberg Trust chairman Mike Jeffcoat says the Trust has already commenced the search to find a new CEO.

"We will miss Graeme and the energy he put into the Trust's core activity of providing sport and active leisure environments that are both inclusive and accessible to all people with a disability," he says, "and we are embarking into some wonderful, new relationships and work in the disability sector thanks to Graeme's efforts."

"So this will be a great opportunity for someone to continue the focus on our twin aims; to ensure New Zealand supports fully inclusive sport and recreation in its widest sense as well as our flagship activity of saluting New Zealand sporting excellence with our annual Halberg Awards."

Tauranga sports house awarded gold SportAccess

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH SIGNALLED A LANDMARK DAY FOR SPORT IN THE BAY OF PLENTY AS SIR MURRAY HALBERG OFFICIALLY OPENED THE TAURANGA SPORTS HOUSE AND LAUNCHED A NEW CHAPTER IN THE BAY'S PROUD SPORTING HISTORY.

As well as being the first Sports House in Tauranga, the facility is also the first building in the Bay of Plenty and first Sports House in New Zealand to receive the Halberg Trust SportAccess Gold Status award for disabled accessibility. This award reflects its significant commitment to welcoming the whole community, something that Sir Murray is extremely passionate about.

The opening was attended by over 100 dignitaries, including Mayors Stuart Crosby and Ross Patterson, Dame Susan Devoy, CEO's from Rugby, Surf Lifesaving and Netball, as well as business leaders such as Mark Cairns from Port of Tauranga and representatives from BayTrust, TECT, The Halberg Trust and many other key partners of Sport Bay of Plenty.

In opening the building, Sir Murray spoke of the importance for sports organisations to work together and share resources in order to work effectively in the community. He went on to praise Sport Bay of Plenty for taking a lead role in ensuring that sports are well connected and working collaboratively through the Sports House concept to benefit the whole Bay of Plenty region. Sir Murray expressed a desire for this model to be more widely adopted across New Zealand.

Wayne Werder, CEO of Sport Bay of Plenty said "We're extremely honoured to receive the SportAccess Gold Status award and

of course to have Sir Murray open our Tauranga Sports House. This is another way that we can assist sport in the Bay and link the community to physical activity and healthy lifestyles".

Five years in the making the Tauranga Sports House is a partnership between Sport Bay of Plenty and Tauranga Boys College, but exists to support all schools and community groups as well as house a series of sports organisations and provide them with essential, and potentially costly, services such as an IT infrastructure, Board Room facilities and administration support for a fraction of the cost.

The Tauranga Sports House is the offices and base of Sport Bay of Plenty, but also houses a series of sports codes such as Waterpolo, Squash, Basketball, Tennis, Rugby League, Volleyball, Badminton, Hockey and Rowing.

Seen as a one stop shop for information and support for sports and recreation groups, the Tauranga Sports House has already become a pivotal part of sport in the Western Bay.

Based on Devonport Rd, the next stage of the project is for Tauranga Squash to build their facility followed by Tauranga Boys College's high performance cardio centre.

The Halberg Trust developed SportAccess in partnership with the ASB Trusts. Since the launch of this initiative in June 2005, many clubs and facilities have signed on to work towards enhancing a wide range of all-encompassing sport and recreation opportunities.

Other facilities and clubs to be awarded Halberg Trust SportAccess Gold are Hibiscus Leisure Centre, Te Atatu Soccer Club, Trusts Stadium, Waitakere Cricket Club, YMCA Massey Leisure Centre and two have gained Halberg Trust SportAccess Silver which are YMCA Lynfield and YMCA Jordan.



Sport BOP were presented with Gold Halberg Trust SportAccess, Sir Murray Halberg, Sport BOP CEO Wayne Werder and Susan Northey

HALBERG
TRUST
ACTIVITY FUND

success stories

EACH YEAR HUNDREDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY ARE ENCOURAGED TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE, MORE OFTEN, IN AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE HALBERG TRUST ACTIVITY FUND AND ITS SPORT OPPORTUNITY ADVISERS. HERE ARE JUST A FEW POSITIVE OUTCOMES.

A Hawkes Bay 11 year-old girl with significant cognitive, motor and speech delays was granted Halberg Trust Activity Funding for swimming lessons in 2007. Her coordination and muscular strength increased and she was able to enrol in gymnastics lessons at the beginning of 2008. Throughout the year, she mastered tasks she could not perform before, such as running, jumping and doing forward rolls on the floor. Her instructor was confident she would continue to improve her fundamental movement skills and increase her self-esteem in the mainstream class so she has enrolled for 2009 with the aid of a further grant from the Halberg Trust.

Max Nicholl (8) received funding for swimming lessons in Term 1. They were so successful he is now enrolled in the second term. Max loves being in the pool and he continues to develop confidence and acquire water skills. His parents feel he will now be better prepared to join in with the class programme when school swimming begins.

Craig (15) who has MELAS Syndrome was able to attend his school camp at Tongariro National Park with his peers at school. The Halberg Trust funded a caregiver/buddy to go to camp with him who assisted him with activities.

Some things he was able to do with the other students and some things he did with his buddy. He went white water rafting down a river and he also went canoeing. One day the other boys went tramping overnight so he spent a day at the Outdoor Pursuits Centre and got to do the High Ropes and the Flying Fox. He also did some

SPORTACCESS



Craig at school camp



rock climbing using a harness. Craig says "It was scary but so much fun." He went to the hot thermal pools at Tokaanu and went for a couple of walks in the bush using his scooter. He also went camping for a night and did the marshmallows on the camp fire.

Craig says "I am really pleased I was able to go to Field Centre. It is the highlight of my Year 10 at school."

Ryan (9) has Spina Bifida. He uses a wheelchair for mobility purposes and is able to self propel. He can walk very short distances using a walking frame with forearm gutter supports but he finds this quite difficult and tiring.

Ryan wanted to be more active but was held back by his walking frame, as he wanted to keep up with his peers.

It was suggested that Ryan apply through the Activity Fund for a trike. This would allow him to get the physical exercise he requires and also participate more with his peers.

Funding was approved and the purchase of the trike has made a huge difference in Ryan's world. Rachel, Physio has noticed a dramatic change in Ryan's motor skills and attitude towards school life as he now feels that he can keep up with other students.

The trike is used mostly in the home environment where both Ryan's parents and brother have shown a commitment towards regular exercise and rides around the neighbourhood.

The extra modifications of the foot straps have ensured that Ryan is able to keep his feet on the peddles. Also, a handle bar has been attached for somebody to assist Ryan when going up slopes as this is a work in progress while Ryan builds up more strength.

Ten schools signed up for Halberg Trust 'SportAbility in Schools' project

10 SCHOOLS WITHIN THE GREATER AUCKLAND REGION HAVE FORMALLY COMMITTED TO A 12 MONTH SPORT ABILITY PROJECT OFFERED BY THE HALBERG TRUST SPORT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMME.



Rosehill School and Tuakau School playing Table Cricket at a SportAbility Workshop

SportAbility is a programme targeting people with a disability. The SportAbility in Schools 2009 project has been possible with the support of ASB Community Trust who have enabled SportAbility equipment kits to be placed in participating schools – guardians of the kit. The project manager, Jo O'Callaghan says "Having the support of ASB Community Trust has enabled schools to have on-site access to SportAbility equipment, Rosehill School's students were utilising equipment the day immediately after teachers and teacher aides received the equipment and training, this highlights the enthusiasm of the schools."



SportAbility Kit sponsored by ASB Community Trust

SportAbility has an inclusive games programme with two main aims of providing teachers, sport and community leaders with more ways of including people with a disability in physical activity and sport, particularly those who have higher support needs and to create a medium for the integration of people with and without a disability in inclusive games.

SportAbility Kits consist of three elements:

1. Equipment for five inclusive games (three of which are current Paralympic sports).
2. Resource material consisting of easy-to-use activity cards and instructional DVD.
3. Training to facilitate the delivery of the programme into sport and community organisations and schools.

The SportAbility in Schools project also incorporates workshops to train teachers

and teacher aides on the five sports as well as up skilling knowledge around adapting regular physical activity and sports to support the inclusion of their disabled students. Within the 12-month project period each participating school receives up to eight hours in-school support per term from the advisers of Halberg Trust Sport Opportunity programme. There will be an inaugural SportAbility Interschool event run in each region for the students to represent their school and compete against rival schools.

The goal of this project is for guardian schools to support the regular use of SportAbility sports within their school, an annual competition and to develop a system that encourages local community to borrow SportAbility equipment and develop more opportunities thereby supporting growth of SportAbility sports in the whole community.

Schools taking part in this project are listed below and there are more schools interested in committing to the project.

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Counties Manukau

Tuakau School, Rosehill School

Auckland

Mt Roskill Intermediate, Mt Richmond Special School, Sommerville Special School

Waitakere

Arohanui Special School, Oaklynn Special School

North Shore & Rodney

Mahurangi College, Manuka Primary, Wairau Valley Special School

Chris takes on Outward Bound Challenge

“ I felt that the course was very well balanced with key learning's and experiences taken from all aspects of the course including activities, sleeping, eating, showering, environments, classroom work and physical training (PT).

The emphasis placed on being a team was instilled early and the positive attitude of all watch members ensured that this was key to all our actions throughout. A key to the success of our team work was communication.

Much of the course was an unknown until minutes before, which certainly initially made it difficult for a few. Our working environment also is much like this and to meet each challenge in a secure and communicative team makes these situations far less pressing.

I have learnt much about myself as well as also confirming some things I had already suspected or knew. A key outcome of this course is that I have a well defined path and list of goals I want to achieve to reach the place where I want to be. To be able to do this I need to be able to admire things I do well and take stock of the areas I need to work on.

Time needs to be taken to reflect on experiences in order to gain insight into decisions made and the reasons why. From this reflection we are better equipped for similar situations in the future. Whether this reflection be in a car on the way to work or in the shower it is irrelevant, what is relevant is that it does happen and the learning's used.

The most rewarding part of the programme was the feedback received from the other participants. When on solo (two nights by ourselves in the bush) we had to write for each of the others in the group something we admired and a piece of advice for them.



CENTRAL REGIONAL MANAGER OF THE HALBERG TRUST SPORT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMME, CHRIS GUNN WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE AN OUTWARD BOUND NAVIGATOR LEADERSHIP COURSE FROM MAY 16-23 FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. CHRIS SAYS "THIS EXPERIENCE HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN NOT ONLY MY WORK LIFE BUT ALSO MY PERSONAL LIFE." THE NAVIGATOR COURSE IS AN EIGHT DAY ACTION ORIENTED COURSE, FOCUSED ON THE CORE SKILLS REQUIRED TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE YOURSELF & YOUR TEAM.

Above: Chris abseiling and
Left: Chris with his Watchmates on the Cutter

own planning for self development. I also have a better understanding of how my work style affects others and of others work style preferences.

I greatly appreciate working for the Halberg Trust, for many reasons. I believe in our mission and appreciate the values strong organisation that we are; I also appreciate the principles and values of which I wish to lead. We are undergoing a period of change which is timely, certainly for me as well as our organisation, and I look forward to working effectively in our team with a new clarity of my strengths and areas for development. I certainly feel I have a heightened performance edge and a willingness to step up, accept challenges and take risks. We can always increase our skills and confidence to communicate effectively. Through this organisational change we can build a communication network/line to best instill this capacity.

I look forward to opportunities to share my personal and the organisations vision, to lead with inspiration, integrity and credibility to make change happen and make our mission reality.

Adaptive rowing 'have a go' day at Lake Karapiro

ON SUNDAY 24 MAY SOME OF NEW ZEALAND'S ROWING STARS AT THE NEW ROWING NEW ZEALAND CENTRE AT LAKE KARAPIRO CAME TO SUPPORT AND SHOWCASE ADAPTIVE ROWING.



New Zealand Elite Adaptive Rower Robin Tinga shows the camera and crowds how its done

Mahe Drysdale and Nathan Twaddle meet participants and our first national adaptive rowing representative, Robin Tinga helped to demonstrate the sport of adaptive rowing and shared his journey to success in the sport.

Olympic bronze medallist Nathan Twaddle said "Members of the Rowing NZ rowing squads came along including Mahe and Robin and I'm also stoked that the Halberg Trust and their sponsor Westpac offered their support with volunteers and food for the day."

Adaptive rowing is a method of rowing for those with disabilities. The hull of the adaptive rowing boat is the same as rowing boats, but is equipped with adapted seats and stabilising pontoons which vary depending on the disability of the rower.

Adaptive rowing was introduced on the world stage at the 2002 World Rowing Championships when 38 athletes competed in the single sculls and the coxed four. Since then, the sport has grown from strength to strength and in 2008 the sport was included at the Paralympics in Beijing.

"Adaptive rowing is one of the major



Nathan Twaddle in an adaptive double scull with Attitude TV's Curtis Palmer

growth areas of the sport internationally and it is very important in our future plans domestically," explained Domestic Rowing Manager for Rowing New Zealand Kevin Strickland.

"Adaptive rowing will be a big part of the World Championships when they come to Karapiro in 2010 and we want to be in full swing with the development of the sport at that time."

"Karapiro hosting the World Champs in 2010 presents a fantastic opportunity for athletes with disabilities to compete not only on an international stage but in their own back yard as well," said Nathan.

"From this Open Day we hope to see not only the growth of a strong domestic sporting opportunity for adaptive rowing but a dominate presence at the 2010 Worlds as well."

Adapted rowing machines were set up on land for the day so all levels of ability were able to have a go. Sport Waikato Sport Opportunity Advisor Dave MacCalman said the open day was a great opportunity for people with a disability to come along and try something new.

WESTPAC HALBERG CELEBRITY SPORTING FUNCTIONS

Hamilton Breakfast Women in Sport with Anna Scarlett & others

Thursday 24 September

New Plymouth Dinner with Rob & Sonia Waddell

Thursday 15 October

Napier Dinner with Valerie Vili

Friday 16 October

Christchurch Lunch with Valerie Vili

Friday 20 November

Invercargill – To be confirmed

Queenstown – To be confirmed

If you are interested in attending any of these Celebrity Sporting Functions or would like more information please contact Margaret or Julie at the Halberg Trust by email office@halberg.co.nz or phone 09 579 9931.

Halberg Trust and Westpac named finalist in national awards programme and Trustee recognised



The Westpac and Halberg relationship was named as a finalist in the Commercial partnership category of the prestigious SPARC Sport & Recreation Sector Awards 2009.

The Sport and Recreation Sector Awards were introduced by SPARC to recognise and celebrate industry excellence within the New Zealand sport and recreation sector. Judging was led by former All Black Captain Sir Wilson Whineray.

Halberg Trustee Kerry Clark won the leadership award in his role as Chief Executive at Bowls NZ. The judges said Clark had delivered a landmark year for Bowls New Zealand with his stewardship of the 2008 World Bowls Championships, the introduction of the Mates in Bowls initiative to encourage new players to the sport, and his vision for a regional and club structure able to cater for the increase in casual and corporate players. Winners were announced at an industry conference on 27 April 2009.

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Westpac Halberg Regional

WESTPAC HALBERG afternoon teas



Young disabled sports people were invited to share their inspiring stories at Westpac Branches in Newmarket, Christchurch, Blenheim, Hastings, Masterton, Hamilton, Dunedin and Manukau in June.

The Activity Fund recipients shared their stories of how their lives have changed as a result of equipment and activity grants from the Halberg Trust, such as, trampolines, trikes and tandem bikes, one-on-one swimming lessons and attending school camps.

One of the recipients of a trampoline, Pantera Hotere-Hendriksen who has cerebral palsy attended the afternoon tea at Newmarket with his grandmother to talk about how beneficial the grant was. They had video footage of Pantera on his tramp to show everyone.



Felicity Lowes on her trike at the Westpac Branch in Hastings.

Another recipient Felicity Lowes from the Hawkes Bay, obtained funding for a trike which has increased her independence by enabling her to bike to the local park

and shops. She has had the opportunity to meet new people and increase her level of physical activity. She now rides the trike with one of her friends, who obtained her own trike after 'test-driving' Felicity's. Felicity originally had tried out another recipient's trike at the last Westpac Halberg afternoon tea in August 2008 and loved it. Felicity was at the 2008 Afternoon Tea for receiving school camp funding.

At the Otago Afternoon Tea the Flett family shared their story about Timothy receiving assistance in funding a Tandem bike. The sparkling red tandem bike with a recumbent seat on the front arrived just in time for the summer, and Tim has been up front on many family adventures since then. Timothy's compromised mobility has meant he has had very limited opportunities to experience thrilling activities, until now! He's a boy who loves speed and feeling the wind in his face, and his new bike has meant this can happen very regularly. From the forests in Hamner while on holiday, to the cycle ways in Central Otago before Easter, and more regularly the Dunedin Harbour Cycleway, as well as, to and from school some days. This bike has given his whole family an amazing opportunity to experience the outdoors together in such an exciting way.

These are just a few of the stories and examples of how the Halberg Trust helps young disabled people to take part in sport and leisure activities alongside their peers in an inclusive environment. The Trust, in partnership with Regional Sport Trusts, employ Sport Opportunity Advisors to raise awareness and administer the Halberg Trust Activity Fund.

"The Trust wants to spread the word to parents and disabled young people so that they can access the grants and get involved in activities which they can enjoy with their peers", says CEO Graeme Taylor.

"We really want to celebrate these achievements as well as raise awareness of what sport and leisure activities can do for their lives. We also want to engage with Westpac staff right across New Zealand as

this is a grass-roots element to our great partnership with the bank."

The "celebrate and inspire" events are part of the partnership programme between Westpac and the Halberg Trust. Westpac staff already partner with the Halberg Trust all over New Zealand to help more disabled people get access to sport and leisure.

Bank staff are encouraged to use their volunteer's days with helping the Trust, after they have undergone training in its disability awareness training programme. Staff have already supported disabled people during Auckland's and Wellington's Round the Bays, and 60 staff will volunteer at this year's Snowscapade event at Cardrona, later this year.



Halberg Trust Activity Fund recipients with their Sir Murray signed gifts at the Hastings Afternoon Tea. Left to right: Robbie Love, Felicity Lowes, Nicola Cowan and William Askew.

Westpac's Head of Sponsorship, Mark Graham, said that Westpac's role in supporting the Halberg Trust is part of the bank's coordinated and long-term commitment to the New Zealand community.

"We have committed to 10 sustainability goals through to 2012 and within that have set a target of helping 2000 disabled New Zealanders take part in sport and leisure. It is a part of Westpac's determination to support the communities within which we operate on an ongoing basis, including through the current environment which is incredibly challenging," Mr Graham said.

The people attending the afternoon teas received a special "certificate of inspiration" with a message from Sir Murray Halberg, the founder of the Trust.

Community Events

These community events are a Westpac and Halberg Trust partnership to support disabled people to participate in active sport, recreation and leisure in their communities. If you are interested in participating in these events please contact Margaret at the Halberg Trust by phone 0800 HALBERG or email margaret@halberg.co.nz

Round the Bays

On Sunday 15 March, 138 disabled people from the Auckland region joined over 70,000 other participants in the Auckland Round the Bays fun run/walk as part of the Halberg Trust and Westpac team.

The Auckland Round the Bays is a fun, inclusive walk/run event catering for all abilities. The course starts at Quay Street and follows the waterfront over 8.4km to finish at St Heliers Bay.

Altogether the 138 disabled people came together at the start line, along with their caregiver or support person and 100 trained Westpac volunteers. Westpac, as a major sponsor of the Halberg Trust covered the cost of the entry fee and provided a t-shirt for each disabled participant and their support person. There was also a BBQ for participants at the finish.

Organisations which took up the offer of free entry included IDEA Services, Masada Community Trust, Achilles Track Club and Spectrum Care. Many individuals and their families have also made the most of this opportunity by calling their local Halberg Trust Sport Opportunity Adviser to register.

Westpac encourages staff to use their paid Volunteer Days to do events like Round the Bays as a volunteer, supporting entrants with a disability. The volunteers go through the Halberg Trust's No Exceptions Training, which assists them to confidently support people with disabilities at community sporting events such as Round the Bays.

Sunset Stroll

On Thursday 5 March, 37 people with disabilities from the Hawkes Bay region hit Napier's Rotary pathway participating in The HBS Sunset Stroll as part of the Halberg Trust and Westpac team.

The HBS Sunset Stroll had a 2km or 6km option and took place on the pathway behind Aquarium, Marine Parade, Napier.

The event was open to all runners and walkers, and it was also suitable for push chairs, wheel chairs and roller blades.



Shore to Shore

On Sunday 22 March, over 20 disabled people from the North Shore joined over 7000 other participants in the 2009 Milford Centre Shore to Shore fun run/walk as part of the Halberg Trust and Westpac team.

The Shore to Shore is a fun, inclusive walk/run event catering for all abilities. The event has a 5km section that starts at Takapuna Grammar School and for the more serious there is a 10km option that starts at the Windsor Reserve in Devonport and follows a coastal route. Both events go along Takapuna Beach and Milford Beach, and finish at the Milford Reserve. The 5km event is accessible for everyone, including participants in wheelchairs or parents pushing prams.

The Shore to Shore is organised by Harbour Sport, for the North Shore City and Rodney District, the annual fun run and walk is the perfect way for families and friends to get out and get active, promoting physical activity, while supporting North Harbour Schools to raise funds for sports equipment.

Relay for life

On Sunday 15 March between 9am and 11am, 16 disabled people from the Timaru and Canterbury region joined other participants at Caroline Bay Park, Marine Parade in the Relay for Life as part of the Halberg Trust and Westpac team.

The Relay For Life is a magnificent, fun-filled overnight event that brings tens of thousands of New Zealanders together every year

to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer.

People from all ages and walks of life put together teams of friends, families, colleagues, sports or community groups and take on the challenge of raising Funds to raise awareness and celebrate survivorship.

Gathering together at the overnight Relay For Life event in their area, they run the Relay to Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back, supporting the individuals and members of their community who are dealing with cancer.

Mayoral Cycle Challenge

On Thursday 5 March, four disabled people and eight Westpac staff from the Manawatu region got on their bikes to participate in the Mayoral Cycle Challenge. The day was originally planned for the Sunday 28 February but was postponed due to the weather.

The Mayoral Cycle Challenge is a fun, inclusive bike ride event catering for all abilities. This free event was run by Sport Manawatu – it began at 10.15am at the Teachers College car park (Centennial Drive) where cyclists enjoyed a leisurely ride around the lagoon with games for the children afterwards.

Paihia Fun Run/Walk

On Sunday 7 June, 15 disabled people and Westpac Staff from the Northland region participated in the Paihia Fun Run and Walk.

Upcoming Westpac Halberg Community Events:

Snow Scapade @ Cardrona	20 Sept 2009
Have a go at Bowls @ Mairangi Bay	08 Oct 2009
Sir Barry Curtis Fun Run/Walk	18 Oct 2009
Gisborne Quarter Marathon	01 Nov 2009
Have a go at Bowls @ St Albans	04 Nov 2009
Thames Fun Run/Walk	08 Nov 2009

Disability no obstacle for surfers

Having a disability is no longer an obstacle when it comes to surfing. The New Zealand disabled community can now safely experience the enjoyment of surfing a wave thanks to a newly formed organisation called The Disabled Surfers Association of New Zealand (DSANZ). DSANZ is not-for-profit and provides a safe surfing experience for people of all disabilities. The association is a branch of the Australian organisation which has been running successfully for over twenty years.

The DSANZ held its first official event in New Zealand at Mt Maunganui on Saturday 21 March with assistance from the Halberg Trust, Westpac and Sport Bay of Plenty. 21 disabled people aged 7 to 70 joined in the event. Each disabled person was surrounded by at least six volunteers, who joined the surfer in the waist-deep water,

depending on the level of disability – about 80 helpers turned out to help out on the day. Westpac staff assisted on the day providing surfers with food and refreshments.

Gary Blaschke, the organisations founder says “our main aim is to put smiles on dials. After I was told I would never surf again due to a motorcycle accident, I realised there was a lack of opportunity for disabled people in the surf. I would never have dreamed in my wildest dreams that we would now have branches internationally.”



The DSANZ has power in volunteer numbers. Blaschke says “at minimum we allocate six volunteers to each participant”.

Neil Cudby, a DSANZ participant who is paralysed from the neck down, experienced the techniques first hand during a training day. He says “it had been over 20 years since I had been in the surf and feeling the power of the waves was a rush. The great support of well-trained volunteers made it all really safe and achievable for anyone.”

For more information
www.disabledsurfers.org
Pete Roberts 021 994 551
Anne-Marie 021 054 1771

