

Barrier Free Newsletter - December 2009

Welcome to the December Newsletter for the Barrier Free NZ Trust. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our readers for this year, and we look forward to the new and exciting events and topics that the New Year may bring. Once again, we encourage feedback, so please contact office@barrierfreenz.org.nz to take the discussion further.

This month we will cover:

- Farewell to Jim Bowler, BFT Chairperson
- Access Tourism NZ
- An exciting direction for the BFT Seminars in 2010
- 2-day Barrier Free Seminars 2010
- Module 5: Becoming a Barrier Free Advisor Schedule 2010

The Trustees and staff would like to wish our readers and their friends and families a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Farewell to Jim Bowler

At the November 2009 Trust meeting, our long-serving Chair and past CEO, Jim Bowler, resigned his position as Trustee.

The Trustees and staff would like to extend a very heartfelt appreciation of Jim's dedication to the vision of a Universally Accessible built environment. Jim has been involved with the Trust for many years and has seen the Trust through some significant changes that has brought us to where we are today. These changes include the introduction and development of the Training Pathways Education Programme; the now self-managed team in the Trust office; the stable financial position of the Trust; and an increased awareness of access for people with disabilities in the built environment in the community.

The Trust will miss Jim's energy and his determination to overcome any challenges posed to him as Chair. We wish him the very best for what the future may hold, and hopefully he might now get a chance to go fishing on those sunny Fridays!

Jim will remain involved by chairing the Education advisory group. Ann Maddox is now standing as Chairperson, and Bill Wrightson is acting in the Chair Elect position. Please feel free to contact our CEO Lorraine Guthrie if you have any further questions.

Access Tourism New Zealand

The Trust would like to congratulate Dr Sandra Rhodda and the Access Tourism members on the new website that has been development called Access Tourism in New Zealand <http://www.accesstourismnz.org.nz/>.

This website contains news, reviews, and opinion pieces on Access Tourism. One of its goals is to promote the development of accessible tourism, travel, and leisure in NZ and why providing easy accessibility for all makes economic, social and sustainable sense. The website also welcomes feedback, comments, articles, news pieces, or opinion pieces.

The goal of Access Tourism NZ is to:

- alert the NZ national government, regional, and local governments, and the tourism industry to the need to develop an Access Tourism sector in New Zealand;
- appraise the groups of the economic, social, and sustainable reasons behind this;
- appraise New Zealand businesses in other sectors of the profitability of gearing up for the current disabilities market, and the coming tsunami of ageing and increasingly disabled Baby Boomers;
- show how to gain competitive edge and profit from leveraging access;
- undertake research; and
- to build capacity by providing consultations and speakers.

In addition to this, Access Tourism networks with interested parties and like-minded organisations globally to drive social change by raising the awareness on needs for accessibility.

Access Tourism NZ offers presentations to private businesses, disability groups, members of parliament, to Regional Tourism Organisations and to various conferences. They can also discuss consultation, research projects or writing on Access Tourism.

Please go to <http://www.accesstourismnz.org.nz/> for further information.

An exciting direction for the BFT Seminars in 2010

In addition to the BFT Seminars offered in 2009 – the 2 day Barrier Free Seminar; Train the Trainers; Module 5: Becoming a Barrier Free Advisor; and Introduction to Access presentations – 2010 will see the introduction to some new seminars in order to promote and educate an accessible and usable environment for people with disabilities.

1-day Refresher

If you attended a 2-day Barrier Free Seminar in the past and wish to refresh and update your knowledge of compliance with access requirements in building legislation, this seminar is for you. The seminar has been designed to build on knowledge and skill already gained in the 2 day seminar and is best suited for those wanting to increase their knowledge in the accessibility area but not wishing to train as a Barrier Free Advisor. The dates for these are as follows:

Auckland 11 March
Dunedin 15 April
Wellington 14 May
Hamilton 18 June
Christchurch 14 July
Napier 10 November

Half-Day Seminar for Educators

This seminar will provide understanding of an accessible built environment that complies with building legislation and human rights requirements. The seminar will raise awareness of barriers in the environment and what they mean to a person with a disability as well as exploring minimum standards and better and best practice for education providers. The content of the seminar is aimed specifically at schools, early childhood and tertiary education providers. The dates for these are as follows:

Auckland 16 July
Wellington 8 October

Accessing the Built Environment after 60

The Trust believes all people, including those with a disability, require full knowledge of what they should expect of the built environment. As the population ages and there is a growing number of over 60's, many of whom may have some form of disability. Therefore it is important to be fully informed about what to expect and what we should expect in public spaces. Our seminar will target physical and sensory disabilities and will suit anyone either in, or caring for someone with a disability in this age bracket. The dates for these are as follows:

Wellington 21 May
Auckland 13 August

Half-Day Seminar for Architects and Designers

This seminar will give an understanding of what is required in the design and documentation process, to ensure an accessible built environment that complies with NZ building legislation. The seminar content covers people with disabilities and the barriers in the built environment; what the legislation requires; and design solutions and resources. Participants must have a general working knowledge of the Building Act 2004, Building Code and Compliance Documents, Building Regulations, and NZS 4121:2001.

This seminar will be facilitated by Ron Pynenburg, currently Chairperson of NZRAB, Life member and fellow of NZIA and past member of Architects Education and Registration Board. Ron has 23 years experience in the architecture industry and is an experienced BFNZT presenter.

The dates for these are as follows:

Wellington 22 March
Auckland 24 March
Christchurch 16 April
Hamilton 18 June
Nelson 15 September
Auckland 15 October

Please click here <http://www.barrierfreenz.org.nz/index.php/training-and-education/seminar-options> for more information, locations and costs for all 2010 seminars.

2-day Barrier Free Seminar Schedule 2010

The dates and locations for the upcoming 2010 2-day Barrier Free Seminars' have been released. They are as follows:

Auckland 9/10 March
Dunedin 6/7 April
Wellington 12/13 May
Hamilton 16/17 June
Christchurch 15/16 July
Auckland 19/20 August
Nelson 16/17 September
Wellington 7/8 October
Napier 11/12 November

Module 5: Becoming a Barrier Free Advisor Schedule 2010

The dates and locations for the 2010 Module 4 seminars have also been released. They are as follows:

Auckland 9 July
Wellington 26 November

Places fill in quickly, so register online now!

<http://www.barrierfreenz.org.nz/index.php/training-and-education/registration>

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year from everyone at the Trust.