



June 2008

Welcome to the June Newsletter for the Barrier Free NZ Trust. We have a range of topics to discuss in this issue and we hope that you [join our forum](#) to take the discussion further.

This month we will cover:

- Barrier Free NZ Trust Modules of Learning Update
- Compliance Schedules and Accessibility
- Proposed Changes to the Building Code for Backcountry Huts
- The Accessible Journey through Tertiary Education: From the Accessible Car Park to a Master of Arts
- Accessible Venues

A big thank you to those who gave feedback on our May Newsletter, the purpose of our newsletters is not only to keep our readers in the “access” loop, but also for us to hear from you what is happening out there.

Barrier Free NZ Trust Modules of Learning Update

Our Education Project Manager, Julia Goebel is pleased to announce that our Modules of Learning are now recognised by the Department of Building and Housing (DBH) for the Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP) Scheme. LBPs gain Skills Maintenance points for attending our training modules.

According to the DBH website, the LBP Scheme is licensing for skilled people who take responsibility for the work done in the design and construction of homes and buildings. Occupational licensing will help ensure that people in the building industry who are responsible for the work done are competent and accountable, so that homes and buildings are designed and built right the first time.

For more information on this scheme go <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/lbp-index> or contact Julia, jula@barrierfreenz.org.nz at Barrier Free NZ Trust.

Compliance Schedules and Accessibility

Following on from the responses we received from last month’s newsletter, the Barrier Free NZ Trust obtained a legal opinion on whether a compliance schedule should include all the accessibility features of a building that have been provided in order for the building to satisfy section 118 of the Building Act 2004.

In the view of Auckland law firm Simpson Grierson the correct interpretation of the Act is: “If a compliance schedule is required for a building, then in addition to the ‘specified systems’ in the building, the compliance schedule must also list the building’s components that are relevant to the matters listed in s103(1)(d) of the Act. That includes any ‘means of access, and facilities for use, by persons with disabilities that meet the requirements of s118’.”

It was considered that “this additional requirement only arises if the building is required to have a compliance schedule by virtue of s100. In short, the mere presence of a s103(1)(d) component does not by itself trigger the need for a compliance schedule.

For the s103(1)(d) items listed in a compliance schedule, the schedule need not include the detailed performance standard, inspection requirements, maintenance requirements, and reporting requirements that are required for specified systems. Rather, the necessary check is that the s103(1)(d) component is still present and serving its purpose.”

Go to <http://www.barrierfreenz.org.nz/services/advice.php> for the reasons for the above considerations.

Proposed Changes to the Building Code for Backcountry Huts

The DBH is seeking your comments on the proposed changes to Building Code clauses that relate to backcountry huts.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) manages more than 950 huts throughout the conservation state. The majority of huts are located in the backcountry – remote, mountainous locations that are not serviced by formed roads (some do not even have tracks to them) and often require specialised experience and equipment to access. Most backcountry huts have basic facilities and provide essential shelter only. They have been used by generations of domestic and foreign visitors alike, and are a major part of New Zealand’s cultural identity.

Because of their intended use, remote locations, severe climates, difficult access for visitors and maintenance, backcountry huts do not easily align with existing Building Code provisions. In the next twenty years, many backcountry huts will be due for replacement.

Changes are proposed to the following Building Code Clauses:

- A1 Classified Uses
- A2 Interpretation
- C3 Spread of Fire
- D1 Access Routes
- F6 Visibility in Escape Routes
- F7 Warning Systems
- G1 Personal Hygiene
- G8 Artificial Light
- G12 Water Supplies.

Basically under the proposals, backcountry huts would not need to have smoke alarms, potable water supply, artificial lighting, ramps, and accessible toilets.

Further details of the proposals and how to comment can be found on the DBH website. The closing date for comments is Monday 23 June 2008.

The Accessible Journey through Tertiary Education: From the accessible car park to a Master of Arts

Jula Goebel, the BFT Education Project Manager, will be hosting a workshop at the “making it happen...disAbility in tertiary education,” Conference 2008 hosted by Tai Poutini Polytechnic and the Disability Information Service West Coast.

This presentation will introduce the Accessible Journey and apply it to tertiary institutions. A built environment that does not provide for an accessible route may prevent the full participation and inclusion for some students. Also discussed will be the

key issues such as the legal requirements for access, economic reasons for access provision, and human rights compliance.

There will be an exploration and a challenge about what and who needs to change to ensure that a barrier free environment for all people can be provided, so that everyone can be part of the community.

This Conference is aimed at Disability Coordinators and students with Disabilities who are involved in Post-Secondary Education. The attendees at this Conference will include Disability Coordinators and support staff, students with disabilities and other interested organisations. The anticipated number of those attending is approximately 120 people from NZ, Australia and the UK.

It will be held in Shantytown, Greymouth on 17-18 July 2008. For more information, go to the Tai Poutini Polytechnic website, www.tpp.ac.nz.

Accessible Venues

This month the BFT were granted funds from the Wellington City Council Grants Team to put towards our "Accessible Venue" project.

The majority of building owners are not aware of what the requirements are for a barrier free environment and therefore state that the venue is accessible, but in fact it is not. This is a problem for the tourism industry, as all visitors including those with disabilities, the elderly and their families want to make informed decisions on their stay.

Currently, the information on "access" provided on accommodation venues, conference and event centres, restaurants, theatres and cinemas is not comprehensive or incorrect. They do not provide enough relevant information for those who rely on it for their outing.

The BFT aim to target this gap in the tourism industry by developing a service that provides access information, that will be used not only by those traditionally seen as "disabled" but also by the rapidly expanding group of people requiring a range of different levels of more readily accessible accommodation. With the "baby boomers" arriving at age 60, many are retiring and using their relative wealth to travel, more than any previous generation. These travellers have a range of ability levels, and are looking for accommodation and recreational adventure opportunities to suit. Both the international and domestic tourist markets are important income earners for New Zealand.

If you have any questions on this, please email Sheena at office@barrierfreenz.org.nz