



April 2008

Welcome to the April 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:

- The Building Amendment Act 2008 and the significance of the amendment.
- Accessible Tourism Forum, 11 April 2008.
- Barrier Free Trust's Modules of Learning Update.
- Tailored Barrier Free Seminars.
- IHC Complaint to the Human Rights Commission.
- Expressions of interest for prospective trustees.

We hope you all had a safe and happy Easter Break and feel refreshed for the next quarter of the year!

Building Amendment Act 2008

The Building Amendment Act 2008 is now in force.

As a result of the amendment, the owner of a building undertaking work will now be given notice in the Project Information Memorandum (PIM) of the requirement in the Building Act 2004 to provide access and facilities for persons with disabilities, if the building falls within one of the classes of buildings listed in Schedule 2 of the Act (buildings that are open to the public and other specified types of buildings).

The significance of the amendment is two-fold.

- It recognises the importance of access requirements in the Building Act 2004 for persons with disabilities (by including this as a matter to be covered in PIMs)
- As owners of buildings will be given notice of the requirement to provide access and facilities for persons with disabilities at the beginning of the building consent process (when a PIM is received), it is less likely that access requirements will be overlooked by building consent authorities or applicants.

The Barrier Trust is pleased to see the access requirements are now being enforced in the early stages of the building consent process. To improve the situation the PIM should be issued up front, where currently the PIM is issued with the Building Consent.

Simpson Grierson, one of NZ's leading commercial and technology-focused law firms, publishes an FYI Public Law (Publicly Speaking) magazine. This is a useful source if you are interested in receiving regular updates on local government issues. To sign up to receive these updates, [click here](#).

Accessible Tourism Forum

The Accessible Wellington Forum, 'Tourism for All', will be held at Te Papa on Friday 11 April from 8.30am to 12.15pm. Everyone interested in accessibility issues in Wellington is welcome to attend.

Guest speaker will be Dr Sandra Rhodda, Research Manager at Tai Poutini Polytechnic. Sandra's projects include an investigation of the access tourism market on the West Coast and beyond, *Tourism for Visitors to New Zealand with Mobility Problems: a West Coast Perspective*. April 2007. This paper identifies where the accessible tourism industry in NZ is positioned in relation to other countries.

Other speakers include Wellington's Mayor, Kerry Prendergast; Disability Reference Group Co-Chairs, Kendell Akhurst and Rosie MacLeod; Positively Wellington Tourism; Go Bus and many more. A representative from the Barrier Free NZ Trust will be speaking on tourism: where it is now, and the way forward.

We will also be hosting an information stand. Please feel free to come along and talk to us, we are more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

For more information on the Tourism Forum, please contact [Ross Livingstone](#), Community Disability Advisor at the Wellington City Council.

Barrier Free Trust's Modules of Learning Update

Our Education Project Manager, Julia Goebel is pleased to announce that our Modules of Learning are now recognised by the Building Officials Institute of NZ (BOINZ) and NZ Institute of Architects (NZIA). Members of these groups can apply for Continued Professional Development Points through attending our training modules.

For BOINZ, the CPD for their industry, as stated on their [website](#), is "the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skill, and the development of personal qualities necessary for the undertaking of professional and technical duties related to working as a Building Officer, Accredited Building Surveyor etc.." BOINZ members receive 8 CPD Points to attend a 2 day Barrier Free seminar and 4 extra points for successfully completing the assessment for Module 4: Assessing the Accessible Journey.

The NZIA is contracted by the NZ Registered Architects Board (NZRAB) to maintain a record of activities done by Registered Architects for the purpose of ongoing registration. The record of points activities are then used by the NZRAB as part of their assessment in deciding whether individuals can retain their Registered Architect status. By attending a 2 day Barrier Free Seminar, members will receive 40 CPD Points.

This is a great step forward for our training department at Barrier Free NZ Trust, as our mission is to encourage, promote and facilitate the creation of built environments that are accessible and usable by everyone in the community, including people with disabilities.

Upcoming Barrier Free Seminars

Napier	8-9 April 2008
Auckland	27-28 May 2008
Wellington	1-2 July 2008

Hamilton 9-10 September 2008
Christchurch 14-15 October 2008
Auckland 18-19 November 2008

Tailored Barrier Free Seminars

The Department of Labour approached Barrier Free NZ Trust to provide training on the accessible journey to its occupational health and safety representatives from around New Zealand and for other staff who have an interest in accessibility.

The Department also asked what BFT could do in terms of auditing their office buildings.

The Trust offered training for DOL staff, so that they can do the initial audits of their buildings and work with Barrier Free Advisors to follow up on any areas of concern. This was the most cost effective option, and gave DOL staff "ownership" on access matters.

Two workshops were held in March and proved to be a great success. The course evaluation from staff included comments such as, "an excellent course, well presented, and most informative" and "Accessibility is so interesting!"

We are currently tailoring a similar programme for Workbridge. If you are interested in discussing the possibility of tailoring a seminar to suit your staff, please [contact us](#).

IHC Complaint

IHC is currently preparing a complaint to the Human Rights Commission against practices that exclude disabled children from participation at their local school. The aim is to obtain a declaration under Part 1A of the Human Rights Act that such practices breach the right to freedom from discrimination contained in s 19 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act. IHC is the complainant and the complaint is aimed at the Attorney-General on behalf of the government.

IHC collects evidence from a number of different sources including academics, teachers, parents and others. For this complaint, IHC is seeking expert advice from the Barrier Free Trust, asking us if we have an expert (Barrier Free Advisor) who has audited non-accessible schools, which provided a barrier for the inclusion of disabled students in mainstream education.

If you are interested in finding out more information on this, please contact our Education Project Manager, [Jula Goebel](#).

Expressions of Interest

The Barrier Free NZ Trust is currently seeking individuals or organisations who are interested in joining our Board of Trustees.

The past year has been an exciting time for the Trust as we now have an office staffed full time. This has proved to be an invaluable resource in striving towards our goal of promoting an accessible built environment for all people, including people with disabilities.

A few of our achievements so far have included launching a new training programme, which also involves tailored seminars to meet the needs of our clients. We updated our

website, distribute a monthly newsletter, and are busy developing and maintaining key relationships with people in the building industry and disability sector.

Currently our Trust Board consists of 8 members from various groups:

- James Bowler (Chairperson), Director Buildsure Ltd.
- Carina Duke, Practice Advisor for Orientation and Mobility for Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind
- Ross Livingstone, Community Disability Advisor, Wellington City Council
- Vivian Naylor, Adult Education Officer, CCS Disability Action
- Michael Pusinelli, Consultant in the tourism and hospitality industry, M L Pusinelli & Associates
- Jonty Tetley, PhD student at Victoria University Wellington
- Bill Wrightson, Consultant, Director of Wrightson Associates
- Ann Maddox, Senior Associate, Simpson Grierson Law Firm and trained Occupational Therapist

This is a great opportunity to be part of an organisation that is aiming to drive NZ towards becoming a barrier free environment. [Click here](#) to email the office for more information.