

July 2008

Welcome to the July Newsletter for the Barrier Free NZ Trust. We have a range of topics to discuss in this issue and we encourage you to take the discussion further by keeping the Trust in the loop with your thoughts on these issues.

This month we will cover:

- Barrier Free NZ Trust Modules of Learning Update
 - Module 5: Becoming a Barrier Free Advisor
 - Train the Trainers, Auckland
 - Additional Wellington Seminar
- 21st World Congress of Rehabilitation International Conference
- New online calculator for Toilet Facilities in Building
- Accessibility an Issue at a Gisborne School
- International Conference: Inclusion and Integration through Innovation

A big thank you to those who gave feedback on our June 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

Module 5: Becoming a Barrier Free Advisor

In order to prepare our new Barrier Free Advisors to effectively use their qualifications, the Barrier Free NZ Trust has introduced a new module as part of the requirements for accreditation.

This 1-day seminar will give the participants an opportunity to learn about the role of a Barrier Free Advisor (BFA) and how to give advice on buildings and plans to clients. Participants will also learn how to promote their services, and to keep in the “access” loop.

The first seminar will be held in Wellington on 08 August 2008 and will cost \$250 + GST to attend. If there is demand for an additional seminar this year, we will look at holding one in Auckland. Please contact the office if you are interested in attending either the Wellington Seminar or a later seminar.

Additional Wellington 2-Day Barrier Free Seminar: 30-31 October 2008

The Trust is pleased to announce that we will run an additional 2-day seminar in Wellington, 30-31 October 2008 due to popular demand.

Please [click here](#) if you would like to attend.

Train the Trainers: 21 August 2008

If you want to promote an Accessible Environment for all people, and you have knowledge in the access industry, an opportunity is here to attend a Train the Trainers seminar in Auckland.

The Trust aims to train interested Barrier Free Advisors and other suitable candidates so we can work together to promote a barrier free environment. This is a perfect opportunity to meet like minded people and build relationships within the access community.

[Click here to register your interest, spaces are limited.](#)

21st World Congress of Rehabilitation International Conference

The Barrier Free NZ Trust would like to congratulate our presenter Alexia Pickering, Accessible Options, who was successful in obtaining funding to attend the 21st World Congress of Rehabilitation International Conference in Quebec, 25-25 August 2008.

Alexia is attending the Conference to support kiwi Anne Hawker, the first woman to be elected President of Rehabilitation International and the second person to be elected with a disability. Anne was the National President of DPA NZ and hosted the RI's 1996 World Congress in Auckland. Her previous roles include the Rehabilitation Improvement Manager for ACC, Access Manager for the Health Funding Authority and Chief Executive Officer of the Head Injury Society of NZ.

Founded in 1922, Rehabilitation International (RI) is a global and diverse organisation bringing together expertise from different sectors in the disability field, advancing and implementing the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities.

The international community is facing a unique opportunity to drastically improve the living conditions of hundreds and millions of people with disabilities by implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This treaty provides the framework for the development of good policies, actions and projects which can have a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities all over the world.

The 21st World Congress of Rehabilitation International – Quebec City 2008 will gather people with disabilities, human rights activists, experts, government representatives, service providers and leaders of civil society coming from all continents.

The Congress provides an opportunity to discuss key questions with respect to people with physical, intellectual or mental disabilities, and to form or reinforce partnerships.

Alexia will also give a presentation on “Accreditation of BFAs – a model that works,” as well as providing information on Universal Design being progressed in other countries, to the International Commission for Technology and Accessibility in Europe.

New online calculator for Toilet Facilities in Building

The Department of Building and Housing has introduced an online calculator for toilet facilities in new public buildings and buildings that are undergoing a change of use. The calculator is guidance under section 175 of the Building Act 2004 and does not change any of the current requirements, which have been in place since 2000.

According to their website, the calculator simplifies the complex manual calculation provided in Acceptable Solution G1/AS1. It will help designers calculate the number of sanitary facilities needed in new public buildings and buildings undergoing a change of use. It will also simplify consenting and compliance checking by building consent authorities.

The online calculator uses two methods to calculate the number and type of facilities needed:

- the building type and the number of occupants

- the building type and occupant densities multiplied by the floor area of the building to get the number of occupants.

The calculator delivers a variety of options, including unisex and single sex facilities. Results can be saved in PDF format or printed.

Acceptable Solution G1/AS1 will still be needed to provide details, for example where toilets are needed, toilet layouts, privacy and accessible facilities.

You can access the calculator at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/calculator-for-toilet-pans>.

Accessibility an Issue at a Gisborne School

The [Gisborne Herald](#) reported an article "Access an issue at special needs unit," 07 July 2008, which highlights the importance of creating an accessible environment for all people, including people with disabilities.

With one accessible classroom allocated for people with disabilities located at the bottom end of the school blocks, next to the school field, students and staff must go past other classrooms and over a grass field to access the classroom. A chain was put up by the school preventing direct vehicle access to the classroom forcing students to walk or be wheeled more than 60 metres to their classroom.

The school principal stated that they put the chain up for safety reasons, to protect the 'mainstream students' from vehicles driving in the school grounds. They state that they will be applying for funding from the Ministry of Education to install a driveway directly to the classroom.

This however, this does not help these students at the school with disabilities now.

Universal Access Design involves a fundamental shift away from the practice of removing barriers for a particular group of people, ie: people with disabilities, to a way of meeting the environmental needs of all users, regardless of age or ability.

It is a move away from providing separate and stigmatising design solutions for people with disabilities, like the ramped entry at the back of the building and the classroom at the back of the school set away from the other classrooms.

For a building to be fully accessible there must be an Accessible Route that is continuous and can be followed independently. This means that all features and parts of a building have to be accessible. This includes 'educational facilities, including public and private primary, intermediate, and secondary schools...' (Building Act 2004, Schedule 2)

If you have any concerns relating to access in a school near you, please do not hesitate to contact a Barrier Free Advisor in your area for advice. A list of Barrier Free Advisors can be found at <http://www.barrierfreenz.org.nz/advisors/>.

International Conference: Inclusion and Integration through Innovation

Jula Goebel, the BFT Education Project Manager, has been invited to speak at the Ministry of Education's international "Inclusion and Integration through Innovation

Conference, the Role of 21st Century Learning Environments in Promoting Social Participation and Access to education for students with Special Needs.”

Three broad themes will be covered at this conference: facilitating access to education for students with special needs; improving social participation for students with special needs; and working together to create meaningful learning environments for students with special needs.

The conference will also address how current planning and design of educational facilities contributes to the provision of a quality education for all learners, in a range of regular and special school settings at pre-primary, primary and secondary levels.

Design plays a crucial role in providing an effective learning environment for all students. An educational facility that does not provide an Accessible Route will prevent the full participation and inclusion for some students. Jula will cover key issues such as the legal requirements for Access provision in NZ, Universal Design principles, Sustainability, and Human Rights compliance.

Jula will show good and bad examples of features in the built environment and will explore and challenge about what and who needs to change to ensure a barrier free environment for all people can be provided, so no student is excluded from his/her educational facility. The presentation is based on the Social Models of Disability.

The conference will be held in Auckland, 17-20 August 2008. For more information, please go to the OECD website, www.oecd.org/edu/facilities.