

NOVEMBER 2007

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WEBSITE

We have launched our new website! It is up to date with all the latest Web Access requirements and it is an exciting facelift for the Trust. A main priority of the re-design was the provision of a fully accessible, barrier-free website, which functions as an interface between the Trust and associated people.

The most exciting feature is a forum designed to facilitate the communication between Barrier Free Advisors and the public. Currently, there are 47 Barrier Free Advisors around the country, and we hope this virtual meeting place will greatly improve the discussion of and network between the advisors and people interested in barrier free access. Forum members have the possibility to discuss general issues or ask specific technical questions about barrier free access.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Currently, there are eight Trustees on the Board:

- Jim Bowler (Chairperson)
- Ann Maddox (Immediate Past Chairperson.)
- Vivian Naylor
- Michael Pusinelli
- William Wrightson
- Jonty Tetley
- Carina Duke
- Ross Livingstone

New Members of our Trust

Newly elected to the Board of Trustees is Carina Duke. She has extensive work experience in the disability sector, and brings to the Trust the invaluable contribution of her vast experience and expertise. She is the current Practice Advisor for Orientation and Mobility for Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind. Also, Carina is a member of the Waimakariri Access Group, an executive member of Living Streets Aotearoa, and the Canterbury Branch of the NZ Gerontology Association.

Ross Livingstone also joined the Trust earlier in the year. Ross has extensive experience in local government and the disability sector and is currently a Community Advisor for the Wellington City Council.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME 2008

Education Project Manager

We welcome our new Education Project Manager, Jula Goebel, to the team. Jula is a trained occupational therapist, has a German university degree in Education, and has done a Master of Arts in Education at Otago University, in which she focused on disability and inclusive education. She has a wide range of work experience in various educational and social service settings. Jula will contribute her valuable skills and expertise that will give Training Pathways a smooth running introduction for 2008.

The Trust is pleased to announce that Training Pathways is all set for its launch next year. Our revised education program is designed to offer a great degree of flexibility, and has a skill based focus to accommodate the needs of different training attendees.

Education Program

The education program is designed to:

- Encourage, facilitate, and promote Universal Design principles in the built environment.
- Increase skills, knowledge and understanding of accessibility needs and requirements for all people, including those with disabilities.
- Assist in applying knowledge in practice to the built environment.
- Apply the correct application of the Building Act 2004, Building Code, and Building Regulations in regards to "Access".

The five Modules of the 2008 Seminars:

- Module 1: The Law and how it Relates to the "Accessible Journey"
- Module 2: Experiencing the "Accessible Journey"
- Module 3: Assessment of the "Accessible Journey"
- Module 4: Designing the "Accessible Journey"
- Module 5: Advising and Auditing the "Accessible Journey"

The modules are primed for:

- Building Control Officers.
- Designers and Architects.
- Assessors of disabled people's functional abilities.
- People seeking accreditation as Barrier Free Advisors.

Proposed Schedule for 2008

| Month | Seminar type | Location | Dates |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| February | Two Day Seminar | Christchurch | 19th/20th February |
| April | Two day seminar | Napier | 8th/9th April |
| May | Two day seminar | Manukau | 27th/28th May |
| July | Two day seminar | Wellington | 1st/2nd July |
| July | Refresher | Wellington | 3rd July |
| September | Two day seminar | Hamilton | 9th/10th September |
| October | Two day seminar | Christchurch | 14th/15th October |
| November | Two day seminar | Manukau | 18th/19th November |
| November | Refresher | Manukau | 20th November |

For more information on the Barrier Free seminars please visit our seminars page.

Continuing Professional Development

New for the up-coming year is that the Barrier Free Training is recognised by the Building Officials Institute of New Zealand (BOINZ) and the New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA) and seminar attendees will be eligible for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points upon satisfactory completion of training modules.

Train the Trainers program

In 2008 there is the opportunity coming up for persons wishing to learn or hone up on their teaching skills and technique. On Day 1 the course provides generic delivery methods of adult teaching and Day 2 covers specific delivery designed around the Barrier Free Trust Modules of Learning for those Barrier Free Advisors who may be interested in becoming trainers for the Trust

For more information contact us

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

International Day of Disabled Persons on the 3rd of December

“Decent Work for Disabled People”

The International Day of Disabled Persons aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

This year's theme focuses on how to ensure decent work for persons with disabilities and on ways to tap into the abilities of this marginalised talent pool. For further information visit the United Nations Enable website.

Building Code Submission

Download our Building Code Submission [here](#).

Chairpersons Annual Report

Download the Chairpersons Annual Report [here](#).

Funding

The trust would like to thank JR McKenzie Trust for their grant contributing towards the redevelopment of our Website. also to TB McCarthy Trust for the purchase of our Data Projector and to the Lottery Grants Board (LOTTO) for the grant towards the development of the Training Pathways Modules of Learning.