



REDUCING RISKS AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES

GISBORNE STROKE SUPPORT GROUP INC

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1ST JULY 2018 – 30TH JUNE 2019

I am very pleased to present the 2018/2019 Annual Report.

To begin I would like us to take a minute of silence to remember the Stroke people who have passed away:

Pam Bramwell, Arthur Goldsmith, Alan Hughes, Norma Atkins, Tawhai Ferris, Ellen Van Der Velde, Audrey Gear, Rae Coperwaithe, Denis Gordon, Jane Pere, Patrick Bennett, Donald Burgess.

Additionally, I would like to express my personal sincere thanks to you all for the support I've received over the last year.

Gisborne Stroke Support has had another busy rewarding year providing support to our members.

A special thanks to our secretary, Henry Richards, who stepped down in December 2018. We welcomed Maureen Hyland as our Rehab Assistant in November 2018 and Judy Livingston as our new Secretary in January 2019. Both have added valuable support to our members and the organisation's operational base.

Our Stroke Community Coordinator, Caroline Callow continues to provide excellent support for ongoing and new Stroke clients, facilitating our rehab support programs, networking in the community and with Hauora Tairawhiti. She continues to attend the Stroke monthly review clinics and meet new clients on the wards.

Her role includes advocating for clients and whanau/families which is a vital part of the support provided, alongside guiding people through the difficult transition from hospital back into the community. The Stroke Coordinator's role is more that of a social worker these days as client's needs have become more complex with housing problems, relationship issues, budget advice and those with no family support.

We have been very heartened by the evidence that our services have been impacting on the health outcomes of our clients. Learning self-rehabilitation skills has seen many clients becoming less isolated and more mobile with increased communication skills. Members enjoy the various activities organised to enable social interaction, development of meaningful friendship, and so they can share fun and information.



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Sass Mahuika and Elena Serena, our enthusiastic fitness instructors, continue to lead our weekly exercise sessions. Number attending has continued to grow and we welcome clients from a range of other NGOs as participants.

Also increasing are the numbers who attend the weekly communication group. Feedback being received from client and their whanau is that this is a highly valued service.

On behalf of the Management Committee I offer sincere thanks to the volunteers who assist with these groups. Our monthly luncheons, and the Young Stroke Group continues with varying numbers in attendance.

We must also acknowledge the support we received from the Hauora Tairawhiti speech therapist who provides advice and training of our volunteers. Without such partnerships and support we could not provide the skilled training necessary.

Fundraising activities feature high on the priority list for the Committee and staff having to raise over \$100K per annum to keep the organisation functioning. The Stride for Stroke event was again very successful with increased number of participants – raising approximately \$10K. We owe a huge thank you to local businesses who sponsored the event financially or through donation of spot prizes. Thank you to the staff, Committee and volunteers who gave freely of their time to organise and deliver this event.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the Committee members who gave so freely of their time and expertise to oversee our operations. Many thanks to the Committee members who stepped into the Chair's role during the year – not an easy task – but your contribution has been appreciated. Towards the end of the year Neville Jenkins and Dr Lawrence resigned from the Committee – we acknowledge and appreciate their support.

We also appreciate the time given so generously by all our volunteers. Like most service organisations we would find it impossible to operate without their help. We thank them all sincerely and we also thank David Quinn, Kaye Cockburn and Graham & Dobson staff who look after our finances so capably. We appreciate their efforts very much.

The Gisborne Stroke Support Group Inc Special Purpose Endowment Fund with the Sunrise Foundation continues to grow slowly but not at a rate that we are receiving a return on investment as yet. We encourage anyone who is able to make a small regular contribution to our fund – if you wish to and are not sure how please ask our staff.

We are extremely grateful for the support of the organisations whom have given us grants in the past year, Esme and Tom Tombleson Trust: J.N. Williams Memorial Trust: The Rehabilitation Welfare Trust, Lotteries Community: COGS, Eastland Community Trust, Eastern and Central Community Trust along with the annual



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subscriptions and donations we receive. Unfortunately, the J.N. Williams Memorial Trust grant will be the last we receive as that Trust has refocused its funding priorities and no longer funds organisations like ours.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of Gisborne Stroke Support over the past year and we look forward to continuing to grow our service to meet the needs of the Tairāwhiti stroke community in coming years.

Mrs Miriam Swarbrick MNZM
President