

Positive Women

# Positive News



August 2008

# Hui registrations roll in

Registrations are rolling in for the Family Hui weekend being held at Matamata on 7–9 November.

Held every two years, this event is a chance for families to come together in a safe and confidential environment to share issues, attend workshops and also have heaps of fun.

The Matamata venue has plenty of activities to keep the children occupied—go karting, rock climbing, abseiling or just a soak in the hot pools.

Positive Women Inc. covers all costs for the hui including transport to and from Matamata. All meals are catered so you can leave the cooking to someone else!

The hui is for parents/guardians and children, grandchildren or even sisters and brothers. This includes single parents and same sex parents as well as



negative partners and children. Some already signed up are bringing 3 generations for this great get-together.

Please send your completed registration forms back to us as soon as you can, so we can book the best value flights. For more information contact us at the Positive Women Inc. office.



## Support the Queen of the Whole Universe Pageant

*The Queen of the Whole Universe is a wonderful pageant which raises funds for Positive Women Inc.*

*Please show your support and help us, by buying tickets to this event on 15 November 2008.*

*Special rate tickets for Positive Women members can be purchased through The Edge on 09 357 3354*

*Or contact Positive Women Inc. for more information on 09 309 1858.*



Thank you to the  
J.R. McKenzie Trust & the Lottery Grants Board  
for funding the build of the Positive Women Inc.  
website

[www.positivewomen.co.nz](http://www.positivewomen.co.nz)



J R McKenzie Trust

# From the Editor

*Tena Koutou Katoa, Jambo, Hello, Talofa lava, Taloha ní, Halo olaketa, Bula vinaka, Kam na mai, La orana, Fakaalofa, Lahí atu, Malo lelei, Nabat, Zdravo, Ciao, Shalom, Saludo, Bonjour, Aman, Servus, Konnichi wa, Buenos Días, Nyob zoo, Torova, Namaste, Ci yi bak, Salaama.*

While winter lashes the country, the Positive Women Inc. office is buzzing along with lots of new projects on the go.

I hope no one's roof leaked or power was cut during the recent storms. Those winds got a bit scary in Auckland.

At least five Positive Women Inc. members will be finding warmer weather in Mexico.

Congratulations to those members who will be away attending the World AIDS conference—a big turnout from a small country. We hope you have an amazing time, learn lots and enjoy yourselves.

Back home Positive Women Inc. faces are still popping up in the media. Although the destigmatisation campaign may be officially over weeks ago, the interest in women living with HIV continues.

Even the occasional bus with the full-side banner can still be seen doing the rounds.

Now there's the possibility of a mainstream television documentary, tied to Positive Women's newest fund-raising concept of running a charity auction Fashion

Show which will show off not just fabulous designer frocks, but Positive Women too.

Stay warm, and take care.  
Regards from Jane Roskrue  
Administration Assistant

## Inside this issue:

Co-ordinator's Report	<b>4-5</b>
Election results	<b>6</b>
Five bound for Mexico	<b>7</b>
Positive Speakers Training	
INA Trust forms	<b>8</b>
Chemists waive fees	<b>9</b>
WAD Fashion Show	<b>9</b>
Increase for Wellness Fund	<b>10</b>
Volunteer appeals for help to Tanzania	<b>10</b>
Hair models—free offer Pan-Pacific Gathering	<b>11</b>

Thank you very much to the following companies for sponsoring Positive News



# Co-ordinator's Update

Kia ora everyone.....

It's the end of July already and although it sounds cliché....I don't know where the year has gone?? It's amazing to see we are thinking about World AIDS Day already...and it looks like it's going to be a very exciting World AIDS Day this year.

As Jane R has already hinted in her column on page 3, Positive Women Inc. has entered into discussions with various sponsors and other HIV support networks about hosting a Fashion Show to mark World AIDS Day, to raise awareness of HIV in New Zealand and maybe even raise a little money.... which is always helpful.

A leading New Zealand production company is keen to do a documentary covering the Fashion Show and HIV and women so we are again looking for women who would like to help by telling their stories. There is more information about this on page 9 of the newsletter. Otherwise you can call the office if you have any further questions.

## **Destigmatisation Campaign**

Five months after the launch of the Destigmatisation Campaign and we are still getting amazing feedback as well as some wonderful flow-on publicity. The latest issue of the 'Healthwise' magazine is an example of this. A copy of the magazine has been included with this mail-out for you to have a look at. The same publishing company are also looking to do another cover in their September/October issue of 'Women Today' as well as coverage of the Fashion Show.

A Fashion Show has been on the Positive Women Inc. agenda as far back as 2005 and the Destigmatisation Campaign has played some part in bringing

this to life as there have been a number of fashion designers lately who have approached MAC, one of our key funders, wanting to do something for HIV.

A therapist at the NZAF Burnett Centre in Auckland told us recently she has had two women come in for HIV testing as a result of the Campaign. We have even had feedback from some HIV+ gay men who said that members of their families had seen the campaign and as a result, this had opened up communication between them and their family ... so the flow on is much more far reaching than we ever could have expected.

## **Mexico International AIDS Conference**

This year we have 5 women attending the International AIDS conference in Mexico which is an amazing achievement. Two women received scholarships through funding received by Positive Women Inc. and three other women received scholarships through independent means. Well done to these amazing ladies and we look forward to hearing about their experiences when they come back. More about this on pages 6 & 7.

## **United Nations High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS**

Positive Women Inc. attended the United Nations High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS in New York in early June. This trip was funded through the Asia Pacific Alliance (APA) of which Positive Women Inc. is a co-member. It was an amazing experience to be involved in meetings at this level, although at times a little daunting. A brief report covering the highlights of this three-day event has been included with this mail-out.

### New Positive Women Inc. Office

It appears some people may be a little confused as to where the Positive Women Inc. offices actually are. At one stage we were going to move with the NZAF Burnett Centre to another building. We did not end up doing this. After NZAF left Poynton Terrace, Body Positive Inc. took over the lease of the building and offered Positive Women Inc. some rooms on the 1st floor. So we are still at Poynton Terrace, but we have moved from our one little room downstairs to a suite of rooms upstairs. We are currently working on having the rooms painted and getting a bit more furniture. When this has been done, there will be a nice space for people to drop in for a cup of something warm, to watch TV, read a book from the Library or use the Internet. We hope you will take advantage of these facilities when you are in town.

### New Board

As well as new offices, we now have some new Board members.

**A huge thank you** to the outgoing Board Members ... it has been wonderful working with you. The past four years have been very momentous for Positive Women Inc. and the Board has played an instrumental part in this movement. Often the unsung heroes, Board Members give up their time and energy to ensure Positive Women Inc. stays true to its aims and purpose and remains focussed to its commitment of supporting Women and Families in New Zealand living with HIV or AIDS, regardless of race, religion or creed.

**A huge welcome** to the new Board members who I am sure will continue to take Positive Women Inc. from strength to strength. I would also like to thank *you.*, the members, for the increased participation we are seeing in regards to the voting of Board Members. This shows that you, as members, are interested in

what is happening with Positive Women Inc. It is also wonderful to see more and more people willing to put up their hands to be involved as Board Members.

The heart of Positive Women Inc. is its members ... that is who the Board and the staff work for, to represent HIV+ Women and Families, so the more you are involved, the more we can be sure we are providing the services that you need and want.

### Youth Representative

Positive Women Inc. is looking to increase its focus around youth, that is those under 26. As a starting point we will soon be sending out a call for a Positive Women Youth Representative. It is not a requirement that this person be public about their HIV status. The aim of this position is to ensure that the voice of today's youth is being heard and to nurture and empower young women, who will eventually be the leaders of the future.

We will be sending a more detailed job description in the post in the next couple of months.

### Happy Anniversary Jane R...

The month of June saw the 1st anniversary of Jane R, as our Administration Assistant ... It's amazing to think Jane has already been with us for a year. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Jane for the work she has done over this time which is greatly appreciated.

That's it from me ... otherwise I will be repeating everything that has already been included in the newsletter.

Take care everyone.  
Summer's on its way...

Kind regards and kia kaha  
Jane Bruning



# Welcome aboard

Welcome to the newly elected board of Positive Women Inc.

Thanks to all those who sent in their voting forms and to those willing to stand as nominees — it was a good response. Thanks also to Karen Ritchie from the NZAF Burnett Centre who acted as our independent scrutineer.

Results saw Pauline P, Jane M. and serving board member Bronwen elected to the three vacant positions alongside Abby, Svadha and Jan. We said goodbye to retiring Chairwoman Carlyne and Lianne who have both given so freely of their time for so many years.

Abby agreed to act as the interim Chair until a new Chairwoman is elected by the new board at its first meeting in September.

As Jane Bruning said in her annual report to the AGM, our board has gone from strength to strength. "It has been wonderful working with a group of women who are supportive to me personally and dedicated to ensuring the very best for Positive Women.," she wrote. "Board members give up their weekends to attend meetings and are constantly available via both phone and Email at any time. These women past and future deserve a huge round of applause."

## Five go to Mexico ... and a World Conference

Congratulations to the five women who are representing us at the World AIDS conference in Mexico this month.



Jan, Marama, Lianne, Sophia\* (not her real name) and Paulette are all attending the huge event expected to overwhelm Mexico City with 25,000-plus participants from around the world.

Thanks to MAC as a Positive Women sponsor, to the Conference Secretariat and to the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network which have between them provided the funding necessary for all the above individuals.

Marama will also be giving several presentations, including on a research study on Maori resiliency to blood-borne viruses. This is a joint effort involving Australia, Canada and New Zealand research input.

## Mexico answers a teenager's prayer

When Sophia\* got the congratulations message on her cellphone at this year's retreat, she reckoned her prayers had been answered.

The 19-year-old heard she had won a youth scholarship to attend the world AIDS conference in Mexico in July 2008, including to the pre-conference session that focuses on young people.

As part of her preparations, Sophia did the recent Positive Women speakers' training weekend. It was emotional speaking about the virus that has affected her since birth.

But the training stood her in good stead when she nervously took her next "baby steps" talking to MAC artists.

She was worried that her emotions might get in the way of what she was trying to say. "But it went really well and this time I didn't cry at all", she said.

Mexico is her first real overseas trip.

Sophia is looking forward to the excitement and experience, particularly of being with so many young HIV+ people, and also learning about new treatments and developments.

"I'm not going to be prepared to stand in front of 25,000 people and speak." But she feels she has more confidence and skills now to make the most of this big opportunity.

## Positively Inspiring

"Inspirational" was the word Jane M. used to sum up Australian HIV+ advocate Dr Susan Paxton who ran the recent weekend training course for members interested in public speaking.

Those who attended spoke highly of Dr Paxton and TV journalist Ingrid Leary who provided media training in what turned out to be a busy weekend.

Jane M. says the training and the encouragement that came from being with other members made her more confident. She was sure that she would at some stage to talk publicly about HIV but it was a step-by-step process to reach that point.

Val went along to the speakers' training as a form of self-therapy, not with any immediate thought of speaking to an audience.

"It was just testing to see how I cope with opening up," she says. The friendly environment, support of other HIV+ women and the trainers' experience all helped to make it easier.

Mel says the training weekend gave her a "push" to find a clearer focus. Having spent so much time isolated at home, just being with a group of people—"that was a big accomplishment for me and opened up so many doors."

Jan wanted the training before attending the Mexico conference in case she gets the opportunity to talk before big audiences about Positive Women Inc. New Zealand.

# Campaign keeps coming up smiles

The Positive Women Inc. destigmatisation campaign may be officially over but the coverage continues.

HIV generally and Positive Women in particular are the focus of the latest issue of the free *Healthwise* magazine which can be found in pharmacies, doctors' rooms and other health-related outlets and some supermarkets.

Next to be produced is a video clip of interviews done with Med TV which will screen in doctors' waiting rooms throughout the country.



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## New Trust forms for Pacific Peoples

A new trust has been formed with a particular Maori and South Pacific focus on fighting the HIV virus.

Positive Women member Marama Pala is the Kaiwhaka Haere (Executive Officer) of INA—the Maori Indigenous and South Pacific HIV/AIDS Foundation.

The acronym INA honors the names of husband Tony Pala's children—Immanuelle, Noelle and Apihaka. Immanuelle and Noelle both died of AIDS before their own child Apihaka was born.

INA's position states that "one size fits all" is not an effective prevention and intervention for the spread of HIV.

"We believe we have the right to self-determine our own preventative messages and care for HIV and AIDS within our communities."

Although Marama and others have been working informally in this area over the last three years, the trust was formed with its own board in February.

"Our goal is to stop HIV in the Pacific and New Zealand," she says. "Maori is starting to get over-represented in the HIV prevalence statistics at the moment."

Maori accounted for 14.6% of the population, and 11.4% of last year's HIV infections—with that last figure trending upwards.

Marama features on *Into Kibera*, a documentary about her trip through the slums of Nairobi with Kenyan outreach worker Rose. Copies of this 20-minute DVD funded by Positive Women Inc. are available from our office for \$6 each which covers costs of having the DVDs copied and posted.

# TV eyes Fashion Show

Our focus is now turning to a new HIV Awareness initiative and possible fund-raising idea for World AIDS Day in late November.

Positive Women Inc. is talking to potential sponsors as well as other HIV support networks interested in working together to produce a grand Fashion Show for World AIDS Day where established and upcoming fashion designers will each be invited to design an outfit based on the theme of the Red Ribbon, the universal symbol of HIV and AIDS.

The resulting fabulous creations will then be auctioned off to raise funds to send HIV+ children, teenagers and

their parents or caregivers to Camp Goodtime in Australia.

Camp Goodtime held each year in Australia, run by the Paediatric HIV Service at Sydney Children's Hospital, is a wonderful chance to meet and network with other families facing similar situations.

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## City chemists waive prescription fees

Auckland City Hospital's pharmacy has followed the lead of the nearby Grafton Pharmacy in no longer charging prescription fees for anti-retroviral medications.

From 1 July, Grafton Pharmacy stopped charging prescription fees which at \$15 per item, can save many people \$30 to \$45 per month (less if you have a community services card). Grafton Pharmacy also courier prescriptions anywhere in New Zealand for a \$5 fee. Now the hospital's retail pharmacy has followed suit, waiving prescription fees for anti-retroviral medications funded by the Government.



A television production company has expressed an interest in filming a documentary covering the Fashion Show as it takes shape. The documentary would also cover stories of women in New Zealand living with HIV so we are looking for HIV+ women to share their stories to bring the documentary to life. Ideally we would like to have faces with the stories, however there may also be ways that you can be involved while maintaining your anonymity.

If you would like to be involved in this documentary, please contact Jane Bruning at the Positive Women Inc. office.

# Wellness fund increased

New one-off grants introduced by the Wellness Fund have proved so popular that the New Zealand AIDS Foundation has doubled the total cash available to \$100,000 for this year.

The new grants of up to \$3000 per person were introduced for health-care services which have a waiting list or which you can't easily afford such as face-filling lipoatrophy treatment or major dental work.

These treatments have already made a big difference to the self-esteem of our members who have already benefited.

Initially the total amount to be given out as special grants was limited to \$50,000 per year.

But NZAF's Eamonn Smythe says due to the fantastic uptake, this amount has already been given out in the first three months. So NZAF which administers the fund has decided to double this money to \$100,000 for the first 12 months to address those applications still arriving.

"With the cap lifted, we can make sure those dollars reach as many as possible, but it does mean we will have very little left," he says.

World AIDS Day collections, bequests and donations go towards the Wellness Fund.



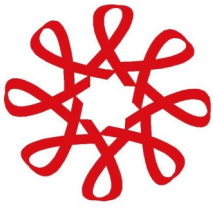
## Volunteer aims to raise funds for Tanzania mission

Auckland cycle courier Jolene O'Connor (pictured above) is on her bike trying to raise \$11,000 needed to fund her volunteer work as an HIV educator in rural Tanzania next year.

The 26-year-old South African has been selected by Student Partnerships Worldwide (SPW) to spend eight months on its Kijana ni Afya (Youth and Health) programme. This means working alongside a Tanzanian volunteer in a village to raise health awareness, particularly of HIV & AIDS, and organise youth-friendly activities.

"When I got accepted, my friends said about time because I had been speaking about doing humanitarian work for long enough," she says. "And I kind of feel like Africa is in my blood."

If you want to make a donation or help with Jolene's fund-raising effort, call her on 021 883 044 or Email [joleneoconnor@gmail.com](mailto:joleneoconnor@gmail.com). She is selling raffle tickets for a \$1600 donated necklace, plus organising a film night at Auckland's Academy Cinema on 23 September and a TradeMe charity auction.



**Positive Women**

# **Pan Pacific HIV+ People's Gathering**

**2-5 September  
Auckland**

Meet HIV+ men and women from all over the Pacific. This is an opportunity to up-skill ourselves, to share information and to celebrate together. Check out the website [www.panpacificiv.com](http://www.panpacificiv.com) and complete the "scholarship" registration application.

## **Free Hair Cuts / Colours at Servilles Academy, Central Auckland**

**Tuesday afternoons  
to October 2008**

A Servilles Academy trainee needs a model at 1 pm every Tuesday. If you would like a free cut & colour (or any other hair styling) and are available on any of the Tuesday dates, please contact Jane R. at Positive Women. Other appointment times are also possible by arrangement.

## **Heterosexual HIV+ People's Social Evening**

Last Thursday of the month

6.30 to 8.30 pm in Auckland

A chance for heterosexual HIV + people to enjoy a nice meal and talk together.

Numbers are growing but there's room for more at the table. If you are interested, please let us know.

**Positive Women—309 1858**

**CART —375 7077**

**Body Positive—309 3989**

**Positive Women Inc. thankfully  
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**J R McKenzie Trust**



**Positive Women Inc.**  
1/3 Poynton Terrace  
Newton, Auckland 1010  
Phone: (09) 309 1858

Email: [positivewomen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:positivewomen@xtra.co.nz)

Free phone: **0800 769 848**