

Chairperson's Report for 2009-2010 for Muscular Dystrophy Association - Canterbury Branch.

National Council and National Office have both had a busy year. A new council was voted in at the previous AGM and rebuilding of the National Association began. Chris Higgins was appointed to the role of Managing Director and a prominent part of his role was to bring National Council and National Office to the fore. The strategic plan was revised, revised again and finally became a draft for consultation. The actions required as an outcome of the strategic plan review have been programmed in to the calendar for 2009-10. The National AGM will be held in Christchurch on Friday 16th April at 6.00pm, Canterbury members will be invited to attend a social function to meet national council members.

The Branch and National Office continue to have a strong relationship and regular contact and support through field officer meetings, support to individual members and communication to the branch. I have participated in a number of National Council meetings as the representative for this branch and the focus of the majority of these meetings has been on the reestablishment of MDA as a organisation going forward.

I once again have the pleasure of thanking Lis for the fantastic support she continues to give to our branch of MDA and its clients. Her work is truly valued by us all and is unmeasurable.

Eris, I thank-you for the work you undertake on behalf of the branch and its members and also for picking up the role as branch secretary.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of our branch treasurer, Phil Austen. This is a voluntary role and Phil continues to keep us in a sound financial position. Thank-you Phil.

To maintain our existing level of support to clients we access monies from a number of funding providers and I acknowledge the financial support we receive. I also acknowledge the participation of committee members that were able to support The Motorbike Show in Christchurch and also those members and their families that supported the Bow Tie appeal. Monies wise this is probably the most money that our branch have brought in during a Bow Tie appeal and thank-you to National Council who have approved that monies raised in branches stay in the branches.

Your branch is managed by a small group of members, Vivienne Palmer, Jill and Martin Waldron, Earl Mason, John Eban, Phil Austen, Rodger and Lynne Alexander, Peggy and Gary Lake, Derek Woodward, Eris LeCompte and myself, who meet monthly to support Lis and attend to branch matters. It would be great to see new faces on our committee and tonight is an opportunity to put your hand up to support your branch.

As a branch, we offer our condolences to those families who have lost family members, friends and loved ones during the past year.

Thank-you, to all committee members, staff and supporters who have contributed to our branch and made it the year that it has been.

Sue Robinson

Chairperson
Canterbury Branch of Muscular Dystrophy Association.