

SEABROOK MCKENZIE CENTRE

For Specific Learning Disabilities

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2024/25

OUR VISION

A world where those **He ao e angitu ai te** with learning difficulties **hunga e uaua ana te** experience success. **ako.**

OUR MISSION

To support the education, employment, social development, legal rights and quality of lives of people with Specific Learning Disabilities.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is so interesting to follow the current conversation around teaching literacy (and numeracy) in New Zealand. I am sure Jean Seabrook would be delighted in the proposed changes focusing on the evidence-based approach for teaching reading. The lack of focus on teaching essential skills was the reason she pushed for changes way back in the 1980's – before it was called 'structured literacy'!

We are very grateful to our generous funders who have made untagged donations recently. This has allowed us to fix the leaking butynol section of our roof, address longstanding maintenance issues and to employ Camila Olivero, a skilled student who is working on a Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Data Science, to work on the long overdue replacement of our database.

The Centre's next big challenge is revitalising the *Certificate in Specialist Teaching of Ākonga/Individuals with SLD. (Cert.Tchg SLD)*. Over the years, we found that NZQA's reporting requirements are not suitable for a small, charitable organisation with adult trainees. Now that we are independent of NZQA, we can focus time and energy on outsourcing a course that best supplies our needs for a pool of qualified specialist teacher-tutors.

In February 2024, we were delighted to welcome Helen Bell to the Centre Manager role. She comes with much expertise in legal administration and accounting fields. Her skills have already benefited the Centre. We appointed Ozzie Forsyth in the Teaching Team Liaison role. Ozzie is an experienced teacher-tutor who have a long association with the Centre.

The Assessment Team is strong with seven part-time assessors working with Rebecca Dowling the Team leader.

Much thanks to you for your support to enable us to achieve our mission.



Hester M. Warren



My child has been struggling at school for years and I knew something wasn't right. To get a diagnosis was a huge relief and I'm so grateful that this service exists.

As well as identifying the SLD, advice about how to offer support at home and at school was super helpful. I now have a better understanding of my child's strengths and weaknesses and I'm better placed to advocate for her and ensure she gets the right support.

The Seabrook McKenzie Centre is a charitable trust (Charities Commission Registration CC25330).

Phone (03) 381 5383 | Email info@seabrookmckenzie.net | Visit www.seabrookmckenzie.net

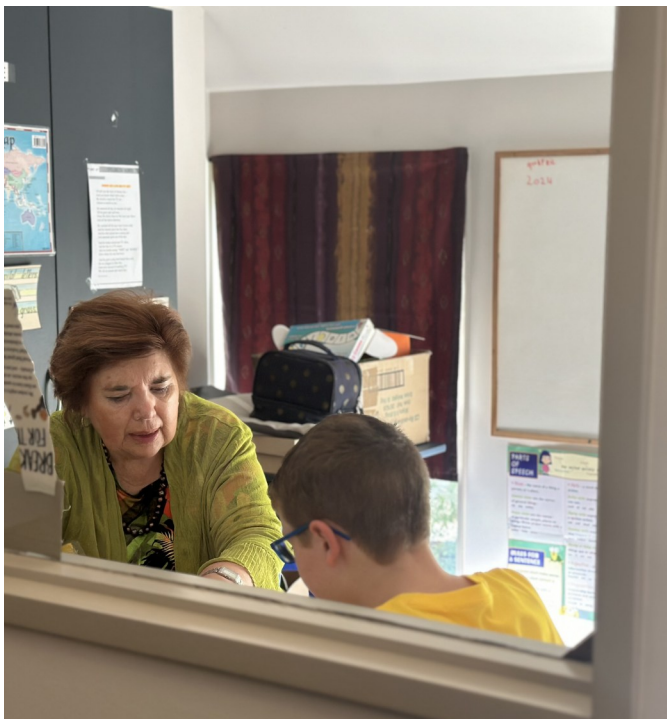
Jean Seabrook Memorial School —Then & Now

What a cool photo!

Recently a number of previous students and their families gathered to catch up and reminisce with former principal Mary Gillies, who still works at the Centre.

Mary said it was great to hear how former pupils were doing. The earliest students are now in their mid to late 20s and doing well in their lives and careers. Several parents commented that they didn't know where their children would be now if they hadn't had the opportunity to attend the Jean Seabrook Memorial School.

While the school is currently in long term recess, we are proud of its history and glad to continue to provide specialist teaching for students with SLD through other avenues.



Ozzie Forsyth working with a pupil

Tutor Tidbits

One of our Teacher-Tutors recently passed on these encouraging messages from parents.

'Just wanted to share —'s mid year report results with you. He is exactly where he needs to be from the results for math, reading, and writing. So proud of him! I am sure your work with him has made a huge difference.'

'Thank you for sharing your observations and kind words - and for sticking with him on the more difficult days!

We are fortunate to have you championing —. He really does seem to have turned a corner, I am pleased you are seeing it also. Thanks for keeping lessons practical and interesting.'

Over the past few months we have received many requests for financial assistance, and thanks to generous grants and donations we have been able to subsidise tuition fees appropriately depending on the individual family's budget. Funding can be the difference between a child receiving support or not—and as parents and guardians attest, specialist teaching can truly make a difference to a child's education as well as their future life.

NEW TRUST BOARD MEMBER

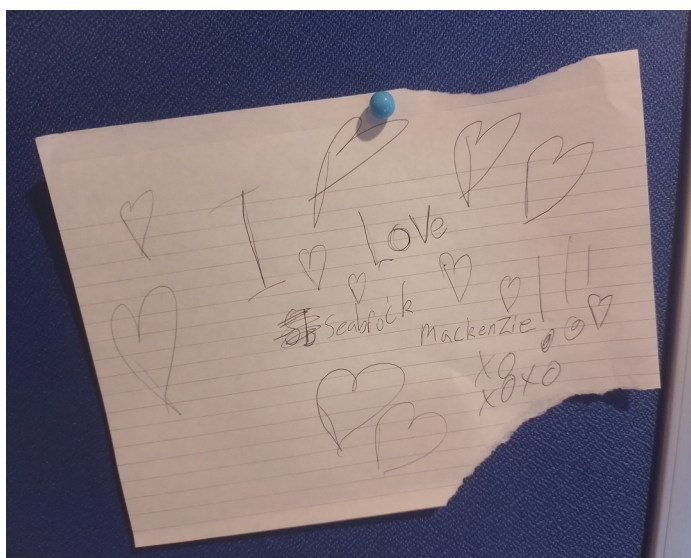
The Centre is very pleased to welcome Anna Chesney as a Trustee. She is a Senior Clinical Psychologist currently working at Heritage Psychology, with expertise in assessing for adult ADHD and gender dysphoria as well as treating adolescents and young adults particularly with depression, anxiety, trauma, eating disorders, and mood dysregulation.

Anna's psychological expertise will be a great addition to our Board. We are extremely grateful to all our Trust Board members who volunteer their time to ensure the Centre continues to fulfil our mission.



2024 Workshop

A snapshot from our October workshop! Dr Jane Carroll through Tātai Aho Rau Core Education presented to our tutor-teachers on recent research and the science of teaching, which they will then be able to apply to their individual teaching programmes. A big thank you to Jane and all who attended. We are so pleased to be able to equip our teacher-tutors so they can continue providing the best possible teaching for Students with Learning Disabilities.



From our Facebook page

Sometimes you just have to say 'How cute!'
Would you like to see more photos and stories? Find us on facebook

[www.facebook.com/
seabrookmckenziecentre](https://www.facebook.com/seabrookmckenziecentre)

We also love to share your stories and quotes so please send them through to info@seabrookmckenzie.net



IT SHOULDN'T MATTER HOW SLOWLY A CHILD LEARNS, AS LONG AS WE ARE ENCOURAGING THEM NOT TO STOP

- ROBERT JOHN MEEHAN

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED US OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR

The stories of success we share are only possible through the wonderful support we receive. Individual donations are often accompanied by a messages about how they or their family have benefited from our services in the past, and I am so encouraged these donors now want to support other families, helping create a brighter future for those with Specific Learning Disabilities.

Elizabeth Dubin—Fundraising Coordinator

Thanks very much Elizabeth, I have just paid the invoice. Please pass on our thanks for the financial assistance - a huge help to us (hopefully we will be in a position in the future to give back to SLD and help another family out).

Nga mihi

ANZ Foundation	Christchurch City Council	Kiwi Gaming Foundation	The R D Butland Charitable Trust
A. C. E. Shacklock Charitable Trust	The David Ellison Charitable Trust <i>(administered by Public Trust)</i>	Lamar Charitable Trust	Rano Community Trust
Advance Ashburton Community Foundation	E B Millton Charitable Trust	Lion Foundation	The Sage Trust
Aotearoa Gaming Trust	The Elizabeth Ball Charitable Trust	Mainland Foundation	The Sir John Hall Charitable Trust
Asmuss Foundation	Estate of Daniel Albert Hally <i>(administered by Public Trust)</i>	Margaret Hutchings Charitable Trust	South Canterbury Trusts <i>(managed by Perpetual Guardian)</i>
Blogg Charitable Trust	Glenice & John Gallagher Foundation	Mauger Charitable Foundation	The Toassist Charitable Trust
The Burrows Bros Charitable Trust	John Ilott Charitable Trust	Maurice Carter Charitable Trust	W. R. Kettle Charitable Trust
The Canaan Foundation	Jones Foundation	NZCT	Wendy Sisson Charitable Trust
The Charles Duncan Charitable Trust	Keith Laugesen Charitable Trust	P & R Whitehead Charitable Trust	Whakatapu Aotearoa Foundation <i>(Cope Shearing Ltd)</i>
Chenery Memorial Trust	The Kirby Trust	The Philip Brown Fund	Withiel Fund
Christchurch Casinos Charitable Community Trust		The Philip Verry Charitable Foundation	
		Pub Charity Ltd	

How your money will help

\$2200 Funds a three week intensive

\$700 Covers a term of tuition

\$250 Helps cover monthly overheads

\$100 Subsidises an assessment

Even \$5 makes a difference

Seabrook McKenzie Trust

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Please contact us once your donation is on the way so we can thank you and send through a receipt.