



# Seabrook McKenzie

Newsletter Autumn 2022

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

Read on for some fantastic news from current and former clients, a message from our Director, and how you can partner with us support to those with Specific Learning Disabilities.

## A FIRE IN HIS BELLY

Donna Whakatihi, Cory's mum, recently visited the Centre. Cory had been assessed 18 years ago but she still vividly remembered the assessor and how helpful she had been – Donna wanted to get in touch to let her know that Cory is doing fantastically well.

Hungry for achievement, Cory strongly wanted to go to boarding school. His inner fire drove him to throw himself enthusiastically into his pursuits. 5am starts did not put him off from rowing as well as rugby. Learning Māori from a young age, he kept it up and is fluent.

***“As parents we had a better understanding of his strengths and weaknesses and were able to guide him... Cory is a very positive person and has done his whānau proud.”***

Qualifying for a reader in exams, Cory finished Year 13 and moved to France to continue his rugby career. Cory is now 25 and still living in France. He has added the French language to his store and currently plays for Rennes.

Thank you so much to the Whakatihi whānau for sharing this story.



## CORY WHAKATIHI

*“Cory was fortunate to have his learning abilities assessed at an early age, in conjunction with Seabrook McKenzie. This meant as parents we had a better understanding of his strengths and weaknesses and were able to guide him through his school years, keeping his teachers informed and up to date with his dyslexic needs. Cory (and his brother) started their education at Kōhanga Reo, and went on to start school in total immersion. This enabled them to learn the Māori language at an early age.*

*We are so proud that despite his difficulties he has achieved many things. He has always been an avid rugby player and was lucky enough to be given the opportunity of a rugby contract in France at the age of 19. To date he has had 6 years playing for a number of clubs in France and at the same time immersing himself in the language and culture. Cory is a very positive person and has done his whānau proud.”*

*- Donna and Paul Whakatihi*

# A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR HESTER WARREN



Hello everyone.

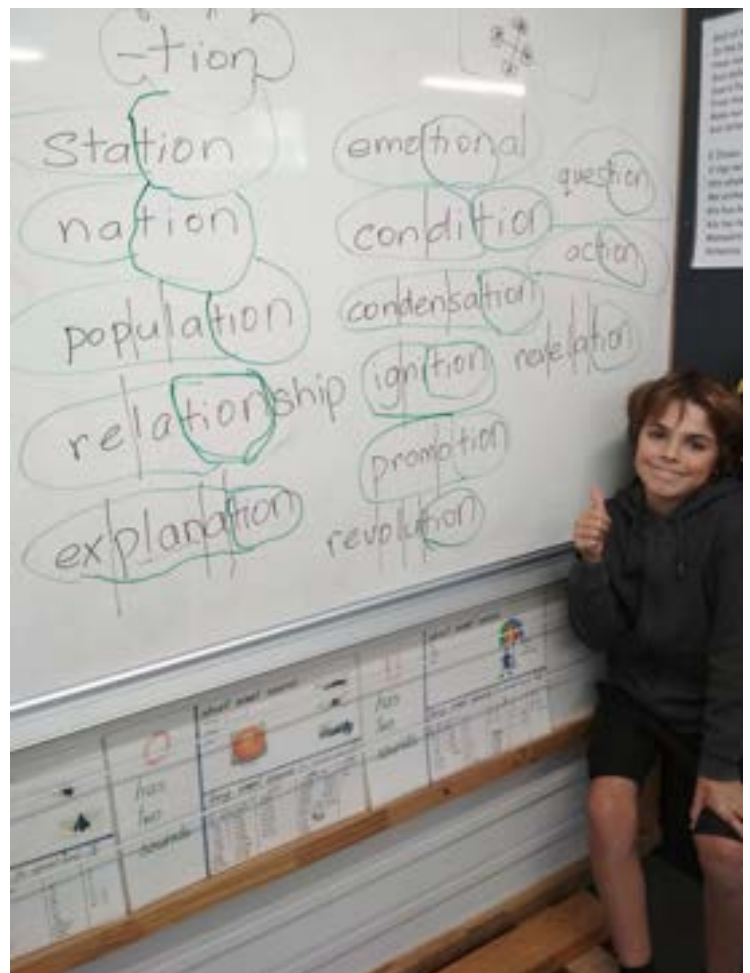
We are always encouraged when we receive grants to support our Trust's goals: especially grants that subsidise the assessments we do – over 700 in the last year! The Trust Board has continued to welcome all clients needing assessments whether vaccinated or not. We have adapted our procedures to ensure clients, assessors, other employees and other visitors are kept safe.

At the end of 2021, our private school, Jean Seabrook Memorial School went into recess as it had not been financially viable for a prolonged period. Our application to become a Designated Special Character School had been declined. The existing students have enrolled in mainstream schools or started home-schooling. However, in place of JSMS, we have begun Small Group Sessions. Students come out of their mainstream schools for specialist SLD teaching. So far, parents have been positive and schools supportive. It appears this has been a good move for all involved.

Last year we found it difficult to attract additional registered psychologists, to meet demand, with the salary our Charity could offer. So, we were forced to think creatively! Our new venture, training four young assessors to administer psychological tests and the SLD battery, is proving very worthwhile. The Head of the Assessment team, Rebecca, has done a great job training these young people. A registered psychologist analyses their results and makes the recommendations for the reports.

Our Three week Intensive continues to offer a valuable service to students who are just starting individual tuition, been out of tuition for a long time, or live out of Christchurch. If you check out the photos on the right, you will see from the look of pride on the student's face, what newly found confidence can do!

Hester Warren  
Director



**Ko te ahurei o  
te tamaiti  
ārahia o tātou  
mahi**

*Let the  
uniqueness of  
the child guide  
us in our work*

## SMALL GROUP TEACHING

A new venture! These groups are for primary school aged students with learning disabilities as formally diagnosed by our psychologists or the equivalent. The student is enrolled in their mainstream school and, with the approval of their principal, is enrolled with us for specialist teaching.

Sessions are held at 9 to 11:30am, four mornings a week during school terms, in our purpose-built facility. Each group has a maximum roll of three pupils and is carefully planned to ensure the best fit. A registered teacher with experience and qualifications in SLD teaches literacy and numeracy in a structured, systematic, sequential manner that meets each student's individual learning needs.

Limited places are available for Term 2, 2022. Please email [info@seabrookmckenzie.net](mailto:info@seabrookmckenzie.net) if you would like more information regarding small groups.

### Levi's Christmas Card

If you ask one of our teacher-tutors about their 'treasures', they may show you something like this - a meaningful gift or message that reminds them of the difference they make to their students. Thank you to Levi and Emily for allowing Ozzie to share her 'treasure' with us!

to ozzie  
Thank you for  
teaching him.  
you always  
listen to me and  
that makes  
me feel good.  
Love Levi.

Dear Ozzie,  
We want to say a huge  
Thank-you for all that  
you do with Levi. He  
feels heard & is proud  
of his learning. Thank  
you for making such a  
big difference in his life  
he looks forward to seeing  
you each week!  
We look forward to seeing  
you in 2022. ♡ Emily

Seasons greetings!  
Hope you have an  
amazing Christmas



Don't measure your progress  
with someone else's ruler.



## COVID POLICY

The Centre is open at **ORANGE** level. Assessments and other services are being performed. Our Trust Board welcomes anyone who needs our services.

However, to protect everyone, clients are asked to share their vaccine status when they make an appointment. This allows us to take appropriate precautions for unvaccinated clients.

Clients, families, and visitors are asked to be masked inside the building, but to let us know if there are any issues regarding children being masked during an assessment as accommodations can be made.

The full policy and any updates can be found on our website. If you have questions, please ring reception.



We have set aside this space to safely see unvaccinated clients.

# HUGE THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

**A B de Lautour  
Charitable Trust**



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**Blogg Charitable Trust**

**Bunnings Riccarton**

**The Canaan  
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Trust**

**Innovation in  
Education** *(managed by  
Perpetual Guardian)*

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Charitable Trust**

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Fund**

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Charitable Foundation**  
*(managed by Perpetual  
Guardian)*



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Trust**

**Sir John Hall  
Charitable Trust**

**The Toassist Charitable  
Trust**



**The Wilks  
Charitable Trust**

**Withiel Fund**

*Thank you for the money because I used to read books  
upside down and I could only read two words. I feel good  
about my reading now.  
- From Dylan*

Will you help someone with SLD receive the support they need? Donations over \$5 may qualify for tax rebates.

☺ \$25 every little bit helps

☺ \$100 subsidises an assessment

☺ \$500 pays for a term of tuition

☺ \$1600 trains a teacher-tutor

☺ \$2100 funds a three week intensive

☺ \$\_\_\_ to help where most needed

You can make your donation via internet banking: Seabrook McKenzie, ANZ 06 0257 0253986 00. Please contact us to let us know your donation is on the way or to request further information. Thank you!

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

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