

# SEABROOK MCKENZIE CENTRE For Specific Learning Disabilities

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025

## 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

Hello everyone

I have been enjoying discovering the latest research about dyscalculia in preparation for our workshop on April 5<sup>th</sup>, **"Dyscalculia from the Inside Out"**. We are offering it to any teacher who is interested: not just teacher-tutors who are registered with SMC. Already 15 teachers have signed up from primary and secondary schools in Christchurch: so there is certainly a thirst for knowledge in that field – even on a Saturday! Our guest presenter is Barbara Adcock who is a practising Educational Psychologist in Christchurch and was a teacher at both primary and secondary levels for over 30 years. Barbara will talk about her experience of dyscalculia and how children with this might appear to teachers in their classes. Barbara will make the link between formal assessments, such as the WJ and the WISC/WIAT and how these could inform interventions with children with dyscalculia. We will also spend part of the session developing and trialling teacher tools for assessment. A very practical workshop! (News flash: we have had to postpone the workshop due to a bereavement in Barbara's family. )

We are delighted to be able to support three registered teachers to work on the 2025 SPELD course. The cost is a considerable outlay for the trainees so our financial support (made possible through your generous grants) has enabled them to sign up. As you can imagine, there are conditions attached, and they are bonded to us for three years. This will help us grow our pool of specialist teachers which has been declining largely due to retirement, and for which there is always a strong demand. We have not had the expertise to offer specialist training for a number of years so we are very pleased to be able to tap into SPELD's considerable expertise. It was great to be able to visit their national office in Royal Oak when I was on leave in Auckland recently.

We thank all funders who make our work possible. It is always such a thrill when we receive financial support from trusts, service groups, individuals, businesses and random benefactors! It is so wonderful to be able pass on this support to incredibly grateful clients.



*Hester M. Warren*

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

# Staff changes at the Centre

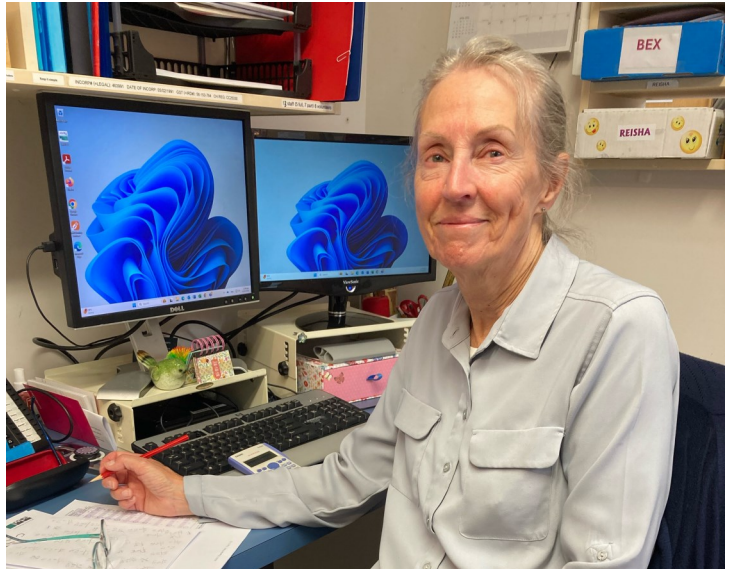
We welcome Myra Salter who has been appointed as the new Office Administration Assistant/ Client Records. Proofreading reports is a significant part of this role. Myra comes from a background as a medical secretary for many years.

We welcome Bex Turnbull who has been appointed as a part-time assessor. Bex is a Clinical Psychology student with experience in mental health and high-performance sports.

We welcome Jess Shulz who has been appointed as the Specialist Teacher. The job covers the Three Week Intensive plus other teaching team tasks. Jess is a registered teacher with qualifications and experience in teaching neuro-diverse students with special learning needs for many years. Jess has taken advantage of the current professional development initiatives in literacy and numeracy.

We have farewelled Madi Messenger who left her assessor position to resume full-time study in clinical psychology. Sharon Te Ngaru left the 3WI to resume teaching in order to renew her NZ Teacher Registration. We were sad to receive the resignation of one of our two registered psychologists: Samantha Robinson. We are in the process of attracting a suitable replacement.

Camila Olivera has been farewelled to return to India to have her baby but luckily for us, she is willing and able to work remotely to complete the mammoth task of switching the Centre to a new database. We will welcome her back around mid-winter.



↑ Myra



↑ Bex



↑ Jess





*Jess and her first Three Week Intensive student!*



## **Marcus' Badges**

Marcus works with a Seabrook McKenzie trained Teacher-Tutor and he and his family are regular faces at the Centre, so they were excited to share that he had fully completed his school's entire badge programme, including eleven science badges (displayed below on a friend). To achieve these goals Marcus participated in wearable arts, completed 20 hours community service, and learnt a new skill, among many other things. We wish Marcus all the best as he goes into high school!





# THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUPPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR

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

## From our Facebook page

We love being able to thank funders on our page! For more go to [www.facebook.com/seabrookmckenziecentre](https://www.facebook.com/seabrookmckenziecentre)

We also really appreciate your stories and photos so please contact [info@seabrookmckenzie.net](mailto:info@seabrookmckenzie.net) if you have something to share.



# Highlights from one family's experience!

Afternoon Team,

Please use this email as response to Client Questionnaire.

1 - Before the appointment: We reached out to the SMC privately after our son was picked up at school for needing further assistance. (GP had said public was 12-18 month wait) They were super helpful with providing information and understanding about what's going to happen going forward and were so helpful with the booking process (from 1st contact - assessment was 3 months). Waiting room was well laid out and plenty of comfortable seating while we were there. Super lovely staff too.

2 - Actual Assessment: We were fully informed before the day as to what would happen also had quick chat with the assessor beforehand and found the whole assessment easy relaxed and efficient. Our boy even said the assessor made it fun and not a challenge or something to worry about and enjoyed "doing school work".

3 - The Formal Report: Very insightful and very informative moving forward with his learning and understanding of how he learns and his understanding of the world. Phenomenal asset for his school moving into his last year of primary and the way his I.E.P Can be adjusted to suit his needs.

4 - Recommendations in the Report: As above it's worth every cent due to the help and understanding it's given and the insight for his I.E.P to be done is just phenomenal and will make the world of different.

5 - Any other comments or suggestions: Thankyou so much for all your help in helping us help our son. We now have understanding and answers going forward to be able to help us and him navigate his learning style.

6 - May we use your comments in our newsletter, social media, or grant application? YES You can 😊

## Could you help another student access the benefits of an assessment?

It costs the Centre at least \$800 to provide a professional assessment of Specific Learning Disability, but to keep our services as accessible as possible, we charge on a sliding scale:

**\$795** Standard fee

**\$685** Subsidised family fee (*for all clients without outside funding support*)

**\$560** Community Services Card holders

**\$440** Beneficiaries

Currently through the generosity of various supporters we also have funding to offer additional financial assistance to qualifying families in need.

Specific grants and donations cover about 40% of subsidies, and the other 60% currently comes from the Centre's general bank account. We are so grateful to everyone who already gives towards this purpose, as well as for general grants and donations that can also be put towards subsidies. Would you consider a donation that can help another family access our service?

**Seabrook McKenzie Trust**  
**ANZ 06 0257 0253986 00**

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

*Even \$5 makes a difference*