



Capabilities

FEBRUARY 2008

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disAbilities Resource Centre
Southland Charitable Trust

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MAY DAY EXPO 2008

Disability info and help

FREE ENTRY

Saturday 3rd May 2008

10am - 3pm

Upstairs (via lift)

Invercargill Workingmen's Club

Cnr Esk & Jed Streets

- 60 exhibitors
- Giveaways & Competitions
- Entertainment
- Lunch Available
- FREE Health checks

MAKE A DAY OF IT

See Page 3 for more details

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER - INFORMATION IS THE KEY

RIVERTON VIEWING PLATFORM ACCESS ISSUE

Riverton is 38 km from Invercargill, sitting on the banks of the Jacobs River Estuary. It is a pretty little place and on the Southern Scenic Route, attractive to visitors and those passing through. People can also take some time to check out the view from the Riverton Viewing Platform, so long as you are not a person with a disability as this report shows...



Congratulations to Frank O'Boyle from Opus for his design of the Riverton Focal Point Viewing Platform which won Highly Commended at the Carter Holt Harvey Timber Design Awards 2007. This is somewhat surprising and very concerning because the Riverton viewing platform has been constructed in such a way that it does not comply with access provisions of the Building Code.

Access requirements and what is acceptable is very clearly defined in the Building Code and New Zealand Standard 4121, so the information of what is required is available for designers to use when preparing plans. It appears that the designer's original plan did in fact have ramp access to the top platform but 'budget constraints' forced the designer to cut back the ramp access to a lower level. The designer's report and original plan can be seen here: <http://www.drcsouth.co.nz/Riverton.pdf>

A question that requires answering is **why** the Southland District Council issued a building consent when quite clearly the finished viewing platform does not comply with access provisions of the Building Code. The Riverton viewing platform has to rate as one of the worst examples of providing access to a public facility.

The Southland District Council needs to act immediately and rectify all the faults with the Riverton viewing platform before issuing a Code of Compliance Certificate. But they argue that they granted a building consent with the viewing platform not being wheelchair accessible as they decided that wheelchair access to the viewing platform is not required because, according to them, there is no difference in views from where the present ramp finishes and the viewing platform is. (450 mm height difference) This is a ridiculous statement because if there is no difference in the view why put the extra level there at all? It is unacceptable to refuse access to the top viewing platform for a person who is unable to climb stairs as this is a place which all members of the public are entitled to enter.

Stating that anyone who has issues with a building can apply for a Determination is not acceptable as it costs around \$500 to do this and why should people with disabilities pay for Council's mistakes? Come on SDC, admit you got it wrong and fix it!

MAY DAY DISABILITY EXPO 2008

Saturday 3rd May 2008

KEEP IT FREE

EXHIBITORS.....

FULL HOUSE

If you have missed out please contact us so we can put your organisation on the waiting list



All the organisations listed below will be on hand to provide disability advice, information and help

2008 May Day Exhibitors

*ACC * Age Concern * Audiology South * Altogether Autism * Alzheimer's Southland * Arthritis NZ * Asthma Southland * Autism Southland * CCS Disability Action * Community Care Trust * Conductive Education Southland * CS Art * Deaf Association * Diabetes Southland * Disabled Snowsports * DPA * DRC Home Support * DRC Info and Equip * DRC Leisure & Recreation * Employment Connections * Epilepsy Southland * Family Whanau Idea Services * Family Works/ Strengthening Families * Grow NZ Inc * Happy Feet * Head Injury Society * Health & Disability Advocate * Healthcare NZ * Heart Foundation * Invercargill Budget Advisory Service * Jubilee Budget Advisory Service * Mental Health Day Activity Centres * Ministry of Education Special Education * Neighbourhood Support * Nga Kete Matauranga Pounamu Trust * Order of St John * Parent to Parent * RNZ Foundation of the Blind * Roxburgh Children's Health Camp * RSA Welfare * Safety Step Southern * SIT Nurses * Social Work SDHB * Southern Mobility * Southland Community Law Centre * Southland Kidney Society Inc * Southland Multiple Sclerosis Society * Southland Psoriasis Assn * Special Olympics Southland * Southland Stroke * Speld Southland * Sport Southland * Timeout Carers Southland Trust * Well Child Vision/Hearing technicians * WINZ * Workbridge **

Contact Diane or Shirley

Email: diane@drcsouth.co.nz or shirley@drcsouth.co.nz



disAbilities Resource Centre is settling in to its new premises at the Gorge Road Retail Centre. The Centre is open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

The Centre has information on everything to do with disability and also has a great range of adaptive equipment for sale and hire.

Word is getting out about the centre and in particular the range of hire equipment available. One customer said, 'finally we get these products in Queenstown, I thought I would have to go to Dunedin or Invercargill.' Another customer commented on 'how very reasonable the costs were,' (The prices are the same as DRC Southland). DRC Queenstown is not out to make a huge profit, we are a not-for-profit charitable trust and we want to provide the best service at the best price.

DRC Queenstown has been approved to be an assessing agency for the Total Mobility scheme. This scheme offers subsidised taxi fares for people with disabilities (six months or more) who are unable to use public transport. (Eligibility criteria apply and also a small annual administration cost).

The centre is also home to other community organisations. Sharing the centre with DRC is Age Concern, PSS Buddy Co-ordinator and Support Link, REAP and Strengthening Families.

A small meeting room which would be ideal for 10—15 people is available for casual hire. Regular bookings have already been made for the next few months. If you would like to hire the meeting room, please phone DRC Queenstown.

DRC Queenstown is also an agent for Southern Mobility and have on display two mobility scooters which are available for sale or hire, and a selection of internal and external rails. Dave comes to Queenstown on a regular basis and can install rails or repair any mobility equipment supplied by ACC or Enable.. Phone Dave direct at Southern Mobility on 0800 66 3000 or you can ring the DRC centre and make an appointment.

Sue or John, our very friendly Disability Information Consultants are available to answer any disability related inquires or show you the wide range of adaptive aids available at the Centre.

**29 Gorge Road Retail Centre
159 Gorge Road
Queenstown
Phone 03 409 0900
Call free 0800 DRCQTN
(0800 372 786)
Fax 03 409 0628**

**Email info@drcqueenstown.co.nz
Website www.drcqueenstown.co.nz**

NATIONAL DISABILITY INFORMATION CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN QUEENSTOWN

The New Zealand Federation of Disability Information Centres is holding its Training Conference in Queenstown this year.

"Going for Gold" promises to be the event of the year for anyone involved in the provision of disability information.

This is the second year the Federation has opened the event to all disability information providers. The feedback and support received for the last Conference was fantastic. "Going for Gold" is designed to ensure that every session gives you 'take home points' that you can apply immediately, or in the future, to fulfil both your professional and your organisational development needs. If you are involved in the provision of disability information, if you are a Board Member, a CEO or Manager, an Information Service Staff member or Volunteer, this will be the best value training opportunity of the year for you.

The Federation recognises the importance of networking and establishing relationships with other delegates. That is why the aim is to make the event interactive, with many opportunities to mix and mingle. As anyone who has been to a NZFDIC Training Conference will tell you, the Programme is the reason you come, the experience is the reason you return. So the Federation aims to give you a programme and an experience that will keep you motivated, energized and challenged for at least a year!

To Register for this two day event, 12-13th May 2008, please email carol@drcsouth.co.nz and request a Conference Brochure or download one from www.nzfdic.blogspot.com.

Hope to see you there!



Disabled people make good employees

One in five people experience disability in New Zealand (New Zealand Disability Strategy, 2001). It makes good sense to employ people who represent a significant proportion of the community and can enable your organisation to meet the needs of this target group and attract more customers. Research has shown that disabled people are very loyal employees, have lower turnover and often take less sick leave.

Often disabled people miss out on jobs due to selection bias or the interview process which can focus on people's impairment rather than the skills that they possess. This can be even more of an issue when recruitment companies are used. Contrary to popular belief most disabled people need very few adaptations to work at most jobs. These adaptations might be adjusting the work station so that someone using a wheelchair can get their wheelchair under the desk or providing a car park close to the building. People with visual impairments have all sorts of technology and talking software that enables them to fully utilise the computer. There is funding available from organisations such as Workbridge, ACC and RNZ Foundation of the Blind. The EEO Trust also has information and research about employing disabled people. Their website is www.EEOTrust.org.nz

One of the biggest barriers to disabled people participating in the workforce is people's attitudes. The attitudes of colleagues have also been shown to be a barrier for some disabled people to fully

participate in their work place. Disability awareness education is an effective way of promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people.

CCS Disability Action provides awareness training in the Otago region. The training reinforces the vision and goals of the New Zealand Disability Strategy (2001) and uses the social model of disability. In this model the physical and social environment is seen as the potentially disabling factors for people rather than the individual's impairment. The workshops cover etiquette and behaviour, what is disability, effective communication and access issues. The team uses a workshop style that is interactive and encourages discussion from participants. The team can design and deliver a workshop that is targeted at your staff's learning needs.

If your organisation is considering hiring disabled staff awareness training is a useful way of highlighting issues and promoting a workplace that is accepting of all people. In the post-training feedback from one organisation the manager said, 'you have brought to our attention sometimes and unfamiliar and uncomfortable situation (for all concerned no doubt), and made suggestions or ideas to improve interactions at all levels.'

For further information about disability awareness training contact Anna Jameson, Community Development Co-ordinator, CCS Disability Action, anna.jameson@ccsdisability.org.nz

Permission to reprint from Anna Jameson

DRC EQUIPMENT

new product

favourites



\$4.00 a tube (10 towels)
50c each for individual
 Perfect for taking tramping, or to have a cloth in the car

March and April special



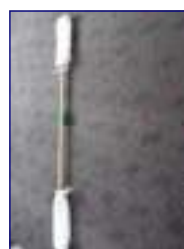
Magnifying sunglasses
\$10
 Great for reading a book outside, tying fishing flies and more



Cane seat
\$40
 This seat folds together and can also be used as like a walking stick.



Tubemate
\$2
 Great for getting every last bit out of a tube such as toothpaste, ointment, paint



Toe washer
\$12.50
 When you cannot reach your feet, this product is to wash and try between your toes.

Strong Message On Misuse Of Mobility Parking

Friday, 25 January 2008, 5:10 pm
Press Release: CCS Disability Action

Thursday 24 January 2008

Government Sends Out Strong Message On Misuse Of Mobility Parking

The government has sent out a strong signal that misuse of public mobility parking spaces will no longer be tolerated.

Previously, mobility parking infringements and penalties were dealt with under local authority bylaws but amendments to Land Transport Rules, that came into effect on 17 January, means people using mobility parking spaces without displaying a valid CCS Disability Action mobility parking permit will face consistent national penalties.

CCS Disability Action, along with other interested parties, has been working with the Ministry of Transport to establish new mobility parking rules and increases in fine levels.

Peter Wilson, Mobility Parking Permit Scheme Manager, welcomes the changes with open arms.

“We must applaud the Minister and the Ministry of Transport for their efforts in making this change within a 15 month timeframe. Mobility parking permit holders rely on these parking spaces to access and contribute to their community.”

Research undertaken by CCS Disability Action found that 50% of vehicles using a public mobility parking space were doing so illegally.

“Now that we have this legislation in place I’d like to see stronger penalties for those people that continue to abuse mobility parking spaces.”

Parking penalties in New Zealand (\$40) are not much of a deterrent when compared to fines in England & Scotland (\$2926), New South Wales (\$454 to \$545) and Chicago (\$784).

While the legislative change has a huge impact on access to public mobility parking there are still concerns with privately owned car parks and their mobility parking.

“It’d be great to see private parking owners adopting some of the principles in the new legislation and monitoring the use of their mobility parking spaces. Blocking disabled people from getting on with their business, shopping and leisure activities is still a big problem in New Zealand.”

ENDS

Taken from www.scoop.co.nz



DRC OUT AND ABOUT

Come and see us at the events listed below. Information Consultants will be on hand to answer anything to do with disability. Checkout the wide range of adaptive equipment which is available.

28 February 2008

Equipment and information

Senior Citizens, Ardwick Street, Gore.

1pm - 3pm

24 April 2008

Equipment and information

Senior Citizens, Ardwick Street, Gore.

1pm - 3pm

3rd MAY 2008

May Day Disability Expo

Invercargill Workingmen's Club

26 June 2008

Equipment and information

Senior Citizens, Ardwick Street, Gore.

1pm - 3pm

28 August 2008

Equipment and information

Senior Citizens, Ardwick Street, Gore.

1pm - 3pm

30 October 2008

Equipment and information

Senior Citizens, Ardwick Street, Gore.

1pm - 3pm

4 December 2008

Equipment and information

Senior Citizens, Ardwick Street, Gore.

1pm - 3pm

DRC Hospital Courtesy Van



Scratchie Board Winners Congratulations

No. 45 Wilma

No. 46 Robin

All proceeds go towards the running costs of hospital courtesy van.

The DRC Van is a free service available for hospital appointment at Southland Hospital.

VOLUNTEER DRC VAN DRIVER

Do you:

Enjoy driving?

Like helping people?

Have four spare hours?

Interested?

Phone Debbie 214 5000

FOR SALE MOBILITY SCOOTER

3 WHEELER

5YRS OLD

(very seldom used)

Offers over \$500 please

Phone Hazel 2131296

P O Box 1091
137 Spey Street
INVERCARGILL 9840
Phone: 03 214 5000 or 0800 100 531
Fax: 03 218 2694
www.drksouth.co.nz

**Capabilities is now available online on
our Blog:**
www.drksouth.blogspot.com

The DRC is a not for profit Organisation providing services to people with disabilities, their families, caregivers and the community of Southland.

We provide information on all aspects of disability including: equipment, finance, transport, disorders, services, access and building design. We also provide hire and sale of equipment. We have a home-visiting field work information service for people unable to visit us at the Centre.

The Home Support Service provides personal care and domestic assistance to people in their own homes. Our mission is that ... "all people with disabilities will have the chance to reach their potential"

- Return address
P O Box 1091, Invercargill 9840

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