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Stroke Central Newsletter: Issue 87, Winter 2021

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CONTENTS & CONTACTS



The President's Pen

As we approach the halfway point of the year and the shortest day, I reflect on how speedy time passes. I believe the Covid 19 virus has made us all aware of how precious life is and made us question our role in supporting each other in times of crisis. As we move toward receiving the vaccine and fewer cases in New Zealand, I do hope we remain mindful of the lessons this terrible virus has taught us all and we all strive to get vaccinated.

You may be aware that our name has changed in that we have dropped the word "Region" in favour of "New Zealand". This step was mainly geographical necessary as the boundaries often worked against us when it came to making application for funding. Access to information and services has not changed and there is no intention of this happening in the future. Please feel free to make contact with Stroke Central NZ in the usual way and be assured that you're best interests are at the heart of our organisation.

fourteen months. Stroke Central Field Officers have delivered the very best service and ensured our members and clients have been well supported. Our two year "#Don't be the One" campaign which got underway in October 2019 although seriously impeded bv lockdown and restrictions last in 2020 continued with events where and when it was possible. This campaign continues to run through this year with May being the month highlighting the increased risk of stroke due to smoking and the dangers to people who could be affected by secondary smoke.

Stroke Awareness Month – was held in March and although the emphasis ensuring the maximum is on information on Stroke and Stroke prevention is available to people in the Central Region, it is still a fundraising opportunity particularly for the stroke clubs. The success in Napier led by the hard work of Colleen Hannan is remarkable and has been for a number of years. Not only were significant funds raised again this year but the amount of Stroke Prevention information resources distributed should have a marked effect on the population too.

Keep well and keep warm as Winter approaches.

Grace Moulton, President Stroke Central NZ Inc.

Despite the restrictions over the last

Smoking and stroke risk

Stroke happens either when the blood supply to part of your brain is cut off because of a blood clot, or when a brain artery ruptures and leads to a haemorrhage. Stroke is a leading cause of death and disability worldwide, but most strokes can be prevented by addressing a small number of key risk factors.

Smoking tobacco increases your risk of having a stroke. Someone who smokes 20 cigarettes a day is six times more likely to have a stroke compared to a non-smoker. If you are a smoker, quitting will reduce your risk of stroke and a range of other diseases. If you live with a non-smoker, quitting will reduce their stroke risk too.

Why does smoking increase stroke risk?

Tobacco smoke contains thousands of harmful chemicals which are transferred from your lungs into your bloodstream. These chemicals change and damage cells and affect how your body works. These changes affect your circulatory system and increase your risk of stroke.

Smoking can affect your body's cholesterol levels, it reduces the levels of 'good' HDL cholesterol and increases the levels of 'bad' LDL cholesterol. Higher levels of LDL cholesterol increase your risk of stroke.

Smoke from cigarettes contains carbon monoxide and nicotine. Carbon mon-

oxide reduces the amount of oxygen in your blood while nicotine makes your heart beat faster, raising your blood pressure. Half of all strokes are linked to elevated blood pressure. The chemicals in tobacco smoke also make your blood more prone to clotting.

Together these effects of smoking increase your risk of developing atherosclerosis (also known as hardening of the arteries). People with atherosclerosis have narrower, less flexible arteries which reduce the blood flow, contribute to higher blood pressure and increase the likelihood of blood clots. Blood clots that travel to the brain stop blood and cause brain cells to die.

Passive smoking and stroke

Breathing in someone else's tobacco smoke increases your risk of stroke, non-smokers who live with smokers are almost twice as likely to have a stroke than those whose partners didn't smoke. Smoke free homes and workplaces reduce the risk of stroke.

Is it worth quitting?

Even if you are a long-term smoker quitting will reduce your risk of stroke almost immediately. <u>Within 8 hours of</u> <u>quitting your blood oxygen levels will</u> <u>improve and carbon monoxide and</u> <u>nicotine levels in your body will go</u> <u>down by more than half. After 2-12</u> <u>weeks your circulatory system will</u> <u>start to improve, after two years your</u> <u>risk will reduce significantly and after</u> <u>five years your risk is the same as non-</u> smokers.

Smoking

Help to quit smoking

stance and can be hard to quit. vice Smoking also becomes a habit that Stroke Central New Zealand is an people can find hard to stop. You approved ACP provider. might have to try many times to quit before you manage to kick the habit An Advanced Care Plan is important makes it four times more likely that gardless of age. vou will kick the habit. Because smoking is so harmful to public It helps your family and others to health, many governments and know your wishes if you need care in agencies have put in place programs future, following a medical event. to support people who want to quit, some of these provide access to per- The Field Officer can get you started, sonal support, online tools and nico- so that you can discuss this with your tine replacement therapy. If you family and GP. want to stop, talk to a doctor or pharmacist about local programs or The Field Officer can then visit you to look online for services that might be finalise the ACP document and send available to help you quit.

E-cigarettes and 'vaping'

Devices which provide nicotine without the toxins found in tobacco smoke have increased in popularity in recent years. These are less harmful than smoking tobacco but are not without risk. If you have tried other ways of quitting without success ecigarettes or vaping devices could help you to reduce your risk of stroke.

1 in 4 people are at risk of stroke in their lifetime, but by taking simple steps almost all strokes can be prevented.

Stroke Central New Zealand Nicotine is a highly addictive sub- Advanced Care Planning Ser-

but getting specialist help to quit and everyone should have one re-

it through so that it is on record with the Ministry of Health.

If you would like a Field Officer to visit you to give you more information and to help to complete it please contact Bronwyn at Bronwyn@strokecentral.org.nz



Volunteers Needed!

First of all I want to thank all of the ³. volunteers that collect and help out for Stroke Awareness Month.

Stroke Central really can't do this ⁴. without you. It is important that we get the stroke awareness message out to the public, and raise funds for the Field Officer Services and our Stroke Groups.

We need volunteers in each community. The stroke groups do a great job, but we need more volunteers to support the services in the community.

We are now looking for fresh volunteers to take on new tasks in the stroke community.

- We would like to make events 1. like Stroke Awareness Month & World Stroke better Day coordinated. It would be great to have teams of volunteers to new in the man spots community. As well as some Champions to coordinate things better than we have previously.
- Volunteers to run stroke coffee groups for Young Stroke Survivors, Maori and Pacific groups are needed so that we are providing a more accessible

service for the whole community.

Volunteer Drivers are in demand also. We need some willing volunteers that we can add to a list in each community. Additionally, you may have some other skills that we don't know about. If you do and you have the time to help out let us know.

So let us know if you are interested in helping. If I can find some willing volunteers to help me pilot this, then hopefully we can gain some funding or financial support to get it running on a bigger scale.

Please contact me if you wish to help out or have any ideas.

Lee Pownall, CEO leepownall@strokecentral.org.nz 04 298 8585



Christina Tunnicliffe and Peter MacLeod manning the stall at an event in Wellington.

STROKE CENTRAL ONLINE CAFÉ

From the comfort of your own home (or office); Connect with our Stroke Community; learn about all things related to stroke.

From expert knowledge and advice to inspirational stroke stories.



Upcoming meetings:

Monday 14th June – 1pm: "Resilience and well-being of family carers of stroke survivors" – Ayesha Qureshi is a PhD student at the University of Otago. Living the trials and tribulations of being a family carer for her mother embarked her on a research journey to explore how carers of stroke survivors can be best supported in their role. The goal of her research is to develop the resilience programme for family carers of stroke survivors. We'll hear about her journey, her research and the carers resilience program. Note: Although this session is for everyone, it would be great to see many carers take part as well.

Wednesday 23rd June– 11am: Professor Cathy Stinear from the Neurological Foundation will join us to talk about her latest research into stroke, stroke treatments and stroke rehabilitation.

Monday 12th July – 11am: "Are you sleeping well?" – Dan Ford, behavioural sleep psychologist at The Better Sleep Clinic will be joining us. Dan will talk to us about his work at The Better Sleep Clinic, tell us the signs of insomnia and explain why sleep is important as well as giving us some tips and tricks on how to sleep better.

Wednesday 28th July – 11am: We'll be joined by Gavin Tamblyn, Primary Care Support Pharmacist at THINK Hauora. Gavin will give us a presentation on the different stroke medications/stroke prevention medications (for AF, Cholesterol, blood pressure etc.), what they are good for and what side effects they have. If you have any questions regarding your own medications, you are welcome to ask questions after his presentation.

To attend these free meetings or receive info on upcoming meetings simply email <u>anne@strokecentral.org.nz</u> to register.

Alcohol and Stroke

Drinking too much alcohol can increase your risk of stroke, globally excessive alcohol consumption is linked to over 1 million strokes each year.

Why does drinking increase stroke risk?

Drinking too much alcohol either regularly, or 'one-off' over consumption can increase your risk of stroke. This is because alcohol is linked to a number of other conditions which are associated with strokes:

Hypertension – drinking too much alcohol increases your blood pressure. High blood pressure is associated with over half of all strokes. Regularly drinking can lead to damage to your circulatory system which increases your risk of stroke.

Atrial Fibriliation – excessive alcohol consumption can trigger a heart condition called atrial fibrillation (AF). People with AF are five times more likely to experience a stroke. AF can cause blood to clot in the heart, if these clots break up or dislodge they can travel to the brain and cause a stroke. People who have AF related strokes are more likely to die or be seriously disabled following stroke.

Alcohol can also interact with medications that your doctor has prescribed to treat AF. If you are taking a

blood thinning medication (anticoagulant) called warfarin drinking alcohol can prevent your blood from clotting and increases your risk of bleeding in the brain (haemorrhagic stroke).

Diabetes – Alcohol can change how your body responds to insulin – the hormone that helps your body turn sugar in your blood into energy. This can lead to type 2 diabetes

Being overweight – being overweight increases your risk of having a stroke. Alcohol is very high in calories, so regularly drinking lots of alcohol can lead to weight gain or make it harder to lose weight.

Liver damage – too much alcohol can cause damage to the liver and prevent it producing substances that help your blood to clot. This can increase your chance of bleeding in the brain – known as a haemorrhagic stroke.

What is a 'safe' level of alcohol consumption when it comes to stroke?

The upper daily limit is 2 units of alcohol for men and 1 unit of alcohol for women.

An alcohol unit helps to measure and keep track of the alcohol you are consuming across a range of drinks. One unit is the equivalent 10ml of pure alcohol.

The Big Bounce!

Because different drinks different levels of alcohol by volume much healthier way to (ABV) a single unit of alcohol is not stress. the same thing as a single drink.

Risk reduction

Sometimes we are in situations difficult if you are finding it hard to where we know we are likely to drink control your drinking, speak to your more than the recommended limit. doctor who can signpost you to tools, While the health risks of doing this information and support. regularly are clear, for one off occasions, you can reduce the shortterm risks to your health by:

Setting and sticking to a limit on the total amount of alcohol you drink on any occasion

Drinking more slowly

Drinking with food

Alternating alcoholic drinks with water

Tips for reducing your alcohol we lose out on many donations. We consumption

Track your alcohol intake and look at how and when you could reduce your intake

Have 2-3 consecutive alcohol-free days every week

Replace alcoholic drinks with low or no-alcohol alternatives

Go small – instead of a large glass of wine, take a small glass. Instead of a pint take a half or a small bottle.

If you use alcohol to relax find other

have healthier methods - exercise is a manage

When to get help

Cutting down on alcohol can be

The Big Bounce! Cheques to be phased out by 1st July 2021

As of 1st July, Stroke Central will not be able to bank cheques, due to changes at BNZ and other banks. Other banks will have already phased cheques out by the middle of June.

This could mean as an organisation don't want this to be the case, so please if you usually send memberships or donations via cheque, ensure that you are able to use online banking. Please see the back page for our online banking information.

We also are asking you to make other people in the community aware that they will need to set up online banking as soon as possible so that they don't get caught bouncing in July.

A Stroke Journey with Joy Cowley and Terry Coles

Beloved children's writer Joy Cowley knows a lot about strokes. Her husband Terry Coles has had multiple TIA's (mini strokes) and strokes over the past years and although luckily none were fatal, they have left a great toll on his wellbeing. Joy is Terry's main carer and with her kind and caring nature she enjoys looking after Terry and being there for him in this time of need.

For Terry it was the loss of independence that was the hardest thing to overcome. Being dependent on other people to go anywhere, needing help to get dressed and undressed. It was difficult to accept that these everyday things he could no longer do himself. But for both Terry and Joy it is their deep love for each other and their strong belief not to be afraid of change that keeps them going.

Treasuring time together is important to both and they enjoy remembering the times and adventures they had together. From taking rollercoaster rides to fishing trips in the Marlborough Sounds and going white water rafting.

These days they are spending their time together in their little cottage in Featherston treasuring the small, everyday things like doing crosswords, listening to

music and simply being together. For them, life has become smaller, yet it has also become richer and more valuable.

You can watch the whole interview with Joy and Terry under this link <u>www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>y=DiVoOtchco0</u> or visit our website.



Lee Pownall and Graham Taylor visit Wairoa Stroke Group.



Nicola being thanked for an excellent presentation in the Manawatu



Kapiti Boccia Group

The Curse of Stroke for Our Family



As Ann Jones got older the thought that she might succumb to a stroke or heart attack was always on her mind. Her mother, brother and cousin all had strokes in their early fifties which had severe effects on them in different ways. Her brother lost his career and marriage due to the disabilities the stroke caused, and her cousin lost her speech as well as movement in the right side of her body.

Ann Jones is now 63 years old and is making sure that she lives a healthy and active life. "I count my blessings every day and try to do everything to prevent the same thing happening to me" she explains, "I was the big kid in school and wasn't very healthy when I was young. My father had a heart attack and passed away when I was only 11". It was then that the doctor told her that she had to lose weight if she didn't want to end up like her dad.

As Ann got older, she has become more aware of living a healthy and active

lifestyle "I've got children and grandchildren, so I've got lots to live for" she explains.

This is the first time she is taking part in the Rotorua Marathon and she is doing it to support her son. "My son is overweight, and he said he wanted to do the 10km at the Rotorua Marathon this year, so I said yes go for it, I'm with you! Now there is five of us in our family doing the 10km together." Ann and her family are supporting each other in their quest to live a more active, and healthy cardiovascular lifestyle to prevent diseases and to break the curse of stroke in their family.

Ann fundraised at the Rotorua Marathon Stroke Central New Zealand's for #DontBeTheOneNZ Stroke Prevention Campaign. #DontBeTheOneNZ raises awareness and educates on the prevention of stroke and other cardiovascular diseases through the promotion of living an active and healthy lifestyle. Every hour, someone has a stroke. Every 5 hours, someone dies from stroke. Every year 10,000 people experience a stroke. There is a trend towards increasing stroke incidence in people younger than 65 years. Yet, stroke is largely preventable!

For more info on stroke and stroke prevention visit

www.strokecentral.org.nz END.

The Green Scene June Gardening

Happy Winter to all of you gardeners out there at Himatangi Beach and surrounding districts, and to all the email recipients. I for one don't actually mind Winter gardening as the weather determines if you are able to get out and enjoy your efforts. If you are like me and have a glasshouse and it is pouring down outside, you can always grow some crops in it. In the past I have grown Cauliflowers in my glasshouse, but this year I have Lettuces, Spring Onions, and 2 Tomato plants growing for my Winter salads. I like nothing more than a homemade Rissole, or any other meat, Roast or Mashed Potatoes, Homemade Gravy and a Homemade Salad courtesy of my glasshouse. I once explained this to a Guy who lives around the corner from me and he said, 'Salads are a Summer thing, not in the middle of the Winter'. I then asked him 'Why?' He had no answer to that. I rest my case

"What You Can Plant"? June is a quiet month planting wise. Of course, it is the traditional month to plant your Garlic. Tradition gets thrown out the window here.From now on I will be featuring a particular vege followed by a list of what other veges can be planted for that month. This months featured vege is Pak Choy or Bok Choy. Why not try something a little bit different to put in, and one that is gaining popularity in NZ. What I am talking about is *Pak Choy*, or Bok Choy. Commonly called Chinese Cabbage. It enjoys a well worked garden and good drainage. It is delicious in a Chinese stir fry or even as a substitute from your everyday *Cabbage*. Just don't be like our parents and boil the guts out of it. Try sautéing in a little butter with Garlic. Delicious.

All the following veges that can be planted in June will most definitely prosper in a well worked and good drainaged gardens, such as raised gardens. They are *Broad Beans (Seeds), Cabbage, Kale, Onions (Seeds), Peas (Seeds), & Radish.* All can be put in now. Look out for next months featured Vege.

"Garlic Update & Photo" As mentioned previously I put in 202 Cloves of last years saved Garlic and I am ecstatic to report that for the first time in more than 6 years I have got a 100% strike rate. I think the last time I got this sort of result was when my boarder Lance was here helping, and he has been gone for 4 or 5 years, if not longer. Now, I did get "Doubles" where there is 2 or 3 seed Garlic in the one Clove, so I gently prised the plant out of the soil and separated them and planted in a gap, hence the 100% strike rate. Even though I used some "Doubles" I am still claiming 100%.

There is not a lot of difference in the mulched beds and Unmulched ones. It is just an experiment. I just love experimenting in my gardens, and that is not just the growing of Garlic, But other plants as well.

"Treat People the Way You Want to Be Treated. Talk to People the Way You Want to Be Talked To. Respect Is Earned, Not Given."

By Simon Broad (stroke survivor)





New Wairarapa Field Officer Kikki Zhang

Barbara Hambleton & John Dando Levin Age on the Go EXPO





Jack & Suzanne in Kapiti



Left: New Whanganui Field Officer Susan, with Senior Field Officer **Bronwyn**

at Maori Community Cancer Hui

Lee Pownall, CEO Raised around \$500 for SCNZ and \$500 for Whirlwind Kapiti by completing the Rotorua Marathon



STROKE GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

PALMERSTON NORTH GROUPS Shona – 027 370 3001/06 323 3446

Swimming Mon & Wed 10.30am-12.00 noon, Palmerston North Hospital.

Milson Community Centre

Activities Day Tues 2.00pm-4.00pm. \$2.00pp. Boccia Group Fri 2.00pm – 4.00pm. \$2.00pp.

Feilding Group To be advised. Shona – 027 370 3001/06 323 3446

4 Stroke Engine Club Stew - 027 221 9683

Monday & Tuesday mornings, 9.00am – 12 noon at Manfeild.

WHANGANUI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP Sharon – 027 294 9897

3rd Tues of each month, 1.30pm, Social Centre for The Blind, Peat St, Whanganui.

LEVIN STROKE SUPPORT GROUPS David – 06 210 0769

Coffee Club

2nd Tuesday each month at 10.00am, Library Café Te Takeretanga o Kura-haupo, 10 Bath St, Levin.

Sunday Cinema

Each Sunday, 1.30pm, Levin Home for War Veterans, 36-40 Prouse St, Levin. \$6.00pp (includes afternoon tea).

OTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUPS

Stroke Support Group Marian - 06 364 5028

1st Thurs each month, 10.00am, Lounge at Presbyterian Church, 249 Mill Rd, Otaki. AGM is being held 1 July 2021.

Otaki Stroke Support & Wellness Group Marian - 06 364 5028

Every Fri 10.00am - 12.00 noon, 'Sit and be Fit' plus brain teasers with Joseph Te Wiata, Senior Citizens Hall, Rangatira St, Otaki. \$5.00 pp morning tea included.

KAPITI STROKE SUPPORT GROUPS

Kapiti Boccia Group Bronwyn – 021 962 366

4th Thurs of the month, 10.00am – noon, Grace Hall, Kapiti Impact Hub, 6 Tongariro Street, Paraparaumu. \$3.00 pp includes morning tea.

Kapiti Stroke Support Coffee Group

2nd Thursday each month, 10.00am, at Café Palms, Kapiti Lights, Paraparaumu. Contact Bronwyn for more information.

'Roving' Stroke Support Coffee Group Bronwyn – 021 962 366

2nd Monday of the month, 10.00am at either Raumati Beach or Waikanae. Please contact Bronwyn for more information.

Men's Coffee Group

2nd Tuesday each month, 2.00pm at Columbus Café, Mega Mitre 10, Kapiti Rd, Paraparaumu.

Kapiti Korero – Aphasia Group Lauren Morrison – 021 0818 8061 Community Aphasia Advisor wellington@aphasia.org.nz

4th Wednesday each month, 10.30am – 12.30pm, Kapiti Impact Hub, Tongariro St, Paraparaumu.

PORIRUA STROKE CLUB David – 04 232 4300/027 277 0843

Meet 2nd Wed, 10.30pm each month at the Café Kaizen, Porirua Library, Pataka Art & Museum, Porirua City. Stroke Survivors and carers are welcome. Contact David to confirm venue as changes may be likely during the year.

WELLINGTON STROKE SUPPORT GROUPS

Southern Suburbs Stroke Group Rosalind - 04 389 7164

2nd & 4th Tues each month, 1.45pm, Trinity Union Church Hall, 11 Hall Ave, off Hall St, Newtown.

Northern Suburbs Stroke Group Tony - 04 237 0376

1st Wed each month, 2.00pm, Zampelles Coffee Bar, Johnsonville Mall. 3rd Wed each month, 12.30pm, Uniting Church Rooms, Dr Taylor Terrace, Johnsonville.

Karori Stroke Survivors Group Peter - 021 431 561

2nd Tues of each month, 10.30am, Hospital Recreation Room, Huntleigh Retirement Home, 221 Karori Rd, Karori.

Tawa Coffee Group

Eleonor - 021 962 378 3rd Thur, 11.00am at the The Borough, 162/168 Main Rd, Tawa.

UPPER HUTT STROKE SUPPORT GROUPS

Coffee Club

Mike - 0274 545 486 10.00am, 2nd Tues of the month, Mitre 10 Café, 9 Park St, Maidstone, Upper Hutt.

Women's Carers Group Jenny - 04 529 8331

10.30am every 2nd Monday, St Johns Hall, Smallfield Lane, off Moonshine Rd, Trentham.

LOWER HUTT STROKE SUPPORT GROUPS Hutt Valley Aphasia Group Virginia - 027 443 8316

10.00am-1.00pm, every 2nd Thurs, Seventh Day Adventist Church Hall, 50 Witako St, Lower Hutt.

Coffee Group Helena – 021 962 375

1st Thurs of each month, 10.00am, Atrium Café, 215 High St, Lower Hutt.

WAINUIOMATA STROKE CLUB Barry – 027 444 9973

1st & 3rd Thurs of each month, Holy Trinity Church, 40 Wainuiomata Rd.

HAWKE'S BAY STROKE SUPPORT GROUPS

CHB Stroke Support Group Heather - 06 856 8297

4th Thurs monthly, 11.00am, The Lily Pond Café, Waipukurau.

Hastings Stroke Support Group Katie-Ann - 06 878 7875

3rd Fri of the month, 10.30am-12.00 noon, Red Cross Meeting Rooms, 823 Heretaunga Street West, Hastings.

Napier Greendale Stroke Group Colleen – 06 844 8604

2nd Wed of the month, 10.15am, at Origin Café, Gloucester St, Taradale, Napier. Every 4th week, lunch, outing or other activity. No set day of the week.

Wairoa Stroke Support Group Maureen - 027 452 0042

Meets 1st Wed bi-monthly, 1.00pm, Age Concern building, Lahore Street Wairoa. (Gold coin.)

WAIRARAPA STROKE SUPPORT GROUPS

Wairarapa Stroke Club Peter - 06 304 9203/021 436 353 Email: peter_thompson@outlook.com 2nd Wed of the month, 1.30pm, South Wairarapa Workingman's Club, Main Street, Greytown.

Stroke Lunch Club

1st Wed of the month, 12 noon at Masterton Services Club. Joan – 027 662 0134



STROKE Central Region Inc. Partners in Recovery	
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My Donation: \$500 \$250 \$100 \$20 Other Please take \$10 of my donation as membership fee, make me a member!	
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