

## Documentary on Carers in NZ

RICI was established as a community organisation in the Rodney District, due to the lack of disability services and lack of access to respite care.

Here are links to two recent media reports on the many dysfunctional aspects of the disability system in NZ, that many Carers face:

[Who Cares? – the Fight over Family funded Care](#)

and

[We don't fit in' - carers for those with severe disabilities struggling](#)



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## RICI Inaugural AGM 2020

Kia ora and welcome to RICI's new official newsletter. We are very pleased to report that we had an excellent response to our inaugural AGM that was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October. Our very first Committee and Officers were elected into their roles for the 2020/21 term, and the results of the election are as follows:

### **RICI Committee 2020**

#### **Officers:**

Chairperson: Jim Morrogh

Secretary: Ursula Christel

Treasurer: Tracey Ollason

(with Tania Smith in a support role)

#### **Committee members:**

Jenny Trotter

Sarah Allan

Tania Smith

Trish Wilson

We are thrilled with the enthusiasm and expertise of our new committee members, and are confident that the objectives of RICI will be followed through with rigour and integrity.

The team are meeting once a month and are working on establishing good internal systems to ensure a firm foundation for this young organisation. If anyone wishes to attend a committee meeting, you are welcome to do so.

Photo below: AGM 2020. (Members are wearing their 'RICI hats' because most have roles in other local disability organisations)



## RICI website planning

Planning has begun for our RICI website.

We envisage this as being an easily accessible information site for anyone sourcing info related to disability/inclusion, in the Rodney District.

If you have experience in website design, writing content, or ideas on what you would like to see on this website, please contact Ursula at:  
rodneynclusive@gmail.com

All input into this project would be appreciated.



## Koa House opens in Warkworth

Koa House is the name of the new co-design project between the core group of our RICI families and Spectrum Care. Based on the concept of person-centred planning, 4 of our local young adults who have disabilities, are now 'flating' together, with staff support, 24/7.

This project began in late 2019, after all our attempts to highlight the need for a respite home in Warkworth were ignored by both the MOH and NZ Care (who hold the adult respite contract for our area.)

Our families met with Ray Finch from Spectrum Care, and the rest fell into place.

***"Spectrum Care Living supports individuals to find and create a place they can call home and make every day more fulfilling."***

Koa House is situated in a great neighbourhood and has an ideal open-plan setting with 4 large bedrooms and a small sleep-over room for staff. Plus the carpeted double-garage functions as a bonus rumpus room.

The house was officially opened on 30<sup>th</sup> October with a blessing ceremony followed by morning tea, for family members and friends, the Spectrum Care management team, AIM staff, and the new house staff. With so much positive support from everyone, we are all confident of a bright future for our young folk at Koa House.

### **koa**

**1. (verb)** (-ia,-ina) to be glad, joyful, happy, elated.

**2. (noun)** happiness, joy, elation, euphoria, gladness,

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## Local News - [Links to Articles](#)

### [Church secures consent for major community centre](#)

"Mahurangi Presbyterian Church has finally secured a resource consent from Auckland Council to progress plans to build a \$10.5 million Community and Activity Centre in Warkworth."

### [Introducing - Short and Sweet Cutting Bar](#)

"Julie caters to young children and sets up an iPad in front of a specialised chair with a red steering wheel to keep them entertained. She also understands the needs of disabled clients having had experience with a family member."

### [Kick it, pass it, ride it - sport and recreation facilities SCORE!](#)

"A multisport indoor facility at Warkworth Showgrounds will take sport and recreation in the Mahurangi area to the next level."

# Phab comes to Warkworth

RICI has invited PHAB to open a social group in Warkworth in 2021



After contacting Chewy Wilson during the recent lockdown, RICI invited him to visit Warkworth and investigate the possibility of starting a PHAB social group for our young folk.

Chewy first met with Penny Bates, (Programme Manager for [Spec Ed at Mahurangi College](#)) and then attended our RICI November committee meeting.

Chewy gave us a presentation on the history of PHAB and explained how the social groups are run. See flyer below.

RICI is keen to support this venture by sourcing a venue in Warkworth that can serve as a suitable home-base for this new social group. If anyone can recommend a venue, we are keen for feedback. Otherwise we will be looking into hiring the

Shoesmith Community Hall.

If you are keen to sign up to attend this new group (or sign up on behalf of your 16+ child), please fill out the PHAB membership form attached and email it back to Chewy. We envision the group will kick off in March 2021.

Further details will be shared once we have them all confirmed.



Fun social group's for people with disabilities

New group opening in Warkworth – March 2021

Who are PHAB and what do we do?

- PHAB is a weekly social group for people with disabilities aged 16 and over
- A place of fun, excitement and learning
- It is a place where people can develop personal relationships and friendships
- It is a place to develop your skills and learn new ones
- It is a safe space supported by highly experienced staff
- Most of all we get to have fun and hang out with friends!

PHAB has 16 groups around Auckland to suit all age groups (16 and over) – see [www.phab.org.nz](http://www.phab.org.nz) for our website

The members decide what activities they would like to do each week and help run the groups

The groups meet for 2 hours in the early evening once a week

Members pay for the costs of the activity each week such as music nights, a disco, bowling, movies, a meal, arts and crafts, an entertainer a trip out and much, much more!

**The exact location day and time is yet to be confirmed but please register now to get on the wait list for this group.**

If this is something you are interested in please call Chewy on 09 488 7490 or email [chewy@phab.org.nz](mailto:chewy@phab.org.nz) for a membership form and to start the process.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Next committee meeting:

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

@ 21 Wilson Road, Warkworth

## ABLE2WORSHIP

Sunday, 13<sup>TH</sup> December, 3pm

@ Warkworth Methodist Church Hall. Inter-denominational Christmas service – all are welcome.

“We are group of able worshipers of God, many of us with learning and/or physical disabilities/challenges. Our meetings are held bi-monthly at the Methodist church hall at 3pm. If you would like to be involved, come along, we would love to see you. If you would like to help, let us know, as we always need people willing to pray, bake, strum, sing and support us in various ways.”

Contact: Jenny Trotter (RICI committee member)

## OUR CONTACTS

Secretary:

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