



# Newsletter

June 2009

Issue 13

## Snippets from the AGM:

Four members were present, which sounds pathetic but is 50 % of our financial membership.

The Treasurer's and Auditor's were accepted. The Treasurer will look into banking alternatives so that we can earn some interest on our funds and reduce bank fees while maintaining a cheque account. Dianne Leighton continues as Treasurer. A new auditor will be needed next year as our current one is winding up his business.

Allen Little has become part of the Executive Committee and will begin researching development options for NZTRA.

Despite the amount of work that needs doing, there was a positive atmosphere throughout the meeting.

## Readers Opinions wanted:

### Professional Indemnity Insurance

In the last newsletter we asked for people's experiences of professional indemnity insurance. As there have been no responses, we assume that most, if not all, of the readers do not worry about it. Whether this is a good attitude or not is debatable.

**Did you know** ? that our web address is [www.nztra.org.nz](http://www.nztra.org.nz)

? that we have a real time chat room and a forum page where you can have discussions

? that the more people who make [www.nztra.org.nz](http://www.nztra.org.nz) their home page will help to make our site easier to find when googled

? that Randy Wyble is our webmaster and doing a great job for us from Michigan, USA

## From the Editor:

**Don't you love winter? The beauty of skeleton trees, opportunity for snow sports, flaming fires and comfort food, and so much more.**

**We need readers to contribute to this newsletter, so if you have any ideas or a book review stashed away, feel free to send it to me.**

**We are still keen to have articles in the newsletter that share TR knowledge and help build our own NZ body of knowledge. The article needs to be 1500 – 2000 words and focus on TR practice in NZ. Any Letters to the Editor, articles, jokes and enquiries should be sent to [seeking\\_linda@hotmail.com](mailto:seeking_linda@hotmail.com)**

**Wishing you a safe and happy winter,  
Linda Johnson**

### What would you do?

In Napier, a big chunk of the city was locked down recently because of a gunman who had shot and killed one police officer, shot and seriously injured two police officers and a civilian. The siege lasted 50 hours. As you can imagine, that seriously disrupted the lives of many people.

I (Linda J) volunteer at a day service for people with neuromuscular disorders. Our place was literally over the road (backyard to backyard/100m) from the gunman's place. Five staff and two clients (one being high needs) arrived before the lockdown. Another client, out for a morning walk, was escorted in because she wasn't allowed home. We had to stay indoors away from windows, med-evac one client out at 4.30pm, stay the night, cope with the frustrations of not being at home doing the things that were scheduled in our diaries, prepare to stay a second night, organise delivery of medications (& milk) via the Police, deal with anxious concerned relatives and clients, cope with a nicotine deprived client, and prevent cabin fever.

We were fortunate to be in a centre that had food, telephone, blankets, showers (but no clean clothes or toothbrushes!), TV, radio, and an art/craft room. We had each other. We were very fortunate that another seven of our clients, including several high needs people, were stopped at the road block and, therefore, were not with us.

We discovered that there were things that needed to be added to our Civil Defence preparedness. *How would your workplace cope with a sudden unexpected event like this?* Do you have activities to while away the time when you get sick of watching TV for news updates? Do you have enough food? What about blankets? Can you charge up a cell phone so the landline can be kept free for the Police?

We are grateful to the Police for their care and protection of us. We applaud the ambulance officers who, having spent hours dodging bullets, took a chance to med-evac our client to hospital. We appreciated all the phone calls of support but it hindered contact with the Police (for evacuation, etc). We are grateful for the doctors who wrote out prescriptions and the Pharmacist who filled them and the Police who delivered them.

### What would you do?

**One day a man was walking along a beach. He noticed that during the night many starfish had washed up on the shore. Far off in the distance he saw a figure dancing. As he drew closer he noticed that it was not someone dancing but a small child methodically picking up starfish and tossing them back into the sea. The man, puzzled, asked, "Why are you throwing those starfish?" "If I leave them in the sun they will die, so I'm throwing them back into the sea because I want them to live!" she replied. He was impressed with the child's thoughtfulness, but said, "There are millions of them, how could you possibly expect to make a difference?" The small child pondered the man's words for a moment then picked up a starfish and threw it into the sea. "You might be right," she said smiling, "but I made a difference to that one!"**

**Unknown**