

theword



Aphasia Association of New Zealand
mate ngaronga reo

Issue 16

Winter 2012

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giving a voice to people with aphasia

AphasiaNZ is on **Facebook**

Have a look at our page today...

www.facebook.com/AphasiaNZ

...for regular **updates** and **news**

If you have any interesting stories to include in the next issue, or feedback about the newsletter, please contact us!

Notice Board



AphasiaNZ has a **laptop** and **iPad** **loaning scheme** for **people with aphasia**. Email **Emma** at info@aphasia.org.nz for more **information!**

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From the Executive Officer

Emma Castle

As many of you will know, **AphasiaNZ** is in the process of transitioning from an **Incorporated Society** to a **Charitable Trust**.

What does this mean for AphasiaNZ's members?

Current **AphasiaNZ members** will become '**Friends of AphasiaNZ**'. Having '**Friends**' means that we will be able to **engage** more **effectively** with people who both **support us**, and we **provide support to**. We have not changed our **aims, mission, or goals**. We are still **striving** to:

- **Empower** people with aphasia to **participate** in their own communities,
- Facilitate **support** for people with aphasia and their families and friends,
- Increase public and professional **awareness** of aphasia through the **education** of our communities,
- Act as an independent source of **information** for people with aphasia, families/whanau, health professionals, and the greater public.



The **Aphasia New Zealand (AphasiaNZ) Charitable Trust** will therefore not have **paying members** and there will be no **annual membership fee**. Our '**Friends**' will be invited to support us in a number of ways including **making a donation**, if they are able. Other ways that people will be able to **help** will be through **volunteering** their time, **sharing** their ideas, and **attending meetings** to give us **feedback** and **input** into our planning processes.

Why is the process taking so long?

Because of an unusually high staff turnover at the **Charities Commission**, there was a substantial **backlog** when we submitted our application to register the **Trust** in **December** last year. Our application for registration is now however in its **final stages**.

What's the next step?

Once our registration with the **Charities Commission** has been **finalised**, I will be writing to all **members** to let them know that they are officially a '**Friend of AphasiaNZ**'. '**Friends**' will have access to our **quarterly newsletters** and regular updates, our comprehensive **resource library**, and our **laptop** and **iPad loaning schemes**. I hope that all current **members** will choose to remain affiliated to **AphasiaNZ** as a '**Friend**' as a way of **supporting** us to fulfil our mission and aims.

Emma Castle - Executive Officer

Meeting for Volunteers

If you have **volunteered** for **AphasiaNZ** in the past, or wish to **volunteer** in the coming months, then please come to our **meeting** for **AphasiaNZ volunteers**:

Date: Monday 9th July 2012

Time: 10.30am

Location: **University of Auckland Tamaki Campus**

261 Morrin Road, St Johns

Building 731, level 3, room 324

Call or email Emma for directions

AphasiaNZ needs your **ideas** and **enthusiasm** to discuss how we can **improve** current and **introduce new initiatives** for people with **aphasia**. We also need your **help** with **fundraising ideas**.

If you are **unable** to attend the meeting but still wish to **help** in some capacity, please **email Emma** at info@aphasia.org.nz



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Christchurch Coffee Club

***For people with aphasia, their spouse/partner,
family members, friends, and carers.***

Location: **McCafe Papanui Road**

217 Papanui Road, Merivale, Christchurch

Date & The group meets on the **first Monday** of the **month**.

Time: The **next meeting** is on **Monday 2nd July 2012** at
10.30am

RSVP: Just come along! And if you know of anyone else with
aphasia who would like to come, please let them know.

At the next meeting Emma will bring along details of some of the **resources** (books, DVDs etc.) which we have available to **lend** to **'Friends of AphasiaNZ'**.



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Auckland Coffee Morning

The next **Auckland coffee morning** will be held on **Monday 30th July at 11.30am.**

This is both a **different day** and **time** from our previous coffee mornings which have up until now been held on **Wednesdays.**

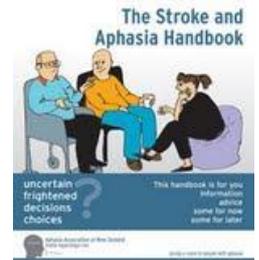
Our **July coffee morning** is on the same day as the **CeleBRation Choir**: a community singing group for people with neurological conditions.

Some Choir members travel quite a **distance** to get to the University Tamaki Campus, which is both **costly** and **time consuming.** We hope that by holding our coffee morning on the **same day** as the **CeleBRation Choir** it will be **easier** for people to attend **both.**

Confirmation of the **venue** and **time** for the coffee morning will be sent out in the next few weeks.



Ways to help AphasiaNZ



Stroke and Aphasia Handbook

Do you have a copy of the **Stroke and Aphasia handbook**?

If you don't, please contact **Emma** to find out how you can **get your copy**.

If you do, do you know someone who may **benefit** from a copy, or an **organisation** which may need a copy to **show** to its **customers** or **clients**?

All **AphasiaNZ members** already have their copy. **Additional copies** are available at a **reasonable price**. Those who join **AphasiaNZ** and become a **member** or '**Friend of AphasiaNZ**' receive a copy as part of their **joining pack**.

AphasiaNZ receives no **government funding** to do the work that we do. We are totally **reliant** on **grants** and **donations**.

You can **help us** by **purchasing** a copy of the **NZ Stroke and Aphasia handbook**.

Email **Emma** at info@aphasia.org.nz for more information.



The Entertainment Book

The **Entertainment™ Book** is a local **restaurant** and **activity guide** that provides **valuable** 25% to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from many of the finest **restaurants, activities,** and **hotels** throughout **New Zealand** and **Australia**.

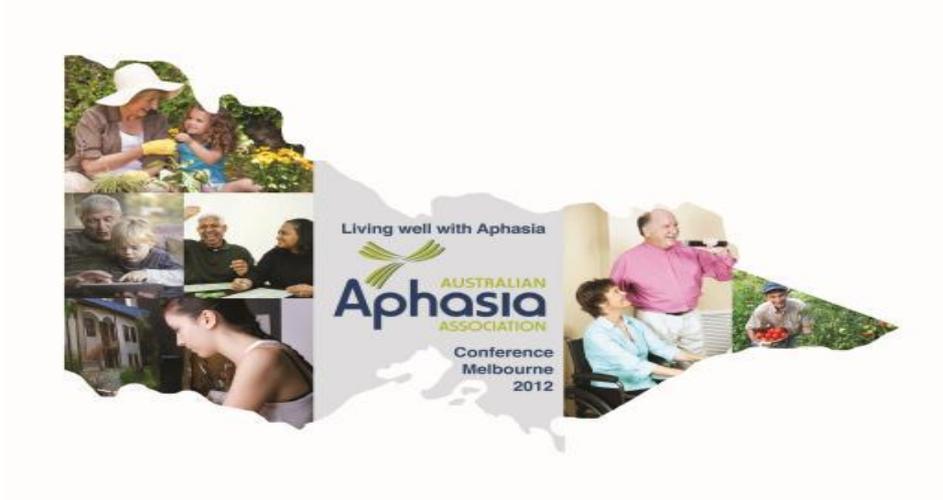
Entertainment™ Books can only be bought from **fundraising groups, organisations** and **corporations** as a member benefit or fundraiser. The featured **restaurants** and other businesses do not pay to be **included** — they are selected based on **awards, reviews** and **personal recommendations**.

AphasiaNZ is selling the **Entertainment™ Book** for **\$65.00** a copy. You can **order** a copy by **emailing** or **calling Emma**. There are also a number of **bonus vouchers** available!

For more **information** about the **Entertainment™ Book** you can visit www.entertainmentbook.co.nz



Dates to Remember



National Australian Aphasia Association

Conference

Living Well with Aphasia

Friday 12th October & Saturday 13th October 2012

Melbourne

Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre

387 Bell Street, Preston 3072, Victoria

Details on www.aphasia.org.au

Enquiries: aaaconference@aphasia.org.au



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2013 AphasiaNZ Conference

Announcement!

The **2013 AphasiaNZ Conference** will be held in **Wellington, New Zealand** in **November 2013**.

Emma is keen to hear from any **Wellington based professionals** working with people with **aphasia; caregivers; family members;** and people with **aphasia** in **Wellington**, and **any other person** who is interested in playing a role (big or small) to help with the **2013 Conference** planning and organising.

Keep in touch for regular **Conference updates!** The **Conference theme** and **Conference dates** will be announced soon.



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Update: iPad Apps for Aphasia

*Apps is an **abbreviation** for **application**. An **app** is a piece of **software**. It can run on the **Internet**, on your **computer**, or on your **phone** or other **electronic device** (like an **iPad**).*

– Google definition

Many people with **aphasia** and **communication problems** find that there are **apps** for **iPads**, **tablets**, and **smartphones** which help them to **communicate** more easily at **home** and out in the **community**.

Emma has compiled some **information** about some of the **apps** she has **looked** at, received **feedback** about, and **learned** about from others here in **New Zealand** and **overseas**.



[Tactus Therapy Solutions](#) has a number of **apps** for adults recovering from **stroke** and **brain injury** with acquired **communication disorders**, and older children with special needs. They specialise in **therapy apps for aphasia**, allowing patients to achieve the intensity of practice necessary for neuroplastic change. Their apps are designed by a **Speech Language Therapist** (referred to as a *Speech Language Pathologist* in other parts of the world!) for



use by **Speech Language Therapists, stroke patients, head injury survivors,** and anyone else who requires hierarchical practice of basic **speech, language, and cognitive skills.**

At present there are **4 apps** for **comprehension, naming, reading,** and **writing** ranging in price from **\$18.99 - \$30.99 each.** They have recently bundled the **apps** together and offer one **app** called **Language TherAppy.** It costs approximately **\$80.00** and there is also a **lite (free) version** which you can download to begin with, although it only has some of the **functions** of the full **app.** I have talked to a number of people with **aphasia** who are just beginning to use these **apps** and so far **feedback** has been **positive.**

Tactus are releasing a number of **new apps** in the **coming months.** Check **Tactus Therapy Solutions** out on their **Facebook page** <http://www.facebook.com/tactustherapy> or their **website** is www.tactustherapy.com



Verbally is a **free app** for **text-to-speech** with word prediction. Common **words** and **phrases** are available. There is a **premium version** also which costs **\$124.99.** A number of people with **aphasia** who I have spoken to report the **premium app** to be



better than the **free app**, because you can **save** the **phrases** you want to use and the voices are **better**. Have a look at the website here: <http://verballyapp.com/index.html>

A recent graduate and **Speech Language Therapist** overseas has developed an **app** called **Unus Tactus**. It is a **one touch** photo dialing **app**. It has **GPS capabilities** and can show the caregiver, spouse, or family member of the person with **aphasia** where **calls** are being **made from**. If the person with **aphasia** needs **help** and can't **explain** their location, their **emergency contact** can read an email that gives a link to the caller's location. The **app** costs **\$13.99**. I have not tested it yet. Have a look at the webpage: www.unustactus.com



Proloquo2Go can be used on an **iPad, iPhone,** and **iPod touch** and is useful for people who have **trouble speaking** or who cannot **speak at all**. **Proloquo2Go** can be adapted to suit the **needs** of a wide range of users with **varying** literacy levels. It has **natural-sounding voices** and speech can be **generated** by **tapping** buttons with symbols or **typing** using the on-screen keyboard with word prediction. The app costs **\$249.99**. **Have a look here:** <http://www.assistiveware.com/product/proloquo2go>



Another customisable **text-to-speech app** which I have heard **positive feedback** about is **Predictable**. It costs **\$209.99** and **messages** can be exported to Facebook, Twitter, or Email. For more **information** go to <http://www.tboxapps.com/predictable.html>



Two **free iPad and iPhone apps** are **SmallTalk Aphasia (male voice)** and **SmallTalk Aphasia (female voice)**. Icons and videos are paired with **sounds to communicate** basic



messages. More about both these **apps** and **Lingraphica** can be found here: http://www.aphasia.com/slp/SmallTalk_Aphasia

*I hope that you find this information **useful**. Please let me know what **apps** you have used: if they are **useful** to you or someone with **aphasia**, or what **apps** not mentioned here you have **tried out**. Your*



***feedback** will enable **AphasiaNZ** to help others who are **new** to the technology which an **iPad** offers. As mentioned previously, **AphasiaNZ** can **loan** people with **aphasia** an **iPad** to try in their own*



home for a short period of time. This gives people with **aphasia** an **opportunity** to try out a number of different **apps** to see if an **iPad** is going to be a good tool to help with **communication** and **learning**, before committing to **purchasing** one.

The **iPad2** now costs approximately **\$579.00** and it is a much **cheaper alternative** to some other **communication devices** on the market. As well as being a tool for **communication**, there are many other things that an **iPad** can do and be used for.

A number of the **apps** listed above have already been loaded onto our loan **iPads**. I will be seeking **sponsorship** in order to **purchase** some of the more **expensive apps**.

Please email or call me to find out more about our **iPad loaning scheme**.

Emma Castle - Executive Officer



Please contact us if...

- You are a **member** of **AphasiaNZ** and your postal address or email address has **changed!**

There are a number of people who we have lost contact with as mail is being returned, or emails are bouncing back

- You would like to **contribute** something to our **Spring newsletter!**
- You have **feedback** about our **newsletter!**

Thank you to our supporters...



Without financial assistance **AphasiaNZ** would be unable to do the work that we do. We thank our **funders** for their **support**.