

Community MOVES



**2015 IHC ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING IN SEPTEMBER**

Back cover

**GALLIPOLI VET'S FARM GRANT
LEGACY**

Page 5

**ART AWARDS BOOK PAYS
TRIBUTE TO THE ARTISTS**

Page 6

AUGUST 2015

ihc
IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Personally speaking



Each year, as we head towards our Annual General Meeting, I encourage staff and members alike to pause in their daily business and consider whether there's more we could be doing for the organisation and most importantly the people we support.

This year, as members will be aware, the IHC Board has been discussing and considering whether our current governance structure is serving members and people with intellectual disabilities as well as it can. I hope all our members will have received a letter from our President, Donald Thompson, proposing some changes. I'd like to thank the members who have provided valuable feedback and assure them that this feedback has been reflected in the Board Remit that will be presented at our Annual General Meeting. Each member in attendance will be able to vote.

For all our *Community Moves* readers and supporters, the changes we are proposing are:

- To establish a Board Appointments Committee responsible for recruitment, appointments and succession planning.
- To reduce the IHC Board size to 8 members, including the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Membership Council as voting members.
- To establish a Membership Council with responsibilities including providing advice to the Board on matters of importance to families and people with intellectual disabilities.

Our Board has always been made up of members with an absolute commitment to advocating for people with intellectual disabilities and we believe these changes will further strengthen our work.

I look forward to being able to update you all after our Annual General Meeting.

Ralph Jones
Chief Executive

Colin Meads – on our team for 40 years

There are not many people who can say that Colin Meads, IHC New Zealand Life Member, has been on their team for 40 years.

IHC is privileged to have had the backing of the big man since 1974. He has been generous with his name and his fame, using his high profile and his mana for the benefit of people with intellectual disabilities.

Colin Meads – he doesn't want to be called Sir – has now stepped up again. On 31 July Tauranga hosted a gala dinner in his honour. A charity auction was part of the evening hosted by Events Innovated, and Colin named IHC as one of three charities to benefit.

All Black greats Sir Brian Lochore and Andrew Mehrtens were among those paying tribute on the night to the legendary 'Pinetree' Meads, regarded by many as New Zealand's greatest rugby player. He played 133 matches for the All Blacks between 1957 and 1971, including 55 tests.

Colin first threw his weight behind IHC when he stopped playing rugby. In 1974 he announced he was taking a two-year break to spend some time with his wife, Verna. An IHC delegation from Hamilton saw their chance and turned up at the Te Kuiti farm for tea and scones. By the time they left, Colin had agreed to head up a newly formed King Country sub-branch.



Colin Meads with his wife, Verna.

"I said then I would give you two years. Within two years I was on the national fundraising committee." And the two-year deadline came and went.

"We were going through the process of getting people away from the big institutions and out into the community," he says. Residential homes were soon established in Otorohanga, Taumarunui and Te Kuiti.

He remembers one young man from Kimberley Hospital in Levin, who became a friend. "Dean Walker had been there since he was five." He was 15 or 16 when he left the institution to live in Te Kuiti and he became part of the community. "It was the greatest move. Deano became part of the Waitete Rugby Football Club, so one thing led to another."

Colin was a natural fundraiser, backing a number of ingenious farm-based fundraising schemes. He bought a horse each year for four years at the yearling sales, and he and IHC supporters sold \$10 raffle tickets nationwide. They raised between \$110,000 and \$120,000 a horse, while the winner won the horse together with 12 months worth of training. Colin also supported farmers Norm Cashmore, from Taranaki, and Mick Murphy, from Marlborough, who started the IHC Calf Scheme in 1983.

Continued on page 10

CONTENTS

- 2 Personally speaking
- 3 Colin Meads – on our team for 40 years
- 4 Time out for the Fishers
- 5 Legacy came from Gallipoli vet's farm grant
- 5 How can we help? – trustees ask families
- 6 Art Awards book pays tribute to the artists
- 8 Accessible Properties is house hunting
- 9 High Court ruling a no-win for student
- 10 Compost loo-builders ready for emergencies
- 11 One Hell of an opportunity

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COVER IMAGE:

The winner of the IHC Telecom Art Awards in 2004, Peter Freeman with *Bell Boys*.

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See back cover
for details



Rossett and Simon Fisher with John, 13, Shane, 15, and Charlotte, 11.

Time out for the Fishers

Invercargill couple Rossett and Simon Fisher spent their annual holiday in Dunedin this year. It was just the one day, but precious time out for a couple who are doing it tough.

Rossett and Simon's two boys Shane, 15, and John, 13, have learning disabilities, and the overnight getaway was part of the IHC Respite programme, in which hotels provide one night's free accommodation to family carers who need a break.

The couple chose Anzac Day, Saturday 25 April, which was the day after their 17th wedding anniversary. They drove from Invercargill to Dunedin to spend a night at the Quality Hotel Cargills. "We got up there about 3 or 3.30pm. We checked in to the hotel then had a look around Dunedin. We did some shopping for the kids," Rossett says.

She says the highlight was their meal in the hotel restaurant and a sleep-in the next day before heading back home, where friends were looking after the boys and their daughter Charlotte, 11. "Just a night away from the kids was good."

The Fishers receive three hours' home support each for the boys, who are both at high school. Rossett and Simon do the rest. Shane is in a special unit and John is in a mainstream classroom with support. The boys also help their Mum and Dad to deliver pamphlets. "It can be challenging at times," Rossett says. "Some days you just battle through."

The family moved to Invercargill from Christchurch in 2011 after the earthquakes, when their Kaiapoi house collapsed, then the Southbridge house they moved to sank at one end and they had to shift again. The family lost a lot of their possessions. "When we came here, we had to start all over again," Rossett says. The couple have struggled to find work. Both have hearing impairments and Simon has a vision impairment too.

Since 2013 the Respite programme has provided 25 family carers with a night away. They can receive up to one night's free accommodation a year. In some cases IHC Associations have helped with travel expenses and meals. The Southland IHC Association covered the Fishers' meals in Dunedin.

Hotels donating accommodation are located throughout the country.

Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch are the most popular destinations overall. Family carers can apply directly or through their service coordinators or area managers. For more information, see ihc.org.nz/respite

Legacy came from Gallipoli vet's farm grant

A \$1.6 million bequest to IHC from Palmerston North woman Enid Orr in 2009 came from the sale of a farm granted to her father Alex Orr, a Gallipoli veteran.

Sergeant Alexander Orr was 20 when he was sent to Gallipoli on a troopship with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Among the family possessions left behind when his eldest daughter Enid died was his diary recording the landing, the bombardments and the deaths.

His diary entry for Sunday 25 April 1915 reads: "We pulled up our anchor at 6am. We could hear the guns bombarding forts. It is now two o'clock. We can see the shells bursting on the hills."



Gallipoli veteran Alexander Orr (far right) with two comrades.

A month later he returned to the peninsula after being hospitalised with a crippling foot condition. On 26 May 1915 he wrote: "The Turkish trenches were remarkably close to ours. Where I was they were only about 15 yards apart. It's rather exciting at times and we get quite a lot of fun, especially when we start throwing bombs at one another. We lost two of our officers just the other morning..."

Alex received a medical discharge in 1916 and came home to farm dairy cows at Newman, Eketahuna, then at Aokautere, Palmerston North from 1925. He married Zillah Humphries from Greytown and they had two daughters, Enid and Zena. Zena had an intellectual disability.

Alex was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the Gallipoli Medallion. His Gallipoli Medallion remains unclaimed.

Alex died in 1949 and Zillah in 1955. After her mother's death, Enid sold the farm and moved into Palmerston North. Zena moved into Kimberley Hospital and later died in 1993, aged 70, at a rest home in Feilding.

The proceeds from the farm sale were invested and the money stayed untouched for decades, gaining interest. Enid left an estate worth close to \$2.5 million when she died, aged 91. Her will provided for a trust to be created in her sister's memory and the net income invested and used to provide short-term care for people in Manawatu with intellectual disabilities – an extraordinary gift.

The Zena Elsie Orr Memorial Trust was set up in 2013.

How can we help? – trustees ask families

Trustees of the \$1.9 million fund want to know how they can best support families of people with intellectual disabilities.

The Zena Elsie Orr Memorial Trust fund was set up with a bequest from her sister Enid Orr to provide short-term care for people with intellectual disabilities in the Manawatu area.

With interest, the original bequest of \$1.6 million now stands at \$1.9 million. The fund provides an opportunity for the trustees to do more than subsidise government-funded services and to respond to what families say they really need.

The three trustees—IHC New Zealand Life Member John Hanning, Orr family representative Mark Cleaver, and Ray McIndoe, who has an adult son with an intellectual disability—have commissioned a Massey University Psychology Masters student to carry out research during the next year with Manawatu families.

"The research project will help us provide the type of respite care best suited to families in need. We have heard of situations where well-intentioned respite services have actually compounded problems," John Hanning says.

The trustees are excited about the possibility of being able to use the Manawatu research as a prototype for respite services in the future.

Art Awards book pays tribute to the artists

Every year for the past 11 years, guests at the IHC Art Awards gala night have been treated to a spectacular display of art by the 30 finalists. It's a triumph of talent over disability.

Now the best of this art is available to a much wider audience. A book, *IHC Art Awards 2004–2014*, published by IHC, reproduces works by the 44 winning artists since the awards started.

Since 2004 the IHC Art Awards have given disabled artists the opportunity to have their talents recognised, their voices heard and a national stage on which to exhibit and sell their art. The prizes are attractive too – \$5000 for first prize, \$2000 for second prize and \$1000 each for third prize and the People's Choice Award winner.

The first national exhibition of finalists was held in Auckland from a pool of nearly 300 entries. Telecom was the sponsor then and each year until 2010. In the first year Peter Freeman won with a pen and colour drawing, *Bell Boys*, featuring two shipwrecked boys submerged in the sea. Peter was well known in Wellsford as a collector of found objects for his art. He would walk the roads pulling behind him a variety of carts he made for carrying the items.

Peter has the last word in the new book with some advice he gave in 2004: "And here's a valuable pointer to those who desire to get prizes and lots of money like I did. Lust for fame and wealth is not the idea to get on in life. Many people have tried to do this and have come to nothing but trouble and disaster. My very sound advice is let fame and fortune find you."

Until his death on 12 July this year, Peter, 83, was still drawing mainly portraits from his IDEA Services residential home in Orewa. He was a guest of honour at the Auckland regional launch of the IHC Art Awards 2015 in Northcote only 10 days earlier.

IHC Art Awards 2004–2014 surveys the development of the awards. In 2005 there were 14,000 visitors to the national exhibition at The Dowse in Lower Hutt. One of the 2005 judges, Mary Kisler, Mackelvie Curator of International Art at the Auckland Art Gallery, said at the time: "From the subjects and images depicted you could really sense they were by



IHC Art Awards 2004–2014 reproduces winning art from 44 artists.

the hands of the artists and the artworks, therefore, provide a fascinating perspective on the artists' lives."

The number of entries continued to grow. By 2006 the entries had doubled to more than 600 and by 2007 there were more than 700. The national exhibitions moved between the major centres – Wellington in 2005 (The Dowse) and Christchurch in 2006 (the Centre of Contemporary Art – COCA) then back to the Auckland Museum in 2007.

Anyone who might have been tempted to see these as works of lesser artistic value was put straight by Chris Moore, the Arts Editor of *The Press* in Christchurch, after seeing the 2006 COCA exhibition:

This is a visual celebration of the creativity of a group of New Zealanders who observe and interpret life through their paintings and drawings. A warning: patronise these artists at your peril. Their art is uncompromising, complex, colourful and filled with lessons for all of us. Some of these works are exceptional. Should we be surprised? I don't think so. The handicaps faced by the artists may be daunting, but their work can't be diminished by treating it as some fuzzy-edged liberal exercise in politically correct inclusiveness. That would insult them. This is an exhibition that speaks strongly about the joys and the challenges of creating art. –The Press, 28 June 2006.



Philip Sisan



The winner of the IHC Telecom Art Awards in 2004, Peter Freeman with *Bell Boys*.

By 2007 the work of participating artists was attracting a lot of attention, including from Sydney-based collector of ‘outsider’ art Peter Fay, who began purchasing pieces for his collection. Works by Paul Sedgwick (2007 winner), Amy Szostak (2006 third-prize winner) and others were exhibited in Sydney and Melbourne.

Three regional exhibitions – northern, central and southern – feed into the national competition. Each one casts its net deep into local communities, encouraging participation by artists working in schools, at home, in community art spaces, in studios and in workshops run by disability service providers. Those artists who don’t reach the finals also have the opportunity to have their work exhibited, appreciated and sold.

Each year hundreds of artists know what it is like to be part of a community of artists. With each Art Awards event, participation widens and community recognition of the artists increases. Some of the artists have developed a following among buyers, and a number have exhibited locally, nationally and internationally.

Artist Lauren Lysaght, who was a judge in 2004, says outsider art is overdue for recognition. “For me it’s like game, set and match. It reminds me of what art is meant to be. You get into this art and it unnerves people. There is something wild about it as well as magical.”

The Holdsworth Charitable Trust is the major sponsor of the Art Awards. John Holdsworth has had a long association with IHC, as Wellington Branch President from 1994 to 1999, on the IHC Board and Audit Committee, and serving as Vice President in the 1990s. John is a New Zealand Life Member of IHC.

The Holdsworth Charitable Trust agreed to fund the Art Awards for three years, from 2014. This year the Art Awards are being held on 27 August at the Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington.

IHC is selling *IHC Art Awards 2004–2014* for \$20. Money raised from the sales of the book will be used to fund the Art Awards. For copies please email editor@ihc.org.nz

For more information about the Art Awards, to vote in the People’s Choice Award or to register an absentee bid, visit ihc.org.nz/artawards



Lip Sisam, the 2014 winner, drew inspiration from Van Gogh for *Postman Pat*.

Accessible Properties is house hunting

Accessible Properties is talking to the Government and a number of other groups about buying more houses.

Accessible Properties is a subsidiary of IHC that already provides housing for people with disabilities or on low incomes, but wants to do more.

“We are all go with building new homes,” says Accessible Properties’ General Manager Andrew Wilson. “By the end of the year we expect to have built another 72, meaning a total of nearly 200 new homes in the past couple of years.

“But we know we can do more – and that’s why we are looking to buy as well.”

Accessible Properties is a Registered Community Housing Provider with charitable status that has been able to access grants from the Government’s Social Housing Fund as well as the Canterbury Community Trust to help with the building to date. It has now placed more than 50 households with government income-related rent subsidies.

“The demand is huge,” says Andrew. “We always have waiting lists of people wanting to move into our homes before they are even finished.” Accessible Properties’ new builds are done with a number of goals in mind. It prioritises properties in established and friendly areas that are close to transport and other amenities. “We look to build homes where people can feel included in welcoming neighbourhoods,” Andrew says. All homes have been built to suit the needs of people with disabilities, with most receiving 4-star LifeMark Certification.

The Government has announced that it intends to sell some state houses to community providers, which will help to ensure wrap-around support for people if they need it.

“This is a good fit for us,” says Andrew. “Our priority has always been people with disabilities, so we are used to working with social support providers like IDEA Services.”

But Andrew says Accessible Properties will look closely at any deal and consider the price and location, and how much maintenance is overdue, on properties. “The first areas up for discussion are Tauranga and Invercargill and we have indicated that Tauranga might work for us.”

Accessible Properties is interested in purchasing and building in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington and Christchurch. “While there is a need for more good-quality and affordable housing in many centres around the country, in these five areas people with disabilities or on low incomes are finding it particularly difficult to find good homes, so that’s our priority,” Andrew says.

“The most important thing to consider is whether we can do better for tenants,” says Andrew. “We really want to focus on providing good-quality housing and community support to people who need them.”

Accessible Properties is also talking to a number of other organisations about the possibilities of purchasing or collaborating to provide more homes, including councils, iwi and other social service providers.

- Accessible Properties is a Registered Community Housing Provider with charitable status
- It is a wholly owned subsidiary of IHC
- It manages more than 1200 properties throughout the country, including more than 1000 house units
- 75% of the housing it manages is owned by IHC, with IDEA Services being the largest tenant
- It will own 192 new or refurbished homes by early 2016
- It prioritises tenants with disabilities or low incomes



At his annual state of the nation speech to the Auckland Rotary Club in January 2015 the Prime Minister (Rt Hon John Key) referred to a recently completed complex of eight Accessible Properties units in Wellington as “...the changing face of social housing in New Zealand. It’s not change for the sake of it. It’s change to improve the circumstances of those who need the most help”.

High Court ruling a no-win for student

A young disabled student excluded from Green Bay High School was not able to go back there despite the High Court saying the school was wrong to suspend and exclude him.

The student with Asperger syndrome was suspended in July 2013 after scuffling with a teacher over a skateboard. In February 2014 the High Court overturned the school's decision. However, Green Bay High School went straight to the Court of Appeal to try to reverse the ruling. In June this year the Court of Appeal declined to hear the appeal as the teenager was by then being educated elsewhere.

IHC Director of Advocacy Trish Grant sees this as a lost opportunity to tackle an important test case. "We're very disappointed with the ruling by the Court of Appeal. An opportunity to have this young man's right to education in a public school considered by one of our top courts has been lost. Every child deserves the right to an education free from discrimination under the Human Rights Act, and this teenager did not have this right."

IHC lawyer Frances Joychild QC says the court process has shown up serious gaps in the right to education for children and young people with disabilities that are apparent in behavioural issues.

She says the High Court has ruled that schools have special obligations to students with disabilities and can't just jump to taking disciplinary action when a problem arises. "The judge made a good decision; the problem was its enforcement. The school immediately appealed the decision. No doubt that action demoralised the student and his family. While the appeal should not have stopped his return to

school, somehow communication between parent and school broke down. The teenager ended up out of the school and once again out of mainstream education.

"There is a need for an independent advocacy body to get in between schools and families to enable mainstream education to really work."

The Court of Appeal felt the case should have started at the Human Rights Review Tribunal. Regrettably, Frances says, the tribunal is simply not set up to respond to these issues quickly or effectively. "It is grossly under-resourced; no member is full-time. There are long delays in hearings and decisions." She says IHC has been waiting since the end of March for a decision in the latest round of its legal action against the Crown over its systemic failures in the education of children with disabilities. The Crown has tried to strike out a number of claims.

Jen Puah from YouthLaw, lawyer for the Green Bay student, says the dismissal of the appeal was good for her client in one sense because it brought an end to the stress of litigation and it meant that the High Court ruling could stand. But the attempt at reintegrating him at school failed badly. "There was a complete lack of engagement by the school when the judgment came out. It was so traumatic for him. He felt unwelcome and he felt he would not be dealt with in an inclusive way. It is sad that the ultimate outcome is not ideal. He has been very traumatised by the whole situation."

The boy's mother, who cannot be identified because her son's identity has been suppressed, says she forced the issue in May and took her son back to Green Bay High School after they had been kept waiting for months and after meetings to work out the details of his return had not achieved anything. "After three days it all ended in tears because he had a counsellor following him around," she says. "They wanted him to fail."

She says her son is now living out of Auckland with his father and doing work experience through another high school. "If you kick kids out of one school, you are just handing the problem around."



IHC Director of Advocacy
Trish Grant



Frances Joychild QC



Jen Puah from YouthLaw

Colin Meads – on our team for 40 years

Continued from page 3

They encouraged dairy farmers to raise calves and donate the proceeds to IHC in exchange for a pair of gumboots each.

“I used to praise up the farmers. In those days you would get \$90 for a calf – you get a lot more than that now.” But he said not many people would give \$90 – “You get \$5 or \$10”.

When the farms got bigger, Colin told the large herd owners to think about donating even more calves. The IHC Calf & Rural Scheme is still going 30 years later, with Colin Meads as patron, and it raises more than \$1 million annually for IHC.

Colin put his money where his mouth was too. In the 1980s, he donated the proceeds from his speaking engagements to buying a farm in Te Kuiti for people with intellectual disabilities. Colin says the idea of the farm was to provide employment and teach farming skills. Pinetree Farm became a drop-off point for donated calves on their way to the sales. The farm is still owned by IHC.

What concerns him now is the lack of employment opportunities for young people with disabilities. “I can remember the thrill of some of them getting their first pay. That was theirs; they were going to bank it.” He is keen to see the money from the Tauranga charity auction go towards providing opportunities for young people, perhaps in farming.

When Colin was made a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit by Governor-General Dame Silvia Cartwright, in 2001 “she said this is not just for your rugby, this is for your work with IHC also. I was quite proud of it to be honest”.

Colin and Verna have now retired from their own farm to live in the Te Kuiti township, with three of their five children nearby. They have 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Compost loo-builders ready for emergencies

Last year, Otaki-based firm Emergency Compost Toilets supported the employment of people with intellectual disabilities through IDEA Services, paying them more than the minimum wage.

Anthony Mcllroy, one of the new employees, is enjoying the chance to be in paid employment.

“Just being there and doing the work was the most fun bit.”

Matt King, Managing Director of Emergency Compost Toilets (ECT), has been impressed by the quality of work and attention to detail of his new staff.

“It has been great to see how fast people have picked it up. I could tell from day one that my decision to work with IDEA Services had been a good one.”

The composting toilet can be used in any civil emergency or natural disaster. The flat-packed toilet system has been successfully trialled with the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO).

After the trial Matt approached IDEA Services. He knew that

he wanted to work with local people and feed back into the local community. One way that he could do both was to provide people with intellectual disabilities employment opportunities with his company.

“I decided that handing over the manufacturing side of things – the painting and sanding – would allow me to focus on the marketing of ECT and getting the concept and idea out there.

“Working with IDEA Services provides me with a very flexible workforce, which has been ideal for a start-up business like mine.”

ECT set up a workshop to allow the new staff members to get hands-on and try the work that they would be doing. They gave everything a go, which made them feel comfortable with the equipment and confident that they would be able to sand and paint.

The relationship has worked very well for Matt and his business, as well as his new employees.

ECT was developed by a specialised team of builders and designers from *Relieve* following the devastating Canterbury earthquakes. *Relieve*, an association formed in response to the earthquakes, was instrumental in providing vital support and information to communities suffering the loss of their usual sewage systems.

For more information about ECT, visit emergencycomposttoilets.co.nz



Simon Crowther and Anthony Mcllroy on the composting toilet built for both options.

One Hell of an opportunity

Last November IHC and Hell Pizza launched an initiative called *Active in Hell*, a nationwide, paid work experience programme for young people with intellectual disabilities.

Hell Pizza committed to paying trainees to complete six weeks of specialised training with a goal of teaching them valuable and employable skills in the hospitality and food industry.

Ben Cummings from Hell Pizza says, “*Active in Hell* is about giving these young people a chance in commercial kitchens and exposing them to skills relevant for hospitality roles. It was originally meant to be just 64 trainees (one at each Hell Pizza store) but we are now looking at it as an ongoing programme.”

So far, the *Active in Hell* programme has trained 10 young people with intellectual disabilities.

The programme has been so successful that the Minister for Disability Issues, Hon Nicky Wagner, is interested in meeting the team to find out more about the programme.

The training comprises two two-hour sessions per week. The paid training is tailored to the learning level of each participant and covers everything from the mandatory health and safety education to preparing food for sale.

When *Active in Hell* was first introduced, most franchisees committed to giving the programme a go. “The project has taken a while to gather



Felipe Albanéz-Pinto and Jayline Manutaupu at Hell Pizza Westgate.



Jayline Manutaupu gets some hands-on experience.

momentum, but franchisees are finding the programme very rewarding and surprisingly stress-free,” says Ben.

Ben believes that it’s a good way for branches to support their local communities, and he’s hopeful that other companies will follow their lead.

Most recently, Hell Pizza Westgate has trained two IHC trainees, and placements are also lined up at Hell Pizza Riccarton, Epsom, Kapiti and Petone. Training is also taking place at Grey Lynn and New Plymouth.

Hell Pizza has also created an *Active in Hell* web series, following the trainees during the pilot stage at Hell. To view the seven-part series, please visit satanslittlehelper.co.nz

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ISSN 1171-8587

NOTICE OF THE 2015 IHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the IHC Annual General Meeting
To be held at 5 pm Friday 11 September 2015
The Rydges Hotel, 75 Featherston Street, Wellington

The Draft Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Meeting Procedures
3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting
4. Presentation of Annual Report
5. Report from Board Committee – Self Advocacy
6. Elections of Vice President and Board Member
7. Election of Patrons
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. Annual Membership Subscription
10. Board Remit
11. General Business

2015 Annual Report

The 2015 annual report and financial statements will be available at the Annual General Meeting. They will also be available via the IHC website prior to the Annual General Meeting at www.ihc.org.nz

Ralph Jones
Chief Executive

24 July 2015