



# Burn Support Group Charitable Trust, Inc. Newsletter

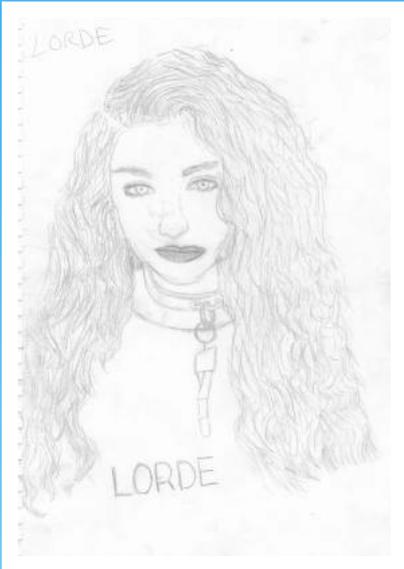


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## HAZE OUR BUDDING ARTIST

Haze has been a regular at our Children's Burns Camp for many years. Haze's burn injuries occurred when she was a baby, but that doesn't stop her from giving everything a go at camp.

We came across Haze's amazing talents while at camp, so I asked her if she would share her drawings with us. Haze is 13 years old.



## Burn Support News

*Although it doesn't feel like Summer is here yet, Christmas is just around the corner. Thank you for another year of support for Burn Support Group and we would like to wish you all a*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SAFE HOLIDAYS!**

## WORLD BURN CONGRESS 2015

In October, Jan Steele, Nikki Boucher, Andrew Cameron and Dominic Hannon attended the Phoenix Society World Burn Congress.

It was a powerful week of inspirational stories and speakers.

Andrew Cameron ( a burn survivor ) comments on the highlights of the trip:

"Personally, I found the World Burn experience very rewarding and ultimately life changing. Almost too hard, to easily put into words. As a burn survivor myself, I took much encouragement and inspiration, from simply being in the presence of so many others and hearing their courageous stories. Many of the journey's shared, included inevitable, some of the details of their accident and the horrible, painful struggle of early recovery, to a place with much support along the way, of acceptance and moving on in time, towards a healthy, purposeful and striving life."



**Someone once asked me how I hold my head  
up so high after all I've been through.  
I said, it's because no matter what,  
I am a survivor, not a victim**

- Patricia Buckley



Mr Quick Cool says:  
**"Seconds to burn,  
BUT at least  
20 minutes to cool !!!"**

Lets be friends on  
Facebook.

[www.facebook.com/  
burnsupportgroup](http://www.facebook.com/burnsupportgroup)



**Burn Support Group  
Charitable Trust**  
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## TRACEY-MAREE WILTON HOUIA



To ALL the Burns Support Committee AND Members...from the bottom of my heart "THANK YOU"

Thank you for welcoming me not only on Friday night at the Charity Dinner, but, on the whole and making this an amazing experience. I know I come across as rather "confident" etc but those that know me well will say just how "non confident" I was prior to the event..but..the wonderful ambience in the room..the Company I was with and the excitement of the evening got me through!

The highlight of my night was being invited downstairs onto the podium with Donna and the "Support Team" and then going into the Winners Lounge. Omg..Im an avid "Race goer" and this truly was so special so THANKYOU!

If at all there is ANYTHING I can do to help the Burns Support Group with anything in the future, I will do so, no questions asked. THANK YOU for an amazing,life changing event and MERRY CHRISTMAS one and all.

## CHARITY NIGHT AT ALEXANDRA PARK

In early November Burn Support Group held their annual charity race night - This years event proceeds will go towards funding our children's burn survivor camp. We bring children (7-17years) from all over NZ who have sustained a burn injury. The camp is very rewarding for them where they feel 'normal' and don't feel like they are being stared or pointed at because they all share the same scars. This is free of charge to the children and a caregiver.

**What a fun night** - 250+ guests involved in our fun blow up horse race, listened to inspirational speakers Jorja Sharp, Heather Stewart, Johnathan Heather, Tracey Maree Wilton Houia and Donna Maree Gregory Marshall. We had a wide variety of live and silent auctions and of course the horse racing and delicious dinner. A date has been set for next years event so make sure a circle is put around Friday 6 November, 2015.



Thank you to our sponsors and donors who donate such amazing items. A huge thanks to our speakers who inspired and became great role models to other burn survivors and a big thanks to our attendees and bidders of the auctions who helped us achieve our goal.

Our children's camp runs from 21 - 25 January, 2015.



## VIVART - Art by Viv Cory-Wright



My name is Vivienne and I'd like to share a wee bit about myself and my new little business I've been doing recently.

As a burns survivor of 44 years I've found employment has been one of my issues over the years, not being qualified at much as school

was also a struggle with the bullying because of my burns and being over sensitive didn't help.

I got burnt in 1970, pre ACC so never had financial assistance for emotional support, there was no Burns Support in those days.

I was adopted as a baby and found my mother through Jig-Saw when I was 18 years old. Even if I needed skin from another donor, say a family member- because I was adopted, legally I wasn't allowed to know my mother or who I was till I was 20 years old. My birthmother never forgave my adopted parents for me being burnt in their care.

I was bullied at primary school mainly by the Headmaster and his daughter, once after I had come out of Middlemore from having skin grafts on my hand and having my hand heavily bandaged- he stood in front of the class and said "Did your mum tie your lunch to your hand because you kept forgetting it?"

There were many other bullying incidences at school that saw me having to change schools and leave my friends who knew me and accepted me.

Many sniggers and rude comments soon stop you wanting to socialise, these are just a few memorable snippets.

Once I went to a pub with a friend and a guy at a table of about 6 young men called out "I didn't know it was Halloween"

I grew up a very angry person.

I was not expected to survive my burns as 50 percent of my body was burnt from my nighty catching fire, I was under Mr Williams and sometimes Mr Manchester.

I was told by Mr Williams that I couldn't have children, I have two kids.

I had a head injury about 18 years ago that seemed to empty my sense of humour and left me in a huge black hole of depression and compounded how I felt about myself.

Now at 50 I find myself relying on my own ability and talents to create my own employment. Also my circumstances changed several years ago after I met my soulmate Murray while online dating.

I found that the opposite sex couldn't just write you off after one look at you, and after striking up conversations online and getting to know you as person I made some nice friends. I could also screen them, ha ha. :-)

To cut a not too long story short, we dated, I moved to his city, we lived together (along with my two children) and married in January 2012.

With Murray's encouragement, love and support I have embraced my artistic side and am now selling my wares in Galleries, by commission and at the markets.

Earlier this year my clever darling husband won a Fellowship to the States for ten weeks to tour around and then attend a seminar at Harvard University in Boston AND take his wife.

We drove 13000km's covering the good, the bad and the ugly of our new found love of America while keeping my eye out for new ideas of things I could bring home.

In New Mexico I found Frida Kahlo Bottle cap earrings... bingo, this is what I now make.... Bottle cap earrings with a New Zealand twist.

After 44 years of wanting to be like everybody else I now celebrate my differences and and happy to be in my own skin" :-)

I am on Facebook as **Vivart** if you would like to Like my page.

Wishing you all a very Merry and Safe Christmas.

Arohanui.

Viv Cory-Wright. :-)



## The Beauty of Disfigurement - by Alan Breslau

Over the 50 years since his accident, Alan has developed many concepts, theories and strategies to help disfigured people cope with the many problems and challenges facing them in their day to day lives. You can purchase this book through the Burn Support Group for \$30 plus \$5 p&p.



## WARMER WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

Never use accelerants to start a fire.

Make sure there are no combustibles in what you are burning.

Keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby when lighting fires.

Keep children well away from fires.

Make sure children wear footwear on hot surfaces so they do not burn the soles of their feet

Make sure children are not playing near the BBQ or fires.

Put matches and lighters away when finished

Make sure everyone has sunblock on at all times!

## DONATIONS INSTEAD OF WORK CHRISTMAS GIFTS

A great initiative. Pro Pharma gives annual charity donations of \$6000 in lieu of Christmas gifts to our customers. Burn Support Group greatly appreciated your generosity and to be your chosen charity this year.



## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please keep our database up to date so that we can keep you informed on events and happening with Burn Support Group. If you change address, email or phone numbers please let us know so we can update our records.

## ADVERTISING

Are you a burn survivor or the parent/ caregiver or a friend of a burn survivor and feel that others might benefit from and be encouraged by your sharing your experience,

please contact us and tell us about it.

if you would like to help contribute towards the production and distribution of our newsletter in return for advertising contact - [nikki@burns.org.nz](mailto:nikki@burns.org.nz)

If you have any concerns about the contents of this newsletter please don't hesitate in contacting us.

## MONEY RAISED FOR CHILDREN WITH BURNS

Two girls Amie Fleming and Tyler Lennox from Room 2 at St Joseph's Catholic School in Pukekohe independently decided to organise a raffle to raise money for children suffering from burns. They asked their parents to buy a selection of food items, which they made up into 2 large boxes of groceries for the raffle.

Over the next month they sat outside the school gate selling tickets and they also had tickets available at a local business in town. The raffle was drawn at the last school assembly on the 11th of December, **Amie and Tyler ended up**

**raising \$304.00 which has been sent on to the Burns Support Group.**

Both Amie Fleming and Tyler Lennox were inspired to raise money for children suffering from burns due to the school's learning focus for term 4, which was about exploring the differences between a need and a want. They researched the different situations children can be in both physically and emotionally then decided to do something for children who suffer from burns. They realised people with severe burns needed many operations and a lengthy recovery time and may end up having disfiguring scarring for life.

The two girls have had a remarkable journey in their learning this term, with the grateful thanks of their supportive parents.



## Yes I want to make a difference to the lives of burn survivors and their families

Please accept my donation of \$

Details:

My email address is:

I'd like to donate by:

Online at [www.burns.org.nz](http://www.burns.org.nz) OR

Enclosed cheque made payable to Burn Support Group Charitable Trust. (PO Box 97164, Manukau City, Auckland 2241)

Please contact me about:

Making regular donations

Leaving a bequest in my will

All donations to the BSG are tax deductible and receipted. Charities Commission No: CC48691.