



Mata, a confident and loving mum, with her four children Levron, Jayden, Jaylevan, Mii.

Photo Wayne Martin

BURNING ISSUES TACKLED BY TRUST

With no government funding, and relying totally on the generosity the public, it could be said the Burns Support Group Charitable Trust (BSG) has enough on its hands just raising the funds needed each year to do its work.

But, amazingly, BSG not only manages – sometimes with difficulty – to meet its own needs but has also raised \$1.5 million dollars to assist burn units at public hospitals in Auckland and the Waikato.

Administrator Michele Henry (one of two part-time employees) says BSG aims to lower the incidence of burn injuries and educate the public about burn risks whilst also supporting and assisting people with burn injuries.

www.eastlife.co.nz

“We take a three pronged approach – prevention, education and care. This includes holding educational seminars, creating burn prevention awareness at community events and working with other community groups such as NZ Fire Service and the Middlemore Foundation to promote injury prevention awareness,” Michele says.

“We also provide free burn prevention lessons and resources to schools, kindergartens, Kohanga Reo and other community groups in Auckland and offer free resources and ideas to interested teachers and schools throughout the country.

When it comes to supporting and assisting people with burn injuries

Michelle says volunteers visit patients and their families in Middlemore Hospital and fund equipment to help burn patients, over and above that funded by the health service.

“We foster the sharing of information between burn survivors, their families, health professionals and other interested parties and help improve patient care by attending appropriate conferences and workshops.

“Our volunteers also accompany and support children who have burn injuries when they return to school and our annual Burn Support Children’s camp for 7-17 year olds has been another lifeline for many young people with burn injuries.”

To do all this, BSG, which was started in 1987 after founder Delwyn Tait’s son was Brendon received burns to 40% of his body in a Papakura explosion in 1984, relies on public donations.

“Our biggest fundraiser is our six-week annual telemarketing campaign which, this year, starts on July 27,” Michele says.

“We know there are many worthwhile groups seeking assistance but with no government funding, support from the public really is essential and appreciated.

“BSG does such great work where it is sorely needed so, we’re hoping this year, everyone will be supportive.”

eastlife | august 2016 | 27