



The Burn Support Group Autumn Newsletter

www.burns.org.nz

March 2024



CAMP AWHI 2024, SHAKESPEAR LODGE, WHANGAPARAOA

With beautiful weather, happy faces and plenty of laughter Camp Awhi 2024 was another success made possible by the generosity of sponsors, donors and the wonderful Brannigan family. Camp Awhi provides opportunities for relationships to form, fun to be had and spending time with others similarly affected creating a vibrant environment. Camp leaves a lasting impact for those participating, giving memories that will be cherished and the exciting prospect of returning the following year.

The Burn Support Group sincerely appreciates the continued support and values the benefits of this unique experience held for young burn survivors throughout the country.

P.S.L FIRE AND SAFETY
TOTAL CALIBRATIONS
SOUTHERN STARS
INDUSTRIAL TUBING
WILDERMOUTH TRUST
KARL AND JAN BRANNIGAN

This year the following attendees were awarded, selected, graduated and winners of various awards, Congratulations and well done:
JOVANA STANKOVICH & WIRIPO ADAMS receiving the "Alan Breslau Book" as recognition of the noticed little extra efforts applied during camp.

NYEYAH CASTLE, sponsored by the fabulous **KARL AND JAN BRANNIGAN**, also the selected **GRANT A WISH** champion, Nyeyah will be provided with piano lessons!

TEARNA TEOKOTAI who along with the group celebrated her graduation. Well done and a massive **CONGRATULATIONS** for everyone's special moments and memories..

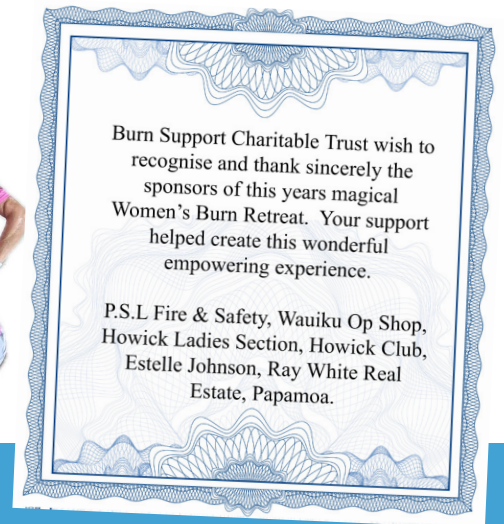
This year saw another exciting timetable of various activities giving fun and enjoyment to those attending. The Charity thanks these organisations for contributing to an action packed 5 days:

AUCKLAND JET SKI RIDERS
SILVERDALE ADVENTURE PARK
OREWA SURF CLUB/BEACH EATERY
AUCKLAND ZOO
AUCKLAND ADVENTURE JET BOATS
SNOW PLANET
MISS FOXY/FACE PAINTER
SPIT ROAST CATERING
HUBBARDS
RAPID RELIEF TEAM

The leaders who provide their time, patience, commitment and support play a pivotal role over the five days. They work incredibly hard, have amazing relationships and bonds with the children. Thank you for the incredible work you do to make this event memorable.

HOLLY TIMMS, TAYLA HENRY, NICK NEILSON & TROY HALL

INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE FOR CAMP AWHI 2025.



Testimonial from Angelique Barnes, burn survivor and returnee to Retreat:

I just completed the 2024 NZ Woman's Annual Burn Retreat at Castaways Resort Waiuku. I want to express a heartfelt thank you to the NZ Burn Support Group Charitable Trust, Inc., the Board, Delwyn Breslau, Michele Henry and Tracey for providing such an important nurturing event for female burn survivors.

Thank you so much to all the generous sponsors and the lovely people who come to speak, to share their expertise and time such as; kids from Waiuku Kapa Haka, Stephanie Romeo, Nikki - Aspire yoga, Alex Jones - Geeks on Wheels, Madonna Dasler - Clinical Nurse, Altitude Dancing, DonnaMaree Austin, TV3 Breakfast Show, Colin Mathura-Jeffree, Yolanda O'Reilly, Tough Tiger Fist Comedy duo, Massage therapists Bersanti Day Spa, Essence Lingerie, Vendella and our beautiful girls who come each year to do our professional makeup.

I can truly say that we are all grateful recipients and this event brings us so much positivity and enriching energy to our spirits. Thank you everyone who contributes and continues to give (like the amazing products and goody bags) of course we love them, especially in these times, which we understand it's tough out there and giving during such times is extra generous.

I come home and feel so invigorated and have so much more to give to the world, family, friends, and myself after such an amazing retreat.

Thank you to our 'Angel' Michele Henry for the enormous amount of hard work it takes to create the NZ Women's Burn Retreat.

Attending the Burns Support Charitable Trust Women's Retreat instantly connected me to an extremely supportive group of women who

understood what my experiences of having burn scars was like. Having never met anyone with burns till I went to this women's retreat at age 47 was like instantly finding new BFFs. I found myself happily talking about issues I'd never discussed which is a great emotional support.

I could share my coping strategies for healing and recovery to others which felt empowering. The retreat also offers workshops, fun and pampering activities, and guest speakers tailored to burn survivors' needs, helping us navigate challenges and build resilience in a safe and understanding environment.

Angelique Barnes

Testimonial from Colin Mathura-Jeffree Honoured Guest Speaker captures the essence of the Women's Retreat:

Life is a journey that has taken me to far off lands with gifts from Princesses and parties with pageant winners and pop stars. It's so wildly outrageous or hilariously bad and I don't share it often because for all my sparkle I'm private and not for public consumption.

Infact I'm often surprised when I'm recognised. I was incognito when suddenly I was accosted at Maccas (of all places) by Michele Henry- who demanded I be a guest speaker at The Women's Burn Retreat 2024. I had natural apprehension as I come from 30+ years in fashion & beauty as a model, actor and even TV judge on Top Model. I foolishly thought these burn survivors would think me shallow and vain.

Michele directly reminded these women ARE survivors and not victims and I have a life story to share. Well how could I refuse?. The date was set and so I made a call to Angelique from Publicity PR who excitedly provided 20 boxed gift sets of ESSANO skin care and Kelli Brett - Publisher of Cuisine Magazine where I was a guest at the Women of Food & Drink awards

2024 - a day earlier to my guest talk - she got her PA to deliver to my Corporate Cab 20+ Cuisine Magazines. I figured If I fell flat at least these gifts would suffice. Also I'm a model who is photographed editorially so I thought "let's do a photographic workshop". Let's show them how it's done.

When I arrived I had no time for trepidation as I was greeted with the most open smiles and energy. I spun out stories of my terribly wild career and the most embarrassing bits got the biggest laughs. I even remembered in 1993 a show in Wellington that had a burn survivor guy and how the organisers nearly dropped him out and I struggled to speak up for him because he was the most handsome male model in the show.

He remained. I got unsettled because I saw these women were equally as brilliant, vivacious, sexy and real. The shoot was just like TV's Top Model was. These women suddenly smouldered under direction. They leaned into the fantasy. They took the smallest of cues and were vogueing all over the chairs,



the deck and the floor. I was so impressed. True beauty shone because these women aren't just limited to the title 'survivor', they're more than inspirational, I realised they are a force of nature.

Colin Mathura-jeffree

Thank's again to Southern Stars....

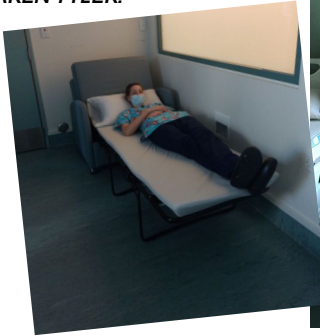
With the continued support from Southern Stars Charity, these fabulous two items were provided to enhance stays in hospital during rehabilitation and surgery. Testimonial received from Karen Tyler, Charge Nurse Manager.

"The Sofa Chair Fold Out and the Reclining Chair are now used in our dedicated Paediatric Burn Room in Kidz First Surgical. The sofa chair fold out is used as an extra bed and the soft reclining chair is for comfort.

There have been occasions when we have needed to put another patient bed into the burn room for when an additional parent or child stays. This has been when the child has just come to the ward and the family are traumatised and need that extra support, or they may be sorting out child care etc.

The Sofa bed is an appropriate alternative to a patient bed, as it takes up less room and can be used as a chair during the day for family members. The reclining soft chair is for comfort, especially when these children and their families have a lengthy hospital stay. Often used for cuddles and a change from being on their beds. Once again thank you so much for these chairs. We have had wonderful feedback from the families and staff who appreciate your generous gift."

KAREN TYLER.



WAIKATO WISHLIST


Waikato wishlist item provided for 2023

With the wonderful support from Southern Stars Telemarketing Campaign, the Charity were able to provide a new dressing trolley for the Paediatric clinic for young burn survivors.


Sam Barnes with Richard Younger, met with Denise Bregmen-Hurst to officially hand over this valuable new equipment.

Helen Hughes, Burn Clinical Nurse Specialist offered a few words on the benefit of this item. "This streamlines efficiency for both adult and paediatric burn dressing clinics which will ultimately mean more available time would be given to the patient."






Burn Survivor Men's Get Away 22nd to 24th November 2024



Fishing Charter: *Wish4Fish*
Accommodation: Betālehem Motor Inn, Tauranga
Guest Speaker: Mr Steve Joyner, American Burn Survivor



PROMPT ARRIVAL for 4pm Friday 22nd
Transport from Auckland can be arranged
Catering provided
Numbers restricted
Applications required by September 30th to michele@burns.org.nz ph 021863670

With the wonderful success of the Men's Day Out for the previous 2 years, with numbers on the increase, the B.S.G is excited to announce the event is extended over 3 days... With a new title and the opportunity of workshops and activities combined, the male burn community has access to complete the registration forms for this year's event.

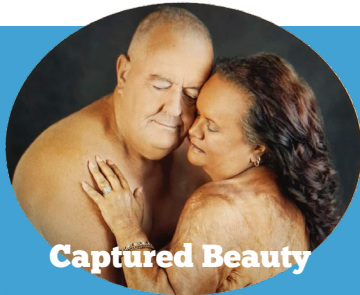
All information can be found on the website. Our sincere, "Thank you" to the wonderful sponsorship provided by ORCA LTD. This contribution makes a real difference in these men attending! <https://orcasafety.co.nz>



Community Spirit



The Burn Support Group wish Jessica Marginson (camper) all the very best success for her upcoming tournament, extremely proud of her achievements to date.



Captured Beauty

Donna's journey is a testament to the transformative power of photography and the resilience of the human spirit. If you, like Donna, are yearning to rediscover your beauty and reclaim your narrative, I invite you to step into my studio. Let me capture the essence of who you are, not just as a woman, but as a force to be reckoned with—a beacon of strength, love, and empowerment.

<https://www.helenjoy.photography/40over40>

Together, we'll embark on a journey of self-discovery, celebrating your life, your journey, and the beauty that lies within you. Because in my studio, every woman is seen, heard, and valued. Reach out today enquires@helenjoyphotography.com and let's begin your own photographic experience—a journey that will not only capture moments but transform lives. Your story deserves to be told, and I'm here to help you tell it.

Xmas celebrations for 2023....

22 | Wednesday, December 20, 2023



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

It was a picture-perfect day for the Burn Support Group Xmas party held on Sunday at Cockle Bay Beach. With 60 burn survivors along with family, the day provided much laughter and merriment. It was Auckland Jet Ski, who generously gave their time and toys to ensure everyone had a great time. Raffles were won, there was the clever Miss Fox face painter, Mr Whippy and Spit Roast Catering for lunch. All in all, a fabulous event for kids and adults alike. A wonderful opportunity to mix and mingle, rekindle new friendship, and enjoy a perfect day with very courageous, inspiring, and beautiful people.



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Special thanks to STEELPAC CONSTRUCTION, director Cora Lawton attended the 2024 Women's Burn Retreat, as a very generous donation provided \$500.00 to the Charity for raffle prizes during the year. Very kind and the Charity thanks you immensely!

<https://www.steelpacconstruction.co.nz/>



The Charity wishes to thank the team from HARD TO FIND BOOKS for their generous donation towards raffles at the Survivor Sunday event.

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