

Real Special Times

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Contributions

Please email
Carole
newsletter@realspecial.co.nz if
you have anything
to share e.g.
Celebrations
Letter and tips
Personal
experiences
Recipes
Just for fun
Links

All submissions are
assumed to be for
publication, unless
clearly marked "not for
publication". You must
provide your name,
address, phone number
and / or email. Items
will be published at our
discretion, may be
edited, and will only
give your initial letter,
surname and area.

Real Special News

New address and phone number

We have moved! Although we are still an 'e' business, our postal address is Permin road, RD 1, Upper Moutere. Our phone number and the freephone have been replaced by 03 5266 066.



Carole and Ed

Customer prize draw results

In December we sent out customer surveys and all replies were put into a draw. The winners were kindly drawn by Ed Book, Captain of the Nelson Giants Basketball team. The lucky winner of the \$100 gift voucher was K. Cook of Leeston, \$50 went to G. Ellison of Invercargill and \$25 was won by D. Ibbert of Auckland. Thanks to everyone who entered - don't forget to use your \$15 "thank you" vouchers towards your next Real Special purchase.

Sales items

Click on the poodle logo on our home page to see our Sales items and special offers – some items now half price!

Celebrations!



Do you know anyone with a birthday coming up? Have you any other events you would like to share? Has your child achieved something at school? We would love to hear from you and give that person a name mention. In our first edition we would like to extend our congratulations to Ed Book and his wife Lisa on the birth of their third child, Nicholas Adam, on 2nd of Jan. weighing in at a very healthy 8lbs 1oz.! Thanks again Ed for doing the Christmas draw for us at Real Special.



Featured websites

Each month we will pick out some websites that we recommend. This month's choices are 'Bandaides and Blackboards' and 'First School'

<http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/faculty/jfleitas/bandaides/>



This site offers wonderful information from children who share their stories of living and coping with medical conditions. From ADD, cancer, muscular dystrophy and Crohn's Disease, their personal stories will teach you far more than the medical accounts.



<http://www.first-school.ws/>

For those with younger children or who have a developmental delay, First-School features lots of free educational early childhood activities, printable crafts, worksheets and other resources. We particularly liked their section on 'Homemade-toys and printable games' which you can locate through their search engine.

Easy recipe

Each month we will feature an easy recipe that parents and kids can make together.

Sweet pumpkin muffins

Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups of self-raising flour

3/4 cup of milk

3/4 cup of sugar

1 egg

1/4 cup oil

1 cup of cooked pumpkin

Preheat the oven to 180c.

Put the flour and sugar in a bowl.

Mix the egg, milk and oil in a jug then pour it into the flour and sugar.

Mix but don't over combine the ingredients.

Add the pumpkin and stir in.

Spoon into well greased muffin trays and cook for 18 - 20 mins.

Makes 9 - 12 muffins.

Cool on a wire rack.

They taste equally nice with or without butter spread on them.



Have you an easy recipe you'd like to share? Please send them to newsletter@realspecial.co.nz

Personal experiences

If you have a story to tell that you feel would be of help to others, we would love to hear it. For this issue, We have chosen Margaret Thomson's inspiring story from the Cerebral Palsy Society website <http://www.cpsoc.org.nz/>



Margaret Thomson has Cerebral Palsy. Throughout her life she has managed to challenge her own boundaries and has had many achievements, including being a day student at

Bible College of New Zealand in the early 1980s.

"I have completed several certificates through the College's Distance Learning Centre - in my own time. For the past eleven years I have lived by myself in a unit with some home based support. My guiding belief has been centered on this quote:

"Persist in these things!

Don't let up for a single minute!

Through your faith and through your deeds you can shape your life and help to shape the lives of others."

"I think that people should ask us what we want to do and not assume they know what is best for people with physical disability. Keep striving, don't give up! It may be difficult but we really do know what we want to achieve - after all, it is our life."



Letters and tips

We would love to receive your letters, queries, comments or useful tips.

Below are some tips on presenting text to students with dyslexic tendencies. These are from a BBC article by Debbie Farnfield in our FAQ page under "What is Dyslexia?"

Dyslexic learners are often **visual** thinkers and need to link words to images to make them memorable. They may have problems tracking print and reading **black** print off a white page.

Presentation of text is very important:

- use a sans serif font: Arial, Tahoma, Comic Sans
- make headings stand out
- do not capitalise first word on a line, unless grammatically necessary
- do not justify right-hand margins
- space information clearly
- use 14 pt font minimum
- use colour and appropriate images to help student find information easily
- box information to make it stand out
- do not try to fit too much information on a page
- do not double-side; use two separate sheets (even if it is bad for the environment)
- do not write all in capitals; lower case words are easier to read.

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Just for fun**Edith the poodle**

Hi, I'm Edith, the Real Special mascot. I love clothes and am always looking for new designs.

Competition - I now have a competition for you to design me an outfit - click on the poodle logo on our home page for the link. Just print off the poodle template, draw some clothes on it and send it back – simple! The closing date is the end of each month. Our address is: Permin Road, RD 1, Upper Moutere, or fax to 03 526 6066. As it is the design that I am looking at, you don't need to worry about it not being in colour if you fax it back to me. Each month the winning entry will receive some colouring pencils.

Subscription notice. You have received this free newsletter because you have requested to subscribe to it – thank you. Your privacy will be respected – we do not give pass your information to anyone. Please feel free to forward this email to any other interested people. Apologies if you do not want to be on our mailing list - if you wish to be removed, please email us and we will arrange it.

Jokes

Q. What do you call a three-legged donkey?

A. Wonkey

Q. What did the little ear of corn call his father?

A. Pop Corn!

Q. What would you call a sleeping bull?

A. A bulldozer.

Q. Why did the ram fall over the cliff?

A. He didn't see the ewe turn !

Q. What game do cows play at parties?

A. Moosical chairs !

Riddles

Q. The more you of them you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?

A. Footsteps

Q. What gets wetter the more it dries?

A. A towel!

Q. What belongs to you but others use it more than you do?

A. Your name!

Q. What clothing does a house wear?

A. Address!

**Useful inks**

We want Real Special to be a useful site for information so are looking to link with other professionals, resource sites, charity organisations etc. If you are interested in becoming one of our links, please send details to Carole - newsletter@realspecial.co.nz

We will shortly be putting a link to SPELD in our Assessment button plus have links to several organization in our FAQ button, e.g. the NZ Dyspraxia association.