



Community Circus Newsletter

Issue #2, December 2007

Merry Christmas



Hello

Yes another year is coming to an end again... but what an intensive 2007 we created. First, in January the Northland Circus Festival had such a fantastic atmosphere and was a motivating start to the year. Then (as part of the Northland Community circus teacher training) all those Community Circus (CoCi) groups popping up - trying to find their local identity/structure and support. Then Halfway into the year we hosted the first NZ Community Circus Convention in Dargaville with 75 participants from all over NZ. In October we celebrated the first issue of the CC Newsletter. In November Olli Ricken (from Circo Arts Chch) was the first performer to tour our Northland Network with very good feedback from the schools she performed and in December Circus Kumarani launched a new website design with a new CoCiNetwork page. Check it out!

And for the end of the year some of our network members will work & celebrate together at the new years Prana Festival, Coromandel. Fun and laughter, Thomas

Our Newsletters have 3 parts, reflecting the National Convention structure

1. International Developments 2. What is going on in NZ? 3. Resources

We hope you will use this monthly newsletter to take an **active** stance and Participate. Through this process we bring Community Circus to another level - to a great Circus Community!

1. International Developments

Dateline Iraq, Jo Wilding author of the book "Don't Shoot the Clowns"

Dear All, As some of you will know, the Circus which began as Circus to Iraq has been busy in Palestine more recently, now known as Boomchucka Circus. Boomchucka is now creating its own e mail list to keep people informed about forthcoming events and planned trips to Palestine and to send out people's accounts when they are on tour.

We are also still supporting our friends from Aila Saida (Happy Family) from Baghdad, who had to flee to Cairo after two members and a friend were murdered because of their theatre work with kids in Iraq. They've set up a children's centre in Egypt now, working with some of the many many children who have fled Iraq with their families and are living over there as refugees with no immigration status at all, often in desperate circumstances.

To join the mailing list (please do), just e mail Sheila Hanney at sheila@hfhclothing.co.uk

She promises not to clutter up your inbox and will brighten your life with almost every e mail sent!

You can find out more about Boomchucka's activities from the website, which is still www.c2i.org

Cheers, Jo

(Who is worse than ever at reading her e mails, has recently qualified as a barrister and lives with a toddler and sometimes two young step sons, so please don't be offended if you ever e mail me and I take a very long time to reply.)

Upcoming International festivals:

2 - 10 Aug 2008 31st European Juggling Convention Germany / Karlsruhe www.ejc2008.de

1 - 4 May 2008 South Africa juggling festival www.juggle.co.za/convention.htm

June 2008 1st international Acrobatics Convention Croatia 2008 www.akrobatiek.net

14 June 2008 World juggling day www.juggle.org

14 - 20 July 2008 61st IJA — Kentucky/USA www.juggle.org



2. What is going on in NZ?

Community Circus Feature of the month

Whangarei Community Circus has germinated from a seed that was sown when Thomas from Circus Kumarani ran Circus classes for the local Home Educators group, several years ago. People

still talked of those classes, and there was clearly a calling for Community Circus in Whangarei. Last Summer, a number of local children (along with aging parents) attended the Kai Iwi lakes Circus Festival and these enthusiastic youngsters (and their not so young parents) came together again with Louis MacDonald and Tony Smith kicking things off. We now have three children's classes running on Mondays, with plans to expand further in 2008 – including work started with IDEA services intellectually disabled clients. Classes are held in the Anglican Church Hall, and participants range in age from 6 – 45+. Achmed Abman is our skills teacher, ably supported by Tony and Louis.

Our other achievements this year have been:

- Assisting with 'Circus Space' at Meltdown Festival, Midwinter Arts Festival and Kids Expo
- Performances at Circus Convention, Dargaville, Wearable Arts awards and Kapahaka Tutukaka
- Paid gig at Tikipunga Soccer breakup
- Supporting Olli's Tour in our area
- Production of promotional DVD of who we are

In Siptemjber, we gained Charitable Trust status, and the Trustees – Tony Smith, Fiona Douglas, Luzia Bohles and Martin Herbertson – are now beavering away organizing future activities, such as the Whangarei Buskers' Festival on the 19th of January 2008. We are also working on a new initiative taking Community Circus into local schools, and a collaboration with Splash Flying Dance & Co, an aerial dance school in Auckland.

Circus Tour Initiative

In November, Olli Ricken from Circo Arts in Christchurch ran a workshop for our advanced group and performed at local schools, and Olli even managed to fit in a bit of horse whispering and meditative singing during her stay, which left quite an impression upon us all. A recent "acrobatic dance" workshop, run by Emma Phillips, was also inspiring. It's great to see everyone still discovering the freedom to find themselves – long may it continue.

Great feedback was received from teachers and students at all the schools Olli performed at. Dargaville Intermediate was very happy to christen their newly renovated hall at an event where the whole school had the opportunity to sit and laugh together. Principal Margaret Morrison said "It's great to see intermediate age boys quickly drop the pressure to be cool and become kids again".

In general we need more help convincing schools outside our area to take up the opportunity and make it more worthwhile for the performers. We are working towards tours once per term but schools also need more lead time to include performers in their plans so this may take a little time to get a really robust circuit going.

Thanks to Olli for jumping on the first trial and also for taking the time to provide workshops with local community circus groups.



Upcoming Events



Summer Clown Retreat —Alan Clay

Monday January 7th to Friday January 11th, (5 days) 10am to 4pm each day.

The Clown Retreat is timed to be held before the World Buskers Festival in Christchurch for those coming for the summer season in New Zealand.

NZ\$650 Earlybird (by November 30th), NZ\$750 (full). Including 6 nights accommodation with kitchen facilities. (Those with somewhere to stay in Wanganui, or those who wish to book their own accommodation, can deduct \$100 from these prices. All fees and deposits are non-refundable) email: clown@artmedia.com.au to hold a place or make enquiries about this workshop.

Clown retreat at Aio Wira,—Lisa Brickell and Zack McCracken

Wednesday 9 to Sunday 13 Jan 2008 (5 days)

A great way to explore the art of clowning while having a relaxing, fun holiday at this beautiful retreat centre set in the Waitakere Ranges, near Bethells Beach on the west coast of Auckland.

Enrollment: Phone Aio Wira 09 810 9396 or at mail@aio.wira.org.nz. For further information phone Zack 09 372 2447; zackmccracken@xtra.co.nz Places limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Circus Summer school at CircoArts - Christchurch <http://www.cpit.ac.nz/subjects/circoarts/>

two week blocks in December & January contact Olli Rickin or Godfrey Sim simg@cpit.ac.nz
Frances ... I think there is actually another contact person – check circo booklet

3rd Northland Circus Festival 2008

at the Kai Iwi Lakes, Northland , 23 to 27 January

(more details & registration on www.circuskumarani.co.nz)

2 day intensive training has been added this year before the public frenzy at the weekend. .

IMPORTANT !!! please book your accommodation at the lakes asap = the camping sites are open to the public and very popular, so not many left.

To secure your camping space contact info@kauricoast.co.nz or Phone 09 439 8360

If you want to run a Workshop or take part in the public shows, please contact, Claudia or Thomas at info@circuskumarani.co.nz now so we can make the arrangements for your accommodation & catering.

We also invite short performance acts from your community circus group as part of evening shows.

Do you have suggestions for the Movie nights at the intensive training days, the two days before the weekend..... especially circus related Movies/Docu`s !!?

16th NZ Juggling and Circus Festival, Wellington 20-23 March

Posters and flyers for the Festival are available from Leila. Email her at: garethleila@clear.net.nz I hope you can spread the word. More information is on the website in the meantime, www.juggle.org.nz

Festival to Festival Tour Update

We got hold of a Bus, thanks to Anne from Katikati but... organizing Shows & Workshops was difficult – most schools/community organizations/sponsors need at least 6 months planning ahead so... we postponed and are getting ready now for 2009. We would appreciate coordinators & Volunteer from your local area.

Community Circus Teacher Training

In 2008 Thomas wants to extend his training out of Northland, teaching how to start your local community circus group and become an active part in our network.

Tauranga: starting 3 March; Auckland: starting 14 July

Please register your interest; the course structure will be designed **with student input**.

Community Circus groups in NZ—Contacts & basic information			
Dargaville: Circus Kumarani			
Started 2003			
2 main teachers - 9 weekly classes => 80 participants			
Monthly Focus with presentation => this month object manipulation (Diablo, hula hoop, devil sticks..)			
Contact	Thomas Hinz	09 439 5152	Thomas@circuskumarani.co.nz
	Claudia Guthrie	09 439 5152	info@circuskumarani.co.nz
Kaitia:			
Starting February 2008 (in progress) 2 main teachers			
Contact	April Atkinson	09 439 7892	april.atkinson@paradise.net.nz
	Mark Shanks	09 409 4009	marksurf55@hotmail.com
Kawakawa: Nu Flo Community Circus			
Started July 2007			
2 main teachers – fortnightly classes			
Contact	Bridgette Jochem	09 404 0828	'joch.g.b'@slingshot.co.nz
	Salvatore Lauria	09 407 7776	onearth@xtra.co.nz
Waipu:			
Started May 2007			
1 main teacher – 1 weekly class			
Contact	Achmed Abman	09 432 1773	achmedabman@hotmail.com
Whangarei: Whangarei Community Circus			
Started February 2007			
3 main teachers – 4 weekly classes			
Contact	Martin Herbertson	09 437 5224	martinherbertson@hotmail.com
	Tony Smith	09 432 2200	kayakkasmith@hotmail.com
Other community circus groups: Auckland, Napier, Wellington, Christchurch etc. -- Please send your group details info@circuskumarani.co.nz			
If you are aware of any other community circus groups please encourage them to contact Claudia, Frances, or Thomas. info@circuskumarani.co.nz			

3. Resources

AUT students have sent two reports from the Convention. Both reports ask the question: “**Is Circus Kumarani an effective tool for community building?**” Go to the OPC Forum website <http://groups.google.co.nz/group/open-circus-project?lnk=src>..... Or you can access the Forum via the Kumarani website under NZ Community Circus tab.

Creative Spaces Resource Kit is now available for \$30 from Arts Access. It covers how to start up, plan your structure, plan your governance, fundraising and marketing, staff and volunteers, and evaluating your creative space.

Anu D'Souza anu.dsouza@artsaccess.org.nz
Marketing Manager
Arts Access Aotearoa
Ph: +64 4 8024356 Fax: +64 4 8024357
Website: www.artsaccess.org.nz <<http://www.artsaccess.org.nz/>>

Past NZ Events

Congratulations to Touch Compass mixed ability dance team for their 10 year Jubilee tour. Along with great theatrical dances and video productions; it was delightful to see circus elements like a stilt-walker and balancing a wheel on a hand. What comes next...?
<http://www.touchcompass.org.nz/index.php?pageID=12#no2>

Also Congratulations to Kaitaia for their first Community Circus Group Day. There were 8 participants for the morning training session with Thomas and 22 participants in the public Circus class. In the final meeting it was decided to start an ongoing circus group in February, look for more local support, trust set up and network involvement.
Special Thanks to April Atkinson (phone hotline) and Mark Shanks as local radio, newspaper & poster coordinator.

We hope you enjoyed this edition and that there was something interesting for you in it.

If you know another Community Circus Group to add to our overview or people/organizations who are interested in CC, please send us their contact details and show them our website- forum- newsletter.

We wish you all a peaceful, happy, loving and fun Christmas/Holiday Season!
Claudia Frances Salvatore Thomas

PS: Please send us your feedback, suggestions, articles, reports.

