



# Newsletter

ISSUE 3 SEPTEMBER 2016

## WELCOME TO THE THIRD QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PEDIATRIC TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CONSORTIUM (PTBIC)

Spring is here and its been another very busy few months! We have some exciting new updates in this newsletter with a new supporting organization on board and recent funding awarded for further pediatric TBI research. Plans are also underway for a pilot study of the Teen Online Problem Solving (TOPS) cognitive behavioral therapy programme for teenagers affected by TBI and their families/whanau. TOPS was profiled in our first newsletter and has attracted much interest from ABI Rehabilitation.

Warm congratulations must also go out to two consortium members who were recently acknowledged by the Health Research Council of New Zealand for their research efforts, including those in the area of TBI. Professor Valery Feigin received the Celebrating Research Excellence Award for an outstanding contribution to health research excellence throughout an established research career. Dr Alice Theadom was awarded the award for Health Research Excellence as an Emerging Researcher. As always, should anyone wish to share news, research or pediatric TBI related activities with the wider group please feel to make contact at any time. Happy reading!

Regards, Kelly Jones

Senior Lecturer, National Institute for Stroke and Applied Neurosciences (NISAN), Auckland University of Technology



Professor Valery Feigin (centre, left) and Dr Alice Theadom (centre, right)

### What's Inside:

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### MISSION STATEMENT

Our goals are to 1) expand understanding of TBI during childhood and adolescence and 2) improve outcomes of affected children and their families by promoting a collaborative approach to research.

# ‘Make Your Home a Safety Zone’ Campaign



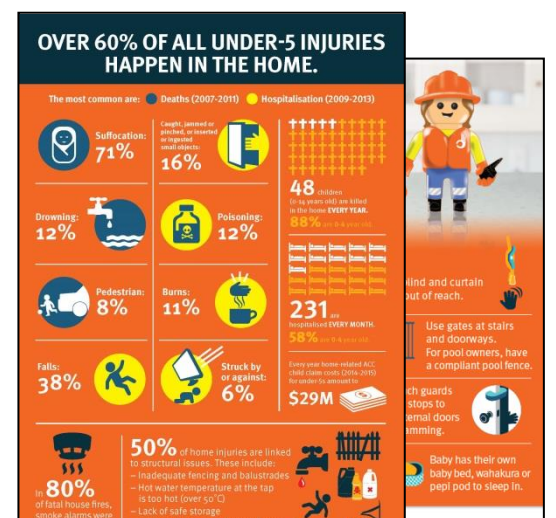
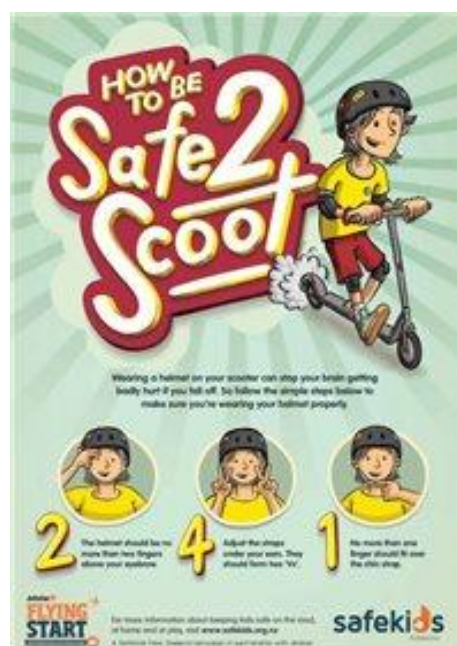
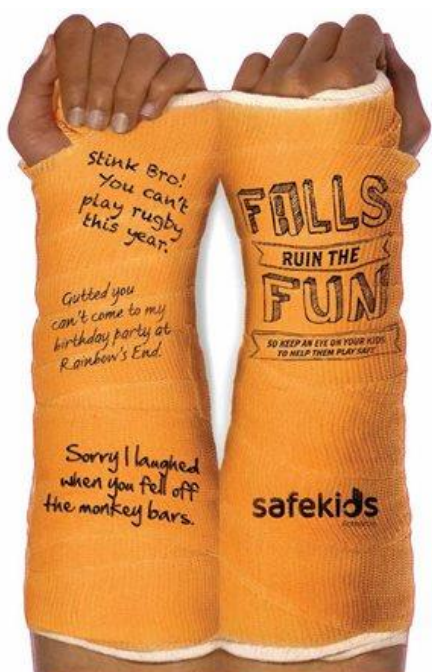
**Heather Robertson**  
Policy Analyst  
Safekids Aotearoa



Links have recently been made with Safekids Aotearoa, a national injury prevention service that comes under the umbrella of Starship Child Health. Following attendance at a recent workshop and discussions with Heather Robertson, Policy Analyst, it became very clear that Safekids Aotearoa and the Consortium have overlapping interests in children’s health and injury prevention. Heather’s current role involves analyzing data and critiquing literature to support Safekids Aotearoa’s programmes, campaigns and resource development. She also undertakes advocacy work, including writing submissions to seek inclusion of child unintentional injury prevention strategies in policies and regulations/legislation. Her efforts help guide and inform child injury prevention stakeholders and decision makers, media, community organisations and individuals in their efforts to minimise the risk of unintentional injuries to children. Heather has a varied work background including working life as an Occupational Therapist, Community Development Officer for an NGO, in child focused health research teams and teaching at AUT University in the Ethics and Health Promotion fields. Heather holds a Master in Public Health and is passionate about preventing unintentional injuries to children. We look forward to liaising closely with Heather and the team at Safekids Aotearoa to identify collaborative efforts in the field of pediatric TBI.

## Supporting Organization Profile **SAFEKIDS AOTEAROA**

On average 48 children aged between 0-14 years die each year and a further 231 a month are hospitalized due to an unintentional injury sustained in a home. Children under 5 account for 88% of these deaths and 58% of hospitalizations. Safekids Aotearoa is the national child unintentional injury prevention service and a member of Safekids Worldwide. This is an international collaboration of 26 countries that share evidence-based programmes and information on new ways to prevent injuries to children. Safekids Aotearoa’s mission is to reduce the incidence and severity of unintentional injuries to children aged 0-14 years. Our vision is to see children in New Zealand enjoy their childhood without being adversely effected by an unintentional injury. Our work to prevent unintentional injuries focuses on a wide range of unintentional injuries including the prevention of falls, car passenger, pedestrian, and cycling injuries. Safekids Aotearoa is hoping to run a three-year campaign in partnership with ACC and the Starship Foundation to promote injury prevention strategies in the home. A wide range of free resources are being developed including a flip chart for health professionals, a home safety checklist, an infographic, posters, fridge magnet and a guide and summary sheet of key recommendations for child safe rental properties. For further information about Safekids Aotearoa and available resources visit [www.safekids.nz](http://www.safekids.nz)



# Brain Injury Whānau Action Project (BIWAP)

## ELISA LAVELLE

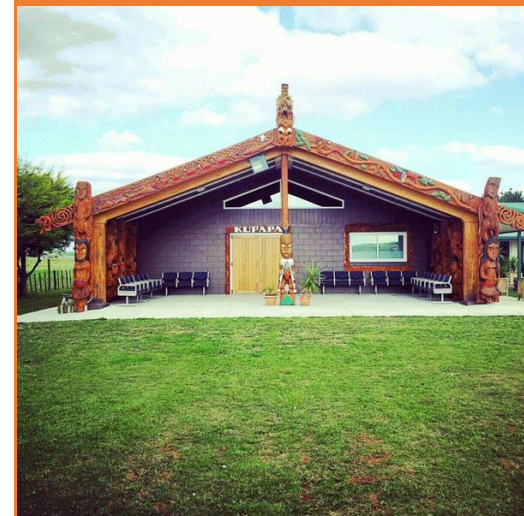
The Brain Injury Whānau Action Project may be of interest to those in the consortium. The BIWAP consists of a group of family members who have come together with the support of the Brain Injury Association (Auckland). Our work is based in South Auckland and we initially brought families together, where an adult had sustained a serious brain injury, to see what could be done to improve the lives of families. Our mission is to educate and strengthen ourselves in order to educate and strengthen others. The work began as a Māori-centred Community-Based Participatory Research project and now continues as a community project.

From the beginning the co-researchers were clear that they wanted education for themselves, for their children and for their families, and to also bring this information to other groups such as GPs, case managers and rehabilitation providers. To achieve this we ran a wānanga (marae-based weekend workshop) at Weraroa Marae (see photos). We brought together people from 17 families – this included children, people with brain injuries, grandparents, adult siblings - basically whānau – and we had a number of speakers who were a mix of survivors, family members and health researchers and professionals. The key topics that were covered were Relationships, Fatigue, Neurorehabilitation, Neuropsychological Assessment, Advocacy and physical wellbeing. All of the speakers were videoed so that their information can be shared more widely.

Since the wānanga we've kept going with projects that we saw were needed. We've set up a Facebook page (Brain Injury Whānau Action Project) where we post information that can be of use to families. We managed to get sponsorship for 10 people to attend a comprehensive four-day brain injury rehabilitation training course with Barry Willer and Duncan Babbage. Our videos are available on youtube and our Facebook page, and right now we're partnering with the Parenting Place to run a Building Awesome Whānau course for families who are living with brain injury. Our next wānanga is planned for November 19-20 and will include speakers talking about rehabilitation and community re-integration (Barry Willer), child brain injury (Hinemoa Elder), nutrition and the brain (Clare Wall) and the functioning of the brain (Rosamund Hill) – plus there will be more.

Everything that we do has been provided free to families. This has been possible through the sponsorship of ABI Rehabilitation for our wānanga, and the support of a number of providers for the 4-day training (Healthvision, APM Workcare, Healthcare Rehabilitation and Active Physio). We've also appreciated donations through our givealittle page.

If you'd like to get a sense of the wānanga there's a two minute video on the givealittle page (<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/biwap>) and you can get in touch with us directly via the Facebook page.



Huhana Hickey being presented with a koha from her cousin LEEANNE Wharepapa Webb



# New funding awarded for pediatric TBI research

## DR KELLY JONES

Researchers from AUT University, University of Waikato and The University of Auckland are now planning to undertake the next phase of a long-term follow-up study of children with TBI. Recent funding awarded by the Waikato Medical Research Foundation will allow the team to reconnect with parents and teachers of children with TBI who have been periodically monitored over the past 6 years. This sample was initially identified as part of the HRC-funded BIONIC study. Follow-up assessments will focus on the assessment of children's social and emotional development, cognitive function, academic progress and quality of life. Children free from TBI will also be examined for comparison purposes. Assessments will commence February 2017 through until March 2018. The team are excited to get this new stage of our pediatric TBI research underway.

## Upcoming conference

### NEW ZEALAND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCES CONFERENCE

24-26 November, Auckland 2016

This conference aims to bridge the gap between epidemiological, clinical and translational neurosciences to reduce the burden of neurological disorders. Abstract submissions have recently been extended to Friday 16 September. For more information and access to the developing conference programme visit

[www.nzanc.aut.ac.nz](http://www.nzanc.aut.ac.nz).



If you would like to profile your research or organization here please email

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*Next Issue:*

MIDLAND TRAUMA

RESEARCH CENTRE

PEDIATRIC TBI – A

PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

