

CMF

The Lions' Clubs New Zealand
Child Mobility Foundation

One small step for us,
one giant leap for



Lions Clubs of



The amazing Hart Walker
develops the body and mind
of children to help mobility.
Now, new stable open

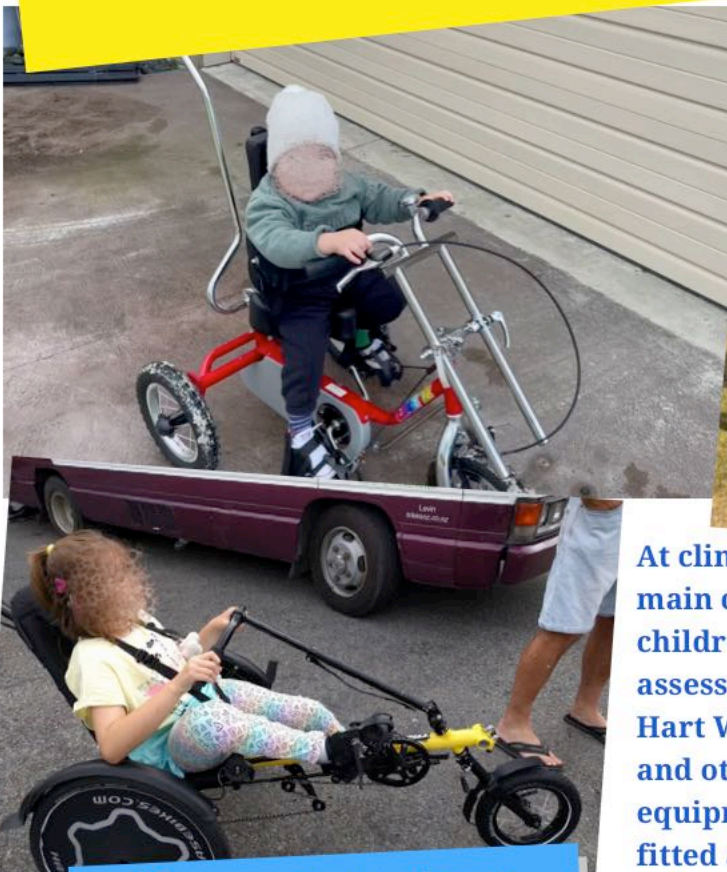
WHEELY GOOD NEWS

Stories from New Zealand Lions' Clubs Child Mobility Foundation (CMF) about the work for children with cerebral palsy and similar handicaps on behalf of the Lions of New Zealand

Web:- www.nzcmf.org Mail:- cmf@lionsclubs.org.nz

CMF helps children get moving in many ways

Some children for various reasons cannot be fitted with a Hart Walker, but that does not stop CMF from supporting parents and caregivers find alternative means of helping the child get mobile. CMF has advised and facilitated the means to help supply special trikes such as these ones.
(Some identities concealed for privacy)



At clinics in the main centres, children are assessed and Hart Walkers and other equipment are fitted and adjusted to a child's growth.



One small step for us,
One giant leap for them

Know of a child who need help?
Contact cmf@lionsclubs.org.nz

From Child to Adult - Mobility with the new design Hart Walker



The motto of Lions "We Serve", often draws the question from non members, -"Why?"

The answer for us, is no more than "Come and see a Child Mobility Clinic"

There, anyone can see the satisfaction and pride from all involved with the NZ Lions Clubs Child Mobility Foundation programme, when another young child is fitted to a Hart Walker, and they make their first steps to a new life.

One such occasion was at Blockhouse Bay on 31 October 2019 when Ben from Papakura, after a few hesitant movements, quickly commanded the room, stepping out with confidence.

Ben had previously attended an earlier Mobility Clinic and was seen by Sue Bailey and Stuart Kerr who carried out the assessment required before a Hart Walker could be recommended. Sue is our physiotherapist and Stuart is our Orthotist, they are contracted specialists from Australia and have extra qualifications to allow them to work with Hart Walkers.

Thanks to the concerted effort and fundraising by the clubs of Zone 8, the family and behind scenes work of the NZ Lions Child Mobility Foundation, a Hart Walker was sourced and prepared for the clinic.

Then in 2024 having outgrown the original, CMF facilitated purchase and fit of a new design open front adult size Hart Walker.

Ben can now face the world confidently as a young man with a bright future.



Matteo's Journey - CMF & Hart Walker help to walking unaided



2018 and Matteo walks unaided. Is this a miracle? No not quite, but almost thanks to tenacity of loving parents, the inner strength of Matteo and a little help from New Zealand Lions' Clubs' Child Mobility Foundation in finding solutions for children with mobility issues.



2018

Tina says, "From not knowing what to do he has learnt to move his legs. Realising he liked being with people, he was left alone in the lounge and he would make his way to us singing in the kitchen. We were also teaching him how to walk without the



walker and doing exercises to improve his muscle tone. Walker helped him make the connection between his brain and body -so he understood that he was in control of his movements, and that had a huge flow on effect to everything else he did."

**My look how he has grown!
Matteo can now walk independently.**

Recently we got in touch with Tina, Matteo's mum, to find out how he was doing, and with link to the video we made.

<https://youtu.be/AOGZcsacx8k>

Below is Tina's reply.

Kia ora Alan, Wow! That video was a blast from the past! I've attached a very recent picture of Matteo taken before starting his first day at high school. He is taller than me now, strong and healthy. He is still a wheelchair user part time but is also able to walk independently as long as the surface is level. We have continued doing various therapies at home with him to help his strength and mobility and recently did a 3 week intensive program with him in Rotorua. We now live in Napier. Hope you are well? Regards Tina