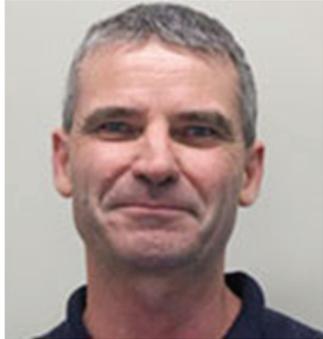


NOMINATIONS FOR 2019

Dave Thomas *Incumbent*



My 21-year-old daughter Chelsea has CP and is profoundly deaf, hence my interest in CP Sector and my involvement with the Society.

I have a financial services background and therefore have a keen interest and focus on the investment and management of the Society's assets to ensure we maintain our resources for the benefit of the current and future membership. My role as a member of the Board for the Society is one I enjoy as it has helped provide me with a wider perspective of the impact that CP has on the lives of our members and makes me passionate about working to provide the best outcomes we can for them.

I was a Board Member for the Kelston Deaf Education Centre for 14 years (7 or 8 as Chairperson) and have been self-employed in my own business as an Authorised Financial Adviser since 2001.

Jake Mills *Incumbent*



Jake Mills work on the Be. Employed programme for Be. Accessible has seen over one hundred access students from around New Zealand secure meaningful employment. Jake has been a mentor and panel judge for Social Innovation New Zealand and is has also a regular speaker for the Sir Peter Blake Trust Dream team, empowering school kids to follow their dreams and to dream big.

A former Sports Development Officer at Sport Taranaki Jake helped establish the strategic direction and developed regional sports opportunities for those living with a physical impairment. He led the first Wheelchair Basketball team from Taranaki to a national tournament in over 20 years and implemented the inaugural Para-cyclist team to compete in the around the mountain relay held annually in Taranaki.

Jake is delighted to be working alongside the Cerebral Society to support the growth of a dynamic and well-rounded organisation where all members can flourish.

Kurt Peterson



I am currently employed full time as the production manager and a shareholder at Aquity. I'm currently co-chair of the Cerebral Palsy Youth Alliance team and have been involved for three years trying to help out as much as I can. This has been the only board I have been on but have enjoyed it and inspiring and effecting change has been huge motives for me. I have minor cerebral palsy and am keen to give anything a crack. Thank you Kurt.

Merryn Straker *Incumbent*



Firstly, I'm a Mum to three boys with my husband Grant in we live in Whangaparaoa. Our middle son Oscar is now 12 and has Ataxic CP impacting speech, vision, and fine and gross motor functions.

I'm passionate about neuroplasticity and how it applies to our CP kids. We have travelled three times now to the US with Oscar for short intensives 12

months apart and we see real gains. It highlights the gaps we have for our kids here.

We need a strong and targeted advocacy function to lobby for therapy, educational and supports options for our CP members. I believe that we need to be building our advocacy at governmental and ministry levels for us to become a voice for our CP members and to instigate the change that is necessary. Our CP kids deserve to grow into adulthood with options to gain full-time and meaningful employment and to be contributing taxpayers not drawing welfare to support them. Put the time in young and get them to be all that they can be.

In 2018 Grant and I listed our company Straker Translations on the Australian Stock Exchange, and I was the first New Zealand female founder to do so. I remain the Chief Operating Officer at Straker. I am on the board of T3W a Maori tech initiative to build more Maori tech business like ours to contribute to the overall export capabilities of New Zealand.

I truly believe that our kids are worth more than leaving their future to chance and I am pleased by some the initiatives changes that have got underway in my first time on the CP Society. I

would love the opportunity to continue to challenge and look at how best we support our members both now and in the future. I remain a passionate advocate for change across all levels of society for our CP community.

Michael Turner *Incumbent*



Michael was born in Westport and was diagnosed with CP when I was 5 years old. When I was 17 we moved to Christchurch which is where I have been living ever since. I became interested in joining the CP Society Board because it seemed like the organisation was relatively Auckland focused and would benefit from a South Island perspective.

Since joining the CP Board in 2010, I have been active in a number of areas. I currently co-host one of the Christchurch coffee groups which I am proud to say I have helped grow substantially – I am currently looking at expanding this programme to set up another central-Christchurch group on a Saturday afternoon. As much as possible I make good use of the CP Society programmes which, along with helping me with my CP, also gives me helpful insights into ways that the Society can improve these services to our members.

The getPhysical programme helps keep me reasonably actively, including playing Boccia and going to the gym two to three times a week. I am also involved in planning and running local member events, and, in addition to my role with CPS, I have worked at Burwood Hospital for the past 15 years.

Niki Simpkin-Hill



My lived experience with Cerebral Palsy is as the hands-on mother of a daughter with CP.

I am married and live in Beach Haven with my husband, daughter (19yrs) and stepson (16yrs). Our efforts to support my daughter with CP have been a long sustained, multi-faceted approach that has involved regular ongoing physiotherapy as well as autologous stem cell treatment in Dusseldorf Germany in 2010, which improved her gait, general health and energy levels. During 2014- 2017, she has had 46-hour long sessions of Hyperbaric Oxygen treatment which has improved her fine motor skills and cognitive abilities. Her improvements have been many, for example her ability to read has improved, she can dress herself, eats better and no longer suffers seizures. Recently, she has discovered para-athletics, trains regularly, and is showing considerable promise as a runner – an amazing outcome.

I advocate strongly to lobby government for programs to:

- Support at-risk babies to get as early a diagnosis as possible for CP plus early intervention including Physiotherapy, Speech Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy & Orthotics.
- Support and council families with ongoing information and support group networks.
- Develop further research into benefits of Stem Cell treatment & Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for those with CP.
- Promote better specialist education, to be more inclusive and less restrictive in their funding allocations for CP kids.
- Increase social awareness and acceptance of CP in society.

I have a background as a graphic designer & illustrator. In more recent times my skills have been refined around research into disability art and ableism, fine art photography and exhibitions. I studied fine arts at Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, gaining a BFA in 2009 returning to later for my MFA in 2018. My research essay for my Masters explored Disability Art and Ableism. <https://researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/handle/2292/36849>. I have Certificates of Competency in Social Media Marketing and Search Engine Optimisation (for the WEB) from Unitec 2019.

I believe in a better future for those with Cerebral Palsy.

Red Nicholson



I'm standing for the Cerebral Palsy Society Board to strengthen and amplify the voices of people with cerebral palsy. I've lived with CP my whole life, and believe firmly in the motto 'nothing about us, without us'. The CP Board must be representative of our diverse community, and it must also ensure that the Society's management are laser-focused on delivering great programmes, and great outcome for people with cerebral palsy across Aotearoa. I believe it's critical that the Society is

guided by the dreams and needs of its members – us! Disabled people aren't always listened to in conversations that affect us, and I'm standing for the Board to make sure that going forward, we will be heard. The voices of people with CP and their families must drive every decision the Society makes. Vote for me and I'll make sure that disabled people and their families are listened to, your opinions are acted upon, and that you are actively involved in setting the agenda for the Society going forward.

Sally Thomas *Incumbent*



I am the parent of four lovely men, one of whom has Cerebral Palsy – Alex is 32 years old. He has received amazing practical support from the Society over the years – it is great to see an organisation that operates for the benefit of its members.

A little about me. I have worked in the disability sector since 1997 in a number of roles. Firstly as Manager of the early intervention programme at Conductive Education Canterbury; Project Manager for “our stories” a joint IHC/CCS Disability Action community awareness project; a development role with Lead School Transition service supporting adults with disabilities leaving school; Service Coordinator at CCS Disability Action in adult services and since 2016 as National Coordinator for NZ Foundation for Conductive Education. I am passionate about the rights of people with disabilities and their families to have a great life and choice and control over how this looks – we are all individuals!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term on the Board of the Society and am excited by the current focus on advocacy and vision of “changing New Zealander’s attitudes towards physical disability”. The disability sector as a whole is going through a time of change (yet again!) and we need to ensure that the needs of the people that we support are highlighted at all levels of decision-making.

As an organisation I feel that we are fortunate to have such a passionate, committed Board who bring a range of skills and experiences to the table.

I would love the opportunity to continue to utilise my passion and lived experience of disability, along with the views of the cross-section of people that I meet through my work, to create positive change in the lives of the people that sit at the core of our work.

Sean Parker



Currently I sit on the CP Society Grants Committee. I am a Fielding resident, married to Maxine and have a 21 year old daughter Sha. I have worked as a social worker at Palmerston North Hospital for 10 years and a social worker in general since 2000. I sat on the National Committee for DPA in the 2009- 2012 period. I was involved in setting up Enabling Good Lives (Mana Whaikaka) in the Midcentral DHB region. I have lived with Cerebral Palsy for 46 years.