

PARKINSON'S AUCKLAND 2009 CHARITY DINNER



Friday 7th August saw the 7th annual Parkinson's Auckland charity dinner and auction at the Hilton Hotel on Princess Wharf. The Hilton has hosted all but one of our dinners now and in terms of uniqueness of venue and great service we could not do better. The Hilton is a great supporter and sponsor and a wonderful company to have a mutual association with.

The pre-dinner drinks and canapés gave everyone an opportunity to review the items that were to be auctioned later on the evening. It was also a chance to renew acquaintances from last year.

Great entertainment, our special favour bags – red, silver and gold, the silent auction and the grand finale – the main auction make this fundraiser the place to be in August. This year surpasses all others, tickets were sold out 2 weeks before and we nearly reached our target of \$50,000.

All the funds raised go directly into keeping our Field Officer operating. The Field Officer Service plays a vital role in our PwP's lives - empowering them to live their lives to the full, and guiding them through the minefield which is our health system. They are only ever a phone call away. Neurologists have assured us they consider PwPs have a far better quality of life with a field officer on board and are completely sold on the service. We are really well supported by all Auckland health professionals in our field and have forged strong relationships.



This year we were entertained by the vibrant TV personality, writer and chef Peta Mathias. Peta is currently in London promoting her latest book – a fiction novel – her first, and is enjoying fame as an author of not only cooking, now also fiction books. Peta regaled tales of her research and gave us often humorous insights into the world of men from her new book, yet to be completed. We had several of Peta's books as give-aways and auction prizes - they caused a lot of fun.



Our MC and auctioneer John Melville did his usual wonderful job of keeping the momentum going and encouraging people to purchase things they didn't really know they needed all in the name of charity. Thanks go to John and his family for their ongoing support.

The auction included all our old favourites up for bidding, plus some fabulous original art and the framed Maradona jersey. The latter was fiercely fought over. There were many other interesting items including things as the quirky antique silver vester box donated by one of our members. There is always something you will want, at a price you can afford and what a great cause to give your money to.

A talking point of the evening was the wonderful table decorations created and donated to us by June and Mike. They were a great addition and made the tables look spectacular.



We thank all sponsors of the night, supporters and the hard-working team who make it all happen with special thanks to the team leader, our General Manager, Cilla Barkhuizen – who makes it all happen.

See the inside front cover for a list of our sponsors and please do support them.

SPRING RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW



Spring Raffle tickets are on sale now.

Masses of items including a Life & Leisure magazine subscription, Family Passes to MOTAT, Parakai Aquatic Park voucher, a signed DVD by Peta Mathias, wine and much more packaged on a lap tray. TOTAL PRIZE VALUE OVER \$250

Buy your tickets from your Field Officer, at all local groups or post in a cheque to P.O.Box 16-238, Sandringham 1351.

All money raised will go directly towards the Field Officer Service. The prize draw will be made on Monday the **19 October 2009**.

