



Sheena and Gabrielle at Family Camp

Autumn/Winter 2026

Here's the impact you make in rural communities.



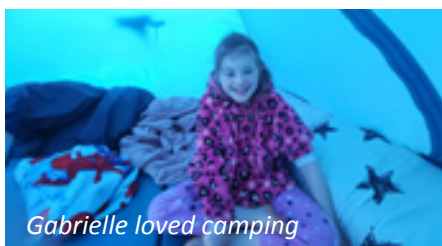
Tatiana had a great time kayaking

Your Support Gives Families a Break

Late last year, IHC piloted a Family Camp, giving families an opportunity for supported outdoor adventures.

Family activities can often be difficult with a child with an intellectual disability or autism. But this camp provided a supportive environment for these families to have some fun.

Gabrielle, who you might recognise as she often appears on Calf & Rural Scheme materials, and her family attended one of the camps. They live on a farm on the West Coast of the South Island. Living rurally means Sheena, Gabrielle's mum rarely has an opportunity to talk with other parents about the challenges she faces, and the good things Gabrielle also brings to their life.



Gabrielle loved camping

Gabrielle also doesn't get to see other kids like her, and her siblings don't have connections with other kids who have a sibling with an intellectual disability. Family Camp changed this for them.

Ma'ao Vaireka and his family also attended the camp. Ma'ao's eldest daughter, Tatiana, has Williams Syndrome.

There were multiple activities that kids and parents both enjoyed. Ma'ao says one of the first activities was sea kayaking at Kaiteriteri Beach. "We were all helping each other – floating the kayaks, getting the kids settled. We began to connect," he says. "Those little moments opened the door for bigger conversations later."

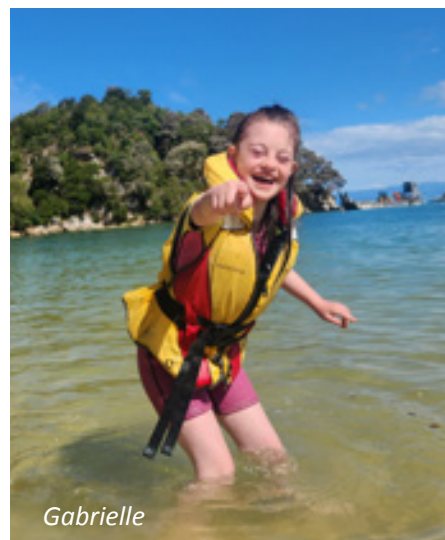
The group had a great time kayaking, for Tatiana, it was a first as she'd never been in a kayak by herself. "But she loved it. She went a long way out with the others, and they were all encouraging each other the whole time."

Ma'ao says the unique strengths of siblings stood out. "When kids have a sibling with an intellectual disability, they instinctively know how to act around other kids with intellectual disabilities. It's natural for them and it makes everyone feel accepted."

Back at camp, families gathered for dinner before the children went to play an evening game of volleyball. For parents, it was one of the richest parts of the weekend.

"Everyone started talking about their experiences accessing funding, navigating supports, what the journey with their child had been like," Ma'ao recalls. "We all had the same story really. Just different places and different stages."

Sheena said, "A lot of amazing memories were made and there were so many wonderful families we made them with. We all loved being able to meet like-minded families and cheer each other on while having so many new experiences that we wouldn't have been able to do otherwise, so thank you so much to the Calf & Rural Scheme supporters who helped make this happen."



Gabrielle

Thanks to You, Edin's Family Got the Help They Needed

Edin, now 14 years old, was born with a rare condition that means she needs around-the-clock support from her parents, Karen and Robbie. This has limited their ability to work.

For a long time, the family weren't receiving the right funding to enable them to care for her, until they got help from IHC's Family-Whānau Liaison Service. Liaison's help people navigate what is often a complex system to get the support they or their child with an intellectual disability need. This service is funded by your kind Calf & Rural Scheme support.

Watch this short video to meet Karen, Robbie and their daughter Edin and hear how your kindness has supported them.



Our Vision for the Future

Your support has been vital in helping IHC to change lives. I want to share with you IHC's new strategy to build on the work we are doing and the things we have achieved. As one of IHC's key friends and supporters, you have helped us make vitally important work happen, and I look forward to continuing this journey with you into the future.

I was appointed Chief Executive of IHC in early 2025, and one of the first things I did was set out to meet the

people we support around Aotearoa New Zealand to find out what they needed from IHC. I met wonderful people with intellectual disabilities and their families. I listened, and I heard their views of things IHC was doing well, and things that could improve. I reviewed data and research and discovered just how vulnerable some of the people I met and many others are. Out of these conversations, our new strategy was created.



Andrew Crisp, IHC Chief Executive

How This New Strategy Will Help Families Like Edin's



Ensure Wellbeing

Edin's parents sadly didn't get the help they needed to find out what funding was available to them when she was first diagnosed. IHC's Family-Whānau Liaison Service provides information to the families of children newly diagnosed with an intellectual disability and assistance to change their funding as the needs of their child changes.



Advocate for Fairness

IHC's Advocacy Team work with Government to ensure people with intellectual disabilities are treated fairly. This includes ensuring children with intellectual disabilities receive an education that suits their abilities.



Strengthen Community Relationships

IHC's local Associations create opportunities for parents to meet and support each other. Associations also fund activities in their area for adults with intellectual disabilities to get together and socialise.



Provide Services and Housing

Edin's family don't know what the future holds for her. But they can know that, if when she is older she needs supported living housing, IHC will provide a safe home for her, with friends around her.

Thank you!

IHC is grateful to everyone who makes the Calf & Rural Scheme such a great success.

Thank you to all the wonderful **farmers** who donate, the reps at **PGG Wrightson** who help sell the animals, the **freight companies** who get the calves to sale at no or a reduced cost, and the **canvassers** who do a great job.

Principal Sponsor



Find us at Fieldays 10-13 June (site PA1B)

We'd love to thank you in person, come visit us in the Pavilion foyer.

A Life-Changing Adventure, Thanks to You!

Late last year, your Calf & Rural Scheme support helped a group of nine students with intellectual disabilities from the Blomfield School in Whangarei enjoy the opportunity to attend a four-day voyage on the R. Tucker Thompson, a traditional tall ship.

This is the first time the R. Tucker Thompson had run an adapted course tailored for people with intellectual disabilities. While some extra safety precautions were put in place, like a pontoon beside the boat so voyagers who weren't confident or who had limited mobility could get out of the water more easily, they still all had to be part of the early morning swim.

Shahni Judkins was one of the teachers attended with the group from the Blomfield School. "The growth in our students was just incredible. Every single student climbed the rigging, hoisted the sails, and took a turn steering the boat. Their attitude was incredible," Shahni said.

The group sailed around the Bay of Islands. As part of the voyage they went snorkelling, fishing, and visited different islands, including a bird sanctuary.



From all the challenges I have faced during the voyage, I have learned even more now why communication and teamwork are so important to have in the future. – Daniel



My biggest challenge was climbing to the top of the rigging without looking down, and even though the ship was rocky, I managed to overcome it. These experiences have given me more confidence to face new challenges in the future. – Kawiti

"On the way out, we'd been on the boat for about five minutes, and I had three of them wanting to go home. Within half an hour they were enjoying it and wanting to join in. On the way back, every single one was asking if they had to go home, could they go for longer and asking when they could do it again. They all loved it," Shahni said.

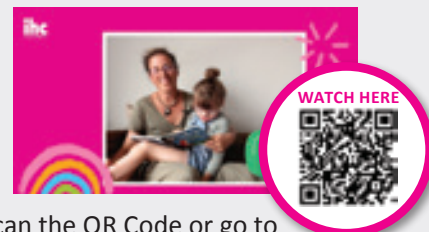


Shahni said it was great to see the growth in the students during the voyage.

IHC's Whāngarei Association provided funding towards the voyage. Each of IHC's local Associations has a budget each year to fund projects in their local area. These funds are provided from Calf & Rural Scheme funding. Thank you for helping make this happen.

Update on Marlee

Many of you were touched by the transformation in Marlee after your support helped her attend a life-changing workshop a year ago. Marlee's mum Christina gave us this short update on how Marlee is getting on. Thank you for being part of this transformation.



Scan the QR Code or go to ihc.org.nz/Marlee2026 to view the latest video.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE IHC VIDEOS

You can watch the first video of Marlee's transformation on the IHC Vimeo Channel.



Pledge now for the coming season

Every year, kind people like you, help raise over \$1m to support people with intellectual disabilities and their families living in rural communities throughout New Zealand. You can donate a calf/calves, sheep or lambs. You can also support by pledging the Average Price of an animal at your local auction, or a Virtual Calf - a donation of \$300 as a one-off gift or a regular gift of \$25 each month. Scan the QR code or go to ihc.org/pledge to pledge for this season.



Pledge by 1 June and you'll automatically be entered in a prize draw to win one of two mystery weekends away.

Pledge Now and Receive a Tote Bag

Pledge an animal, Virtual Calf or Average Price Donation and receive a free tote bag. There are four to collect and each pledge receives a tote bag (while stocks last). The tote bags feature artwork from the 2025 Art Awards. You can see one of the artists, Christian, opening the package of bags

with his artwork on them by scanning the QR code or going to ihc.org.nz/CAMartinArt

WATCH HERE



PLEDGE NOW!



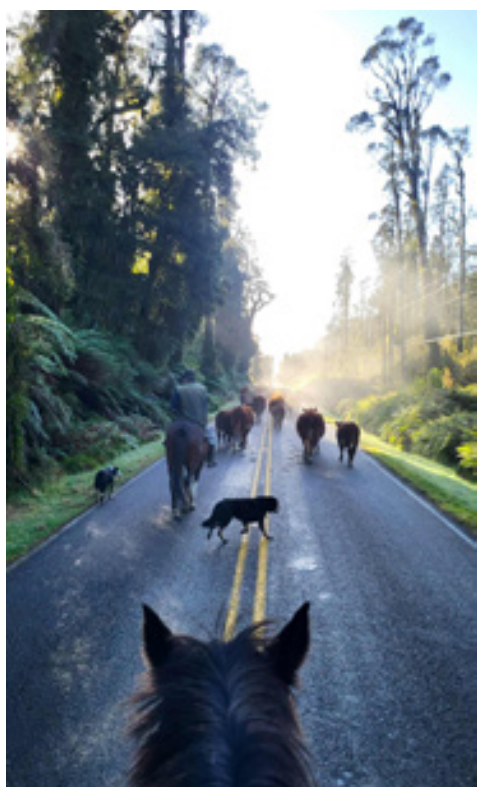
Photo Competition Winners



IHC Calf: Mr moto moto born at 47kg enjoying the lush pastures and last of the winter snow – Anna Wilson



Working on the Farm: The cheer squad – Terri Barrett



Farm Animals:
Heading home - Kate O'Shea

Give the gift of a meaningful life



For almost 80 years, with support from caring New Zealanders like you, IHC has been helping people with intellectual disabilities live rich and meaningful lives.

Through a gift in your Will, you will carry on IHC's long tradition of care for people with intellectual disabilities.

If you would like to continue to bring purpose, joy and choice to the lives of people with disabilities, please consider a gift to IHC in your Will. To find out more, please contact Julie Osborne on **0800 442 886** or email **Julie@ihc.org.nz**.

Are you moving farms this year?

If you are shifting farms on Moving Day please let us know so we can update your address and be sure we can still contact you after 1 June. You can email us calf@ihc.org.nz or call **0800 442 500**.



Maximising your Calf & Rural Scheme support

Early born, well bred Friesian or Beef X, bulls and heifers usually do well at the sales

Calves over 100kg when sent to sale fetch better prices

Make sure your calf has an IHC ear tag and write 'IHC Calf' on the ASD Form so your information is sent to IHC.