



## e-Newsletter

Tēnā Koutou Katoa. A warm hello to you all,

Welcome to our April 2025 Edition of MS Voice, your go-to place for the latest news, updates, and real life stories from Multiple Sclerosis New Zealand. Grab a cuppa, get comfy and read what we've been up to and what's to come.

The needs of everyone impacted by MS remain at the heart of our efforts, but we need your support and input to help us achieve our goals. Please read the articles below and participate where you can by **providing your comments and feedback**.

Remember to keep an eye on our [website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram page](#) for the most up to date information.

If you experience difficulties with the colours displayed in this newsletter, please try inverting the colours or setting to greyscale. To do this, navigate to the accessibility settings:

- Press the Windows logo key + U or go to Start > Settings > Accessibility.
- Select 'Colour filters' and turn on the 'Colour filters' switch.
- Choose 'Inverted' from the colour filter options
- Or choose 'Greyscale' from the colour filter options.

## MS News and Updates

**Bangers to Bluff 2025: A Rally of Resilience, Laughter & Community Spirit**

As we wrap up another incredible Bangers to Bluff rally, we want to express our deepest gratitude to the Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay, our sponsors, the event sponsors, rally teams, staff and all the regional societies that engaged with the rally on-route.

We appreciate everyone's hard work and know that the 12 days of driving, although fun, is not an easy task. Additionally, all the fundraising efforts before, during and after the rally are very much appreciated. Your generosity and dedication helped raise vital awareness and funds for people affected by MS.

Whether you contributed through sponsorship, cheered from the roadside, or helped behind the scenes - thank you. This event simply couldn't happen without you all. Read more about this epic event on our [website](#).



**Disability Support Services Submission**

Following our two [open platform sessions](#) on 12th March, we gathered your comments, insights and feedback into the review of Disability Support Services. We are pleased to share with you our [submission and recommendations](#).

The feedback highlighted a disparity in support between paid employees and unpaid family carers, who often experience burnout. Our submission urges a broader government review to address inconsistencies and inequities in disability services, advocating for equitable and transparent funding.



**MS Research Trust**

The NZ Multiple Sclerosis Research Trust was formed 10 years ago in 2015. With the invaluable support from Multiple Sclerosis New Zealand and Multiple Sclerosis Auckland, the Trust was established to drive progress in the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of multiple sclerosis and to support a working environment in NZ where health professionals were able to access funding for their education and research.

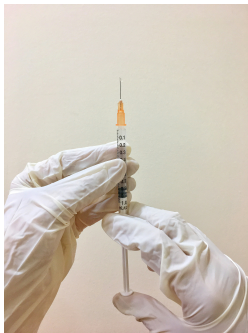
Read more about their work on <https://msresearch.org.nz/>



**Ocrelizumab Subcut Receives Medsafe Registration**

Medsafe have approved the registration of Ocrevus ® Subcutaneous for the treatment of adult patients with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis and primary progressive multiple sclerosis. The announcement on 24th April is welcomed by Multiple Sclerosis New Zealand.

The potential to ease pressure on hospital infusion services is another important advantage that we want PHARMAC and the government to take note of. We look forward to progress being made on PHARMAC funding to ensure equitable access to the best medicines for everyone, no matter where they live. Read more on [our website](#).



## Supporting MSNZ

Without the support of amazing people like you, we wouldn't be able to do the work we do at MSNZ. Your generous contributions enable us to continue providing advocacy and information that improves the lives of families affected by multiple sclerosis across Aotearoa.

### [Ride for MS 2025 - Register Now and Save \\$\\$\\$](#)

This **November**, join **Ride for MS 2025**, an unforgettable cycling journey through **Cambodia's bustling cities, hidden jungle temples, and ancient ruins.**

Ride alongside like-minded adventurers, immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and flavours of this incredible country, and most importantly, **make a real impact for people living with multiple sclerosis.**

**Register now for \$1 and save \$389! Use code MS-RIDE25 at checkout!**

Spots are limited, so don't miss out! [Click here to register now.](#)

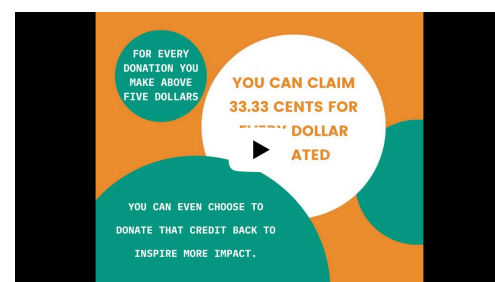


### [Increase YOUR impact by donating your tax credits.](#)

Your generosity helps us provide vital advocacy, trusted information, and meaningful support to individuals and families living with MS across Aotearoa. Your support keeps our services running and our voice strong.

Each year, we must raise over 90% of our income through donations, grants, and business partnerships. Donations over \$5 are tax-deductible, and you can claim 33.3% back from IRD.

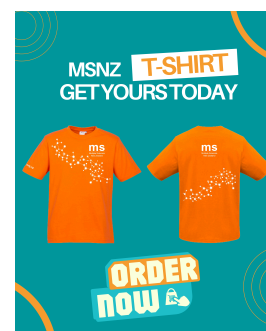
👉 Find out how to claim your tax credits <https://msnz.org.nz/donate-2-2/>



### [Shine Bright in an MSNZ Tee!](#)

By purchasing a T-shirt, you're helping us raise awareness, increase knowledge and advocate to improve the lives of those affected by multiple sclerosis. It's a small gesture that makes a big difference!

Grab your t-shirt today and wear it with pride: <https://msnz.org.nz/get-involved/purchase-a-t-shirt-2/>

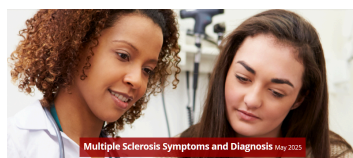


## Explore Other Ways to Donate

## Information for You

In addition to the two new Menzies courses '[Deciding about Disease Modifying Therapies](#)' and '[Mental Health in MS](#)', their '[MS Symptoms and Diagnosis](#)' course will be available from 1st May and their '[Ageing Well with MS](#)' course will be available soon.

Click on the images below to find out more, and register so you can further educate yourself, and live well with MS.



**Dorothy L Newman Scholarship**

The Dorothy L Newman Scholarship, co-funded by MSNZ and the Dorothy L Newman Trust assists people diagnosed with multiple sclerosis who are unable to continue in their current job and require retraining or upskilling to enhance their chances of securing paid employment. Successful applicants will be eligible for a financial contribution payable for their course fees.

Apply via [our website](#), until 31st October.

**Esme Tombleson Award**

The MS Society of NZ presents the Esme Tombleson Award annually to anyone who has made a significant contribution, nationally, to MSNZ and people impacted by multiple sclerosis.

Submit your nomination via your regional society until 31st October.

**Oceans of Hope Sailing Adventure**

Oceans of Hope is for people with MS, led by people with MS. Offering the opportunity to experience sailing as a way of learning new skills and restoring the self-confidence which can be stolen by MS.

No sailing experience is required, there will be a skipper and crew to help you learn and ensure you get everything you want from this experience.

If you are interested, learn more on our [website here](#).

**Mastering Mountains Programme**

Mastering Mountains offers rehabilitation support, along with free access to services, to people diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, Functional Neurological Disorder or similar neurological conditions to help them overcome a specific obstacle so they can accomplish a self-directed objective in New Zealand's outdoors.

Applications are open to New Zealand residents with a neurological diagnosis and are received annually **between the 1st of April and the 31st of May**. Learn more on [our website](#).

**Assistance With Dental Treatment Costs**

If you're on a low income or benefit, you may qualify for help to pay for immediate and essential dental treatment, including fillings and extractions, but not periodic cleaning or check-ups.

You can apply for up to \$1,000 a year (any 52-week period), to help with immediate and essential dental treatment. You don't have to pay this back.



Giveaway Alert! ★



This month, MS New Zealand and Allied Medical are giving away a **Cozy Comfort Pack** 🍵 – perfect for those crisp autumn days! The prize includes a **Non-Slip Jar & Bottle Opener** to make opening jars a breeze, along with a jar of **delicious honey**, a **mug**, and **tea**.

The jar opener is specially designed to help those with reduced hand strength or grip, making everyday tasks that much easier. Treat yourself to a little comfort and ease – enter now for your chance to win!

[Enter the competition here.](#)



Congratulations to our March winner, Kathy A. We hope your no bend pet bowl makes life a little easier and your pet enjoyed their treats!

### Our Sincere Thanks

MSNZ would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering support we receive from our dedicated **Board Members**. During our recent AGM, we were delighted to see that each member has volunteered to stand with us for another year. Their commitment is a testament to the strength and vision that drives our organization forward, and we couldn't do it without them.

Thank You All ❤️



Please check out our [latest news](#) section of our website for the most up to date news and information.

Sharing stories offers an insight into what it's like to live with multiple sclerosis.

If you would like to **share your MS story** with the MS community, please get in touch: [info@msnz.org.nz](mailto:info@msnz.org.nz)

Your continued support helps us to achieve so much for those impacted by MS. Thank You ❤️

**Noho ora mai. Stay well and look after yourself.**



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