

When it came, diagnosis, was a relief

■ From Page 1

I didn't get shunted from one specialist to another" — but in the end that happened again.

Eventually I was referred back to the neurologist I had seen in 2002 and 2004 who suggested there was a good chance I had Pompe Disease and said I should have the blood spot test done and sent to Adelaide.

The answer came back that, lo and behold, he was correct.

After starting on a bipap breathing machine at night time, the nightmares, daytime sleeping, constant headaches, bladder problems and coughing all got better. Even most of the muscle twitches have gone.

All of that must have been happening to me because of the build-up of carbon dioxide in my system.

I went to A&E at our local hospital at 4am with the bladder problem because I was totally beside myself with pain. I was

■ POMPE DISEASE:

Pompe disease is one of many lysosomal storage diseases, in which you have a defect in the lysosome, the *Scientific American* website reports.

In this case the gene should be making acid alpha-glucosidase, but doesn't. Then the lysosome doesn't work and things build up in cells that shouldn't be there. These types of

diseases are progressive and fatal.

Ally asked if her children would also have the disease and was told only if their father was a carrier too — Steve will be tested. Her children will be carriers for Pompe disease and so may pass it on to their children.

There is some medical discussion about whether "carriers" can exhibit the symptoms in a milder form.

given a sedative and laid on my back . . . and went into chronic respiratory failure.

That was at the end of March last year. The following week I was sent to Wellington Hospital and given a bipap machine to use at home.

Without it I wouldn't be here. It has changed my life — no more sleeping during the day, no more cold sweats, nightmares,

headaches or bladder problems.

I still have to have the machine tweaked now and again to get the settings just right for me. I look like a total egg wearing it, but at least I'm alive.

■ Allyson is waiting to hear if a funding application to Pharmac for the life-saving drug Myozyme has been approved. The estimated cost of this drug for one year's treatment is \$250,000.

Comment sought on certification review

The safety of gas and electrical work is important to every New Zealander, according to Energy Safety and the Department of Building and Housing.

For that reason, feedback from consumers and tradespeople on the current regimes for certifying electrical and gas fitting work is now being sought.

In the current certification system, gas and electrical workers issue a formal Certificate of Compliance. This means the person doing gas or electrical work is accountable for that work.

"The Government's Gas and Electrical Certification and Fees Review will determine if the current certification system is

working well, and if the associated fees reflect good value for consumers," said Mark Wogan, operations manager of Energy Safety.

"I encourage people to have their say — the gas and certification regime is a key part of energy safety. It is important to ensure energy safety is balanced with commercial realities and public safety."

Consumers, gas and electricity bodies, tradespeople, and anyone with an interest in energy safety, certification or fees are invited to make a written submission by March 4.

A discussion document and further information is available at www.energysafety.govt.nz/certification-and-fees-review.



■ GPS DONATION:

PICTURE: KERRI BOWLING wta150211kbgps

ON TRACK: Finding rural addresses in south Wairarapa just became a little easier for Featherston's Volunteer Fire Brigade, thanks to the donation of two GPS units. Station manager Tim Rees, pictured left, says the town's firemen have relied on maps and local knowledge to find rural addresses. However, Harvey Norman's has donated two GPS systems, after a letter from Tim. "They were only too happy to help out."

Are you suffering from Muscular/Skeletal injuries, sports injuries, back pain?

Come and see our professional, experienced Physiotherapists.

- It's not expensive - ACC approved claims only \$15 initial visit and then \$10 per follow up.
- You can self refer - We can treat ACC claims directly, without a Doctor's referral.
- We are still at: 43 Chapel Street, Masterton
- Phone: (06) 370 3333



LOW OR NO FEES ON MOST PROGRAMMES OFFERED IN MASTERTON

Programmes on offer for Semester A 2011 in Masterton

MĀORI LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES

CERTIFICATE IN TIKANGA MARAE LEVEL 4

Duration: 36 weeks (per level) | Start: March - November | No fees

Marae focused studies. You will learn about a Māori world view and analyse its functions within New Zealand and international societies, iwi/hapū development, te reo Māori and study its application within your specialised area of work and/or within your home environment.

BUSINESS STUDIES

CERTIFICATE IN MONEY MANAGEMENT LEVEL 3

Duration: 36 weeks | flexible hours | Start: March - November | No fees

The ability to manage money is an essential life-skill for all New Zealanders, regardless of age or current level of income. The CMM is designed to develop this ability, enabling you to make decisions that will help you reach your financial goals in life.

In this programme, you'll learn about:

- money and debt management
- wealth creation and protection
- property investment
- equity and other investments.

CERTIFICATE IN SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT - LEVEL 4

Duration: 36 weeks | flexible hours | Start: March - November | No fees

Do you have a business idea or want to improve your existing business? If so, the CSBM is designed for you! It will provide you with the practical tools you need to establish your business or manage your current business more effectively. During CSBM, you'll complete a comprehensive business plan for your business or business idea focusing on:

- small business management
- business law
- marketing
- people management
- small business accounting
- financial planning.

ENROL NOW FOR 2011

All programmes are subject to student numbers and confirmation. Every effort has been made to ensure that the content of this advert is correct at the time of print.