

For Aunty Maureen tells...

## UNITY COLLEGE

by Maureen Dalglish

Every parent wishes for a perfect child, but sometimes through birth trauma, genetic disorders, epilepsy or other medical conditions a child has general development problems and then to whom can the parent turn for help?

31 years ago, a small group of frustrated and desperate parents hired five classrooms next to the Temple Shalom in Highlands North and employed a couple of dedicated teachers – and so was the humble beginnings of Unity College.

From there the school expanded and moved to premises on Cedar Road and then, more recently, to their present home on 2.6ha in Chartwell North.

The emphasis of the school still remains – to enrich and extend each pupil in an environment of Respect, Honesty and Compassion.

The school aims to produce independent members of society and to bridge the gap between school and the world of work.

Classes are kept to a maximum of 8 per class thus allowing for individual attention. Of course, numerous therapists and caregivers are also involved and art, drama, music appreciation, and outdoor activities play a big part in the curriculum.

The school provides a bus/combi service into which wheelchairs are loaded and offloaded at various points and this too is of considerable help to the parents.

Unity College is a non-profit organisation with no government subsidy and their logo aptly reads: "Dignity and Independence".