Kōrero – 27 May 2021

**Blind Low Vision NZ win at New Zealand Primary Healthcare Awards**

We are thrilled to share that Blind Low Vision NZ was selected as the winner of the New Zealand Primary Healthcare Award for Innovation in Service Delivery for our response during the COVID-19 pandemic. The award recognises a forward-thinking person or people who have made primary healthcare services significantly better through new ideas and initiatives. Their innovation might have enabled healthcare to continue during a period of uncertainty or significantly improved patient experiences, access and equity. The innovation could be clinical, business oriented, technological or other. [Read more about the awards and other winners here.](https://www.nzphawards.co.nz/winners)

**Our first Outlook podcast is live**

As you may be aware, we have moved into a new era for Outlook magazine. With the roll-out of the Alexa smart speaker, we have evolved this publication into a quarterly podcast, hosted and produced by Sam Smith. You will still be able to access Outlook in a variety of formats—word document, e-text, online, and braille on request—so you can choose a format which works best for you and of course we want to be inclusive of our Deafblind members. [Listen to the first Outlook podcast here.](https://www.buzzsprout.com/842887/8509738)

**There’s still time to collect your free Alexa device**

In addition to all of the regular Alexa features (timers, weather updates, reminders and the ability to ask a multitude of questions), Blind Low Vision NZ have an additional feature or skill, giving you free access to over 36,000 books and magazines plus access to popular newspapers which are updated daily. You can also use your Alexa to listen to the new quarterly Outlook podcast. If you haven’t yet taken advantage of this opportunity, click here to email us and request your free Alexa device.

**Research opportunity from the University of Auckland**

Nidhi Aggarwal, a PhD candidate in Psychology (under the supervision of Dr. Barry Hughes), is looking for visually impaired participants to contribute to our investigation of such questions. Information from blindfolded sighted people will provide vital comparison data. The research will be conducted at the University of Auckland city campus. Participants will need to take part in a session, scheduled at their convenience, lasting not more than 3 hours. They might be asked to take part in more than one session depending on the task. Some or all of these sessions may involve EEG recordings, which involve wearing a net of sensors over the head, and/or tracking finger movements while engaged in systematically varied versions of a tactile task. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Nidhi via email by clicking here.

**Community Connections**

Sport Hawke’s Bay worked alongside Hastings District Council and the Mitre10 Sports Park to improve the physical access and safety of their shared limestone track facility. The change was brought about as a result of the Blind Low Vision walking group members advocating for the improved access and safety for all users at the Park. [Learn more about it by watching their video here.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&fbclid=IwAR17hJzox5AOc0L_xLNnYpa35Z1qmSnvoIcWkaD7RXPaYEyPggOP6h8njl4&v=_tmGMXTFGQs&feature=youtu.be)

## **In Brief**

* **It’s International Albinism Awareness Day on Sunday 13 June**. [You can learn more about it by visiting their website here.](https://www.un.org/en/observances/albinism-day)
* **For a list of audio described events,** [please find the attached booklet.](https://image.cloud.blindlowvision.org.nz/lib/fe4415707564057d751174/m/2/37b0fb6b-7bae-4e50-8aa3-4b0b9c229c53.docx) **This is also narrated on Blind Low Vision NZ’s Telephone Information Service, menu 668. If you would like a braille copy contact Mary Schnackenberg mary@aicomms.co.nz**

## **Noticeboard**

* Did you know that you can request Kōrero in braille? Call our contact centre on 0800 24 33 33 if you would like to receive Kōrero in this format.

**News from the RNZFB Board**

* **The next RNZFB Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday 3 July 2021 in Auckland.** If you would like to attend this meeting as an observer in person or by phone, please contact the Board Secretary, Jane Moore on 09 355 6894 or email jamoore@blindlowvision.org.nz
* [**Check out the Chair’s Report following May 2021 Board here.**](https://image.cloud.blindlowvision.org.nz/lib/fe4415707564057d751174/m/2/6a9a7c24-9d34-4e14-a3ee-8cb5977bd801.docx)
* **Filling the casual vacancy on the RNZFB Board** – As noted in my latest Chair’s report, Peter Hoskin announced his retirement from the RNZFB Board with effect from 14 May 2021 after being on the Board for almost nine years. This has created what is termed a ‘casual vacancy’ and, as you may be aware, under the RNZFB constitution, the casual vacancy to be filled is first offered to the highest polling unsuccessful candidate in the last election.

The highest polling unsuccessful candidate is **Ronald Scott** who has indicated that he will take up the position and the Board confirmed his appointment effective 18 May 2021.

### It should be noted that a person appointed to fill a casual vacancy must retire from office at the time when the person who caused the casual vacancy to occur would have retired from office had the casual vacancy not occurred.  Peter Hoskin’s term would have been completed at the end of the Annual General Meeting later this year.  Accordingly, Ron Scott will complete this term of office at the end of the Annual General Meeting in 2021.

The Board wishes Peter Hoskin all the very best on his departure and looks forward to welcoming Ron Scott onto the Board. A brief bio of Ron appears below.

**Ron Scott** JP CMInstD MNZATD

Ron lives in Tauranga where he is a Board Member of the Bay of Plenty District Health Board (DHB) and chairs the DHB Audit Finance and Risk Management Committee.

He is also Chair of SILC, a charity which supports 200 people with disabilities and long term illnesses and is a member of the AA Bay of Plenty Council.

Ron owns his own company, Stellaris Ltd, which specialises in executive and governance education and training, in particular, focusing on helping boards with their strategic planning as well as coaching and mentoring.

He holds degrees in Economics, History and Geography as well as Education. He is a Justice of the Peace (JP). Ron is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Directors with over 30 years of Governance experience.

He has two children - James is a New Zealand under 23 representative rower and studying law at Waikato and Katy is studying law at Otago.

**[Job Opportunities at Blind Low Vision NZ](https://sforce.co/3gOTU4z)**

* [Guide Dog Mobility Instructor (GDMI)](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a234a0000002irbAAA), Permanent/Full-time, Auckland – closing Friday 4 June.
* [Rehabilitation Instructor](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a234a0000002x9eAAA), Permanent/Full-time, Auckland – closing Friday 4 June

**Ka kite ano**

Please let us know what you think of Kōrero. We welcome suggestions for what you would like us to include, and of course any tips or stories you would like to share with the community. Get in touch on 0800 24 33 33 or via communications@blindlowvision.org.nz.