# Kōrero – 25 February 2021

## **White cane training: ‘Don’t wait’.**

[Photograph caption: Melody Jade Steyn with her son in a front pack, smiling.]

Melody Jade Steyn says she put off white cane training for too long, and doesn’t want others to do the same. Her journey was not easy but the independence she gained was massive.

[Read Melody’s white cane story.](https://blindlowvision.org.nz/our-stories/white-cane-training-dont-put-it-off/)

## **People**

## **Meet Karen Chong**

[Photograph caption: Karen Chong, smiling.]

Karen Chong is a client, volunteer and amazing ambassador for Blind Low Vision NZ. She has also landed a job at as Client Services Coordinator at Macular Degeneration New Zealand.

[Read about Karen’s exciting new role.](https://blindlowvision.org.nz/our-stories/meet-karen-client-services-coordinator-at-macular-degeneration-new-zealand/)

## **Rosemary Locke’s guide dog is her ‘wheels’**

[Photograph caption: Rosemary Locke’s guide dog Honor looks at her adoringly.]

“I can’t drive a car but she’s my wheels. Having a guide dog has completely changed my life and given me so much more independence – I wouldn’t be where I am today without her.”

Red Puppy Appeal is coming up 26 & 27 March and we would love your help.

[Register to collect and help Blind Low Vision NZ breed and train more guide dogs.](https://www.tfaforms.com/4859689)

## **Insider’s Tip: Special interest email groups**

With Yahoo groups closing down, many email list groups have changed. Here’s some of the email groups that you can join – simply send them an email saying you’d like to subscribe.

Please note that most of these groups are client led and not moderated by Blind Low Vision NZ. If you have a group to add to the list, email communications@blindlowvision.org.nz and we’ll get a list as complete as possible uploaded on our website.

**Assistive Technology Interest Group (ATIG NZ)**For Blind Low Vision NZ clients to provide peer support and discuss matters relating to assistive technology.

Subscribe: atig-nz+subscribe@groups.io.

[Group web page.](https://groups.io/g/atig-nz)

**iPhone User Group**

For Blind Low Vision NZ clients who have questions about using an iPhone, or can offer advice to other iPhone users.

Subscribe: nz-vi-iphone-users-subscribe@groups.io

[Group web page.](https://groups.io/g/nz-vi-iphone-users)

**Blind Citizens NZ Blind Discuss Group**

For people wanting to discuss matters of interest to people who are blind in New Zealand.

Subscribe: blindcitizensnz-blinddiscuss+subscribe@groups.io

[Group web page.](https://groups.io/g/blindcitizensnz-blinddiscuss)

**Blind Citizens NZ (international list)**

For people wanting to discuss matters of an international flavor, mostly World Blind Union related.

Subscribe: blindcitizensnz-international+subscribe@groups.io

[Group web page.](https://groups.io/g/blindcitizensnz-international)

**NZ Braille**

For issues to do with braille as it is used in New Zealand.

Subscribe:Nzbrl+subscribe@googlegroups.com

**Deafblind Association NZ**

For people wanting to discuss matters of interest to people who are deafblind in New Zealand.

Subscribe: dbanz-discuss+subscribe@groups.io

**Blind gamers discussion group**

This is a list where all gaming topics are welcome. The primary goal of the list is discussing games accessible to the blind and visually impaired.

**Subscribe:** blind-gamers+subscribe@groups.io

[Group web page.](https://groups.io/g/blind-gamers)

**Microsoft Office Accessibility Discussion Group**

This is a discussion group for users of Microsoft Office with an emphasis on accessibility.

**Subscribe:** office-accessibility+subscribe@groups.io

[Group web page.](https://groups.io/g/office-accessibility)

**Cooking interest group**

**Subscribe:** outofsightcooks+subscribe@groups.io

**TV, music & movie interest group**

**Subscribe:** videowithoutpictures+subscribe@groups.io

**Garden interest group**

**Subscribe:** nz-blind-gardeners+subscribe@groups.io

[Find more lists at Accessibility Central Net.](http://www.accessibilitycentral.net/contact%20details.html)

## **In Brief**

* **Do you know an accessible business that deserve some recognition?** [Nominate them for the 2021 People’s Choice Accessible Business Awards](https://www.accessalliance.org.nz/2021_peoples_choice_accessible_business_awards), Presented by Access Alliance and sponsored by Cookie Time Charitable Trust.
* **Get eye health on the political agenda** – [sign a petition calling for a national eye health survey.](https://www.eyehealthaotearoa.org.nz/open_letter_minister_of_health)
* **Have you witnessed an incident or near miss in Auckland involving an e-micromobility vehicle (e-scooter, e-bike, e-skateboard, hoverboard or Segway**? [Full in this survey by Auckland Transport](https://t2.ktrmr.com/surveyw.aspx?i.project=WADGH2H&s=Gen24&id=1&chk=na&aar=1&rs=1&pid=auto&GRP=3) and you could go in the draw for one of five $100 Prezzy cards.
* **First ever Deafblind Association NZ seminar**: Explore your leadership potential and your communication confidence in connecting with others who share what is important to you. Face to face kōrero is critical so if you think there might be a barrier to participating talk to us first. [Get in touch with the Deafblind Association for more information.](http://www.deafblindassociation.nz/events/)
* **Chamber Music New Zealand presents Transfigured Night with Ballet Collective Aotearoa and the New Zealand String Quartet.** Audio Described National Tours are happening from Tuesday 9 March to Tuesday 23 March. Ring 0800 266 2378 and request an audio described ticket. [Find out more about the show here.](https://chambermusic.co.nz/concert/transfigured-night-hlz)
* **Tim Bray Theatre company have audio described shows coming up in Auckland. *A Lion in the Meadow and Other Stories* is on at the Pumphouse Theatre, 13 April, 1pm and 1 May, 1pm. Call 09 489 8360 to book at the Pumphouse. It’s also on at Managere Arts Centre, 12 May 10.30am and 15 May 1pm. Call 0800 289 849 to book at Mangere Arts Centre. Once booked, please contact Gail at Tim Bray Theatre Company to book your headset and Touch Tour 09 486 2261 or** gail@timbray.org.nz
* **For a list of audio described events, please find the attached booklet. 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.

[**Job Opportunities at Blind Low Vision NZ**](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a234a0000002ROXAA2)

* [**HR Advisor**](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a234a0000002ROXAA2),Fixed term/Part-time, Auckland – closing 26.
* [**Relationship Manager**](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a234a0000002Qz1AAE), Permanent/Full-time, Christchurch – closing 2 March.
* [**Health and Safety Coordinator**](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a234a0000002RPfAAM), Fixed term/Part-time, Auckland – closing 26 February.

## **Ka kite ano**

[Photograph caption: John Mulka, smiling]

The team is in full swing gearing up for Red Puppy Appeal on 26 & 27 March. You will see me out on the streets shaking a bucket and we would love for you to join us! [Register to collect here.](https://www.tfaforms.com/4859689) - **John Mulka, Blind Low Vision NZ Chief Executive.**

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.