Kōrero – 24 June 2021

“The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart.” – Helen Keller

**An update on the Great Kiwi Bookathon**

This event officially kicked off on 1 June and on Monday morning we had 12,707 readers signed up with the initial goal being 3,150 for a first time event. We have also raised $210,392 so far. It’s never too late to get involved so check out the website at [www.bookathon.co.nz](http://www.bookathon.co.nz)

**Partnership and Collaboration with CCS Disability Action & Access Advisors**

We’re delighted to share with you that our partnership and collaborative efforts with CCS Disability Action continues to progress and advance. The established partnership brings a more streamlined and professional approach for those entities in the community who may require accessibility advice or guidance particularly as it pertains to the built environment. Additionally, our previously established partnership with Access Advisors continues to evolve and aligns very well with regards to requests for accessibility considerations within the digital space.

[To learn more about CCS Disability Action click here.](https://www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/)

[To learn more about Access Advisors click here.](https://accessadvisors.nz/)

**Auckland Live – Cabaret Season**

[Photograph caption: Auckland Live Cabaret Season]

Auckland Live is currently conducting research into the accessibility of their venues and events. As well as commissioning formal assessments of these, they’re keen to speak to some audience members with access needs about their experiences.

They’re offering tickets to some of the shows in the upcoming [**Auckland Live Cabaret Season**.](https://tinyurl.com/aucklandlivecabaret) The idea is you go along and experience the show, then have an informal chat with Customer Experience team Penn Trevella and Amy Mansfield about the highs, lows and more.

The shows they are offering double tickets for are:

* [Thoroughly Modern Maui](https://tinyurl.com/thoroughlymodernmaui) – Friday 25 June, 6.30pm, The Civic Wintergarden
[Let It Beatles](https://tinyurl.com/letitbeatles) – Saturday 26 June, 5pm OR Saturday 3 July, 6pm, The Civic Wintergarden
[Hardcase Hori Housie](https://tinyurl.com/hardcasehorihousie) – Saturday 26 June, 4pm, The Civic Wintergarden
[Rock Follies Forever](https://tinyurl.com/rockfolliesforever) Wednesday 23 June 6.30pm, Thursday 24 June 7pm, Friday 25 June 8.30pm, The Civic Wintergarden

 [A text version of the Cabaret programme can be found here.](https://bit.ly/3wSS4o4)

**Audio described performances of *The Firebird with Paquita* ballet**

Starting in July in Wellington but then moving around the country throughout August, trained audio describer, Nicola Owen will be broadcasting live commentary of the public performances of *The Firebird with Paquita* ballet. [To find out more and book tickets, visit the Royal New Zealand Ballet website here.](https://tinyurl.com/RNZBaudioperformances)

**ATSNZ Disability Expo – 6-7 July**

This event is free to attend, including all the educational sessions as part of the Seminar Programme. If you are a person with a disability, an Occupational Therapist, allied health professional, carer, parent, or from any division within the disability sector, this event is for you.

The ATSNZ Disability Expo will have more than 60 exhibitors showcasing new products, talking about new industry standards and there to help you with any information or enquiry you may have. From wheelchair and mobility scooter suppliers to children’s clothing, to bedding, to support networks and groups, there is everything you need on the ATSNZ Expo floor. The expo is being held at Sir Woolf Fisher Arena, Vodafone Events Centre, Manukau, Auckland. [Register for free here.](https://tinyurl.com/ATSNZexpo)

**Our first Outlook podcast is live**

A reminder that 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 can still request this in a number of formats but it is recommended that you listen to it, either using the web link or via your Alexa device as it’s a conversational, interview format with a variety of different guests each quarter. [Listen to the first Outlook podcast here.](https://tinyurl.com/outlookpodcast)

**In-Brief**

* **National Volunteer Week 20-26 June.** Volunteers are vital to organisations like ours. Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu National Volunteer Week celebrates the collective contribution of all volunteers who enrich Aotearoa New Zealand.
* **Helen Keller Communication Day 27 June.** Born deafblind in 1880, Helen Keller went onto learn to talk, learn seven languages, write books and advocate for our community. [Learn more about this inspirational woman here](https://tinyurl.com/helenkellerday).
* **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**

* **A reminder that the next RNZFB Board meeting will be on Saturday 3 July 2021.** 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
* **Consultation on Mandatory Policies 3.10 and 3.12.** A reminderthat the Board is currently seeking feedback on proposed changes to two of its ‘mandatory’ policies - Policy 3.12 Disputes and their Determination and 3.10 Board Engagement and Communications with Stakeholders. The deadline for feedback is **Friday 9 July 2021**. Please call the Contact Centre on 0800 24 33 33 for further information or refer to BLVNZ’s website.
* **2021 Board Elections – Information Day for Candidates.** The Board will be running an Information Day for those interested in standing in this year’s Board Elections. If there is sufficient interest, this will take place at Awhina House in Auckland on **Saturday 31 July 2021**. There will be an option to attend the session via Zoom for those not able to travel to Auckland. Further information about the day will be sent out shortly.

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

* [Guide Dog Mobility Instructor (GDMI)](https://tinyurl.com/blvnzjobs-june), Permanent/Full-time, Auckland – closing Friday 25 June.
* [Guide Dog Mobility Instructor (GDMI),](https://tinyurl.com/BLVNZjobs-june2) Permanent/Full-time, Wellington – closing Friday 23 July.

**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.