



March 2024 - Newsletter

Kia ora #FirstName#

President's Update

We have some exciting things planned for you over the coming months!

In May we will be hosting our **Annual General Meeting (AGM) in person**. This is one AGM you won't want to miss! Not only will we host a **fun filled family friendly day**, but we have the added excitement of an inspiring **keynote speaker, Clare Best**, the founder of **Raising Bilinguals**. Clare is travelling from Australia to meet our community and is also running a **fantastic workshop just for us** the following day - Don't miss out on this **one time opportunity**!

APODC Connect - In this online webinar Clare Best will be diving into the essential aspects of building a supportive and nurturing environment for your Deaf or Hard of Hearing child to thrive - **Register now!**

Coffee Group - It was great to have such **positive attendance** at our recent coffee group. We are so happy that we are able to **connect new and current members** who are at the **start of their journey**. Our next event will be in South Auckland, read on for more information and your chance to register.

In case you weren't aware, the **Ombudsman** recently conducted a review into the Ministry's approach to **deaf education** and, earlier this month, they released their findings. To ensure you have the relevant **information**, and are aware of **potential impacts** this may have on your children, we will be sending out an email with details around **what you need to know**, so keep an eye on your inbox.

Hand waves 🖐️

Willa Hand on behalf of your APODC Committee

A quick look at our upcoming events for 2024

APODC EVENT CALENDAR 2024			
April	May	June	July
	<div>Under 5s COFFEE GROUP</div> <div>APODC AGM 2024</div>	<div>Youth EVENT</div>	<div>Under 5s COFFEE GROUP</div> <div>Family DAY</div>
<div>APODC Connect</div>			<div>APODC Connect</div>

REGISTER NOW!

Our **Annual General Meeting** (AGM) will be held **in person** this year and we hope you will join us as to have your say on our committee nominations and other important topics. AGM is always a great opportunity to **connect** with each other and reflect on all we achieved together last year.

Bring the whole **family** and let your **children enjoy the fun activities** we have on offer while you mix, mingle and connect with the APODC community and our special guest who is joining us to deliver an insightful keynote speech – [Clare Best of Raising Bilinguals](#). She will also be hosting a **community session** after the AGM to get to know you all as we embark on our partnership in 2024.

Event Information

Date: Saturday 25th May

Location: [Auckland Deaf Society, Hillsborough Road](#)

Registration: 10am – 10.30am

Event: 10.30am – 3.30pm

[Click here to register](#)



Navigating the Journey - Workshop

EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR THE INCREDIBLY LOW PRICE OF JUST \$20!

We are offering you the opportunity to attend an **empowering and educational workshop** created and **facilitated by Clare Best**, an internationally respected dedicated expert in language acquisition.

Through a blend of personal insight, professional expertise and interactive activities, **Navigating the Journey** offers a safe and supportive space for parents to **gain valuable knowledge, practical strategies, and emotional support**. Whether you're just starting on this journey or seeking guidance along the way, this workshop is sure to provide value as you continue to build your understanding around the Deaf and Hard of Hearing space.

Buy your tickets now to secure your seat. APODC have worked hard to subsidise the cost of the tickets for this event. We have been granted some funding to support families should they require financial support. If you would benefit from this please let us know via the registration form and we will contact you to discuss further.

Event Information

Date: Sunday 26th May

Location: [The Hearing House, 251 Campbell Road, Greenlane, Auckland 1061](#)

Registration: 10am – 10.30am

Workshop: 10.30am – 1pm (food will be served)

[Click here to register](#)



Register now to attend the first webinar in our online series hosted by Clare Best of Raising Bilinguals - **Aligning Your Child's Village**

Date: Wednesday 17th April

Time: 7pm - 8pm

Clare will be diving into the essential aspects of **building a supportive and nurturing environment** for your Deaf or Hard of Hearing child to thrive.

As a parent of a deaf child herself, Clare understands the paramount importance of surrounding your children with the right people – a village that shares your dedication, values, and commitment to their well-being. In this webinar, Clare will unpack **strategies** for **identifying, engaging, and aligning** with the individuals and resources that can **positively impact your child's journey**. From educators to healthcare professionals, mentors, and beyond, Clare will discuss how to cultivate a **strong support network** that **empowers your child** and ensures they receive the comprehensive care and guidance they deserve.

[Click here to register](#)

Under 5's COFFEE GROUP



Our APODC Secretary Lydia, had the pleasure of hosting a **coffee group** earlier this month in central Auckland. Everyone who attended enjoyed a lovely, chilled morning, chatting about threenagers, daycare, siblings, NZSL playgroups and much more.

Lydia is excited to host another coffee group on **Saturday 4th May** in **South Auckland**. We will be moving the venue around Auckland so that everyone has the opportunity to attend. If you know of any good toddler friendly cafes please feel free to send your suggestions through to coordinator@apodc.org.nz.

Date: Saturday 4th May

Time: 10am until 12pm

Venue: [Auckland Botanic Gardens, Cafe Miko](#)

Address: [102 Hill Road, The Gardens, Auckland 2105](#)

[Click here to register](#)

Research Opportunity

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY:
Tamariki/Children
6.5- to 9-years-old

Language skills in children
with typical hearing and
children with hearing aids

Want to know more?

- Check out the description above (includes a link to more information)
- Or email

caelyn.eades@pg.canterbury.ac.nz

This study has ethics approval by the Health and Disability Ethics Committee (HDEC).
Reference Number: 2024 FULL 19267

UCAN
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY

This is a research opportunity for 6 to 9 year old English speaking children. This includes children with hearing aids and children with typical hearing.

If you are interested or want to ask some questions, please email Caelyn (caelyn.eades@pg.canterbury.ac.nz). Alternatively, click the link to ask questions and/or provide alternative contact details.
https://canterbury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5zGCnlh3mDUNoNO

Where? Caelyn is due to visit Auckland over the next two weeks, and early June. Please email her directly to confirm dates and locations.

Who can do it? 6.5- to 9-year-old English-speaking children (at least 80% of the time). This includes children with hearing aids and children with typical hearing.

What's involved? It will be 1- to 1.5 hours. Children will do word/picture puzzles and story-telling tasks. A parent or guardian will need to fill out a questionnaire.

What benefits are there? You will also get a summary of your child's language skills. You/your child may also feel good about completing interesting activities and helping us learn more about children's language use.

Participating families will also receive a koha (thank you gift). The koha will include a \$30 voucher, a certificate, and a book

This study has ethics approval by the Health and Disability Ethics Committee (HDEC). The reference number is 2024 FULL 19267.

WHAT'S ON?



The Great Piratical Rumbustification

NZ Sign Language Interpreted shows

Dates: Thursday 11th April, Saturday 27th April

Time: 10.30am

Venue: The PumpHouse Theatre, Takapuna

[Click here to book tickets](#)

Hoist the Flag of Fun and Mayhem

Shiver me timbers! The pirates are restless, yearning for a grand piratical adventure. "Oh, for a pirate party!" they proclaim. But, as any good pirate knows, a proper pirate party must be a stolen one. So now, get ready to set sail into the high seas of imagination as Margaret Mahy's delightful tale, *The Great Piratical Rumbustification*, comes to life in a swashbuckling stage performance by Tim Bray Theatre Company.

Join our young hero, Oliver Terrapin, as he opens up the doors of his oblivious parents' home for a party – a party with real pirates!

Mayhem ensues in this rollicking, rumbunctious rumpus of an escapade by Tim Bray Theatre Company that promises the most piratical fun you've had in years. Yo ho ho!

Sign Play Together - Playgroup

First Signs, in collaboration with The Hearing House, have expanded their playgroup offerings. Their Wednesday morning group is now fortnightly and they have set up an additional weekly Saturday morning group. Check out their flyers below for more details.

SIGN PLAY TOGETHER - Fortnightly Auckland 2024



Come and Join us at "SIGN PLAY TOGETHER" on **FORTNIGHTLY** Wednesday mornings at The Hearing House!

We will learn NZSL, play, read books and HAVE FUN together! Your First Signs Facilitators will organise a fun and educational programme for your preschoolers in NZSL.

Your children will have the opportunity to meet other Deaf or Hard of Hearing children like themselves, and use NZSL to communicate!

FEB: 14, 28
MAR: 13, 27
APR: 10, 24
MAY: 8, 22
JUN: 5, 19
JUL: 3, 17, 31
AUG: 14, 28
SEPT: 11, 25
OCT: 9, 23
NOV: 6, 20
DEC: 4

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

The Hearing House, 251 Campbell Road, Greenlane, Auckland



SIGN PLAY TOGETHER - Saturdays Auckland 2024



Come and Join us at "SIGN PLAY TOGETHER" at The Hearing House every first Saturday of the month!

We will learn NZSL, play, read books and HAVE FUN together! Your First Signs Facilitators will organise a fun and educational programme for your preschoolers in NZSL.

Your children will have the opportunity to meet other Deaf or Hard of Hearing children like themselves, and use NZSL to communicate!

10th February
2nd March
6th April
4th May
8th June
6th July
3rd August
7th September
5th October
2nd November
7th December

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

The Hearing House, 251 Campbell Road, Greenlane, Auckland



For more information, please contact
First Signs:

first.signs@deaf.org.nz



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First Signs:

first.signs@deaf.org.nz



NZSL Coffee Club

NZSL Coffee Club

Join us for our monthly coffee group meetups on the first Sunday of every month. Calling all NZSL students, regardless of your level - you are more than welcome to join us! Our fantastic NZSL tutor will support you and engage in conversations over a cup of coffee. It's an opportunity to practice your NZSL skills in a friendly environment while meeting new people and catching up with old friends. Take advantage of this fantastic chance to immerse yourself in the beauty of NZSL and connect with a vibrant community.

Auckland
Crave Cafe,
6 Morningside Drive,
Morningside, Auckland

Christchurch
Black Betty
165 Madras Street,
Central City, Christchurch

Every first Sundays
(10:00am - 12:00pm)

3rd March
7th April
5th May
2nd June
7th July

4th Aug
1st Sept
6th Oct
3rd Nov
1st Dec

*A few more locations & Online to come in Term 2

If you have been learning NZSL and want a friendly and welcoming community to practice your newfound skills, this could be the place for you.

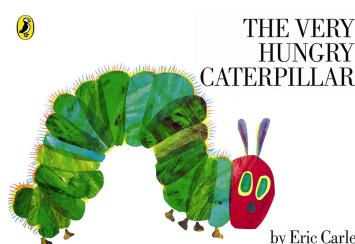
NZSL4U are running a coffee club in Auckland on the first Sunday of each month from 10am - 12pm.

To learn more about what NZSL4U have to offer check out their website and Facebook page:

Website: NZSL4U.co.nz

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/nzsl4u

Representation and Resource Recommendations



The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Kara Technologies

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar", written by Eric Carle, presented in NZSL with a digital avatar.

A huge thanks to Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education New Zealand for making this a possibility by working in partnership with Kara Technologies. This wouldn't be a reality without funding from NZSL Board so sending warm thanks their way also.

Enjoy the NZSL video telling of this story: [Click here to view](#)



Mighty Mila

Written by Katie Petruzzello

Mila wants to prove to her family that she's a big kid. She uses her creativity, willpower, and even her new cochlear implant hearing devices, to tackle one big kid activity after another. But when faced with something new that she can't figure out on her own, will Mila finally prove just how mighty she is?

Reading age: 4-7 years old

Available at your local Auckland Library: [Click here to request](#)

Ngā mihi nui, APODC Committee



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