



April 2024 - Newsletter

Kia ora #FirstName#



President's Update

Happy autumn everyone! This year we will be hosting a fun family day alongside our **Annual General Meeting** - bouncy castles, fun and laughter, so make sure to register below!

This week I've met with **Clare Best**, the founder of **Raising Bilinguals** (pictured left) - we have the added excitement of her being our keynote speaker at our AGM alongside hosting a workshop on **Sunday 26th May** on language acquisition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing kids. This is for families or people working with families, and you'll come away with some awesome tips and tricks for helping build language for your kids. Registration details below.

Committee nominations are now open. We are looking for **4 awesome people** to join our committee, so if you're interested and have time (about 1 hour per week) we'd love to hear from you. Any experience in deaf culture/community, fundraising, marketing and events is an added bonus! We're also very keen to have someone with Deaf lived experience as we don't currently have Deaf representation around our table.

Our APODC Secretary Lydia is exciting to host another on **Saturday 4th May** in **South Auckland**. Each time we host a coffee group we will move around Auckland to make the event as accessible as possible, if you have any suggestions on where we could meet please email coordinator@APODC.org.nz.

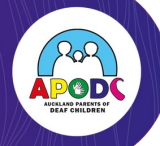
Hand waves 🙋

Willa Hand on behalf of your APODC Committee ~ Anna Park, Duncan Henderson, Jo Weaver, Kirsten Davis, Lydia Cook, Rhian Thompson

A quick look at our upcoming events for 2024

APODC EVENT CALENDAR 2024			
May	June	July	August
<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>Youth EVENT</div>

Family DAY



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.

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. We also have a **special guest** joining us to deliver an insightful keynote speech – [Clare Best of Raising Bilinguals](#).

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](#)

APODC COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Would you like to apply to **become a committee member** or nominate someone else? You can!

We currently have 6 potential seats available on our committee. If you would like to nominate yourself, or someone else, just **click on the link below** where you will find the nomination form, eligibility criteria and more about what it means to be a committee member.

Nominations must be submitted by Friday 3rd May 2024

[Submit your nomination here](#)

Navigating the Journey - Workshop

Tickets are selling out fast – Get yours now to attend an **empowering and educational workshop** created and facilitated by **Clare Best**, an internationally respected and 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.

By the end of this workshop, participants will feel:

- Equipped with knowledge around best practices for their child in the early years (and beyond)
- Confident in approaching their child's language & communication development
- Clarity around the vision for their child and family unit
- Better prepared for the journey ahead
- Stronger in their role as an advocate for their child
- Informed about the options, pathways and resource available to them

Tickets are available - \$20 per ticket. APODC have worked hard to subsidize 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:** 251 Campbell Road, Greenlane, Auckland 1061**Registration:** 10am – 10.30am**Workshop:** 10.30am – 1pm (food will be served)[Click here to register](#)

Celebrating Deaf Culture



APODC members and schoolmates Theo (right) and Ruby (left) demonstrated their Deaf pride at their school's recent Cultural Day.

Fruitvale School celebrated Cultural Day by inviting students to wear an outfit that represented their culture.

Theo and Ruby chose to wear their 2023 APODC Camp and NZSL Week T-shirts respectively, proudly representing the Deaf Community. Theo's teacher supported them by printing out the Deaf flag to wave as they took part in the parade around the school grounds.

Tiffany Whelan, their Resource Teacher of the Deaf (RTD), joined in the celebration.

Under 5's COFFEE GROUP



Join us at this family friendly cafe to meet and mingle other parents of Deaf or Hard of Hearing children. The event will be hosted by our Secretary Lydia Cook whose little girl has profound bilateral hearing loss and is aided by cochlear implant.


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](#)

WHAT'S ON?

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

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

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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MERGE - NZSL course in Waipu

2024

NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE COURSE IN WAIPU



Join and learn New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) course in Mangawhai!

NZSL is a beautiful language, and an official language of NZ. This is a NZSL Beg 1a course - suitable for students with no previous experience with NZSL. The course will be delivered through blended learning. In this arrangement, you will attend onsite classes with other participants, and the teacher will teach virtually with an onsite facilitator to support your learning. Certificate of Attendance and will be issued at the end of the course.



COURSE DETAILS:
Thursdays, 6.30pm to 8.00pm
• 9, 16, 23, 30 May
• 6, 13 June

6 weeks (1.5 hours per week)
Level: Beginner 1a



COURSE VENUE:
Waipu Presbyterian Church
50 The Centre,
Waipu



COURSE FEE:
\$160 per person including
e-handouts, homework
and certificate

Learn New Zealand Sign Language in this 6-week evening course through blended learning.

This is NZSL Beginner 1a course, suitable for those students with no experience with NZSL.

The cost is \$130 per person for 6 weeks course including e-handouts, homework and certificate of attendance.

Families and extended families of Deaf children can get funding to learn NZSL for free of charge.

Contact Merge by email
hello@mergenz.co.nz

Website to register: [NZSL Course - Waipu - Beg 1a | mergenz](https://www.mergen.co.nz/nzsl-courses)



hello@mergenz.co.nz



Text only: 027-346-4332



www.mergen.co.nz/nzsl-courses
(scroll down to find your course)

Research Opportunites

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

UC
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 here](#) to ask questions and/or provide alternative contact details.

Where? Caelyn is due to visit **Auckland in 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.



**MEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES**
SCHOOL OF POPULATION HEALTH

This is a research opportunity for parents/guardians of Pacific children/adolescents who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

If you are interested or have any questions, please email Linda Palavi, PhD Candidate (linda.palavi@auckland.ac.nz).

Where? Linda will conduct interviews over the phone or on Zoom at a time that is suitable for you.

Who can do it? Parents or guardians of Pacific children or adolescents who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

What's involved? An interview of approximately 1 hour, based on your experiences as a parent of a child or adolescent who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing. These interviews focus on your knowledge, experiences, and challenges you may have faced.

What benefits are there? This research focuses on quantifying the lived experience of Pacific families and highlight the role that parental involvement has among Pacific children and adolescents who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, with a view to improving health services.

Participants will receive a koha in the form of a \$50 gift voucher.

This study has ethics approved by the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee and data published is confidential. The reference number is AH24689.



The Great Piratical Rumbustification

NZ Sign Language Interpreted shows

Dates: 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!

Representation and Resource Recommendations



Colours in Te Reo & NZSL

Reel Motion Design

In this video, you can learn COLOURS in NZSL and Te Reo using NZSL videos from the [NZSL online dictionary](#) and audio for the Māori pronunciation from the [Te Aka Māori Dictionary](#)

Learn and sign along with your little one - [Click here to watch](#)



Happy to Be Me

Written by Emma Dodd

Emma Dodd's simple, heartfelt story offers children and their parents a way of talking easily, and with gratitude, about their bodies and the wonderful things they can do. This is the perfect way to build **body confidence** and **self-esteem** in even the youngest children!

Reading age: 3-5 years old

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

Nga mihi nui, APODC Committee



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