



August 2024 - Newsletter

Kia ora #FirstName#

President's Update

Next month we have the third instalment of our **free webinar series**, hosted by Clare Best, entitled **Parent Advocacy**. It's been really wonderful to offer our families a connected series designed to support you on your journey. We've had positive feedback about the **easy and tangible steps** you can take and the impact of **seeing them in action** through videos of Clare and her son. If you haven't had a chance to join us for a session yet, scroll down to find out more about the **next webinar** and **how to register**.

Planning is underway for the rest of the year's events, look out for the calendar in coming newsletters or online. We're looking forward to connecting with you all soon.

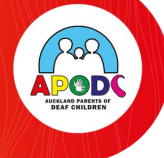
You may have noticed that we now have a dedicated **NZSL section** in our newsletter. Here, we will share news about **courses, presentations, NZSL support**, and much more. So, whether you are just starting your sign language journey or are a signing pro, check out our NZSL info. Do you need a **New Zealand Sign Language teacher**? **Rachel Walker** runs private lessons and group classes. **Scroll down to find out more** or check out www.signora.co.nz.

Hand waves 🙌

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

APODC EVENTS

Youth EVENT



Roll into fun at our youth bowling event! Strike up some friendly competition, make new friends, and enjoy a day of laughs and strikes. Whether you're a pro or a newbie, there's a lane with your name on it. Don't miss out—come and bowl your heart out!

Date: Sunday 25th August

Time: 10.45am - 1pm

Venue: [Zone Bowling Manukau](#)

Address: [2/55 Lambie Drive, Manukau Supa Centa, Auckland](#)

[Click here to register](#)

APODC Connect



Register now to attend the third webinar in our online series hosted by Clare Best of Raising Bilinguals - **Parent Advocacy**

Date: Sunday 15th September

Duration: 45 minutes (plus 15 mins for Q&A)

Start Time: 7pm

As parents, we play a crucial role in **championing our children's well-being** and ensuring they have **access to the support and resources** they require to thrive.

In this webinar, Clare will explore **practical strategies** and essential advocacy skills to **empower parents** to navigate the various phases and seasons of the journey with your deaf child. She will also provide **valuable tips and resources** to help in building knowledge, confidence and the skills you need to advocate for your child (without burning out!).

[Click here to register](#)

SAVE THE DATE APODC CAMP 2025

Planning for the APODC Camp 2025 is underway! Save the date and join us for a weekend to remember:

Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd February 2025

To keep things fresh, and to cater for the growing number of families excited to attend, APODC Camp 2025 will be at a new location - The Y Camp Adair - We'll see you there!

NZSL

NZSL Teacher - Rachel Walker

Rachel Walker is a professional Deaf teacher and has been teaching New Zealand Sign Language to adults and children for over 20 years.



Private Lessons

If you want to learn or develop your NZSL Rachel offers private lessons to families across Auckland. In these lessons you will benefit from 1-on-1 time with a dedicated and experienced teacher in a location of your choice. Prices range between \$40 and \$60 depending on group size.

Group classes

These 16-week courses are only \$280 and provide an immersive experience that uses great materials and homework designed to build your confidence and capability in NZSL. Current course locations are, Ellerslie and Browns Bay - [click here to find out more](#)

Email Rachel directly on rachel.walker@signora.co.nz to take your next steps on your NZSL journey.

Funding for NZSL lessons

Families in New Zealand can apply for government subsidies for New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) lessons under certain conditions. The availability of subsidies often depends on the specific circumstances, such as whether a family member is Deaf or has hearing loss. Here are some common avenues through which subsidies might be available:

Ministry of Education: Families with Deaf or hard-of-hearing children may be eligible for support from the Ministry of Education. This can include funding for NZSL lessons for both the child and their family members to help with communication at home.

Ministry of Health: The Ministry of Health may provide funding for NZSL lessons if a family member is Deaf or has a hearing loss, particularly if it's crucial for effective communication within the family.

Work and Income (WINZ): In some cases, Work and Income may provide financial assistance for NZSL lessons, especially if learning the language is essential for the family's wellbeing or integration into the community.

ACC (Accident Compensation Corporation): If hearing loss is a result of an accident, ACC may cover the cost of NZSL lessons as part of the rehabilitation process.

Community Grants and Charities: Some community organizations, charities, and local councils may offer grants or subsidies to families wanting to learn NZSL, especially in cases where there is a significant need for language support.

We advise that families contact these organizations or relevant local bodies directly to check eligibility and the application process.

NZSL taster classes for schools



NZSL Taster Classes for Schools 2024

We are thrilled to offer schools the opportunity to book a **free** 45-minute New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) Taster Class during Terms 3 & 4!

This year, we have a limited number of classes available exclusively for pre-schools and schools.

Don't miss out – get in quick!



BOOK YOUR CLASS NOW!



NZSL Coffee Club



NZSL4U
NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE FOR YOU

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 **Christchurch**

Crave Cafe **Black Betty**
6 Morningside Drive, Morningside, Auckland 165 Madras Street, Central City, Christchurch

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

3rd March	4th Aug
7th April	1st Sept
5th May	6th Oct
2nd June	3rd Nov
7th July	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

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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WHAT'S ON?

Tim Bray Theatre Company



Mrs Wishy-Washy
NZ Sign Language Interpreted shows

Dates: Thursday 26th September and Saturday 12th October

Time: 10.30am

Venue: The Pump House Theatre, Takapuna

[Click here to book tickets!](#)

This tale teaches valuable lessons about determination, friendship and the consequences of one's actions, while offering plenty of opportunities to enjoy some good, clean, laugh-out loud fun

"Oh, lovely mud!" exclaim Mrs Wishy-Washy's farm animals Cow, Duck, and Pig. These beloved characters from Joy Cowley's series of picture books are about to come to life in a hilarious stage performance by Tim Bray Theatre Company. While the animals just love getting mucky, Mrs Wishy-Washy is determined to keep them spotless for the Big Farm Fair.

In this funny farmyard adventure, audiences will be treated to comical chaos as Mrs Wishy-Washy attempts to give her muddy animal buddies a good scrub.

Representation and Resource Recommendations



The Kids of Kōrero Lane

TVNZ+

A group of Kiwi kids - some deaf, some hearing - come together to learn about diversity and acceptance, playing together and using sign language to communicate. Made with the support of NZ On Air.

[Click here to watch](#)



One Day You'll Thank Me

Podcast

In this episode, Jenni Mortimer and Rebecca Haszard are joined by Radio Host Brad Watson who talks about his experience after finding out that his son was Deaf.

Watson says the support from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education has been incredible and the family has become part of a new community, the experience has set them on an unexpected journey that's involved a huge amount of learning.

Brad joins them at 13minutes and 18 seconds: [Click here to listen](#)

[Nga mihi nui, APODC Committee](#)



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