

May 2025 - Newsletter

Kia ora #FirstName#

President's Update

Kia ora koutou,

A huge **thank you** to everyone who joined us at our recent family event at Inflatable World – what a fantastic day! It was great to see so many families having **fun** and **connecting** through **NZSL games** and shared **laughter**.

A big shout-out as well to **New World Papatoetoe** for the delicious food platters, and to **Bluebells Cakery** for the beautiful cupcakes to celebrate all of our mums on Mother's Day – both added a special touch to the day.

Looking ahead, our **AGM** is coming up on **Sunday**, **25 May**. This is a really important meeting, with key issues to be voted on. **Without enough participation**, **we can't move forward or continue to serve our community**. Please make it a priority to attend – your involvement truly matters.

We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of **Lynne Guy** on 2 May 2025. Lynne was a long-time **advocate** for Deaf children and their families, and a long-standing member of the APODC community. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her whānau and loved ones. In honour of Lynne's memory, APODC has made a donation to **Totara Hospice**, who cared for her in her final days.

Hand waves 🖏

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



APODC EVENTS





Please note: Our events calendar is dependent on funding. Although we hope to be able to deliver events as planned, some dates and types of event may vary throughout the year.



Our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held **online** on **Sunday 25th May at 7:00 PM**. This is a **critical time** for our organisation as recent legal changes require us to **update our constitution**. Additionally, we need to vote on whether to **re-register** as an Incorporated Society to maintain our legal status.

To stay compliant and continue operating, it's essential that we have enough members vote at the AGM. **Your vote matters** — **without enough votes**, **we cannot move forward**.

Register now to join the meeting and help ensure we can continue to operate legally and support our members.

Please Note: You must be a current Family Member, Associate Members are welcome to attend but cannot vote. If you're unsure about your membership status, please contact Alison at alison@apodc.org.nz before Friday 23rd May.

Click here to register for the AGM



Coffee & Connection

DATE: Saturday 7th June **TIME:** 10am - 12pm

VENUE: Crave Cafe, 6 Morningside Drive, 1025

Join us at our regular **coffee group** where **parents can connect**, share their journeys, and build a **supportive community**. Whether you're seeking **advice**, **friendship**, or just someone to listen, this is a space for you. Bring your children along—they're always welcome!

Let APODC buy you a coffee as we come together to create **lasting connections** with other parents who **understand** our unique parenting journey. We will meet at <u>Crave Cafe</u> in the function room upstairs, from 10am to 12pm.

DEAF NEWS

Supporting New Zealand Sign Language: A Step Towards Inclusivity

There's some great news for New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) coming from the government. They've put out a **draft NZSL strategy** and want to hear from *you*!

NZSL is a taonga for many of our children, but we know Deaf kids and their families still face challenges **accessing services** and **support** in their own language. This new strategy aims to change that — making **NZSL more visible**, supported, and easier to use in everyday life.

As parents, this is an important **opportunity to have a say** in creating a **better future for our children**. By sharing your thoughts, you're helping **build a world** where NZSL is truly valued and where Deaf children can **thrive** with the **language they need**.

The consultation is open until **June 2, 2025**. You can have your say and find all the info at the NZSL Board's consultation page here: **Draft NZSL Strategy 2025 - 2030 Consultation**

There's also an NZSL version of the media release if you prefer to watch or share in sign language. We encourage you to check it out, **share your feedback**, and **be part of shaping stronger support** for NZSL — for our kids, their **education**, and their **communities**.

Let's work together to support our children and make NZSL stronger for generations to come.

WHAT'S ON?

Free North Shore Signers Club



Are you looking for a way to **practice NZSL** and **meet others**? These **monthly meet-ups** are open to **learners at every level**!

Sessions include separate voice-on and voice-off tables — please be mindful and respectful of Deaf and Hard of Hearing participants.

Meet-ups are self-facilitated, and coffee and tea are provided.

Where: Birkenhead Library, 204a Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead, Auckland

When: The next meet-up is Sunday, 8 June 2025, and they're held once a month

Time: 11:00am - 12:00pm

Click here to find out more

NZSL Support for Families



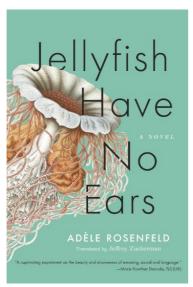
We'd love to introduce **Chelsea Thomas** – a passionate NZSL user with a heart for working with tamariki. Chelsea absolutely adores working with children and has a strong passion for **teaching New Zealand Sign Language.**

Chelsea can offer both **online sessions** and **in-person lessons** for those local to **West Auckland**. Whether you're a beginner or looking to build on existing knowledge, she can tailor each session to suit your needs.

If you're interested, feel free to reach out to her directly to discuss options that could work for your family.

Contact Chelsea at chelsea at chelsea at chelsea.com to learn more or to book a session.

Representation and Resource Recommendations



Jellyfish Have No Ears

Written by Adele Rosenfeld

Ever since she was a child, Louise has been not quite hearing and not quite deaf. After an audiology test shows that almost all her hearing is gone, her doctor suggests a cochlear implant. This irreversible operation would give Louise a new sense of hearing, but it would come at the expense of her natural hearing, which has shaped her relationship with the world, full of whispers and shadows

Adele Rosenfeld is a French author who herself is Deaf. She worked with Jeffrey Zuckerman, a Deaf translator who uses a cochlear implant, who helped translate the book into English.

Available for free at your local Library: Click here to request



Reena's Rainbow

Written by Dee White, Illustrated by Tracie Grimwood

Reena is Deaf, and Dog is homeless — but they are so much more than that. At first, Reena and Dog feel like they don't belong. But when they form a unique bond and befriend the hearing children in the park, they discover that everyone is different and special in their own way.

Reena's Rainbow is a story about friendship, diversity, and acceptance. It shares the message that true friends will always embrace your differences and love you just the way you are.

Available for free at your local Library: Click here to request



Nga mihi nui, APODC Committee





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