

Introduction – Many of you may remember that the Blind Low Vision NZ, formerly Blind Foundation, used to run a deafblind camp. In 2021 Deafblind Association NZ with financial support from Blind Low Vision NZ are refreshing the concept to focus on communicating your needs with confidence. There will be the chance to chat with your Board Members, talk about hearing aids and other technology, explore communication techniques you can help develop, and some break out times to move and be creative. This is your seminar and, most importantly, we want your input on what you would like so here is a little information and some questions for you:

Dates – Sunday 25 April to Wednesday 28 April inclusive. As ANZAC Day has been Mondayised to 27 April we are looking at sessions for international guests by Zoom that day and a good chance for us to have discussions, along with a picnic lunch. We can all travel in on the Sunday and check out for travel home after lunch on the Wednesday.

Venue – Vaughan Park Anglican Retreat and Conference Centre, Browns Bay, Auckland. Accommodation is in villas for seven people with one twin room and five single rooms. It's a very short five minute walk to the beach and Guide Dog friendly. There is accommodation for 36 people so places will be limited and there is also an opportunity for anyone in the Auckland area to drop in for a day, or to sign up for the seminar but stay off site, in which case we will be able to offer more spaces.

Cost – This has not yet been finalised except for the wonderful opportunity Blind Low Vision NZ have afforded us with financial support that will cover all accommodation and meals and snacks. This means you won't go hungry and won't have to live on my vegetarian offerings!

We do hope you are interested, and we have a few ideas on seminar sessions that will support interest across our diverse community. We are looking at leadership potential across all geographical areas in Aotearoa New Zealand too. We really want to know your ideas as this is for all of us so here are a few questions for you:

- Are you able to commit to the dates?
- What barriers might prevent you coming?
- What would you like on the agenda?

If you can get your expression of interest back to us on or before Friday 5 March, we would be grateful. We can then work with you to sort out the best option for you and then send you a registration form or help you fill one in if you need that. We will also be looking at how we might Zoom you in for particular discussions if you cannot make it in person. This will be our first ever seminar under our banner and it is the planning that will make the success!

If you would like to attend the seminar but have any questions or have concerns about your ability to do so for any reason, then please call or email as there may be ways we can assist you in overcoming these.