# Deafblind Association NZ Charitable Trust Seminar Be Seen Be Heard Be Connected – Theme: Reconnecting

# College House, 100 Waimairi Road, Ilam, Christchurch 8041

# Sunday 22 – Wednesday 25 January 2023

# Programme

Please note that views expressed by individuals at the seminar may not be those held by Deafblind Association of New Zealand Charitable Trust.

## Rātapu Sunday

### 2pm Arrivals and orientation

**College House arrival instructions**

On arrival, please come to the foyer of the Main Block, just inside the main entrance.

### 6pm Barbecue dinner

### 7:15 Gathering

Health & safety briefing, roll call in Conference Room. Peer to peer connections/downtime. Volunteers will finish at 9pm having offered mobility support and ensuring you have our contact 0800 450 650 number loaded onto your phone.

## Rāhina Monday

### 9am Mihi, housekeeping and roll call

### 9:20 Welcome by Vaughan Dodd, President of Deafblind Association NZ.

Vaughan is blind and has worn hearing aids since 1992. He has therefore always taken an interest in the wellbeing of people with dual-sensory loss but has become more active in recent years. Lockdowns, changes in how services are provided and isolation experienced by our population group motivated him to become involved in the activities of Deafblind Association New Zealand Charitable Trust. He says it has been an enjoyable experience chairing this organisation since November 2020. My “motivation is based on the positive statement: be seen, be heard, be connected. This tagline sums up for me how life should be, and leads us to inclusion, participation, being supported and improving our living standards. The future for us is positive, but we must advocate for improvements in services, control over our own lives and our basic rights to be seen, to be heard and to widen our connections.

### 9:30 Hon. Poto Williams, Minister for Disability Issues.

Hon Poto Williams is the Labour Member of Parliament for Christchurch East, where she lives. Poto became the MP for Christchurch East at a by-election in November 2013. Poto is now the Minister of Conservation and Minister for Disability Issues, as well as Associate Minister for Children. She has previously held the ministerial portfolios for Police, Building and Construction, and been Associate Minister of Housing (Public Housing).

After gaining an MBA and Graduate Certificate in Research Methods from Manukau Institute of Technology and Southern Cross University, Poto has worked in and managing community health and community mental health services, residential disability services, working with single parent families, youth services, family violence and refuge. Working in mental health provided the opportunity to engage in strengths based, recovery focussed and client centred work, which has guided her practice ever since.

Poto is the very proud mother of Terai, grandmother of Bodhi and a member of a very large extended family in New Zealand, Australia and the Cook Islands.

### 10am Hon. Ruth Dyson, Patron Deafblind Association NZ.

The Honourable Ruth Dyson held several ministerial roles with the Fifth and Sixth Labour Governments and was elected as Member of Parliament from 1993 to 2020 for Lyttelton, Banks Peninsula, and most recently Port Hills.

Ms Dyson has been involved with the disability sector for more than 30 years. She became the first Minister for Disability Issues from 1999 to 2000 and again from 2001 to 2008. She championed reform of the disability support system, a key outcome of the New Zealand Disability Strategy of 2001. She led work to promote inclusivity for disabled people in employment and education, and provided leadership through various changes to ACC legislation. She played a key role in driving development of legislation recognising New Zealand Sign Language as an official language of New Zealand, which passed in 2006. She supported the Government’s involvement in negotiations at the United Nations on a new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She championed the creation of the Disabled People’s Organisations (DPO) to be an advisory committee to government agencies through the Office for Disability Issues. Ms Dyson supported her electorate and the greater Christchurch rebuild following the Canterbury earthquakes, and was a major supporter of the Earthquake Disability Leadership Group that ensured the disabled community had a voice in the city’s recovery. Ruth was endorsed as Patron of Deafblind Association NZ in May 2017 and was recognised as a Companion of the Queen’s Service Order in December 2021 for services as a Member of Parliament and to people with disabilities.

### 10:10 John Mulka, Chief Executive, Blind Low Vision NZ. Including Q&A.

Before joining Blind Low Vision NZ in September 2019, John spent his then 28-year professional working career in the not-for-profit and charitable sector with national organisations in his native country of Canada. He has held senior roles providing leadership to organisations in the areas of amateur sport, at risk youth, disease prevention and a sensory disability. John’s 11 year career with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) culminated with him being appointed as the Vice President, Western Canada in 2015, a position held until accepting the Chief Executive role with Blind Low Vision NZ.

John was born and raised in Edmonton and is a proud alumni of the University of Alberta. John relocated to the west coast of Canada in 1998 due to a professional opportunity and resided in Vancouver until relocating to New Zealand to join Blind Low Vision NZ.

### 10:40 Paramanawa/morning tea break

### 11am Kevin Prince, Vice President of Deafblind Association NZ - introducing the complexities of decibel soundscapes and lowered visuals.

After a career in military telecoms based in the UK, Kevin became involved in user experience through Digital TV — supporting the deployment of set-top boxes in places as diverse as Brazil, Israel, and Hong Kong. The differing languages alone gave him an appreciation of diversity that is rare in the technical sphere.

On emigrating to NZ and spending eight years with the Blind Foundation’s technology team, Kevin gained an appreciation of wider diversity and the issues that blind and deafblind users face. As an acknowledged expert on assistive technology and accessibility, Kevin works with the technology and civil society sectors to create a more accessible experience for all. He is currently employed two days a week as an Accessibility and Usability Specialist by Foster Moore and consults for Access Advisors (and privately) the rest of the week.

Kevin has governance experience through five years on the executive of the Canterbury Railway Society, two as President. This required both financial controls and safety/legislative compliance (NZTA in particular). He led the production and adoption of a new constitution during this time.

Kevin’s accessibility skills were further acknowledged by appointment to the committee designing and writing the International Association of Accessibility Professionals certified professional qualification. He is a member of the IAAP and the Institute of IT Professionals.

### 11:10 Blanche Davidson – personal vignette on losing dual distance senses and impact on life, employment, family, and confidence. Including Q&A.

### 11:30 Jacqui Iseli, Deafblind Coordinator, Blind Low Vision New Zealand - Tactile communications and social haptics, global context, development and how we progress this work in Aotearoa New Zealand. Including Q&A.

Jacqui is a Communicator Guide, a Sign Language Interpreter for both Deafblind and the Deaf Community, and researcher of Ni-Vanuatu Deaf people’s signs, supporting her 31 months of work with Blind Low Vision NZ. The focus of the presentation will be on both Tactile Communication and Haptic Signals, the difference between the two types, their different purposes and benefits to the receiver, along with the development that has taken place and that which still needs to be done.

### 12:20 Sanja Tarczay, President of The World Federation of the Deafblind, via Zoom.

Sanja Tarczay was born in Zagreb, as a deaf child in a deaf family and later became Deafblind. In 1994, she established the Croatian Association of Deafblind Persons - Dodir -where she currently serves as President. She is the creator of a Croatian Sign Language course, courses for SSPs, courses for Deafblind interpreters and the founder of the Croatian Sign Language Interpreting Centre.

Since 2008, Sanja has been the head of exercises for the subject Deafblindness at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb, and a lecturer on Sign Language at the University of Applied Health Studies in Zagreb. She has also lectured at numerous other universities at home and abroad as a guest lecturer. She has published several expert and research papers, both as a sole contributor and as co-author and participated in 40 conferences at home and abroad. From 2013 till 2022, she was elected as the President of the European Deafblind Union. Sanja earned her Doctorate degree in 2014; her thesis was titled ”Meeting Challenges - Deafblind Interpreting From a User's Perspective.” She is fluent in five Sign Languages including: Croatian Sign Language, British Sign Language (BSL), International Sign Language (ISL), Swedish Sign Language and American Sign Language.

Sanja Tarczay ’s work was recognised in 2015 by President of the Republic of Croatia, Dr. Ivo Josipović, by awarding the honour of the ORDER OF THE CROATIAN STAR WITH THE EFFIGY OF KATARINA ZRINSKA, an honour given for the extraordinary services for healthcare, social welfare and the promotion of social moral values, recognition and creation of an environment for the quality of life of deafblind persons in Croatia and the world.

Currently, Sanja Tarczay is the president of the World Federation of the Deafblind (elected October 2022) and is fighting for the rights of Deafblind persons across the globe, promoting equality, accessibility and rights for Deafblind persons.

### 12:30 Karakia followed by tino paramanawa/lunch

With time for blind archery/craft/ukulele jam/sport/peer to peer connections/informal garden walk/down time.

### 2pm Patrick Pink and Saul Taylor, Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ): Update on education and deafblind tamariki. Including Q&A.

Working together, Patrick and Saul drafted the BLENNZ Strategic Plan for Children and Young People with Deafblindness. This plan extends to 2024 and maps our journey towards increased visibility and collaboration, along with data collection and curating to inform professional development and resources when engaging and working alongside children, young people and their families.

Patrick and Saul have drawn on their extensive background in education and sensory loss to collaborate with Massey University for the Blind and Low Vision specialist teacher programme supporting deafblind children and young people.

### 3pm Mary Schnackenberg, Director Accessible Information and Communications Ltd. “Braille = Print”. Including Q&A.

Mary holds an MBA from Massey University and a BA from the University of Auckland and is a Fellow of the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa. She is President of the International Council on English Braille, Secretary/Treasurer of The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust (BANZAT) and a member of Health Quality & Safety Commission consumer network and consumer advisory group.

Mary was awarded the Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2007 New Year Honours List for more than 30 years' service in the library and information field to the blind and vision impaired community.

**3**:30 Paramanawa/afternoon tea break

### 4pm Clive Lansink, Board Chair Blind Low Vision NZ. Including Q&A.

Blind since birth, Clive has spent much of his personal life working on behalf of blind and low vision people and was President of Blind Citizens New Zealand for a total of thirteen years.

He has an engineering degree and a law degree. Much of his professional career has been spent in the computer industry, and in the blind community he is particularly known for his development of the Foundation's Telephone Information Service. He is now semi-retired running his own business from home, doing consulting and projects in areas of technology and human rights law.

Clive is currently the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind. He was elected to the Board in November 2016, although this is not his first time on the Board, having served on it also from 1991 to 1995.

### 4:30 Open forum. What’s Your Question?

Community comment on what you would like between now and the next Seminar from your Board, your Executive, your MP’s, your Ministry’s, your accessibility expectations and your personal electoral involvement?

### 5pm Kua mutu te mahi/finish for day

### 6pm Karakia followed by evening meal

### Optional: After dinner entertainment on the big screen, including popcorn 😊

## Rātū Tuesday

### 9am Housekeeping and roll call.

### 9:10 Breakout sessions as you prefer: Pacific Vision – Experiential

Plus time for people to be supported by wisdom in the room about downloading Apps, including Be My Eyes and practising calling, colour detection, morse code, or anything else.

Pacific Vision has been a registered company since 2003. Since those early days the business has expanded, and we now sell products in New Zealand, Singapore, Philippines, Pacific Islands, Australia, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Pacific Vision International (PVI) is a leading provider of hardware and software for blind and sight impaired technology users. We travel the world to source the best products that support people with low vision. Everything we sell is specifically designed to improve life at work, study, and home.

Mayank has been with the company for 3 years. He offers technical support for our customers as well as a role in sales.

Lorelei has been with the company for 8 years. Her role within the company is administration, sales, and software technical support.

### 10:30 Paramanawa/morning tea break

### 11am Representative from Guide Dogs. Including Q&A.

### 11:30 Deon York, Director of Consumer Engagement (Partners in Care), Health Quality & Safety Commission: O Matou Reo – Our Voices. Including Q&A.

Deon is the director of consumer engagement (Partners in Care), responsible for all aspects of the Commission’s consumer engagement strategies and activities.

His extensive experience spans the public, private, and community sector. Deon is driven by contributing to a health sector that is determined and shaped by what matters to the people that it serves.

### 12pm Member Cameos – Judy Small, Vic West, Fatima Akehurst

### 12:30 Karakia followed by tino paramanawa/lunch

With time for blind archery/craft/ukulele jam/sport/peer to peer connections/audio described tour of Ilam homestead and gardens/  
down time.

### **2pm Paula Tesoriero, Chief Executive Whaikaha | Ministry of Disabled People, via Zoom. Including Q&A.**

Paula is responsible for providing strategic leadership to Whaikaha and across the system to achieve better outcomes for disabled people in New Zealand.

Paula is well-known and a respected leader in the disability community. She is disabled and has a deep knowledge of the challenges and opportunities for the disability community.

Paula was previously the Disability Rights Commissioner at the Human Rights Commission, a position she held since 2017. She also acted in the role of Chief Human Rights Commissioner from May 2018 – January 2019.

Paula is an experienced Public Service leader. From 2010 – 2016, she was the General Manager, Higher Courts at the Ministry of Justice. In 2016, she was seconded to Statistics New Zealand where she was the General Manager, System and Partnership.

Paula has served in various governance roles including as Deputy Chair of Peke Waihanga — Artificial Limb Service and Deputy Chair of Nuku Ora (previously Sport Wellington) and she served on the Board of Paralympics NZ. She is a life trustee of the Halberg Disability Sport Foundation and is an honorary advisor to the Asia New Zealand Foundation.

Paula is a Paralympian, winning a gold medal and two bronze medals at the 2008 Summer Paralympic Games in Beijing.

3pm Be heard about hearing and vision impairment: cochlear implants, hearing aids, safety and orientation.

Charlotte Gordon, Senior Audiologist Phonak New Zealand; John Billings, Dispensing Optician and RNZFB Board Member and via Zoom Caroline Selvaratnam, Audiologist/Adult Team Leader, Hearing House.

Charlotte has worked at Phonak for four years and has a strong interest in the relationship between hearing loss and overall wellbeing, specifically regarding healthy ageing and brain health. Charlotte undertakes research at the Eisdell Moore Centre at the University of Auckland researching the relationship between hearing loss and dementia. Charlotte has also recently completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health and is passionate about finding ways to ensure access to hearing health is equitable.

John was welcomed as a new Director on the Board in November 2019. Having qualified in England, he has been practising his profession as a Dispensing Optician for 38 years, the last 28 of which have been in Wellington. John has always had a strong interest in providing Low Vision Aids and services to the partially sighted in order to help them continue with as good a quality of life as possible. His passion for this aspect of his profession has resulted in him being asked to speak on the subject at conferences, including one overseas. As well as the Low Vision community, he also has experience with the Deaf community.

From 2007 to 2015, John served as a professional member on the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board which is the Minister for Health appointed body that oversees the professional standards of the two respective professions.

### 4pm Paramanawa/afternoon tea break and treat time, followed by recreation and down time

### 6pm Karakia followed by evening celebration meal

### 7:30 Audio Described Event by Audio Described Aotearoa

Audio Described Aotearoa offers description for theatre, musicals, ballet, dance, opera, chamber music, galleries, museums, civic events, awards ceremonies, private events, conferences, films, guided tours and more.

Nicola Owen has been providing audio description services since 2011. She was trained in the programme funded by Auckland Live that introduced professional live audio description to New Zealand. She works with audio describers trained in the initial programme and others across the country who she has trained, including describers who speak te reo Māori.

## Rāapa Wednesday

9am Lolly Lijewski, via Zoom, Creating a Culture of Accessibility

Creating a culture of accessibility in an agency or organisation, requires patience, timing, and a lot of hard work. Key factors include: buy-in from leadership and throughout the organisation, constant education, the ability to listen to people within the organisation about their needs for training and assist in problem-solving. While it is always difficult to achieve 100% accessibility for all, this should be our goal. This session will discuss ways that a culture of digital accessibility can be embedded into an organisation. Including Q&A.

### 9:30 Ying-zi Xiong and Peggy Nelson, via Zoom, Center for Applied and Translational Sensory Science, University of Minnesota. “Researching the Human Experiences of Dual Sensory Impairment”. Including Q and A

Yingzi Xiong is a Research Assistant Professor at the Center for Applied and Translational Sensory Sciences at the University of Minnesota. Her research asks how vision and hearing impairment affect various aspects of our everyday life, and how to develop effective rehabilitation strategies to improve the independence and quality of life for people with sensory impairment. Her research volunteers with vision impairment, hearing impairment, or dual sensory impairment have been the biggest source of knowledge for her work.

### 10am Member Cameos – Matt Truman, Joanna Lancaster

### 10:30 Paramanawa/morning tea break

### 11am Anne-Odile Roberts, Advisor for Anthroposophy, Hōhepa Canterbury - Well-being. Including Q&A. Amanda Stevens.

Born and raised in the South of France, I initially studied music and English before life guided me towards the one path I was adamant I would never follow: together with my Kiwi husband, we entered the world of intellectual disability via intentional communities in 1990, and have never left it. We have been living and working at Hōhepa Canterbury in Christchurch since the beginning of 1998, supporting adults with intellectual disabilities while raising our two children and actively supporting Hōhepa’s unique philosophy.

Anthroposophy is a discipline of research as well as a path of knowledge, service, personal growth, and social engagement. Introduced and developed by Rudolf Steiner, it is concerned with all aspects of human life, spirit and humanity’s future evolution and well-being.

### 11:50 Your hui/seminar takeaway motivator – one idea you’re going to use.

### 12:30 Closing mihi and karakia followed by tino paramanawa /lunch

## Thank you to our Sponsors

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Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa   
Let us keep close together, not far apart

Ends