



PVINZ

eVision December 2020

Parents of Vision Impaired
New Zealand Inc
supported by Blind Low
Vision New Zealand
(formerly The Blind Foundation)



PVI.ORG.NZ



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From the Chair

2020 brought many challenges which were met with careful thought using our Mission, Values, and our Guiding Principles. One such challenge that our country and communities have faced is the Covid-19 global pandemic and associated lockdowns. These are challenging times with families having to remain at home. We as a PVI family face unique challenges with not having many of the formal supports in place. This is a time when we need to support each other, reach out and ask questions, seek ideas and assurances – it's okay. PVI is a safe and empathic space. Sometimes it is only us, who have that lived experience, that really 'get it'. I urge you all to remember we are here for one another, so use our Facebook page or contact us if you have concerns or just want to vent!

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As a board we have heard many examples of family's creativity and resilience during these challenging times. It just reinforces to me the strength we have as a parent-led organisation. I am sure many stories will be told of these last couple of months of how we have all survived and adapted to the 'new normal'.



For me here in Dunedin it was, at times, frustrating. I had to advocate for Krystal to have the right supports in place so as to ensure her safety and wellbeing as I was not able to be part of her 'bubble' over Level 4 as I continued in my work and did not want to put her at risk. As per usual, parents can get very creative with resources and I managed to negotiate a few changes to make sure she had the support she needed. Applying for the Covid-19 self-employment grant was also interesting with IRD

and MSD sending mixed messages, but we got the right result in the end. Although Krystal's income is not a lot from her job, it makes a huge difference to her ability to have more choices that she can have control over.

Krystal's garden that Judith and Krystal worked on during Level 3 – and which is now providing plenty of fresh green veggies!!

I think these recent times have also brought about positives. Families out walking together, having time to just 'take a breath' from the busyness of life. Whatever this experience has been for you and your *whānau*, we are all the stronger for it!

How lucky we are to have such a great and committed team as our PVI board. Bringing together people from different communities around New Zealand, family circumstances and different ages and stages in the journey of our children's lives can be challenging. However, we all come together with one objective: to help make a difference. These last few months have been tough for everyone and the extra workload and responsibilities as a board member have been challenging. I am proud to be part of the team we have and it was wonderful to finally meet face to face in July in Wellington.

As always, we welcome feedback, ideas and suggestions from you – this is your organization. Please make use of our Facebook pages and our website to connect with one another.

Nā
Judith



Editor Update

Oh what a year hey?! Not quite the first year I'd planned! Still, we got through it. I am very thankful for gentle days, for calming cups of tea, and the way springtime just seems to make everything seem a bit cheerier once again! This eVision captures some of our annual conference and AGM, updates members on our strategic plan, and highlights upcoming events. Hope you can find some time to have a read with a nice quite cuppa.

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Conference Summary

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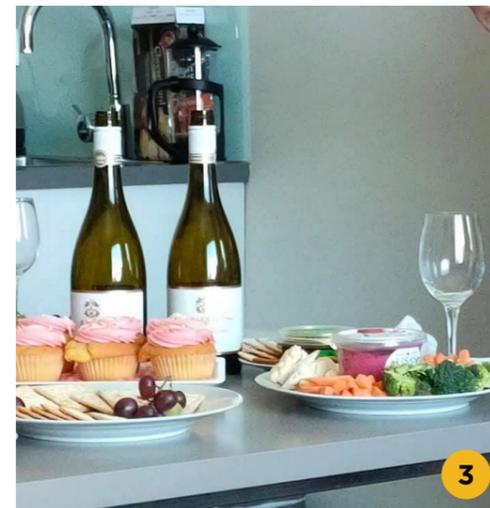
Altogether 43 individuals, including 33 parent delegates representing 21 families, attended the 2020 PVI Annual Conference throughout the course of the weekend. This year the conference was at the Waipuna Conference Suites at Highbrook, Auckland, with accommodation at the Quest Waipuna.

Parents came from as far north as Wellsford down to Twizel in the South. Parent attendance as per PVI Board region:

- Upper North Island: 9
- Central North Island: 7
- Lower North Island: 4
- Upper South Island: 6
- Lower South Island: 7
- Tangata whenua: 4 (*distributed throughout the motu*)

Representatives attended from our partner organisations BLENZ, Blind Low Vision, BlindSport, ParaFed, Halberg, and Deafblind Aotearoa.

The Saturday session kicked off with a Plenary Panel by Karen Stobbs from BLENZ and John Mulka from Blind Low Vision NZ. Karen sought parent feedback about times of transition with students and ways to support parents and students alike in navigating these spaces.



1. Mackay siblings. 2. Beer tasting is very serious work. 3. Wine supplied by Babich 4. The Christchurch contingent

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Following this we heard from Nick and Jess Mackay for Parent Story, an annual PVI Conference tradition. It's always fabulous to hear from parents across the country and to listen to how they are navigating the challenges they face and of course their wins as well!

After morning tea, Katy Webber from Blind Low Vision spoke about parent care, followed by our Series on Sport: Casey Flint from BlindSport, Rhys Edwards from Halberg Foundation and Larissa Futter from ParaFed Network each gave a short presentation on what their organisation does and how they can support our children to participate in sports.

The afternoon events were well received and thoroughly enjoyed. Sponsorship from Babich Wines meant we could offer a wine tasting for parents, alongside beer tasting for non-wine drinkers. Next year we



5 and 6. Parents hard at work, conferencing! 7. Judith very capably educating our palates

definitely need more variety of nonalcoholic drinks though! This year for our conference dinner entertainment, Josh Davies “The Blind Guy” treated us to 15 minutes of raucous comedic fun. Gosh but it was good to have a really proper laugh about things – and much needed this year especially!

Overall, despite the additional challenges posed by Covid-19, the conference ran smoothly. Guests enjoyed the accommodations and meals, there was an excellent mix of enjoyable, fun activities, parent networking, and opportunities for leaning and development.



Conference Funders

Many thanks to our key sponsors, funders, and contributors who made our 2020 Conference possible. In particular I wish to acknowledge Blind Low Vision NZ for their continued support. PVI organises and funds flights, travel, and accommodation for parents, all of which is made possible through Blind Low Vision’s operational funding grant. This year we also received funding support from the Ministry for Women Community Fund for mothers to attend, and from the Lottery Grants Board. BLENNZ are key supporters and this year contributed to the Plenary panel and key BLENNZ staff attended in person. Babich Wines sponsored the provision of a selection wines along with tasting notes for an afternoon wine tasting event, which was very well received. I am highly appreciative to all who contributed and made our conference happen this year.





AGM and SGM

Holding an annual AGM with members is a requirement of being a registered charity. This year we also held an SGM to update our constitution and future-proof it for following years. It's all terribly dry but a very necessary part of having a robust and lasting organisation. This year's AGM went smoothly, Board members were elected, and all necessary business conducted.

Our annual audited performance report is available to download here for those who wish to read it: pvi.org.nz/documents

The Board also presented the draft 2020-2025 strategic plan to members and invited feedback through printed sheets placed on conference tables. Members provided thoughtful feedback which will be incorporated into our final strategic plan. For those who still wish to read and provide feedback, a summarised strategic plan is below, and you can send any feedback through to rgraham@pvi.org.nz



PVI Strategic Plan

PVI Mission

To provide a community of support for parents/*whānau* of a vision-impaired person.

PVI Purpose

1. To empower parents and *whānau* to support their blind, deafblind, and vision-impaired children.
2. To improve the health, welfare, education, and social opportunities of vision-impaired children.
3. To benefit the children and *whānau* of vision-impaired children within New Zealand.
4. To promote, develop and maintain a nationwide support network.
5. To promote and provide ongoing communication for parents and parent support groups of vision-impaired children.
6. To foster communication and co-ordination of services between PVI, agencies and other community groups.
7. To be proactive in all areas and concerns related to vision impaired children and their *whānau*/family.
8. To be beneficial to the wider community.





PVI values

PVI believes that blind, low vision and visually impaired persons and their families have the right to the same dreams, opportunities, and safeguards as all other citizens.

PVI believes that all people are unique and different, and that each is capable of great things.

PVI believes that all communities are able to fully include all blind, low vision and visually impaired persons and their families.

PVI Guiding Principles

We develop and grow to better meet the needs of our membership. We recognise te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi as Aotearoa New Zealand’s founding document.

We acknowledge and fully support the Convention for the Rights of Person with Disabilities (CRPD) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

PVI Strategic Goals 2020-2025 (draft)

1. PVI families lead interdependent, fulfilled lives and realise their respective goals as parents, siblings and vision-impaired persons.
2. PVI families are connected to each other and to wider community supports.
3. PVI builds collaborative networks and continues to foster positive working relationships with external organisations.
4. PVI is a future-focused organisation that is adaptive and responsive to relevant changes.

Growing | Connecting | Collaborating | Responsive

Give us your feedback!

Strategic Goal	Points to Ponder	Feedback
<p>1. PVI families lead interdependent, fulfilled lives and realise their respective goals as parents, siblings and vision-impaired persons.</p>	<p>What do we like about this goal?</p> <p>What about this goal is worthwhile?</p> <p>Is this a strategic goal we wish to keep?</p>	
<p>2. PVI families are connected to each other and to wider community supports.</p>	<p>What changes do we want to make to this strategic goal?</p> <p>What do we think this strategic goal will achieve for PVI?</p> <p>Are there other goals we would like to include?</p>	
<p>3. PVI builds collaborative networks and continues to foster positive working relationships with external organisations.</p>	<p>Is there anything missing?</p> <p>Do these goals reflect our purpose and mission statement? What do you love about PVI?</p> <p>What values/aspects of PVI do you want to retain going forward?</p>	
<p>4. PVI is a future-focused organisation that is adaptive and responsive to relevant changes.</p>	<p>What key areas of influence do you see PVI having?</p> <p>What do you see as being the key point of PVI?</p>	

Access Alliance Update



Chrissie Cowan, Chair of the Access Alliance invites us to Zoom in to a special Access Alliance update on the “framework to accelerate progress towards accessibility in Aotearoa New Zealand”.

We all know that accessibility is fundamental to creating equitable communities for all New Zealanders, in good times and bad. Yet with every day that goes by without accessibility legislation, many Kiwis with access needs continue to be hindered from full participation in society. And business and society miss out on the benefits too!

In the upcoming months, the Access Alliance will focus on building momentum with our new government as well as growing visibility, understanding and engagement at a public and business level. A big part of this effort will be mobilising our movement to make sure all political parties know that now is the time to address the gaps in our society and allow it to flourish; creating a stronger and more resilient Aotearoa New Zealand for us all.

Please join us for further discussion at our special Access Alliance update.

WHEN: 7pm-8pm, Tuesday 8 December 2020

WHERE: Zoom (*a link will be sent to you after you RSVP*)

RSVP: By Friday 4 December at accessalliance.org.nz/access_alliance_update_dec_2020

We will then send you further information including the Zoom link to join the update.

Mauri ora,
 Chrissie Cowan | Chief Executive, Kp Mori Aotearoa Chair, Access Alliance
accessalliance.org.nz



SPEVI Conference 2021

SPEVI are delighted to announce the 2021 SPEVI Virtual Conference with the theme:

Celebrating Change

This online event will run 18-19 January 2021

FREE for members (and it's free to join!) visit

speviconference.org.au/registration-information

for more information

This event will be hosted by the RIDBC Renwick Centre.

Welcome, greetings SPEVI members and friends! My name is Ben and as conference convener, I am delighted to invite you to a truly historic and unique event for our organisation: the 2021 online SPEVI conference. Over the years, SPEVI has become known for its top quality conferences that showcase the latest in research, assistive technology and ideas related to the education of people with vision impairment and additional disability. Our forum brings together parents and professionals who not only thrive in exchanging ideas but form partnerships and friendships that have a positive impact on the vision education sector throughout our region and globally. The high standard of presentations and keynote speakers, combined with opportunities for socialising and networking make SPEVI's conferences a unique and very popular occasion for all. As we move into the online space for the first time, we will continue to offer all that is good in SPEVI and a whole lot more besides. Learn from leading professionals as they explore current issues related to education and vision impairment, liaise with parents, students and technology experts. Reunite with old friends and network to your hearts content.

Notes:

PARENTS OF VISION IMPAIRED NEW ZEALAND INC
SUPPORTED BY BLIND LOW VISION NEW ZEALAND
(FORMERLY THE BLIND FOUNDATION)



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