

eVision December 2023

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



pvi.org.nz
facebook.com/pvinz

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Right: Smiling boy on a swing.

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FROM THE CHAIR

TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ

It is my pleasure to present my report in Pōneke for 2023 and hope you have been enjoying our hui and opportunity to meet face to face to share, learn and laugh! Our annual conference and AGM are a big-ticket items that bring us together. There is a lot of mahi that goes on behind the scenes of organisations like ours including many volunteer hours of the Board. Being available for our regular zoom meetings and our four face to face meetings each year. I would like to acknowledge the work that quietly goes on. After the 2022 conference, we welcomed two new Board members, Catherine and Raewyn. In June, Phil joined us filling the second Tāngata Whenua role.

Over the past 12 months, the Board has faced many challenges, in particular securing funding for PVI to continue its work with parents, whānau and the wider community. Our latest funding round with the RNZFB, we have secured funds for the next two years of \$160,000pa. Whilst it is not as much as hoped, plus continued increasing costs, this does put us in a position of some certainty and enables us to seek the additional funds elsewhere. Our EO, Rebekah, has done an amazing job in being 'creative' and seeking opportunities and partnerships to financially support the organisation as we continue to work hard in meeting the PVINZ Strategic Goals and upholding our Values and Guiding Principles.

Our work is seen locally, nationally, and internationally. Early 2023 saw PVINZ stepping up to assist whānau that had been affected in Cyclone Gabrielle which arrived in the north-west of the country. Reaching out to parents, finding out what practical assistance we could offer, again Rebekah, successfully sought funding to support this mahi.

We have made several submissions this year to ensure that our voice is heard at all levels of local and central government. These included the Human Rights Amendment Law, Accessibility legislation and Teacher Aide Funding Review. PVINZ has also been represented at government meetings concerning disability and access, respite care.

At an international level, Rebekah attended the 2023 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Eye Health Conference in Sydney in May, jointly presenting with Chrissie Cowan from Kāpō Māori Aotearoa and Associate Professor Bridgette Masters-Awatere from the University of Waikato.

This year we say farewell to three of our Board members and thank them sincerely for their commitment to PVINZ: Nick, Elizabeth and Pascale. They have all brought their own strengths and skills to the table and we are all the better for their contributions. We wish you well, and hope that you will continue to be an active part of our PVINZ whanau. It is a pleasure and honour to serve as Chair of this awesome organisation.

Nga mihi nui,
Judith Hyslop



Right: Judith's daughter Krystal and her flatmate Tim enjoy a meal out



FROM THE EDITOR

KIA ORA KOUTOU

Welcome to the end of 2023! We had another successful parent conference and AGM, and looking forward to a solid break. All the best for you and your family over the upcoming summer holidays! Hope you enjoy the read, the pictures, and getting an idea of what is happening for our kids.

Kia pai tō rā,
Rebekah Graham
National Executive Director, PVI
rgraham@pvi.org.nz

Above: Rebekah Graham



IHC ART AWARDS

IN A PROUD MOMENT, KRYSTAL HYSLOP HAD HER ARTWORK SELECTED TO REPRESENT OTAGO/NORTH OTAGO.

Above: Hyslop, Krystal. Rainbow. Abstract Drawing, Medium: Pen on paper.

The annual IHC Art Awards provide artists with an intellectual disability the opportunity to have their talent recognised, their voices heard and to sell their work. This year, Judith's daughter Krystal's had her work accepted as one of the art pieces to represent Otago/North Otago. Many of the works were sold to buyers around the country with all profits going directly to the artists. Krystal got a phone call asking if she was willing to sell her work which she did so – she was so proud (just like her mother).

BLENNZ

IMMERSION COURSE

YAY, IT'S FINALLY 'OFF TO HOMAI DAY'. MY NAME IS JOSIAH AND I AM GOING TO HOMAI BLENNZ CAMPUS WITH MUM FOR AN IMMERSION COURSE.

I'm eight years old and live in New Plymouth. I have low vision (a condition called Congenital Stationary Night Blindness) which means I find it hard to read and see things. I have a brother with the same eye condition and a sister, as well as Mum and Dad. I really like going to Homai as we get to do really fun things. The fun starts with a plane trip - I love checking in and scanning the bags. The flights always seem to go fast and there are lollies at the end which I like. At the airport we get met by a man with a sign saying our RTV's name. I like going in the taxi to the Homai campus, sometimes it is a car and sometimes it is a van. Usually it is really quiet as they have hybrid cars.

When we get to Homai we go and check all the doors to find our room - they have our names on them in large print and braille. I get to share a room with Mum and there is a toilet right next door. I like the food and Mum likes not having to cook or do the dishes.

We get to meet all the other kids, their families and the RTVs. I liked hanging out with them and playing with the toys, riding the bikes on the track and visiting the playground when it's fine. We also get to

go swimming in the new Homai pool every day. There are two different pools, one small and one really big. It's lots of fun.

During the day we went on a train and bus ride to a gym. I really liked going on the train and getting to push the stop button on the bus which had braille on it. I didn't like having to walk the rest of the way so much! The gym was fun, we got to jump, swing, balance and spin around and so much more. Afterwards we got taxi vans back to Homai. A great day.

The next day us kids went out with the RTVs to go ten pin bowling. The Mum's got to stay behind and chat and then went for lunch in the residential unit where they got treated to lots of home cooking by the residents. We all had lots of fun that day.

The last day is home day - where did the time go? We all pack up, make the beds and get ready to go back to the airport. It's fun going back together in the taxi vans. At the airport I got a yummy treat from Krispy Kreme while we waited for our flight. It's been a great time away at Immersion, I really didn't want to go home.

Top Left: Josiah biking. **Top Right:** Josiah standing in front of a train. **Bottom Left:** Josiah and his mum sitting on the bus. **Bottom Right:** Stop button on the bus.



PARENT CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS 2023



PVI HELD ITS ANNUAL PARENT CONFERENCE AT THE MOVENPICK HOTEL, WELLINGTON, 3-4 NOVEMBER 2023, AND THEN OUR AGM ON 5 NOVEMBER.

Over the course of the three days, we met each other, ate and drank together, slept in comfy beds, enjoyed not cooking, and most of all had a time of rest, respite, and capacity building. Together, this provided a much-needed refresher for us to continue to provide care and support for our family members.

Conference speakers were diverse, reflecting the diversity required of our members. Ben O'Meara (Whaikaha) and Megan Bate (Advocacy NZ) spoke at the Friday session, staying for informal chats over drinks and nibbles with parents. Saturday morning Rosemary shared her Parent Story, Cyrille Guillot enthused about rebounders, and parents were left inspired and emotional by Mary Fisher and Emily Writes. Following lunch, Elaine and Alison from BLENNZ led us through their curriculum refresh, organisation delegates introduced themselves, and then we broke into workshops on specific topics. Conference dinner entertainment this year was via photo booth, which provided much laughter!



Overall, throughout the conference, PVI achieved the following:

- providing useful and timely information
- promoting parent and whānau wellbeing
- space to discuss challenges and barriers parents and whānau face when supporting a disabled child
- connecting people to existing services and assisting with systems navigation
- networking amongst parents and whānau
- encouraging and empowering parents and whānau

There were opportunities for meaningful face-to-face communication and social interaction, and of course a judgement-free space for us to vent, laugh, and talk with others in similar circumstances.

Overall, parents and whānau were empowered and supported to:

- advocate for their child/young person
- access peer support
- tools to support their child/young person
- access timely and relevant information on vision and related services
- engage in self-care activities and rest

Left: The Movenpick Hotel **Above:** Parents gathered at the Annual Parent Conference.

Feedback from parent/whānau delegates who attended, when asked, “What aspects of the conference did you like the most?” responded as follows:

- the people, catching up and also the speakers
- Emily Writes - not long enough!
- being able to catch up with everyone
- meeting with other parents. Hearing lived experiences of blind community and parents of blind children
- Emily Writes was a stand out
- good attendance of fathers
- talks by Rosemary and Mary
- being able to meet new people and catch up with old acquaintances
- touch tour at Te Papa
- drinks on the first night
- photo booth was fun!
- workshops were good dialogue
- the buffet breakfast and the Te Papa touch tour
- Emily was amazing such a highlight
- photo booth was really fun
- the mix and mingle. Conference was oozing energy!
- content was great as was the opportunity for Social interaction
- liked the central location of hotel
- networking with other parents
- the wide range. Was great to hear parents personal stories was great to hear from adults with vision impairment. Was great to hear from resources and from other foundations. Great balance
- listening to the speakers and being in the company of other parents who share common challenges



AGM 2023

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING RETURNING BOARD MEMBERS:

- Stacey Dodd, Upper North Island
- Judith Hyslop, Lower South Island
- Phil Parahi, Tangata Whenua



WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER, TIRZAH SHEPHERD, WHO TAKES UP THE ANYWHERE IN NEW ZEALAND BOARD POSITION

Left: Child playing with crafts.

Above: Tirzah Shepherd, PVI Board position: Anywhere in New Zealand.

I live in Whitford, Auckland (on a lifestyle block) with my husband Rodger. We have been here for the last 21 years. Our daughter Ashley has CVI and right hemiplegia due to oxygen deprivation at birth. Ashley now lives by herself (with lots of support from us) in Howick and is 24 years old. Our youngest daughter Juliet has just moved to Cambridge University in the UK for her Masters in Materials Engineering. We have just returned from a month's family travel in Europe.

I am a chartered accountant, and I work part time on several small companies that we are involved with. I also am Treasurer of two local charities/community trusts in our area, and look forward to bringing these skills to the PVI Board.

We have been part of PVI for around two decades now, we attend conference as work allows, and you may have seen me comment now and then in the Facebook group.

I feel I have the required skills and time to take on the Treasurer role and keeping the PVI accounts up to date. But also feel I have a lot to offer other parents, having been on this vision impaired/disability journey for some time now. Invaluable knowledge has been gained!

I keep a pretty active lifestyle through competitive tennis, and lots of mountain biking and walking. We also have a short haired border collie that always requires attention and walks.

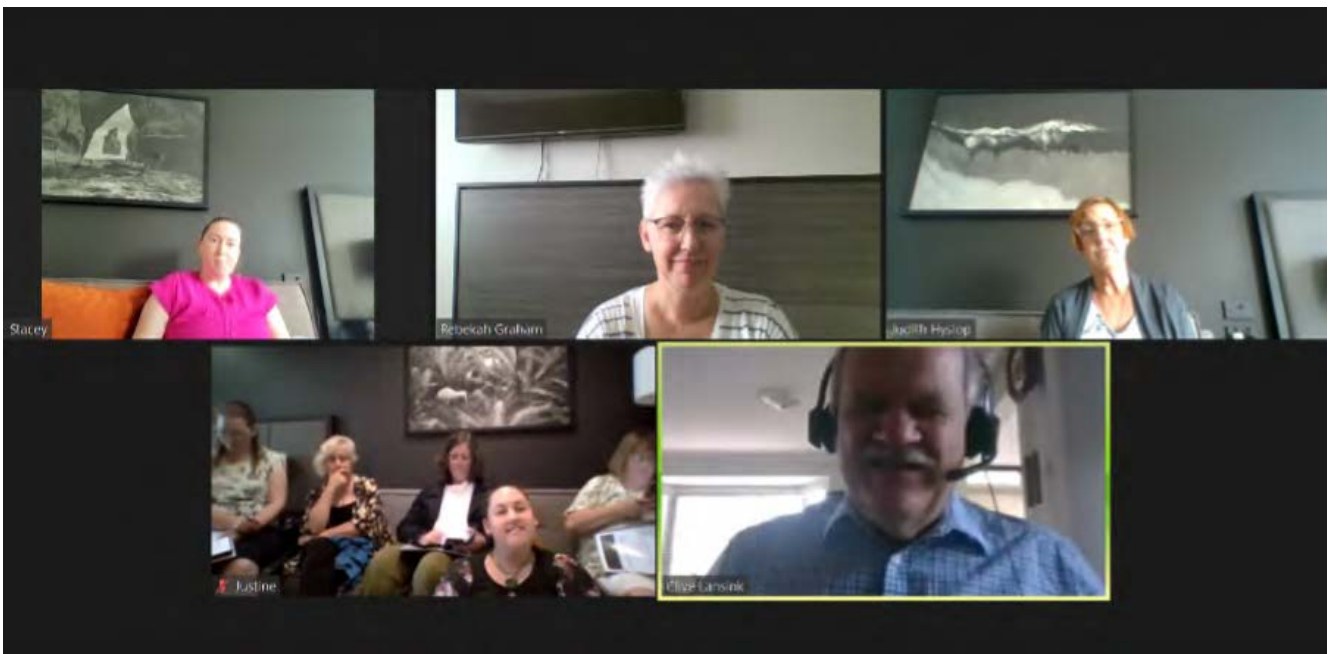
1 JULY 2022 - 30 JUNE 2023

PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023



PART 1

GOVERNANCE & BOARD RELATED ACTIVITIES



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS 2022 -2023: AGM, MEETINGS, CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES, TRAINING SUPPORT.

Above: Zoom board meeting. Right: PVI board members (from left to right) Elizabeth, Catherine, Justine, Pascale, and Judith ready to watch LIMITS while in Wellington”.

- held 2022 AGM with four board members who were duly re-elected
- held seven board meetings, both face to face (15 September 2022, 17-18 February 2023, 16-17 June 2023) and Zoom (27 July 2022, 30 November 2022, 26 April 2023, 31 May 2023)
- recommended constitutional changes so that
- PVI will comply with changes to the Institutional Societies Act
- held board training on working with tāngata kāpō Māori
- supported board members to attend external governance training

PART 2

PVI FAMILY ADVOCACY & SUPPORT



INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO PVI FAMILIES IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

- emails of support written for parents
- advice given on responding to exclusion and discrimination
- provided individual care packages to support families during Covid-19
- information sharing on a variety of relevant topics
- individual interactions with parents via email, telephone, and direct messages
- employed x2 part-time staff to connect with parents and organise local events
- provided individual care packages to support families post-Cyclone Gabriel

Left: Rosemary Cox and her daughter Patricia.
Top Right: Jackie Floris **Bottom Left:** Stellan Port

PART 3

SUMMARY OF APPROVED FUNDING APPLICATIONS

FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS



SECURED FUNDING: SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS SUPPORTING OUR IMPACTFUL INITIATIVES AND ENDEAVORS.

Successful funding applications as follows:

- Blind Low Vision Operational Grant \$160,000
- Christchurch COGS \$10,000
- Ministry of Health Care in the Community Fund: \$33,500 to provide covid-related support to families
- Winston Churchill Fellowship for Rebekah Graham
- Te Korowai Whetū Social Cohesion Fund \$10,000
- Te Whai Whānau Ora \$15,000
- MSD Communities Grant for Cyclone Gabriel affected families \$20,000
- Lotteries National \$5,000

Right: A ceramic house with a money note in the chimney.

PART 4

NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNING SUBMISSIONS



SYSTEMS-LEVEL ADVOCACY TO NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES

Above: A live meeting of the Petition of Juliana Carvalho.

In every submission PVI centres the needs of blind, deafblind, low vision and vision impaired children and young people, and their parents/whānau. Doing so ensures that decision makers are aware of and have the needs of our families in mind when creating and implementing policies and laws. In many instances we were the only group presenting specifically from a vision-related perspective, and the only group advocating on behalf of children with vision loss.

National level submissions. These are submissions to government on relevant bills, inquiries, and reviews:

- Charities Amendment Bill
- Inquiry into the future of inter-regional passenger rail in New Zealand
- Long-term Insights Briefing: Preparing All Young
- People for Satisfying and Rewarding Lives
- Fair chance for all: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage
- Accessibility legislation
- Inquiry into the future of inter-regional passenger rail in New Zealand
- Review of adult decision making capacity law
- Human Rights Amendment
- Oranga Tamariki Disability Strategy
- Accident Compensation (Access Reporting and Other Matters) Amendment Bill
- Teacher Aide Funding Review
- Consultation on schools' planning and reporting draft Regulations
- Related Planning and Reporting Supports consultations
- Education and Amendment Bill No. 3

Regional Level submissions. These are submissions to local councils on relevant topics:

- Hamilton City Council - disability strategy
- Franklin Local Board - Ray Fausett play space design
- Hamilton City Council - CERF pedestrian and cycle way proposals

PVI supported a representative to attend the following relevant advisory groups and inquiries:

- Highest Needs Review Advisory Group
- Royal Commission into Abuse into State Care Parent/Whānau group
- ODI/Whaikaha Parent/Whānau Network wānanga
- Access Matters Aotearoa Trust
- Whaikaha Carer Support Working Group
- Ministry of Health Service Continuity Working Group
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet: Responses to Covid-19 / Covid-19 Disability
- Network Response Group
- Child Poverty Action Group: Health and Disability
- Research Interest Group
- Whaikaha Community Responses to Cyclone
- Gabriel

PART 5

PUBLICATIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, & PROMOTION

PVI DISSEMINATED INFORMATION, PROMOTED PVI, AND INFORMED OUR MEMBERS IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- Switched to Hubspot and updated our membership database
- Email newsletters now sent via Hubspot
- eVision uploaded to our website and emailed to members
- PVI website a key site for information and linked to eVision and email newsletters
- Facebook group and page utilised to connect parents and providing support and information
- Ongoing engagement with BLENNZ and connecting with staff and parents
- Contributions to academic publications on the topic of disability
- SPEVI Conference presentation on parent experiences
- BELS Professional Conversations with Education
- Staff presentation on parent experiences
- Learning Support Network (LSN) Webinar presentation on parent experiences

Above: The cover of the March PVI newsletter.

PART 6

COLLABORATIVE WORKING



CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT WITH THE WIDER BLIND SECTOR:

Above: Braille Authority (BANZAT) meetings via Board representation. **Right:** Graphic depicting two hands holding under the words partnership, respect and access.

- Collaboration with Kāpō Māori Aotearoa on
- International and National Conference Presentations and Research
- Access Matters Aotearoa campaign for Accessibility Legislation
- Blind Sector Network Aotearoa
- Braille Authority (BANZAT) meetings via Board representation
- Whaikaha/ODI parent/whānau network
- PVI input into future of children's services with
- BLENNZ and BLVNZ
- Aotearoa Collective parent programme co-design process with McKenzie Centre

HOW TO ENGAGE RESPECTFULLY

PARTNERSHIP

Come with an intent to partner with us.

RESPECT

Come with a basic understanding of how to engage respectfully with Māori and with kāpō.

ACCESS

Come with a value for Māori, for tāngāta kapō, and our whanau experiences.



POST-CYCLONE GABRIEL FEEDBACK

EARLIER IN THE YEAR, PVI APPLIED FOR – AND RECEIVED – FUNDING FROM THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IMPACTED BY CYCLONE GABRIEL.

This fund assisted PVI to offer practical support to whānau with a blind, deafblind, or low vision child. We were able to ensure whānau with a blind, deafblind, or low vision child didn't feel alone in their struggles and had flexible support for their disabled family member.

We intentionally reduced barriers as much as possible to enable speedy access to funds.

Whānau utilised the funding for additional costs associated with disability and recovering from the weather events. What this looked like varied depending on the whānau and their needs. Some of this was for psychosocial needs, others for practical items, while others needed it for disability-specific needs and additional clean-up related costs not covered elsewhere. Several had specific food-related dietary and nutritional needs. The fund meant whānau were able to continue to meet their with a blind, deafblind, or low vision child's particular set of needs without additional distress.

Feedback from families is included below:

The funds you sent us help us to fix our daughter's glasses which broke when they fell on the floor and she accidentally step on them in the dark as we had no power, it also helped us with food as we lost ours due to the loss of power and lastly we were able to get gas needed for the BBQ so that we could cook for our family during this time. PVI made the process extremely easy and no judgement when applying. Thank you again for this help in an extremely stressful time.

My garage flooded during the cyclone which resulted in losing a fridge/freezer full of food due to loss of power. The cleanup was exhausting and although there were many worse off than us, the impact was still there. I was overwhelmed to be offered practical help from PVI. Life is tough sometimes navigating through endless challenges...I was moved to be a recipient of this generous gift.

The money was spent on activities to occupy my child such as magnetic blocks paper and coloured pencils, also was used to pay for the ingredients for food prep that she's been doing with her support person from the blind foundation to maintain her independence. Fund was easy to access and we were really grateful that we were able to get the grant it was a great help.

During the floods and cyclone one of our bedrooms was completely flooded and we also started to lose our roof. As the room is slightly underground the water was from the ground and classed as back water and she was not able to remain in the room. Everything had to be destroyed. The funding helped to pay for a caravan that we needed for her to live in for three months until the room was fixed. This helped our low vision child as if we did not have the caravan she would have been sleeping and having all her clothes and basic items in the living area creating obstacles. It was so incredibly helpful as there were so many other costs associated with the damage that we had to pay for and our house is only small with 6 kids.

TOUCH TOURS & AUDIO DESCRIPTION

THE NUMBER OF PLACES OFFERING TOUCH TOURS AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION SEEMS TO BE INCREASING! THIS IS GOOD NEWS FOR INCLUSION OF OUR CHILDREN IN THE ARTS IN PARTICULAR.

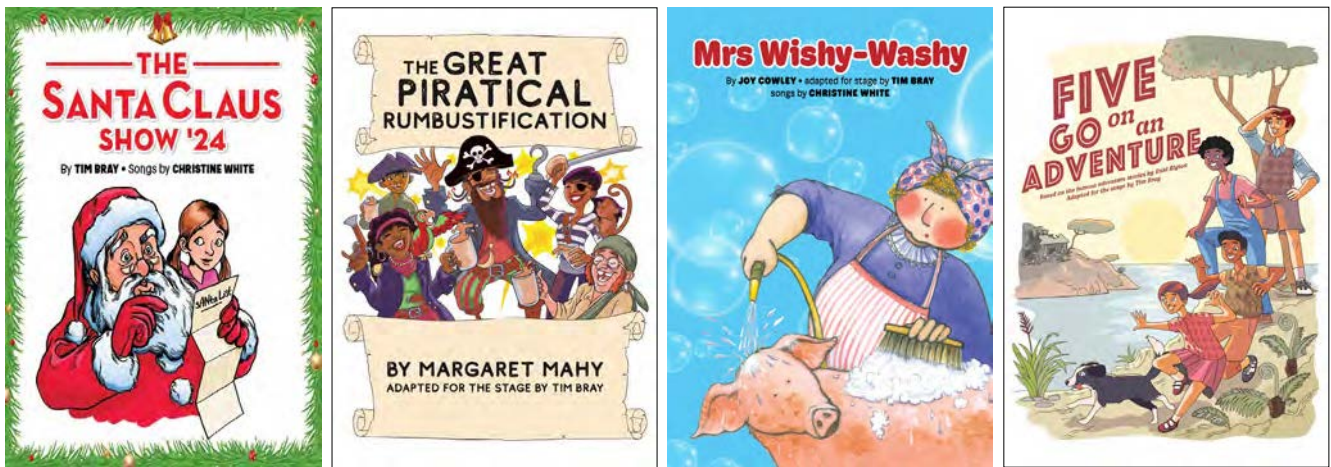
Right: *The Santa Claus Show 23'* by Tim Bray

This is good news for inclusion of our children in the Arts in particular. The following places all offer touch tours which have been well received by parents and children alike!

- Te Papa
- New Zealand Symphony Orchestra
- New Zealand Opera
- Royal New Zealand Ballet
- Tim Bray Theatre Company

Arts Access Aotearoa also have a list of accessible events here - <https://artsaccess.org.nz/events> This list includes events supported by Audio Described Aotearoa.

TIM BRAY THEATRE COMPANY



TIM BRAY THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS AUDIO DESCRIBED SHOWS FOR CHILDREN, WITH TOUCH TOURS.

Above: Four covers of Audio Described Performances with touch tours from Tim Bray.

Audio description is a narration service where theatregoers are issued with headsets and can sit in the auditorium with the headphone in one ear, listening to the description alongside the show.

We also offer Touch Tours before our shows. These allow blind or low vision audience the opportunity to get up close with elements of the production. The theatregoer is guided around and invited to touch the set and props and meet the cast before the show.

Discounted tickets at \$20-25 for blind/low vision patrons. Companion tickets available. Book at PumpHouse Theatre (call 09 489 8360), other theaters via Eventfinda (call 0800 289 849). Accessible resources and info at timbray.org.nz. Costume Parade on Saturdays and school holidays. Consider donating to Gift a Seat™ to provide free seats to children from low decile schools, Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education, BLENNZ, or Make-A-Wish (NZ). For more details, email info@timbray.org.nz.

Five Go on an Adventure
Based on the books by Enid Blyton
 For ages 5-10

Julian, Dick and Anne, their cousin George, and dog Timmy, head off together on an adventure brought to you by Tim Bray Theatre Company and end up having to solve a dastardly mystery. Along the way they meet some frightfully awful baddies and get into all sorts of scrapes. Luckily, our five heroes are famous for getting out of trouble! With courage, capers and plenty of sandwiches and ginger beer, this show reminds us all that fun, friendship and fortitude always fool the felons! Hoorah!

After the sell-out 2023 season of Enid Blyton's *The Magic Faraway Tree*, children of all ages (and their grown-ups) won't want to miss this terrific tale.

The PumpHouse Theatre, Takapuna
 Tuesday 2 July | Saturday 13th July, 1pm
 12pm Touch Tour

Book tickets at timbray.org.nz

Mrs Wishy-Washy
By Joy Cowley
 For ages 3-8

"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. 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.

The PumpHouse Theatre
 Tuesday 24 Sept | Saturday 28 Sept 1pm
 12pm Touch Tour

Māngere Arts Centre, Māngere
 Wednesday 23 October, 10.30am
 9.30am Touch Tour

Book tickets at timbray.org.nz

The Santa Claus Show '24
By Tim Bray
 For ages 3-8

The Tim Bray Theatre Company is delighted to present the 20th season of our beloved family favourite...*The Santa Claus Show*. Since its debut in 1991, this merry tale has become New Zealand's best-selling Christmas production!

Ho ho ho - off we go! Join our hero Kelly on an epic adventure, dashing through the snow, and laughing all the way to the North Pole. Along the way, you'll find yourself singing, giggling, and embarking on a magical journey as Kelly learns the true sentiment of Christmas. Bring along your little elves (and even some big ones) for a truly entertaining Christmas show that will fill your souls with jolly holiday cheer.

The PumpHouse Theatre, Takapuna
 Tuesday 3 Dec | Saturday 14 Dec 1pm
 12pm Touch Tour

Book tickets at timbray.org.nz

The Great Piratical Rumbustification
By Margaret Mahy
 For ages 4-10

Shiver me timbers! The pirates are restless, yearning for a grand piratical adventure. "Oh, for a pirate party!" they proclaim. But, as any good pirate knows, a proper pirate party must be a stolen one. So now, get ready to set sail into the high seas of imagination as Margaret Mahy's delightful tale, *The Great Piratical Rumbustification*, comes to life in a swashbuckling stage performance by Tim Bray Theatre Company.

Join our young hero, Oliver Terrapin, as he opens up the doors of his oblivious parents' home for a party - a party with real pirates! Mayhem ensues in this rollicking, rumbunctious rumpus of an escapade by Tim Bray Theatre Company that promises the most piratical fun you've had in years. Yo ho ho!

The PumpHouse Theatre, Takapuna
 Tuesday 9 April | Saturday 20 April, 1pm
 12pm Touch Tour

Māngere Arts Centre, Māngere
 Wednesday 8 May, 10.30am
 9.30am Touch Tour

Book tickets at timbray.org.nz



KIDS CAMPS

BLIND LOW VISION NZ AND BLIND SPORT NZ ARE OFFERING CAMPS IN 2024. DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Blind Low Vision NZ

BLVNZ will be holding kids camps in the April 2024 school holidays.

- 3 regional based camps across the country -
- Auckland, Central North Island, and South Island
- For children aged 8-14 years
- Apply to attend the camp closest to you
- No camp fees, but you will need to arrange transport to and from Raurimu

For any questions or to register contact either Michelle Mackie or Mark McLoughlin to request registration forms.

Michelle Mackie

M: 022 0103 254

E: mmackie@blindlowvision.org.nz

OR

Mark McLaughlin, Sport and Leisure Development Manager at Blind Low Vision NZ

M: 022 0129 336

E: mmclaughlin@blindlowvision.org.nz

What can you expect: A fun packed week, with plenty of opportunities to try new and challenging activities in a safe and supportive environment. Kids will stay in bunkrooms.

Please note that participants will need to be relatively independent, able to wash themselves, clothe themselves and move around independently as 1:1 support will not be available for these camps.

Being that this has been planned to run in the School Holidays next year, this is an exciting opportunity that we hope you will be keen to take advantage of!

Above: Gianna swimming in a pool.





HĀKINAKINA KĀPŌ O AOTEAROA
BLIND SPORT
 NEW ZEALAND

BSNZ Wāhine Sport retreats

This is your chance to get out there and connect with other Wāhine aged 15-30. Try some different sports and activities, outdoor escapades, and a whole ton of confidence-building in a safe and welcoming environment.

Contact for info:

jemma@blindsport.kiwi 

022 599 3961 

Christchurch:
 Feb 23 - 25
 2024
Auckland:
 March 15 -17
 2024



Manatū Wāhine
 Ministry for Women

KIDS CAMPS

CONTINUED...

Blind Sport NZ

Blind Sport New Zealand with support from [Manatū Wāhine, Ministry for Women](#), New Zealand are excited to announce two women's and girls' sport retreats in 2024, one in the North island and one in the South Island.

Over the weekend individuals can expect outdoor adrenaline activities, blind sports/activities and the opportunity to meet likeminded women and girls in a safe, welcoming and fun space. We aim for it to increase the confidence of women and more participation in sport. It's time to reset, get your motivation back and be energized.

Please fill out the linked form to express your interest in attending one or both camps. Deadline to submit the EOI is Monday 18 December 2023.

- For ages 15-30 years
- Christchurch: Feb 23 - 25 2024
- Auckland: March 15 -17 2024
- \$80 placeholder deposit (this will be refunded upon attendance)

The retreat is free however, you must provide your own transport to camp (flights to Auckland & Christchurch are not covered). Accommodation, meals, airport transfer to retreat and all activities are covered during camp, please note there are limited spaces.

Register at forms.gle/bxZ45VYc5gHEnYBRA

For more information

022 599 3961

jemma@blindsport.kiwi

Above: Poster contains all the above information plus a picture of a female's head side profile in black and white wearing blackout goggles for a blind sport.

CONTACTS

Right: Girl decorating Christmas cookies.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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VICE CHAIR & UPPER NORTH ISLAND REP

Stacey Dodd (Wellsford)
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TREASURER & ANYWHERE IN NZ REP

Tirzah Shepherd (Auckland)

CHAIR & LOWER SOUTH ISLAND REP

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Email: judithhyslop@xtra.co.nz

UPPER SOUTH ISLAND BOARD REP

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TANGATA WHENUA REP & BANZAT REP

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