

Newsletter of Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Incorporated ➤ *Champion of Families with Deaf & Hearing Impaired Children*  
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## Making the dream a reality ...

This is an exciting time of year to be part of Auckland Parents of Deaf Children ... because our Annual Scholarship is now open for applications. This means there is a chance that you could receive up to \$2,000 to make your dream a reality!



*Fallon Simchowitz, winner of the APODC Scholarship in 2008..*

Read about the Scholarship on page 4 and think about something you would like to do that requires some extra funding. Then, fill in the enclosed application form & return to us by 31/10/10.

If you need some inspiration, read about the recent experiences of Fallon (page 5) and Tessa (Teen Column, page 3). Fallon has just returned after 1 year in America on an American Field Service, and Tessa completed an Outward Bound course at the beginning of the year.



*Tessa on her Outward Bound course*

## APODC Events coming up ...

Saturdays 11, 18 & 25 Sept	<b>VISUAL COMMUNICATION CLASSES</b> 2-3:30pm at The Hearing House, 251 Campbell Rd, Greenlane
Fri 17 Sept	<b>LOUD SHIRT DAY</b> Register at <a href="http://www.loudshirtday.co.nz">www.loudshirtday.co.nz</a>
Sat 18 Sept	<b>DRUM'N'BEATS</b> Youth Group @ Youthtown, 68A Nelson Street, Auckland City
Sat 2 Oct	<b>PINOCCHIO SHOW</b> 10am, 1pm or 4pm, Logan Campbell Centre, ASB Showgrounds
Sat 9 Oct	<b>COFFEE GROUPS</b> <i>Central/West Auckland:</i> 10am-12 at Chipmunks, Henderson <i>South Auckland:</i> 10am-12 at Chipmunks, Norman Spencer Dr, Manukau
Tues 19 Oct	<b>MIX'N'MINGLE (KDEC RTD FORUM)</b> 3:30pm – 5pm at Pakuranga Community Room, Aylesbury St, Pakuranga
Sun 31 Oct	<b>CLOSING DATE FOR APODC SCHOLARSHIP</b>
Sat 13 Nov	<b>COFFEE GROUP</b> 10am-12 at Chipmunks, Norman Spencer Dr, Manukau
Sun 28 Nov	<b>SANTA PARADE</b> Details to be advised

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# APODC in the dark?

Well, we were on this day! Around 90 members came to Gloputt during the July school holidays for a game of glow-in-the-dark minigolf. Check out the photos of the day ...



**Step 1: Apply glow-in-the-dark face paint**



**Step 2: Enter a dark world, lit only by glowing objects**

**Step 3: Have fun!**



## National News

In June, the conference and Annual General Meeting of NZ Federation for Deaf Children (NZFDC) was held in the beautiful city of New Plymouth. Janet Baillie (our President) attended as the representative for APODC.



Sign up for free to NZFDC & get these benefits:

- Access to funding for Tutor fees and Assistive Equipment such as cell phones, laptops, teletext etc.
- Regular newsletters covering issues of national interest
- Free Information Kit containing age-appropriate books, CD, DVD etc.

Simply visit the NZFDC website [www.deafchildren.org.nz](http://www.deafchildren.org.nz) and click on "Register your Family"

It was a great conference, with information being shared on the current Special Education and Deaf Education Reviews & the recently launched NZ Parent Mentor programme.

Details are in the latest NZFDC newsletter, email [deafchildren@xtra.co.nz](mailto:deafchildren@xtra.co.nz) to receive a copy.

### Want to earn some pocket money?



NZFDC is looking for a responsible youth to help fold, stamp & label their quarterly newsletter. If you are interested, please contact Sue [enquiries@apodc.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@apodc.org.nz) for more details.

# Teen Column

By Lydia Hoby-Sharpe



In general, being deaf/hearing impaired is fine. Great, even. But

I think we all agree that one of the few drawbacks of being deaf/hearing impaired is the occasional difficulties of communication skills. Yes, I've been there too. I know exactly how you feel.

But refreshingly, this was one of the things that made Tessa Nicholson's recent Outward Bound experience so useful; it forced her to use her communication skills in new situations which, as she said, led to "increased confidence and self-identity."

In February this year, Tessa went on an Outward Bound course to a "really small but beautiful place called Anakiwa" at the top of the South Island, in the Queen Charlotte Sounds. During her three weeks on the course, she completed several tramps and participated in activities, including sailing and camping. Although she says that at first she wasn't particularly keen on going because "it sounded really daunting," she says it was "an awesome experience!"

Tessa said that "Everybody goes on Outward Bound to achieve different things." Personally, Tessa learned an incredible amount from this course. She says that it got her "out of a rut" and gave her more motivation (she's currently doing a work placement for university at ARRMOS and studying for a Bachelor of Business) and says that she no longer doubts herself or her abilities.

Outward Bound is, in Tessa's experience, an "invaluable experience that you will appreciate for the rest of your life." Definitely, she says, deaf/hearing impaired teenagers can and should go on it, and since there are a range of groups that can cater to whatever your needs are, this is not difficult.

Outward Bound seems like an incredibly rewarding experience, and Tessa has gained so much from it. Congratulations, Tessa! The world needs more people like you, who will give it a go and lead the

way for others, whatever their situations.



## Social Club for Youth

Already, we have had a great response from members about the new Social Club for deaf and hearing impaired teens and pre-teens.

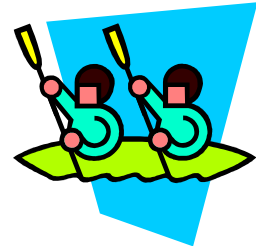
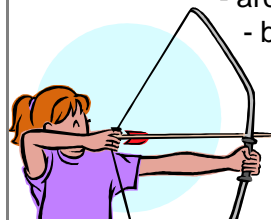
This is a Social group just for 10 – 17 year olds that they can join to:

- try some new and challenging activities in a safe and supportive environment,
- meet others like them,
- learn some leadership skills, and
- improve their social skills

The Pindrop Foundation and the Hearing House originally set up the Social Group in 2009 for teenagers with cochlear implants, and we have recently joined forces with them to expand the group to include all teenagers with a hearing loss.

With the help of YouthTown in Nelson Street, Auckland, the group will get the chance to try all sorts of activities such as:

- rock climbing
- archery
- blo-karting
- kayaking
- abseiling
- cooking
- arts and craft, and
- team building.



There will be a different activity offered every 6 weeks or so throughout the school year, with some activities being split into smaller groups. Our hope is that kids can attend for free, although there may be a small charge for some activities until we get established & secure funding.

Does this sound like a fantastic opportunity? Then make sure you register your interest as soon as possible so your child/ren can be emailed or posted a personal invite to each event. Due to restricted numbers these events are on a first-come first-served basis.

**To Register:** Contact Sue by email on [enquiries@apodc.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@apodc.org.nz) or phone 307-2922 and leave a message.

### Next Event: 18 September

The next event is a Drum'n'Beats workshop held at YouthTown on the 18th of September 2010.

This will be free for all 10-17 year olds with a hearing loss and NZSL interpreters will be provided.

# Do you need funding for a special project?



The Annual **APODC Scholarship** is now open for applications – read below to see if you can apply for funding ...

## What is it?

The APODC Scholarship was set up in 2006 to help deaf and hearing impaired children and/or their families to achieve something that is important and relevant to them. The Scholarship is for a maximum amount of \$2,000 and is awarded only once a year.

## What does the Scholarship cover?

The Scholarship can be awarded for a wide range of projects, so long as the project supports the purpose of APODC “to champion the quality of life for deaf and hearing impaired children”. For example:

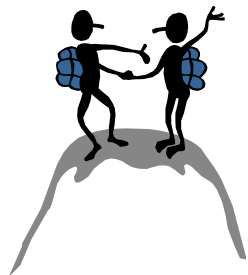
- Attendance at a training course
- Attendance at a conference or camp (local, national or international)
- It does NOT cover purchase of equipment



## Who can apply?

The Scholarship is open to children who meet all of the following requirements:

- They are deaf or have a degree of hearing impairment
- They have not yet left secondary school
- They have not received this Scholarship before
- Their family is a current financial member of APODC and has been so for at least 2 years



More information and an application form is enclosed for anyone who is interested.

**CLOSING DATE: 31 OCTOBER 2010**

## Training courses for Parents

The training courses offered by Parent to Parent are excellent and FREE to any parent who has a child with a disability.

### Personal Support Course:

- learn new ideas on how to manage stress
- understand grief and how it is portrayed
- identify your support network and learn how to grow it
- find ways to build resilience – yours and your family's

30 October @ Pukekohe

### Advocacy Support Training:

Learn more about advocacy. This course covers assumptions (and the dangers of making them), questioning skills, active listening, planning & researching.



11-12 September @ North Shore

For more information or to register, email [auckland@parent2parent.org.nz](mailto:auckland@parent2parent.org.nz) or ph. 625-5021

## Individualised Funding (IF)

### A conversation with IF provider Manawanui in Charge

When: Thurs 23 Sep 12:30 – 2:30pm  
(pre-schoolers welcome) **or**  
Wed 27 Oct 7-9pm

Where: Disability Resource Centre  
14 Erson Ave  
Royal Oak

RSVP is essential: Ph. 636-0351 or  
Email [francesca@prfc.org.nz](mailto:francesca@prfc.org.nz)

### Who should attend?

If you are a disabled person, parent or guardian of a disabled person, then you should attend to find out how to get more choice about how services will be delivered, when they will be delivered and who will provide your government funded support.

Organised by  
Parent & Family  
Resource Centre



## My American dream ...

My experience in USA was so FABULOUS!! I really loved it because it was such a big, wonderful experience for me to go there to see what it is like over there and it was something so different in my life.

I stayed in Kansas for one year and travelled around 23 states of the United States! The school which I went to was really awesome because it is a full deaf school, with around 120 students, so really quite a small school. I made a heap of new friends!

Also I joined the Volleyball, Basketball, Cheerleader and Tracks teams for the whole year. My teams went away to different states for competition games. We went to Minnesota and Iowa for three to four days and my Cheerleader team came in Third place - it is really great!



My host family were really awesome! It was really strange to have younger brothers and sisters but they all are real sweethearts! We all went to the same school together and we caught the yellow bus to school everyday which was so much fun!

In the winter time, we all went to skiing. It was such a blast because it was the first time for me to go up on the mountain and do that. It was really hard in the beginning but after 7 or 8 times, I was very good at it! 😊

The graduation was very beautiful because it felt like I had finished my school year and had accomplished everything! My senior group had three days off before the graduation night, we all went out to have fun in the city and more...

On the night of graduation it was very emotional because we all just couldn't believe that we are finished. So we all decided to get a small, yellow duck to give to our Principal when we were on stage; it was so unexpected for him that it was really funny! When it was finished, we went to the party until early in the morning!

When I came back home it was really sad to be here because I loved the USA very much and missed all my USA friends. They gave me a surprise farewell party which was very nice and I won't ever forget that day! Someday, I will definitely go back to USA to visit my friends and maybe in the future, I will move there to live.



It was really the most fantastic experience I ever had in my life! I am just so happy that I made the right decision to go there for a year!

Thank you very much to APODC for the scholarship money that helped me to get there.

*by Fallon Simchowitz*



### APODC Website update ...

Work continues on our new website to make it a tool that is useful for members as well as those wanting to find out about us.

We have now added the **Parent Forum**, which is an area where members of APODC can discuss topics which are of interest to them. It promises to be a great tool for finding out information from other parents and airing opinions.

To access the Forum, you will need to email Sue to be given a user name and initial password (email [enquiries@apodc.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@apodc.org.nz)).

Hope to hear from you soon so we can start having some great discussions!

**Register now so  
you can join our  
on-line  
discussions!**

# HELP & SUPPORT for your family

## Work & Income NZ

### Child Disability Allowance

A payment (weekly rate, non-taxable) is made directly to the parent or guardian when the child lives at home and requires constant care and attention. Not means tested.

Contact Work and Income New Zealand, Ph. 0800 559 009  
Deaf Link free-fax 0800 621 621

### Childcare and OSCAR Subsidy

Available to provide financial assistance to low-income families. Means tested. Contact Work and Income New Zealand (see details above).

## Ministry of Health

### Carer Support Subsidy

Full-time parents or caregivers of a child or person with a disability can apply for funding to pay for an alternative caregiver to give you 'time out'. This allowance is not means tested.

Contact Ministry of Health,  
Ph. 0800 281 222 (then '1')

## Speech-Language tests available thru APODC

The Sentinel Trust has sponsored a number of professional speech-language tests that can be used by a qualified speech-language teacher working with your child. These tests are extremely expensive and very difficult to get access to as there are not many available in Auckland.

The tests are currently held at the office of Ann McElwee, Speech Language Therapist, Ph. (09) 630-8255 and are available for rental on a nominal donation basis. Leave a phone message if the answerphone is on.

DISCLAIMER: "While every effort has been made to make sure the information is accurate, the editor and APODC take no responsibility for any views expressed in this newsletter. The views expressed in this newsletter are made by the people who contribute the articles."

## NZ Federation for Deaf Children



Being a member of APODC entitles you to the following subsidies and assistance through NZFDC:

### Assistive Equipment

You may receive 50% of the purchase price or \$200, whichever is the lesser amount, on certain items. Criteria apply.

### Tutor Fee Assistance

Financial assistance is available if your child is Y7-Y13 for subjects leading to NCEA levels 1-3. Criteria apply.

### John & Betty Rose Scholarship

Available to deaf students attending tertiary institutions who are up to 21 years of age. Applications close on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November each year. The scholarship is worth \$1,000/successful applicant.

### Joining NZFDC is FREE

If you have not already registered your family with NZFDC, it is worth doing so. You will be sent a Family Kit full of useful info, books, CDs etc. (worth \$300), plus get regular updates through their newsletter.

### NZFDC Contact Details

Ph. 0800DEAFCHILD  
(0800 332 324)

Txt 027 214 6901

Email deafchildren@xtra.co.nz

Post PO Box 18-868  
New Brighton  
Christchurch

Website [www.deafchildren.org.nz](http://www.deafchildren.org.nz)

Registering and updating your family details can be done online. Application forms and updated are also available from the website.

It costs just \$10 a year to be a member of APODC. And think of all the benefits you get from belonging!



✓ assistive devices subsidy via the NZ Federation for Deaf Children Inc.

✓ annual APODC Scholarship entry

✓ free or subsidised events and social get-togethers

Regardless of when you joined, fees are due at the beginning of each calendar year. If you haven't yet paid for 2010, please send your \$10 to APODC, PO Box 11-762, Ellerslie, Auckland 1542 or pay pay directly by internet banking into our ASB account 12-3011-0757651-00 (be sure to put your last name as a reference)

## Deaf Aotearoa NZ

Deaf Aotearoa NZ is committed to providing quality services to all Deaf people in New Zealand. Some services they provide:

- Equipment
- Info & Advice
- Job training programmes
- and much more

Check out their website for more info [www.deaf.co.nz](http://www.deaf.co.nz)

### Auckland:

1836 Great North Rd  
Avondale  
ph. 820-5038

### South Auckland:

19 Charles St  
Papatoetoe 2025  
ph. 279-9038



Check out how to use NZ Relay and make phone calls to or from a Deaf person.  
[www.nzrelay.co.nz](http://www.nzrelay.co.nz)

## HOLIDAY CAMP : 2-9 October

NZSL interpreters available

CBM have a limited number of spaces available for hearing impaired children aged 9-14 years at their regular school holiday camp at Camp Raglan.

There will be a designated boys group and a girls group for hearing impaired children with leaders proficient in NZSL, and also an interpreter for all joint camp activities.

The groups for hearing impaired are only available during the second week of the holidays 2nd – 9th October.

Cost: \$190 (which includes a day trip to the hot pools).

To view more information about Camp Raglan, you can go to their website [www.campraglan.org.nz](http://www.campraglan.org.nz) but **please contact them** on [info@cbm.org.nz](mailto:info@cbm.org.nz) for a registration form specially for hearing impaired children.



## APODC FAMILY CAMP

### 11-13 NOV 2011

Yes, this is the news that many of you have been waiting for ... planning for our next Family Camp is underway!

So, in November of next year, we'll be packing our bags & heading out to Carey Park in Henderson.

As usual, it will be an action-packed weekend, with plenty of opportunities for kids and adults to make new friends, try new things and come away with new ideas.



Mark your diaries now so you don't miss out!

## LOUD SHIRT DAY

Friday 17 September



Be a star on Loud Shirt Day and help deaf kids learn to listen and talk.

If you've taken part in Loud Shirt Day before you'll know it's a great way to commit serious fashion crimes and have a whole lot of fun at work or at school.

And if this is your first year being involved with Loud Shirt Day, we know you'll have a fabulous time wowing your colleagues and friends with your brightest, funkiest shirt.

Loud Shirt Day is the annual appeal of The Hearing House and the Southern Cochlear Implant Paediatric Programme.

To register, or for more information, visit their website [www.loudshirtday.co.nz](http://www.loudshirtday.co.nz)



## AFTERNOON TEA

### MIX'N'MINGLE

This is an opportunity to meet other families in the South/East Auckland area, chat to the teachers and enjoy a lovely afternoon tea and activities with your children.

When: 3:30 – 5:00 pm  
Tuesday 19 October

Where: Community Room  
Pakuranga Library Complex  
(next to Citizens' Advice Bureau)  
Aylesbury Street, Pakuranga



- Activities and games for the children will be organised
- Afternoon tea will be provided
- Good parking available beside and under the building.
- Your opportunity to chat with KDEC Senior Managers.

All the family/whanau is welcome.

RSVP to your Resource Teacher of the Deaf



# UPCOMING EVENTS...

## PINOCCHIO SHOW – SATURDAY 2 OCT

APODC families have been given the opportunity to attend a live performance of “Pinocchio” – for FREE!

Where: Logan Campbell Centre  
ASB Showgrounds  
Greenlane West

Times: 10am, 1pm or 4pm

RSVP: to Sue, email [enquiries@apodc.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@apodc.org.nz) or phone 307-2922 and leave a message. Make sure you let her know which show you'd prefer & how many tickets you need. Each ticket gets in 1 adult and 2 children aged 0-14.



There are only limited tickets so get in quick!

This wonderful day out is provided by Southern Stars Charitable Trust, through their “Kids In Show Seats” (K.I.S.S) programme. Children attending the shows are also given the opportunity to meet the costumed characters after each performance.



## Coffee Groups

Parent coffee groups are a great way to meet other mums and dads while the children play. We have two planned for the rest of 2010 ...

### Saturday 9 Oct

#### South Auckland

10am-12 at Manukau Chipmunks  
Norman Spencer Dr, Manukau

#### West/Central Auckland

10am-12 at Henderson Chipmunks  
Lincoln Rd, Henderson



### Saturday 13 Nov

#### South Auckland

10am-12 at Manukau Chipmunks  
Norman Spencer Dr, Manukau

Entry is FREE for families with full membership, Associate members with no hearing impaired children are welcome to attend at their own cost.

### Bring a friend for free:

If you know of other families with hearing impaired children, invite them along! They can attend one coffee group for free without being an APODC member.

## School Holiday Fun!

Do your kids want some holiday fun? Then check out this school holiday activity for children 12 years and under ...

What? Games  
Baking decorating  
Fitness activities  
Movie on the BIG screen

When? Thursday 30 September  
10am – 2pm

Where? Auckland Deaf Society  
164 Balmoral Rd  
Balmoral

Bring? \$8 per child  
Packed lunch



For kids aged 6-12 years, parents can drop off or join in at no extra charge. Kids under 6 must come with a parent. Separate activities will be provided for each age group.

RSVP to: Natasha Cloete, email [winks.cl@xtra.co.nz](mailto:winks.cl@xtra.co.nz) or text 021 075 1950

Numbers are limited so book NOW!

Organised and run by Auckland Deaf Squash Club as a fund-raising project for their Club.

## Interested in learning NZ Sign Language?



Don't forget our “Visual Communication” classes are happening this term ... These are family-friendly, focused on practical communication and FREE for APODC members.

When? Saturdays (11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Sep)  
2-3:30pm  
*Sessions are stand-alone so don't worry if you can't make them all*

Where? The Hearing House  
251 Campbell Rd  
Greenlane

The classes are open to people of all ages, children and extended family are welcome.

Contact Sue to register or for more information (email [enquiries@apodc.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@apodc.org.nz) or ph. 307-2922 and leave a message)