

Newsletter of Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Incorporated ➤ *Champion of Families with Deaf & Hearing Impaired Children*  
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 Phone: 307-2922 Fax: 307-2923 Website: www.apodc.org.nz

## Do you have an interest in the Parent Mentor service ?

This programme provides an opportunity for parents of children diagnosed with hearing loss to talk to a Parent Mentor – a trained parent who has first-hand understanding of what it means and what issues may face the family. As you probably know from experience, talking with someone who has “been in your shoes” is often one of the most useful conversations you can have!



There are 2 positions currently vacant on the Trust Board of the Parent Mentor programme in NZ. If you:

- have an interest in the area of Parent Mentoring,
- are a parent of a deaf or hearing impaired child, and
- can find time to attend 2 meetings in a year

then **they'd like to hear from you!**

The Board oversees the programme and is not in a hands-on role. If you would like to find out more, please contact Judith Sosich, email [judiths@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:judiths@slingshot.co.nz)

## Changes in Deaf Education... your view counts

For all members receiving this newsletter, you will find an insert about a proposed change to the way the 2 Deaf Education Centres are governed. Please read it carefully and make sure you give your feedback before August 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be sending out additional information soon to help those who are unsure of what the change means, and are happy to help with any queries that you have. You can also join the online discussion about the change on the Parent Forum on the APODC website [www.apodc.org.nz](http://www.apodc.org.nz).

## APODC Events coming up ...

Saturdays 18 & 25 June, 9 & 16 July	<b>VISUAL COMMUNICATION CLASSES</b> 2-3:30pm, PHAB Building, 8 Auburn St, Takapuna
Sat 25 June	<b>C2 CLUB, ROCKCLIMBING</b> 1-4pm, Drop-off & pick-up at Youthtown, 68a Nelson St, Auckland
Thur 7 July	<b>TRANSITION EXPO</b> 9-2:30, AMI Netball Centre, 7 Allison Ferguson Dr, St Johns
Sun 10 July	<b>SOUTH AUCKLAND COFFEE GROUP</b> 10am-12, Chipmunks Manukau, Norman Spencer Dr, Manukau
Sat 6 Aug	<b>C2 CLUB, FIRE STATION</b> Details to be advised
Sun 21 Aug	<b>ROLLER SKATING</b> 10:30am-12:30pm, Skateland, 66 Mountain Rd, Mt Wellington
Sat 17 Sep	<b>C2 CLUB, CLAY WORKSHOP</b> Details to be advised
11-13 Nov	<b>APODC FAMILY CAMP</b> Carey Park, Henderson, \$75 per APODC family. Get your registration in quickly so you don't miss out!

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and much more!

### Supporters 2011:

**APODC is grateful for the funding received from:**

**ASB Community Trust  
 NZ Lotteries Board  
 NZ Federation of Deaf Children**

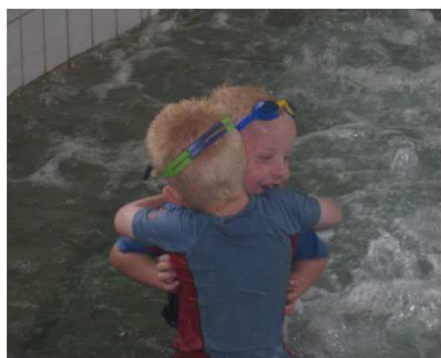
# POOL & PIZZA

## - a winning combination!

The wave pools in Papakura proved a great location for our APODC Pool Party earlier this year.

The pools weren't too crowded and there was a variety of things to do including the popular hydroslide and spa pool! And having some pizzas and ice-blocks provided for lunch was a bonus for all those who had worked up an appetite in the water.

Thanks to the Papakura Wave Pools for the great entry deal they gave us –we'll definitely be back!



## C2 Club

It's been a great start to the year for the C2 Club, with outings to Tree Adventures, Megazone and an Art Workshop so far ... and more planned!

C2 is a social club for deaf and hearing impaired 10-17 year olds and has activities every 6 weeks or so during the school year. It is a joint venture between The Hearing House and APODC.

If you want to sign up to receive regular invitations, contact Sue at APODC. Email [enquiries@apodc.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@apodc.org.nz) or ph 307-2922 & leave a message.



## The year that was ...

*The AGM last month was a good opportunity to look back at the year that has just been, reflect on what we've been doing and think about what we want to see happening in the next year. It's worth taking a few minutes to read through the report below to see what was accomplished ...*



### APODC – President's Report 2011

2010 was another busy year for Auckland Parents of Deaf Children. Membership numbers stayed fairly steady, with 134 families on our general membership list. We finished the year with just under 100 financial members. During the year we ran a number of activities for our members. These social opportunities provide a forum for families to mix and share. This is very important for our young deaf and hearing impaired children but also important for siblings to meet and chat with other siblings, Dads to talk to Dads, Mums to Mums, grandparents to grandparents etc. These networks are valuable opportunities to create knowledge, understanding and acceptance of the difference and changes that have occurred in family's lives..



Regular coffee groups were held throughout the region - 7 in South Auckland, and also 3 in West Auckland, 1 in East Auckland and 2 on the North Shore. The AGM was combined with a Family afternoon at Youhtown which saw a record number of members attend. Another success was the Christmas Party held at Lynfield Recreation Centre. This venue appealed to a good range of ages, and the guest appearance of Vesna Radnovich (hearing impaired Waka Ama champion) was a real inspiration for lots of members. There were also many other social opportunities offered: glow-in-the-dark mini-golf, annual picnic, Santa parade, Tip-top factory tour, theatre shows and Koru Cruise to name a few.

One of the most exciting developments of the year was the establishment of the C2 Youth Club. In February 2009, the Pindrop Foundation and the Hearing House joined together to set up a social youth group for teenagers and pre-teens with cochlear implants. Over time the group evolved, and in October 2010, APODC partnered with the Hearing House to make the group open to our members as well, providing a group that caters for youth with any level of hearing loss, using either oral and/or visual communication.



Our goal is to provide a platform that enables these youth to realise their full potential, and to feel good about themselves and their place in the world. The group gives them the opportunity to meet others like them, to develop their confidence and social skills, and to regularly engage in fun & challenging activities. All activities are run through YouthTown, who provide both instructors and a safe



and supportive environment. 2010 activities included a drum workshop, craft and kayaking.



Two Visual Communication classes were run in 2010 as a result of the generous funding of COGS (Community Organisation Grants Scheme) Manukau. Many thanks to Rachel Coppage & Shona McGhie who were the wonderful tutors for these classes. The beginners class was open to parents, children and extended whanau. Feedback from the families who attended was very positive and we will be looking to run another family class in 2011 on the North Shore.

Another big success of 2010 was the launch of our website in May 2010. With more people looking to the internet to find information, this was seen as a vital step in making APODC more accessible to both current and potential members. Later in the year, the Parent Forum was added into the website, giving an opportunity for members to discuss current issues online. The work of website developer (and APODC member), James Pole, is gratefully acknowledged.

It was an absolute pleasure to award Lydia Hoby-Sharpe the APODC Scholarship at the end of 2010 as she has been an active and inspirational member for a number of years. Lydia is very passionate about her writing and applied for the Scholarship to enable her to complete three writing courses. We know that she will put the skills she learns to good use as she is currently writing a book for teenagers with disabilities on how to deal with bullying, as well as writing a novel and continuing to write the "Teen Column" of our Advocate newsletter.



# Youth: Research Results

## Presidents Report continued ...

The Advocate and Update both continued to maintain their excellent publication standard. Three issues of The Advocate, our informative hard-copy newsletter, went out to around 250 people, including members, Advisors on Deaf Children (AODCs), Resource Teachers of the Deaf (RTDs), Deaf Aotearoa, The Hearing House, National Foundation for the Deaf and other parent groups. The email Update kept members, AODCs & RTDs informed on a regular basis in between-times.

We have continued to be strong advocates for our members. A representative from Kelston Deaf Education Centre (KDEC) has been regularly coming to our committee meetings. We have made links with the Auckland Advisors of Deaf Children and have spoken at Teacher of the Deaf training courses. We have a representative on the Deaf Advocate Reference Group and Counties-Manukau District Health Board Reference Group (around newborn hearing screening). In July 2010, we made a submission for the Review of Deaf Education.

As our camps are bi-annual, no family camp was held in 2010. However, planning for the 2011 camp got underway, with a decision being made to hold the camp closer to home in Henderson. It promises to be another very worthwhile weekend of fun, networking and upskilling so we hope to see many members attend

### Financial

APODC would like to thank the following sponsors for their financial support in 2010.

ASB Community Trust	\$ for Development Coordinator
COGS Auckland (granted July'09)	\$ for Development Coordinator
COGS Manukau (granted July'09)	\$ for Coffee groups & Visual Communication classes
NZ Lotteries Board	\$ for Development Coordinator, interpreters, newsletter
Pub Charities	\$ for Laptop

In a year that was challenging for many not-for-profit organisations, the money received from these funders was invaluable. As our own reserves in Term investments come to an end, we will be looking to apply for increased funding in the coming year.

### Thanks

Our thanks go to the wonderful NZSL interpreters who have worked with us over the last year, and also the NZSL students who have attended various events.

I would like to personally thank our committee for all the time, effort and support that they have given to APODC over the last year, and wish the new committee every success for 2011/2012.

Janet Baillie  
President

At the end of 2010, Deaf Aotearoa carried out a study into the opinions & views of young deaf people in NZ aged 12-24 years. This was the first stage of Project Energise - a project designed to develop a sustainable programme of deaf awareness and leadership for young deaf people.

The aims of the study were to:

1. provide an insight of their well-being as a young deaf person
2. identify the most important course components in deaf awareness and leadership, and
3. investigate the best practices for developing a course in deaf awareness and leadership.

The findings were divided into 3 main themes:

1. Difficulties associated with being deaf
  - Identity: those in the 12-18 yr age group
2. Issues and Access
  - Social Access
  - Communication
  - Hearing people's views
  - Access to information
  - Confidence
3. Interest in Leadership and Deaf Awareness.

The findings revealed that young deaf people displayed some negative feelings that undermined their social and emotional well-being. Communication was the main barrier that prevented them from participating in the wider society. They want to learn how to be more confident, how to be independent, improve communication skills, have more information about career opportunities and international deaf youth. The majority of them wanted to learn new skills including leadership, participate in fun activities and meeting other young deaf people.

From these findings and the examination of previous research, the following recommendations were developed:

1. Appoint a Youth Co-ordinator for Deaf Youth NZ to: Develop & improve working relationships with deaf-related & relevant hearing organisations; Build stronger networks with the Deaf Education Centres and mainstreamed schools; Establish Deaf Youth NZ Camp event; Establish and increase social contact of Deaf youth from the Deaf community with mainstreamed hearing impaired students in NZ; Promote International Deaf Youth ; Establish Deaf Youth NZ Website ; Establish & promote relevant courses for deaf youth
2. A group of potential young deaf leaders to work with the Youth Co-ordinator to establish a working group so they can be part of, influence, and be involved in decision making to represent Deaf youth in NZ.

Step 1 is already underway with the position of Youth Co-ordinator advertised and to be appointed shortly.

If you are interested in reading the full research report, please contact Sue at APODC, email [enquiries@apodc.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@apodc.org.nz) or ph 307-2922 & leave a

# IEP's & how you can make the most of them

Our recent workshop on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) was an excellent presentation by Judith Sosich, and one which gave many helpful ideas for making them IEPs more effective.

## Why do we have IEPs?

- The Education Plan for most school students is set out in the National Curriculum. However, for some students, including our deaf and hearing impaired children, something extra needs to happen for them to be able to access and achieve the curriculum. This is what is set out in an IEP.
- All Ongoing Resource Scheme (ORS) funded children have an IEP.
- You can request an IEP if you think your child would benefit from extra support.

## Who should be involved?

- It is a collaborative approach, including the relevant school staff, specialists, parent/s and student
- The most important person at the IEP meeting is the parent – you know your child best!
- The parent can bring along a support person if they feel the need
- The student can be involved in part or all of the IEP meeting, depending on their age, how they how feel about attending and what is to be covered. A good idea for younger children is to have them attend just the first 5 minutes of the meeting and state their goals. As they get older, they can take more part.

## What should an IEP have in it?

- The IEP should be a “strengths-based” document, based on the strengths of the student. It should show:
  - What the child can do now
  - What the next step is
  - How that next step will happen (e.g. what resources or equipment are needed, what changes need to be made etc)
  - Who will do the work (including us as parents)
  - How long it will take to achieve or until it is reassessed
- The IEP is a powerful document and needs to be robust.

## What should happen before an IEP meeting?

- You should have 3-4 weeks notice of an IEP meeting, with a clear agenda and an identified facilitator. This enables you to be prepared and to know whether it is appropriate for your child to attend or not.
- Share reports and ideas in advance.
- You can ask for it to be held at a different time or venue if it is inconvenient for you. Remember, it is very important that you attend if possible.
- Talk to your child and understand what is really going on for them. As they get older, they can write down what they feel or any concerns. This can be shared at the meeting as appropriate.
- Look at the previous IEP to see what has been achieved and what still needs work.
- Write notes for yourself so you don't forget at the meeting! Include what you think your child should learn. Share this with any support person attending the IEP with you.

## What should happen at an IEP meeting?

- The facilitator's job is to make sure that everyone gets an equal opportunity to speak and no-one dominates
- Find solutions to resourcing issues

## What should happen after an IEP meeting?

- Ask for a photocopy of the draft IEP before you leave.
- A copy of the final IEP should be given to you in a timely manner (1-2 weeks). This should be checked against the draft
- Encourage staff to contact you if they want to discuss anything
- Make sure you complete any tasks you agreed to do
- If you are unhappy, first contact the meeting facilitator or Principal. If concerns are still not resolved, follow the schools Complaint Procedure or contact the Ministry of Education office or an advocacy service for advice.

## How often should you have an IEP meeting?

- Two times a year, or more frequently if required

## Role of a Support Person

- Meet with you beforehand, especially if there are issues that are difficult to talk about
- Provide moral support at the meeting. They don't have to say anything but can speak alongside you
- Provide information about systems, expectations and processes
- Debrief with you after the meeting
- Provide advice or assistance on complaints process

## Useful resources /websites

### *IHC; A Pocket Sized Guide to IEPs*

[www.ihc.org.nz](http://www.ihc.org.nz) then click on Advocacy. The Guide will be listed under Resources

### *Ministry of Education; IEP Guidelines*

[www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/SpecialEducation/FormsAndGuidelines/IEPGuidelines.aspx](http://www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/SpecialEducation/FormsAndGuidelines/IEPGuidelines.aspx)

### *Kelston Deaf Education Centre; IEP pamphlets*

### *KiwiFamilies; Article on IEPs*

<http://kiwifamilies.co.nz/Topics/Education/Special+Education.html>

*Parent to Parent training* (free to parents of a child with special needs, disability or health impairment)

- 2 day Advocacy course
- 4 hour IEP workshop

See [www.parent2parent.org.nz](http://www.parent2parent.org.nz) or email [auckland@parent2parent.org.nz](mailto:auckland@parent2parent.org.nz) for planned course dates/venues in Auckland

# HELP & SUPPORT for your family

## **Work & Income**

### **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,  
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 2011, 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.org.nz](http://www.deaf.org.nz)

### **Auckland:**

1836 Great North Rd  
Avondale  
ph. 820-1280 or 828-3282  
email: [auckland@deaf.org.nz](mailto:auckland@deaf.org.nz)

### **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)



# APODC FAMILY CAMP

## 11-13 NOV 2011

**CAREY PARK  
HENDERSON**

Yes, it's true ... the long-awaited bi-annual camp is on this year ... and you don't want to miss it!

Activities for the weekend are still being finalised, but will include:

Kayaking	Flying Fox	Pre-school fun
Archery	Rock-climbing	
Waterslide	Parent Workshop	& more ...



This is the best opportunity of the year to connect with & learn from other families.

**COST: just \$75\* per family!!**

\* This heavily subsidised cost is for Full Members of APODC. Associate members (without deaf or hearing impaired children) are very welcome to attend camp at full cost – please contact Sue if you are interested & she will work out the cost for your family.



Accommodation at Carey Park is all in small cabins, i.e. you may be sharing with another family.

To make sure you don't miss out, fill in & return the enclosed registration form with your non-refundable payment as soon as possible.

NZSL interpreters will be available for the entire camp.

*Spaces limited and filling fast, so make sure you let Sue know if your family wants to come.*

## Transition Expo 2011 – the progression from school to community life

### Thursday 7 July, 9am-2:30pm

Hosted by Parent & Family Resource Centre (PFRC) & Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

The Transition Expo features most Auckland Transition Providers and an array of leisure, recreation, sports and information providers. Transition providers are contracted by the MSD to facilitate a smooth progression from school to community life for a young person with a disability who is ORS (Ongoing Resourcing Scheme) funded. In their final years at school transition coordinators help the student with a disability, their family and education professionals from the school to decide upon an appropriate community placement for post-school life. This is an important decision for any young person and requires planning and knowledge.

This Expo is suitable for all students aged between 14-21 years who are ORS funded, parents, family members, caregivers, education experts, careers advisors, school transition coordinators, teachers and all those involved in the care of a young adult with a disability.

Transition Providers and 'leisure' providers will each have a stall providing information, pamphlets, booklets, DVD's and promotional material. Representatives from each organisation will be available for advice, including WINZ and Ministry of Education. There will also be presentations given by each Transition Provider demonstrating their point of difference and philosophy. Although this Expo is aimed at ORS funded students, all students with a disability and those involved in the disability sector would benefit from information available on the day. A cafeteria will be open for purchase of food and drinks.

Venue: AMI Netball Centre  
7 Allison Ferguson Drive  
St. Johns, Auckland

Please contact PFRC for further information on (09) 636-0351 or pfradmin@pfrc.org.nz



# UPCOMING EVENTS...



## C2 Club ROCK CLIMBING

SATURDAY 25 JUNE  
1.00 – 4.00PM

Come Indoor Rock Climbing with the C2 Club.

Indoor Rock Climbing is challenging fun for everyone, even if you are a complete beginner.

Maximum for this event is 15 participants. To secure your place please RSVP to [Elena@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Elena@xtra.co.nz) or call 0272549442.

No sandals or jandals, please wear closed toe shoes.

Drop off and pick up at YouthTown, 68a Nelson St, Auckland City

The C2 Club for deaf and hearing impaired 10 -17 year olds is sponsored by the Hearing House and Auckland Parents of Deaf Children.



## 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, 2 – 3:30pm  
18<sup>th</sup> June  
25<sup>th</sup> June  
9<sup>th</sup> July  
16<sup>th</sup> July

*Sessions are stand-alone so don't worry if you can't make them all*

**Where?** PHAB Building  
8 Auburn St  
Takapuna

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)



## Roller Skating Sun 21 Aug

10:30am – 12:30pm

You're invited to join us for a family morning of fun. We've booked out the skating rink at Mt Wellington so this is a great chance for everyone to have a go without worrying about the big crowds or making a fool of themselves!

**Cost:** \$5 per family (for Full APODC members)  
Associate members or friends welcome to attend at the discounted price of \$7 per person.

**Venue:** Skateland  
66 Mountain Rd  
Mt Wellington

**RSVP:** to Sue by 12 Aug, email [enquiries@apodc.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@apodc.org.nz) or ph 302-2922 & leave a message



## South Auckland Coffee Group

Parent coffee groups are a great way to meet other mums and dads while the children play.

**Sunday 10 July**

**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.

*If you know of any other venue in South Auckland where we could hold a coffee group, please contact Sue or let one of the coordinators of the South*

*-8- Coffee group know.*