# Blind Foundation news July 2017

Welcome to your Blind Foundation News update for July 2017.

This update includes New Zealand joining the Marrakesh Treaty, how well we did on Bikkie Day and a Waikato mid-winter luncheon. It also includes the launch of a new brochure, expecting some international visitors and upcoming Equipment Display Dates.

If there is anything within this update that you would like to know more about then please get in touch with the communications team, whose details are at the end of this update.

## Marrakesh Treaty

* The Marrakesh Treaty is an international treaty which will make it easier for those countries which join it to share accessible publications with each other.
* Up until now, it has been very difficult and sometimes not legal to share accessible versions of publications between countries. This has meant that popular titles, such as the Harry Potter books, are produced in accessible formats by several countries. This duplication is a waste of precious resources.
* The Marrakesh Treaty is designed to address that problem head on by putting in place a process by which such publications can be shared legally between countries, once certain conditions are met.
* In June, and as a result of the advocacy work undertaken by the Foundation, Blind Citizens and many others, the Government announced that New Zealand will be joining the treaty, once the necessary amendments to our domestic copyright law have been passed by Parliament. In practice this means we can expect New Zealand to join the treaty sometime next year. Australia, Canada and more than 25 other countries have already joined, with the US and the EU expected to follow next year.
* The result will be easier access to more content for blind and other print disabled people in New Zealand.
* The Foundation will continue to work with Government as the process for joining the treaty is followed, and will be supporting efforts by Government, the rights-holder sector and other disability organisations to put in place processes which will guide the day-to-day implementation of post-Marrakesh arrangements.

# International Visitors - Japanese Youth Group

* A delegation of Japanese young people who are blind or have low vision are coming to New Zealand as part of their life enrichment programme.
* They will visit the Blind Foundation in Auckland on Friday, 11 August. They will have a tour of Guide Dogs in the morning before a shared lunch at Awhina house with our NZ EPIC Youth Group.
* They will then be billeted to home stay families to experience Auckland for the weekend. On Monday they travel to Rotorua and embark on the full Maori cultural experience including a Marae stay.
* They return to Auckland mid-week and fly back to Japan. This is the start of an exciting International exchange opportunity – of life enrichment.

# Bikkie Day

* Last year was the biggest Bikkie Day ever for the Blind Foundation and we raised $64,000. This year so far we have raised $100,000 for Bikkie Day.
* The fundraising team was at 2Degrees yesterday, and they had a highly competitive Bikkie Day. There was a young girl who had baked a life size puppy bikkie and she won the best bikkie.
* They really got into it, as did Air New Zealand, who also had a number of staff across the country participating. Thank you to everyone who baked and ate for Bikkie Day.

### Launch of the Protect Your Eyesight brochure

* The launch of the Pacific Services brochure: Protect Your Eyesight was held on Friday, 30 June at the Blind Foundation office in Fale.
* This publication is available in Niuean, Tongan, Samoan and Cook Island Māori, as well as English.

### Waikato mid-winter luncheon

* The Blind Foundation recently hosted a mid-winter luncheon at The Verandah Café and Function Centre along Hamilton’s Lake Rotoroa.
* Everyone enjoyed a delicious mid-winter roast whilst catching up with friends or making new ones.
* The special feature of the day was having Blind Foundation client Stephen Bennett provide the entertainment on his keyboard. The music was inspiring and was enjoyed so much by everyone there.

### Winter Camp

* 10 young clients, aged seven to 11, five Blind Foundation staff members and four parents experienced the 2017 Winter Camp.
* From trying new foods, activities and making new friends, all participants achieved their goals.

## Staff profile

* This month we get to know Veta Endermann, Service Support Manager and Pacific Island Cultural Advisor based at Fale Kotuku.
* Veta manages the Pacific Services and Awareness teams. She is also responsible for collecting information and preparing Client Satisfaction Survey reports on a monthly basis. Veta answers queries relating to Pacific Island clients and talks to clients who visit Fale or call her for assistance. She also liaises with the Pacific Island service providers. Veta provides support and guidance to the team and gives cultural advice when needed.
* Veta has worked at the Blind Foundation for an impressive 16 years. A particular work highlight for her was the recent launch of the Pacific Island Brochure 'Protect Your Eyesight'. The brochures come in four Pacific Island languages: Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island and Niuean. Veta explains: 'This is the first time we have been able to do this, when funding was made available last year'. Veta is very proud of the work her team does to support the Pacific Island clients to achieve their goals.
* Veta enjoys working at the Blind Foundation because of the lovely and beautiful people that work here. In particular, her team at Fale, who she says are very committed and have great hearts.
* Before working at the Blind Foundation, Veta managed the Manukau branch of Workbridge for seven years.
* Veta's hobbies include reading, watching good family movies and spending time with family and friends.

## Equipment Display Days

The following equipment display days are for now until the end of September 2017. As these may be subject to change, please call your local Blind Foundation office to confirm details.

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| Area | Venue | Date and time |
| Dunedin | Blind Foundation Dunedin Office, Corner Hillside Road and Law Streets, Dunedin. | 15 August, 10:30 – 12:30. |
| Rangiora | Knox Presbyterian Church, Corner High and King Street, Rangiora. | 17 August, 11am – 1pm. |
| Levin | Senior Citizens Hall, Cambridge Street, Levin. | 6 September, 1pm – 3pm. |
| Upper Hutt | Blind Foundation Wellington Office, 121 Adelaide Road, Newtown, Wellington. | 20 September, 11:30 – 2pm. |
| Invercargill | Blind Foundation Invercargill Office, 172 Queens Drive, Richmond, Invercargill. | 26 September, 1pm to 3pm. |
| Hamilton | Hamilton Social Centre, 15 Liverpool Street, Hamilton.  | 27 September, 10am – 12pm. |

For further information on any of the above, please contact the Communications Team at comms@blindfoundation.org.nz or 0800 24 33 33.