**Blind Foundation news September 2017**

Welcome to your Blind Foundation News update for September 2017.

This update includes the engagement roadshows, the Access Matters campaign and a new podcast. It also includes Blind Week, the 7 Day Challenge 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 Marketing team, whose details are at the end of this update.

# Engagement Roadshows

* This year’s roadshows started this week on Tuesday in New Lynn.
* We are set to go to sixteen places in total with a mix of clients, volunteers and support people. It is a great opportunity to talk with Board Chair Rick Hoskin, Board Directors, Chief Executive Sandra Budd and members of the leadership team.
* These are such an important part of what we do and it is always great to have direct feedback on what clients want to hear, and what support they need from us. The sessions are open and robust and we always learn from them.
* The Communities and Life Enrichment Team and the National Contact Centre are just two of the areas that were born out of going and talking to the people we are here for.
* It is also great for us to hear the positive impact from service people and about our teams.
* Details on the roadshows are available on the events section of our website - blindfoundation.org.nz/events/.

# Chairman’s Award 2017

* The time has come to put forward candidates for the Chairman’s Award 2017.
* The award will be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Blind Foundation, to be held on Saturday, 11 November 2017 in Hamilton. The award comprises a trophy to be held for one year, a cheque for the sum of $500 and a framed certificate.
* The award is for a registered member who has demonstrated an outstanding level of achievement in any field of endeavours.
* Please send in your nominations to Jane Moore, Board Secretary, before 4pm on Friday, 13 October. You can phone her on 09355 6894 or email jamoore@blindfoundation.org.nz.

# Access Matters: Three down, three to go

* This last week has been a huge one in our quest for a truly accessible Aoteaora New Zealand, where everyone can get into the workforce, have a good life, and fully take part in our society.
* We now have the support of the Labour, Green and Maori parties – this is a major achievement. We also know that the other parties are close and we think that with a bit more pressure at this crucial time, they can be convinced to join us.
* Earlier this month, the Blind Foundation invited international expert, David Lapofsky to New Zealand to help boost our campaign.
* David toured the country; sharing his story of how he lobbied the Canadian government for change and discussed the role of legislation in driving and creating social change for a more accessible Aoteora. David shared his insights into what New Zealand and The Access Alliance can do to reach our goal of accessibility legislation in New Zealand with mandatory and enforceable standards.
* The Access Alliance has achieved in six months, what it took David and his peers, years to achieve in Canada.
* David thinks that New Zealand can adopt what he terms a “buffet” dining approach, by picking up aspects of Canadian accessibility legislation that has worked well, to improve access for people with disabilities across the board.
* Following David’s visit, the Blind Foundation launched an online tool showing how many people are likely to experience access issues in New Zealand.
* We’re so close to achieving a major milestone for this campaign and a massive step forward for disability rights.

# Marketing Team Podcast

* We are in the process of creating a Blind Foundation podcast. It will tell the stories of clients around the country, and we need your help.
* We’re looking for clients to come on the show. If you, or a client you know is willing to give an interview about their adventures (whether epic or every day) or write their story down for us to record, please get in touch. Everyone has a story, and we are keen to talk to people from all around New Zealand.
* If you’re interested, please email Ellen Boucher at eboucher@blindfoundation.org.nz.

# Online Voting

* Last week we launched a mini-campaign to raise awareness and encourage more members to vote in the 2017 Board Elections.
* Voting starts on Thursday, 5 October and ends on Friday, 3 November (the last day to vote).
* This year, as part of our commitment to making the voting process easier and to empower our clients with more choice, we're introducing online voting and have created a voting website. We have 76 people registered to use online voting this year.
* You can visit to Blind Foundation Elections website at rnzfbelections.org.nz.

# Milk 4 Good raised $10,000 for Guide Dogs

* This month we accepted a generous donation from Meadow Fresh, as part of its Milk 4 Good campaign.
* In July, the Meadow Fresh team took their Milk 4 Good truck on its Auckland goodness tour. It visited shopping malls, night markets and sports grounds, collecting money for not-for-profit foundations.
* The public gave gold coin donations to Blind Foundation Guide Dogs and, in return, they received a one litre bottle of Meadow Fresh milk. $10,000 was raised for Guide Dogs.
* We would like to thank all of the Blind Foundation volunteers who helped out with Milk 4 Good.

# Blind Week Update

* Blind Week is just around the corner and will soon be hitting the streets, letter boxes, newspapers, magazines and digital devices across the country. Our Blind Week campaign aims to raise awareness and money for the Blind Foundation by telling the stories of our people and by encouraging the public to donate.
* We currently have 1,500 volunteers registered to collect for our nationwide street appeal. Look out for them on a street corner or in a mall near you on Friday, 6 and Saturday, 7 October.
* From late September we’ll be promoting Blind Week in a number of magazines including the Listener, TV Guide, Women’s Weekly and Readers Digest.
* And we’ll be contacting our existing and potential supporters via the post, email and online and encouraging them to support our appeal.
* Thanks to everyone who has supported the campaign so far, whether by volunteering or helping us find clients who want to share their story. If you’re interested in getting involved, visit blindweek.org.nz.

# 7 Day Challenge

* The 7 Day Challenge is all set ready to go from Wednesday, 1 to Tuesday, 7 November. Seven clients have been selected and will be supported by seven volunteers. Starting in Tauranga on 1 November, the team will travel 700 km’s. Every day there will be a new challenge and the team will finish in Wellington seven days later.
* There is an opportunity for all clients to take on their own 7 day challenge. It could be anything they want to do that challenges them, and we can support it. We will highlight their challenges on our Facebook alongside updates from the 7.
* Staff can also join in. What challenges do you want to take on? Let’s make this an event to be remembered from 1 to 7 November.

## Staff profile

* This month we get to know Kingsley Sivewright, Administrator based in Napier. Kingsley is the point of contact for members and staff at a local level. He directs information and processes within the Blind Foundation and public arenas.
* A typical day for Kingsley involves answering queries around membership, accessing services and identifying which services are available. It also involves showing, demonstrating and displaying products. He checks information and updates databases, files, banking and the mail, to ensure that our teams have the right information. Kingsley also processes equipment orders and, most importantly, ensures a safe, efficient and friendly environment.
* Kingsley has worked at the Blind Foundation for five months. He enjoys seeing the difference our services make, particularly for new members. Kingsley really likes being part of a great team, who make a difference to clients' lives.
* Kingsley's hobbies include playing sports, listening to music and vegetable gardening.

## Equipment Display Days

The following equipment display days are for now until the end of October 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 |
| 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](mailto:comms@blindfoundation.org.nz) or 0800 24 33 33.