# C:\Users\CLong\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\BF logo 400x400 for facebook profile.pngBlind Foundation News December 2017

Welcome to your Blind Foundation News update for December 2017.

This update includes information about the new Blind Foundation podcast: ‘Perspectives’, the 2018 Retina Congress lunchtime lecture and technology advances. It also includes a new interactive audiobook and an updated Blind Foundation website.

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.

# Perspectives – Blind Foundation podcast – Chantelle Griffiths / Mike Lloyd.

* The Blind Foundation has produced a brand new podcast, ‘Perspectives: Stories from New Zealand’s blind and low vision community’, and the first two episodes are now available.
* The aim of the podcast is to connect those who are blind or have low vision, along with their supporters, across the country. The podcast will present what the Blind Foundation does to empower clients to live independent lives. It also reflects the full spectrum of life - to show that people who are blind or low vision have the same aspirations and desires as anyone else, that they can enjoy the same pastimes and do the same jobs.
* The podcast team will be discussing all kinds of subjects, including ones that don’t get a lot of airtime - like dating. We want to give answers to the things people may be curious about but afraid to ask about, and most of all show Kiwis who are blind or low vision that they’re not alone.
* You can access the podcast via [Itunes](https://itunes.apple.com/nz/podcast/perspectives-stories-from-new-zealands-blind-low-vision/id1320712234), [Stitcher](https://www.stitcher.com/s?fid=159753&refid=stpr) and [BookLink](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/how-we-can-help/library/get-the-booklink-app/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Weekly+Round-Up+8+December&utm_content=blindfoundation.org.nz%2Fhow-we-can-help%2Flibrary%2Fget-the-booklink-app%2F&utm_source=onetomany.cumulo9.com) (in the Audio Magazines section).
* The first episode is all about audio-described theatre and the second episode is about Christmas. If you enjoy the podcast, it would really help the podcast team if you can put a [short review and rating in iTunes.](https://itunes.apple.com/nz/podcast/perspectives-stories-from-new-zealands-blind-low-vision/id1320712234?mt=2) Positive reviews and ratings help bump up visibility and get the podcast in front of more people.

**Retina Congress – free public lunchtime lecture –** Sandra Budd

* As a proud sponsor of the 20th Retina International World Congress, the Blind Foundation is pleased to be hosting a public lunchtime lecture presenting international perspectives on vision rehabilitation, at the event in Auckland on Saturday 10 February.
* The free lecture will discuss vision rehabilitation and its benefits for people with vision loss. It will also look at the trends in policy, practice and advocacy.
* Dianne Rogers, Policy and Advocacy Manager, has lined up experts in vision rehabilitation from Australia, Canada, Israel and New Zealand to speak.
* Registrations are required, so if you would like to go please see the Blind Foundation website for more details and to fill out the online form.

**Blind Foundation website refresh**

* The navigation has changed, along with the styling. You can now visit different sections using drop-down menus at the top of the page.
* Each section now has a 'landing page'- a main page which tells users a little bit about what they can find on each webpage within that section, to help people who like to browse to get around the site and find what they need.
* The 'contact us' section is also different- on the 'get in touch' page, you'll now find a contact form. This allows people to choose what they want to contact us about, and their message will then be sent to the relevant person to deal with their enquiry.
* We've renamed some pages and sections to make it more obvious what people can find there. We've also rearranged the website to group things more logically.
* Nothing on the web is set in stone, so we'll be continuing to make improvements to the site as we go, taking on board feedback from users. We have done some testing and will do more with clients in the new year, all of which will inform further changes and enhancements on the site.
* Our vision is for the site to be the go-to place for clients, their friends and family to find out about what we can do for them.

**Blind Foundation co-produces the first accessible interactive audiobook in New Zealand**

* [Sonnar Interactive](http://sonnar.nz/) has been working with the Blind Foundation to produce accessible video games and apps. They have just launched their first interactive audiobook app for children called [Twisted Tales](http://sonnar.nz/twisted-tales/).
* Twisted Tales is available on [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.Sonnar.RedRidingHood) and iTunes. The new app puts its own spin on two tales: [Little Red Riding Hood](http://sonnar.nz/portfolio/red-riding-hood/) and [Hansel & Gretel](http://sonnar.nz/portfolio/hansel-gretel/). It lets listeners become involved in the interactive audio stories, by allowing them to make choices to lead the story to multiple alternative endings. [Read more about it on our website.](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/tech-innovation/blind-foundation-co-produces-first-accessible-interactive-audiobook-new-zealand-people-blind-low-vision/)

**Outlook Summer 2017 Magazine is out now**

* Read about the new podcast 'Perspectives' and get updates on other key projects and activities. Be inspired by amazing people, such as member Ocean Stephens raising thousands for Blind Foundation Guide Dogs.
* You can find the PDF, Word document and e-text file of Outlook available on our website – www.blindfoundation.org.nz/news-events/our-publications/

**Auckland Arts Festival 2018 offers discounted accessibility tickets**

* Auckland Arts Festival has launched an outstanding accessible programme for March 2018, including a $20 ticket price for accessible shows.
* The colourful line-up for the festival’s accessible programme includes:
	+ **Two Audio described performances with Touch Tours:** Akram Khan’s Giselle and George Orwell’s 1984
	+ **Two Touch Tours with written notes of audio description:** Jack Charles V The Crown and From Scratch.
* Tickets for people who are blind or have low vision are offered at a discounted rate of up to 80% at $20 each for the individual and one companion.
* To request a booking form, email access@aaf.co.nz or phone 09 374 0310. Book early as some events have limited capacity.

## [New Issue Brief calls for more Asia-Pacific countries to join the Marrakesh Treaty](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/blind-foundation-updates/new-issue-brief-calls-asia-pacific-countries-join-marrakesh-treaty-ahead-international-day-persons-disabilities/)

* The Asia-Pacific region calls on all countries to join the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.
* The Issue Brief was made in the run-up to the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Sunday 3 December.
* While the Asia-Pacific region is estimated to have the world’s largest number of persons with blindness and moderate to severe visual impairment, only seven countries in the region have joined so far. The New Zealand government has acceded to the treaty, however New Zealand will not become a participating country until an amendment has been made to the Copyright Act 1994. [Read the Issue Brief and more on our website.](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/blind-foundation-updates/new-issue-brief-calls-asia-pacific-countries-join-marrakesh-treaty-ahead-international-day-persons-disabilities/)

## Equipment Display Days

Following are the next equipment display days up until the end of February 2018. As the details may be subject to change, please call your local Blind Foundation office to confirm.

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| Area | Venue | Date and time |
| Invercargill | Invercargill Blind Foundation office. | 20 February 2018TBC |
| Hokitika | All Saints Church Lounge, 57 Bealey Street, Hokitika. | 27 February 201810.30am – 1pm |
| Greymouth | Uniting Church, 203 Tainui Street, Greymouth. | 28 February 201810.30am – 1pm |

The Blind Foundation would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For further information on any of the above, please contact the Marketing Team at communications@blindfoundation.org.nz or 0800 24 33 33.