# Kōrero – 29 August 2019

**Adaptive tech training helps in emergency**

Photograph caption: Elizabeth East, smiling

Learning how to use voice over on her smartphone enabled Elizabeth East to call 111 in an emergency.

[Read Elizabeth’s story.](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/our-stories/elizabeth-east/)

## **People**

**Blind Foundation needs wider funding base**

Photograph caption: Rick Hoskin, RNZFB Board Chair, smiling.

Rick Hoskin, RNZFB Board Chair, wrote in the New Zealand Herald about why we need more revenue streams than donations alone.

[Read his comment republished on our website.](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/blind-foundation-updates/funding-base/)

**Update from the National Federation of the Blind Conference**

Photograph caption: Martine Abel-Williamson, smiling.

Martine Abel-Williamson, World Blind Union Treasurer, attended and presented at the National Federation of the Blind conference in Las Vegas.

[Read about her experience at the conference.](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/community/martine-abel-williamson/)

## **Insider’s Tip: WayAround app and labels**

Are you looking for a solution for labeling items around your home, work or place of study? Thomas Bryan, Blind Foundation Technology Advisor, talks to Jessica from the WayAround app in his latest Tech Podcast episode. The app provides on-demand details about everyday things. Jessica gives details and a demonstration on how to use the app.

* [Listen to Thomas’ podcast here](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/tech-innovation/tech-podcast-episode-2/)
* [Find out more about the WayAround app on the Blind Foundation shop.](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/shop/stationery-and-labelling/labelling/waylink/)

## **In Brief**

* **Assistance voting available in Auckland.** Improved assistance voting practices have been established for community members who are blind or have low vision to vote in the Auckland local body elections. Candidate information will be available on our Telephone Information Service (TIS). Voting happens 20 September – 12 October. **To make an assistance vote call 0800 922 822** and you will be connected with a trained staff member who will make your vote in strict confidence. If you live outside Auckland and assistance voting isn’t available in your area, it might be an advocacy opportunity to let your council know that you would like the option to contribute equally in democracy. Local body politicians make decisions that affect everyone in the community so it is important that we have access to have our say.
* **Survey on moving to a cashless society**. The Royal Bank of NZ is consulting with the public and interested organisations on ‘the future of cash’. The idea is that New Zealand could be moving to a cashless society which could have implications on people who are blind or have low vision and those who do not have easy access to the internet. [Take the survey to have your say](https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/notes-and-coins/future-of-cash/issues-paper-the-future-of-cash) – they’re calling for feedback by 31 August.
* **Feedback wanted on AT HOP card tag-on and tag-off sounds.** Are you a public transport user in Auckland? [Give your feedback to Auckland Transport on their proposed tag-on and tag-off sounds.](https://aucklandtransport.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0BbLJGiM6gcWflj?Source=BF)
* **Opportunities to get involved.** We currently have two fundraising initiatives that you are welcome to take part in. If free falling through the air and skydiving at locations around the country is more your cup of tea, you could sign up for our [Blind Foundation skydive fundraiser](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/blind-foundation-skydive-2019/) or if you are an avid runner, you could take part in the [Auckland Marathon](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/get-involved/fundraise-for-us/auckland-marathon/).
* **Are you an 8 – 21 year old avid sportsperson?** Parafed Auckland have a pre-training programme for the Halberg Games.[Find out more on their website.](http://www.parafedauckland.co.nz/teamakl)

## Noticeboard

**Do you love board games and live in Auckland?**

Join a newly formed board game group. They meet every third Wednesday of the month, 2-4pm with the next meeting on 18 September. Contact Hannah Jones, Blind Foundation Recreation and Community Assistant on 09 355 7180 or email HJones@blindfoundation.org.nz to join.

**News from the RNZFB Board**

* **The next RNZFB Board meeting is Saturday 31 August in Auckland.**Voting members are welcome to observe in person or by phone. For details contact Jane Moore, 09 355 6894 or email jamoore@blindfoundation.org.nz
* **Proposal to amend the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind Incorporated (RNZFB) rules.** A reminder that, at its July 2019 meeting, the RNZFB Board decided to ask Members to consider three small changes to the RNZFB Constitution which will allow the New Zealand public to attend the RNZFB Annual General Meetings as observers without needing to obtain permission. [Find out more on the governance page of our website](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/about-us/governance/) or contact Jane Moore on 09 355 6894 or email jamoore@blindfoundation.org.nz.
* **2019 Board Elections - Call for Nominations for Directors.** This year, three vacancies exist for the General Seats. Information about call for nominations to stand as a director was sent out to all voting members in their preferred format on Friday 16 August 2019. Nominations need to be received by 4pm on Friday 13 September.
* **Hear from the Candidates Session.** We’ll again be running a session to hear from the candidates standing in this year’s elections. The session will be held on Thursday 10 October 2019 and Members will be able to submit questions to the candidates in advance. Candidates’ responses will then be available via all audio formats. More details will be announced over the coming weeks on how you can be involved and participate in the event.
* Report on Feedback on Mandatory Policy 3.12 – Complaints, Grievances and their determination[. Read the report on the feedback on our website](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/about-us/governance/).

**[Check out our job opportunities at the Blind Foundation including:](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/current-vacancies)**

* [Graduate Policy Analyst](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a254a00000000BxAAI), Permanent/Full-time, Auckland – closes 6 September.
* [ACATS Trainer](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a254a000000009IAAQ), Permanent/Full-time, Fale, Wellington – closes 17 September.
* [Primary Service Provider - Southland](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a254a000000006OAAQ), Permanent/Part-time, Invercargill – closes 2 September.

## **Ka kite ano**

Photograph caption: Greg Hurn, smiling

I am delighted to say that John Mulka, our new Chief Executive is joining us in his new role this week. He brings 28 years of leadership experience and for the past 11 years he has held senior roles at CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind). – **Greg Hurn, Chief Financial Officer.**

[Read more about John on our website.](https://blindfoundation.org.nz/blind-foundation-updates/welcome-john/)

Please let us know what you think of Kōrero. We welcome suggestions for what you would like us to include, and of course any tips or stories you would like to share with the community. Get in touch on 0800 24 33 33 or via communications@blindfoundation.org.nz.