# Kōrero – 31 October 2019

**Our #AltTextForAll campaign**

[Photograph caption: Text reads ‘we stand for #AltTextForAll and an accessible internet for everyone’.]

Have you met Karen the screen reader yet? She has some sass and a fair bit to say about the lack of alt text describing images. Every day more than 6.6 billion images are shared to the internet, but for millions of people who are blind or have low vision sharing in these images is limited.

[Explore our #AltTextForAll campaign.](https://www.alttextforall.com/)

**Video: New Zealand joins the Marrakesh Treaty – a win for accessible information**

[Photograph caption: Geraldine Lewis, Library Manager, smiling.]

Geraldine Lewis, Library Manager, says joining the treaty on 3 October was a great day and one to celebrate. It will give Kiwis who are blind or have low vision, and those with print disabilities, easier and quicker access to information.

[Watch Geraldine explain what joining the treaty means for our community.](https://blindlowvision.org.nz/library/marrakesh-treaty/)

## **People**

**Video: Dean’s reconnection with books**

[Photograph caption: Dean Paddy sitting in front of his bookcase.]

Dean remains an avid reader since losing his vision and becoming a client of Blind & Low Vision NZ, giving him access to our accessible library.

[Find out how Dean reconnected with his books and his friends](https://www.alttextforall.com/services?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=lpv&utm_campaign=alttextforall&utm_content=broad_deanvideo&fbclid=IwAR3wAfp_HFNXw93AojT2akGFR9_-en2DyIOM_v2SLcQYdKkoeV0UH4izLQM)

**Video: Jenny learns adaptive living skills**

[Photograph caption: Jenny Taylor sitting on the couch smiling.]

When Jenny connected with Blind & Low Vision NZ after her vision deteriorated, she relearned how to do day-to-day things and it opened up her world.

[Watch Jenny’s story and see how adaptive equipment can help.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azKox95DzSg&t=174s)

## These stories were created as part of our #AltTextForAll campaign. You can also watch [Ese’s employment story](https://www.alttextforall.com/services?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=lpv&utm_campaign=alttextforall&utm_content=broad_deanvideo&fbclid=IwAR3wAfp_HFNXw93AojT2akGFR9_-en2DyIOM_v2SLcQYdKkoeV0UH4izLQM), [Sally’s counselling and adjustment story](https://www.alttextforall.com/services?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=lpv&utm_campaign=alttextforall&utm_content=broad_deanvideo&fbclid=IwAR3wAfp_HFNXw93AojT2akGFR9_-en2DyIOM_v2SLcQYdKkoeV0UH4izLQM), and [Sina’s getting around story](https://www.alttextforall.com/services?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=lpv&utm_campaign=alttextforall&utm_content=broad_deanvideo&fbclid=IwAR3wAfp_HFNXw93AojT2akGFR9_-en2DyIOM_v2SLcQYdKkoeV0UH4izLQM).

## **Insider’s Tip: Alt Text**

Every image you upload to the internet has accessible functionality called ‘alt text’. This enables anyone who uses technology such as screen readers to know what is contained in an image.

Check out our ‘how-to’ videos to learn how to add alt text to images, and share them with family and friends to help them make use of it too

* [How to use alt text on your Facebook images.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UL91NZ33Kek)
* [How to use alt text on your Instagram images.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdKrska3mbo)
* [How to use alt text on your Twitter images.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuurxkY7SIc)
* [How to use alt text on your LinkedIn images.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEkLc25Clzs)

## **In Brief**

* **Thomas Bryan’s tech podcast.** [The third episode of the technology podcast is out now.](https://blindlowvision.org.nz/podcast-show-notes/tech-podcast-episode-3/) In this episode, Thomas Bryan, technology advisor, demonstrates some new equipment including a medical alarm with a built in GPS and ScriptTalk, a talking prescription reader to help organise medication for someone who is blind or has low vision.
* **Keep footpaths for feet and mobility devices.** Living Streets Aotearoa, a coalition which we are a member of, has begun a petition asking the government to pass legislation to keep our footpaths safe for pedestrians. [Find out more about the petition](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/petitions/document/PET_91586/petition-of-lizi-guest-for-footpaths4feet-keep-footpaths), which has over 540 signatures so far. Help us by adding your signature and spreading the word!
* **Blind Week Street Collection.** Thumbs up to everyone who helped collect in the Blind Week Street collection 18 – 19 October. Our Fundraising team are counting the money and will let us know how much was raised when we have the totals.

## Noticeboard

* **Theatre:** [**Audio described performance of Les Miserables**](https://www.aucklandlive.co.nz/show/les-miserables#about-the-event). Watch this timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit at The Civic, Tuesday 19 November, 7.30pm.
* **Photography workshop.** Hone your photography skills on a camera or smart phone at the photography workshop, 11 November 2019, 1.30pm – 4.30pm at Awhina House, Auckland. If you’re interested, get in touch with Jon Scott, Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator, 09 355 6916 or [jscott@blindlowvision.org.nz](mailto:jscott@blindlowvision.org.nz).
* **Take part in research.** Phd student Nidhi Aggarwal, from the University of Auckland, is researching whether other senses become more acute for people who are blind or have low vision. Contact Nidhi [nagg190@aucklanduni.ac.nz](mailto:nagg190@aucklanduni.ac.nz) for more information.
* **Auckland Disability Law Workshop.** Attend a workshop on individualised funding and employing staff on 7 November, 10am – 3pm at CCS Disability Action. Email [info@adl.org.nz](mailto:info@adl.org.nz) for more information or to register.
* **Ballet:** [**Audio described performance of Hansel & Gretel**](https://rnzb.org.nz/access/audio-described-performances-2/)**.** Follow the breadcrumbs this Christmas with a performance coming to Wellington, 9 November, Christchurch, 23 November, Dunedin, 30 November and Auckland, 7 December**.**
* **Metlink bus network.** If you use public transport in Wellington, [you can sign up for updates on the review of the network here](https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/busreview).

**News from the RNZFB Board**

* **2019 Board Elections.** A reminder that voting members only have a few days left to cast your vote in this year’s Board elections. Your voting forms need to be received by 4pm on Monday 4 November. This is the same date for voting on the [proposed constitutional changes to the RNZFB rules allowing the public to attend the RNZFB AGMs](https://blindlowvision.org.nz/about-us/governance/).
* **Report on Annual Plan.** If you wish to receive a copy of the Report on the Annual Plan for the year ending 30 June 2019, please call the National Contact Centre on 0800 24 33 33.
* **The next RNZFB Board meeting is Friday 8 November in Whangarei.** Voting members are welcome to observe in person or by phone. For details contact Jane Moore on 09 355 6894 or email [jamoore@blindfoundation.org.nz](mailto:jamoore@blindfoundation.org.nz).
* **The 2019 Annual General Meeting will be held in Whangarei on Saturday 9 November.** The results of the Board elections will be announced at the AGM. Please contact the National Contact Centre on 0800 24 33 33 for more information on how you can join the meetings. [The AGM will also be live-streamed and you can watch here](https://blindfoundation.zoom.us/j/872607106?status=success).

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

* [Senior Librarian Children and Young Adults](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a254a00000000SoAAI) – Permanent/Full-time – Fale, Auckland – closes 1 November.
* [Rehabilitation Instructor](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a257F000001g7xdQAA) – Permanent/Full-time - Tauranga – closes 15 November.
* [Rehabilitation Instructor](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a257F000001g82iQAA), Permanent/Full-time, Fale, Auckland – closes 26 November.

## **Ka kite ano**

Photograph caption: John Mulka, smiling

Our #AltTextForAll campaign is ambitious – out of it we hope to see more people using alt text to make the way people share images more accessible and open up the way we communicate. I have been impressed to see people getting behind it and I hope you find it valuable too. - **John Mulka, Blind & Low Vision NZ Chief Executive.**

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@blindlowvision.org.nz](mailto:communications@blindlowvision.org.nz).