# Kōrero – 28 November 2019

**Trailblazing cyclist**

 [Photograph caption: Paul Glass and his tandem bike captain Russell Shanks cycling on a country road.]

It’s likely Paul Glass will be the first person who is blind to attempt the Tour Aotearoa – a 3000km cycle tour from Cape Reinga to the Bluff.

[Read how Paul wants to challenge people’s perceptions on what’s possible](https://blindlowvision.org.nz/our-stories/paul-glass/).

## **People**

**Artist Pinky Fang speaks out about access issues**

[Photograph caption: Pinky Fang, smiling.]

Pinky Fang spoke to RNZ about the access issues she faces with her guide dog Lyric, so that people would realise that in 2019 the world is still not fully accessible for people who are blind.

“I was frustrated that things that people take for granted were difficult for me and other guide dog handlers because of a lack of understanding and awareness about the access laws for guide dogs.”

[Read Pinky’s access story.](https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/2018723170/access-issues-for-blind-people-and-their-guide-dogs)

**Taryn on introducing accessibility legislation**

[Photograph caption: Taryn Banks wears an Access Alliance t-shirt and smiles.]

Taryn Banks works in Blind & Low Vision NZ’s Policy and Advocacy team, and is part of the Access Matters campaign.

[Read more about Taryn, next steps for the campaign, and how to get involved.](https://blindlowvision.org.nz/our-stories/taryn/?repeat=w3tc)

## **Insider’s Tip: Voice Over BookLink (iOS 13)**

If you’re a library member, you’ll know that you can access our library catalogue through an app called BookLink. We’ve had a few calls from library members using Apple devices that updating to iOS 13 has caused them some issues.

Here’s a document with a workaround put together by our library team in consultation with our library members.

**If you’re not a library member, but would like to be, contact us on 0800 24 33 33 or email info@blindlowvision.org.nz**

## **In Brief**

* Foundation property news
* **E-scooters – share your story.** We’ve been campaigning for footpaths to be free of e-scooters. There are a couple of ways you could help us do this:
* [Share your story on how e-scooters have affected your life.](https://blindfoundationnz.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bvmyPKoZ0ZBUtc9)
* [Sign Living Streets Aotearoa’s petition calling to keep footpaths for feet and mobility devices](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/petitions/document/PET_91586/petition-of-lizi-guest-for-footpaths4feet-keep-footpaths) – the petition closes in two day’s time.
* **Santa post cards in braille.** We’ve teamed up with New Zealand Post to provide braille Santa post cards. If you know a little one who would like one, email santa@nzpost.co.nz with the child’s first name, surname and physical address by Wednesday 4 December and they will get a special message from Santa in the mail before Christmas.
* **Clients recognised in New Zealander of the year awards.** Congratulations to Ezekeil Robson, South Auckland, and Eilish Wilkes, Taupo, who were recognised as regional local heroes through the New Zealander of the Year Awards. [See a full list of recipients on the New Zealander of the Year website.](https://nzawards.org.nz/news/kiwibank-local-hero-medal-recipients-announced/)
* **Acc is looking to improve its digital services.** [If you would like to take part in an ACC Survey on improving their online services and digital content go to ACC’s website.](https://www.acc.co.nz/newsroom/stories/help-us-help-you-were-looking-for-people-to-help-us-improve-our-digital-services/?fbclid=IwAR3hpYC_Kdvf5XZ3-6Mc7zjXPjdtDKM8KWxtS24yNbRKeZaY7F_jajTgbWA)

## Noticeboard

* **A call for diverse actors:** For their show Emilia, the Pop Up Globe is looking to cast actors from all backgrounds. If you are interested in auditioning get in touch with Katrina George – katrina.s.george@gmail.com.
* **A circus of all walks of life:** Circability presents their show Celebrate Together on 3 December, 6pm, Victory Convention Centre, Auckland. The performers are diverse coming from all different backgrounds and abilities. [Go to Circability’s website for more information and tickets](https://www.circability.org/).
* **Auckland Botanic Gardens – Free audio described tour of Sculpture in the Gardens.** Join Guide Nicola Owen for an audio described walking tour of Sculpture in the Gardens, Saturday 11 January, 10.30am – 12.30pm. [Book tickets here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sculpture-in-the-gardens-walking-tour-for-blind-and-vision-impaired-visitors-tickets-73515357413), or contact Nicola for more information: audiodescribedaotearoa@gmail.com or call 021 035 8513.
* **Research into improving Auckland public transport accessibility:** PhD student Jun Park is undertaking research around transport transfer time for people with disabilities. [Take part in the anonymous survey here](https://auckland.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d40vhVpenGeqKa1?fbclid=IwAR2i6O1WtBhviGoSugSkPwhHG0SeINfuz7GmUorhUuBonCqrTrevi8Q_8Ic) or email hpar706@aucklanduni.ac.nzfor more information.
* **Shop Item: Braille and Low Vision Scrabble.** With Christmas just around the corner, a great gift idea could be an accessible game that can be played by everyone. [Check out Braille and Low Vision Scrabble and other accessible games in our shop.](https://blindlowvision.org.nz/shop/around-the-home/recreation-games/braille-and-low-vision-scrabble-game/)

**News from the RNZFB Board**

* **Results 2019 Board Elections.** A reminder that the successful candidates were **Judy Small, Clive Lansink and John Billings** who were elected to the Board from the 14 people who sought election for the three seats.
* **Report on Annual Plan and Financial Statements.** If you wish to receive a copy of the Financial Statements and the Report on the Annual Plan for the year ending 30 June 2019 in your preferred format, please call the National Contact Centre on **0800 24 33 33.**
* **Minutes from the 2019 Annual General Meeting** **and Special Meeting of Meetings** held in Whangarei on **Saturday 9 November** will be available in all formats shortly. Please contact the National Contact Centre on **0800 24 33 33** if you would like to receive a copy.
* **Check out the Chair’s Report following November 2019 Board meeting here.**

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

* [Learning and Development Manager](https://careers-blindfoundation.force.com/s/vacancy-details?id=a254a00000000bbAAA) – Permanent/Full-time – Auckland – closes 29 November.

## **Ka kite ano**

Photograph caption: John Mulka, smiling

Our vision is a life without limits – Kahore e Mutunga ki te Ora – and Paul paving the way in the Tour Aotearoa is a great example of that. We may not all wish to cycle the length of the country, but we have passions and goals of different shapes and sizes. If we can help with yours, please get in touch. - **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.