**Subject**: Korero: Sharing tips to navigate COVID-19.

**Preheader**: Responding to the Accessible Streets Package, Paul achieves 3000K bike ride and more.

# Kōrero – 26 March 2020

## **Insider’s tip: Navigating COVID-19**

[Photograph caption: COVID-19 virus]

There is plenty of general health and safety advice around how to protect yourself and others against COVID 19, but what about from a blind and low vision perspective?

We’ve gathered some tips from our community on how to keep you and your community safe. [LINK]

# **Offering remote services**

During these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to us to remain in contact with you and deliver remote services. The majority of our workforce are now working from home but are still here for you.

[Find out more about our plan to deliver remote services.](https://blindlowvision.org.nz/community/covid-19-updates/)

# **Accessible Streets Package disappointing for blind and low vision citizens.**

We came out strong against the Accessible Streets Package, which in its current state, enables bicycles to use footpaths and doesn’t restrict e-scooters from footpaths putting blind and low vision pedestrians at risk.

* [Check out our response to the Accessible Streets Package.](https://blindlowvision.org.nz/community/accessible-st-package/)
* We will be making a submission, if you would like to contribute to this, email us at communications@blindlowvision.org.nz [otherwise make your own submission by 22 April](https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/consultations/accessible-streets/making-a-submission/) – once our movements are not so restricted we want to make sure everybody can walk on the footpath safely.

## **People**

**Paul Glass achieves 3000k ride**

[Photograph caption: Paul Glass and tandem pilot Russell Shanks]

Congratulations to Paul Glass who may be the first person who is blind to cycle from Cape Reinga to the Bluff, a 3000k journey. He did it with the help of his tandem pilot Russell Shanks.

[Read Paul’s story.](https://i.stuff.co.nz/sport/other-sports/120127065/blind-cyclist-and-friend-ride-tandem-bike-length-of-nz)

## **In Brief**

* **Denise Kitto, National Services Manager, gives an update on our Auckland Property [LINK TO DOC].** This includes a new West Auckland office and an update on Parnell and South Auckland.
* **People who have an access need can use public transport to access essential services such as going to the supermarket or chemist while we are at alert level four.** Please note, many transport agencies have updated their service to use the rare door and are only accepting cashless payments on transport cards, however if you have an access need, using the front door will still be an option.

## **Ka kite ano**

[Photograph caption: John Mulka, smiling.]

During these days of crisis, the way that we are going to get through is together. While we can’t physically be together, that doesn’t mean that we can’t keep in contact. All our services will continue, but the way we deliver them will change with many moving online. We are here for you, please reach out to the team on 0800 24 33 33 - **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.