

soundscape

NEWSLETTER OF THE OTICON FOUNDATION IN NEW ZEALAND

THE OTICON
FOUNDATION IN
NEW ZEALAND WAS
ESTABLISHED IN
OCTOBER 1976.

INCOME GENERATED
FROM THE FOUNDATION'S
INVESTMENTS IS
DISTRIBUTED TO GROUPS
AND ORGANISATIONS
SEEKING FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FOR
PROJECTS THAT
BENEFIT THE HEARING
IMPAIRED.

SEPTEMBER 2003



This week, 22-28 September, is Deaf Awareness Week. During the week, organisations and individuals in the Deaf and hearing impaired community undertake activities to raise awareness about hearing loss and reduce the stigma associated with it.

This year, the Oticon Foundation has supported a number of projects that work towards these goals, along with initiatives that directly assist the Deaf and hearing impaired or those working with them.

This issue of Soundscape features some of these grants, including those allocated to foster the use and development

of New Zealand Sign Language, support Deaf youth leaders, and boost the South Island cochlear implant programme. It also profiles the documentary being produced on Samoa's inspiring Silent World Theatre – a group that has done much to demonstrate the role that Deaf people can play in culture and wider society.

Applications for the next round of Foundation grants close 31 March 2004.

Karen Pullar, Secretary to the Trustees

Documentary features Silent World Theatre

A video documentary on Samoa's renowned Silent World Theatre is being produced with the aid of a grant from the Oticon Foundation.

The documentary is being produced by freelance Pacific documentary producer Frank Atu, who hopes to distribute the finished product to secondary schools for inclusion in the arts curriculum syllabus.

Frank says the documentary profiles the troupe as a group of talented performers in their own right before introducing the information that they are Deaf.

"The purpose of the documentary is to encourage the students who watch it to view the performers as highly skilled individuals first, and as people who are Deaf second," he says.

Frank says the resource will also promote a positive image of Pacific people, including those that are Deaf or hearing impaired.

"There are very few Pacific role models in secondary education resources let alone hearing impaired



The Silent World Theatre during one of their New Zealand performances.

Pacific people. The documentary will give a voice to a group that are never normally heard," he says.

The Silent World Theatre is well known in the Pacific and has performed to enthusiastic audiences in New Zealand.

"In their performances the group combine humour, intelligence and grace in a way that moves and inspires people," says Frank. "Hopefully through the documentary they will be able to encourage viewers to see other

Deaf people, particularly Deaf Pacific people, differently from how they previously did."

Copies of the documentary will also be provided to the theatre group to assist them to address the strong stigma associated with hearing loss in their own and other Pacific countries.

The Oticon Foundation has previously supported the Silent World Theatre, helping to fund its visit to New Zealand in 2001.



Documentary producer Frank Atu.

the oticon foundation

Professional development for sign language interpreters

A grant from the Oticon Foundation provided “invaluable” support for the Sign Language Interpreters Association of New Zealand (SLIANZ) Conference that was held at Queen’s Birthday weekend.

SLIANZ President Evelyn Pateman says the conference provided a great opportunity for sign language interpreters from throughout the country to get together for professional development and training.

“Because sign language interpreters are geographically spread out and largely work in isolation, the conference provides one of the few chances each year for us to meet and discuss common issues and ideas.

“The professional development and support gained from the conference is an important way to ensure that we are providing the best possible service to the Deaf and hearing impaired people we assist every day.”

New sign language video resource available

A new videotext resource will be available to sign language tutors throughout New Zealand early next year. The resource, produced by the New Zealand Sign Language Tutors Association (NZSLTA), will be partly funded by a grant from the Oticon Foundation.

NZSLTA National Administrator Sara Pivac says there is big demand for the new videotext units 7-12.

“The first units 1-6 were produced a few years ago and there has been no new video resource for the community since then. A recent survey indicated that around half of



NZSLTA National Administrator Sara Pivac at work planning the new video resource.

Attending doctors appointments, parent teacher meetings and assisting with negotiating bank loan agreements are just some of the ways that sign language interpreters help Deaf people.

“Interpreters are a vital way for Deaf people to interact with others and participate in society. They help facilitate communication between the hearing and Deaf or hearing impaired through sign language.”

Evelyn says the conference was a “huge success” with a good turnout from SLIANZ members and others involved in the Deaf and hearing impaired community.

“In addition to receiving training from their peers, the interpreters that attended discussed ways in which we can raise awareness of sign language and gain recognition for it as one of New Zealand’s official languages.”



NZSL tutors were in need of the next set of units to assist them to teach beyond beginners level.”

Sara says tutors use the video in classes or set homework assignments for students to watch the video at home.

“The video units will assist parents, peers and teachers that are learning NZSL to communicate and interact more effectively with Deaf or hearing impaired children.

“The units will also be an important resource for people training to become a sign language interpreter or tutor. More qualified interpreters will then in turn enable Deaf and hearing impaired adults, young people and children to participate more fully in all aspects of the community and education.”

Sara says the Oticon Foundation grant has been a “blessing”.

“Because of the Foundation, the NZSL Units 7-12 – a dream held up in recent years – will become a reality.”



Audiologist Neil Heslop uses the audiometer to assess the aided hearing levels of cochlear implant recipient Kasarah Cameron.

Audiometer for cochlear implant programme

The recently opened Michael Parsons Cochlear Implant Centre in Christchurch is now more well equipped following an Oticon Foundation grant to the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust for an audiometer.

The Trust has developed the regional cochlear implant programme to provide a more localised service to hearing impaired children requiring implants. Previously, children and parents needed to travel to Auckland for implants and follow up care.

“The regional programme is designed to reduce the stress on children and families that are already coping with caring for a Deaf or hearing impaired child,” says Trust Chairman John Schurink.

“The Trust also aims to raise funds to increase the number of implants available to candidates in the South Island over and above those funded by government.”

John says the Oticon Foundation grant means that the Trust doesn’t need to use its funds to purchase a much needed audiometer.

“It has also helped us to establish a Centre that is a well equipped, world class facility,” he says.

Centre Manager and Audiologist Neil Heslop says the audiometer is being used to assess children referred for a cochlear implant assessment as well as to evaluate the hearing of children who have received an implant.

“The audiometer will benefit all of the children who are involved in the programme,” he says.

“We’re very grateful to the Oticon Foundation for the grant to purchase this piece of equipment.”

NZ youths attend World Deaf Camp

Five New Zealand Deaf youths joined others from around the world at the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Youth Camp, which was held in Montreal in July. An Oticon Foundation grant assisted the youths to travel to the event.

The youths are current or former committee members of the DEAFinitely Youth Group and had been selected as New Zealand representatives to attend the camp. The camp, which is held every four years, is a major event on the international Deaf youth calendar.

“As little is known about Deaf youths in New Zealand and the Pacific due to our geographical isolation, we felt it was important to send representatives to the camp,” says committee member Amanda Everitt.

“We saw it as an opportunity to network with other Deaf youth leaders from around the world and to share and exchange information.”

The camp included development workshops along with presentations and social activities.

“The camp was a great opportunity to meet and to learn from other countries,” says DEAFinitely Youth Group Vice Chairperson Darryl Alexander. “At the

end we were all like a family. It’s something I will never forget.”

Amanda Everitt says the camp has inspired her and the others that attended to create a stronger Deaf youth base back in New Zealand. Planned initiatives include establishing a National Deaf Youth Council and sharing the knowledge they gained at the camp with the wider community.

“The camp has inspired me to roll my sleeves back and keep going. Now I know that my efforts are being reciprocated all over the world, and that we all share similar visions, joys and frustrations.”

Amanda says the Oticon Foundation grant provided valuable support to the Group. “The Foundation grant enabled our Deaf leaders to develop their skills by attending the camp.”



From left: Amanda Everitt, Darryl Alexander, Daniel Harborne, Phillip King and Victoria Skorikova during their haka demonstration at the WFD Youth Camp.



New Zealand representatives at the WFD Youth Camp from left: Daniel Harborne, Amanda Everitt, Phillip King, Victoria Skorikova, Darryl Alexander.

Making our mark on the world

Following the Youth Camp, the kiwi contingent stayed on to attend the WFD Congress and the Youth Assembly that were held a week later. Both events featured a number of ‘firsts’ for New Zealand.

Amanda Everitt and Darryl Alexander were the first New Zealanders to attend the Youth Assembly as delegates, while DEAFinitely Youth Group Chairperson

Victoria Skorikova was the first New Zealand representative to be elected onto the seven-member WFD Youth Section.

Victoria and Group Treasurer Sara Pivac did a presentation on the Group and on Deaf youths in Samoa following development work that was undertaken in that country this year. This was the first time New Zealand youth representatives had done a presentation and was an eye

opener for the audience, many of whom had never heard of Samoa before.

“The presentation, and our attendance at the Congress, has resulted in greater awareness of New Zealand,” says Sara Pivac. “Youths from Northern America and Europe were surprised to find out that New Zealand Deaf youths are up there with the rest of the world.”

Oticon Foundation grant recipients 2003

ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF THE DEAF (NZ INC) travel grant, for representatives to attend DEANZ Deaf Education Forum meetings

BARBARA HAY, RESOURCE TEACHER OF DEAF study grant, Auditory Verbal Therapy

BRUCE KENT, DEAF DOCTORIAL STUDENT research grant, psychosocial rehabilitation of people with acquired hearing loss

CAROLE BENNETT, ITINERANT TEACHER OF THE DEAF research grant, Developing Listening Skills in Deaf Children

DEAF ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC) travel grant, for Executive Board members to attend the World Federation of the Deaf Congress and Conference in Montreal, Canada

DEAFINITELY YOUTH GROUP travel grant, for DEAFinitely Youth Group members to attend and present a paper at the International Deaf Youth Camp, and attend the World Federation of the Deaf Conference and Youth Forum in Canada

DIEM MAI, AUDIOLOGIST travel grant, to attend Eriksholm Summer Camp for Young Audiologists in Denmark

EMMA TOWNS, AUDIOLOGIST travel grant, to attend Eriksholm Summer Camp for Young Audiologists in Denmark

FRANKLY SPEAKING PIX project grant, to develop a documentary for NZ secondary schools about the Silent World Theatre group

THE HEARING ASSOCIATION - MANAWATU BRANCH equipment grant, for a portable Soundfield system for use in meeting places in the Manawatu

THE HEARING ASSOCIATION - HUTT VALLEY BRANCH equipment grant, for screening audiometers to provide more services to the community

THE HEARING ASSOCIATION NELSON INC support towards producing more Hear More or Less kits for schools

THE HEARING ASSOCIATION - TIMARU BRANCH equipment grant, for impedance audiometer to provide more services to the community

JILL SELWOOD, RESOURCE TEACHER OF THE DEAF research grant, Evaluation of Deaf Mentor Services in the Waikato

JOANNA WALLACE, AUDIOLOGIST travel grant, to attend Eriksholm Summer Camp for Young Audiologists in Denmark

NZ SIGN LANGUAGE TUTORS ASSOCIATION project grant, to fund Video Project Coordinator to produce NZSL Videotext Units 7-12

PARENT TO PARENT NELSON equipment grant, to supply a laptop to a multihandicapped hearing impaired child

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS ASSN OF NZ (SLIANZ) support towards the 2003 SLIANZ Conference

THE SOUTHERN HEARING CHARITABLE TRUST equipment grant, for clinical audiometer to provide enhanced services to clients

ST NINIANS UNITING PARISH equipment grant, for hearing loop and sound reinforcement system for St Ninians Uniting Church

THE STROKE COMMUNITY CENTRE (INC) equipment grant, for hearing loop for the Stoke Community Centre

SUE PERRY, TEACHER OF THE DEAF travel grant, to present a paper at the 2003 Australian and New Zealand Conference for Educators of the Deaf - Perth, Australia

TE ARO SCHOOL equipment grant, for Soundfield systems for bilingual classes with Deaf students

WILLIE SIMMONS, TEACHER-AIDE FOR DEAF STUDENTS study grant, Deaf Studies at Victoria University

how to apply for grants

Applications must include:

1. The name and address of applicant
2. If relevant, the organisation represented and position of applicant within the organisation, plus copies of latest balance sheet and annual report
3. Details of expenditure involved
4. Information about funding you are seeking from any other organisation for this or supplementary projects
5. Overseas travel details where applicable. Please state whether an applicant/s will be returning to New Zealand permanently after the visit is completed
6. How the hearing impaired in New Zealand will benefit from your project/research
7. Information about how you will publicise your project and its results. (We would like you to seek as wide an audience as possible)
8. Details about how you will promote the Oticon Foundation if your application is successful

Applicants applying for project funding should also include:

1. Title of project
2. Summary of project (not exceeding 150 words)
3. Qualifications of applicant relevant to project
4. Aims and design of project, and expected completion date

Applications for grants other than project funding should also include:

1. Details of grant requested
2. Reasons for request

Successful applicants will be required to:

1. Submit a report (five copies) within three months of completion of the project
2. Disseminate results or information from the project to as wide an audience as possible, such as to the bulletins and newsletters of professional groups, hearing impaired and Deaf groups
3. Acknowledge the Oticon Foundation in any reports or publications about your project/research

deadline

Grants are allocated annually.

Applications (together with five extra copies) should be made no later than 31 March in any year to:

The Secretary
Oticon Foundation in New Zealand
C/- PO Box 9128, Te Aro
WELLINGTON
Phone: 0800 OTICON
E-mail: info@oticon.org.nz

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