



soundscape

NEWSLETTER OF THE OTICON FOUNDATION IN NEW ZEALAND

FEBRUARY 2014

Sign Language educational resources packaged in handy e-collection

The Oticon Foundation has funded the development of a handy e-collection of New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) reference material that will be available for teachers and students at universities, schools and public libraries from mid 2014. The release of this e-collection furthers the work of the BWB Publishing Trust to make NZSL learning resources readily accessible.

The e-collection brings together significant NZSL publications and will include the *New Zealand Sign Language: A Learner's Grammar* by Rachel McKee, which is aimed at second language learners and their teachers.

Bridget Williams, speaking for the BWB Publishing Trust, says the

illustrated grammar, to be released this March, meets a need for scholarly reference material that can be used for independent learning. It includes embedded videos for multimedia-capable devices.

The grammar builds on BWB's previous work in publishing Rachel McKee's book *People of the Eye* and the *Concise Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language*, both of which will also be included in the e-collection. Links will also be provided to the magnificent NZSL resource, the Online Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language.

Bridget says interest in NZSL is growing strongly in schools and the community, with the language now part of the curriculum in intermediate

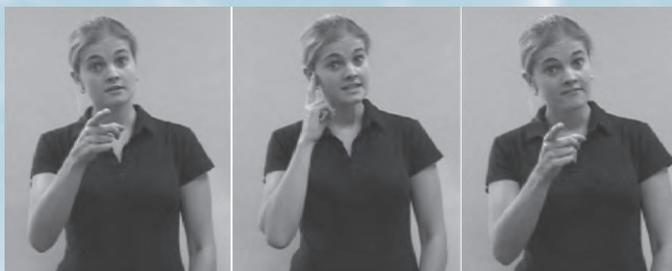
schools. The role of NZSL interpreters in the media after the Christchurch earthquakes made a significant impact on many

people around the country. Over the last three years the BWB Publishing Trust, through its Books in School Libraries scheme, has distributed more than 1,700 copies of the *Concise Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language*, to intermediate and secondary schools to support NZSL curriculum teaching.

'The Trust has received good feedback from schools on the dictionary, with one teacher commenting that their junior classes had learned to sign the National Anthem,' says Bridget.

Make sure you get your funding applications in by 31 March ...

Grant applications close then, so send yours to the Oticon Foundation as soon as possible. [Check out the back of Soundscape to find out how to apply or go to \[www.oticon.org.nz\]\(http://www.oticon.org.nz\)](#)



"Are you deaf?" A screenshot from NZSL: A Learner's Grammar

War veterans hearing needs

This year marks the centennial of World War I where 100,000 New Zealanders served; nearly a quarter died and over 40,000 were wounded. Returned servicemen frequently coped with noise-induced hearing loss caused by heavy artillery. The hearing needs of soldiers are better understood today¹ and New Zealand's war veterans may be eligible for hearing aid grants from Veterans' Affairs.

During its 38-year history, the Oticon Foundation has distributed grants to enable individuals, researchers, and organisations to make significant contributions to the understanding and prevention of hearing loss. A full list of 2013 grants can be read on the back of this newsletter, or go to www.oticon.org.nz for more information. If you are seeking financial assistance we urge you to get your application in soon. Applications close 31 March.




Karen Pugh
Secretary to the Trustees

1 "Heritage of Army Audiology and the Road Ahead: The Army Hearing Program". *American Journal of Public Health* v98(12); December 2008

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.

the oticon foundation

It's not what you say, it's how you say it

Children who wear hearing aids or cochlear implants are set to benefit from a University of Auckland PhD research project, funded by the Oticon Foundation, investigating the differences in prosody perception between normal hearing children and those with hearing loss.

Prosody, the patterns of stress and intonation in spoken language, conveys a speaker's emotional state (happy or sad), gender, identity, and gives information on sentence type (question or statement) and word classes (noun or verb).

NFD HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

The National Foundation for the Deaf received funding for its human rights advocacy programme delivery. CEO Louise Carroll says she is keen to develop the programme in the Asia Pacific region. "NFD is very grateful to the Oticon Foundation for its support of our human rights work for Deaf and hearing impaired New Zealanders," she says.

PhD research student Rose Thomas Kalathottukaren says being able to perceive prosody is especially important for social interactions. 'Research highlights the positive link between quality of life for children with hearing loss and accurate recognition of emotional information during conversation,' Rose says.

'When children have difficulty interpreting the emotional state of the speaker, they are perceived as lacking empathy and social skills.'

Early findings have highlighted difficulties in prosody perception in adults and children with hearing loss and have shown links to musical perceptual abilities and pitch perception.

Rose says past studies have mostly examined consonant and vowel speech recognition; have been few in the area of prosody. The research will also address the lack of information on the development of prosody perception in normal hearing children, which has made it difficult to assess prosodic skills in clinical settings.

The research will provide insights into the need for prosodic training in



PhD student Rose Thomas Kalathottukaren (left) pictured with Professor Suzanne Purdy, is studying how well hearing impaired children perceive the patterns of stress and intonation in spoken language.

habilitation services for children with hearing loss and whether processing strategies in cochlear implants and hearing aids need modification to enhance auditory signals for better prosodic perception.

The project is supervised by Professor Suzanne Purdy and Dr Elaine Ballard. As well as studying children with hearing loss Rose is collecting normative data for prosodic perception in New Zealand school-aged children.

Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre 2014 Research Seminars and Spring Symposium

The Oticon Foundation Hearing and Education Centre at the University of Auckland:

- supports postgraduate education in audiology
- provides continuing audiology education
- facilitates the transfer of research knowledge into clinical audiology
- promotes community education in hearing and hearing loss
- promotes graduate research in audiology
- provides equipment and facilities for training and professional development.

KEEP THESE DATES FREE

Activities for 2014 at the School of Population Health, Tamaki Campus, University of Auckland:

- **9 APRIL**, Dr Donald Schum, Vice President of Audiology and Professional Relations for Oticon. "The Sociology of Age-related Hearing Loss".
- **8 MAY**, Dr Ross Roesser, University of Texas: "Seeking Scientific Truth in Audiological Literature".
- **11 AUGUST**, Dr Josephine Marriage, University College London. Date and topic to be confirmed.

- **1 SEPTEMBER**. The Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre 2014 Spring Symposium, "Audition, Brain and Aging".

- **7 OCTOBER**, Professor Suzanne Purdy, University of Auckland. "Current understanding of attention, memory, auditory and language processing and implications for children with hearing loss".

Updates will be on www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/soph/depts/audiology/ofhec.aspx

For more information contact Kirsty McEnteer, k.mcenteer@auckland.ac.nz, or Peter Thorne, pr.thorne@auckland.ac.nz.

Meet the New Zealand trustees: The decision makers behind the grants

Each year the Foundation's six trustees (three based in Denmark and three in New Zealand) collectively weigh and debate the merits of applications. Meet the New Zealand trustees: Tim Olphert, David Underwood, and Graeme Hall. Tim and David have been trustees since the Foundation began. All three men are from professional backgrounds with extensive community, Trust, and charitable service. They see their Oticon Foundation responsibilities as both an individual and a collective duty to apply sound judgement to further the Foundation's objectives.

Tim Olphert has been chairman of the Foundation since it was established. Now retired from legal practice, he lives in Wellington. A Commander of the Order of St John, Tim is also legal counsel on their Audit and Risk Committee and serves on the National Rules Committee.

Life-long Wellingtonians David Underwood and Graeme Hall have both retired from careers in chartered accountancy, and both maintain extensive involvement in charitable and community service work.

David Underwood is also a director of a number of private companies. He is an experienced business adviser, involved in providing independent small business valuations for dispute settlements, and estimations of business losses. His work often involves appearance in Court.

Graeme Hall was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2005 for services to people with disabilities and to the community. He has extensive experience in governance and advocacy roles ranging from business and commercial enterprises to community and charitable agencies, particularly in the health and disability sector and in education.

"The Foundation's broad objective is to support proposals that lead to improvement or mitigation of impaired hearing, and advance a better understanding of the disability," they say. "We also look for unusual projects that may not have come to our attention before."

The trustees say they gain great satisfaction from seeing the results achieved by recipients. The impact



The Oticon Foundation New Zealand Trustees, Graeme Hall (back ,left) David Underwood and (seated) Tim Olphert with Karen Pullar, secretary to the Trustees.

from the grants can be immediate, such as funding for facilities or equipment; or medium term when supporting educational or study opportunities or travel; or long term such as with university research. "All these competing priorities have a value in the lives of people with hearing impairment and it is the Board's task to provide an equitable mix," they say.

Experts gather to discuss advances in BAH solutions

Helen Burgess and Michel Neeff recently attended the Oticon Medical Scientific Meeting in Copenhagen, with the support of the Oticon Foundation. The meeting brought together leading international researchers on bone anchored hearing (BAH) solutions and gave delegates the opportunity to exchange knowledge and expertise.

Helen, an audiologist at Auckland DHB, says meeting international colleagues gave her valuable insight into different audiological service structure provision, funding and clinical practices.

"Audiology services worldwide are involved with the same issues of how to provide a good quality, efficient service to fit bone anchored hearing systems using best practice methods. A key outcome from the roundtable discussions was the importance of dialogue between otorhinolaryngology and audiology to ensure cohesive patient-centred care," Helen says.

Auckland-based ENT surgeon Michel Neeff says the meeting provided scientific support for the techniques he has been using, and information

and knowledge to improve the perioperative care of patients.

"We also heard about how the Ponto bone anchored hearing solution integrates the latest technology, in particular features which improve hearing in background noise, and wireless technology for phone and FM.

"Presentations and subsequent discussions on surgical practice supported better cosmetic outcomes with fewer complications for adult patients. Compared to the beginnings of bone anchored hearing implantation, surgery is simpler and the standard now is without, or sometimes with minimal, skin thinning," Michel says.

Michel and Helen will present their feedback at a seminar to be held in Auckland on 20 March.





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 (an electronic copy (Word or PDF) and four hard copies) should be made no later than 31 March in any year.

Applicants will be notified whether their grant application has been accepted by 30 June of the same year.

Please address applications to:

The Secretary
 Oticon Foundation in New Zealand
 C/- PO Box 9128, Te Aro
 WELLINGTON 6141
 Phone: 0800 OTICON
 E-mail: info@oticon.org.nz

www.oticon.org.nz

Oticon Foundation 2013 grant recipients

BRIDGET WILLIAMS BOOKS

PUBLISHING TRUST, to publish *New Zealand Sign Language: A learner's grammar* and develop a digital resources collection.

HEALTHY HEARING, travel to National Summer Games for Special Olympics NZ to provide hearing screening for 1,200 cognitively impaired athletes.

HEARING ASSOCIATION, NELSON, funding for an educational poster 'Understanding Hearing Loss' for frontline staff and community use.

HEARING ASSOCIATION, SOUTH CANTERBURY, screening audiometer to replace out-dated equipment.

HEARING THERAPISTS ASSOCIATION NZ, Speaker's fee & travel to tinnitus

workshop "Relief & possible ways to help! Psychological & psychophysiological approaches to help make tinnitus bearable".

KELSTON and VAN ASCH DEAF

EDUCATION CENTRES, equipment to record seminars for a trans-Tasman education and training initiative.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE DEAF, Advocacy Programme.

OTICON MEDICAL, TRAVEL GRANT to attend Oticon Medical Scientific Meeting.

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND (ABIN MATHEW), travel to present PhD research on cortical encoding of speech acoustics in quiet and noise at the International Evoked Response Audiometry study group in New Orleans.

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND (ROSE

KALATHOTTUKAREN), support for 2-year PhD thesis 'Suprasegmental speech perception in children using cochlear implants and hearing aids'.

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND, audiology student prize.

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND, ongoing funding for the Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre.

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY (DENISE POWELL), travel to present research on Deaf students' learning and participation experiences within NZ tertiary institutions at ANZ Conference for Educators of the Deaf, Brisbane.

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY, balance assessment equipment.