



# Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education New Zealand

## Parent Newsletter 23 September 2020

### Feedback

Hope you enjoy Ko Taku Reo newsletter. Any suggestions or ideas are most welcome, please email [communications@kotakureo.school.nz](mailto:communications@kotakureo.school.nz).

### Important Term 4 dates

Monday 12 October - Christchurch Provisions Term starts

Auckland Provisions - Teacher Only Day

Tuesday 13 October - Auckland Provisions Term starts

Friday 23 October - Auckland Hostel Mid Term Break

Monday 26 October - Labour Day Holiday

Thursday 12 November - Christchurch Residential Mid Term Break

Friday 13 November - Canterbury Anniversary Holiday

Tuesday 1 December - Christchurch Provisions Prize Giving 5:30 pm, Sumner site

Thursday 3 December - Auckland Provisions Prize Giving 10:30 am, Archibald Road site

Thursday 10th December - Last day of school for all students



Executive Principal Introduction

## Executive Principal Introduction

James Le Marquand — September 15th, 2020

Tena Koutou Katoa

By way of introduction, for those of you I haven't had the chance to meet in person, I am James Le Marquand, Executive Principal of Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education New Zealand.



James Le Marquand

I have been involved in Specialist Education for over 30 years. Before joining Ko Taku Reo, I had been the principal of Arohanui Specialist School. As well as my role as a principal I have a background as a strong specialist education advocate which has included roles as the president of the Auckland and National Specialist School Principals' Associations and the chairperson of Autism New Zealand. I was recently involved in the development of the conceptual framework of the Ministry's Learning Support Action Plan. The premise of this work is something I am very keen to incorporate into our new organisation as we look to make the best use of the resources at hand for the benefit of our students and community.

2020 has been a very strange year for us all, with COVID-19 now a dominant part of a day to day reality that we are all still learning to live with. While there have been major disruptions to our lives and routines, as a school I have been extremely impressed with the general level of resilience shown by our students and the strong sense of whanaungatanga that comes from the real need to look

after one another. Our response to student learning during lockdown was recently applauded by the Education Review Office. Ko Taku Reo moved quickly to online learning and closely monitored each student, ensuring their needs were met and supporting the challenges that came with online learning for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. A big thumbs up to the Ko Taku Reo students, staff and families who supported this learning approach. We have learned so much so quickly about online learning and alternative ways of connecting with our student community at distance. While of course, this can never take the place of face to face connection it has opened a wider door for the use of communication technology for the future.

Some exciting news. In 2021, with the support of the Ministry of Education, we are launching a new initiative in the Wellington area. An NZSL 'Hub-based provision' is being established to support our Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in this area. This is a new service that will see students' needs met through both fully enrolled or part-time day provision which will be supported by our enrolled and outreach teachers. We are keen to progress this new initiative with future plans to develop the learning pathway to include an intermediate and secondary education pathway. An update on the progress of this new project will be given soon.

So as term 3 comes to an end, I wish all our students and families a safe term break, time to rest and reflect.

Noho ora mai

Ngā mihi nui

James Le Marquand  
Executive Principal

Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education Centre

# Royal Commission of Inquiry – Abuse in Care



Royal Commission Inquiry Information

## Royal Commission of Inquiry – Abuse in Care

James Le Marquand — September 22nd, 2020

Currently there is a New Zealand Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care. It is an investigation into historical abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adult in care. It covers State and faith-based care settings in New Zealand, and this includes the Schools for the Deaf and the boarding houses in Auckland and Christchurch. The inquiry is investigating abuse between 1950-1999.

We are doing all we can to support the work of the Commission to identify what happened to children, young people and vulnerable adults. The aim of the inquiry is to make clear recommendations on how New Zealand can better care for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Royal Commission has also worked with members of the Deaf community to create New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) videos about the Inquiry. The NZSL videos talk about the inquiry process and how past Deaf and Hard of Hearing students can contact the Commission and share their experiences of abuse. We encourage any victims of abuse to contact the Royal Commission to share their story and seek support.

For further information and to access the NZSL videos please go to:

<https://www.abuseincare.org.nz/>

<https://www.abuseincare.org.nz/about-us/deaf-community>



Message from the Board Chair

## Message from the Board Chair

Denise Powell — September 23rd, 2020

Ki ora Koutou

As we come to the end of our first term as Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education New Zealand, it is a good time to think back on all the great work we have been involved in over the past year. What a year it has been with Covid-19 and the changes this has brought to the way schools are teaching and students are learning!

This has also been a time of important change in Deaf Education and we are now busy looking at how we deliver services and working with our staff to make improvements that help us improve student achievement and wellbeing.

Our Facebook page has allowed Ko Taku Reo to share our news and some fabulous student stories with you already and we continue to use that as a means of keeping you informed in between these newsletters.

The previous Combined Board of Trustees recently had its first Board meeting and has now become the Ko Taku Reo Board of Trustees with all the same trustees as previously. Student Trustee nominations and elections are about to take place so keep an eye out for that. You can find a section about us on the new website which is informative and easy to use.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and manage some time with family and whānau over the holidays to enable you to 'recharge your batteries' and we look forward to another successful term of working together for the benefit of all our learners.

Na mihi nui,

Dr Denise Powell

Board Chair

Ko Taku Reo Board of Trustees



Teaching and Learning Introduction - Louise Roe

Video by Interpreter Bookings

## Teaching and Learning Introduction

Louise Roe — September 16th, 2020

Louise Roe thrilled and excited to be part of the foundation Leadership Team of Ko Taku Reo.

Having had a long career in secondary schools, I have very much enjoyed contributing to Deaf Education for the last two years. I have met so many talented, passionate educators, and learnt a lot. My past experience with student welfare, curriculum and 'Pedagogy' (Learning how to learn) has helped me contribute to our growth.

I am passionate about schools meeting our obligations to te Tiriti, as a pathway to Maori success as Maori and to a positive cultural climate in Aotearoa in the future. I also enjoy working in the areas of Leadership Development, Thinking Skills, and helping students learn to self-advocate and self-determine. There is increasingly good research from both within New Zealand and overseas that tells us what will work best for our students and how to set them up for success. I have personally seen the positive changes such initiatives have made for our kids.

The NZ Curriculum is what underpins our learning. A lot of people don't know or realise how groundbreaking and innovative the NZ curriculum is. It's no longer all about just "knowing stuff" (though knowing stuff *is* pretty important) It's more about the skills that won't go "out-of-date" and that's quite important in this ever-changing world. It also encourages teachers to be "Life Long Learners" themselves, as well as students we are involved with. It is a great and powerful document which I feel strongly about.

I believe our students deserve the very best, and that our job is to provide all appropriate Deaf and Hard of Hearing support to our learners while keeping sight of developments in wider education so our students have access these too. Our teachers are trained and skilled to keep these two aims in mind and are committed to doing their best for our students. I am proud of the work they do, and of the leaders who have stepped up to help make Ko Taku Reo strong from within.

Louise Roe  
Director of Teaching and Learning



Communications and Resources team - Andrew Townsend

## Communications and Resources

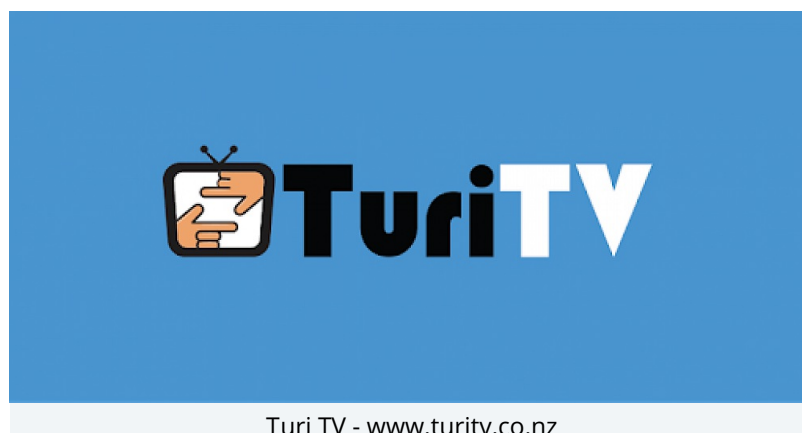
Andrew Townshend — September 15th, 2020

Kia ora koutou

The Communications and Resources team is a newly formed team of professionals. At the heart of what we do, we look to create learning resources and information that is equitable and accessible to students, whanau, staff and the wider community.

We are driven to support students, staff and the effective running of the school with our professional service approach.

While you may not see us face to face within schools, you will see a lot of our communications and resources, including the Ko Taku Reo Facebook page, our website, Turi TV website, NZSL story translations, NZSL News and NZSL Bites.





Ko Taku Reo Website - [www.kotakureo.school.nz](http://www.kotakureo.school.nz)



**Deaf Education New Zealand**

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/kotakureo>

The team has 4 leads supporting team members across 4 functions

#### **Digital Resource development**

- Digital Design
- eLearning Design and Development
- Resource production

#### **Information Management**

- Document Management
- Digital workspaces and collaboration
- Library
- Museum

#### **Communications**

- Digital Communication
- Interpreting and Translating

#### **IT**

- IT Training
- IT Technical Support

We are always keen to hear how our communications and resources meet your needs, so please let us know how we can help.

Contact us at [communications@kotakureo.school.nz](mailto:communications@kotakureo.school.nz)



Andrew Townshend  
Director of Communications and Resources



HR

## Human Resources Introduction

Graeme Bisseker — September 17th, 2020

Hello

My name is Graeme Bisseker, I am the Head of Human Resources for Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education New Zealand.

I have 3 permanent staff – Alison [Health & Safety + HR Advisor], Vivienne [Payroll and HR Admin. Support], Karen [Payroll Lead & Hr Support]. As well we have Sally and Taryn who are temporarily looking after our recruitment and staff file management.

It is a privilege to be able to bring our HR experience into the Deaf Education environment. Our aim is build systems and processes for staff that enable them to be effective in their roles as resource developers and teachers for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing learners.

The last few months have been very merger focused and for us in particular recruiting great staff into the new structure's roles. We have had to employ two extra staff for a period to assist us work thought this large task.

Some of the larger projects we have in front of us within HR are:-

- Create efficient recording and reporting systems around our payroll service
- Grow and support regional and site Health & Safety – including for such things as Education Outside of the Classroom i.e. field trips for students
- Create digital file storage capability for staff files
- Scope, purchase and implement a Human resources Information System that can assist fully support staff in their work roles
- Create and implement an efficient new staff onboarding and current staff exiting process that supports staff and the organisation around change.

As you see, there is a lot do to meet our vision of supporting staff well, so that they can support our learners, very well.

Graeme Bisseker  
Head of Human Resources



Enrolled School Introduction - Fiona Gordon

## Enrolled School Introduction

Fiona Gordon — September 16th, 2020

Fiona Gordon Head of Enrolled School I oversee our 12 Deaf Bilingual Provisions and am based in Christchurch.

Our Deputy Head of School, Lisa Sharman is based in Auckland. Lisa also works with Oteha Valley Provision and the Tu Kokiri Programme. Between us we have worked in the roles of; Mainstream Teacher, Resource Teacher of the Deaf, Teacher of the Deaf, Provision Leads, Associate Principal, Acting Head of School and Acting Principal. Together we work closely to oversee the teaching and learning programmes and support the staff in our Enrolled School.

In the Enrolled School at Ko Taku Reo we have:

- 106 Students aged from 5 years to 21 years old
- 3 Assistant Heads of School (2 in Auckland, 1 in Christchurch)
- 11 Teachers who lead Provisions and teach
- 15 class Teachers
- 24 Teacher Aides of the Deaf
- 7 Educational Interpreters
- 1 NZQA Lead who also teaches
- 1 Careers Guidance Counsellor who also teaches

In our future newsletters, we will introduce the staff and students from our other Provisions, here we will introduce our Deaf Bilingual Provisions for Primary aged students.

### **Our four Deaf Bilingual Provisions for Primary aged Students**

**Wharenui Primary Provision**,(Riccarton, Christchurch)

There are two classes with a total of 12 students.  
Teachers: Cheryl Coughlan, Kerri Narbey  
Teacher Aides of the Deaf: Claire Buckby, Lauren Christensen



Wharenui Primary Provision



Wharenui Primary Provision

**Ormiston Primary Provision, (Ormiston, Auckland)**

There are two classes with a total of 12 students.  
Teachers: Tomasin Fisher, Janet Wardle-Peck  
Teacher Aides of the Deaf: Aotearoa Vili, Sam Purkis



Ormiston Primary Provision



Ormiston Primary Provision

**Kelston Primary Provision, (Kelston, Auckland)**

There are two classes with a total of 9 students

Assistant Head of School, West: Kaori Kobayashi

Teachers: Luisa Maloni, Claire Edwards, Kym Whiti

Teacher Aides of the Deaf: Ashleigh Baker, Josey Mattewman



Kelston Primary Provision

**Oteha Primary Provision,(Oteha Valley, Auckland)**

There is one class with 4 students.

Teacher: Barbara Henderson

Teacher Aide of the Deaf: Kesley Ferreira



Oteha Primary Provision



Corporate Services Introduction

# Corporate Services Introduction

Matthew Koning — September 16th, 2020

Hello, my name is Matthew Koning and I am the Director of Corporate Services.

The Director of Corporate Services is responsible for the overall management and professional leadership of the Finance, Property & Assets, Human Resources, Payroll and Health & Safety functions of the organisation.

I have had 20 years experience in chartered accountancy and 12 years experience in the management of special residential schools.

Along with the Executive Principal and other Directors of the organisation I am part of the Executive Leadership Team & together with the Heads of Department comprise the Senior Leadership Team.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in achieving our collective desired outcomes for our students.

Matthew Koning  
Director of Corporate Services



Residences in Christchurch and  
Auckland

# Residences in Christchurch and Auckland

Nicki Morrison — September 16th, 2020

I want to take the opportunity to introduce familiar and new staff in the Residences in Auckland and Christchurch Campus.

As Head of Residential and Immersion and I am new to this position, I oversee our two residences based at Sumner in Christchurch and Kelston in Auckland, and I am in Auckland.

We have a fantastic two teams of 3 Residential Team Leaders who are working so well together.

I wish to welcome Michele Hendren – Residential Team Leader -Pastoral Care based in Christchurch. She has previously worked in residence and has been absent for a couple of years before returning to us. Welcome back, Michele.

The Christchurch Campus Residential Team leaders are Michael May, Roger Wyrill and Michele Hendren.

I welcome Chantelle Enesa – Residential Team Leader – Personnel based in Auckland, welcome to the team, Chantelle.

The Auckland Campus Residential Team Leaders are Diane Goodall, Ava Buzzard and Chantelle Enesa.

Here are the photos of our two residences showing students and staff together.

Nicki Morrison  
Head of Residential and Immersion



## Gallery





Outreach

# Welcome to the Ko Taku Reo Outreach School

Lynne Guy — September 15th, 2020

The Outreach School provides both direct and indirect services to Deaf and Hard of hearing learners in local mainstream schools, delivered by Resource Teachers of the Deaf (RTDs) nationwide. The Outreach School RTDs are specialist teachers who work alongside your child, school staff, whanau and other agencies to support their academic, social and emotional and language development. Our services range from supporting and educating staff in schools around providing the most suitable environment for DHH learners to access local curriculum, to planning and teaching targeted programmes for your child during their school years. Currently, we are delivering a variety of services to 2,740 DHH learners across NZ. We appreciate working collaboratively with you and your child's local school to optimise learning opportunities to increase inclusion, curriculum access, the use of hearing devices and NZSL access for learning. We recognise and promote the use of NZSL and opportunities for children to socialise and learn together through NZSL Hubs and Keep in Touch (KIT) Days. Our core focus is to support your child to grow, belong, choose and excel and we value the IEP process as being integral in supporting this journey. In addition, we work with parent support groups and whanau activities that promote Deaf culture and connectiveness with our local and national network.

Our new team of Regional Co-ordinators lead the regions with 22 Lead teachers and 150 RTDs. Introducing:

- **Lynne Couling-Brown:** Northland, Nelson, Marlborough and the West Coast
- **Colleen Figgins:** Greater Auckland
- **John-Paul Oliver:** Waikato, Hawkes Bay, Bay of Plenty and Poverty Bay
- **CJ Lavender-Amyes:** Taranaki, Manawatu and Wellington
- **Alice Woodcock:** Canterbury, Otago and Southland
- **Mark Bolger:** National indirect practice Lead

Together this leadership team has a diverse range of experience in working in education and is led by:

Lynne Guy  
Head of Outreach School

## Gallery





Education Outside the Classroom at Ko Taku Reo

## Education Outside the Classroom at Ko Taku Reo

Ginny Neal — September 13th, 2020

At Ko Taku Reo we know that learning does not only happen in the four walls of a classroom but also through the chance to have different learning opportunities offsite for our Enrolled School Students and Keep in Touch days for our Outreach students. We see these learning events as a very important part of our student's education.

Despite the changing alert levels which have restricted the events we have been able to run regionally, our Enrolled School students have been enjoying the chance to expand their learning outside of the classroom this term.

We started the term with the official launch of Ko Taku Reo where students and teachers across New Zealand joined together to celebrate this very special occasion. Our students from across New Zealand helped to create the magnificent korowhai that were presented to our Executive Principal and Board of Trustees Chairperson.

Term 3 is where the transition visits start - students begin to have a taste of their new school if they are moving from ECE to Primary School, Primary to Intermediate, Intermediate to High School, or College to further study or the workforce, this is an important part of ensuring we are setting up all students for success.

One event that has happened recently was our Wharenui Primary Provision joined the Wharenui Junior school to go on a bug hunt as a part of their inquiry unit. The students enjoyed exploring the parking area and looking under logs for mini beasts. They used magnifying glasses and a scavenger hunt to help them find the bugs and insects they had been learning about.

Two of our Primary provisions have also enjoyed weekly swimming lessons this term, it has been great seeing them all gain confidence in the water, improve their swimming skills and have fun along the way.

Keep an eye on the Ko Taku Reo [Facebook](#) page and website [www.kotakureo.school.nz](http://www.kotakureo.school.nz) to stay in touch with all the other exciting learning events we have coming up.

## Gallery





Playing in the Sandpit

Video by Resource Centre

## Playing in the Sandpit

Sarah de Heer — September 3rd, 2020

The Auckland Preschool and Christchurch Early Intervention Centre welcome new staff to the sandpit and strengthen our relationships.

July 20th, 2020 was the start of a new group of us working and collaborating together. While the Christchurch EIC team stayed stable and continued to offer their fabulous program for families enrolled with them, they have been busy offering comprehensive residential courses for families outside of the Christchurch region to come and learn more about their deaf child.

The Auckland Preschool has had a large change in staff. Kirsta Clifford joined as the Preschool Lead and has brought with her a sense of urgency around bilingual and bicultural awareness and practices in the preschool. Susan Swolfs has been appointed as a permanent ECE teacher and will hopefully undertake her Teacher of the Deaf study next year. Alalate Murare and Donna Walker both join as Teacher Aides and bring with them energy and the skills to form deep learning connections with the children.

I feel very fortunate to have such a capable team working in the Early Years part of our school and am enjoying seeing places where the two teams are working collaboratively and sharing their knowledge and skills with each other. We are all playing very nicely together in the sandpit! I am also enjoying developing relationships with parents, whanau, Advisors of Deaf Children, First Signs and the Cochlear Implant Programmes who all work together to support our youngest learners.

### Gallery

