

# New Zealand Federation for Deaf Children



## Christmas Newsletter

With 2016 rolling to a close, all of us here at the NZFDC would like to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a very safe holiday. Take care, enjoy your time with your families, and we look forward to seeing many of you in the new year.

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## Excellence Awards 2016

**A huge congratulations to the amazing young people who received an Excellence Award this year. Your hard work and dedication have been a real inspiration to all of us.**

### **Secondary School Excellence Awards go to;**

Norma Taylor Memorial Trophy, and also the Devine Family Cup;  
Jack Dixon (Y13)

Margaret Cooper Trophy; Madison Davy (Y12)

Makere Mason Trophy; Vincent Cheyne (Y11)

### **Primary School Excellence Awards go to;**

Joshua Trowbridge (Y7)

Gintara Smith (Y6)

Lucy Mckenzie-Bridle (Y5)

Dylan Monaghan (Y2)

Andre Hesp (Y1)



“ It was with great pleasure that I was asked to go along to Te Aro School in Wellington to present an award to one of our recipients for the 2016 Excellence Awards. Lucy McKenzie-Bridle was nominated by her class Teacher, Walter Taniwha for her initiative and enthusiasm she has shown throughout her year in school.

Lucy is a Year 5 student who not only has worked incredibly hard in her standard classes, but has also set up NZ Sign Language Classes at her school, organised and promoted Loud Shirt Day with activities and wrote and presented a speech titled “The Government should help all Deaf people” for a school competition. She has been involved in the Kapahaka roopu, and is also a member of the Fan Dance.

Lucy has spent a lot of her time educating her peers about deafness and deaf culture. All this from a 10 year old!

Thanks Lucy for being such a great inspiration to all.”

*Andrea Craig*

## **AGM 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 – Save the Date**

We have been incredibly lucky you have our guest speaker confirmed; Robert Baldwin, Ph.D. is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist. Dr Baldwin is hard-of-hearing and has three children with hearing loss. He holds a Ph.D. from Gallaudet University and currently works at the VA Medical Centre with Veterans in Memphis, Tennessee. He also has a private practice and provides a variety of counselling and mental health services to individuals who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing and their families.

Dr Baldwin presented at the Family Centred Early Intervention conference earlier this year, and his insights into effective decision making for families with Deaf or hard of hearing children was fascinating. We are incredibly privileged to have him attending our AGM conference, and we will be seeking funding to get as many of you to his presentation as possible.

# Dates for Scholarships

Please note that the dates for the closing of the John and Betty Rose Scholarship, for those continuing on to tertiary education. The closing date will be the **31<sup>st</sup> of January**. Download the application form from our website page [Scholarships](#) under the Financial Assistance section.

# Child Disability Allowance

There have been a number of issues over the last year around our kids not receiving a Child Disability Allowance through Work and Income. In order to streamline this application, we have worked with an amazing mum who has volunteered her time to put together a template letter that addresses the issues that the WINZ criteria list. These templates are on our website – one for children with hearing aids and one for children with cochlear implants.

If you are struggling with the application, I urge you to have a look at the template.

The template is available on the website under '[Parent Toolkit](#)', in the Parents section.



# Starting the new school year

As we all know, starting the school year can be both exciting and challenging for all our kids, and making sure that the teachers have all the information needed to teach our kids can feel like a real challenge. As the parent, it generally falls to you to provide the classroom teacher with information, and there are many ways to do this.

Under the [Life Stages](#) section of our website there are a number of resources and tools, both for parents and teachers that could help you share simple information with your child's teacher. Take a look!

# Auckland Parents of Deaf Children's Christmas Party



Auckland Families had a wonderful Christmas party at Kiwi Valley Farm Park last Sunday, and it sounds like a whole heap of fun with sack races, mazes, tractor and pony rides and much more.

Thanks APODC for the photos!



You can find the contact information for all the [Regional Parent Groups](#) on the Parents section of the NZFDC website.

## We need your up-to-date email address

- We are in the process of updating our Membership database.
- In order to make sure you receive information and the assistance you need, please can you give us your up-to-date email address?
- Please reply to this email ([info@deafchildren.org.nz](mailto:info@deafchildren.org.nz)) with your child's name, date of birth and a current email so we can update your details.

And please forward this newsletter to any other parents or families, who you think might like to become NZFDC members - it's free and simple to do with our online [Registration form](#).