

N.Z. Federation for Deaf Children Incorporated



Minutes of the Executive Committee of the New Zealand Federation for Deaf Children Incorporated

Date	Sunday 5 June 2016
Venue	Blue Skies Conference & Training Centre 12 Williams Street Kaiapoi 7630, CHRISTCHURCH
Meeting opened at	9.25am

Present	Kate Whale, Jill Taylor, Andrea Craig, Catherine Trowbridge, Kelly Davy, Brent Burcher, Justin Farquher, Debra Bellon, Kirstin Johnson-Coombs, Brad Coombs, Logan Matthews, Dana Cook, Matt Cook, Helen Mackay, Madz Bresolini, Rebecca Petre, Vicky Collard, Phillip Lee, Raylene McIntosh, Tamika McIntosh, Sarah Auld, Shane Auld, Charlotte de Jong, Paul de Jong, Glen Johnson, Trudi Fausett, Meg Melvin, Stephanie Tauroa, Matt Valentine, Karen Dobson, Shane Ison, Lisa Daly, Steve Walton, Ilana Daniels, Joe Daniels, Jo Wilkinson, Andrew Wilkinson, Toby Calvert, Alan Bensley, Zis Lurajud, Margaret Cooper, Interpreters x 2
Apologies	Ferguson Family from Wellington, Kim Matthers from Wellington, Liz Warrington Auckland
Welcome	<p>President Kate Whale</p> <p>Welcome from the President – awesome response, Kate has thought the weekend has gone well.</p> <p>Any feedback would be appreciated and a feedback form will come to parent's groups and we ask you complete these so we can improve/change our next conference in two years.</p>
Additions to General Business	

<p>Introduction of Voting Delegates</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Taranaki</td> <td>Joanne Wilkinson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Canterbury</td> <td>Logan Matthews</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Canterbury</td> <td>Matthew Valentine</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otago</td> <td>Stephen Walton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southland</td> <td>Vicky Collard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wellington</td> <td>Helen McKay</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hawkes Bay</td> <td>Dana Cook</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bay of Plenty</td> <td>Brad Coombs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Auckland</td> <td>Jill Bonnett</td> </tr> </table>	Taranaki	Joanne Wilkinson	Canterbury	Logan Matthews	South Canterbury	Matthew Valentine	Otago	Stephen Walton	Southland	Vicky Collard	Wellington	Helen McKay	Hawkes Bay	Dana Cook	Bay of Plenty	Brad Coombs	Auckland	Jill Bonnett
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<p>Receive AGM Minutes 28 June 2015</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM 28 JUNE 2015 MINUTES No matters arising.</p> <p>MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting dated 28 June 2015 be received and correct.</p> <p>MOVED: KATE SECONDED: JUSTIN CARRIED</p>																		
<p>President's Report (See Report)</p>	<p>Receive President's Report</p> <p>Matters Arising NIL</p>																		
	<p>MOTION: That the President's report be received and correct.</p> <p>MOVED: KATE SECONDED: HELEN CARRIED</p>																		
<p>Treasurers Report</p>	<p>STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS</p> <p>This has been Justin's first year as treasurer and he would like to acknowledge Jill for dropping him in it, but helping him as well. Please bear in mind it was his first go at it, so if you have any questions, please contact Justin via email.</p> <p>Basically things remain the same from year to year – however one of them will stick out; the sub-contractor role, where we paid Kate to work on projects that couldn't be achieved any other way. Kate can give you more detail of what she achieved, but it was money well spent.</p> <p>We met our targets with scholarships, tutoring, academic awards. We are still really getting out there and it seems to be effective.</p> <p>Make yourself aware of what NZFDC can do for you and your family groups – there are youth camps, have a look at what else we offer on our website. Thanks Jill for leaving the job in such a great condition and mentoring me.</p>																		

There is a proposed budget with not much variance. We are doing our best to match our auditors budget, which is mostly based around what people are expecting to see, like the AGM. Again, any questions let Justin know.

Question: Steve - Budgeting a \$10k deficit – This doesn't seem fiscally prudent.

Justin - We only have a set relatively guaranteed income. We know our expenses exceed it. We apply for grants, and funds throughout the year. We can only count on the \$50k. Also there are things in the income because of the way the accountant deals with it, etc.

Jill – We have a set number of expenses that are our basic running costs, like grants, scholarships etc. So far if a special event is coming up, we apply for a grant. The funds that come in from the ILS are what fund your newsletter, and they fund the family kits to all new families diagnosed. Anything else extra we are always looking for grants to oversee that. It seems to work well as a system so far, but we are aware that we are precariously balanced. Our goal is to get someone who can apply for grants and fundraising as a role on the executive committee. We don't charge anyone to be part of NZFDC and don't intend to. However we would love to hear from you all if there is any funding we don't know about.

Question – Steve - We have NZSL tutoring for the last 3 years and we have only just opened up NZSL tutoring?

Kate – it might be a mistake in there. It may be what should be tutor fees. We put more into the tutoring now than what we used to. There is more going to go into NZSL tutoring than we used to, and it hasn't been used but we had it there for parent groups if they wanted to apply for NZSL classes. It will go up this year as the Penny Went funding is now used up. There are a number of things we can pare out of our budget if we need to. We are essentially working in a deficit and while we don't like working this way, it's the sad reality of a charity.

Margaret Cooper (Trustee for the NFD) – there is a big fund (\$350k) for the Canterbury Parents set up quite some years ago, this specifically for province of Canterbury. There is a children's fund for young children, family information kits. Kate will have a chat to Margaret about it.

Helen – where does our income come from?

Justin - The majority comes in from the Dias (ILS) funding from the Ministry of Social Development. This fund application is renewable every two years. We will be looking at seeing if we can increase the amount, just not sure how we go about doing this.

	<p>Matthew - Coming from Soccer Clubs etc. the national federation take a portion of memberships fees. Could the NZFDC work like this?</p> <p>Kate - We don't charge families to join for NZFDC and the only membership fees are to the parent groups which is really an acknowledgement. We don't really want to start charging people if we don't need to as we don't want to scare people away who actually need the help the most.</p> <p>Meg – you are having a strategy meeting at your next meeting. Meg has offered to deal with the fundraising strategy as we need someone to go out and find funding so there is no double dipping. We could have applied to the funds for Canterbury families, but we don't want to be dipping into their pools, as they need this to go to camps, outings, etc.</p> <p>Helen – are the MOE still finding the website?</p> <p>Kate - They gave us a lump sum – we are utilizing it in the best way possible.</p> <p>Helen - A lot of what the NZFDC are doing should be automatically on the MOE website, KDEC, van Ash etc. She would be extremely disappointed if MOE didn't support that website – it should be out there in public domain. Helen is happy to fight for funds to keep this going. (Note; what we have will cover us for the next 1.5 years.) This information is out there; it is buried in the net. We don't want parents to fight that battle to find it. Helen is extremely grateful to the NZFDC for what we do and is happy to battle the MOE and we have her full support.</p> <p>We will have a fundraising strategy in place and put it out to parent's groups after our next meeting. Thank you ZIS for getting onto fundraising for the NZFDC.</p>
	<p>MOTION: That the Treasurer's report and change to budget be received and correct. MOVED: JUSTIN SECONDED: LOGAN CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That the Audited Financial Statements 2015 be accepted. MOVED: JUSTIN SECONDED: CARRIED</p>
<p>PORTFOLIO REPORTS</p>	<p>ANDREA CRAIG Secretary There has been a huge change in the last twelve months bringing Meg</p>

on board and doing everything on line. Any documentation we have that the Executive need to feed into, is all up on Google Docs. We don't email reports to each other – so it has been a huge learning curve for Andrea.

The other thing Andrea has been involved in is the website which has been an amazing learning curve.

Facebook page has been a real challenge – Andrea would like to encourage all Parent Groups to have a FB page and to feed into the NZFDC FB page. We have 150 likes and climbing, and some of our posts have got up to 1500 views. We even have followers from overseas! If anyone has anything they want to put out to other groups then let us know – we need to share ideas and FB is a perfect place for it. Andrea is handing her secretarial reins over to Brent and is looking forward to being a Committee member and mentoring Brent.

Please let all your parent groups know about the FB page as some parents are missing out. Share share share. Make sure they are at least aware of the FB page.

MOTION: That the Secretary's & Community Liaison's report be accepted.

MOVED: ANDREA **SECONDED:** DANA **CARRIED**

KELLY DAVY

Vice President

Kelly has been VP for 3 years and prior to that she was secretary. She has been on NZFDC executive for 6 years. Kelly's report is just letting you know she has supported Kate as President, done lots of different roles, family gatherings, conferences, and she holds our ILS contract. It has been multiple roles of different things.

Kelly decided to not put a nomination forward this year due to family reasons, to refocus her life and her family.

She loves working with the team on NZFDC. We are all parents and while our journeys and paths are different, we always have that instant connection when we walk into a room – they just get it. We are here because of a passion, we work to support our children and all the children in Aotearoa. It has been lovely being on the Committee. Hopefully she can get back as the voting delegate for Taranaki. She would like to acknowledge Kate, Kirstin, Justin, Andrea, Jill, Catherine, Brent and Debra – you will be fine! She has enjoyed the weekend and hopes that you all have enjoyed it as much and take away things that work for your family and keep in touch. She would also like to acknowledge Madi, Chanel and Joshua for everything you have done all over the weekend.

MOTION: That the Vice President's report be accepted.

MOVED: KELLY **SECONDED:** LOGAN **CARRIED**

KIRSTIN JOHNSON-COOMBS

Services Co-ordinator

It has been another great year for Services awarding Grants to parents groups for camps, one for a child who needed a hearing loop in her classroom and plenty of tutor fees paid for.

The Excellence Awards were outstanding again, and all winners were posted on our Facebook page and website.

Keep encouraging families to apply for these Grants, tutor fees and assistive devices.

More information can be found on our website, or give me a call.

MOTION: That the Services Report be accepted.

MOVED: KIRSTIN **SECONDED:** ANDREA **CARRIED**

CATHERINE TROWBRIDGE

Family Kits Co-ordinator

Catherine introduced herself and what she does. There is a variation of where the kits are coming in regionally, which is great. However we are still needing to get the information about the NZFDC out to the many families who don't know about us. If you know of kids that are older, please let them know about the kits. Thanks to the people who have put their hands up and have delivered them personally.

MOTION: That the Family Kits Co-ordinator's Report be accepted.

MOVED: CATHERINE **SECONDED:** MEG **CARRIED**

TWO NEW MEMBERS

We have 8 members on the Committee because that is the maximum that we can afford to fly into meetings.

We have 1 person stepping down this year and we are lucky enough to have a nomination for someone to come in and fill that gap. We have also had a number of people that were co-opted.

As we do not have more nominations than places, the new executive committee will not need to go to a vote.

Welcome Dana Cook

Dana introduced herself and her family - husband Matt, two little girls – 2.5 and 4.5 – Hannah was diagnosed at birth – a success story. She has bilateral hearing aids – her little sister is 2.5, she is hearing. The family is trying to learn NZSL. We have started a family group in the Hawkes Bay about a year ago – we have done a few outings. 11 kits delivered last year so quite a few. Parents and kids meeting other people in their situation, and supporting each other. None of our parents are fluent in NZSL so learning has been hard. 3 of our families are here which given our distance, shows we have a fairly committed family group. We are on a positive role.

Welcome Debra Bellon

Debra was co-opted this last year and is from the Auckland region. Her

	<p>daughter Lucia is 6 and is deaf, and she has a 9 year old son. Lucia was born in France, moved to NZ when she was 4. She attends the KDEC unit. Our parents group have been more active recently.</p>
<p>ELECTION OF OFFICERS</p>	<p>The nominations that came in were for: Kate Whale – President Zis Lurajud and Margaret Cooper – Honorary Patrons Kirstin Johnson-Coombs – Vice President Andrea Craig – Secretary Justin Farquhar – Treasurer Catherine Trowbridge – Family Kits Brent Burcher - Canterbury Debra Bellon – Auckland Dana Cook – Hawkes Bay</p> <p>Jill Taylor’s nomination was withdrawn by her.</p> <p>Patron Lieutenant General The Right Honourable Sir Jerry Mateparae Her Excellency Lady Janine Mateparae</p> <p>Honorary Solicitor Weston Ward & Lancelles, Christchurch</p> <p>Honorary Auditor Martin Wakefield Ltd, Timaru</p> <p>MOTION: That the Election of Officers be received and correct. MOVED: KATE SECONDED: BRAD CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That Kate be re-elected as President. MOVED: HELEN SECONDED: BRAD CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That Brent be elected as Secretary. MOVED: DANA SECONDED: JUSTIN CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That Kirstin be elected as Vice President. MOVED: HELEN SECONDED: CATHERINE CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That Justin be re-elected as Treasurer. MOVED: STEVE SECONDED: CATHERINE CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That 4 Executives: Catherine, Andrea, Debra and Dana be elected onto the Committee. MOVED: GLEN SECONDED: BRAD CARRIED</p>

	<p>Note - We need to change our patronage as Sir Jerry is moving on. Welcome to the new committee. All Executive confirmed they are happy to take on the role.</p>
<p>REMITTS</p>	<p>THERE ARE NO REMITS.</p>
<p>GENERAL BUSINESS</p>	<p>Helen McKay - I do national advocacy work, many of you know what it is, and I would like to support something that Kate said yesterday. I do know the Government look for a united front – when the government don't see a united front they use it to divide.</p> <p>Everybody's kids are different – we have a verbal voice, or a signing voice, but we do have those voices. Our regional groups need to use those voices, because if we are seen to be fractured, change won't happen over the entire sector.</p> <p>We don't have to agree on everything, but I think we all want the best for our children.</p> <p>Kate presented gifts to Zis, Alan and Margaret – thank you very much, lovely to see you all.</p> <p>Margaret – great to see the numbers here, fighting the same battles we were fighting all those years ago.</p> <p>Zis – Justin, I'm impressed with the layout that you have got now. The one thing he can say is the longer you are on it, the easier it gets. All the best in that job – he hasn't been to an AGM for several years and it's great to see the group and how lively it is – keep up the spirit. It is hard going, but I am very impressed with what Helen said because we need to keep together and work as close as you can. Keep together and it has been great seeing the kids, it is lovely to see them coming through.</p> <p>Alan – you guys here (meaning the audience), one day should be up on the front table, as a Committee member. That is one of the messages that I would like to share; the committee will burn themselves out as they are so passionate. We do need to travel to some conferences, but it is important to stay on board and support Federation. We parents rely on you as a federation to provide the support and change what needs to be changing – special thanks to Kelly and Jill. They came on board with Alan – he has seen them both grow and change and become stronger. There are a lot of positive benefits being on an organization like this.</p> <p>Jill Taylor - I have been around since 2009. I'm passionate about deaf children - as you can see written somewhere, our deaf kids should have the same playing field as their hearing peers. As my daughter is about to turn 20, I feel it is time for some younger blood to come onto the Committee.</p>

Kate - My last and final gift, is for Kelly. It scares the heck out of me that I have to do this stuff without Kelly, though I know that Kirstin has got my back. NZFDC is as strong as we are because of Kelly. We all understand why she is leaving us, but will miss her terribly.

Kelly Davy - Thank you all, thank you very much. Because I am finishing, I feel that I need to acknowledge the Committee – Brent and Justin – really cool to have you on board and to have a Dad’s opinion and point of view.

Debra, thank you for allowing us to co-opt you on. Catherine, thank you for your service for the family kit, I know how important they are. Andrea, we are going to be so sorry to lose you next year. And to these two ladies up the front they are awesome.

Catherine said it was the best thing she has ever done! To all the parents here, really think hard, you may like to do this. This is a Committee that runs well, don’t be scared to be nominated.

Jill - Lauren has had a CI for nearly 18 years and she is going amazing. As my way of farewelling I would like to present a gift to the parent groups. They are CI dolls, handmade by a lovely lady here in NZ, because that is where I come from with my deaf child. There are two for each PG – up to you guys what you want to do with them!

Kate – I would like to give a massive thank you to the Canterbury Parents – those bags that each family received yesterday were organized and sorted and packed all by the Canterbury Parents. They did the entire bag themselves! They were incredible.

This place (Blue Skies) have been awesome as well. We had 4 Canterbury ladies taking the kids into the crèche – they are not here but please pass on our massive thanks knowing that the children were happy and having a ball.

Anybody want to hold the next AGM? Go back to your parent’s groups and ask.

Meeting Closed	10.51am
Next Meeting	
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Chairperson’s signature</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Date</p>



President Report - AGM 2016

It's been another big year for the Federation and for me personally, so I'd like to start with a huge thank you. My husband has pretty much been a single dad for more weekends than not over the last year while I trip around for Federation, and I can't begin to describe how amazing my children are! They lose me in the evenings and weekends and school holidays for Federation work and trips, but not once have they complained about it. They make me prouder than I can say.

Then there is this awesome executive committee. A group of people who give up their own family time, the time they have spare after working or studying full time. They are a passionate group of people determined to improve services and situations for children just like their own and parents going through the same struggles as they do themselves. I'm the sucker that stands up and talks at things like this, but they're doing the crazy hard work behind the scenes.

Which brings me to two amazing women. Jill, you have shown me that a strong, determined mum who never backs down gives these kids the platform from which to soar. You have been fighting this fight for a lot longer than me, but you never seem to stop smiling even when asking the hard questions. It will feel very strange without you and your wealth of knowledge at the table, and we will miss you terribly. And Kelly; Kelly has been my right-hand woman since I started this role as President, and I couldn't have done any of it without her. Her calm and her patience have helped to combat my lack of both, and I think together we have made a pretty awesome team. I'm not sure how we are going to cope without her.

The last year has been huge for us as a committee. Our focus was to get back to our roots; to meet face to face with parents and find out what it is that they need and how we can help. We have made a pretty big start to this, and the work will continue throughout the next year. I was lucky enough to visit parent groups in Southland, Otago, Christchurch, Taranaki, and Tauranga during term four last year. As an executive we visited Palmerston North and Auckland. I have been able to meet with a number of service providers to ensure that needs are being met, and have attended the Sector Advisory Group meetings regarding NZ Sign Language in our schools. There is always more work to do, but I feel we have made a great start.

And then there is this Family Conference! Our goal is to run a conference like this every two years for families to get together and meet, to learn new things or to simply share their experiences with others who understand. For our kids it's a great way to meet other children like them, whether they be Deaf, deaf, hard of hearing, or the siblings of D/deaf/HH kids. We really hope that you will take home the contact details of friends made this weekend and keep those relationships going.

So looking ahead... we have a strong sense of where the NZFDC is going and are planning for the next few years accordingly, but it's your input as parents that we really need. We as an executive are a pretty good representative spread of all of you here, but we only know that which applies to our own kids. We need your help and perspective to set where the NZFDC will go for the future.

A conversation with my oldest son who has been reading The Hunger Games books left me thinking a lot about Power in Numbers. For far too long Deaf education and services have been a 'them and us' game, when in all reality we as parents are all 'Us'. We're all in this together; no matter what choices we have made for our kids, we as a group are unstoppable.

Now there are two things that I resent more than any other on this journey of raising my amazing deaf son. The first is those who feel that they have a right to tell me what I should and shouldn't do with MY son. The first and hardest thing that I learned to say, both spoken and signed, is "This is my child, and my choice. Mind your own business!"

The second thing I resent is that my son doesn't receive the services that I know would benefit him. This is the reason why I am on the NZFDC; because I truly believe that we as parents can make a change if we WORK TOGETHER.

It doesn't matter if your child has cochlear implants, hearing aids or neither. It doesn't matter if your child is exclusively oral, exclusively NZSL or a mix of both. It doesn't matter what decision you made, as long as you feel that you were able to make the best decision for your family with all the information and support you needed. What does matter is that every decision that parents make is supported, and too often that isn't happening.

However if we work together as a united group then we can make the changes that need to be made and make sure everyone knows we will keep on pushing until our kids get what they need. We'll be that ever present, nagging voice that I spoke of yesterday; THOSE people!

So I guess if I leave you all with one message from this weekend it's that we are all here to support one another. We help other families up when they fall, and they help us up when we do. They're there with us at that terrible IEP, or when our kids stand up in assembly with all the confidence in the world and share their stories. I hope that you'll all take away great friendships and support networks to help your own journeys.



Secretary/Community Liaison Report for AGM 2016

The year has come around quickly again! Another productive year with a lot of changes happening in the background, especially for this role, for NZFDC. We have swapped over to a new email address system to reduce the work load and make things a little more streamlined. We have had major changes in how we share information with each other on the Executive Committee using a cloud based system so has been a major learning curve for me and many others. Technology has finally caught up with us and we are embracing it as it does make the job faster and quicker. Thanks must go to Meg Melvin our Web Administrator as she has been dedicated to bring us into the 21st Century. It is an ongoing process – a bit like the journey with your deaf or hard of hearing child/ren!

But now my time in this role is coming to a close. I am pleased that I will be handing over this role to an enthusiastic member of our team and know that Brent will take it on with relish and no doubt improve it. I will be remaining on the Executive Committee to expand the Website and Facebook page and support Brent as he gets to grips with all the information.

Thank you to all the team for a very supportive year. We **have** achieved a difference in some families lives.

Andrea Craig

Academic Excellence Awards (Services – Kirstin)



Each year Federation awards six young people trophies for academic achievement. These are in recognition for academic excellence in year 9 through to year 13 and a supreme award for a year 13 student who has consistently achieved well over their last five years at school.

The Executive would like to acknowledge the winners for 2015:

Bensley Cup – Winnie Somonon (Wellington) – Year 9
Zis Lurajud Cup – Vince Cheyne (Hawkes Bay) – Year 10
Makere Mason Trophy – Kenneth Zhu (Auckland) – Year 11
Margaret Cooper Trophy – Callum Flett (Otago) – Year 12
Devine Family Cup – Lewis Halpin (Wellington) – Year 13
Paton Family Award – Santana Chapman (Wellington) – Year 13
Devine Family Cup – Jozef Crosland (Wellington) – Year 13

Children between Years 1-8 had the opportunity this year to be nominated for a NZFDC Excellence Medal which they keep. These were awarded to the following children in 2015:

Year 1 – Xavier Davis (Auckland)
Year 2 – Benji Earl (Taranaki)
Year 4 – Tilly Davies (South Canterbury)
Year 5 – Bailey Victoria Given (Waiuku)
Year 6 – Albert Tengu (Nelson)
Year 7 – Coby Tauroa (Bay of Plenty)
Year 8 – Latecia Haora (Auckland)

AGM Report - Family Information Kit Co-ordinator - Catherine Trowbridge

5 June 2016

I have enjoyed yet another year of preparing kits and sending them out to families.

Since July 2015 **48** kits have been sent out to families all around New Zealand (49 kits were sent last year)

<u>North Island</u>		<u>South Island</u>	
Auckland	15	Invercargill	1
Wellington	5	Te Anau	1
Tauranga	1	Christchurch	4
Napier	4	Otago	1
Hastings	7		
Taupo	1		
Palmerston North	4		
New Plymouth	3		
Northland	2		

The contents of the kits are reviewed and updated to contain relevant information and aids to assist each child and family. Both Kelston and van Asch supply catalogues so that families can purchase items that best suit their child's needs. I would like to acknowledge both schools for supplying these free of charge.

We are getting a lot of great feedback from families who look forward to meeting the designated person who delivers the kit to the families. Also we get feedback from those designated to deliver the kits that it is a great opportunity to meet new families and the positive impact of meeting face to face. Please let me know if there are any changes to those designated in each area so that my database is up-to-date.

A big thank you to the following ladies for delivering family kits in their area: Chris Shields in Akld, Nicki Young in Napier, Dana Cook in Hastings/Napier, Kirstin Johnson-Coombs in BOP and Nicola Earl in Taranaki.