

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.

FEBRUARY 2007



As we open up applications for grants from the Oticon Foundation I want to recognise those with hearing impairment and those working with people with hearing impairment and the issues they face.

New technology, advances in treatment, therapy and medicine mean almost everyone with a hearing impairment today can have a better quality of life. But with these advances come challenges to keep making progress and to assess and review best practice and new practice.

During the year I often come across activity and initiatives that could benefit from further research, investigation or overseas experience and showcasing.

The Foundation urges people to consider whether their work or involvement with the hearing impaired could benefit from funding to help improve what they do and how they deliver.

Applications for 2007 Oticon Foundation grants must be in by 31 March.

Karen Pullar
Secretary to Trustees

Message from the Minister

Improving the lives of all New Zealanders has been a priority for this Government. Initiatives and decisions that have helped transform the economy and those that focus on families and communities are all aimed at a better quality of life for all Kiwis.

It is against this backdrop that the Oticon Foundation's commitment to improving the lives of the hearing impaired is to be applauded. The variety and depth of research and activity that has been possible thanks to the Foundation's financial support over the past 30 years are impressive.

I want to congratulate the Foundation for its commitment to the hearing impaired community in New Zealand and to those working to find solutions to hearing impairment.

I urge professionals, researchers and those involved with the hearing impaired to ensure they tap into the funding the Foundation offers with strong, robust and quality projects that will make a real difference.

Hon. Pete Hodgson
Minister of Health



Saturday 31 March Deadline Looming

The Oticon Foundation has started the countdown for applications for financial support for research, teaching or other initiatives that will make a difference to the lives of the hearing impaired.

The Foundation is looking to support projects and professionals that will have an ongoing benefit to the hearing impaired – particularly in the support of scientific research and teaching projects.

Check out the back page for details of how to apply. Get your application in no later than 31 March 2007.

Don't leave it to the last minute.

the oticon foundation



Pizzas, Perth and Politics – Carl Lintott masters it all

24 year-old Carl Lintott has the confidence today to not only order a pizza by himself – but to put his name forward to be chairperson of the Canterbury cell group of DeafBlind New Zealand.

Carl is DeafBlind. That means he is profoundly Deaf and has a guide dog as well.

With guide dog Danny by his side, Carl will be heading to Perth later this year to attend the World DeafBlind Conference.

The Oticon Foundation has helped cover Carl's costs to get to Perth with guide dog Danny, a communicator and a sign language interpreter.

"I am really excited about going to Perth. It's a time to share information with other DeafBlind. I learn a lot from these experiences. They give me more confidence.

"In the past, I've learnt things like how to catch buses using communication cards, the best way to ask people in the community to help do things like cross the road or find the lift that is open and how to order a pizza by myself.

"I hope to learn about new technology to communicate with others, and also prove to myself that I can do anything I really want to."

Carl will be sharing what he learns in Perth back through networks he has in New Zealand.

"As a result of the help I have received, and the confidence I have gained from the whole fundraising experience I have decided to put my name forward to be chairperson of the Canterbury cell group of DeafBlind New Zealand."

Aussie Enthusiasm Fires Up Hearing Therapists

The hearing therapists at LIFE Unlimited open the door to improved ability to cope with hearing loss for thousands of New Zealanders over the age of 16 every year.

LIFE Unlimited is funded by the Ministry of Health and its free hearing therapy service can be the first port of call for many people worried about their hearing.

"We're committed to ongoing, quality training for our therapists," says LIFE Unlimited Senior Manager, Jessica Lissaman.

In late November, LIFE Unlimited used an Oticon Foundation grant to secure the expertise of Australian Dr Christopher Lind from Flinders University to provide practical strategies for therapists working with hearing impaired adults.

"Christopher shared information and practical aural rehabilitative methods which included hearing tactics, conversation and assertiveness strategies,

to enhance the fluency and success of daily communications between adults with hearing loss and their conversation partners.

"He discussed "what conversation is" and meaningful methods of working with clients, and provided techniques and materials that therapists can use in their daily work with clients.

"The sessions were really informative, and the trainers and therapists felt inspired by Christopher's passion and enthusiasm for his subject," says Jessica

The communication seminar was held in Hamilton on 29 November as part of the annual national in-service training programme for hearing therapists employed by LIFE Unlimited.



Life unlimited conference November 2006

Sign of the Times: The story of New Zealand's visual language – documentary available now

Victoria Manning and Paul Wolfram are inviting all of us to journey in to the Deaf world through the country's first feature length documentary about New Zealand's Deaf community.

Victoria and Paul produced and directed the documentary "Sign of the Times", which is available now on DVD.

"Sign of the Times is about the Deaf New Zealanders who fought to have their language recognised as a real language and viable means of communication," say Paul and Victoria.

"We decided to make the film to capture the official recognition of New Zealand Sign Language as an official language, and the issues around this.

"It was important to us to provide a medium for the Deaf community to tell its own story. We set out to make this film in an ethnographic way, with no

prior set agenda. We let the community lead us, and we followed their issues and stories."

Paul and Victoria thank the Deaf community for supporting them in making this film.

The Oticon Foundation was the first to contribute funding towards the project.

"The Foundation saw that this was an important documentary for New Zealand," say Paul and Victoria.

The documentary premiered in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch to sell-out audiences. It screened at the British Deaf Film festival, and is being submitted to other international deaf festivals and events.

To buy copies of Sign of the Times on DVD contact the film makers, Paul and Victoria, at films@handmade.net.nz.



oticon foundation hearing education centre

Auckland University Oticon
Foundation Hearing Education Centre

What's Up in 2007

Keep your diaries free on:

- 4 April
- 6 June
- 8 August
- 10 October

for the Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre
quarterly Hearing Seminar Series for 2007.

The seminars bring together clinical and basic
hearing scientists in Auckland to encourage greater
interdisciplinary dialogue and possible inter-
disciplinary research collaborations.

October Symposium: Prevention of Hearing Loss

Speakers include Dr Billy Martin from Oregon Health
Sciences University in Portland, USA. Dr Martin is
a hearing scientist with an interest in noise-induced
hearing loss and its prevention.

Our Expertise on the International Stage

Elizabeth Reid used to be a speech-language therapist, and has now completed her Masters of Audiology at Canterbury University.

"As part of my Masters I carried out research into the effectiveness of a therapy programme aimed at improving speech production in children with hearing impairments using objective, real-time visual feedback, compared with traditional aural-oral therapy approaches," says Elizabeth.

Results of the study highlighted the usefulness of acoustic analyses in establishing a link between hearing-impaired children's speech production and perceptual deficits.

"This has provided clues to the type of compensatory feedback

needed for aural rehabilitation. Additionally, the use of spectrograms and RMS trace as visual feedback were found to facilitate learning and provide increased motivation to learn, providing preliminary support for use of visual treatment for hearing impaired children."

In mid November Elizabeth presented her research to the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) annual conference in Miami.

"I received very positive feedback regarding my presentation, including feedback from a leading researcher in the area which was very exciting!"

The Oticon Foundation helped support Elizabeth's attendance at the conference.

Oticon Foundation grant recipients 2006

ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF THE DEAF – travel grant to attend Deaf Education Aotearoa New Zealand (DEANZ) forum meetings

CARL LINTOTT – travel grant to attend World DeafBlind Conference in Perth Australia in 2007

ELIZABETH REID – Audiology Student, University of Canterbury – travel grant to present her Masters research at the ASHA Conference, Miami, USA

GARY ADAMS – provision of loop testing equipment for use at St Thomas Church, Motueka

LIFE UNLIMITED – for Christopher Lind, of Flinders University, keynote speaker at National in-service training

MAULE-COOPER FAMILY – travel grant to attend to attend John Tracy programme in Los Angeles, USA

NELSON HEARING ASSOCIATION – for hospital bedside notices for patients with hearing loss

OTICON NEW ZEALAND LIMITED – translation cost of hearing aid story booklets into Maori, Samoan and Tongan

SARAH EDIE – Audiology Student, University of Canterbury – travel grant to present her Masters research at the ASHA Conference, Miami, USA

THE HEARING HOUSE – towards training and supervision of Auditory Verbal Hearing Therapists

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND – ongoing funding for Oticon Foundation Hearing Research Centre

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. 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
Phone: 0800 OTICON
E-mail: info@oticon.org.nz

www.oticon.org.nz