



Focus

Blind Citizens NZ

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Yes, I Do Dare

Editorial, by Allan Jones

I surround this editorial with three quotes from songs and one from a discombobulated film.

I am going to start with a quote from a John Lennon song, which I am putting a happy and optimistic view on. "And so this is Christmas, and what have you done". Sometimes when I have heard this song I feel it is sung "tongue in cheek". This Christmas however, Blind Citizens NZ, all its members and Blind Low Vision NZ can be proud of what has been achieved this year to keep blind people abreast of COVID-19 and the steps government took to cope.

Both Blind Citizens NZ and Blind Low Vision NZ know there are lessons to be learnt from this exercise. The provision of the Alexa will assist a great deal but it isn't the entire answer, especially for those members who do not have access to the internet or Wi-Fi.

Earlier this year our Board needed to make the very difficult decision regarding our 75th birthday celebrations. I believe the decision to postpone the main celebrations until next year was a brave and important one. However, I am glad the Board made the decision to release Greg Newbold's book Equity and Governance this year. I am two-thirds of the way through the book and I am enjoying it immensely. There is an extensive bunch of appendices, which assist with finding names and dates.

As I read the section relating to the National Executive's decision regarding Terry Small and the debacle regarding his choice of sighted guide to a world conference, I have a slightly different opinion that I share. I was a 20 year old at the National Executive meeting when the discussion took place. In those days branches appointed people to represent them. I represented Dunedin. My memory was that after considerable discussion, Bob Morris, father of the proposed sighted guide leapt to his feet and said, "I forbid my daughter to go".

I do not recall there being a vote regarding this.

The other issue that Greg brought up was the suspicion that Wally Christiansen had about Bruce Kibblewhite always watching him.

Greg has given me a wonderful segway to an event about which I have always had discomfort. Around 1960/1961 Matron Thompson announced to a school assembly that the director had asked her to resign. This was not long after Matron Thompson had sacked two extremely abusive house staff. Bruce Kibblewhite tried to intervene to have Matron Thompson's resignation rescinded but unfortunately, he was unsuccessful.

I want to lead the next section of this editorial with the words of an Eagles' song I have used before - "Lyin' Eyes". I wonder how it ever got this crazy – I refer to the monumental struggle to find a governance model, which would put the blind in charge of their own affairs and destiny. In 1979 Hon Mervyn Wellington, Minister of Education appointed four new government trustees to the RNZFB Board of Trustees. Don McKenzie and Michael Turner being two of them. Bill Bryan who had been Chair for 14 years didn't have his warrant renewed.

Then in 1995, a document known as the green paper was released and was put out for discussion.

I remember this saga very well, including getting involved in some very heated and confusing meetings, and discussions especially with those who took the view that the blind weren't capable of deciding their own fate. Reading Greg's account I am appalled at the obscene amount of money spent on legal advice and lawyer's fees. One piece of legal advice, which Chen Palmer asked for, was wanting a clear statement on what the aims of the Blind Foundation were. Surely this should have been a given at the start of the whole process.

One other surprising but important decision was Gordon Sanderson shoulder-tapping Jonathan Mosen, suggesting that Jonathan was the person to lead the board into its new way of being.

This is the part of my editorial where the film I mentioned at the beginning of this editorial takes effect. The film was “My name is Greta”. If my wife hadn’t been with me I would have walked out of the film after five minutes. I discovered much of the film was subtitled. The endearing quality to me were Greta’s powerful and hard-hitting speeches and the statement “How Dare You”. I pondered if that statement had been used during the governance discussions that the process might have moved faster.

I can think of a couple of instances when such a statement came close to being made. In 1995 Grace Wheeler challenged the RNZFB Board about the redundancies of several blind workers. What Grace never knew was that for me, being made redundant was a blessing. It removed me from what I considered a toxic environment. Another instance to relate was when Geoff Gibbs was savaged by an old aunt of mine. Supposedly for putting my brother out in to the cold. What my old aunt would have never known was that Barry moving to his own flat gave him the best 15 years of his life.

Retracing the saga made me aware of several aspects - the length of time from start to finish. Then there are the “what if’s”. What if there had been a different Board Chair elected in 1994 when Gordon Sanderson was elected. And what if Dame Augusta Wallace had been persuaded to come back and lead the Governance Working Party after she walked out on its lack of progress.

There were three working party’s to consider progress. The Governance Working Party “GWP”. The Governance Task Force “GTF”, and the Governance Reform Implementation Team “GRIT”. I have at times conjectured about people becoming confused and ending up at the wrong meeting at one famous or infamous weekend.

Both the RNZFB's Board and the Association's Board ended up meeting at Awhina house. Surely in our 75-year celebrations we could construct a Monty Python skit out of all of this with people ending up at the wrong meeting or being given the wrong piece of paper.

Peter Sellar's "Fool Britannia", gives a wonderful exultation of this. One can only imagine the leaks of information that must have occurred and the toxicity of the environment. Want more? You will have to read the book, which is available from National Office.

My last topic for this editorial is the just held RNZFB Board Director elections. The fact that only two percent of eligible voters voted for the highest polling candidate is worrying, especially when we look at the angst and struggles to get us to being in the position of electing our own governing board of directors. I don't know what will change this but something has got to happen to validate the mandate we have achieved. To ponder this, I will leave you with a famous Pete Seeger quote from "what did you learn in school today"- "our leaders are the finest men, and we elect them again and again".

I wish you all an enjoyable holiday and happy Christmas. In the New Year I may well come and tap you on the shoulder for a guest editorial.

Capacity vs Capability

From Jonathan Godfrey, National President

Words matter. That might sound strange coming from a statistician, but among many pairs of words that often go together, I've been hearing people use the words "capacity" and "capability" a lot this year. At times, I've wondered if they've been used correctly, especially when it comes to some issues facing disabled people.

It seems to me that some disabled people have felt it quite important to assert the idea that they are capable of doing something.

I don't go around talking about "capability" and "capacity" a lot, but I do make sure people know not to under-estimate my abilities.

I'm not capable of driving my children to school. I know how a car works. I know the way to go, but I don't have a driver's licence.

I must accept that there are constraints that make a difference on what I can say fits within my capability. If I lack capability, then asking if I have time or energy to do something is pointless.

Like everyone else, I only have 24 hours in my day. I have to eat, sleep and all those things everyone must do, but then I get to start making choices about what else I can fit in. This is then a question of my capacity.

So, when someone asks me, "Jonathan, can you ..." I must first think if I 1) actually have the necessary skills required and 2) that there isn't anything stopping me from doing it (legally, morally, or logically), then 3) decide if I can fit it into a fairly active life. Only the last of these three steps involves exercising control, and at that point, the question really should be "Will you..."

Dealing with the inability to achieve a task is part of life. We may decide that we don't want to acquire a particular skill which then limits our capability. OK, I didn't actually choose not to be an astronaut, but I have, even if only implicitly, decided not to learn to play the accordion. I've made lots of decisions about learning skills, and some of them took some doing. It took years to get my university degrees, and a significant portion of my working life involves updating or refreshing skills as well as gaining new ones. In fact, trying new things is such an inherent part of who I am today that I can't imagine a time when I won't be learning something new. I have to accept though that this is a choice. I am not forced by anyone else to acquire skills or knowledge. It is attitude.

But and a very big but, it would be unreasonable of me to expect this of everyone else. There are things I don't want to be forced into doing that I haven't done before, or having to change the way I do something. This is what has made 2020 quite challenging for me, and I'm not alone. We've all been tested.

Changes in what we've been able to do and how we've done it during 2020's times of uncertainty really has pushed some people to embrace more change than perhaps they had planned. Whether we like it or not, many of these changes are going to become part of the "new normal". Zoom calls are here to stay, or at least there will be more meetings held using a digital technology solution. At some point, the idea of using a teleconference based on touch-tone telephones will become a thing of the past. Right now though, we must accommodate anyone who prefers to use a phone. This can be done and is being done by branches, networks and your board.

As an organisation that wants our members to connect with one another, Blind Citizens NZ must understand what factors prevent everyone from going digital. How will we make sure our members aren't victim to a digital divide that separates those who have from those who have not, especially as those who have not are perhaps at the greatest risk of not having their needs met. We cannot afford to let Government or anyone providing services to the public assume that everyone has embraced every new piece of technology. Some people in our community will have decided that the investment in new skills can't be justified, and we must respect that they had a choice; others will feel that they don't have a choice, but that doesn't mean we or anyone else can ignore their needs. Challenges we face when advocating for our members include that many people assume everyone within our community has the most modern tools. This means Blind Citizens NZ must still make sure that essential information is provided in a range of media that covers every person's skill set. One size, very definitely, does not fit all.

On the other hand, Blind Citizens NZ is also doing what we can to help every blind, deafblind, low vision or vision impaired person upskill to meet the demands of the new normal. Our people will be on the wrong side of that digital divide if we don't have affordable access to the technologies we need. That means more than just a flash phone.

Digital connectedness means internet access from our homes; it means having a computer that is modern enough to cope with the files we receive; and then of course we need the adaptive software. Having all these tools is necessary but it is not enough. On top of the things a sighted person needs to know about using their tools, we need to know how to drive our screen reader or enlargement software, and that means training.

This all points to an ongoing need for Blind Citizens NZ to offer reminders to Government and all service providers. Blind, deafblind, low vision and vision-impaired people need to have enough income or financial support to purchase the tools we need to survive in a new normal. We also need the skills required under a new normal, like increasing our comfort doing some things differently including online shopping. Our young people need to gain the skills that will set them up for a life of learning. All of us need to actively revisit our skills occasionally, to ensure we keep them sharp enough to foot it under the new normal. Some of us will need to discover what skills we need and how to acquire them.

As a community, we need to make sure that no one is left behind; so that means checking on each other, supporting each other to learn and adapt to change. It also means supporting those people who cannot make those changes.

As individuals, our capability will be tested. If we've increased our capability, our capacity will soon be tested because we'll each be in a position to make choices about how we use our time and energy.

Choices are based on having options and being able to make a choice means we have control over our own destiny. No matter what the new normal looks like, I hope we each get to increase the personal control we exercise in future.

The summer break usually gives me the chance to kick back and think about what I've valued over the past year and what I want to do differently next year.

For many years, this process has been squeezed in among the quality time spent with friends and family enjoying the festive season. For much of 2020, I've given more thought to what is most important to me. He tangata, he tangata, he tangata. I hope you each get a chance to spend some quality time with the people that matter to you most. See you in 2021, the start of the new normal.

News about Blind Citizens NZ 2020 Annual General Meeting

We share snippets of news about aspects of the 10 October Annual General Meeting. This one-day event was well attended by people present in person, joining by Zoom and we had several from across the world, linked to our live stream.

While many by now may be aware of the election outcome, there will be just as many who are yet to catch up with the news. In alphabetical order, the successful candidates elected for a three-year term are Andrea Courtney and Paula Waby. The appointment of Vice President happens as quickly as possible following the conclusion of the AGM. Ms Chrissy Fern holds the appointed role of Vice President through until the conclusion of the 2021 AGM and Conference.

Now on to awards recipients...

- **Beamish Memorial Medal:** this prestigious award presented to Ann Bain (posthumously), recognises the years of work she contributed to Blind Citizens NZ and the blind community. Over many years Ann held each of the positions of Chair, National Councillor, Secretary and Committee Member on the Wellington Branch Committee. At a national level, Ann was a member of the Board of Blind Citizens NZ. She represented Blind Citizens NZ on the NZ Bankers Association Focus Group, and held the position of Council Member with Arts Access Aotearoa where her passion for the Arts and audio description came to the fore. Ann's daughter and family received the award on Ann's behalf.
- **Extra Touch Award:** this award recognises an individual or organisation where, an outstanding contribution is made towards improvement in access or service to blind and vision impaired people. Defined in its broadest sense, access includes aspects such as information, technology and communications, and customer services. Nicola Owen is this year's recipient of the Extra Touch Award – painting pictures with words, she is someone who aspires to make a blind bit of difference for so many people, and who continually goes that extra mile... Amongst Nicola's many achievements is that she is a leading audio describer who has trained some 40 other New Zealanders since she undertook her own training in 2011. Her skill, together with her infectious enthusiasm for audio description, which she shares with other audio describers, has enriched the lives of so many attending live performances, visiting museums, art galleries and other events.
- **Johnson Trophy for Leadership:** presented to Juanita Willems, this award recognises the breadth of her leadership qualities. These include her ability to lead and influence others whether inside or outside the blind community, and her contributions for the betterment of others in the community. Juanita Willems gets on and makes a blind bit of difference for others, without thinking twice of her own challenges.

Juanita's leadership knows no boundaries – of the many examples there are to share, Juanita's leadership for the past 7 years, running Foster Hope Otago, a 100% volunteer position is but one. Through her initiative and oversight, this charity sends out over 1,200 backpacks filled with essential items to children entering into foster care, as well as around 800 Xmas presents. In 2019 Juanita was the recipient of Attitude Awards "Spirit of Attitude Award", and also named a Kiwibank local hero.

- **John McDonald Trophy:** this award is presented to the branch with the highest membership in relation to Blind Low Vision NZ registrations in that area. Southland Branch having the highest percentage of membership with 14.5%, received the trophy.
- **Membership-for-Life:** the decision of the AGM was unanimous to award Auckland member John Puhara Membership-for-Life. John's long-time membership of Blind Citizens NZ, and his involvement and support of the organisation were paramount in bestowing this award on John.

Equity and Governance: A main event of the one-day AGM was the launch of "Equity and Governance", authored by Greg Newbold. This book brings Blind Citizens NZ's 75-year history together in one place. Greg draws in the first 50 years of Blind Citizens NZ's history from Quest for Equity, and then captures the next (most recent) 25 years. Print copies of the book are available from National Office at \$30 each. We will have news of audio and braille available in our March 2021 Focus issue.

There were several first time attendees once again, and we share here the thoughts and experience of a Wellington-based member as follows...

Mahendra Bali: The Association of Blind Citizens New Zealand's Annual General Meeting was held Saturday 10 October at the Brentwood Hotel, Kemp Street Kilbirnie Wellington.

As a first time participant from Wellington, I was impressed with the classy arrangements of the hall. There were spacious rows of tables covered with table cloths. There was easy access to the toilet facilities and the dining hall. The hospitality was very good with jugs of water and lollies on every table. Tea, coffee and biscuits were provided and I think lunch could have been a little better.

The meeting was conducted very smoothly and the National President's speech was informative, encouraging and pleasing. He said that the organisation has been providing valuable service to its members for the last 75 years. Two remits were read out, discussed and passed. It was heartening to witness John Puhara awarded Life Membership for 20 years of dedicated service to the organisation. The meeting concluded with the cutting of a cake to celebrate 75 years of the organisation and the meeting concluded at 3:45pm.

Thank you Mahendra – we hope you will join us in 2021.

Audio Description - Translating Pictures into Words By Able – Producers of Audio Description in NZ and Thomas Bryan, Media Access Charitable Trust

Have you often wondered what's happening when watching TV? Or have you given up watching TV as it's too difficult to know what's happening? Maybe you think that TV is really only for those who can see.

If you find yourself agreeing with one of the above, then you are encouraged to read on and check out how audio description is making a difference for blind people, when watching TV.

Audio description is an additional soundtrack describing what is happening, giving words to action scenes, facial expressions and many of the visual aspects of TV where there are no words to indicate what is happening.

Audio description often referred to as AD is currently on a number of TV programmes on TVNZ 1, TVNZ 2 and Duke. AD is funded by NZ On Air and produced by Able.

As a result of advocacy by Blind Citizens NZ and Able, NZ On Air this year allocated new additional funding to enable Able to produce even more programmes with AD. Able are expanding their AD operations, including a new recording booth, to allow the increased production of AD content. Able are also working with other broadcasters such as MediaWorks (Three) and Prime to bring a selection of their programmes to air with AD.

Able emails out a weekly newsletter listing news, and which programmes will include AD. You can sign up to get your own copy in your inbox at www.able.co.nz. Currently there are about 70 hours of TV with AD per week. With the new funding, this will grow over time to 80 hours plus, of TV a week.

The below image placed to the left, depicts how a programme is identified as having audio description. Inside a dark teal circle the letters AD appear in white. To the right of the letters in white, there are three sound wave lines.



To get AD on your TV, there is a feature that needs to be turned on. The steps to do this will depend on what make and model TV you have, but all newer type TVs support AD. Also if you have a SKY or Vodafone TV box, then AD can be activated. For those with internet access, you can find some examples on how to activate AD on your TV on Able's website, or by phoning Able.

Programmes with AD range from those for children, movies, soaps and drama programmes. Often there are programmes repeated to ensure there is content throughout the day that will appeal to a wide range of interests.

Unfortunately AD is not yet available on the TVNZ OnDemand service. Blind Citizens NZ and Able are very much aware that this is a real concern for our community and are working with TVNZ and Government to progress this issue. It's not an easy fix, as accessibility of their apps and websites also need to be addressed.

Blind Citizens NZ and Able are keen to hear more from you and the wider blind community, what you like or don't like, or any improvements you want to see with AD on TV. Hearing your voice supports Blind Citizens NZ's efforts to lobby for increased hours, improvements and widening the service to other broadcasters.

If you notice an issue with AD in a programme, or you have any suggestions or wish to provide feedback, then Able are keen to hear more from you. You can contact Able at:

Email: hello@able.co.nz

Phone: 09 9 950 5172

Internet: <https://able.co.nz/audio-description/how-do-i-access-audio-description>

Or contact Thomas Bryan by email: Thomas.s.bryan@gmail.com

Thomas Bryan represents the voice of the blind community on the Media Access Charitable Trust which governs Able.

Oamaru - Another Blind Friendly Town to Travel to From Allan Jones

I was born in Oamaru on March 18 1942. I regard this town as my turangawaewae, and over the years, I have travelled down there for many enjoyable holidays. There is a line in a Don McGlashan song about Wellington which goes "you can walk everywhere as nowhere is too far" this also applies to Oamaru. In recent years I have felt the value of this.

The town consisting of one main street, Thames Street and a number of side streets where there are a few shops and tourist attractions.



In the above photo facing the camera dressed in costume for the Oamaru heritage week, is Focus Editor Allan Jones seated, with his wife Annette standing to his right – her left arm resting over Allan’s back. Allan wears dark glasses, a peaked chequered cap, light coloured shirt, grey vest, bluish jacket, dress trousers and covered sandals. Annette wears a crimson rose skirt, layered cape of a lighter colour over a white blouse, and a bonnet with a ribbon hanging down each side – she is dressed as a character from Charles Dickens’ “Pickwick Papers”, a book she holds in front, in her right hand.

As a youngster, Oamaru was an agricultural town. Now it is a tourist town, the Opera House, Library and Bryden Hotel where I have stayed on many occasions, are all in walking distance of each other.

The main bus station is in Eden Street and a block down Thames Street are two talking ATMs.

The Bryden Hotel is an old style hotel with an old and new wing. The lift in the old wing has been out of order, which meant a climb of 31 stairs, but there is a lift at the other end of the hotel. Wi-Fi and internet was good. I also could use my Alexa speaker. There are a number of cafes up and down Thames Street and the Bryden Hotel has an adequate dining room.

There is an old part of the town where old Oamaru stone buildings have been done up. The steampunk movement has a strong hold in Oamaru, and there are a lot of different sounds you can hear. There is a local radio station, which plays a lot of 1930's style of music.

Just recently I travelled down from Christchurch by Intercity bus. There are two services a day - one leaving Christchurch at 8am and another at 2 pm. Another option is Atomic Travel, as they provide a very reliable shuttle service.

There is the famous Whitestone cheese factory to visit and a very well provided penguin colony.

My return to Wellington was via Timaru involving an hour's bus trip north of Oamaru then just over an hour's flight back to Wellington. I was pleased to note that my Wellington Total Mobility card worked in Oamaru taxis. However, I had an old paper book with me just in case.

Focus Editor – Call for Expressions of Interest

Allan Jones has held the role of Focus Editor since December 2017. He is happy to continue for the immediate future while encouraging the Board to also publicise the need for someone to replace him in this role. Key aspects for prospective editors to bear in mind include that:

- the appointment will be for a two-year term;
- Focus is the official national publication of Blind Citizens NZ;
- Blind Citizens NZ's membership is the target audience;
- editorials are intended to raise and promote debate on issues that are current and topical to the blindness community, and stimulate reader-interest in submitting Letters to the Editor.

The Board has previously considered how Focus presents to members, individuals and entities who like to remain abreast of Blind Citizens NZ's work. Mindful the presentation of Focus is largely unchanged since early 2000 the Focus Editor has an opportunity to influence change.

Expressions of interest from amongst financial members of Blind Citizens NZ for this position are called for. Should further information be required, applicants should contact National Office for full details of the position. Expressions of interest close 4pm, Monday 15 March 2021. The Board will consider all expressions of interest at its 27-28 March 2021 meeting.

Blind Citizens NZ - World Blind Union Representative

Refreshed Call for Applications

The Board has extended the opportunity for interested members to apply for the position of Blind Citizens NZ's WBU Representative. Applicants from the first round are aware they need not reapply.

In the meantime, and through to 31 March 2021, the Board is appreciative of Ms Paula Waby's support to continue in an "acting" role as WBU Representative.

Applications close at Blind Citizens NZ's National Office at 4pm Wednesday 4 February 2021.

Interviews will happen between late February and mid-March 2021.

Once the Board makes its appointment, and if the person is not already on the Board as an elected member in their own right, the Board will then co-opt the successful applicant. Rule 6.3 "Co-opting Additional Board Members", is the reference for information about this constitutional provision.

Anyone interested in applying for the position as Blind Citizens NZ's WBU Representative, should request in the first instance, the position description. This sets out skills, requirements and attributes the Board believes necessary for the person in this role. Applicants should be certain to refer to these.

Cyril White Memorial Fund

Closing Date for Applications – 1 February 2021

The Cyril White Memorial Fund facilitates funding opportunities that encourage and cultivate leadership skills and qualities among blind, and vision impaired people. Blind Citizens NZ, together with Blind Low Vision NZ, is responsible for publicising these opportunities. The next round for applications closes 4pm, 1 February 2021.

To provide some context about the fund, Cyril White was a pioneer in the blindness advocacy movement. His passion and legacy led to the establishment of the Cyril White Memorial Fund following his death in 1984.

Eligibility of applicants is primarily for those people who meet the requirements for full registration with Blind Low Vision NZ.

In addition, projects that are likely to be of direct benefit or interest to blind and vision-impaired people are eligible for consideration.

If you have a project or activity and want to find out whether this meets the fund criteria, do not hesitate to contact us for full details.

Then if you do submit your application, you can be confident you have ticked all the required boxes. Most of all, that eligibility criteria is met.

Applications to the Cyril White Memorial Fund must be received by 4pm, Monday 1 February 2021. These should be for the attention of: Cyril White Fund, C/ Blind Citizens NZ, PO Box 7144, Newtown, Wellington 6242. Alternatively, by email to admin@abcnz.org.nz including in the subject line, Cyril White Fund application.

Support Blind Citizens NZ's Income Generation Efforts

Blind Citizens NZ has both Charitable and Donee status. This is important for anyone thinking about the mutually beneficial outcomes of payroll giving and making us your charity of choice. Income received through donations, bequests and payroll giving for example, go a long way towards supporting the many facets of our work i.e. our advocacy, promotional campaigns, and communication and community education. Making Blind Citizens NZ the recipient of a bequest or legacy, is another way you can support us. Here is information about each of these options.

Payroll Giving: this is an easy way for an employee to donate to a charity of their choice, such as Blind Citizens NZ. When an employee donates to a charity through their payroll, they receive a tax refund immediately. For all other types of donation, the donor must wait until the end of the tax year to receive their tax refund.

One of the key benefits of donating through your wages (Payroll Giving) is that as an employee you may decide to donate your refund to the charity as well. Charitable Payroll Giving is optional and not all employers will participate. Blind Citizens NZ has Donee Status, and is eligible to receive payroll gifts. Steps to Payroll Giving donations include:

1. Ask your employer if payroll giving is an employee benefit. Advocate for Blind Citizens NZ, and outline why you are passionate about the organisation. Some employers match payroll gifts with a contribution of their own.
2. If payroll giving is available, provide your employer with the bank account details for Blind Citizens NZ.
3. Decide how much you can afford, and how frequently you will donate, considering the immediate tax benefit.
4. Notify Blind Citizens NZ that you are making a payroll gift. Your employer may transfer the money into Blind Citizens NZ's bank account without any notification.

Making a Bequest: Through our efforts and your financial support, we are working on the removal of barriers faced by blind, deafblind, low vision, and vision impaired people. Blind Citizens NZ has been extremely fortunate to benefit from legacies, and we take this opportunity to recognise generically, the generosity of those people and their families.

Your Will can make a lasting gift and Blind Citizens NZ would be extremely grateful for any contribution. If you choose to leave a gift to Blind Citizens NZ, suggested wording for your will is:

I give and bequeath (_____) percent of my estate to the

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated to be applied for general purposes.

A receipt taken by my trustee as being given on behalf of Blind Citizens NZ will be a complete discharge to my trustee for the legacy. To find out how we inform those who have pledged their support to us, if you have questions or you wish to make a contribution contact:

- Rose Wilkinson 021 222 6940 / 0800 222 694
- **Email:** bequest-info-blindcitizensnz@groups.io

COVID-19 update from the New Zealand Government

Planning for the Summer

The Government has outlined extensive planning in the event of a community case of COVID-19 during the summer holidays. Our summer planning approach supports New Zealand's elimination strategy to keep COVID-19 out. If we find it, we will stamp it out. To manage any community cases over the holidays, we've made sure the Government's COVID-19 team, and the national support network, are ready.

New Zealanders can be reassured our planning has been extensive and has included scenario testing and understanding the actions that might be needed, including, as a last resort, Alert Level changes.

If a positive case were found in the community, we would use the usual approach to communicating with the public, with updates and advice provided by the Prime Minister, the COVID-19 Response Minister and/or the Director-General of Health (or his delegate).

The Government's planning has revolved around three broad scenarios. In each of these scenarios, extensive contingency plans are in place. We have learnt from previous cases and regional lockdowns and used that knowledge to refine our preparations.

Our Key Messages: Make Summer Unstoppable Aotearoa - let's make our summer unstoppable!

- This year, more than ever, we're hanging out for our summer holidays. We all want an uninterrupted summer – uninterrupted by the weather and uninterrupted by COVID-19.

- While we can't control the weather, we can control COVID-19 by taking some simple actions.
- Our 'Make Summer Unstoppable' campaign is to remind all New Zealanders about those actions we all need to take to keep each other safe.
- It's based on the idea – if you're not on board, you could 'stop' summer.

E te whānau, tautokohia te kaupapa: Make Summer Unstoppable

- Keep doing these four simple things:
 - ✓ Wash your hands;
 - ✓ Scan QR codes;
 - ✓ Turn on Bluetooth tracing on the NZ COVID Tracer app;
 - ✓ Stay home if you're feeling unwell and get advice about a COVID-19 test.
- Businesses also have an important role to play:
 - ✓ Put up plenty of QR code posters in your shop/café/restaurant/bar;
 - ✓ Invite your customers to scan in as they go in;
 - ✓ Encourage everyone to wash or sanitise their hands.
- Christmas is the season for giving, but no one wants to give (or receive) COVID-19.
- The summer holidays are our time for whānau. Don't let COVID-19 spoil that.
- We need to do this together. The whole team of five million – every individual, community and business needs to do their part.

Call Healthline if you have symptoms phone 0800 358 5453.

Need to talk? For mental health help, call or text 1737

Let's have a stunner – don't let COVID-19 stop the summer!

Information About Medical Certificates for Supported Living Payment Recipients

We're letting you know you don't need to provide us with another medical certificate for now. We stopped these as part of our response to COVID-19.

In the meantime, your Supported Living Payments will continue as usual.

We'll let you know when we need an updated medical certificate from you – it'll be after 31 July 2021.

Please remember we are here to help. Feel free to get in touch by phone 0800 559 009, or visit our website for more information [Work and Income](#)

If you are Deaf, hearing impaired, or find it hard to communicate by phone you can contact us on:

- **Deaf Link free-fax:** 0800 621 621
- **Text:** 029 286 7170
- **Email:** MSD_Deaf_Services@msd.govt.nz

Everyone's situation is different so we're always happy to talk things through with you.

Nāku iti noa, nā

George Van Ooyen
Group General Manager, Client Service Support

Membership Join / Renewal Form, 30 June 2021

Membership renewal falls due 1 July annually. Return your completed membership form along with your subscription to our National Office (or hand to your local Branch Treasurer). For our National Office post to: PO Box 7144, Newtown, Wellington 6242. Cheques should be made payable to Blind Citizens NZ.

If you prefer to pay your membership subscription by internet banking, here are Blind Citizens NZ account details: 06-0230-0002634-00. Please include your name and the reference "MembSub". Ideally, let National Office know you have renewed your membership using online banking.

Queries by phone to 04-389-0033 / 0800-222-694; or email admin@abcnz.org.nz

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

I prefer to receive information (select preferred format): Braille / Audio / Print / Large Print / Email

Email Address: _____

Please select your membership category from the options below, and delete information that does not apply to your membership renewal.

Enclosed please find:

- \$ 10 / \$20 = one year's unwaged / waged **Ordinary Membership.**
- \$ 10 / \$20 = one year's unwaged / waged **Associate Membership (sighted friends and family, etc.)**
- **\$300.00** = my one-off payment for Membership-for-Life.
- A donation of: \$_____ is included. My donation should be utilised for (select from) **Board / National Office**, or **branch activities.**

Blind Citizens NZ – Board and National Office

Board

- **National President:** Jonathan Godfrey: a.j.godfrey@massey.ac.nz
- **Vice President:** Christine (Chrissy) Fern: fernmeek@gmail.com
- Martine Abel-Williamson (Member-at-Large):
martine.the1@xtra.co.nz
- Wendy Chiang: wendy.chiang@gmail.com
- Andrea Courtney (Member-at-Large): andycoute@gmail.com
- Shaun Johnson (Member-at-Large): shaun.zdots@xtra.co.nz
- Paula Waby (Member-at-Large / Acting WBU Representative):
paula.waby4@gmail.com

Focus Editor, Allan Jones

Email articles to: focus@abcnz.org.nz

Post: PO Box 7144, Newtown, Wellington 6242

National Office

- **Physical:** Ground Floor, 113 Adelaide Road, Newtown, Wellington.
- **Postal:** PO Box 7144, Newtown, Wellington 6242.
- **Phone:** 04 389 0033; 0800 222 694.
- **Fax:** 04 389 0030.
- **Website:** <http://www.blindcitizensnz.org.nz>
- **Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/BlindCitizensNZ/>
- **Email:** admin@abcnz.org.nz
- **Chief Executive, Rose Wilkinson:** rwilkinson@abcnz.org.nz

Blind Citizens NZ is appreciative of donations received from our members and supporters, and for funding from Blind Low Vision NZ, and the Lotteries Grants Board