

TEACHER ALERT



AUGUST '25

Tē tōia, tē haumatia |
**Nothing can be achieved without a plan,
workforce and a way of doing things**

FROM SPEECH NZ TO THE WORLD: LILY RAWSON'S JOURNEY

Speech New Zealand graduate Lily Rawson is a shining example of where strong communication skills and dedicated teaching can lead.

Lily is currently completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Otago, studying a Bachelor of Science and Arts, majoring in Sports Science and Psychology. Soon, she will be heading overseas to spend her final semester on exchange at the University of Essex in the UK, an exciting next step in her academic and personal journey.

While in Dunedin, Lily worked as a Peer Supporter with Life Matters Suicide Prevention and as an Assistant Personal Trainer at the Wellness Gym.

Across both roles, she has applied the confidence, empathy, and communication skills honed through her Speech NZ learning, saying her philosophy is centred on nurturing

holistic growth, ensuring people not only learn but thrive in supportive, challenging, and engaging environments.

Reflecting on her journey, Lily expressed deep appreciation

for the influence of Speech NZ and her teacher *kaiako*, Mrs Keno, in shaping her growth:

"Speech NZ really supported my development, both personally and professionally. The skills I gained have opened so many doors."

Lily Rawson

Her story is a wonderful reminder of the lasting impact Speech NZ teachers have, equipping students with communication skills that carry them far beyond the examination room, into their careers, communities, and the wider world.



LILY RAWSON
DIPLOMA STUDENT

TEACHER ALERT

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MIGRANT WORKPLACE COMMUNICATION TRAINING COURSE – A HUGE SUCCESS

Six migrants from China, Chile, the Czech Republic, and Palestine have completed Multicultural Tauranga's revamped Migrant Workplace Communication Training, all passing their Speech NZ assessments.

The redesigned 10-week hybrid course, led by Niall Baker from 'The Speaking Coach' and Pieter de Zwart, combined online and in-person sessions.



Ruiyi presenting her informative speech on "Creating value on social media".



Six Multicultural Tauranga students proudly holding their certificates on presentation day, joined by tutor Niall Baker from The Speaking Coach, Speech NZ Assessor Glenda Pearce, and tutor Pieter de Zwart.

"I feel more confident speaking in public and in English in front of other people — I won't be afraid now."

Course participant

Participants learned how to speak with confidence in interviews and meetings, handle feedback and conflict, present ideas clearly, and adapt tone, pronunciation, and body language for different audiences.

Students reported, friends and family *whānau* were also seeing a positive shift. Following this success, Multicultural Tauranga and Speech NZ hope to expand the programme in future, ensuring more migrants can access this valuable training.



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PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING FOR MIGRANTS IN WAIKATO

Speech NZ has the absolute pleasure to confirm we have achieved the required funding to undertake a fully funded Migrant Workplace Communication Training course in Waikato.

More students *ākonga* will be able to achieve their Professional Speaking qualification. Thanks to funding from Glenice John Gallagher Foundation, WEL Energy Trust and COGS Kirikiriroa/Hamilton City.

We are excited to announce the details for the course.

Where: Waikato

Dates: Every Saturday
13th September - 22 November 2025

[Registration Form](#)



We're Looking For...

FINANCE, RISK AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (FRAC) CHAIR

We are seeking a volunteer financial expert to help guide our charity and give financial governance advice.

Closing 17 August 2025

CERTIFICATE OF ATTAINMENT

If your student *ākonga* has any condition you would like the examiner *kaiarotake matua* to consider within the examination room we encourage you to apply for a Certificate of Attainment.

On the examination day, if the examiner *kaiarotake matua* believes the student *ākonga* does not need the certificate of attainment to help with their grade, they have the option to remove the CoA. However this is the only way we can collect the information and ensure the examiner *kaiarotake matua* has it in advance of the examination.

[For more information](#)

SUCCESS STORIES

Don't forget that we love to hear your success stories!

If you or your students have achieved a milestone or have something exciting to celebrate, let us know at:

sharon.bulmer@speechnz.co.nz

REFUND POLICY

Our refund policy has just gone through a review.

The refund policy changes deal with the circumstances under which SNZ will refund examination fees.

[For more information.](#)

REMINDER

REPORTS: Diploma reports may take up to 5 days and other reports up to 3 days.

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RECORD APPLICATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST 2025

Jessie from CUBEE is thrilled to announce that 137 students from across Aotearoa have officially registered for this year's The GreatTALK 2025 contest, this is the biggest turnout yet!

This incredible response shows just how many passionate young voices are ready to take the stage.

To kick things off, we're excited to share the Contestant Lists and Preliminary Judging Criteria to support all our amazing contestants.

Stay tuned, and let the speeches begin!

[Contestant Lists and Preliminary Judging Criteria](#)

KEY DATES:

Registration Closed: Sunday 3 August

Preliminary Round: 4 – 24 August
(Video entries due to cubee@group@gmail.com by 24 August)

Live Grand Final: 14 September, 1–5pm

Organised by CubeeKiz and proudly supported by Speech New Zealand, this free contest is open to students in Years 0–13 across Aotearoa.

From online beginnings to the live stage, it's a powerful opportunity for young people to grow confidence, speak boldly, and share fresh ideas.

Finalist Announced: 1 September

Live Grand Final: 14 September, 1–5pm

Open to NZ-based students only.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The GreatTALK Speech Contest | Cubee
<https://www.facebook.com/cubee@group/>

THE GREATTALK 2025
SPEECH
CONTEST
For Year 0 - 13 Students



PRELIMINARY
ROUND:
4 - 24 AUGUST 2025

 AWARDS

SUPPORTING LOCAL STUDENTS ĀKONGA

Speech NZ were proud to support the new DreamMaker Trophy for ages 14-under 16 at the Pāpāmoa Speech and Drama Festival held in June.

This award recognises a student who shows potential in their age group.

[Link to their facebook page](#)



STUDENTS ENJOY MATARIKI POTLUCK AND POETRY

Speech and Drama students, along with their younger siblings, were treated to a special celebration this Matariki — a Potluck and Poetry evening hosted by Speech NZ tutor, Sjann, at her home.

Sjann from Shine Bright, who is a new Speech NZ Tutor teaching drama from a cosy studio on the farm! This gathering was an extension of a tradition Sjann celebrates each year for Matariki. This time, the wider Speech NZ whānau joined in, sharing kai and enjoying a poetry recital from every child attending. It turned into a lively event, with a few extra friends invited along, even the two-year-old joined in with a song they had prepared!

“The atmosphere was electric and it was honestly the most heart-warming, magical evening.”

Sjann

The older children stepped up to support the younger ones, either standing beside nervous performers or joining in unison, just as they did for a four-year-old who forgot her words during *Once I Caught a Fish Alive*. Sjann said making the event potluck-style meant “minimal effort on my part, no stress about food prep!” She also shared that in the two weeks leading up to the evening, children would run excitedly across the school grounds to tell her they had learned and been practising their poems. “I just loved their enthusiasm,” she said.



Speech New Zealand students and there families celebrate Matariki with a dinner and poetry show.

“This years event was simply in my lounge next to the fire on a cold Matariki night and it was perfection”.

Sjann

On the night, the atmosphere was warm and encouraging. “Everyone was enthralled with each performance, cheering, clapping, chanting, and practising together. And when they weren’t performing, they were brilliant, attentive audience members.”

The photo was taken before the first performance began — featuring Henry, standing on the coffee table “stage,” and Will, operating a desk lamp as the spotlight from the couch.

While the emphasis was on participation, fun, the joy of poetry, and the magic of performing, Sjann says the event also nurtured the values of being an enthusiastic, respectful, and encouraging audience member. She plans to make Matariki Potluck and Poetry an annual tradition, “and possibly even bigger and better in 2026.”

TEACHER RESOURCES

REMINDERS FROM CHAIR OF EXAMS, KAREN AUSTIN



AUGUST '25

EXAM TOUR DATES

Exam Tours are not always scheduled to start on Monday.

Exams may begin on any day of the scheduled exam week and may include Saturday exams.

[Centre Tour Exam Schedule 2025.](#)

TEACHER EXAMS QUERIES

Thank you *ngā mihi* for supporting Speech New Zealand by entering candidates in our examinations.

In this issue, we have included queries from teachers throughout the term, which we believe will be of interest to you all. Across the country, we are seeing some wonderful work – it's truly inspirational.

Original Poems – Flexi Speaking and Speaking Syllabus

Although it only directly states that the original poem in Flexi Grade 4 Tahī must be memorised, all original poems are to be memorised in the Flexi Speaking and Performing Syllabus:

- Flexi Grade 3 Tahī 5
- Flexi Grade 4 Tahī 5
- Flexi Grade 5 Tahī 7

Syllabi Updates

It is important to check that you are familiar with syllabus updates.

[Syllabi updates.](#)

REMINDER: SYLLABUS SURVEY 2025

Please make sure you take the time to fill these online surveys out.

We have received quite a few forms back with some excellent suggestions. Thank you to people who have taken the time.



The questionnaires are split into two groups:

Please fill out the questionnaire for the Speech New Zealand subject you teach.

Speech New Zealand Syllabus Review
Feedback: Prof Sp, OC, ELL, TIA
<https://forms.office.com/r/HyD5F0Uq8G>
This questionnaire covers Professional Speaking, Oral Communication, English Language Learners, and Theatre in Action.

Speech New Zealand Syllabus Review
Feedback: S&D, PSC, CiL, Flexi
<https://forms.office.com/r/JYcjBgCnnp>
This questionnaire covers Speech and Drama, Public Speaking and Communication, Communication in Leadership, and Flexi Speaking and Performing.

TEACHER RESOURCES

REMINDERS FROM CHAIR OF EXAMS, KAREN AUSTIN



AUGUST '25

TEACHER QUERIES CONTINUED...

Exam Posters

Posters are an important physical form of communication and to reference on exam day.

Please make sure the text on the posters is large enough to read at a distance by the examiner.

Posters help communication for both the student and the examiner. This helps the exam runs as smooth as possible.

Prepare for Discussion

Preparation is the key to a successful, well spoken speech at examinations!

Please prepare candidates so that they are able to confidently discuss their prepared performances.

TEACHERS Q&As

FEEDBACK:

Thanks to the teachers that came along to the Teachers Q&A Teams meeting on Sunday.

The discussion was on Theatre in Action and ASB in Performance programmes. It was a productive session with some interesting questions asked, thanks to the teachers that participated.

Q&A sessions

Should you have any topics you want discussed in our online Q&A sessions please contact National Office.

Phones in Exams

The use of phones during impromptu tasks in practical examinations is not permitted.

The whole idea is that your answer is impromptu using a phone defeats the point of the candidates answer being unique and spontaneous.

Exam Programmes

Programmes outlining the exam schedule are compulsory for the Flexi Speaking and Performing Syllabus.

It is very helpful to examiners for all candidates *kaitono* come into the examination with printed programmes.

Please make sure that all details are on the programme, including the Tahiri and Rua task numbers.

REMINDER

REPLACEMENT BADGES:

If you need a replacement badge or wish to order one for a previously achieved module you can do this on your Teacher Dashboard

In the Dashboard select the "replacement badge" tab at the top right of your screen or by following this [link](#).



TEACHER RESOURCES

LITTLE DID YOU KNOW: ADVICE FOR A SOLE TRADER



AUGUST '25

CHATGPT IS CHANGING THE WAY WE TALK, TEXT AND WRITE

As a sole trader, your reputation is important. Remember to continually build on your brand, this includes the tone of voice you use in your written communication.

The tone in which it's delivered is crucial for creating a lasting impression and fostering a connection with your audience. A consistent tone helps build trust, familiarity, and a strong brand identity.

Use ChatGPT as a Tool, Not as a Solution!

ChatGPT is an amazing resource, but it's important to use it as a tool rather than relying on it to write your text from scratch. This way, you maintain control and ownership over the content.

First, type up the information you want to communicate. Then, paste it into ChatGPT's prompt field and ask it to check the vocabulary and readability. ChatGPT can suggest changes to make your text flow better. These suggestions might include reordering sentences, improving word choice, or adding missing punctuation such as full stops, speech marks, and commas.

ChatGPT is influencing the way we speak!

Since ChatGPT's explosive debut in late 2022, millions of people have used it to help write everything from emails and essays to wedding vows and apology texts.

But now, researchers are noticing something surprising: AI is doing more than helping us write to a point of actually changing the way we speak.

A recent analysis by researchers at the Max Planck Institute, highlighted in Scientific American, reveals that words commonly used by ChatGPT, like "delve," "tapestry" and "nuance," are showing up more frequently in everyday conversation.

After examining over 700,000 hours of transcribed podcasts and YouTube videos, researchers found a statistically significant uptick in GPT-style vocabulary

More Information



Shine Graphic Design have been creating brilliant designs that have helped business grow since 2002.

We specialise in creating promotional material for the education industry.

Design & Print Services include:

- Logo - new design & refresh
- Business stationery
- Social media - animated adverts
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- Event advertising (brand, invitations, posters, & digital adverts)
- 20% discount for SNZ teachers

For an economical quote

Contact: sharon@shinedesign.co.nz

www.shinedesign.co.nz



CHATGPT CAN BE A REALLY PRACTICAL TOOL FOR TEACHERS

It's kind of like having a tireless teaching assistant who never sleeps, drinks too much coffee, or runs out of patience.

In fact ChatGPT came up with ideas for this article! When prompting ChatGPT don't forget to use manners, just because it is AI doesn't mean you don't include a please and thank you *ngā mihi* here and there.

1. WAYS CHATGPT CAN HELP

LESSON PLANNING & RESOURCES

- Suggest ideas for lesson outlines, activities, and teaching strategies tailored to your subject and age group.
- Generate custom worksheets, quizzes, and comprehension questions.
- Create reading passages or examples at different difficulty levels.

2. DIFFERENTIATION & PERSONALISATION

- Adapt materials for students with different abilities, including simplified explanations or extended challenges.
- Rewrite content in plain English, or make it more engaging with stories, analogies, or real-world examples.
- Suggest accommodations for ESOL learners or students with learning differences.

3. ASSESSMENT SUPPORT

- Draft quiz questions, marking rubrics, or model answers.
- Help with feedback phrasing that is constructive but encouraging.
- Analyse sample student responses to suggest improvement points.

4. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Generate discussion prompts, role-play scenarios, or debate topics.
- Create educational games, riddles, or challenges.
- Suggest creative project ideas connected to the curriculum.

5. ADMIN & COMMUNICATION

- Help write clear, professional emails to parents or colleagues.
- Summarise policy or curriculum documents.
- Draft newsletters or bulletin updates.

6. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Provide summaries of educational research or new teaching methods.
- Suggest time-saving classroom management strategies.
- Offer ideas for using technology effectively in the classroom.

“ ChatGPT has made me more efficient as a teacher. I can easily whip up study guides that benefit my students and tailor lesson plans to them. All of this frees up time for me to connect with my students more easily and focus on other tasks.!”

— Teacher



BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY

AUGUST '25

EPC (EDUCATORS IN PERFORMANCE & COMMUNICATION)

Learning does not occur in a vacuum! It's an interactive process that includes exchanging and challenging ideas, listening and asking questions.

EPC gives you the opportunity to learn and grow with your fellow educators from across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Previous recordings can be purchased to watch at your own leisure, for \$22.20. Email your requests here;

info@epc.org.nz

RECENT WORKSHOP

5 AUGUST – DEEP COLOUR: AN INSPIRING WORKSHOP – DIANA PAIGE

This was an unforgettable workshop where Diana shared insights into her creative process, explored the power of words and the influences behind her poetry. She also read a selection of her treasured poems.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

9 DEC – THE BRONTËS: LANDSCAPE, NATURE AND THE UNNATURAL – GAY LONGBOTTOM

Gay talks about her experiences on the course, thanks to her Deirdre Sneddon scholarship. She talks about the the nature and the unnatural in Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre, Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights and Anne Brontë's. She will examine characters connected to landscape, and extreme states.



GAY LONGBOTTOM
**THE BRONTËS: LANDSCAPE,
NATURE AND THE UNNATURAL**



PROMO: FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR SPEECH NZ GRADUATES

Teachers please request emails from your Speech NZ students and send them to info@speechnz.co.nz so we can send them a promo code.

NB Emails can not be High school emails.

For more information on EPC or to register, visit the [EPC website](https://www.speechnz.co.nz).

TUE 9 DEC | 7:30pm

ONLINE

GENERAL INFORMATION



WHO DO I CONTACT?

If you have any questions or exciting news, we would love to hear from you!

Tour related questions
(both Claire and Kim)

examadmin@speechnz.co.nz

Theory, certificates and badges

kim.penman@speechnz.co.nz

Success stories or media opps

sharon.bulmer@speechnz.co.nz

Complaints / concerns for management (Helena)

manager@speechnz.co.nz

General enquiries

info@speechnz.co.nz

FOLLOW US!



We're on social media! Make sure to follow us and stay up to date with regular Speech NZ news and events.

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) plus,

did you know we have a [private page](#) just for Speech NZ teachers? Join today and connect with your fellow educators.



NATIONAL OFFICE PHONE SYSTEM

We have updated the phone system at the National Office.

We ask that you no longer use staffs mobile number for direct contact especially after work hours.

Please contact us through our landline 04 498 9660

NATIONAL OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
9:30am - 2:30pm

Helena Coulton - Executive Manager
Mon - Fri | 09:00am - 03:00pm

Claire Tanner - Exam Manager
Mon, Wed, Fri | 09:00am - 03:00pm

Kim Penman - Exam Administrator
Mon - Thurs | 9.30am - 2.30pm

Sharon Bulmer - Marketing Coordinator
Mon - Thurs | 9.30am - 2.30pm
Fri | 9.30am - 11.30am

Katie Jackson - Office & Accounts Administrator
Mon - Fri | 9.30am - 2pm

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