

# SPEECH NEW ZEALAND

## THE YEAR SO FAR

The past seven months have been full of change, challenges and connection as my family *whānau* and I relocated to Taranaki. I'm grateful to continue work *mahi* for Speech NZ while creating the space for greater balance and wellbeing for my family *whānau*.

At the same time, Speech NZ has taken meaningful steps forward in our mission to create excellent, equitable, and empowering oral communication experiences, including for communities often underrepresented.

Our teachers *kaiako* continue to be the heart of everything we do, and their work *mahi* with students *ākonga*, schools *kura*, and community groups fuels real change. It's always rewarding to see the ripple effect oral communication training can have on the lives of learners, families *whānau*, and educators across the country *motu*.

In Term 2, we partnered with Multicultural Tauranga to deliver a ten-week *Migrant Workplace Communication Training* course. Thanks to generous funding from COGS Tauranga Moana, six migrant earned their Certificate in Professional Speaking and built their confidence, which will impact them, their families *whānau* and the Tauranga community. We're thrilled to be extending this same programme to the Waikato region later this year, with funding support from WEL Energy Trust, Glenice and John Gallagher Foundation, and COGS Hamilton City/*Kirikiri*roa.

### **Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua**

*Look back and reflect so you can move forward*

We continue to investigate and develop additional resources *rauemi* and programmes that meet the needs of our most vulnerable communities. We encourage you all to take time to complete the syllabus *marautanga* feedback questionnaires to ensure our offerings remain relevant, empowering and inclusive.

Our professional development EPC webinars, ranging from theatre creation to personal branding, have provided rich learning opportunities for teachers *kaiako*, helping them continue to grow and build their practice.

Thanks to new funding commitments, we're preparing to deliver classroom teacher *kaiako* coaching and subsidised oral assessments *aromatawai-ā-waha* in Feilding and Hutt Valley early next year, an exciting example of how collaborative investment can shape meaningful educational experiences.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated teachers *kaiako*, students *ākonga*, families *whānau*, National Office staff, board of trustees, and support team. Your commitment to sharing your skills and knowledge drives us forward with the greatest impact.

Ngā mihi nui



**HELENA COULTON**

Executive Manager, Speech NZ

# NATIONAL OFFICE UPDATES

## NEW STAFF MEMBER

In April this year Sharon Bulmer started as the Marketing Coordinator in our National Office team.

Having worked for several marketing departments in the education industry, and completed several onsite contracts for government departments Sharon brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience and is using that to update our marketing material and increasing our brand presence.

Sharon has worked for Queen Margaret College and Victoria University. Sharon is a trained senior graphic designer who has a lot of experience managing social media, and digital marketing.



**SHARON BULMER**  
Marketing Coordinator

## SUCCESS STORIES

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

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

[sharon.bulmer@speechnz.co.nz](mailto:sharon.bulmer@speechnz.co.nz)



**LILY RAWSON**  
Diploma Student

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

Lily Rawson

## 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Anesh Senthuran, *Hutt Valley*  
Anna Wilson, *Hawke's Bay*  
Bharthi Kannan, *Hutt Valley*  
Georgia Henzler, *Mt Maunganui*  
Jessica Zheng, *North Shore*  
Julia Yujin Sung, *North Shore*  
Juliet Young, *Canterbury*  
Kevin Wu, *Bay of Plenty*  
Shanae Rennie, *West Coast*  
Shannon Doyle, *Taranaki*  
Sophie Symons-Edwards, *Canterbury*  
Spencer Weyburne, *Waikato*  
Tyra Zhang, *Canterbury*

**SPEECH  
NEW ZEALAND  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
2024**

[For More Info](#)

## KEEPING THE CONNECTION ALIVE

We are currently collating a database for graduated Diploma Students.

Students *ākonga* who share their personal email, will stay plugged into a vibrant network of educators, performers, and communicators.

Get exclusive updates

- Receive our latest newsletters
- One year FREE access to webinars, workshops, and PD events
- Get support if you're starting a teaching business



## PAYPA CREATIVE RESIDENCY PARTICIPANTS

We are delighted to share that two of our past staff members were awarded places as PAYPA creative residencies for 2025.

Amy Grace Laura - Creative Artist and Theatre Maker and Kelly Gilbride (Whangārei) – have been selected for the 2025 PAYPA Creative Residency!

This unique 2.5-day residency supports artists developing fresh theatre or dance work for young audiences, and includes mentorship, workshops, and artistic support in beautiful Auckland *Tāmaki Makaurau*.

*“At the residency I'll be working on a new live ASMR show for children and I couldn't be happier for this opportunity.”* Amy Grace Laura

## SNZ WEBSITES ECOMMERCE SHOP



We're excited to let you know that we're currently setting up an e-commerce shop on our website!

This means you'll soon be able to easily purchase resources *rauemi* directly through our online shop.

We'll keep you updated on the launch date.



## RECORD APPLICATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST 2025

Jessie from CUBEE is thrilled to announce that 137 students from across Aotearoa registered for this year's The GreatTALK 2025 contest.

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

### GRAND FINAL

After an inspiring preliminary round with incredibly close scores, Jessie from Cubee has shared with us the finalists moving on to the Grand Final! She stated "A huge congratulations to all our finalists, this year's competition was tougher than ever, and the judges had an extremely hard time choosing. Every speaker brought talent, passion, and courage to the stage."

### Final Speech Competition

September 14th, 1PM  
Room 260-051 (OGGB5 Lecture Theatre),  
University of Auckland.

Stay tuned, and let the speeches begin!

[Finalist List](#)

## BOARD UPDATES

### NEW VICE CHAIR PERSON

#### Thank you Karen Austin

We say thank you *ngā mihi* to Karen Austin as she steps down from her role as Vice Chair, a position she has held for the past five years.

Karen has been a Speech New Zealand Examiner *Kaiarotake Matua* for many years. We sincerely thank her for her dedication to the board and the outstanding contribution she has made as Vice Chair since 2020. Karen will remain on the board as Chair of Exams and Trustee.

Thank you *ngā mihi*, Karen, for your valuable insights, hard work *mahi*, and ongoing support of Speech New Zealand.



**KAREN AUSTIN**

#### Welcome Dinie Bevers

We also warmly welcome Dinie Bevers, a Speech NZ Examiner *Kaiarotake Matua*, who has taken up the role of Vice Chair. Thank you *ngā mihi*, Dinie, for stepping into this position.



**DINIE BEVERS**

“I am very excited and honored to be a part of Speech New Zealand's progression and growth so that it remains an important organisation for many people, for many years to come.” Dinie Bevers

### FEATURED IN THE POST

A growing number of children *tamariki* are starting school without the oral language skills they need to thrive, some can “barely string two words together.”

Educators and advocates are sounding the alarm on the long-term impact this has on learning, wellbeing, and confidence.

The article highlights the urgent need to prioritise oracy (the ability to express oneself clearly in speech) across early education, and shares how organisations like Speech NZ are helping young people find their voice and build confidence for life.

[Read the full article here.](#)

### OC SENIOR PROGRESSIONS

After a successful pilot programme in 2024 we are excited to release the senior progressions of our Oral Communication and Language Literacy syllabus *marautanga* ideally suited for students *ākonga* year 9 and above.

This syllabus *marautanga* is available now, please promote this to your local school *kura*.

## REVISED SYLLABI

We have almost finished the syllabus *marautanga* revision for Professional Speaking, which is due for release at the end of 2025.

The revised syllabi *marautanga* will reflect the changing needs of workplaces *wāhi mahi*, communities, and learners, placing greater emphasis on practical communication skills for a variety of professional contexts. Updates include clearer pathways for candidates *kaitono*, updated tasks, and a stronger focus on skills such as persuasive speaking, workplace *wāhi mahi* presentations, and digital communication.

These changes have been carefully shaped through consultation with teachers *ngā kaiako*, examiners *ngā kaiarotake matua*, and industry professionals to ensure they remain relevant, future-focused, and supportive of learners at every stage of their journey. We are excited to share this updated resource *rauemi* and believe it will provide even more opportunities for candidates *ngā kaitono* to grow their confidence and impact as communicators in the workplace *wāhi mahi* and beyond.



## REMINDER: SYLLABUS SURVEY 2025

Please make sure you take the time to fill this online syllabus *marautanga* surveys out.

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



### The questionnaires are split into two groups:

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

#### Speech New Zealand Syllabus *Marautanga*

**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 *Marautanga*

**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.

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

### 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 exam *whakamātautau ā-waha*.

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



Ruiyi presenting her informative speech on “Creating value on social media”.



Six Multicultural Tauranga students *ākonga* proudly holding their certificates *tohu* on presentation day, joined by tutor Niall Baker from *The Speaking Coach*, Speech NZ Examiner *Kaiarotake Matua* 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 *hui*, handle feedback and conflict, present ideas clearly, and adapt tone, pronunciation, and body language for different audiences.

Students *ākonga* 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.





# MIGRANT WORKPLACE COMMUNICATION TRAINING

Open to  
All VISA  
Status

## 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.

**Where:** Waikato

**Venue:** Waimarie Community House, 53 Wellington St. Hamilton East. Off street parking available.

**Venue:** Community House  
Add address details here

**Dates:** Every Saturday  
20 September - 29 November 2025

### For more information

Download a poster or see the registration form.

[Poster Download](#)  
[Registration Form](#)

### Incorporated with



### Fully subsidised to students with the support from



SEPTEMBER 2025

# RACE UNITY

## SPEECH AWARDS

### NATIONAL HEATS

Speech New Zealand was proud to support the National Finals held in Auckland *Tāmaki Makaurau* on May 5th.

Zara Oliyath, from Diocesan School for Girls in Auckland, was the winner of both the Tohu Ahurea Rau – Multicultural NZ Award for Diversity and the Tohu Auahatanga – Speech NZ Award for Delivery.

Stephanie Caisley an examiner *kaiarotake matua* and representative from SpeechNZ presented Zara with certificates *tohu* for both awards at her school *kura* assembly.

To follow is a quote from her speech.



Zara Oliyath being presented the Tohu Auahatanga, Speech NZ Award for Delivery by Stephanie Caisley.

*“As we grew older the world told us a different story. The waves of life were not so kind. Some people were pulled under, while others were lifted effortlessly to shore”.*

[Link to Zaras speech](#)

### DIKSHA SHARES HER STORY OF COMPETING AT THE NATIONALS

Diksha from Nayland College in Nelson powerful winning speech, earned her the honour of representing the Nelson region at the Nationals!

In an inspiring interview, Diksha opens up about how working with her Speech NZ tutor, Dinie, helped her develop her presentation skills, which made her stand out.

She recalls the thrill, and the pride, she and her parents felt when she was selected to compete on the national stage.

Diksha also shares her top tips for calming nerves when speaking to a crowd and reflects on the importance of using her voice to speak about race unity.

[Link to Dikshas Interview](#)

### NATIONAL CHAMPION'S AWARD

Jordyn Joy Pillay a Year 12 student from Ormiston Senior College in Auckland received the NZ Police National Champion's Award as well as the Tohu Whetumatarau – Ministry for Ethnic Communities Award for Vision.

*“You captivated us from the moment that you came to the stage, the powerful energy that you brought, the physical movements that you displayed. You challenged us for your whole presentation.”*

Police Deputy Commissioner Jill Rogers, Chief Judge of the awards.

[Link to Jordyn Joys speech](#)



RUSA25 - National Champion Jordyn Joy Pillay and Jill Rogers - Deputy Commissioner Northern District

## CHAIRPERSON'S SIGN OFF

As we reach the midpoint of the year, I'm delighted to share a few reflections on what has been an inspiring journey for Speech New Zealand so far.

Our community continues to thrive, united by a shared passion for empowering voices and nurturing confident communicators across Aotearoa .

### CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Candidate Success: Across the country, we've seen a steady rise in enrolments and examination *whakamātautau ā-waha* completions. From primary school learners *ākonga* to adult candidates *kaitono*. The commitment to personal growth and expressive excellence has been truly heartening.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Celebrating Diversity: Speech NZ remains committed to honouring the diverse voices of Aotearoa. We're working to ensure our programmes reflect the richness of our communities and the stories they carry. Building Partnerships: Collaboration is key. We're forging new relationships with school *kura* and arts organisations to expand our reach and impact.

Nā tō rourou, nā taku  
rourou ka ora ai te iwi

*With your food basket and my  
food basket the people will thrive*

### FINAL WORD

To our candidates *ngā kaitono*, teachers *ngā kaiako*, examiners *ngā kaiarotake matua* and supporters - thank you. Your dedication and belief in the power of speech continue to shape a brighter, more connected future. Let's carry this momentum forward with pride and purpose.

To Helena and her staff at the National Office, thank you for your enthusiasm and your many hours of tireless energy to be sure that all systems run smoothly.

*Pauline Prendergast*



**PAULINE PRENDERGAST**  
CHAIRPERSON SPEECH NZ

## BUILDING COMMUNITY



### EPC WORKSHOPS 2025

Our workshops have been well received and we have been delighted to welcome many non-EPC members along. Our reach is expanding across the country *motu*.

Remember, EPC members and subscribers receive discounts for workshop. All workshops are recorded so if you are unable to attend, you can still purchase a ticket and watch at your own convenience.

### WORKSHOPS SO FAR

Deirdre Snedden  
scholarships recipients: **WHAT I LEARNT**



REBECCA REED

EMMA BARNETT

WED 26 FEB  
7.00PM - 8.30PM  
ONLINE [WWW.EPC.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.EPC.ORG.NZ)



AMY OUGHTON  
**TUNE IN, TRAIN SMART: VOCAL HEALTH & PERFORMANCE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL VOICE**

SUN 8 JUNE | 7:00pm ONLINE



JOHN BELL  
**PUBLIC LIABILITY UNLOCKED: THE INSURANCE TALK EVERY BUSINESS OWNER NEEDS**

TUE 17 JUNE | 7:30pm ONLINE



DR KERRY PALMER  
**ENGAGING PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS AND CONNECTING WITH YOUR CHILDHOOD SELF**

THUR 27 MARCH | 7:30pm ONLINE



REBECCA REED  
**BOOST YOUR SPEECH & DRAMA BUSINESS: TOP PR STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS**

WED 16 JULY | 7:30pm ONLINE



## WORKSHOPS SO FAR



**DIANA BRIDGE**  
**DEEP COLOUR: AN INSPIRING POETRY WORKSHOP!**

 **TUE 5 AUGUST | 7:30pm**  **ONLINE**

## WORKSHOPS COMING UP



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

 **TUE 9 DEC | 7:30pm**  **ONLINE**

### PROMO: FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR SPEECH NZ GRADUATES

Teachers *ngā kaiako* please request emails from your Speech NZ students *ākonga* and send them to [info@speechnz.co.nz](mailto:info@speechnz.co.nz) so we can send them a Promo code.

*NB Emails can not be High School emails.*

### BECOME A EPC MEMBER

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

We value your feedback regarding EPC workshops. If you loved a workshop or would like to suggest a workshop, please get in touch: [info@epc.org.nz](mailto:info@epc.org.nz)

## TEACHER COACHING PROGRAMME

Grow and develop successful business and teaching practices - no matter where you are in your career.

The Teacher Coaching Programme is not just for new and emerging teachers, it's for established teachers look to upskill in a new area or a refresher in business practices.

*"I was wanting to set myself up as a teacher of speech and drama, and was finding it difficult to figure out the steps needed to get started. The programme covered the topics that I needed to build my confidence."*

-Janet

### Teaching and learning systems -

setting teaching plans, resources and professional ethics

**Speech NZ syllabus *marautanga* module** - a refresh of our syllabi and the learning criteria

**Higher education** - a module focused on teaching our diploma and above grades

**Business plan** - setting clear strategy and planning your company growth

**Finances** - introduction to running your own business financials

**Marketing basics** - an introduction to building a marketing strategy and brand including templates

**IT systems** - an introduction to IT Google Drive, Apps, Adobe and copyright

**Website** - Design and build a basic website for your business

*"Really constructive, they've all been highly experienced teachers and business owners. All the experience and knowledge will not only help me form my business but help with the teaching I'm doing at the moment."*

-Rebecca