

# SPEECH NEW ZEALAND

## THE YEAR THAT WAS

As the year comes to an end I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who make Speech NZ what it is! Our teachers *kaiako*, students *ākonga*, family *whānau*, schools *kura* and supporters, you are pou that support the Speech NZ whare and remind us of our purpose.

Our team of 26 examiners/oral assessors *kaiarotake matua/kaiarotake* have travelled the length of the country *motu* listening to the poetic charms of students *ākonga*, whilst our 23 supervisors have calmed their nerves and checked their programmes. Our community of over 120 teachers *kaiako* have guided and submitted almost 5100 entries.

We were delighted to welcome Sharon Bulmer as our new Marketing and Brand Adviser, whose creativity and expertise have brought new energy to our communications and digital presence.

A highlight for me, was the Migrant Workplace Communication Training programmes delivered in Waikato and Tauranga with the support of Glenice and John Gallagher Foundation, WEL Energy Trust, COGS Kirikiriroa, COGS Tauranga Moana, and the partnership of Multicultural Tauranga and The Speaking Coach, strengthening confidence, connection and opportunity for migrant learners *ākonga* and their family *whānau*.

Our updated Professional Speaking Syllabus is ready to be released in December alongside a new teacher *kaiako* resource *rauemi*, student *ākonga* workbook and Migrant Workplace Communication programme guide.

This year, we achieved NZQA equivalency for ten Speech NZ qualifications, affirming both the depth of student *ākonga* learning and the dedication of the teachers *kaiako* who guide them.

My biggest thanks has to go to the National Office team who support me every day. The way you always try to find a solution that upholds the purpose of Speech NZ is admirable. Thank you for sharing in our weekly successes and challenges, and most of all, for creating a wonderfully supportive team!

To our whole community, thank you for working with us to provide excellent, equitable and empowering oral communication. May your holidays be full of sunshine and relaxation!

Ngā mihi nui



**HELENA COULTON**  
 Executive Manager, Speech NZ

“ **Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua**  
 Look back and reflect so you can move forward ”

## NATIONAL OFFICE UPDATES

### SPEECH NZ CELEBRATES NZQA EQUIVALENCY RECOGNITION FOR MICRO-CREDENTIALS

Speech NZ is delighted to announce that the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) has formally recognised several of our micro-credentials for equivalency.

#### Credentials Framework (NZQCF)

This recognition is a milestone for Speech NZ, affirming the quality and value of our courses in communication, public speaking, teaching, and performance.

While these micro-credentials are not formally part of the NZQCF and aren't included in your NZQA record, the equivalency evaluation gives students *ākonga* and employers a clear understanding of how each course aligns with nationally recognised levels of study and learning hours.

#### What This Means for Our Courses

Here is how each of our micro-credentials have been assessed by NZQA:

[NZQA Website link](#)

#### WHY THIS MATTERS

##### For students *ākonga*

This recognition provides clarity and credibility. It means you can now reference your Speech NZ qualification in terms of education levels and credits.

It also enables graduates to clearly demonstrate to employers and education providers the depth of knowledge, commitment, and hours of work *mahi* that go into completing this qualification.

While we can't promise universities will automatically grant credit, we strongly encourage graduates to put this forward when applying. It showcases the substance of their achievement and may support recognition of prior learning applications.

#### For teachers *kaiako* and employers

It affirms that Speech NZ's micro-credentials meet national expectations for learning at the stated levels. This makes it easier to understand the scope of study, assess achievement, and support pathways for further work or study.

With this new recognition from NZQA, our learners' *ākonga* achievements can be more clearly mapped to the national framework, enhancing opportunities both within education and in professional contexts



**SPEECH NZ NZQA QUALIFICATION EQUIVALENCY**

**NZQA EQUIVALENCY RECOGNITION FOR SPEECH NEW ZEALAND MICRO-CREDENTIALS**

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) has formally recognised several Speech New Zealand micro-credentials as equivalent to specified levels on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF).

Although these micro-credentials are not formally listed on the NZQF, NZQA's equivalency evaluation provides a transparent benchmark. It allows learners, employers, educators, and employers to understand how each course aligns with nationally recognised levels of study and learning hours.

**Recognition Overview**  
This recognition for Speech New Zealand confirms the academic quality, integrity, and value of its courses in communication, public speaking, teaching, and performance.

**What This Means for Our Courses**  
Here is how each of our micro-credentials have been assessed by NZQA.

[NZQA Equivalency Register](#)

QUALIFICATION	EQUIVALENT CREDITS AND LEVEL
Introduction to Communicating in Leadership	Equivalent to 2 credits at Level 1
Certificate in Professional Speaking	Equivalent to 4 credits at Level 3
Advanced Certificate in Professional Speaking	Equivalent to 5 credits at Level 4
Diploma in Professional Speaking	Equivalent to 6 credits at Level 5
Associate Diploma (ASD) in Performance Speech and Drama	Equivalent to 10 credits at Level 4
Advanced Associate Diploma (AASD) in Performance – Speech and Drama	Equivalent to 10 credits at Level 5
Associate Diploma (ASD) in Public Speaking and Communication Performance	Equivalent to 10 credits at Level 4
Advanced Associate Diploma (AASD) in Public Speaking and Communication Performance	Equivalent to 10 credits at Level 5
Advanced Associate Diploma (AASD) in Teaching Public Speaking and Communication	Equivalent to 12 credits at Level 5
Advanced Associate Diploma (AASD) in Teaching Speech and Drama	Equivalent to 12 credits at Level 5

For more information download the [Speech NZ A4 Flyer](#).



**Speech**  
NEW ZEALAND  
NEW ZEALAND SPEECH BOARD

Apply for 2026  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

If you have a student who was invited to apply for a scholarship please ensure they fill out the application!

**Closing 31 Dec 2025**

## NEW STAFF MEMBER

In April this year, Sharon Bulmer joined our National Office team as the Marketing and Brand Advisor.

Sharon has worked in several marketing departments within the education sector and has completed a number of onsite contracts for government agencies. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience, which she is already applying to updating our marketing materials and strengthening our brand presence.

Sharon has previously worked for Queen Margaret College and Victoria University.

She is a trained senior graphic designer to a degree level with extensive experience in publication design, marketing, social media management and digital marketing.



**SHARON BULMER**  
Marketing & Brand Advisor

## 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

Tutors, could you please share your student's *ākonga* post-graduate email addresses with Speech NZ so we can continue supporting them? It can't be connected to a high school email account.

Please email: [info@speechnz.co.nz](mailto:info@speechnz.co.nz)

## 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)



**MADDY THOMPSON**  
Speech NZ Diploma Student

*“Without completing the Speech NZ course, I wouldn't have the confidence I do now to stand up and speak in front of my peers and professionals.”*

Maddy is an inspiring graduate who is now halfway through their PhD at the University of Otago, researching drug tolerance and resistance in Melanoma and Lung Cancer within the Pathology Department.

**STAY  
CONNECTED  
STAY INSPIRED**



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**LET'S CELEBRATE YOUR  
JOURNEY – STAY IN TOUCH!**

Your diploma is just the beginning, and we want to follow your story as it unfolds.

*“Speech NZ not only equips you for life but also opens many new doors that you didn't even know existed...”*

Lily Rawson  
ASB Diploma in Teaching  
Speech and Drama



DECEMBER 2025

## PEER-LED ORAL COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME FOR DIPLOMA STUDENTS *ĀKONGA*

We're excited to invite Diploma Students *ākonga* to be part of something new in 2026: the Peer-Led Oral Communication Programme.

This programme gives diploma students *ākonga* the chance to lead a small group *rōpū* of four learners *ākonga* through a 10-week oral communication journey. It's a hands-on way to apply learning, gain real-world classroom experience, and build confidence as a facilitator, communicator, and emerging educator.

Participation may cross-credit toward ASB Teaching Diploma modules, count toward teaching hours and testimonials, and help graduates build a portfolio or business to support study or future goals.

You'll receive weekly guidance from a mentor, support from experienced teachers *kaiako*, and the wonderful Speech NZ National Office team.



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### RECRUITING EXAMINERS

Speech New Zealand is looking for friendly, reliable people who are interested in becoming Examiners to support our speech and drama assessments across New Zealand *Aotearoa*.

We're looking for people who have:

- Experience in speech and drama, teaching, performing, or a related field
- Strong communication skills and a fair, supportive manner
- Good organisation and professionalism

We offer:

- Training and ongoing support
- Flexible work opportunities during exam periods

✉ [info@speechnz.co.nz](mailto:info@speechnz.co.nz) ☎ 04 498 9660

[WWW.SPEECHNZ.CO.NZ](http://WWW.SPEECHNZ.CO.NZ)



**STAY CONNECTED**  
**STAY INSPIRED**

**DIPLOMA STUDENT PROGRAMME**

“ I had such a fun time teaching a wonderful class of students. Through a structured and supportive syllabus and environment, I have developed a wide range of skills, and a deeper understanding of communication and teaching ”

**Niamh Hallissey**  
Graduate ASB Diploma in Speech and Drama Performance

**Speech**  
NEW ZEALAND  
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### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

We're now seeking expressions of interest from Speech NZ diploma students *ākonga* and teachers *kaiako* with students *ākonga* eager to grow, connect, and help deliver empowering, equitable oral communication education across the country *motu*

Teachers please email this link to any of your diploma students who you think might be interested as we have several schools keen to offer this programme.

[Expression of Interest form.](#)

DECEMBER 2025

## OUR PATRON PROFESSOR SELINA TUSITALA MARSH

Professor Selina Tusitala Marsh, ONZM, FRSNZ, is one of New Zealand's *Aotearoa* most dynamic and celebrated communicators.

As the first Pacific Island Commonwealth Poet (2016), she composed and performed for Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey, later hosting and performing for President Barack Obama during her tenure as New Zealand Aotearoa Poet Laureate (2017–2019).

A Professor of English at the University of Auckland, Selina teaches Pacific Literature and Creative Writing, and is renowned for her award-winning poetry and graphic memoirs, including the Margaret Mahy Supreme Book Award-winning *Mophead* (2020). Her creative work mahi spans spoken word, performance, and storytelling, inspiring audiences from primary school kura students ākongā to global leaders.



**SELINA TUSITALA, ONZM, FRSNZ**

As patron of Speech New Zealand, Selina brings her deep commitment to nurturing diverse voices and fostering confident communication across all communities. Having engaged with more than 10,000 students ākongā and delivered over 120 workshops nationwide, she continues to champion Speech New Zealand's mission: empowering capable, expressive communicators throughout New Zealand *Aotearoa*.



## BOOST YOUR TEACHING AND BUSINESS WITH OUR SUPPORT

Join Speech NZ tailored coaching programme and gain the tools, confidence, and guidance to grow, both in the classroom and beyond.

Led by experienced teachers and mentors, you'll learn to:

- Build student confidence and communication.
- Grow your own side business.
- Strengthen your teaching practice with ongoing support.

Take the next step in your teaching journey and create new flexible opportunities for yourself.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

 [info@speechnz.co.nz](mailto:info@speechnz.co.nz)  04 498 9660



## SPEECH NZ STUDENTS *ĀKONGA* MADE UP OVER HALF OF THE WINNERS OF THE GREATTALK SPEECH COMPETITION

The finals for the GreatTALK speech competition were held in Auckland on Sunday, 14 September at the University of Auckland.

A huge well done to all our amazing Speech NZ students *ākonga*! You made up over half of the winners, what an incredible achievement! This competition truly showcased your talent, and we're so proud of each and every one of you.

A big thank you from Speech NZ to Jessie Wu and Cubee for organising such a wonderful event for our young speakers from across New Zealand.

[Facebook Post Link](#)



**Award Winners**  
THE GREATTALK NATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST 2025

<b>Year 0-2</b>		<b>Year 7-8</b>	
Champion	Lia Hendrickson	Champion	Sam Jensen
Runner-up	Austin Wang	Runner-up	Steve Rui
Third Place	Ruoyin (Aliya)Huang	Third Place	Grace Davis
Highly Commended	Zoe Wong	Highly Commended	Eknor Kaur
<b>Year 3 - 4</b>		<b>Year 9-10</b>	
Champion	Irsi Bohan Jia	Champion	Daniel Jia
Runner-up	Andrew Mei	Runner-up	Garrie Coote
Third Place	William Summerville	Third Place	Lindsay Wu
Highly Commended	Daniel Zhang	Highly Commended	Pihu Sharma
<b>Year 5 - 6</b>		<b>Year 11-13</b>	
Champion	Anxia Fu	Champion	Lucas Zhang
Runner-up	Katinka Van Dyk	Runner-up	Jesse Penman
Third Place	Yi Zhou	Third Place	Aarya Taneja
Highly Commended	Troy Gluckman	Highly Commended	Oliver Jull

ORGANISED BY  SUPPORTED BY 

## THE GREAT TALK SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS AND CONTESTANTS VISITED PARLIAMENT

GreatTalk National Speech Contest 2025 winners and several contestants flew in from across New Zealand to visit Parliament.

Led by Jessie Xinxiao Wu, students took part in a debate role-play on the motion "Should advertising aimed at children be banned?" They chose their own positions and debated with real passion.

With support from MP Nancy Lu, students received certificates in the Chamber from Nancy and Speech New Zealand Chair Pauline Prendergast, and even sat in the seats of the Prime Minister, Ministers and MPs while delivering bold speeches.

We finished with a celebration lunch at Parliament, great food, great company, and lots of smiles.



The message is simple: public speaking isn't just for classrooms or competitions. Now and in the future, young people *rangatahi* can speak up for themselves, their family *whānau*, friends, communities, and New Zealand *Aotearoa*.

[CUBEE Facebook Post Link](#)

## BOARD UPDATES

### CHAIR PERSON CHANGE

#### 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**

### NEW VICE CHAIR PERSON

#### Welcome Dinie Beavers

We also warmly welcome Dinie Beavers, 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 BEAVERS**

“ 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 Beavers

## FAREWELL AND WELCOME: CHANGES TO THE BOARD

We farewell Ravina Patel, who has retired from the Board due to work commitments, and warmly welcome new trustees Kristy Portas and Andi Susanto Adhimulyono.

We sincerely thank Ravina for her valuable contributions, dedication, and service to Speech New Zealand.



### Kristy Portas

Kristy Portas joins the Board as Chair to the Finance Risk and Audit Committee. A lifelong advocate for communication, Kristy advanced through Speech NZ grades, earned her ATCL, and taught and performed in New Zealand and Australia.

Now Sales Manager for Landmark Homes, she brings leadership, strategic skills, and a people-focused approach shaped by her early Speech NZ experiences.



**KRISTY PORTAS**

Chair - Finance Risk and Audit Committee

### Andi Suanto

We welcome Andi to the Board as a Trustee on the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee. With over a decade of accounting experience in manufacturing, energy, and construction, he brings strong financial and audit expertise.

Currently completing his Master of Professional Accounting and CPA studies, Andi looks forward to contributing his skills to Speech New Zealand.



**ANDI SUSANTO ADHIMULYONO**

Trustee - Finance Risk and Audit Committee

## THANK YOU TO OUR RETIRING EXAMINERS

This year we farewell two long-serving Speech New Zealand examiners, Cecily Archer and Anna Coleman, as they retire from their examining roles.

We extend our warmest thanks *ngā mihi* for their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to supporting learners *ākonga* and teachers *kaiako* across New Zealand *Aotearoa*.

Both Cecily and Anna have contributed significantly to the strength and reputation of our examining programme,

offering guidance, encouragement, and expertise over many years.

We acknowledge their service and the positive impact they have made within the Speech New Zealand community.

We wish them every happiness in their next chapter, our doors remain open should they ever wish to reconnect with the organisation. We are already looking at opportunities to keep their expertise within Speech NZ.

## WITH THANKS TO CECILY ARCHER

WRITTEN BY KAREN AUSTIN

Cecily will be remembered for her attention to detail and her deep knowledge of Speech New Zealand. She is a Speech New Zealand icon, and we appreciate her many years of voluntary service in helping develop Speech New Zealand as a national examining body.

At the beginning of 2025, Cecily retired from examining after first beginning in 1989. She also served as a trustee on the Speech New Zealand Board for seventeen years, holding various positions including Vice-Chair and Chair of Examiners. During her time as a trustee, Cecily helped write both the Speech & Drama and the Public Speaking and Communication syllabuses. For some years, she was also involved in writing and marking Diploma theory papers.

Cecily trained as a primary teacher *kaiako* and, throughout her career, she also taught at secondary and tertiary level. She has run her own Oral Communication and Performance business since 1970, first in Wainuiomata and later in Levin, teaching adults and children.



**CECILY ARCHER**

Cecily also taught Speech & Drama and Public Speaking at Chilton St James School for thirty-five years. She holds an impressive list of qualifications, including a Fellowship in Public Speaking from Trinity College, a Licentiate in Speech and Drama from Trinity College London, and a Diploma in Editing from NZ Business School *Kura*.

Cecily remains involved in developing training material for new examiners *Kaiarotake Matua*, and she continues to teach Speech & Drama and Public Speaking in Levin. She is fully supportive of the work of Speech New Zealand. Thank you, Cecily, you can be proud of your achievements.

## A PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

WRITTEN BY JUDITH BARTLETT

Recently Anna Coleman resigned from our Oral Assessors' panel where her input was valued.

Anna Coleman is now a dedicated Service Coordinator for CCS Disability Action in Wairoa, where she channels her energy into helping young people *rangatahi* find meaningful work *mahi* opportunities. Her passion for empowering others shines through in everything she does. Before moving to Wairoa with her partner Sam, Anna made an impact in Hawke's Bay through her teaching and establishing the Hillmac Junior and Intermediate School *Kura* Speech Contests four years ago.

This really helped to boost the speaking confidence of young students *ākonga* as well as encouraging them to plan and structure their ideas rather than write them out word for word like an essay.

She established Speech and Drama at King's, guiding boys from Year 1 to Year 8 through both Speech NZ and Trinity examinations *whakamātautau ā-waha*. Later, she taught Speech at Karamu High School *Kura*, continuing to nurture confidence and communication skills in her students *ākonga*.



**ANNA COLEMAN**

Now, her focus is firmly on her work *mahi* with CCS Disability Action, where she is deeply committed to supporting youth *rangatahi* employment.

Though her busy schedule leaves little time for Oral Communication Assessment *aromatawai ā-waha*, Anna's gift for communication remains evident. Colleagues and students *ākonga* alike know her is a sweet and gracious presence, whose ability to connect with people is matched by her professionalism and care.

Anna's journey reflects both her dedication to education and her unwavering commitment to community service. She is not only an excellent communicator but also a role model for how passion and kindness can transform young lives.

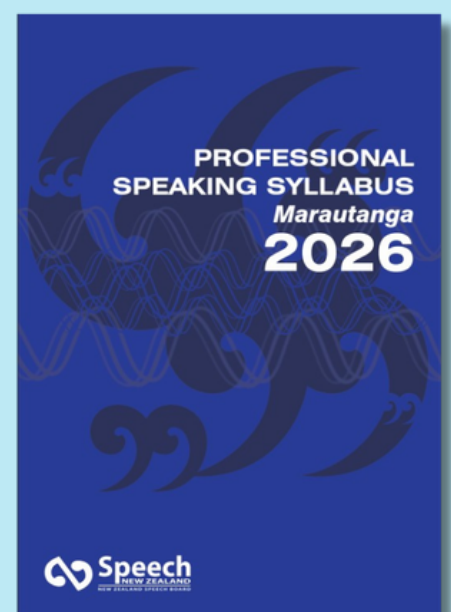
## INTRODUCING PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING SYLLABUS 2026

We're pleased to announce the updated Professional Speaking Syllabus *marautanga*, now released as Professional Speaking 2026.

Learners *ākonga* will develop confidence in a variety of speaking situations and an ability to foster good interpersonal relationships in the workplace *wāhi mahi*.

Professional Speaking 2026 reflects current workplace *wāhi mahi* communication needs and supports speakers to communicate with clarity, confidence, and professionalism.

[Learn more or access the updated syllabus:](#)



## SPEECH NEW ZEALAND LAUNCHES NEW PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING WORKBOOKS

Speech New Zealand is excited and proud to announce the release of three newly developed Professional Speaking workbooks, now available to purchase online as downloadable PDFs through our new shop.

These resources represent a significant milestone for Speech NZ and reflect our long-standing commitment to building confidence, clarity, and leadership through spoken communication. Developed by experienced educators and aligned with Speech NZ syllabi *ngā marautanga*, the workbooks support high-quality delivery of Professional Speaking programmes for migrants and diverse adult learners in workplace *wāhi mahi* and community settings.

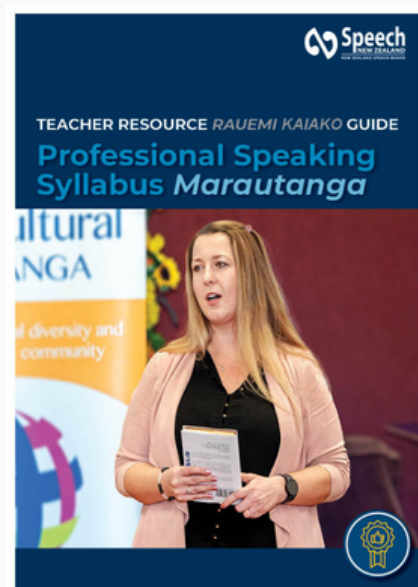
### 1 HOW TO ORGANISE AND RUN: PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING FOR MIGRANTS WORKPLACE COMMUNICATION TRAINING

This practical guide is designed for teachers *kaiako* and training providers who want to organise and deliver the Professional Speaking for Migrants programme. It outlines how to set up the course, create a supportive learning environment, and apply proven teaching strategies aligned with the 2026 Professional Speaking syllabus *marautanga*. Teachers *kaiako* gain clear guidance, confidence in delivery, and access to a programme with a strong track record of positive outcomes for learners *ākonga* and their communities.



### 2 TEACHER RESOURCE RAUEMI KAIAKO GUIDE: PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING SYLLABUS MARAUTANGA

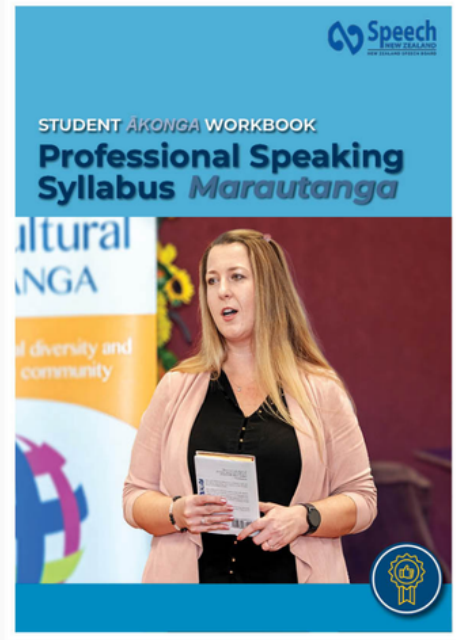
The Teacher Resource *Rauemi Kaiako* Guide supports teachers *kaiako* with classroom-ready activities, structured lesson guidance, and practical tools for coaching spoken communication skills. It is designed for use across all papers and courses and prepares learners *ākonga* for the Speech NZ oral examination *whakamātautau ā-waha*. Teachers *Kaiako* benefit from a clear, consistent framework that supports inclusive, culturally responsive teaching while remaining flexible for local contexts.



## 3

## STUDENT ĀKONGA WORKBOOK: PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING SYLLABUS MARAUTANGA

The Student *Ākonga* Workbook is a hands-on guide for learners *ākonga* working through the Professional Speaking syllabus *marautanga*. It supports learning through active practice, speaking, listening, reading, reflecting, and presenting, in a supportive group *roopu* environment. By completing the course, learners *ākonga* build confidence, clarity, and practical skills in workplace *wāhi mahi* communication, public speaking, leadership, and interpersonal interaction, with an emphasis on cross-cultural communication and awareness of The Treaty of Waitangi *Te Tiriti o Waitangi*.



### NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

All three workbooks are now available as downloadable PDFs through the new Speech NZ online shop, making them easily accessible for teachers *kaiako*, learners *ākonga*, and organisations across New Zealand *Aotearoa*. Together, these resources *rauemi* provide a complete, high-quality pathway for delivering and participating in Professional Speaking programmes that empower people to communicate with confidence, connect with others, and take on leadership roles in work *mahi* and community life.

[Link to Our On-line Shop](#)

### OUR WEBSITES ONLINE SHOP IS NOW LIVE!



**Exciting news!** you can make an online purchases from our shop on the Speech NZ website. Our online shop sells teaching resources *rauemi kaiako*, posters, books, manuals, and recorded YouTube webinars.

Go check it out! [Link to shop](#)



## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2025

### MULTICULTURAL ROTORUA GUIDES BETWEEN MĀORI AND MIGRANTS

The Rotorua Multicultural Council, in partnership with Speech NZ, is helping new migrants connect more deeply with New Zealand *Aotearoa* by blending te reo Māori with English communication skills.

One of the key initiatives is the Te Reo and English Learners course, a unique programme designed to foster cultural understanding and build confidence in both languages.

#### Learning Pepeha and Local Histories

Over ten weeks, students *ākonga* from across the world, including Chile, China, Colombia, India, Russia, South Korea, and Sri Lanka, immersed themselves in te reo Māori and English. Each student *ākonga* learned to deliver a pepeha, the traditional Māori introduction that acknowledges ancestry and place, before giving a talk in English on a topic connected to Rotorua's Māori history, Te Arawa stories, and notable figures.

At the conclusion of the course, students *ākonga* sat a Speech NZ examination *whakamātautau ā-waha*. The accredited examiner *kaiarotake matua*, Jennifer Wicks, assessed their work *mahi*, while Dr Anaha Hiini provided valuable feedback on their pepeha. Teacher *kaiako* Rika Otto received high praise from participants, who credited her for nurturing their confidence, guiding them in their English communication, and helping them prepare thoughtful presentations.

#### LINK TO MEDIA PRESS RELEASES

[Rotorua Daily Post](#)

[Waatia News Radio Interview with Margaret Theron](#)

[Paz Coloma, one of the graduates from Chile, speaks with Jesse Mulligan from iheart radio](#)

#### Community Support and Collaboration

The success of the programme was made possible by strong community backing.

- Immigration New Zealand and Te Tatau o Te Arawa provided funding
- The Geyser Community Foundation supported students *ākonga* with scholarships To cover examination *whakamātautau ā-waha* fees.
- Literacy Aotearoa generously offered a venue. Together, these contributions created a supportive and empowering environment for learners *ākonga* to thrive

#### Looking Ahead

Both the Rotorua Multicultural Council and Speech NZ are eager to see this initiative grow. We welcome interest from other teachers *kaiako* or interested communities.

#### For more information

Contact [exec.rmc@gmail.com](mailto:exec.rmc@gmail.com) or Speech NZ directly [info@speechnz.co.nz](mailto:info@speechnz.co.nz)



Front, left to right: Uthpala (Sri Lanka), teacher *kaiako* Rika Otto (South Africa), President of the Rotorua Multicultural Council Dr Margriet Theron ONZM (South Africa), Speech NZ examiner Jennifer Wicks, Meiqin (Betty) (China).  
Back, left to right: Tatiana (Russia), Manika (India), Paz (Chile), Mengjin (Jane) (China), Joy (South Korea), Paola (Colombia), Javier (Colombia).  
Absent: Natalia (Argentina).

DECEMBER 2025

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2025

### BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND COMMUNITY IN WAIKATO

The Waikato region has welcomed a new wave of enthusiasm with the launch of Speech NZ's Migrant Workplace Communication Training, a free programme designed to help migrants strengthen confidence and communication skills in New Zealand *Aotearoa*.

#### A Programme that Fills a Real Need

The initiative was open to participants holding all visa statuses, ensuring inclusivity for anyone seeking to better navigate workplace *wāhi mahi* and social interactions in New Zealand *Aotearoa*. Delivered through interactive workshops, coaching, and real-world practice, the training equipped migrants to advocate for themselves, connect with others, and build confidence.

The September–November course in Hamilton East filled in record time. More than 65 people registered, and the programme brought together participants from six countries: Nepal, Vietnam, Uganda, India, Fiji, and Taiwan. This diversity created a unique opportunity for shared learning and cultural exchange.

#### Looking Ahead – 2026 and Beyond

The level of interest has confirmed what many already know: migrant communities across New Zealand *Aotearoa* are eager for opportunities to gain communication skills that unlock doors in workplaces *wāhi mahi*, and communities. Speech NZ is working on confirming community funding for a 2026.

Expressions of interest in the programme remain open until funding can be confirmed.

[You can register your interest here](#)

### THANKS TO THE SPONSORS



Lesson 7  
Guest speaker Sam Ogden from the Citizens Advice Bureau.



Lesson 8  
Students *ākonga* doing a hacky sack outdoor activity.



Lesson 9  
Guest speaker Elie Ndagijimana from NZ Red Cross.



Examination Day  
Rosa LU was awarded "Best Speech" on the day

## CHAIRPERSON'S SIGN OFF

A happy and blessed Christmas to you all. As 2025 draws towards the end I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been achieved, and to thank each of you who make up the Speech New Zealand community.

### CELEBRATING GROWTH:

This year we've seen candidates *kaitono*, teachers *kaiako*, and examiners *kaiarotake matua* embrace new challenges, demonstrating resilience and creativity in the face of change.

### HONOURING ACHIEVEMENT:

From classrooms to community halls to studios, the power of communication has continued to inspire confidence and connection across Aotearoa.

### ACKNOWLEDGING SUPPORT:

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our examiners *kaiarotake matua*, teachers *kaiako*, supervisors, volunteers, and the families *whānau* who encourage learners *ākonga* to step forward and speak. A very special thanks to Helena and her staff for their commitment to the success of Speech NZ.

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

Looking ahead, Speech NZ remains committed to nurturing voices that matter – voices that carry ideas, stories, and leadership into the future. Together, we will continue to champion the art of communication, ensuring it thrives in every corner of our country *motu*.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your passion and commitment. May the holiday season bring you rest and joy, and may the year ahead be filled with opportunity, growth, and the courage to speak with clarity and conviction.

*He waka eke noa.* We are all in this together. Enjoy a well-deserved break and a very happy holiday.

Ngā mihi nui, Chairperson Pauline Prendergast

*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.

### 2025 WORKSHOPS

**REBECCA REED & EMMA BARNETT:**

Deirdre Snedden Scholarships Recipients

**DR KERRY PALMER:** Tune in, Train smart: Vocal Health & Performance for the Professional Voice

**AMY OUGHTON:** Engaging Performing Arts Students and Connecting with your Childhood Self

**JOHN BELL:** Public Liability Unlocked: The insurance Talk Every Business Owner Needs

**REBECCA REED:** Boost Your Speech & Drama Business: Top PR Strategies For Success

**DIANA BRIDGE:** Deep Colour: An Inspiring Poetry Workshop!

### WORKSHOPS: JANUARY 2026







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

 28 JAN 2026 | 7:30pm  ONLINE

**GAY LONGBOTTOM: THE BRONTËS**

Deirdre Snedden Scholarship recipient  
Gay Longbottom shares her Oxford summer school experience at Christ Church College, exploring how the Brontë novels use wild landscapes and supernatural forces to shape character and emotion.







**ZEENA KHAN**  
**THE ADAPTIVE PITCH: HOW TO COMMUNICATE VALUE WITH CLARITY, CREDIBILITY & CONFIDENCE.**

 JAN 2026 | 7:30pm  ONLINE

**ZEENA KHAN: THE ADAPTIVE PITCH**

Zeena Khan, BAMgt is an Adaptability Leadership Coach and host of the Adaptability Advantage podcast, with cross-industry leadership experience she helps leaders and educators communicate with clarity, build trust, and lead adaptable teams in the AI era.

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)