

The Year That Was **2021**



We made it to the end of 2021!

Written by Emma Carpenter

After an enormous effort from absolutely everyone, the end of 2021 is finally in sight, and after this tumultuous year, I am personally very excited for what 2022 will bring for Speech NZ.

We started the year with an entirely new National Office team, who have worked incredibly hard to fortify all the excellent work of the previous administration, and then build on this with further developments and processes to take Speech NZ forward. My heartfelt thanks to Claire, Kim and Catherine for their positivity, perseverance and teamwork this year.

Thanks to so many fantastic ideas from both inside and outside of the Board of Trustees, there were what I am sure was a record number of Board meetings held this year. I want to sincerely thank the Board of Trustees for the astonishing amount of work they have put in this year.

Covid-19 once again disrupted many examinations around the country, but as in 2020, Speech NZ and all involved showed incredible resilience, determination and hard work. Zoom examinations continued to be a fantastic option for many, and I want to say a huge thank you to the examiners, teachers, parents and candidates for taking this leap, and an enormous thank you to our Online Exam administrator Claire for her incredible mahi with these examinations.

Congratulations on a really great year everyone. And now, please go and have a wonderful break!!

Vision and Values for Speech NZ

THE VISION OF SPEECH NZ

Our vision is to develop confident, articulate New Zealand voices through relevant, future focused strategies that will empower and strengthen communities.

THE VALUES OF SPEECH NZ

Speech New Zealand works with dedication to be informed and guided by:

Partnership – as New Zealanders, we value relationships that encourage and respect diversity in all forms.

Credibility – as educators, we strive to deliver the best outcomes for all our stakeholders.

Empowerment – as an organisation, we are committed to supporting the growth and development of all our stakeholders.

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The launch of the new Flexi Syllabus

Written by Helen Balch

The beginning of 2021 saw the launch of the new Flexi Speaking and Performing syllabus, which offers students a wide range of options to present for examination, combining tasks from other syllabi with some new ones added into the mix.

The uptake on this has been huge, to the point where this has already become our most popular syllabus, with students and teachers enthusiastic about the variety of options.

Next syllabi up for revision

Written by Helen Balch

A revised Theatre in Action syllabus will be available early in 2022. Keep an eye out for this! The next revision is to the Oral Communication syllabus. If you have any suggestions for changes or additions, please contact Helen Balch or the National Office.

Examinations by Viva Voce

Written by Karen Austin

Viva Voce theory examinations were successfully trialled later in the year. This exciting development gives Adv ASBs the opportunity to sit a theory paper during a practical examination tour. Rather than writing an essay or submitting an assignment, candidates can be examined using a question/answer scenario. LSB candidates will sit their Viva Voce examinations via Zoom rather than during a tour.

Along with the introduction of Viva Voce examinations, the Theory Syllabus has been revised. Please see our web page for the details.

Race Unity Speech Awards 2021

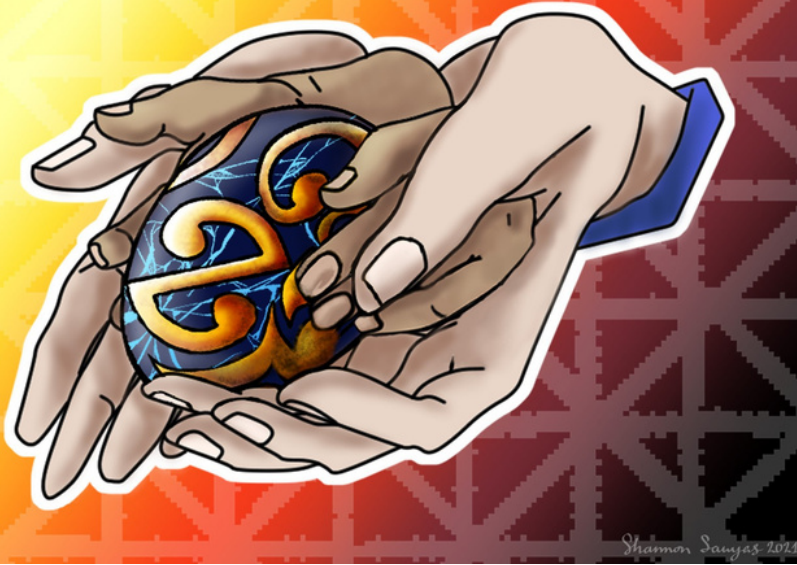
Written by Margriet Theron

The Race Unity Speech Awards are a platform for senior high school students to express their ideas on how we can improve race relations in Aotearoa. They give young people a chance to speak their minds and give the rest of New Zealand a chance to listen to the leaders of tomorrow. Speech NZ was again one of the sponsors of the Awards in which regional winners come together to participate in the national final. Speech NZ Trustees and Examiners contribute by acting as regional and national judges. The \$500 Speech NZ Award for Delivery goes to a speaker whose creative and engaging delivery captures the attention of the audience. It was won in 2021 by Mairangi Campbell, a Year 12 student of Gisborne Boys' High School.

Professional Speaking for General Practitioners

Written by Margriet Theron

After teaching a Professional Speaking for Migrants course for 11 years in Rotorua, Speech NZ Trustee Margriet Theron delivered this course in 2021 via Zoom to ten overseas qualified General Practitioners who are working as doctors in New Zealand. They undertook the course, supported by the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, in preparation of a practical College examination where they will be assessed on their ability to communicate with Kiwi patients. They all gained the Speech NZ Certificate in Professional Speaking after a Zoom examination taken by Del Costello.



The Future Teacher Coaching Programme

Written by Del Costello

The board was very excited to execute part of its strategic plan by launching the pilot run of the Future Teacher Coaching Programme.

We had recognised that throughout the country there was a shortage of Speech, Drama and Communication teachers, both in the marketplace and entering exams into our syllabi. The strategy behind this project is to support succession planning for the whole industry and to allow us to fill our vision of helping our nation to communicate.

The pilot run has been a success. There were nine participants enrolled with seven pilot coaches delivering the coaching. Twenty-one modules have been completed and 24 modules are ongoing over the holidays.

Once the pilot project is complete, a full evaluation will be done of its impact, including extensive feedback from the pilot participants, and any changes or iterations that need to be completed will be done in consultation with the Speech New Zealand board. It is our goal to launch the future teacher training programme into the wider market in the first quarter of 2022.

This is an exciting opportunity for teachers at all levels of experience to grow and develop businesses that support our vision.

Winning artwork

Shannon Sawyers, a year 12 student at Havelock North High School, won our art competition with this piece. It is now displayed in the National Office in Wellington. Below is Shannon's description:

"I based my concept on partnership, credibility and empowerment.

Partnership: I have shown this with the nesting of a child's hands inside guiding adults. I have ensured diversity of both age and ethnicity in my design to show Speech NZ is available for people with all backgrounds.

Credibility: I have chosen an egg symbol, as it has a strong, protective shell, and could nurture growing skills inside.

Empowerment: I decorated the egg in koru and other symbols based on Maori culture. These symbols appear to be glowing from within to portray the empowerment they can give to the holders. Speech NZ's logo is also discreetly placed in the egg's symbols."

Teacher Workshops

We held some fantastic Teacher Workshops in 2021, covering topics such as: Teaching Drama, Teaching Impromptu Tasks, Teaching the Flexi Syllabus, Teaching English Language Learners, and Teaching for Viva Voce. The recordings for all of these workshops can be found on our website.

A programme of exciting workshops is planned for 2022. Details to come - stay tuned!



Thank yous and farewells

This year, we said thank you and farewell to the following long-serving members of the Speech NZ community:

- Colleen Bassett, Examiner and Oral Assessor
- Mary Burt, Oral Assessor
- Sheridan Hickey, Examiner and Oral Assessor
- Allie Costello, Local Secretary (West Coast)
- Sandra Collins, Local Secretary (Taranaki)
- Sandra Schwass, Local Secretary (Southland)
- Joce Butler, Local Secretary (Oamaru)

Chairman's Signoff

Written by Pauline Prendergast

Christmas Greetings to our Speech New Zealand family. It has been heartening to see the way you have all cooperated to overcome the challenges we have faced this year. Speech NZ has continued to help our nation to communicate, thanks to your willingness to work hard, to try new ways to teach and your commitment to your students. We have been fortunate to have a team of dedicated office staff who have been innovative and pro-active, so our organization will continue to grow. My thoughts are with those of you who have family overseas with whom you will not be celebrating this year. Let us hope for some good news in the future.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas. Have a relaxing holiday and return rejuvenated for 2022.

Kia hora te marino, kia whakapapa
pounamu te moana
Kia tere karohirohii muai tou
Huarahi

May calm be spread around you
May the sea glisten like
greenstone and the shimmer of
summer dance across your path.

*Speech NZ Board of Trustees at the AGM
in March 2021. From left to right:
Karen Austin, Lucinda Heslin-Wightman,
Pam Logan, Pauline Douglas, Pauline
Prendergast, Helen Balch, Del Costello,
Margriet Theron.*



Condolences

Our Speech NZ community mourns the passing of the following, for their contribution to our community and their place in our organisation's history.

- Janet Coote
- Sister Leonie O'Neill
- Mark Trezona

National Office Dates

The National Office will close on Wednesday 22 December 2021 and reopen on Monday 10 January 2022.

