

DECEMBER 2023

THE YEAR THAT WAS

2023 marked my first annual cycle with Speech New Zealand and what a year! I feel like I have a greater understanding of Speech New Zealand and the community you've built over the past 59 years!

With four EPC webinars, one Professional Development Seminar including five speakers, three new teacher resources, two online Communication in Leadership Programmes, a new *Aromatawai-ā-waha Marautanga* | Oral Communication and Language Literacy Syllabus and English Language Learners Syllabus (previously ESOL, on releasing early 2024), our Future Teacher Coaching Programme, and our usual examinations schedule, the year has been jam packed until the very last moment!

We have been fortunate enough to welcome three new staff members, Kelly Gilbride (Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator), Jaime Winter (Exam Administrator) and Katie Jackson (Office and Accounts Administrator). It's been a pleasure to welcome you all to the team and to get to know you individually.

My heartfelt thanks must go to Kim Penman (Office Administrator) and Claire Tanner (Exam Administrator) for the care you both provide to me, the team and our community! Your generosity and commitment to inclusion, growth and the highest integrity is evident in the thanks we regularly receive from teachers.

A special thanks to Stephen Holdaway and Daniel van der Spuy for the massive developments to our online dashboard and Florence Lim for her support as our Accountant.

To the Board of Trustees, thank you for the trust you've given me, for the opportunities to grow as a leader and for working with me towards the next phases of Speech New Zealand.

I am forever grateful to the Examiners, Oral Assessors and Supervisors, without you all, Speech New Zealand would not exist. It fills me with pride when I consistently hear students express how 'nice' the examiner is and how 'fun' their exam was! A little joy goes a long way and you consistently teach me of the community impact we have as Speech New Zealand.

I am excited to see what more we can achieve together and to celebrate 60 years of Speech New Zealand with you in 2024! May you all enjoy some sunny weather, an opportunity to reconnect with your loved ones and over-indulge in your favourite foods!

Merry Christmas to you all, thank you, and have a wonderful New Year.



HELENA COULTON
Executive Manager Speech NZ

DECEMBER 2023

National Office Closed:
21 December - 7 January 2024

3100 Speech NZ examination entries

Days of exams

167

52 Venues

Examiners

19

26 Supervisors

Trainee examiners

4

130 Nights of accommodation



WELCOME



This term we were delighted to welcome Katie Jackson to the National Office team as our Office and Accounts Administrator.

Katie moved from the Waikato to Wellington in 2005 to study at Toi Whakaari. After several enjoyable years in the entertainment industry, a lifestyle change led to a move to the Manawatū where she now lives on a rural block with her husband and their two young boys. She has spent the last 12 years working for Mico Plumbing, first as a showroom consultant and more recently as a key accounts manager. Coming from a customer service-based background, Katie says “I understand how crucial confident speech is to our everyday life as it allows us to communicate, express our thoughts, emotions and connect with others.”

Welcome to our growing team Katie!

TEAM BUILDING

In October our team came together in Wellington to connect, solve riddles and escape a locked room (Atlantis Escape Room!) We also brainstormed a fresh and united vision for Speech New Zealand in 2024 and beyond. Bringing the team together is so valuable in strengthening morale, engagement and collective vision. It's also a lot of fun!



DECEMBER 2023



ORAL COMMUNICATION SYLLABUS REVISED

In November this year, we launched our revised Oral Communication Syllabus renamed to; Oral Communication & Language Literacy Syllabus | *Aromatawai-ā-waha Maruatanga*. It has been meticulously designed as an accessible resource for *ngā kaiako* | teachers to support *Te Mātaiaho* | The Curriculum Refresh within their current teaching practice.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone that helped revise and deliver such a fantastic body of work. Have a read of it over on our [website](#) and don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. You can also watch a Q&A session with Jessica Rees, breaking down the syllabus and its main outcomes [here](#).

EXTENSIVE TEACHING RESOURCES RELEASED

Whaowhia te kete mātauranga | Fill the basket of knowledge.

This whakataukī has been at the core of Speech New Zealand's aims for 2024. We believe that strength lies in knowledge and are committed to equipping our dedicated teachers with the tools they need to help their students succeed. With the help of Josephine Carpenter, we have released [three comprehensive resources](#). We look forward to continuing this rollout of fresh, up-to-date resources in 2024.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Speech NZ offer scholarships over a range of syllabi and grades, many of which are kindly donated by teachers, alumni and examiners.

If you are interested in supporting the future generation of confident and articulate communicators and would like to establish your own scholarship please get in touch!

NIKAU SCHOLARSHIP

2023 is the last year Speech New Zealand will be offering the Nikau Scholarship to students in the Wellington region. We'd like to congratulate all previous recipients and are proud we were able to support you on your Speech New Zealand journey. This scholarship has previously been generously supported by the Laurie Bushell Endowment Fund.

2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

We warmly welcomed two [new Speech New Zealand scholarships](#) in 2023: The Ciara O'Donnell Award (kindly supported by our alumni from Otago) and the Otago Speech Communication Scholarship (kindly donated by the now dissolved Otago Speech Communication Association).

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Teachers - if any of your students have received a scholarship invitation, entries close on 31 December 2023. Students must have responded to the invitation by then to have a chance of receiving a scholarship.



DECEMBER 2023

UPSKILLING FOR TEACHERS

We are here to support you as you build your business, upskill or look to other career paths. Our Future Teacher Coaching Programme returns in 2024. The programme is tailored to suit individual needs, whether its better understanding how to run a small business, developing a marketing strategy, upskilling in a new syllabus or wrapping your head around IT, we will partner you with a skilled practitioner to guide and mentor you.

Perfect for new teachers and teachers looking to strengthen their knowledge and enhance their ways of working.

Our [website](#) has more information.

“ Really positive, 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. ”



NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

We are seeking new Speech New Zealand examiners and trustees! Expand your business, community outreach and upskill in a totally new area. Don't hesitate to get in contact if you are interested or want to know more.

thank you

This year we say farewell to key members of our Speech New Zealand whānau. We would like to take the time to thank them for the *manaaki* | care they showed to their work, our students and the Speech NZ family.

Ngā mihi and go well;

Gail Reid, Supervisor
Melda Townsley, Examiner
Christine Nash, Examiner
Pam Logan, Examiner

And to our departing trustees;

Sarah Entwistle
Lucinda Heslin-Wightman
Lucie Durkin

“ I have enjoyed my time with SNZ right from the early 60's as we all shared a common objective of developing communication skills always with the listener/s in mind. These were the days when the Board was more 'hands on' although all of us had a range of other commitments to family and other work.

These were busy but fulfilling days. Our connection with the Education Department established a respectful relationship as we assisted with NCEA credits and helped prepare a foundation and development for oral communication in the school syllabus.

I hope the the Board continues the practice of well expressed English.

I appreciate the friendships that were formed and the skills learned during my connection with NZ Speech Board.

Melda Townsley

DECEMBER 2023

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Examining for Speech NZ has been a privilege and an incredibly rewarding, stimulating and satisfying occupation.

I have met wonderful people throughout the country, teachers, local secretaries and candidates. I have learnt so much from them all, including new ideas and approaches from teachers. Candidates, too, have enthralled me with performances of poems and dramatic pieces; they have informed, entertained and challenged me with talks on an amazing range of topics from holidays and sports to aspects of literature, life, history and science. What I have enjoyed most as I meet candidates is their enthusiasm, their curiosity and, if I meet them a year or so later, their developing confidence and skills in discussion.

Some memorable moments: a young lad doing Oral Communication with his book on tractors who, in answer to a question, looked me in the eye and stated, 'I'm sorry, Mrs Logan I don't know the answer to that'. A confident and bright response. A lass who presented a demonstration on how to make fortune cookies and left me one to eat later for my supper – the message in the cookie said, 'You are in a very good mood today!' Then there was a lad demonstrating making a model who told me we needed a 'metra'. He held up a small rectangle of blue plastic – eventually I discovered it was a 'meat tray' from the supermarket with its edges removed!

Working to develop syllabuses over the last 30 years or so, has always been highly collaborative, deepening relationships and friendships with colleagues. The first was long before computers and was, literally, a cut-and-paste affair. The addition, later, of learning outcomes enriched our knowledge of exactly what examiners were looking for in that exam room. These, I am convinced, have also enhanced teaching skills throughout the country and markedly raised the average results for candidates. A highlight many moons ago, was touring exam areas in the South Island to present these, on good old overhead projectors, to teachers and senior students.

Looking back, I would say teaching made me a better student, examining made me a better teacher, helping to train examiners made me a better examiner. I treasure memories of the collaboration with examiners and the Board to develop accreditation seminars. Most of all I will always treasure the collegiality and friendships I have gained over the years with teachers, examiners, Board members and SNZ staff, past and present. Thank you everyone. Arohanui.

Pam Logan

“

In deciding to hang up my Speech NZ hat, I want to acknowledge the huge amount of pleasure I have gained from the organisation over the years.

My late husband Lindsay was a dedicated supporter and served as a national examiner for many years, and he and I shared many rewarding experiences with SNZ.

I started as local secretary over 15 years ago – in those days a big job with no computer input, so I came to know the many Auckland speech teachers and students. . Subsequently I trained as an Assessor which proved both challenging and rewarding.

I was asked for a highlight: it was assessing a low stream class in a Decile 1 State school. The students and their teacher had put a great deal of passion into their talks, and even written their own poems, and although their literacy standard was not high, they gained a great deal of enjoyment from their presentations – two of them asked me if they could hug me at the end of the assessments! It was also the first time this class had received certificates from an outside source at their general assembly.

I am delighted that SNZ is now reaching out to try to embrace more State schools. We can do so much to help them feel empowered in their communication skills particularly in the lower decile sector.

My thanks to you all at SNZ: I think great strides have been made over recent years and I will continue to sing the praises of a fine organisation.

Christine Nash

FAREWELLING OUR TEAM

Examiner Karen Austin reflects on and says goodbye to departing staples of Speech New Zealand.

“

*'I can no other answer make but thanks
And thanks
And ever thanks.'*

William Shakespeare

”

Melda has been a Speech NZ icon for many years and it is with sadness and gratitude that we have accepted her resignation. As an examiner she has travelled the country examining in our various centres. Although as teachers we knew Melda as an examiner, it was at our Accreditation Seminars at Frederick Wallis House in Lower Hutt that we really got to know her. We were privileged to be guided by her expertise and exacting standards. Later, we moved to the Karitane/ Plunket Building and had to project our voices over the tigers and lions.

Melda was a trustee on the Board of Speech of New Zealand for many years and was Chairman from 2000-2005. In 2004, Melda was made a Distinguished Associate of Speech New Zealand. As we approach Speech New Zealand's 60th Anniversary, we acknowledge Melda's immense contribution to our growth – she is indeed part of our living story.

We shall all remember Melda as a gracious examiner with careful attention to detail. Melda has imparted her love of language, public speaking and speech and drama to decades of examiners, teachers and students. Our SNZ community will be reminded of Melda when we annually give The Melda Townsley Award for Excellence in the Use of Language and Expression. This award was donated by Melda.



Pam was on the Speech NZ Board for thirty years and she has been an Accredited Examiner since 1994. During this time, she contributed so much to Speech NZ. It is with sadness and gratitude that we have accepted Pam's resignation as a Speech New Zealand examiner. She has been an examiner since 1994.

Pam was the tenth Chairman of the Speech New Zealand Board, from 2011 -2015. She was also Chair of Examinations for several years. In 2015, Pam was presented with the Merdith Caisley Award. This award was presented by the SCA Council annually to a member they considered to be actively promoting the association. In 2022, Pam was made a Distinguished Associate of Speech New Zealand.

In 2021 during Covid, Pam was one of three trustees who wrote the Flexi Speaking and Performance which has been a great success. For many years, Pam wrote Teacher Alert and this included many of the questions asked by teachers.

DECEMBER 2023

Pam was very knowledgeable about drama. Once a senior student moved back from the city with just the page of her drama, she didn't know the name of the play or the playwright. The exam was in three weeks- what did I do ? I phoned Pam who immediately identified it.

Pam was always calm and reasoned in her years on the Examination Committee. She could always be relied on to give considered opinions and suggestions. Pam has examined up and down the country and has given generously of her time to Speech New Zealand. As we are about to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Speech NZ we are mindful of the huge role you have played in a variety of roles.



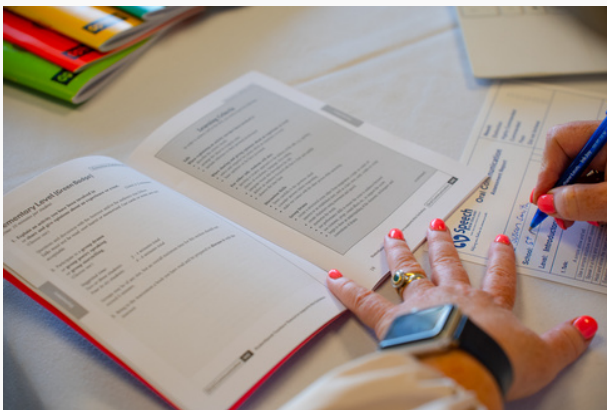
It was with sadness and gratitude that we accepted Christine's resignation as an Oral Assessor for Speech New Zealand. Christine has been a familiar face in Auckland schools for many years as an Oral Assessor.

We always appreciated Christine's contribution at our Accreditation Seminars. Christine was also one of our Auckland Local Secretaries until recently. Between Christine and her late husband, Lindsay Nash, they had a deep understanding and overview of Speech New Zealand's examination system.

Christine, we wish you well in your retirement and thank you for your years as a New Zealand Speech Oral Assessor. As we approach Speech New Zealand's 60th Anniversary it is people like you who are part of our living story.

In the words of Winston Churchill

"We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give."





As I always say to my students' parents. On top of loving the Speech NZ exam system, and exam format one of the huge benefits to sitting Speech NZ exams is the flexibility and understanding of the examiners and board!



Feedback from a SNZ teacher

We would like to extend a HUGE thank you to our Speech New Zealand whānau for their dedication, time and hard work in delivering another round of successful examinations. Term four threw us many spanners, that were so flawlessly and efficiently handled by our National Office team, our supervisors, examiners, trainee examiners and teachers.



Thank you to our teachers for continuing to support Speech NZ and advocating to parents about the benefits of Speech NZ Syllabi and exams. Thank you also for your help when National Office have needed assistance and recommendations for exam supervisors and venues.

You are all the beating heart of Speech New Zealand - and, judging by the numbers on Page 2 for term four alone, you all deserve a relaxing summer break!



Our website is also under review for 2024. As you are regular users of our website, your feedback is crucial in helping to improve and enhance our online services. Please take 5-10 minutes to fill out this [short survey](#).



DECEMBER 2023

CHAIRPERSON'S SIGN OFF

NGĀ MIHI O TE KIRIHIMETE KI A KOE

Christmas greetings to you,

Thank you to all teachers and examiners for a very busy and successful year. You have worked hard to prepare your students with great results. It has been pleasing to see so many attaining high marks in their exams. Thank you, examiners, for your willingness to travel the length and breadth of New Zealand, assessing the candidates. It is a big commitment to leave your home and students for one-two weeks at a time and your dedication to Speech New Zealand is appreciated.

Thank you to the Head Office staff who have undergone several changes during 2023 and have managed to adapt and learn new skills so the work required has progressed steadily. We commend you for the way you have kept smiling and positive throughout.

A special thank you to Helena, our Executive Manager, who has worked many more hours than she signed up for but is very conscientious about completing tasks. Helena is always patient and willing to answer queries. She is taking our organisation forward with great skill and expertise.

Thank you to Stephen, who is our IT expert and has set us up with the advances in our dashboard, so it operates more efficiently, saving us all a lot of time.

Two long serving examiners, Melda Townsley and Pam Logan have retired recently. They have been sources of wisdom and learning for us over many years. We will say farewell to them both formally at our accreditation in January.

Many of you will remember Jackie Vaughan who died recently, age 93. She was a well-known speech and drama teacher in Wellington and had received the QSM for services to speech and drama. Her daughter, Robyn Radomski, lead the service beautifully tonight and some of her children and grandchildren sang a few of Jackie's favourite songs. What a wonderful legacy Jackie has left to remember her by. I could see the value of speech and drama lessons!

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, let us keep in our prayers the people of Gaza and Israel, who are experiencing unbelievable suffering and trauma in the land of his birth.

A happy and blessed Christmas to you all.

Arohanui

Pauline Prednergast



PAULINE PREDNERGAST
Chairperson Speech NZ