

# The Year So Far

## 2022



### *Cheers to the future!*

**Written by Emma Carpenter**

Somehow it is already August - I think I speak for everyone when I say that the year is truly flying by!!

As we head into the busy time of the year, it is always a good time to try to take a moment to breathe, reflect, and look at how far we have come. Time is passing faster than ever these days, but gosh how different things are now than they were 12 months ago! It is a testament to the sheer grit and determination of everyone in this community that we have emerged from the other side of Covid-19.

I am thrilled to report that we have had an incredibly low number of disruptions this year, although Covid-19 still continues to keep us on our toes. I want to acknowledge our National Office team (Claire, Catherine and Kim) and the Examinations Committee for keeping on top of the rearrangements that have had to be made due to illnesses this year of examiners and candidates. What an incredible team!!

Our Board of Trustees have also been hard at work this year, and were finally able to gather together in person for a two-day meeting in Wellington. It had been more than 14 months since the last in-person meeting! Zoom is fantastic, but sometimes it is just wonderful to be in the same room. Also, as you'll learn in the following pages, with great sadness the Board have accepted the resignations of Pam Logan and Helen Balch, both incredibly dedicated members of the Board. You'll also get an introduction to the new Trustees who have been appointed this year, and the future is looking bright indeed.

For my own role, it is with great pleasure that I hand over to Helena Coulton, who has joined Speech NZ as Executive Manager. Helena has spent the last three weeks with me and was present at our recent Board Meeting and Strategic Planning session here in Wellington - a fantastic weekend for everyone involved. I have no doubt that the future of Speech NZ operations is in excellent hands.

I am so proud of what we have achieved during my 17 months with Speech NZ, and while I'm excited to tackle my next challenge, I will certainly be keeping an eye out to see where the future takes this wonderful organisation. Thank you to everyone who has made my time here memorable - I can happily say that I have never worked alongside a more passionate and dedicated community, and it has truly been my pleasure to lead Speech NZ.

*Ka kite anō au i a koutou* | I'll see you again



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## *Introducing our Executive Manager - Helena Coulton*



Ko Taranaki te maunga te rū nei taku ngākau  
 Ko Pātea te awa e mahea nei aku māharahara  
 Ko Ngāti Pākehā ahau  
 I tipu ake au ki Ngāmotu  
 Engari e noho ana au ki Te Whānganui-a-tara  
 Ko Roman rāua ko Saxton āku tamariki  
 Ko Nathan tōku hoa rangatira  
 Ko Helena Coulton ahau

I am from Taranaki but have lived in Wellington since leaving to study at Toi Whakaari in 2005. With 15 years' experience touring and managing theatre I have witnessed the profound importance in expressing ones hopes, dreams, struggles and turmoil. I'm excited to work with Speech NZ to empower New Zealanders to find their own voice and help them discover the strength of their leadership.

## *Farewelling Pam Logan*

**Written by Pauline Prendergast, Board Chair.**

It is with great sadness that we farewell our long serving trustee on the Board, Pam Logan.



Pam has been a mentor for Speech New Zealand teachers for many years with her words of wisdom and depth of knowledge of our syllabuses. Pam started training as an examiner when seminars were held at Wallis House in Lower Hutt. Many of you will remember those times. Pam joined the Board about the same time she became Past President of NZ Theatre Federation in 1992. Since then she has worked on syllabuses and has always been on the examination committee quickly progressing to the manager of examinations. With her knowledge of the syllabuses, Pam was the perfect choice to do a couple of tours of the South Island of **Know Your Syllabus** after the introduction of new syllabuses. These workshops were invaluable for our understanding of the requirements of the new syllabuses.

Pam also edited **Clipboard** for several years after Colleen Bassett and then Jill Hagen took over from Pam. Pam was Vice-Chair of Speech NZ for four years and then became Chair from 2011 to 2014.

Her expertise and knowledge of theatre have been inspiring for teachers and examiners. Pam was always willing to listen and answer any queries about our understanding of the syllabus. She was especially wise and helpful fielding queries from examiners on tour, who were needing clarification about an examination procedure or pass level.

Pam has been awarded with the Distinguished Associate of Speech NZ in acknowledgement of her outstanding contribution to furthering the aims of our organisation for many years .

We wish you a happy retirement, Pam.  
 May you be able to spend more time with your family in the warmth of Queensland.  
 I am sure we will hear more about your directing of plays for the theatre in Blenheim.

Kia hora te marino,  
 kia whakapapa pounamu te moana,  
 kia tere te kārohirohi i mua i tō huarahi

May the calm be widespread,  
 May the ocean glisten as greenstone,  
 May the shimmer of light ever dance across your pathway.



*Meredith Caisley and Pam Logan, 2015*



## *Farewelling Helen Balch*

**Written by Karen Austin, Vice-Chair.**



It is with regret that we accept Helen's resignation as a trustee on the Speech New Zealand Board. Helen has been a valued trustee for the last eight years. She was appointed to the Speech New Zealand Board as the SCA representative and was the Inaugural Chair of EPC, established in 2022.

Helen has a large teaching business in Christchurch, based at St Andrew's College. She has entered thousands of well-prepared students in Speech New Zealand examinations. This teaching background and knowledge equipped Helen to be in charge of syllabus revision. Until Covid-19 lockdowns the syllabi revisions were cycled through on a rotational basis. However, the impact of Covid-19 necessitated some lateral thinking and one summer's day in Nelson, Helen proposed writing a syllabus that covered Speech and Drama and Public Speaking. And so a group of four wrote the Flexi Speaking and Public Speaking Syllabus. Helen donated SNZ's first scholarship for Flexi Speaking and Public Speaking, The Gabrielle Balch Scholarship, in recognition of her mother's contribution to Speech New Zealand as a Local Secretary for many years.

Helen is a very methodical person with an eye for detail. She can always be relied on to read documents in an analytical manner and this has been of great benefit to Speech New Zealand.

As part of her teaching programme, Helen always supported the Performing Arts and PACANZ. This provided her with links to teachers all over the country. Helen was a regular attendee to the SCA's annual conferences and so was in touch with practising Speech and Drama teachers. These contacts resulted in Helen being able to give relevant feedback as background to Board initiatives.

Helen has an indomitable spirit and enthusiasm for life. She has amazed us all by fronting up to meetings and events while coping with severe health issues. Speech New Zealand is going to miss Helen's common sense-approach and her experience as respected Speech and Drama Christchurch teacher.

Helen, we wish you well.

In Ernest Hemingway's words - "*Courage is grace under pressure.*"



*Cecily Archer (left) and Helen Balch (right) with Year 1 to 3 Oral Communication students at St Andrew's College, Christchurch*





## *Helen and Pam with the Speech NZ Board of Trustees*



*Speech NZ Board of Trustees in September 2014, celebrating 50 years of SNZ. From left to right: Margriet Theron, Meredith Caisley, Kathryn MacIver, Helen Balch, Gabrielle Thurston, Pauline Prendergast, Pam Logan, Rebecca McMenamin, Claire Marsh, Pauline Douglas.*



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

## *The Board gathering in Wellington, 30 - 31 July 2022*



*Speech NZ Board of Trustees in July 2022. From left to right: Pauline Douglas, Helena Coulton (Executive Manager), Nina Burchett, Emma Carpenter (retiring Executive Officer), Pauline Prendergast, Del Costello, Margriet Theron, Karen Austin, Helen Balch (via Zoom), Elizabeth Drayton, Lynda Scott, Sandra Bartlam*



*Del Costello and Emma Carpenter at the Board Meeting 31 July 2022.*



## *Welcoming our new Trustees*

We are thrilled to welcome six new trustees onto the Board in 2022. Each of these Trustees must meet a certain number of meeting attendance requirements, and serve on an additional committee.



**Nina Burchett**

*Business Development and EPC*

Nina Burchett is the founder of Shine School of Confidence. She is excited about being a Trustee for Speech NZ so that she can expand her contribution to the industry beyond her company. Some of the skills she brings to the board are: extensive speech, acting and communication skills; teaching, coaching and facilitation; experience as a business leader; and professional acting and voice work.



**Sandra Bartlam**

*Chair of EPC Committee*

Sandra grew up in Manurewa and like many young people in the 1950s and 60s went to speech classes for eight years. In her early 30s she started working towards completing a Teaching Licentiate in Speech and Drama. She taught at Marsden School from 1983 to 2015, at St Oran's College from 1990 to 2020 and Scots College from 1995 to 2019. Learning and teaching have been a big part of her life and she has put students into Speech NZ examinations since 1976.



**Sarah Entwistle**

*Examinations and EPC*

Sarah lives in Dunedin and has worked within the Performance and Communication industry for over 30 years both in New Zealand and overseas. She operates Sound Regard Consultancy, where she offers training in all aspects of Spoken Communication to clients from all walks of life and varied work settings: schools, community groups, institutions, and businesses.



**Lynda Scott**

*Examinations, Business and Syllabus*

Lynda has been teaching Speech, Drama, Public speaking, ESOL, and Communication skills privately and at St Mary's, Scots, and Taita colleges and several State schools, Hutt Valley Polytechnic, and several corporate companies for over 40 years. She has performed in local, professional and televised theatre. She was a committee member, Secretary, Treasurer (12 years) and President of SCA over 30yr period.



**Elizabeth Drayton**

*Chair of Business Development*

Elizabeth has taught public speaking and effective communication privately for 35 years and runs the Drayton Academy (for institutions, private and corporate clients). She teaches Speaking with Confidence at Selwyn Adult Community College. Elizabeth holds the LTCL, a Postgraduate Diploma in Business, and an MBA from the University of Auckland.



**Lucille Durkin**

*Examinations and EPC*

Lucille loves teaching speech and drama and public speaking to students from age 7 to adult. She works in two independent schools and also runs a private studio. Lucille believes strongly in the importance of professional development for teachers. With the Speech Communication Association being dissolved in 2021, she joined the Board's group tasked with setting up EPC, the organization which succeeded SCA.



**Educators in  
Performance and  
Communication NZ**

## ***EPC Professional Development Seminar 2023***

The EPC Committee are putting the finishing touches on the agenda and schedule for the EPC Professional Development Seminar, and they are so excited to announce this over the coming weeks!

Make sure your calendars are marked with **16 and 17 January 2023** in **Wellington**

## ***Upcoming Workshop: New Voices for the Stage: Contemporary NZ playwrights***

While Aotearoa New Zealand theatre has faced significant disruption from the Covid-19 pandemic over the past three years, our playwrights and theatre makers have continued to create vital new work for the stage.

Dr James Wenley offers an overview of recent trends in contemporary Aotearoa New Zealand playwriting, and shares some of his favourite recent writing.

This workshop is being held on **Monday, 22 August 2022 at 7.30pm via Zoom.**

**REGISTER NOW AT [EPC.ORG.NZ](http://EPC.ORG.NZ)**

## ***The Future Teacher Coaching Programme***

The Future Teacher Coaching Programme is going strong!! Our expert coaches have delivered more than 130 hours of coaching to people from all over the country with all kinds of different goals. Most of the participants are already well underway with their teaching, and several are prepping their students for examinations in the next couple of months!

If you or someone you know are interested in learning more about how our programme can help you, please get in touch with the National Office or contact us on the website:

[www.speechnz.co.nz/what-we-do/future-teacher-coaching-programme/](http://www.speechnz.co.nz/what-we-do/future-teacher-coaching-programme/)



"I would totally encourage people to take this up. If you're looking at getting into this field and you're a bit new - or even if you want just a bit of help in certain areas.... You are running your own business, and people are paying you money to provide a service, so this is a fantastic support base."



**REBECCA REED**  
arribaspeech.com







## *Speech NZ History - help us tell our story!*

We are working on a representation of our vibrant history on the website. We want this to showcase how we started and where we come from, and all the people and activities that took place along the way to bring us to where we are today.

Our first submission is a piece written by **Pam Logan** about her involvement with Speech NZ. You can read this on the Speech NZ website now! Go to [www.speechnz.co.nz/about-us/about-speech-nz/looking-back/](http://www.speechnz.co.nz/about-us/about-speech-nz/looking-back/)

If you have a story to tell or photos or artefacts to share, please get in touch with Karen Austin - [karenjaustin2014@gmail.com](mailto:karenjaustin2014@gmail.com)

## *Chairman's Signoff*

Written by **Pauline Prendergast**

It has been a challenging year for us all, with students, teachers, and examiners away with Covid-19 or the flu. The days ahead are looking brighter as we progress towards spring.

We are very sorry that Emma is leaving us. She has been dynamic in moving our organisation into the future. Candidate numbers are increasing! So much of this is due to Emma's hard work and perseverance.

We are delighted to welcome Helena to National Office. We met her at our face-to-face Board meeting recently and look forward to working with her.

Thank you all for your passion and commitment to Speech New Zealand.

Te pai katoa for 2022.

*Speech NZ Board of Trustees in July 2022.  
From left to right: Pauline Douglas, Helena Coulton (Executive Manager), Nina Burchett, Emma Carpenter (retiring Executive Officer), Pauline Prendergast, Del Costello, Margriet Theron, Karen Austin, Helen Balch (via Zoom), Elizabeth Drayton, Lynda Scott, Sandra Bartlam*



## *Check out Del's interview on RNZ!*

Speech NZ Trustee, Examiner, and Teacher **Del Costello** was interviewed by Jesse Mulligan on Radio New Zealand in July 2022, talking about public speaking, how to be an effective communicator, and overcoming our fears.

Listen to the interview on [rnz.co.nz](http://rnz.co.nz)  
Search "Public Speaking" or "Costello"

## *Oral Communication syllabus revision*

The Oral Communication syllabus is in the final stages of its revision. The new syllabus will be ready for 2023. Thank you to all those who submitted feedback!

