



Parents of Vision Impaired (NZ) Inc.

Providing a community to support parents of children with vision impairments

Welcome to 2024

Kia ora and a warm welcome to a new calendar year. Whether you are starting new adventures or returning to known routines, we look forward to sharing 2024 with you. This update includes details on the following:

- **PVI Board**
- **Education-related resources for the start of a new school year**
- **PVI Conference dates for 2024**
- **Advocating with your Local Council for Transport Choices**
- **Blind Low Vision NZ Children's camps**



PVI Board

Our first Board face-to-face will be held 23-24 February in Wellington. We are looking forward to setting the years priorities and getting started on our next Strategic Plan. If you have any ideas, please let us know! You can read who our Board representatives are [here \(or send us an email!\)](#), and they are also listed on the [PVI Website](#).

The PVI Board Chair (Judith), EO (Rebekah) and Tāngata Whenua Board rep (Justine) were pleased to represent PVI at the [Kāpō Māori Aotearoa](#) 40th celebration in November 2023. More on this to come in our next eVision!

Education-related resources

A new school year can bring new challenges. Below are a few useful links for families:

- [What is an IEP \(Individual Education Plan\)?](#) This is a plain language guide from Parent to Parent - with handy links to additional information included.
- What services are available from Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ)? See this [overview from BLENNZ](#).
- Download the [Vision Book – My Child, Our Journey](#). This is a great resource with information for families and whānau about children who are blind, deafblind or have low vision. It was published in 2014 by the Ministry of Education in partnership with the Ministry of Health, BLENNZ and Blind Low Vision, and much of the information remains useful and relevant.
- An easily readable blog about navigating visual fatigue, environmental barriers, and school attitude solutions [here](#).
- The Ministry of Education's [Inclusive Education site](#) has a list of local and national agencies that provide educational support and services.
- The [Perkin's School for the Blind](#) has a wealth of information and teaching resources across a range of educational topics.



2024 PVI Conference Dates

Mark your calendars now for the highly anticipated 2024 PVI Annual Conference and AGM, taking place from **18th to 20th October**. Be sure to pencil in these dates to avoid any scheduling conflicts in the future! Stay tuned for more details and registration information, which will be shared with you in due course.



Advocating for transport choices

How Local Councils can support our vision-impaired children to independently move about the city or town where they live.

Parents of Vision Impaired National Director Dr Rebekah Graham and her vision impaired daughter Lily feature in this video about the importance of having transport choices for vision impaired children and their families. Everyday access like being able to cross the road independently - and safely! - is so important. As is being able to cycle to places without being hit by a car and/or being able to safely get on or off buses. When local councils collaborate to build safe road infrastructure, including signalized crossings, speed calming, and separated cycle lanes, this assists both car drivers and our vision-impaired children. Watch more below or follow this [link to read about what Hamilton is doing](#).



Blind Low Vision NZ Camps - spaces available!

With less than a month to go before registrations close, BLVNZ are seeking more registrations to enable their children's camps to go ahead! If you were thinking about it, definitely go ahead and register. All camps are in the first week of the school holidays.

The age range for attendees is 8-14 and there will be BLVNZ staff at each camp to provide support. Camp attendees will need to be able to independently wash and clothe themselves as 1:1 support is not available for these camps. Blind Low Vision staff are keen to encourage children to attend as much as is possible.

How much does it cost? The camp itself is **FREE** - fully funded by Blind Low Vision NZ!! However, you will need to organize and pay for transport to and from the camp itself. You can use your Individualized Funding (IF) and/or Carer Support (CS) to cover this cost. Other funding options include [Wilson Home Trust](#).

How to register: Download and complete the registration form for the camp you want to attend (see below). Email completed form to **Michelle Mackie** mmackie@blindlowvision.org.nz

What can you expect: A fun packed week, with plenty of opportunities to try new and challenging activities in a safe and supportive environment. Kids will stay in bunkrooms.

Questions? Please contact **Mark McLaughlin** (Mark is the Sport and Leisure Development Manager for Blind Low Vision NZ). Phone: 07 838 7508 | Mobile: 0220129336 | Email: mmclaughlin@blindlowvision.org.nz

Auckland Adventure Camp 2024

16th – 19th April 2024

Huia Lodge, Huia Road, Waitakere Ranges, Auckland

[Download Auckland Application form](#)

Central Adventure Camp 2024

15th – 18th April 2024

Blue Mountain Adventure Centre, 17 Pito Street, Raurimu

[Download Central Application form](#)

Christchurch Adventure Camp 2024

15th – 18th April 2024

Lake Lyndon Lodge, Unnamed Road, Castle Hill

[Download Christchurch Application form](#)

All the best for a wonderful year,

Rebekah Graham

National Executive Officer, PVI

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