

August 2015



# APODC

## Update



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# KIA ORA Hi

### **NAU MAI and WELCOME to our new APODC member families.**

APODC membership has more than doubled since August 2014 - thanks families, for your vote of confidence. We continue to work on our aim of connecting families with deaf and hearing impaired children across Auckland. It seems you like the mix of events we are providing, but we always need new suggestions. If you have an idea for getting families or children together we'd love to hear from you.

### **Recent events:**

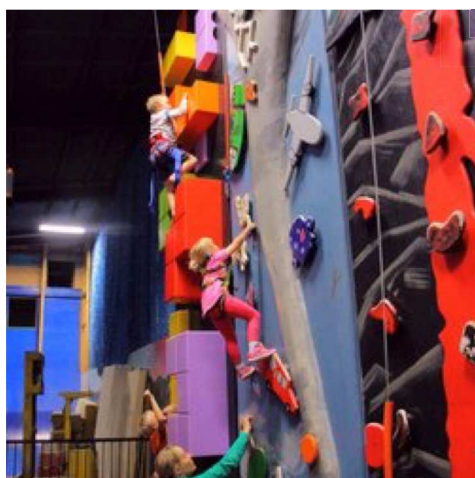
The wind and rain of the July school holidays didn't hold our families back. The kids kept the cold at bay and worked off their cabin fever at **Inflatable World**, Mt Roskill. They bounced, slid, climbed, jostled and rolled. The babies had a place to explore and the grown-ups enjoyed coffees and a catch-up at the café area. We're glad to see so many families making use of our school holiday events.

We kicked off August with a casual coffee group at **Lollipops Playland**, Ellerslie. Great to see new families coming along to find out what APODC is about. Sometimes it's hard to find our group in such a busy environment (especially when you don't know who you're looking for!) We hope to have a table flag, banner or similar type identifier to help find us at future events. This should make it easier, especially for first timers.

We have some excellent activities booked for the next month. Please read on...

# What's happening in AUGUST and September?

Get together with other families of deaf and hearing impaired children at these awesome events. We've arranged some activities to suit a variety of ages. Do join us!



## Rock Climbing!

**2-5 pm, Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August  
Extreme Edge Climb Zone  
40C Morrin Rd, Panmure.**

Ready to scale the dizzy heights? Enjoy an energetic afternoon with other families and learn how to get to the top. Extreme Edge Panmure has fabulous facilities that are guaranteed to give even novice climbers a total buzz. **Free entry for APODC members.**

If you'd like to bring your family then contact Chris on [apodc@orcon.net.nz](mailto:apodc@orcon.net.nz) or phone/text on **022 084 2244**. State your family name and the ages of climbing children. Adults may climb too, but you don't have to give your age :) Just tell us that you want to climb.

There will be a harness safety briefing and a NZSL Interpreter will be present. Please remind us if your child is a NZSL user.

Associate and non members welcome with a small charge. Under 6 climb for \$9.50 and ages 6 – 15, \$14. Contact Chris for more information on [apodc@orcon.net.nz](mailto:apodc@orcon.net.nz) or phone/text on **022 084 2244**.

# TIP TOP ICE CREAM FACTORY TOUR



*Come and see how Tip Top makes The Best Ice Cream in the World. You will see how they mix fresh New Zealand milk and cream to make award winning ice cream. Then you get to taste it for yourself!!*

## WHAT YOU WILL SEE...

- Watch ice cream production from enclosed viewing galleries.
- Sample ice cream as you watch a short DVD all about Tip Top.
- Enjoy the outside children's' playground for up to 45 minutes after the tour (children must be accompanied by an adult while on the playground).

### WHEN?

Wednesday September 30th 2015 – during the next school holidays. Meeting at 11.10 for an 11.30 tour – We cannot wait if you come late!

### WHERE?

The TIP TOP factory at 113 Carbine Road, Mt Wellington, Auckland.

### HOW TO BOOK

There are limited spaces for this event as the maximum is 35 people per tour. Please contact APODC to secure a place for your family. FREE to members on a first come, first served basis, with priority to families who missed out on the tour earlier this year. Send a text, phone us or email to secure a space for your family at this event.

Please email [apodc@orcon.net.nz](mailto:apodc@orcon.net.nz) or text/phone on **022 0842244**



## Remember to find APODC on Facebook.

The Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Facebook page is an additional way to connect with other parents and families, share ideas and learn what's happening in APODC and the Deaf world!

Join our group today and check out our latest photos!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/981153361914892/?ref=ts&fref=ts>

## **Spotlight on committee:**

**Every month we throw the spotlight on the people who work hard behind the scenes on the APODC management committee.**

**Name: Frian Wadia**

**Role: Committee Member**

Hi my name is Frian Wadia. My hubby Burzin and myself have three lovely boys, Khushru, Kayan and Zeus aged 10, 8.5 and 7 years respectively. I am an early childhood teacher and currently work part-time besides caring for my very demanding brood of boys and our lively home in Auckland. I love gardening, listening to music and watching movies when I get the chance.

My oldest son Khushru has a genetic disorder, DOORS syndrome, profound deafness (has bilateral CI's) and autism; and my second son Kayan has a global developmental delay and auditory neuropathy. The beginning of our journey in the world of disability, health and education has been quite daunting, lonely and challenging, and probably will continue to be so from time to time in the future as well.

However, it has also been a journey filled with hopes and dreams, learning and growing, joys and celebrations that have given me a new richer perspective on life. Every little achievement is cherished and diversity is appreciated and valued very much. Most of all I have come to value people and the different relationships that tend to contribute so significantly into our lives. I look forward to meeting you at our family events, and sharing with you a bit about our journey towards making a more meaningful, richer and fuller life for our children and our family.



*Editor's note: Although you are most likely to see Frian hosting APODC events, she dedicates a lot of time to event planning and organisation, as well as grant applications on behalf of APODC.*

**Name: Chris Shields**

**Role: Administrator and Committee Secretary**



Hi, my name is Chris and I got involved with APODC eight years ago when my then three year-old son Nick was diagnosed with a mild hearing impairment. He and his older sister Penny were screened from birth (it wasn't mandatory then) because of my husband's genetic deafness, which can be traced back through five generations in his family. Penny and Nick were both born with full hearing and we thought we had outsmarted the genes until Nick's diagnosis. My husband, Graham, has progressed to moderately deaf, as the condition is degenerative. His oldest son Jamie, 21, also has a mild impairment. Father and sons wear hearing aids and all three expect their hearing to get worse until the loss is severe in their older years. As a child Graham remembers talking into his grandmother's bosom, because her hearing aid was pinned to her chest!

Nick took to hearing aids well as a pre-schooler. Dad always wore them so it was pretty normal at home. He's now at Intermediate and uses an FM system, which he started at primary school. This has been a great help in the classroom. Like Graham he's developed lip reading skills and uses visual cues. We speak English at home and recently started NZSL family classes. I dragged the deaf members of the family kicking and screaming to learn NZSL. "What do we need that for? We've got technology!" As the mother/wife and ears of the house, I insisted. There's only so much frustration I could handle: What did he/she/you say? Louder, I haven't got my ears on. Stop shouting, my hearing aids are on! Huh? Wha'? You didn't tell me that! And so on. Apart from getting our L-plates with this beautiful language, my blood pressure is getting back to normal.

In the early days it was a relief to meet other families with deaf children at APODC events. Nick had never seen another child with hearing aids until then. I've learned a lot from other families. We are also lucky to have support and guidance from some inspirational adults from the Deaf community. They were once deaf children themselves and can give us useful insights.

I've recently been contracted to provide administration for APODC, which I do from home. I'm the person on the end of the email and phone when you have questions or want to put your name down for events. I also help out on the committee as the secretary and with running events. It's great to see our membership growing and people joining APODC while their children are young. In my opinion that is the hardest adjustment time. Drawing on the knowledge and experience of others in the first few years really helped ease my worries about the way ahead.

**I enjoy meeting families and I'm always up for a chat (one of my favourite activities!) so feel free to get in touch if you have anything on your mind or any questions. If I can't help you, I'll find someone who can. I look forward to meeting you.**

## Would you like to use New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) with your baby?

Need some help to get started?

Or just need a helpful reminder sometimes?

Go to this excellent on line resource...

<http://nzslbabysign.nz>



From the homepage of Sign NZSL with your baby:

*"This website is for parents, whānau, friends and teachers who want to start learning NZSL to communicate with babies and toddlers. It shows the first signs and skills needed to communicate with children between 0 and 3 years old.*

*Using NZSL with your baby or toddler can increase your child's ability to communicate their needs, desires, and feelings. Signing with babies and toddlers is fun and can involve creative and visual dramatic play. Pre-schoolers can learn signs quickly through everyday communication at home."*

## CAMP RAGLAN – APODC 2015

The sleeves are rolled up and we're getting ready...

**When?** Friday evening 6<sup>th</sup> November - Sunday afternoon 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

**Where?** Camp Raglan, 578 Wainui Road, RAGLAN. The camp is on the way to Whale Bay.

**How much?** Financial members of APODC pay **\$70 per family** for the weekend camp. This covers food, accommodation and all activities for the weekend.

**Why?** Without fail, we get feedback that camp is **THE** best APODC event. Families really get to know each other during a full weekend of activities. Grown ups and kids have fun together!

**What do I do?** Registration forms will shortly be sent to all member families. A deposit will be required with registration.

**Keep your eyes on your inbox for camp registration forms, coming soon...**



## For your calendar...

<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 7.30 pm</b>  <b>September APODC committee meeting</b>	<b>The Hearing House, 251-253 Campbell Rd, GREENLANE.</b> Meet the APODC management committee. Watch how we work for the families with deaf and hearing impaired children or have a say on what you'd like to see happening with APODC. New committee members welcome.
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2 - 5.00 pm</b>  <b>Rock Climbing</b>	<b>Extreme Edge Climb Zone, 40C Morrin Rd, PANMURE.</b> Get your harness on and enjoy an afternoon with other families as they scale the heights. Free entry for members and families. Contact Chris on <a href="mailto:apodc@orcon.net.nz">apodc@orcon.net.nz</a> or phone/text on 022 084 2244 with the names, ages and numbers. Please specify if your climber requires a NZSL interpreter. Small charge for hearing CODA and associate members.
<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 11.10 am</b>  <b>Tip Top Ice Cream factory tour</b>	<b>Tip Top Factory Tour – School Holiday event</b> Something the whole family can attend. Learn how Tip Top make their ice cream soooo yummy. Then try it for yourself. Delicious!! FREE for members and their families. Contact Chris to secure a place on this tour.
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2015</b>  <b>APODC Camp 2015</b>	<b>Camp Raglan, 578 Wainui Rd, RAGLAN.</b> The jewel in the APODC crown! Enjoy a weekend of good old Kiwi outdoor fun and activities. Share the experience with other families of deaf and hearing impaired children. Watch out for registration forms, coming soon. Only \$70 per family for full APODC members.  Want to help organise camp or help during camp weekend? Yes please. Email Chris on <a href="mailto:apodc@orcon.net.nz">apodc@orcon.net.nz</a>

### Contact us

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Phone or text on: 022 0842244

Website: [www.apodc.org.nz](http://www.apodc.org.nz)



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