

February 2016



# APODC

## Update



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# KIA ORA Hi

**NAU MAI and HAPPY NEW YEAR to APODC families and whanau.** We hope you will enjoy what we're cooking up for 2016. It promises to be a sumptuous year. We've taken on board what you liked in 2015 and stirred some new ingredients into our family-friendly APODC stew.

Before we lock in our calendars and finalise the yearly planner, be sure to get in touch if there's something you loved from the 2015 APODC plate. If lots of people loved it - we'll serve it up again. On the other hand, if your stomach churns with unease about last year's event menu, send us an email or get in touch by phone or text. We don't like to leave a sour taste in anyone's memory.

Remember, the committee works for the members and we like to keep our members satisfied!

### What's in this month's newsletter?

- First event for 2016 - Family picnic at Orakei domain
- APODC is back to work - A new look brochure, educating Manukau audiologists and a new employment opportunity.
- Spotlight on a committee member from APODC
- APODC needs mobile signage - do you have contacts or want to sponsor us?
- New year's resolution: Renew your APODC membership

**Now read on to catch up on all the news...**

# First event for 2016...

## APODC Family Picnic

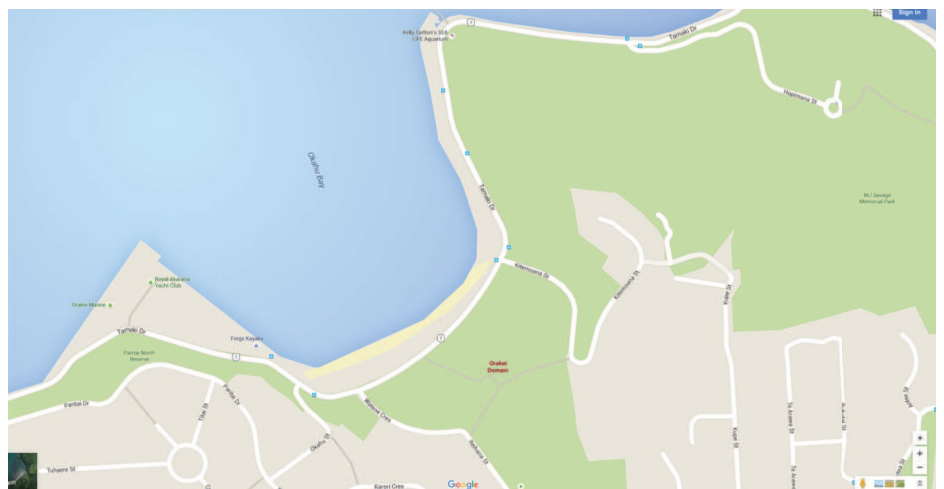
Shake the sand off the picnic blanket and join us for a bit of outdoor fun. Meet some new families with deaf and hearing impaired children or catch up with last year's camp mates. New families and Associate Members welcome.

- ◉ **WHERE?** Orakei domain, Tamaki Drive, Okahu Bay, AUCKLAND
- ◉ **WHEN?** SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> February
- ◉ **TIME?** 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 pm
- ◉ **WHAT DO I NEED?** Bring your family, something to sit on and something to eat and drink. There's no shop in walking distance, so it's old fashioned Kiwi bring-your-own. If you want some games, bring a ball or Frisbee.
- ✓ Contact Chris on [apodc@orcon.net.nz](mailto:apodc@orcon.net.nz) or 022 084 2244 if you're coming, or turn up on the day.

- ◉ Playground
- ◉ Flying fox
- ◉ Picnic tables
- ◉ Great company
- ◉ Join APODC on the day!



If it's raining in the morning (in Auckland? Never!) then check our Facebook page for a cancellation notice or call/text 022 084 2244. If it's not raining in Okahu Bay, we're on!





## Join APODC on Facebook.

The Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Facebook page is another way to connect with other parents and families, share ideas and learn what's happening for deaf and hearing impaired children. Join up and learn!

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

*Back to school. Is your child getting on OK? Or not? Other parents using the APODC Facebook page are a great resource to help you help your child get the best out of the education system. Post a question or share your advice today.*

### What's NEW?

- **New APODC brochure** - With our brochure out of date and supplies low, we decided to upgrade and update. Keep your eyes peeled for a fresh new pamphlet coming soon. If you know of a waiting room that is a great place to display our brochures, please let us know.
- **Educating the experts** - The audiologists at Manukau super clinic are “all ears” this month as APODC presents information on family support and how it works to benefit deaf and hearing impaired children.
- **Employment opportunity with APODC** - Due to an expanding membership, APODC is in the position to employ a part time coordinator in the very near future. Chris will be re-joining the committee and handing over the administrative duties as part of a wider role that will also incorporate events, communicating with families and sourcing grant funding. We will be on the lookout for someone who is interested in working part time in the not-for-profit sector on a contracted basis. Most of the work can be done from your home. If you or someone you know may be interested, keep your eyes on the newsletters and emails for further information, coming soon.
- **It's a SIGN!** We need some kind of identifier for events, to make APODC families easy to spot in a crowd. It can be daunting as a first timer to find the people with deaf children, especially when the children won't stay still!

If you have industry contacts to help us create a café flag, weighted sign and/or table flag, then please get in touch. The other option is to sponsor us in purchasing a flag or sign. We can't sell our souls... but we might be able to assist with some free promotion for your company or organisation in exchange.

## **Spotlight on the , PODC committee: Rachel Coppage**

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

I've been a member of APODC since emigrating to New Zealand from the UK in 2007 with my family. We used to be involved with Surrey Deaf Children's Society under NDCS and I was their Vice president. We have always valued parents' groups for networking and keeping abreast of any important information that affect families of Deaf and hard of hearing children locally, nationally and internationally. We are a wholly Deaf family, which is a rarity in both the parents' and Deaf communities, because 90–95% of Deaf and hard of hearing children are born into hearing parents and 90% of Deaf adults bear hearing children, called CODAs (children of Deaf adults). My husband Eric grew up in the South Island and moved to the Waikato in his adolescence, having attended van Asch and satellite units, including Melville High School in Hamilton. Our only child, Meghan, now 14 attended the Deaf unit at Kelston Girls College and has moved to St Dominics College, Henderson, this year (Year 11) with a NZSL–English interpreter. Both of them are on the combined DEC's Board of Trustees, as a parent and student representative respectively.



We all use NZSL at home and in every day life as a main language for daily communication. Born deaf and brought up orally when sign language was prohibited both at home and school in England, I became immersed in sign language and the Deaf community at the age of 18. Please see my website: <http://www.rachelcoppage.com>. I'm a qualified art psychotherapist with Deaf people including children as my main clientele and have set up my own practice, offering my specialist services for therapeutic intervention to help them explore their inner emotions, fears and fantasies through art making in a safe and contained space. I hope to extend my services to Deaf people in prisons and in the forensics sector as part of their rehabilitation and recovery pathways for their return back to the community. I'm the Chair of the Coalition of Deaf Mental Health Professionals and we are lobbying the government for more specialist Deaf Mental Health services across NZ. For more information about our important work to advocate for the better wellbeing of Deaf people: <http://cdmhp.org.nz>

I am a part time Arts Facilitator at Mapura Studios working with disabled and Deaf artists in a creative environment where they are practising their art skills in their own pace and nurturing their identity as valuable contributors to the art world. To understand more about Mapura, <http://www.mapurastudios.org.nz> Another APODC member, Debra Bellon, also works there. If you are interested in registering your child for developing their confidence in art, please get in touch with me.

I paint in my own time and hold exhibitions from time to time. Art is a visual language that complements with the visual features of sign language and this can easily break down communication barriers in society.

***Editor's note:*** As you can see Rachel is one busy person! In her 'spare time' she assists the APODC committee with planning and governance. She's taught Visual Communication Classes for APODC families and always says yes when we ask her to run activities at camps and events. Having been a deaf child, Rachel provides a unique insight for parents bringing up a deaf child. We are delighted to have Rachel as part of our management committee.

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

It's time to renew that gym membership we're never going to use again.



**Forget the gym membership!**

**Join , PODC instead...**

**Thank you to those who have already signed up as a financial member of , PODC for 2016.**

**If you haven't (yet) then may we remind you that a \$20 membership for families with a deaf or hearing-impaired child entitles the whole family to benefits like **FREE** events **ALL YEAR?** But you knew that already eh?**

**Internet banking:** Deposit \$20 into our ASB account: Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Inc. **12-3011-0757651-00**

(Use your family name and 2016 as a reference.)

**Send a cheque** for \$20.00 made out to , **uckland Parents of Deaf Children Inc.**

Post to: APODC Inc., P.O. Box 202001, Southgate, Takanini, Auckland 2246.

**Pay cash:** Deposit \$20 at the closest ASB branch. Deposit into our account: Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Inc. 12-3011-0757651-00

(Use your initial and surname as a reference.)

**OR, pay in person,** at our next event, by cash or cheque.

## For your calendar...

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| <p><b>Sunday 28th<sup>th</sup><br/>February,<br/>10.30 am - 12.30 pm</b></p> <p><b>, PODC Family picnic.</b></p> <p><b>Come and join our<br/>first family friendly<br/>event for 2016</b></p> | <p><b>, PODC Family Picnic, Orakei Domain, OK, HU B, Y.</b><br/>Meet up with your friends from 2015 or meet some new families.<br/>Playground, flying fox and space to relax with lovely views.</p> <p>Bring your own picnic and some games. Associate members welcome.</p> <p>Email Chris on <a href="mailto:apodc@orcon.net.nz">apodc@orcon.net.nz</a> to tell us you're coming or just turn up on the day.</p> |
| <p><b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March,<br/>7.30 pm</b></p> <p><b>, PODC Committee meeting</b></p>  | <p><b>The Hearing House, 251-253 Campbell Rd, GREENL, NE.</b><br/>Meet the APODC management committee. Make your suggestions for this year's event calendar and have your say on how we should work for the families with deaf and hearing impaired children. New committee members' welcome.</p>   |



### **Contact us:**

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