

This letter contains: the opportunity to contribute to the existence of something truly special.

Hello! I have written this letter because I am currently raising funding for my Honours project, and I believe that my project is something you may be interested in. Over the past 5 months, I have been researching, reflecting, and refining a documentary style photography project, centred on Deaf experiences in Aotearoa. My project will revolve around my friend Wayne, who I met through All Saints Haitaitai, and his best friend Sean. Wayne and Sean have been friends for over 40 years, and their journeys growing up Deaf in Aotearoa are stories worthy of being told. My aim for the project is to explore their friendship, the joys and struggles of being Deaf, and how much the culture has changed over the course of their lives. I believe it's incredibly important as humans to step outside of their comfort zones to learn new things, and to connect with people outside of their immediate day-to-day routines. This is also a thread that I hope the project explores. I am aiming to create a small book, which will be as accessible as the participants are comfortable with upon completion.

To prepare myself for this project, I have been taking NZ sign language classes, and volunteering as a photographer for the Wellington Deaf Club, as gratitude for their warm welcome at the start of the year. This, however, has not put me in the position to be able to talk in NZSL to the level required for proper conversation. Because of this, I will be using an interpreter to help me get the best level of understanding on both sides throughout the project's process.

Here's where I need your help. I need around 9 hours of paid interpreting for my project, which means around \$1200. At the moment, I am studying full time and don't have any secondary income, so this figure is quite large for me. But shared between a group of people that think this type of socially engaged work is important? Now that's a lot more manageable.

I would feel honoured if you felt like contributing to the costs of my project.

The gain, for helping me achieve the work that has been put on my heart? Well, I believe that art about the human experience has the power to open perspectives, change minds, and ultimately bring people closer together. As a photographer, I want to bring people together using my art, and as a contributor - you would be echoing this belief in a real, tangible way. (you'll also get your name at the end of the book!)

If you'd like any more information please reach out, I would love to talk about the project with you if you're unsure.

You can reach me at 02040948380 or amarahthorpephotography@gmail.com

The bank account i'm using for my project is 03-0703-0013481-003 (Amarah Thorpe)

Thank you so much for reading my letter - if you have any friends that you know care about supporting the arts and/or matters of representation, feel free to pass it along.

Amarah Thorpe

