‘Let’s Talk to Aucklanders’ speaking group
Volunteer Guide

ABOUT THE GROUP
Let’s Talk to Aucklanders (LTTA) is held on alternate Friday mornings from 10am-12pm at the City Campus of the University of Auckland. Local (mostly retired) English-speaking volunteers are matched with one or two postgraduate students who use English as an additional language (EAL) for a series of 20 minute conversations, with a break for morning tea in the middle.

HOW STUDENTS BENEFIT
Participation in LTTA helps EAL students:
√ develop their confidence and proficiency in speaking English
√ connect with local Aucklanders who use English as their first language
√ better understand the Kiwi accent and New Zealand culture

HOW VOLUNTEERS BENEFIT
Participation in LTTA provides volunteers the chance to:
√ meet postgraduate students from all walks of life and many different places
√ share their insights about NZ culture and learn about other cultures
√ meet other volunteers

GUIDELINES FOR CONVERSATIONS
• To ensure students understand, be prepared to slow down your pace of speaking and write key words down (if students cannot catch what you are saying).
• To make LTTA a friendly, welcoming place, choose to talk about ‘safe’ topics that everyone will feel comfortable with. (Avoid topics such as politics, religion, and personal difficulties, for example.)
• If a student discloses that they are experiencing difficulties (e.g., personal, financial, study-related), suggest that they talk with the facilitator of the session (who can direct them to appropriate support).

CONVERSATION STARTERS
If you’re not sure what to talk about, here’s a few suggestions!

What is your favourite public holiday? Why?
What do you hope to do in the future?
How do you celebrate birthdays?
What is a good place to visit in your country?
Is there anything you’d like to talk about today?

WHO CAN I CONTACT?
If you would like to be involved or have any questions or concerns, please contact:
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