

## Development of Deaf Youth in Samoa

### **Volunteering in the Pacific; Katrina Lancaster talks about her time in Samoa as Empowerment Officer for the Deaf**

Colin Allen Interviewed Katrina Lancaster about her recent work as a volunteer in Samoa.

#### **What made you decide to volunteer in Samoa?**

Firstly for a practical reason; I was studying for a Bachelor of Community Welfare (International Social Development) and overseas experience was compulsory for my degree. Secondly, I wanted to make a difference in people's lives. We have so much in Australia that we just take for granted, while other countries have almost nothing.

#### **When you left here for Samoa, what did you imagine it might be like?**

I was volunteering with VIDA, Volunteering for International Development from Australia, who matched me up with a school called SENESE (for children with all kinds of disabilities) in Samoa. VIDA gave me some training in managing difficult situations, so that gave me some ideas of what I might face. I imagined beautiful beaches, but I was also worried about communication – talking to Deaf and hearing people was going to be a challenge. As it turned out, both the good and the difficult were true!

#### **What was your first impression when you arrived? Did you panic?**

My first thought was "It's so hot here!", and yes, I panicked because no one met me at the airport and I had no information about where to go! It all worked out fine, however, and the people were so welcoming. Then I just thought, Where do I start? What do I do first?

#### **So through the 5 months of your time there, what was the most rewarding?**

**Role-modelling for young Deaf students.** I saw a lot of young Deaf girls develop their confidence over the time I was there. I was the first long-term Deaf volunteer they'd ever had, so the girls were so excited.

**Samoa Sign Language.** Watching the language skills of school staff improve, and seeing Deaf students grow in their confidence was great. They also started to relax and let go of some signed English influence. About 2 months before I left, the community in Samoa started discussing what name they would give the Samoan sign language, which was exciting.

**Personal growth.** For myself, I have learnt a lot – I’m more tolerant, and people keep telling me I’m more relaxed!

**And what was the pinnacle of achievement during your time in Samoa?**

Picking just one is hard! I co-wrote a successful application for a grant of 80,000 Euro from The European Commission’s Delegation for the Pacific. The grant will be used for leadership training for the Deaf club and language acquisition training for the SENESE school.

However, the best reward was seeing those young girls develop so much in their confidence, just from seeing a Deaf woman as a role model. Also seeing the Deaf people starting to take leadership in the Deaf club – that was a big step and it was a privilege to be there to see it.

**What would you say about the Deaf Society of NSW in this process?**

I can’t say enough how much I appreciated the Deaf Society’s support. They held my job for me until I came back. They also gave me study leave throughout my degree, and even when I was in Samoa I contacted people here for help finding resources.

**Would you recommend the volunteering experience for others?**

Yes, I think everyone should see what I saw, and have that experience.

## **From the CEO**

Welcome to the Deaf Society's new look bulletin "NSW Deaf Herald". I hope you enjoy reading our latest news.

The Deaf Society moved to our new office at 69 Phillip Street, Parramatta in late 2009. We were very lucky to find suitable office space which already had a lot of office furniture in it. This means we saved a lot of money and the office has nice furniture and equipment. We were also very lucky to get some government funding (\$183,000) which helped us set up two new training rooms.

The Epstein-Schiller Centre and the Andrew Rogers Training Room were officially opened by the Hon Peter Primrose, Minister for Disability Services on 17 June 2010. If you haven't had a chance to visit our new premises, please come to our next Open Day on Friday 15 October.

The Board of the Deaf Society has been very busy with the development of the new Strategic Plan for 2010-2013 (See page 9-11). The Board is establishing sub-committees to review policies and procedures and improve operations. The Board has also established a sub-committee to start planning events to celebrate the Deaf Society's Centenary in 2013.

We were sad to hear of the passing of Ken Tribe on 16 July. Ken was most well known in Sydney for his contributions to music and the arts, but at the Deaf Society we knew him as a board member for 40 years from 1942, including 14 years as president. He also helped to set up the Australian Caption Centre and was involved in supporting the Australian Theatre of the Deaf. The Kenneth Tribe Scholarship Fund which provides support to Deaf and hard of hearing people studying, is named in his honour and is one of the many ways his legacy to the community survives.

On 28 July we farewelled Jennifer Clements, our Information Officer who retired after 16 years working with DEN and the Deaf Society. Ken Deacon made a presentation on behalf of the Board to thank Jennifer for her contributions to our work at a special lunch and the staff organised a morning tea celebration to say goodbye and good luck. We wish Jennifer all the best for her retirement.

There is lots of news in the following articles which will keep you up to date with what is happening at the Deaf Society. Please contact me at the Parramatta Office if you want to find out more about our work and plans for the future.

**Sharon Everson**

Chief Executive Officer

## Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of the NSW Deaf Herald, including the Spring 2010 edition of Silent Messenger. We are very excited to be starting a brand new bulletin from the Deaf Society. We are also excited that at the very heart of this new publication is a very old NSW Deaf Community tradition – Silent Messenger.

In this edition, you can read about the Deaf Society's new Strategic Plan for 2010 - 2013, see what projects are happening in and around the Deaf Community, read about Katrina Lancaster's time in Samoa, and browse the upcoming events (page 15). You can also catch up on news and information from each Deaf Society department in articles by the department managers.

One exciting project in recent months has been the project on 'Culturally Deaf Residents in Nursing Homes and Hostels'. The Deaf Society received funding from Deafness Foundation to run the project. Ida Rogers has been researching the barriers for Deaf people in nursing homes and hostels and creating a fantastic online information kit for nursing home staff. We hope the kit will be used across the country to train staff so they can make nursing homes and hostels more Deaf friendly. The project will be completed by the end of this year.

The Deaf Society also has some fantastic opportunities for you to get involved, take leadership, or get support. The Anne McRae Technology Scheme provides a way for Deaf and hard of hearing people to get computers at a low cost. The A.M. Houen Community Grants Program invites applications for grants towards projects which benefit the Deaf Community. The Kenneth Tribe Scholarship Fund supports Deaf and hard of hearing people who are studying. For full details and criteria for grants, visit our website:

- [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/anne\\_macrae\\_info.html](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/anne_macrae_info.html)
- [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/pdfs/a\\_m\\_houen\\_community\\_grant\\_fund\\_application\\_form.pdf](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/pdfs/a_m_houen_community_grant_fund_application_form.pdf)
- [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/kw\\_tribe\\_info.html](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/kw_tribe_info.html)

If you wish to submit any articles or information for publication, you are encouraged to email us at [herald@deafsociety.com](mailto:herald@deafsociety.com). Publication will be at the discretion of the editor.

We are looking forward to receiving your feedback and suggestions for our new bulletin – NSW Deaf Herald.

Happy reading,

**Colin Allen**

Director of Services

# Consumer and Community Services

Written by Stephen Nicholson – Manager, Consumer and Community Services

Greetings from our Consumer and Community Services (CCS) department. There have been some name changes within our department following our new Strategic Plan that started on 1 July 2010. CCS is the biggest department within the Deaf Society and we have been supporting the Deaf Community since the Deaf Society was established in 1913.

Our department name has changed from Client and Community Services to **Consumer and Community Services**.

The Community Access and Information Services (both in metro and regional areas) provides support to clients and offers Drop In services. The name has been changed from Community Access and Information Services to **Community Services**. Drop In is now called **Walk In**. We provide client support and Walk In services in our offices in Parramatta, Albion Park Rail (South Coast), Newcastle, Tamworth, Coffs Harbour and Lismore. We also offer outreach Walk In services in Nowra, Niagara Park, Orange, Port Macquarie and Tweed Heads for the Deaf Community in these areas – contact your nearest office for dates.

The Independent Living Skills Program service in the metro area provides support to clients with additional needs. Its name has been changed from Independent Living Skills Program to **Independent Living Skills**.

After an incredibly successful camp for Deaf and hard of hearing young people in January 2009, Crossing Borders Summer Camp is on again under the lead of Deaf Children Australia, from 16th to 21st January 2011 in Anglesea, VIC. The camp is for Deaf and hard of hearing young people aged between 14 and 17. We are excitedly preparing for this through promotion and fundraising events to subsidise the cost for participants.

Plenty more information is available on the Deaf Society's Facebook page. You are welcome to join if you wish to receive regular information about our events both in metro and regional areas. We have regular events planned for the next few months which all are revealed in the Events pages (pages 15 to 20).

**[www.facebook.com/?sk=2361831622#!/group.php?gid=10573391430](http://www.facebook.com/?sk=2361831622#!/group.php?gid=10573391430)**

## Deaf Society Walk In Services

### Parramatta

Mondays & Wednesdays – 9am to 12pm

Fridays – 1pm to 4pm

Level 4, 69 Phillip St, Parramatta

Contact: Jenny Rozsa / [jrozsa@deafsociety.com](mailto:jrozsa@deafsociety.com)

### **Central Coast**

Appointment only

Niagara Park Community Centre,  
Washington Ave, Niagara Park

Contact: Justine Lorenz / [jlorenz@deafsociety.com](mailto:jlorenz@deafsociety.com) / 0410 909 286

### **Newcastle**

Tuesdays & Thursdays – 9.30am to 3.30pm

Level 3, 108-110 Hunter St, Newcastle

Contact: Justine Lorenz / [jlorenz@deafsociety.com](mailto:jlorenz@deafsociety.com) / 0410 909 286

### **Coffs Harbour**

Wednesdays – 9am to 11am

109 Albany St, Coffs Harbour

Contact: Terri Richardson / [trichardson@deafsociety.com](mailto:trichardson@deafsociety.com) / 0401 230 911

### **Port Macquarie**

9th November – 11am to 2pm

Port City Bowling Club, 4 Owen St, Port Macquarie

Contact: Terri Richardson / [trichardson@deafsociety.com](mailto:trichardson@deafsociety.com) / 0401 230 911

### **Lismore**

By appointment only

22 Conway St, Lismore

Contact: Melissa Mahony / [mmahony@deafsociety.com](mailto:mmahony@deafsociety.com) / 0422 013 451

### **Tweed Heads**

Third Thursday of each month – 10am

Food Mall, Tweed City Shopping Centre, Minjungbal Drive, South Tweed Heads

Contact: Craig Bishop / [cbishop@deafsociety.com](mailto:cbishop@deafsociety.com) / SMS: 0423 488 619

### **Tamworth**

Mondays – 9am to 4pm

Tamworth Community Centre, Darling St, Tamworth

Contact: Julia Griffiths / [jgriffiths@deafsociety.com](mailto:jgriffiths@deafsociety.com) / 0406 672 500

### **Albion Park Rail**

Mondays – 9am to 11am (after 11am, appointment only)

Cnr Ash Ave & Tongarra Rd, Albion Park Rail

Contact: Sara Willyan-Payne / [swillyanpayne@deafsociety.com](mailto:swillyanpayne@deafsociety.com) / 0406 940 899

### **Nowra**

9th November – 10am to 2pm

Nowra Community Centre, 134 Kinghorne Rd, Nowra

Contact: Sara Willyan-Payne / [swillyanpayne@deafsociety.com](mailto:swillyanpayne@deafsociety.com) / 0406 940 899

### **Orange**

Third Friday of the month – 3pm to 5pm

Orange City Bowling Club, 61 Warrendine St, Orange

Contact: Paul Nordheim / [pnordheim@deafsociety.com](mailto:pnordheim@deafsociety.com) / 0409 745 288

# Employment Service

Written by Andrew Wiltshire – Manager, Employment Service

The Employment Service provides a Disability Employment Service (DES) program funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) which offers a range of ways to break down the barriers to employment for Deaf and hard of hearing people.

The new Deaf Society Strategic Plan started on 1st July 2010 and we are focusing on the new strategies and services to give Deaf and hard of hearing people better services. Some new services are being planned and will be launched over the next few months. The first big change is that the Employment Service staff are now using a new operating system so we can spend less time on administration and more time on assisting our clients with finding employment.

During Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd September 2010, we will be having our annual audit to make sure that our services follow the 12 Disability Standards and some of our clients have been approached to participate. The auditors will be visiting both Parramatta and Newcastle offices as well and we look forward to receiving feedback from our auditors and our clients so that we can continue to improve our services – for you!

In the past, the Employment Service was only available to Deaf or hard of hearing people who were already receiving Centrelink benefits. Through our community consultations in February 2010 we found out that the Deaf community wanted the Deaf Society to offer services for those who are already working. So, in our new Strategic Plan we plan two new services; Career Advice sessions (for example, advice on resume writing, cover letters, interview techniques), and an Employment Walk In service that will start in 2011.

## Did you know about these two services?

### **JOB IN JEOPARDY**

Did you know that the DES program allows us to provide Job in Jeopardy assistance for a person who is likely to lose their employment in the immediate future as a result of their injury, disability or health condition?

This means if your employer told you that you will lose your job because of your disability, you can contact us and we will work with you on an individual program to assist you to keep your job.

### **EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (EAF)**

When you get a job interview, you can ask for an Auslan interpreter through EAF, for as many job interviews you get until you get a job.

Your employer can receive up to \$6,000 worth of Auslan interpreting in your workplace each year!

The Workplace Modifications Scheme allows you and/or your employer to modify your workplace so that you can participate equally. This could include assistive technologies, mirrors, TTY's and so on.

For more information about these two services:

Email: [employment@deafsociety.com](mailto:employment@deafsociety.com) or TTY: (02) 8833 3691

# Deaf Education Network

Written by John O'Neill – Manager, Deaf Education Network

## **“Out with the old and in with the new”**

Welcome to the first edition of the DEN news section of our new bulletin. The first student newsletter was distributed on a monthly basis to 40 students. Today over 900 of our students past and present are subscribed to our Student Newsletter.

Our first newsletter was released in August 2005 and was the inspiration of Natalie Kull when she worked with DEN. Here is the first paragraph from that first Student Newsletter and the reasons why Natalie was determined to get information out to the students.

“Welcome to the first edition of the CIA student Newsletter!

One of the most common questions I am asked as a Program Coordinator is ‘Where can I go to practice my Auslan?’ With this in mind, I have decided to start a regular newsletter as a way of keeping students informed about events in the Deaf Community, positions vacant, volunteers needed at Deaf organisations, Auslan student groups, and anything else that will provide an opportunity for practice.”

And so our Student Newsletter was born...

Anna Nardi took over the newsletter in July 2009 and gave it her own special brand. The newsletter was now being distributed bi-monthly as the numbers started to grow. Anna is now delighted to know that our students will be getting lots more information about the Deaf Community in our new bulletin.

Since that first newsletter was sent out we have seen a lot of changes for DEN and the Deaf Society.

DEN merged with the Deaf Society in August 2007 and moved from North Rocks to Macquarie Street, Parramatta. We have added the Diploma of Auslan to our suite of courses. We have introduced an Auslan Only Weekend 3, and the Deaf Weekend Retreat which is an assessment-based component of the Diploma course. Kate Matairavula joined the Accredited Auslan program, and successfully combined and reduced the amount of assessment from Certificate II up to the Diploma, much to the relief of our students. DEN was involved in the successful review and rewriting of the Diploma of Auslan Curriculum with Kangan Institute in Melbourne. From January 2011 we will be working with a more flexible Auslan Curriculum but we have a lot of work to do before then to update all our teaching resources.

We were one of the lucky recipients of the Infrastructure Funding from the Government and we now have two new state-of-the-art training rooms to run our Accredited Auslan and Deaf Learner classes. Both rooms are also equipped to support and assist the Deaf Community in a range of other courses and services.

It is with mixed feelings we say goodbye to the Student Newsletter but our aim is to give you all the information you need about the Deaf Community in one place.

We would like to say a big thank you to Natalie Kull for her insight and to Anna Nardi for keeping that inspiration alive.

We bid farewell and a big thank you to everyone who has subscribed to our student newsletter and we look forward to your continued support for our new bulletin; "NSW Deaf Herald".

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## **DSNSW Strategic Plan 2010-2013**

### **Communtiy Consultations:**

Hunter

Internet Survey

Riverina

Sydney Deaf Club – Burwood

Deafblind / Ushers Group

Central Coast

Northern NSW

Deaf Seniors Group

South Coast

Deaf Professionals Network

Deaf Society Staff and Board

### **Who we work with**

**Deaf adults who use Auslan have always been the main focus of the DSNSW and this continues to be the case. We also work with individuals and groups in the wider Deaf Community, including, but not limited to:**

- Deaf children and deaf young people
- Hard of hearing people of all ages
- People with cochlear implants
- Deafblind people
- Deaf and hard of hearing people with disabilities
- Hearing parents and hearing children of deaf people
- Friends and families of deaf people
- Other groups and organisations that work with deaf and hard of hearing people

**(The order of this list does not imply importance of people to the organisation)**

## **Vision**

Equity for deaf people.

## **Mission**

We work in partnership with the Deaf Community to enhance the quality of life of deaf people, strengthen the community and advocate for changes that will ensure fundamental rights and freedoms.

## **3 Key Result Areas**

1. Provision of high quality, flexible and responsive services and programs
2. Promotion of Deaf culture and development of Deaf Community
3. Leadership by example

(Over a two month period in 2010 we received over 371 survey responses and held community consultation meetings in 10 different locations).

# **Equity for deaf people**

## **Key Result Area 1:**

### **Provision of high quality, flexible and responsive services and programs**

#### **Goal 1**

Ensure that deaf and hard of hearing people have the skills and support to enjoy a high quality of life

#### **Goal 2**

Increase deaf and hard of hearing people's access to wider society

#### **Goal 3**

Increase awareness of the services and programs offered by the DSNSW

#### **Goal 4**

Ensure consistent, high quality services

## **Key Result Area 2:**

### **Promotion of Deaf culture and development of Deaf Community**

#### **Goal 5**

Actively develop the strength and capacity of the Deaf Community

#### **Goal 6**

Advocate for the full and equal rights of deaf people

#### **Goal 7**

Positively engage with the diversity of the Deaf Community

#### **Goal 8**

Celebrate the strengths and resilience of the Deaf Community

### **Key Result Area 3:**

#### **Leadership by example**

##### **Goal 9**

Develop and maintain productive partnerships

##### **Goal 10**

Review and strengthen internal administration, financial and HR processes and systems

##### **Goal 11**

Sharpen governance and accountability processes

##### **Goal 12**

Model deaf-friendly work practices

**The Strategic Plan 2010-2013 is in Auslan on our website –**

**[http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/strategic\\_plan/](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/strategic_plan/)**

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## **Sign Language Communications NSW**

Written by Jasmine Rozsa – Manager, SLC NSW

2010 is flying by – already we have seen some fantastic professional development workshops including “Adding to Your Interpreter’s Toolkit” presented by Marcel Leneham and “The Dreaded Fingerspelling Readback” presented by Jemina Napier. We’ve seen the ASLIA National Conference (ANC) come and go, the Auslan interpreted performance of *Wicked* (well done Gerry Shearim and Chevoy Sweeney – great job!), and we’ve seen 4 new interns grow in the John Ferris Interpreter Internship Program.

We’ve seen the development and release of a new Deaf Society of NSW Strategic Plan 2010–2013 with all kinds of new strategies that I’m sure you will see being implemented in the near future. New and exciting things coming up include a new revamped intern program for 2011 – keep your eyes open for more information soon!

SLC recently undertook a national survey of interpreters to get their feedback on what they like about working for SLC and on what they think could be improved. The results of the survey are currently being compiled and any outcomes from the survey will be shared with our interpreters before the year is out.

SLC NSW recently provided 22 interpreters and 2 notetakers for a Deafblind Assertiveness workshop – the highest number of interpreters ever provided for one booking. This proved a challenging day for all but a great day for clients and interpreters alike.

## **Government departments add Auslan to their websites**

The Translation Service at the Deaf Society has been operating under the SLC NSW brand and we have seen a number of government departments make their English content more accessible to the Deaf Community. Some of these departments include:

- The Office of Industrial Relations  
([www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au/In\\_another\\_language/Auslan.html](http://www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au/In_another_language/Auslan.html))
- Department of Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy  
([www.staysmartonline.gov.au/home/videos/stay\\_smart\\_online](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/home/videos/stay_smart_online))
- NSW Health Care Complaints Commission  
([www.hccc.nsw.gov.au/Information/Audio-Visual-Information-in-sign-language/default.aspx](http://www.hccc.nsw.gov.au/Information/Audio-Visual-Information-in-sign-language/default.aspx))

SLC NSW would like to congratulate these departments and hopes that this encourages more government departments to do the same.

### **Did you know?**

- In the last financial year SLC NSW provided over \$10,000 of No Fee interpreting for funerals and private legal and financial appointments.
- In the last financial year SLC NSW fulfilled 93.49% of requests for interpreters.
- SLC NSW has over 100 working interpreters on our register.
- SLC NSW regularly sends out surveys to our Deaf and hearing clients to get feedback about our service and their interpreter.

# Silent Messenger

## Message from the President - Rachael Ellis

Deaf Australia (NSW) is excited to be working with the Deaf Society of NSW in the new Silent Messenger. The Silent Messenger was first started by The Adult Deaf Association of NSW in 1906 and later published by the Deaf Society of NSW. In 1989 it was given to the NSW Association of the Deaf to publish with the support of the Deaf Society. Deaf Australia (NSW) and the Deaf Society Executive Team had a meeting and discussed the new Deaf Society bulletin and it was agreed that the Silent Messenger would be in the new bulletin. We feel this is a great idea because it will make sure the Silent Messenger is on time, looks professional and has information that is not repeated. We look forward to working with the Deaf Society and thank them for including us in their new publication.

## Ai - Live

You may have seen that the company Ai-Media has been getting some publicity recently. They launched their captioning product Ai-Live at the Deafness Forum National Deafness Summit in April. They were on ABC TV's The New Inventors in June. They were also in the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) in July. Deaf Australia (NSW) welcomes any new technology that makes education for deaf children more accessible. Our concern with the publicity about Ai-Live is that the full information about how it works has not been given. It seems to show that sign language interpreting is no longer needed. It seems to show that any deaf child can use it. We have concerns when it seems to show that it can be used for communication. We feel it is good for understanding what the teacher is saying but not for communicating in a class. We have responded to the article that was in the SMH and our letter was printed as well as their response to our letter.

## National Week of Deaf People – 19th and 21st October

Deaf Australia (NSW), Deaf Society of NSW and PCDE have been working with Helen Westwood from NSW Parliament to plan a series of exciting events to celebrate "Rapprochement of Cultures". "Rapprochement of Cultures" means bringing together different cultures. We are planning events for Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st October. Please put the dates in your calendar. A large group of Deaf people coming will show NSW Parliament that we are interested and want to be included in government. Events will include interpreted tours of Parliament, events for school students and a panel discussion. NSW Parliament is a lovely building, a fascinating mix of old and new with great art on the walls. It is well worth seeing if you have not already.

## "Deaf Days" Night of Entertainment – 7th November

Every year we aim to put on a night of theatre and drama for the community. This is a way of expressing Auslan and our culture in a creative way as well as giving you a few laughs we hope!

Rehearsals are already underway. Again please keep the evening free for the 7th November at Burwood RSL. Funds raised will go towards the cost of the “Crossing Borders” Youth Camp in January 2011.

## **Deafhood and Deaf-gain**

Have you ever thought about the words “deafness”, “deaf” and “hearing loss” and what they mean? Do you think they are positive terms? Do you think they say anything about the benefits of being deaf? Is being deaf only ever a lack of something?

Those words are medical words. They mean something is missing or not working. For many of us, being deaf is more than just something not working. In the area of Deaf Cultural Studies people like Paddy Ladd from the UK and H-Dirksen Bauman and Joseph Murray from USA have suggested other words that are more empowering for Deaf people. Paddy Ladd came up with the word “Deafhood” and H-Dirksen Bauman and Joseph Murray came up with the word “Deaf-gain”.

What about instead of talking about our “deafness” we talked about our “Deafhood”? Deafhood means a process. As soon as we become deaf we go through a process of learning how to live with our deafness. We have to constantly adjust and learn new ways of dealing with a hearing world. Our deaf identity is formed and matured. If our hearing loss changes over time, new adjustments are made to our view of ourselves and the world around us. This process is like a journey. Just like motherhood and childhood are also journeys through which growth happens.

What about instead of talking about “hearing loss”, we talked about “Deaf-gain”? Could our difference be a gain not a lack? We have been taught to think that being different is bad or not normal. What if the difference being deaf gave us was something to celebrate rather than something to fix up? Being deaf gives us cognitive, creative and cultural diversity. We have skills like increased spatial cognition, speed of generating mental images, peripheral vision, and tactile acuity. These things contribute to humanity and create biodiversity.

Can you imagine if we started to see people saying “My deafhood started when I was 3 years old” or “until I became involved in the Deaf community my deafhood was very lonely” or “if I was successful in getting this job, my Deaf-gain would really benefit your company”!

## **Disclaimer**

**The Silent Messenger pages are the sole responsibility of Deaf Australia (NSW). The Deaf Society of NSW cannot guarantee the accuracy of anything on these pages.**

## EVENTS

### Deaf Community Groups:

**Sydney Deaf Seniors Group** meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at Burwood RSL, Shaftesbury Rd Burwood. Hours: 9am to 2.30pm. At present we have 170 members, and the joining fee is \$2 per year.

Carpet bowls, Bingo, and card games are organised for members to enjoy or members can just chat with friends. Our Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday 8th December at Burwood RSL. \$35 per person - three course meal, lovely raffle gifts and entertainment. Regional Groups also organise functions in their local clubs.

**Gosford** meets at Leagues Club, Dane Ave, Gosford.

**Newcastle** meets at Hamilton North Bowling Club, Boreas Rd, Hamilton.

**Wollongong Group** organises meetings in various Clubs for members in the south region.

Contact: Alison Trott

Fax (02) 9642 1931

SMS: 0431 938 404

### Youth Deaf Group

#### Trivia Night Fundraiser

11 September, 2010

6:30pm for 7pm

Commercial Hotel, 2 Hassall Street Parramatta.

\$15/adults

\$12/students & pensioners

Contact: Katrina Lancaster

klancaster@deafsociety.com

SMS: 0415 204 926

#### September School Holidays

School holiday activity for young Deaf and hard of hearing people aged between 12 and 17.

28 September 2010

10:30am onwards (time to be confirmed)

AMF Bowling, North Strathfield

\$13.00 each participant for 1 game of ten pin bowling and 2 games of laser skirmish.

Contact: Katrina Lancaster

klancaster@deafsociety.com

SMS: 0415 204 926 for more information.

RSVP: Tuesday, 21 September 2010.

#### Crossing Borders 2011

Summer camp for young Deaf and hard of hearing people aged between 14 and 17 from NSW, ACT and VIC in Anglesea, Victoria from 17 - 21 January 2011

To register your interest or get more information, contact Katrina Lancaster on klancaster@deafsociety.com or 0415 204 926 (SMS)

## Young Deaf Leaders Retreat

If you are Deaf or hard of hearing, aged between 16 and 25, read on! Do you want to be a leader or learn about leadership? Do you want to be confident and empowered in your chosen field and inspire others? Do you want to develop a project, work with other people and do this with the support of a Mentor? Do you want to learn from inspiring existing leaders? VicDeaf are hosting a Young Deaf Leaders' Retreat (26-28 November) and the Deaf Society of NSW have the opportunity to fund two participants from NSW to attend this retreat with the support of Deaf Australia (NSW) at no cost to you.

To express your interest, email Katrina Lancaster on [klancaster@deafsociety.com](mailto:klancaster@deafsociety.com) including your name, date of birth, age, occupation, address and contact details as well as approximately 200 words on why you want to go on the retreat or in Auslan, a video clip for about 30-40 seconds.

To be updated regularly with youth activities, email Katrina Lancaster on [klancaster@deafsociety.com](mailto:klancaster@deafsociety.com) to be placed on an email list.

## Usher Group

The Usher's Group meets together approximately bi-monthly at the Deaf Society. Usher's Group is an opportunity to get together to share any new information, and discuss technology and other issues.

The next Usher's Group gathering was supposed to be on Friday 27th August but it had to be postponed due to lack of Auslan/Deafblind interpreters (there is big interpreter conference in Brisbane at the same time, so no interpreters were available). It will be on Friday 10th September at the café next to the Deaf Society Parramatta office at 10am for 2 hours.

There will be another gathering on Friday 22nd October and more information will be available soon.

Contact: Margaret Craig

[mcraig@deafsociety.com](mailto:mcraig@deafsociety.com) or TTY: 02 8833 3648

## Deaf Professionals Network

This group is for workers and students who want to network and get professional development training. The aim of the workshops is to get skills and ideas so deaf people can advance in their work in whatever they do.

***"Thinking on your feet" Part 1*** by Michael Kelly

13 September 2010

6pm – 9.30pm

Parramatta Town Hall

***"Thinking on your feet" Part 2*** by Michael Kelly

10 October 2010

6pm – 9.30pm

Parramatta Town Hall

***"Deaf Scramble"***

3 December 2010

6pm – 9pm

Burwood Park

Contact: Kate Matairavula

[kmatairavula@deafsociety.com](mailto:kmatairavula@deafsociety.com)

## **Sydney Region**

### **Sign Language Communications (NSW) – Professional Development Workshop**

This workshop will give you 20 points towards your NAATI revalidation.

18 September 2010

10am – 1pm

Deaf Society of NSW

“Reflections on our Work” is being presented by Chevoy Sweeney.

Contact: Kathy Wright

[kwright@deafsociety.com](mailto:kwright@deafsociety.com)

### **DA (NSW), Deaf Society and PCDE – National Week of Deaf People**

18 – 22 October 2010

NSW Parliament House

Events will include interpreted question time, school tours and a panel event. More information coming soon.

Contact: [deafaust.nsw@gmail.com](mailto:deafaust.nsw@gmail.com)

[info@asliansw.org.au](mailto:info@asliansw.org.au)

[pcde@bigpond.com](mailto:pcde@bigpond.com)

### **Want to learn a new language?**

#### **Finnish Sign Language**

Wednesdays, 13 October – 17 November 2010

More Information: [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/courses/pdfs/course\\_flyers/fin\\_s\\_l.pdf](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/courses/pdfs/course_flyers/fin_s_l.pdf)

### **Deaf Days (A Deaf Australia (NSW) event)**

*Proceeds go towards the Crossing Borders 2011 Youth Camp*

7 November 2010

2pm onwards

Burwood RSL Club, 96 Shaftesbury Road Burwood

\$15/adults, \$10/members, \$5/ages 8-16, \$30/family and Kids under 7- FREE.

Contact: Sherrie Beaver

[deafaust.nsw@gmail.com](mailto:deafaust.nsw@gmail.com) for more information.

## **Northern NSW Region**

### **Lismore Games Day**

First and Third Wednesdays of each month and September extra one on 29th - 10am to 12pm

Deaf Society office Lismore, 22 Conway St, Lismore

Contact: Melissa Mahony

[mmahony@deafsociety.com](mailto:mmahony@deafsociety.com)

SMS: 0422 013 451

### **Lismore Office Morning Tea**

Fourth Monday of each month - 10am to 12pm

Deaf Society office Lismore, 22 Conway St, Lismore

Contact: Melissa Mahony

[mmahony@deafsociety.com](mailto:mmahony@deafsociety.com)

SMS: 0422 013 451

## **Lismore Family Social Days**

3 October from 11am

Ballina Skate Park, Kingsford Smith Drive, Ballina (next to Missingham Bridge)

5 December from 11am: Ballina Ten Pin Bowl, 16 Clarke St, Ballina.

Contact: Yean Crowther

SMS: 0412 784 049

## **Northern NSW Deaf Chat**

10am for coffee; 12pm to 2pm for lunch

17 September: Casino RSM Club, Canterbury St, Casino

15 October: Federal Hotel, Bruxner Highway, Alstonville

26 November: Xmas at Mallanganee Park. Bruxner Highway, Mallanganee.

Contact: Kathryn Rathborne

SMS: 0427 535 856

## **New England Region**

### **Tamworth long Weekend camping**

1st to 4th October, 2010

Contact: Julie Grimwood

SMS: 0429 203 769

## **Mid North Coast Region**

### **Port Macquarie Community BBQ**

26 September from 11am

Settlement Point Park, Settlement Point Rd, Settlement Point.

Contact: Terri Richardson

trichardson@deafsociety.com or SMS: 0401 230 911

## **Tweed Head/ Gold Coast Region**

### **Tweed Deaf Social Night**

Fourth Friday of each month from 7pm

Twin Town Services Club, 1st floor, family and friends lounge, Wharf St, Tweed Heads.

Contact: David London

SMS: 0408 762 414

### **Deaf Club Gold Coast Halloween Disco**

30 October from 7pm

Nerang RSL Club, 69 Nerang St, Nerang QLD.

Contact: Christine White

SMS: 0415 952 205

### **Deaf Club Gold Coast Wet and Wild Day**

13 November from 10am

Wet and Wild theme park, Pacific Motorway, Exit 60, Oxenford QLD.

Contact: Christine White

SMS: 0415 952 205

### **Deaf Club Gold Coast M.V. "The Lady" Cruise Night**

11 December at 5.30pm

Meet Wharf B, Mariners Cove, 60 Seaworld Drive, Main Beach, Gold Coast

Contact: Christine White

SMS: 0415 952 205

### **Robina Coffee Mornings**

First Monday of each month from 10am

Café Campagnille, Robina Town Centre, Robina, Gold Coast

Contact: Christine White

SMS: 0415 952 205

### **Helensvale Tavern Social Night**

Second Saturday of each month from 6pm

8 Sir John Overall Drive, Helensvale, Gold Coast.

Contact: Christine White

SMS: 0415 952 205

## **Hunter Region**

### **Newcastle Coffee Chat group**

16 October from 10.30am

Gloria Jeans, 129 Beaumont St, Hamilton NSW.

Contact: Justine Lorenz

[jlorenz@deafsociety.com](mailto:jlorenz@deafsociety.com)

SMS: 0410 909 286

### **Newcastle Deaf Socials**

Fourth Saturday of the month from 6pm

West's Leagues Club, 88 Hobart Rd, New Lambton.

Contact: Justine Lorenz

[jlorenz@deafsociety.com](mailto:jlorenz@deafsociety.com)

SMS: 0410 909 286

## **South Coast Region**

### **Wollongong Coffee Mornings**

Tuesday mornings from 9.30am

Michel's Patisserie, Warilla Grove shopping centre, Shellharbour Rd, Warilla.

Contact: Sara Willyan-Payne

[swillyanpayne@deafsociety.com](mailto:swillyanpayne@deafsociety.com)

SMS: 0406 940 899

# **Auslan Practice Groups**

## **Glebe**

Every second Saturday morning, 10am-12pm

Broadway Shopping Centre Food Court

Skill level: Would suit CIA II or III students, and some community course students.

## **Liverpool**

One of the oldest groups in Sydney - they have been meeting for over 16 years.

Every Friday, 10am-12pm. Liverpool Library

Skill level: Class-style group, suitable for beginners (community level).

Contact: Carmel Martin on 9821 9450

c.martin@liverpool.nsw.gov.au

## **Penrith**

Second and Fourth Thursdays of each month from 6:30 pm

Peachtree Hotel, Peachtree Rd, Penrith.

Skill level: All skill levels and members of the Deaf Community welcome.

Contact: Meagan SMS: 0410 691 381

mrudd@parra.catholic.edu.au

or Erin SMS: 0421 216 122

etaylor86@hotmail.com

## **Orange**

Beekeeper Inn, 2319 Mitchell Highway, Vittoria.

First Sunday of the month from 2pm

Skill level: All skill levels and members of the Deaf Community welcome.

Contact: Paul Nordheim

pnordheim@deafsociety.com

SMS: 0409 745 288

## **Gold Coast**

19 September and 21 November from 2pm

Coffee Club, Robina Town Centre, Robina, Gold Coast.

Contact: Christine White

SMS: 0415 952 205

### **Keep up to date with events - visit:**

- [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/events/deaf\\_society\\_events.html](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/events/deaf_society_events.html)
- [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/events/deaf\\_community\\_newsboard.html](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/events/deaf_community_newsboard.html)

## Emergency Contact Details:

### Emergency Call 106

The 106 emergency relay service enables people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment to contact emergency services through their TTY (also known as a teletypewriter or textphone) or modem. It is a dedicated text-based emergency relay-service with direct access to fire, police and ambulance services. It is available 24 hours a day, everyday.

#### How it works:

- Dial 106. This is a toll-free number. You will be asked if you want police, ambulance or fire (type FFF).
- The relay officer will stay on line to relay your conversation with the emergency service. Confirm your location.
- Do not hang up. Wait for a reply from the emergency service.
- If you wish to use speak and read (voice carry over) or type and listen (hearing carry over) let the relay officer know to set up the correct mode.
- This service is not available via speak and listen (speech to speech relay). These callers can dial 1800 555 727 and then ask for Triple Zero (000) or dial '000' directly.
- This service cannot be accessed by text message (SMS) on a mobile phone.

### NRMA Roadside Assistance

24 hours a day, country and metro areas - deaf / hard of hearing text to 0437 13 11 11.

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## Contact the Deaf Society of NSW:

Phone: (02) 8833 3600 TTY: (02) 8833 3691 Fax: (02) 8833 3699  
Email: [info@deafsociety.com](mailto:info@deafsociety.com) Web: [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au)

Email stories to [herald@deafsociety.com](mailto:herald@deafsociety.com)

Subscribe online at [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/subscribe](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/subscribe)

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