

A Deaf Vice Patron for the Deaf Society

Mrs Nola Colefax OAM appointed as the Deaf Society's new Vice Patron

Nola in conversation with Colin Allen

First of all, congratulations on being appointed Vice Patron of the Deaf Society of NSW. How did you feel when we asked you to be the Vice Patron of the Deaf Society?

I felt privileged to be asked, and honoured to step into a position that Kenneth Tribe used to hold. He broke down so many barriers and really started to change the patronising attitudes that had existed towards deaf people before.

Did you know Ken?

Yes, we talked using interpreters, and he wrote to me as well. He went overseas for business but also took time out to look at what deaf people were doing in Deaf theatre in Russia, America, and Poland. He brought back fresh ideas, and somehow attitudes started to change; Deaf people were no longer considered stupid, we started to develop a sense of self esteem and to have control over our own lives. Others like Andrew Rogers always believed this was possible, but it was Ken who sowed the seeds of how it could be done.

I know you have an Order of Australian Medal (OAM) – what was it for? What other groups are you involved with in the community?

I received it in 1981 for my work with the Australian Theatre of the Deaf (ATOD). The beginning of ATOD was a time of change and new opportunities for me and many others! Now I am Vice Patron of ATOD. I'm also involved with the Deaf Christian Fellowship which is a Presbyterian Christian group for deaf people, and I'm the Patron of the Sydney Deaf Seniors Group. I never thought I would be Vice Patron of such a big organisation as the Deaf Society of NSW!

So you've been around the Deaf Society for just over 70 years. What was the Deaf Society like back then?

Oh, it was terrible! We had happy lives, but the Deaf Society staff had such control over us. We were deprived of information. Now we think for ourselves, and we have so many more opportunities.

What are some of the differences between the Deaf Society then and now?

Back then it was dull, no opportunities. Now there are plenty of opportunities. Also the community just didn't know about deaf people's lives; we kept to ourselves. Now there are TAFEs running courses and people know a lot more. To give one example, last time I went on holidays with my sister and her family, as I do every year, my nephew's wife had learnt some Auslan and it was great – we talked about all kinds of things!

What made the changes happen, do you think?

Ken Tribe himself drove some of the change, the World Federation of the Deaf showed us what we could have, ATOD had a huge impact, and the International Year of People with a Disability was a watershed year.

What do you hope for the Deaf Society's future?

I'm keen to see deaf people not just keeping to ourselves but breaking through barriers and getting into the world. I would like to see even more courses and opportunities for deaf people. I hope to see government recognising the Deaf Society and understanding your work, and I want the public to understand the lives of deaf people.

“Great changes took place during my forty years on the board and many have occurred since then. These had to happen. I used to say we hearing people had moved from “patronage to partnership”. I could now add also “to friendship”.” Kenneth Tribe, letter to Nola Colefax, 6 November 1999

From the CEO

The last few months have kept the Deaf Society as busy as ever.

On 1 November we began operating a 24-hour emergency interpreting service for the Deaf Community in the ACT. This means that deaf people in the ACT can now sms or call to book interpreters in an emergency situation. In NSW, Hospitals and police already provide interpreters through HCIS and CRC but for the ACT the service will be provided by the Deaf Society. We will be working closely with DeafACT to promote this service to deaf people in the ACT.

On 19 November the first Deaf Society Roadshow left Sydney to visit South and South Western NSW and the ACT. Stephen Nicholson, the Manager of Consumer and Community Services, Jasmine Fox, the Manager of SLC – NSW, and Colin Allen, Director of Services spent the weekend talking with the Deaf Community in Albury and Canberra and presenting information sessions for service providers in Albury and Queanbeyan. It was great to know more from deaf people in regional New South Wales – we only wish we could have stayed longer. The next roadshow will be travelling to Western NSW and the New England area in March 2011.

The Deaf Society Annual General Meeting was held on 27 November at Burwood RSL. There was a special presentation to Tony Houen AM who is currently Honorary Solicitor, to mark his 50th anniversary of providing voluntary service to the Deaf Society. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our board for all their and contributions to the Deaf Society. Their work is entirely voluntary and we greatly appreciate their efforts. I look forward to working with the new board in 2011.

And finally I am delighted to welcome Nola Colefax as the new vice patron of the Deaf Society. Nola is so well known in the community that she needs no introduction, but you can read her conversation with Colin on page 1. We are so pleased that she has agreed to take on this role.

And finally, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas, safe travelling, and a relaxing summer break.

Sharon Everson

Chief Executive Officer

Editorial

Thank you to everyone who has written to us or visited us to say how much they like the new NSW Deaf Herald. Feedback about the first NSW Deaf Herald has been overwhelmingly positive.

Now, we'd like your feedback about all our services! We work hard, but we know we are not perfect yet, so please let us know what you think. There is a brochure at reception called "We want your ideas!" where you can write your feedback, or you can just email us your ideas. You can give a compliment to a staff member or make a suggestion. If there is something more serious, you don't have to keep it to yourself. You can make a complaint so that we can solve the problem. If you don't tell us, we'll never know what we need to change.

This edition of the NSW Deaf Herald has a lot of new features:

- "On this day..." – a history segment with quotes from past newsletters. This time the quote is from the October/November edition of 1910!
- A puzzles corner with a deaf Sudoku
- A sports page edited by Tony Clews

It's great to see all the events coming up for the Deaf Community over the next few months. Deaf Australia's national conference is in Hobart next May, so don't forget to register soon to get the early bird rate. There will be quite a few Deaf Society staff going to present on various topics.

The deadline for contributions to the March edition of the Herald is 1 February 2011. Please remember that we will edit all articles. Articles should be no more than 420 words long.

Wishing you a happy festive season!

Happy reading,

Colin Allen

Director of Services

Offices Hours during Xmas / New Year day

The Parramatta office will close from 12pm on 24 December and reopen on Tuesday 4 January at 9am.

All the regional offices will be closed between Christmas and New Year. Lismore, Coffs Harbour and Newcastle will reopen on Tuesday 4 January. Tamworth and Wollongong will reopen on Monday 10 January.

Updates from the Deaf Society

By John O'Neill, Stephen Nicholson, Craig Bishop and Andrew Wiltshire

Overseas travel to bring new insights for DEN

DEN is the only RTO (Registered Training Organisation) in Australia for Deaf adult learners. Ida Rogers is one of our Program Supervisors and looks after our accredited courses for deaf adults. Over the next few months Ida will be busy travelling overseas to see how other countries run similar programs.

Ida will attend the 11th National Conference "Challenges in Sign Language Teaching" on 27 – 28 November 2010 in Wellington, New Zealand, organised by the New Zealand Sign Language Teachers Association. She is also off to Europe on annual leave in January 2011 and will be visiting Valkea Talo (Deaf Folk High School) in Finland, Castberggård in Denmark, City Lit in England and hopefully Belgium to see the learning opportunities for deaf adults in those countries.

Good luck to Ida on her travels across the globe – we look forward to seeing what is being done in similar programs when she returns.

New Auslan Curriculum

The last Herald mentioned that DEN was involved in rewriting the Diploma of Auslan Curriculum with Kangan Institute in Melbourne. After a lot of work by people from all around Australia, we are delighted to announce that the new curriculum is now accredited. DEN is now approved by NSW VETAB (Vocational Education & Training Accreditation Board) to teach the new curriculum. All our courses from 2011 will use this more flexible and long-awaited curriculum.

Deaf Studies Retreat

Our current Diploma of Auslan students have just completed our Deaf Studies Weekend Retreat. This is the second Deaf Studies Weekend Retreat we have run since adding the Diploma of Auslan to our courses. The weekend was facilitated by James Blyth and Michelle Maguire and a small group of deaf volunteers. It was very well attended and received lots of positive feedback. Congratulations to everyone who attended and thanks to our presenters and volunteers for all your hard work over the weekend.

Walk In

As we mentioned in the last Herald, the name for Drop-In has been changed to Walk In. There has been some confusion about what Walk In means. Walk In is the same as Drop-In; it is a service for all deaf and hard of hearing people, their families, the general community and service providers. Community Workers at the Deaf Society can explain letters and forms in Auslan, assist you fill out forms, refer you to other services, talk about problems at home, school or work, assist you in making other appointments with other services or make future appointments with the Deaf Society if you have a more serious issue. You do not need to make an appointment to come to Walk In but remember each Deaf Society office has different times for Walk In. See page 24 for Walk In times.

Deafblind

The Ushers Group has been running for many years and meets six times a year and has grown enormously over the past year. It is facilitated by the Consumer and Community Services department.

The group was originally established to focus on people with Ushers that use Auslan to communicate but recently the group decided that it is important to include other people who are deafblind. The Ushers Group is now open to people who are deaf with any vision loss. There is always time to relax and catch up with old friends and talk about the latest news.

The Ushers group sometimes has formal meetings at the Deaf Society but most often we go out to a café.

Sometimes, the Ushers Group has gone on full-day outings to places like Watson's Bay or the Powerhouse Museum but this depends on funding and budgets because the Deaf Society does not receive any government funding for the Ushers Group.

Mental Health

On 14 October, several Deaf Society staff attended a presentation on Mental Health and Deafness at North Rocks. The presenters were Dr Margaret du Feu who is a leading deaf psychiatrist from Ireland (she was a keynote speaker at the 4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness in Brisbane 2009) and Joyce Pennington who is a Clinical Nurse Specialist at the Mental Health and Deafness service in North-East England.

Margaret and Joyce both spoke about how they set up specific mental health services for the Deaf Community in England and Ireland. They did this after realising that the Deaf Community wasn't able to fully access mental health services and were missing out on essential services. It was great to see everyone keen to network and start working together so that perhaps in the future we can have this much-needed type of service here too.

Regional Spotlight – Lismore

The Lismore office was established in 2004. After the closing of the local Deaf Community Association Northern Rivers Inc., the Deaf Society wanted the north coast Deaf Community to be able to continue to access services and set up an office in Molesworth St.

From this office we moved to a second office in Carrington St, before finally moving to our present location in Conway St, opposite the Post Office. This new office is more visible and easier to access.

Lismore has one of the largest regional Deaf Communities in NSW and also are lucky enough to have more interpreters than any other regional town in NSW, thanks to Lismore TAFE Auslan courses.

Our Lismore office has two staff (one full time and one part time) and we service the NSW north coast, including Lismore, Casino, Tweed Heads, Byron Bay and Ballina. Our Regional Services Coordinator is also based in the Lismore office. It is his responsibility to coordinate the Deaf Society's regional services all over NSW.

Meeting with the Hon. Jodi McKay, MP

The Hon. Jodi McKay is the member for Newcastle in the NSW Parliament. Justine Lorenz and Stephen Nicholson met with Ms McKay on 29 November.

We discussed options for support for one deafblind client in Hunter area and Ms McKay provided some useful suggestions about where to seek support for this client. We also discussed the future of support for deaf and hard of hearing people in the Hunter region. Currently services for the Hunter region are unfunded. We hope to obtain funding for the Hunter region in the future.

Changes in the Employment Service

Meghan Burn joined the Employment Service Team in the middle of September as our full time Employment Officer – Outreach and is settling in the job well. She is responsible for looking after our employment service consumers at Niagara Park (Gosford) on Mondays to Wednesdays and Newcastle on Thursdays and Fridays. If you live in the Gosford or Newcastle areas and need employment assistance, you are welcome to email Meghan Burn at mburn@deafsociety.com to find out if you are eligible for employment support from the Deaf Society. There are now four times as many days of employment service in Newcastle as there were!

Rebekah Rose-Mundy and her family will be moving to Brisbane in January 2011 to enable better education for their children and she will be leaving the Deaf Society on 14 January 2011. She has worked with the Deaf Society for the last 2½ years and we wish Rebekah and her family well for their new life in Queensland. We will be advertising for a new Employment Officer nearer the time – please keep checking the Deaf Society website for positions vacant.

“On this day...”

The NSW Deaf Community has had a newsletter for over 100 years. In 1910 it was called The NSW Deaf Journal and was created by the NSW Adult Deaf-Mute Association, which was under the Darlington School. The Deaf Society had not yet been established. The editor was Fletcher Booth, whose story is in this edition of the Deaf Herald on page 12. It has bible studies and information and announces births, deaths, marriages, news from the school and news from overseas.

The October/November of 1910 cost 1 shilling, or 1 shilling and sixpence if posted, and included letters from community members, a report on a fundraising bazaar, and some sad news about a deaf child who fell into a fire and was burned. It also mentioned the Annual Meeting of the School’s parent association; the Mayor of Sydney went to the meeting and met a deafblind girl called Alice Bettridge.

The fundraising bazaar raised £110, and the newsletter announced that “Everything in connection with the Bazaar, which is a most creditable display, has from start to finish been organised and arranged by the deaf and dumb members of the Association, headed by Messrs Booth and Fisher, Misses Saunders, Beaumont Goldring, and Mrs. Booth.” Deaf leadership is obviously not a new idea!

John Ferris Interpreter Internship Program 2010

SLC – NSW, the interpreting division of the Deaf Society, runs the John Ferris Internship every year for newly-accredited interpreters. The 2010 program has already come to an end and we asked our interns Anna Nardi, Kylie Pickup, Rosanna Johnson and Amanda Galea a few questions about their experiences in the program. They all thoroughly enjoyed the program, even if at times they were outside their comfort zones.

One of the main themes of the interns’ responses was that they didn’t only learn more about how to pass on the message in Auslan or in English, they learnt lots about all the other skills interpreters need. “Being able to watch, study and generally pick the brains of a highly experienced, professionally respected (level 3) interpreter” was a favourite part of the experience for Amanda. Roseanna said that the internship program taught her “how to prepare as much as possible before a job and also how to self reflect after.”

The experience of being an intern sometimes showed a whole new way of interpreting, as Kylie said: “There were many jobs I enjoyed, mainly because I learnt something new about myself or about interpreting. One of my most memorable jobs was working with a Deaf Relay Interpreter. I was blown away by the skill – how something so complex could be broken down and unpacked. It showed me a whole different way to interpret.”

Finally we asked our interns if they had any memorable embarrassing moments. There were many, but Anna told us a hilarious one: “I arrived to interpret a training course to find that the hearing teacher had set up two special chairs for us interpreters – at the back of the room behind the deaf person! We had to quietly and tactfully move to somewhere the deaf person could see us! ”

Strategic Plan in Braille and Large Print

On 22 October Stephen Nicholson gave a talk about the Deaf Society's strategic plan at the Usher's Group, and launched the Braille and large print versions. The group was thrilled that we are working with them to ensure all deaf people, including those with additional disabilities, can access our information and services.

To get a copy, please contact Colin Allen on callen@deafsociety.com

Inquiry of the Department of Ageing, Disability, Health and Care

On 27 September 2010, Colin Allen and Stephen Nicholson attended NSW Parliament House to give a presentation about the Deaf Society's services and their concerns about limited services in regional NSW. We also submitted written reports to the Inquiry.

Our presentation and the reports we submitted said that we were appreciative of ADHC and their funding support for the Deaf Society.

ADHC is one of our major funding bodies and their support has enabled many services over the years.

However, our submission to the Inquiry also made these recommendations:

1. That ADHC increase funding for deaf-specific services in regional areas. Both the quantity and the range of services need to be expanded to meet the explosion in demand arising from the rapid movement of deaf retirees to regional centres.
2. That the criteria for the Attendant Care Program to be expanded to cover deaf people with extra disabilities such as blindness. Current funding is inadequate to provide for the attendant care needs of this group.
3. That ADHC establish a deaf-specific HACC service to provide domestic assistance, social support, and personal care to deaf people using workers fluent in Auslan.
4. That ADHC make it a priority to provide Auslan translations of complaints procedures and the Disability Service Standards on the ADHC website and that these be promoted to deaf people. This is in line with accessibility requirements under Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) which Australia has ratified.

The Inquiry report was released on 11 November and many of our recommendations were included:

Recommendation 24

That the Minister for Disability Services improve the availability of information to people who are deaf or those with vision disability through making available disability service information in relevant formats.

Recommendation 27

That the Minister for Disability Services amend the eligibility criteria of the attendant care program as a matter of urgency to include people who are deaf and blind.

Recommendation 28

That the Minister for Disability Services ensure that appropriate services are available for people who are deaf blind, through funding and training interpreters and guides for deaf and blind service users.

Recommendation 39

That the Minister for Disability Services ensure that there are HACC staff available in every region who are trained to communicate with, understand and respond to the needs of deaf people.

Recommendation 46

That the Minister for Disability Services conduct a review of complaint and grievance handling policy and procedures for disability services in NSW, and that the review... provides ADHC complaint policy in a format that is accessible to all service users, including people who are deaf and visually impaired.

If you would like a copy of the full report, you can find it on the NSW Parliament website:
<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/18A4D07B967F5640CA2577D800031A6D>

Family Safety in Auslan

Written by Caroline Conlon, Project Officer

About the project:

The Deaf Society has received funding from the Violence Coordination Unit of Office for Women's Policy in the Department of Premier and Cabinet to administer the Family Safety in Auslan Project.

This project will make an information video in Auslan about Domestic and Family Violence which will be available on the Deaf Society website.

Domestic and family violence can happen to anyone – women and men. Statistics show that most victims of domestic violence are women. These women could be wives, girlfriends, daughters, sisters, work colleagues, friends and neighbours. It can happen in the deaf community.

Domestic and family violence is not acceptable. It is a crime. Some of us may have experienced violence and some of us may know someone else who has experienced it. Others hear stories about it. Others may see it happen. The worst part is many of those people do not want to say anything about it. Most people say nothing and remain silent.





































This project will work with a focus group of deaf women. The aims of the focus group are:

- to advise the project on what information deaf people who use Auslan would like to know about domestic and family violence;
- to provide feedback after seeing a draft video;
- to inform deaf people who use Auslan about this project and that the information video that will be available around mid 2011.

The NSW Network of Women with Disability and Women's Legal Services NSW will consult and provide feedback on the content of the information video.

Deaf Sudoku

(answer on page 25)

Who were they?

By Dr Breda Carty, Board Member of the Deaf Society

Have you noticed the new names we've given some of our rooms? Find out why...

Visitors to the Deaf Society's new premises on Level 4, 69 Philip St in Parramatta will notice that some of the rooms have been named after people.

- The Meeting Room just off the foyer has been named the **Fletcher Booth Meeting Room**
- The Deaf Society's centre as a whole has been named the **Epstein-Schiller Centre**
- The place where you go for training workshops or classes is named the **Andrew Rogers Training Room**
- And the hallway just outside that room has been named the **Ron Wild Hallway**.

This article provides some background about these people, and explains why we decided to commemorate their contributions to the Deaf Society by naming these spaces after them.

The oldest of these people was **Fletcher Booth**. Fletcher was born in Sydney in 1870, and educated at the NSW Institute for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind at Darlington – still a very new school then. After school, he completed an apprenticeship as a draftsman, and had a long career as a draftsman with a firm of Sydney architects. When Fletcher was a young man, there was not yet a Deaf Society in NSW. He was one of the leaders of the Deaf Community when they began to meet at church services, and at a small building in the grounds of the school in Darlington in the 1880s and 1890s. He was part of the group of Deaf and hearing people who worked to set up the Deaf Society in 1913, and served on its Council (board) for many years. In 1929, Fletcher led a breakaway group for several years – the NSW Association for Deaf and Dumb Citizens – and he helped to edit their newsletter, *The Deaf Advocate*. In 1932 he was a founding member of one of the earliest national Deaf organisations in Australia, the Australian Association for the Advancement of the Deaf. Fletcher was a strong and eloquent leader who was not afraid to stand up for Deaf people's rights. He died in 1956.

The Deaf Society's premises have been named the **Epstein-Schiller Centre**, after a family which made a very generous contribution to the Deaf Society. Emil and Elsa Epstein fled Austria in 1938, before the Germans occupied their country, and came to Australia to live. After the war they searched for family members who had survived the Holocaust, and found their niece Elizabeth (Lotte) Schiller. Lotte was deaf, and had been in a concentration camp during the war. The Epsteins brought Lotte to Australia to live with them for many years, and she also lived in the Deaf Society's Lonsdale House Hostel for some years before she died in 1991. Emil Epstein was on the Board of the Deaf Society from 1961 until 1973. The Epsteins made a very generous bequest of over \$1.1 million to the Deaf Society, so we feel it is fitting to name our new Centre after their family.

The Deaf Society now has a very well-equipped room for conducting classes or workshops. Just as it was in the old premises, it has been called the **Andrew Rogers Training Room**. Andrew Rogers (1909 – 1977) had two deaf children, and this led him to work for many years towards improving education and access for deaf people. Andrew was a strong believer in life-long

education – he thought that deaf people’s education should not stop when they left school. He was on the board of the Deaf Society from 1967 until 1977, and he helped to develop the Society’s services in continuing education and training for deaf adults. He was a very persistent advocate and encouraged different organisations to work together. During his time with the Deaf Society, he was one of the first people to advocate for TTYs and TV captions. Some of Andrew’s grandchildren and great-grandchildren (both Deaf and hearing) now work for the Deaf Society!

In the hallway outside the Training Room, you can enjoy a series of paintings. These were painted by a Deaf artist, **Ron Wild**. Ron was born in 1934, and educated at St Gabriel’s School for the Deaf at Castle Hill. He had a lifelong love of art, and worked as an artist professionally. Ron was employed by the department store Mark Foys for many years, painting backdrops for their shop window displays. He also painted many other special commissions for different organisations, and he was especially skilled at painting murals (large pictures painted directly onto a wall, sometimes used to tell a story or give the background to a story). He painted murals for the Phillip Street Theatre, the Manly Loft Theatre, and – of course – for the NSW Theatre of the Deaf. One of his biggest commissions was to paint a 60-foot long mural on the façade of the Art Gallery of NSW for a special ‘Captain Cook Dinner’ in 1969. Ron died in 2008.

Ron Wild’s paintings in the hallway show the places where the NSW Deaf Community has traditionally met – the first painting shows the time when they huddled under a lamp-post to sign together, and the final painting in the series shows the Deaf Society’s most recent premises in Macquarie Street, Parramatta (the last one was painted by Ali Faqirzada to complete Ron’s series).

Silent Messenger

Message from the Secretary – Sherrie Beaver

As the new secretary for Deaf Australia (NSW), I am thrilled to be given this opportunity to be the Editor for the Silent Messenger. Firstly, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Sherrie Beaver, and I am a full time university student, who is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Cultural and Social Analysis at University of Western Sydney. I am about to enter my final year in the degree, which will be an exciting, yet scary time for me.

I look forward to working with Deaf Australia (NSW) for the duration of my term as Secretary. I am also very excited about being given the opportunity to work with a group of wonderful people.

AGM & New Board

Deaf Australia (NSW) had its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 4th September 2010 at the Deaf Society. The meeting went well, and we had a reasonable number of members in attendance, which enabled us to meet the quorum for the meeting to go ahead.

As a result of our recent AGM, we now have a new Board.

President: Rachael Ellis

Vice President: Katrina Lancaster

Secretary: Sherrie Beaver

Treasurer: Mevlut Cet

Board Members: Donovan Mulligan, Kate Matairavula and Joshua Sealy

With the new board, Deaf Australia (NSW) is excited about our future plans. Keep an eye (or an ear) out for upcoming news from Deaf Australia (NSW)!

National Week of Deaf People @ Parliament House

On Tuesday 19th October 2010, Deaf Australia (NSW) with the Deaf Society and Parent Council of Deaf Education held a panel discussion to explore this year's topic - Deaf Education and the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The panellists were had a broad mix of expertise – Colin Allen, Word Federation of the Deaf board member; Breda Carty, Lecturer in Special Education; Louise Cullen, Representative from NSW Department of Education and Training; Bernadette Coleman, Representative of Victorian Department of Education; Sarah Lysaught & Sarah Billing, parents of deaf children, and Gemma Jones, a recent Deaf school leaver. The panel was facilitated by a well-known TV and radio personality, James O'Loghlin.

The audience learnt that the education system in NSW seems to have lost touch with deaf people and the Deaf Community. This was a significant point, as the panellists explained that in the time of Australia's 'golden age', there was more partnership and dialogue with deaf schools and Deaf staff who worked there and most importantly the Deaf Community was often involved in the school. It is sad to say this is not present in the system today, and the feedback from the discussion was that it is the lesser for it.

The discussion was passionate, exciting and dynamic. Audience members were able to engage with the panellists, and they asked questions and shared their experiences. For many, it was an emotional time. The majority of comments from the audience were directed at Louise Cullen, who was representing NSW Department of Education and Training. The audience wanted answers and a commitment to change the Deaf education in NSW.

The audience and panellists were also encouraged and challenged to think of solutions on how to improve Deaf education in NSW. There were a couple of suggestions, such as – deaf children to be bilingual in Auslan and English; bilingualism to be introduced into NSW schools; bilingual early intervention programs to be introduced; qualified educational interpreters to be employed in schools with deaf child/ren enrolled; Auslan to be recognised as an official language of instruction in Deaf education; Deaf studies to be introduced so deaf children can be taught about the language, history and culture while developing their Deaf identity and meet other Deaf people within the community; and lastly, partnerships to be formed with education professionals, deaf education professionals, parents and Deaf people to improve education for deaf children in NSW.

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.

ICED PETITION – TAKE ACTION!

Sources from WFD Newsletter (November 2010)

World Federation of the Deaf is calling individuals to sign an online petition, New Era Document, which rejects the resolutions of the 1880 Milan Congress that banned the use of sign language from educational programmes for deaf children. This is a call upon all nations and people of the world to remember history and ensure that educational programmes accept and respect all languages, including sign languages. The New Era Document was first presented and signed by hundreds of people in the 21st International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (ICED) in Vancouver, Canada in July 2010.

TO SIGN THE PETITION, PLEASE VISIT: www.petitions24.com/wfd

Free help to save up to 20% off your power use

Managing household energy costs has become a little easier for Pensioner Concession, Low Income Health Care and most Veterans' Affairs cardholders who take part in the NSW Government's Home Power Savings Program.

Eligible households get a free home power assessment to find out how to save power around the home and a free Power Savings Kit that includes a powerboard to save standby power, energy efficient light globes, draught-proofing strips for around the door, door snakes, a low flow showerhead, shower timer and tap aerators. These items are fully installed by an energy expert during the assessment.

Households also get a free tailored Power Savings Action Plan mailed to them after the assessment that shows how much more money and carbon pollution they can save by being energy efficient.

The program will save households up to 20 per cent off their power use and help our environment by reducing carbon pollution.

Households who have joined the program are already noticing the savings.

“By using the free energy savings devices, I found out that I will save at least \$200 a year. It's great that the program costs you nothing but you get the free kit and an hour with an expert to find out how to reduce your bills.

“I'll try and do the tips on my Action Plan so that I can save even more”, says Susan from Minto.

Call 1300 662 416 to make an appointment for a free home power assessment.

Visit www.savepower.nsw.gov.au/freehelp for more information.

Deaf Sports News

Editor: Tony Clews

2010 Pokerama Australian Deaf Poker Championship

By Sokong Kim

The Local Hotel in Port Melbourne played host to the 2010 Australian Deaf Poker Championship. The event started on the evening of Friday, the 8th of October with a Welcome Night that featured a "Learn to Play" session and was very well attended.

A total of 74 players from around Australia, including an estimated 25 Sydneysiders, took part in the Main Event on Saturday, the 9th of October. The Sydneysiders donned team shirts and named themselves "Sydney Deaf Poker Crew".

Play started just after 2pm. Thomas Andrews from Victoria was the first person out just after one hour of play. By the time dinner break came at 6:30pm, 32 players remained and a lot of Sydney people were still in the hunt for the title.

The atmosphere was fantastic and all the players fought tooth-and-nail for survival. The traditional interstate rivalry was alive and well! For the first time in Australian deaf poker history, dealers were supplied to each table.

Contributing to the fantastic atmosphere, the dealers learned to communicate to the players in basic Auslan! Landon Blackhall, Deaf Poker Australia's Tournament Director, did a great job of teaching number and poker signs to the dealers prior the start of the tournament.

NSW dominated the final table with five players, along with two from South Australia and one each from Queensland and Victoria. Eventually Daniel Bachi took out the 2010 crown, his A-K beating Sokong Kim's K-Q.

Deaf Poker Australia would like to acknowledge the support of Landon Blackhall, Pokerama and their crew, Wendy Boase (interpreter), The Local Hotel (Port Melbourne), Victorian Council of the Deaf, PokerNetwork and Full Tilt Poker.

Deaf Poker Australia will be hosting the NSW Deaf Poker Championship within the first few months of 2011 and the 2011 Australian Deaf Poker Championship will be held in Adelaide.

For further information about our events, or for more information about DPA please email dpa@deafpoker.com.au or find us on Facebook.

NSW Deaf Basketball Club

By Sokong Kim

Did you know that the NSW Deaf Basketball Club has been active for over a decade? Despite the declining popularity of basketball in Australia, the NSW Deaf Basketball Club remains committed to Deaf basketball in NSW not only for basketball development purposes but also as a social outlet where one can play basketball and keep fit.

Currently, the Deaf men's team plays on Thursday night in Division 2 under the team name of Poker Kings. We just had our first game back after the winter break on 21st October 2010 vs Merryland Slammers. After a strong start, trading points by points, Poker Kings was not able to keep up with the Slammer's long shooting range and eventually lost our first game for the season.

The Deaf women's team plays in Castle Hill on Tuesday night in Division 4 of the women's competition. Their team name is called Crazy Giggles Chick. If you would like to come and support their team, please send an email!

The National Deaf Basketball Club Championship will be held next year in Adelaide as part of Adelaide's 50th anniversary of their basketball club. Both the men's and women's teams will be keen to complete.

If you have any questions regarding basketball as a player or would like to get involved, please email Sokong@tpg.com.au.

Silent Warriors Cricket

By Mark Theodossiou

After losing the first round match against Balmain Tigers White by 2 wickets, Silent Warriors was keen to make amends against Ryde Hunters Hill Pirates 3 at Bedham Bay Park at Saturday 9th October.

After losing the toss we were sent to field in what turned out to be beautiful weather.

Silent Warriors had a nervous start with the ball and saw a few chances go astray with a few dropped catches. Hunters Hill Priates 3 was aggressive with the bat but eventually collapsed to all out for 176. As for bowling statistics, Andrew Park attracted 2 wickets for 30 runs in 12 overs, Luke Trudgett had 1 for 22 in 11 overs and best bowling performance was by B Wilson with 4 for 24 runs in 9 overs.

It was the Silent Warrior's turn with the bat the following Saturday and after a steady start, our batsmen got out one by one like clockwork. The Pirates had a very good bowling lineup at their disposal and used bouncers, yorkers, in and out swingers and had the wind to assist them. Eventually Silent Warriors was all out for 128. Paul Welch made 34 and Luke Trudgett made 31 runs and were our in-form batsmen who contributed a lot to the total.

The Silent Warriors hope to turn their fortunes around and go back to our winning way.

On Saturday 23rd October, Silent Warriors played 4th place team Shanachies at Gannan Park in a one day match. Mark Theodossiou, the captain, won the toss and elected to bat first. At the 18th over, (35 overs max) torrential rain stopped play. The game was then called off due to wet ground. At that point, Silent Warriors lost 3 wickets for 83 runs. Bradley Trudgett made 51 not out while Sokong Kim did a good job building up 2nd wicket partnership with Bradley.

Deaf Sports Working Group for NSW

Written by Ida Rogers

The NSW Deaf Sporting Community knows that we have not had a State level administrator for approximately seven years since the Deaf Sports and Recreation NSW closed down. Deaf Sports Australia has held some meetings with the NSW Deaf Community and in March 2010, at Burwood RSL, there was a public meeting with the members of the Deaf Community and it was decided to form a working group to work towards the goal of incorporating the organisation and gaining funding for staff salaries.

We have our monthly meetings at the offices of Deaf Society; we'd like to say we appreciate the Deaf Society letting us use their space to have our meetings. In those meetings, we explored possible options and now we are considering working under the Deaf Society to gain better access to funding for a full-time staff person to do administration for Deaf Sports of NSW.

Before we commit to this idea, we want to have some consultation with the Deaf Community, and we hope to have a discussion about our ideas and your ideas at Deaf Club at Club Burwood on 17 December 2010 (same time as the Christmas party) and another one at the Deaf Society, on Wednesday 2 February 2011. If we feel that the Deaf Community agrees with this idea, we then can move forward and see what happens next!

Please feel free to contact me at irogers@deaf.nsw.edu if you want to ask questions or find out more information about this important issue.

WASLI - World Association of Sign Language Interpreters

“Think Locally, Act Globally”

The 2011 WASLI Conference will be held in Durban, South Africa, 14-16 July 2011.

The venue for the conference is the Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel on the beachfront. Accommodation has been reserved for you from 13 to 17 July 2011, so you can enjoy three full days of learning, sharing, making new friends and having fun.

Conference Registration is now open. You know it will be a great experience. So take advantage of the super special and early bird conference prices AND the cheaper airline flights and BOOK NOW! www.wasli.org and click on WASLI Conference 2011.

The keynote speaker for our conference will be Australian, Colin Allen, WFD board member and international development worker. He has had a particular impact in the Balkans, where he has undertaken development work with Deaf communities and sign language interpreters. He has a global view of Deaf and interpreting issues, but is able to relate them to the local context. He was one of Australia's early professional relay interpreters.

For more information go to www.wasli.org and click on WASLI Conference 2011.

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.

Gosford meets at Leagues Club, Dane Ave, Gosford.

Newcastle meets on every Wednesday at Hamilton North Bowling Club, Boreas Rd, Hamilton. Hours: 10am to 2pm.

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

Contact: Alison Trott: Fax (02) 9642 1931 / SMS: 0431 938 404

Usher Group

Christmas Lunch

10 December 2010

11.30am to 1.30pm

Toscani's Restaurant, Westfield Parramatta, 159 Church Street, Parramatta.

Contact: Margaret Craig: mcraig@deafsociety.com

or Lizzi Price: lprice@deafsociety.com / SMS: 0411 737 268

Usher's Group Meeting

11 February 2011

10am to 12pm

Deaf Society, Level 4, 69 Phillip St, Parramatta

Contact: Lizzi Price: lprice@deafsociety.com / SMS: 0411 737 268

Sydney Region

The Deaf Club, Sydney

17 December 2010

End of Year Celebrations

<http://www.thedeafclub.org.au/pdf/DecSocial.jpg>

7 January 2011

Welcome 2011

<http://www.thedeafclub.org.au/pdf/Jan2011.jpg>

17 January 2011

Australia Day Party

<http://www.thedeafclub.org.au/pdf/OzDay2011.jpg>

More Information of the Deaf Club, Sydney – www.thedeafclub.org.au

Northern NSW Region

Lismore Games Day

1 December, 15 December, 2 February, 16 February. 10am to 12pm.

Deaf Society office Lismore, 22 Conway St, Lismore, NSW

Contact: Melissa Mahony: 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, NSW

Contact: Melissa Mahony: mmahony@deafsociety.com / SMS: 0422 013 451

Lismore Family Social Day

5 December from 11am

Ballina Ten Pin Bowl, 16 Clarke St, Ballina, NSW

Contact: Yean Crowther: SMS: 0412 784 049

New England Region

Deaf Xmas Party

11 December 2010 at 6pm

Vespa's Italian Restaurant, 80 Bridge Street, Tamworth, NSW

Contact: Geoff Clarke: SMS 0409 627682 or Julia Griffiths: jgriffiths@deafsociety.com

Tweed Head/ Gold Coast Region

Tweed Deaf Social Night

17 December 2010

On 2011, it will be 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

Tweed Coast Xmas BBQ

5 December 2010

Faulks Park in Kingscliffe, Qld from 10am.

BYO food and drink.

Contact: David London: SMS 0408 762 414

Deaf Club Gold Coast, M.V. The Lady Cruise night

11 December 2010 (Meet at 5.30pm for 6.30pm)

B Wharf Mariners Cove, 60 Seaworld Drive, Main Beach, Qld

Cost: Tickets: Members \$65 / Non-Members \$70

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, Qld

Contact: Christine White: SMS 0415 952 205

Helensvale Tavern Social Night

11 December is Xmas party and Second Saturday of each month from 6pm

8 Sir John Overall Drive, Helensvale, Gold Coast, Qld

Contact: Christine White: SMS 0415 952 205

South Coast Region

Tuesday Coffee Mornings

Tuesday mornings at 9.30am

Michel's Patisserie Warilla Grove Shopping Centre, Shellharbour Rd.

Contact: Sara Willyan-Payne: swillyanpayne@deafsociety.com / SMS: 0406 940 899

South Coast Deaf Club

26 February 2011 at 6pm

Kiama Leagues Club.

Contact: Matthew Moore: SMS 0418 694

Australia Day Picnic

26 January 2011 at 10am.

Palm Beach Sanctuary Point. BYO swimmers, chairs, lunch etc.

Contact: Lyndall Keppie: SMS 0402 206 977 or Clem Keppie: SMS 0414 345 916

Pyree Butter Factory

Date to be announced

Pyree Butter Factory Restaurant, Greenwell Point Road, Pyree.

Contact: Lyndall Keppie: SMS 0402 206 977 or Clem Keppie: SMS 0414 345 916

Wing and Pears Coffee Shop

First Friday of every month. 10am to 12pm

Wing & Pears Coffee Shop, Corner of Junction & Berry Streets.

Contact: Lyndall Keppie: SMS 0402 206 977 / Fax: 02 4443 3140

Riverina Region

Wagga Wagga Xmas Party

11 December.

11am to 5pm

Wagga Wagga Botanical Gardens, Macleay Street, Wagga Wagga.

Contact: Matt: riverinadeafgroup@live.com.au / SMS: 043 884 189

Please bring your own meat, and also salad that can be shared with everyone. Please also bring camping chairs and rugs. No alcohol please.

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.

How to get involved: via Facebook (www.facebook.com) Search for the group "Sydney Auslan Practice Groups".

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: coordinator Carmel Martin: c.martin@liverpool.nsw.gov.au / Ph: 9821 9450

Penrith

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

Peachtree Hotel, Peachtree Rd, Penrith.

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

Contact: Meagan: mrudd@parra.catholic.edu.au / SMS: 0410 691 381

or Erin: etaylor86@hotmail.com / SMS: 0421 216 122

Newcastle

Every first Saturday of the month from 11am

McDonald's at Green Hills

Skill level: All welcome

Contact: Anne Ward: SMS 0427 123 013

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

Third Saturday every two months from 2pm

(Next on 15th January

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

Contact: Christine White: SMS 0415 952 205

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 20 to 23).

<http://www.facebook.com/?sk=2361831622#!/group.php?gid=10573391430>

Keep up to date with events - visit:

www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/events/deaf_society_events.html

www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/events/deaf_community_newsboard.html

Submission deadline:

If you wish to submit any articles or information for publication, you are encouraged to email us at herald@deafsociety.com. The deadline for contributions to the March edition of the Herald is 1 February 2011.

Please remember that the editors of the Herald may need to change your article because of space or to make the style consistent with the rest of the Herald. No promotional, commercial or personal advertisements are accepted unless the editor believes they are of direct value to the Deaf Community.

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

Central Coast

Appointment only

Niagara Park Community Centre,

Washington Ave, Niagara Park

Contact: Justine Lorenz / jlorenz@deafsociety.com / 0410 909 286

Newcastle

Mondays & Tuesdays – 9.30am to 3.30pm

Level 3, 108-110 Hunter St, Newcastle

Contact: Justine Lorenz / jlorenz@deafsociety.com / 0410 909 286

Coffs Harbour

Wednesdays – 9am to 11am

Earl St, Coffs Harbour

Contact: Terri Richardson / trichardson@deafsociety.com / 0401 230 911

Port Macquarie

1st February 2011 – 11am to 2pm

Port City Bowling Club, 4 Owen St, Port Macquarie

Contact: Terri Richardson / trichardson@deafsociety.com / 0401 230 911

Lismore

By appointment only

22 Conway St, Lismore

Contact: Melissa Mahony / 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 / SMS: 0423 488 619

Tamworth

Mondays – 9am to 4pm

Tamworth Community Centre, Darling St, Tamworth

Contact: Julia Griffiths / 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 / 0406 940 899

Nowra

7th December – 10am to 2pm

Nowra Community Centre, 134 Kinghorne Rd, Nowra

Contact: Sara Willyan-Payne / 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 / 0409 745 288

The Parramatta office will close from 12pm on 24 December and reopen on Tuesday 4 January at 9am.

All the regional offices will be closed between Christmas and New Year. Lismore, Coffs Harbour and Newcastle will reopen on Tuesday 4 January. Tamworth and Wollongong will reopen on Monday 10 January.

Subscribe online:

Do you want to receive NSW Deaf Herald and other information from the Deaf Society by email? Subscribe at www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/subscribe

6	1	2	3	9	7	8	4	5
9	3	8	4	5	6	2	7	1
4	5	7	1	2	8	3	6	9
2	9	3	7	4	5	6	1	8
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5	6	9	2	7	3	1	8	4
7	2	1	5	8	4	9	3	6
3	8	4	9	6	1	5	2	7

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.

How it works: Call NRMA TEXT SMS 0437 13 11 11

1. Just say your name (say, Mr John Smith)
2. Your car rego number (say, nsw abc123)
3. Where you are? (say, 260 Victoria Rd, Ryde)

NRMA will text you back more info.

Contact the Deaf Society of NSW:

Phone: (02) 8833 3600 TTY: (02) 8833 3691 Fax: (02) 8833 3699

Email: info@deafsociety.com Web: www.deafsocietynsw.org.au

Email stories to herald@deafsociety.com

Subscribe online at www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/subscribe

You can see this bulletin with photos at

www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/herald/01-nsw_deaf_herald.pdf