

Exploring Adult Deaf Education in Europe

Miss Ida Rogers recently visited three organisations in Europe to see their deaf adult education programs.

Colin Allen interviewed Ida Rogers about her trip

What was the purpose of your trip?

I wanted to visit Deaf Adult Education Programs in England, Denmark and Finland, because I run courses for Deaf Adults here at the Deaf Education Network (DEN) and I wanted to compare what we have.

So let's start with Finland. What kind of adult education do they have there?

The Finnish Association of the Deaf runs a "Folk High School" (an adult education centre) called Kuurojen Kansanopisto which has courses for hearing people to learn Finnish Sign Language, and a program for deaf migrants which has been running for the last four years. I met the person who co-ordinates the migrant program – she has a similar job to mine.

The deaf migrant course – is that an intensive course? Is it accredited like ours?

It is accredited, and it certainly is intensive. It runs five days per week for three year, and they teach literacy, Finnish Sign Language and how to fit in with Finnish culture generally.

How many students do they have? Do they have to pay fees?

There are three year groups and each one is full with eight students. The program is funded through the Finnish social security system called Kela, but if students aren't under Kela, they pay fees.

Do you think we could have something similar here?

Well, Australia doesn't accept many deaf migrants so we would have smaller numbers, but if we had more funding it would be great to see a program like this. In Finland the students come out with good skills and an understanding of life in Finland so it is really worthwhile.

Where did you go in Denmark?

I visited Castberggård in Hedensted which is a large deaf learning centre run by the Danish Association of the Deaf. It caters for deaf people to study and become job-ready. They have two main programs – a folk high school, and a job centre – both funded by the Danish government. Altogether it is a huge program with lots of students each year. The job centre has been running since 1992 – it has a 6-week live-in program for students to get ready for work. When the six weeks are finished, they can go on to a job or do more study, or get support while in a new job, or apply to stay for longer to learn more skills.

Anything else that struck you about Castberggård?

Their team of teachers is amazing – they have about six or seven experienced and dedicated teachers. They have separate programs for hard of hearing and deaf students, and aim to see contact between the two programs so deaf and hard of hearing people can learn from each other's experiences. They are very proud of their "Frontrunners" program.

What is Frontrunners?

It is an international project management program for Deaf Youth. The students come to Castberggård to learn project management skills, then they go out and actually do projects, then come back to debrief and evaluate. This is its sixth year and the staff at Castberggård are very proud of its success. (More information about Frontrunners can be found - <http://frontrunners.dk/>)

So finally, what did you find in England?

I visited City Lit. They are a big training organisation with about 24,000 deaf and hearing students. They have a Centre for Deaf Education which is similar to DEN – they run English, maths, computer skills and sign language courses. They have government subsidies but students also pay some fees.

Now you are back, what do you want to achieve for DEN?

Well, our programs are pretty similar to those overseas, but we have smaller numbers of students and fewer hours. I would love to see DEN grow into a larger Deaf Adult Learning Centre. I hope that plenty of Deaf people will come and tell us what they want!

From the Acting CEO

I hope that everyone had a safe and pleasant holiday season. In early December the Deaf Society was involved with events in Sydney, Parramatta, Alstonville, Tamworth and Coffs Harbour for International Day of People with a Disability. The office was closed between Christmas and New Year and we have started the New Year with a lot of activity.

The Crossing Borders Youth Camp was held in Anglesea, Victoria in January with 25 deaf and hard of hearing youth from NSW. The 2011 John Ferris Interpreter Internship program will commence in March where four Paraprofessional interpreters are being given an opportunity to receive mentoring over a three month period.

In other news, highlights from our Annual report are now available in Auslan on the website (www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/information/annual_reports.html). Also, you can now contact us directly using MSN, Skype or ooVoo during office hours – for details see the bottom of the page.

In March, the Director of Services, Colin Allen, along with Andrew Wiltshire, Manager, Employment Services, and John O'Neill, Manager, Deaf Education Network, will be travelling for our second roadshow to Tamworth and Dubbo in mid March. See more information on page 10. Stephen Nicholson, Manager, Consumer and Community Service will visit Albury as part of the Deaf Society roadshow on Friday, 6 May 2011.

Please keep an eye out for information on the roadshows and if you are a member of the community in these areas please come along and talk to us about what you would like to see the Deaf Society doing in regional NSW.

Sheena Walters

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Editorial

Welcome to the third edition of the NSW Deaf Herald. We continue to receive a number of suggestions to improve the bulletin and more feedback is welcome. This edition has again become bigger following a request by members of the Deaf Community in NSW for a new section called Community News. There is also now a list of sporting events for deaf people to enjoy on page 23-25.

The floods in Queensland caused much concern and disruption for many people but Deaf Services Queensland was successful in lobbying for Auslan interpreters to be shown with all speeches made by Anna Bligh, the Premier of Queensland. The NRS was disrupted too for a while but maintained services for emergency calls. We created a floods page on our website where all Auslan information was posted including translated press releases from the Australian Communication and Media Authority with updates on access to the NRS. The Deaf Society is organising a fundraiser for members of the Deaf Community affected by the floods which will be held on Saturday, 12 March. For more details see page 6.

The Deaf Society will celebrate 100 years in 2013 and the board has formed a Centenary Committee to organise celebratory events through the year. For more details see page 8.

Lastly, we here at the Deaf Society are proud of the achievement of having a smoke alarm subsidy scheme set up in NSW. The Deaf Society will receive two million dollars from the NSW State Government to run the scheme – you can see more information on page 8.

Happy reading,

Colin Allen

Director of Services

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DID YOU KNOW?

Kate Matairavula and Sheena Walters

Did you know that the Deaf Society has been working with PCDE and DA (NSW) for a couple of years to ask the NSW Department of Education to provide bilingual education for deaf children?

Did you know that some families with deaf children have moved to Queensland because there is bilingual education there?

Did you know that Auslan has not been included as a subject in the new National Curriculum?

Did you know that we are making a video about parents and deaf children's experience in the public school system?

Did you know that we will use this video for National Week of Deaf People so our stories can be told?

The video will be called "Did you know ...?"

If you are a parent with a deaf child in the public school system and have something to say about how it could be better for them, please come and be part of our film.

If you are a deaf student in the public school system and have something to say about how school could be better for you, please come and be part of our film.

We need people to talk about what barriers they face at school, what interpreter access they have, what sign language access they have, what would make learning at school easier.

If you know a deaf person who is experiencing communication or other barriers at school, tell them to contact us. Your information is vital to us. We want the NSW Department of Education to provide better access. The email address to contact is advocacy@deafsociety.com

Did you know there is something else you can do to help? We need to let the Federal government know that Auslan should be included as a language in the new National Curriculum. If it is, more hearing children will learn Auslan and be able to communicate with deaf people. Auslan will be promoted and understood as a true language. Deaf children will learn about their heritage and gain self-confidence and pride when they know more about their language.

This is what you can do.... You can provide feedback on this by sending an email to languages@acara.edu.au

Queensland Floods Deafraiser - Entertainment & Games Night

The Deaf Society of NSW and partner organisations Deaf Australia (NSW), ASLIA (NSW), Ephpheta Centre and PCDE have agreed to work together to host a fundraising event to raise money to support Deaf people and children who have experienced loss as a result of the flooding. Deaf Services Queensland (DSQ) has agreed to facilitate spreading these funds among those who need it.

Time for Unity

Let's join together - one Deaf Community supporting another Deaf Community for a good cause!

Saturday, 12 March 2011 – 4pm to 10pm

Santa Maria Del Monte, 59 The Boulevard, Strathfield (Entrance to hall – Carrington St)

Adult: \$20 / Concession: \$15 Children: \$5 (5-12 years old) **\$10** (13-18 years old)

(Sausage sizzle & soft drinks included)

The tickets are on sale from Deaf Society, DA (NSW) Ephpheta Centre, PCDE and ASLIA (NSW)

If you can't attend this important event – you can donate now:

If you'd like to contribute now we are starting to collect donations. You can transfer money into the Deaf Society of NSW's donations account and get a tax deductible receipt.

You must include the words FLOODS and YOUR NAME in the reference field.

BSB: 062-227 Account Number: 1009 4666

Updates from the Deaf Society

Contributors: Susannah Macready, Ida Rogers, Sheena Walters, Jasmine Fox, Colin Allen, Danica Pupich, Andrew Wiltshire, Teresa Thomson, Katrina Lancaster and Craig Bishop.

DSNSW Staff members will present at Deaf Australia Conference in Hobart

Amongst the Deaf Society staff who will be presenting at the Deaf Australia conference in Hobart are Colin Allen and Susannah Macready. Colin and Susannah will be presenting on the Sign Online project, an online beginner Auslan course. It will be trialled in the Newcastle region in early 2012 with funding from Community Builders. The presentation at the conference will look at some of the challenges of building such a course and showcase some of the videos that have been made as resources for the course.

Another presentation by Ida Rogers will talk about a project recently completed, the 'Culturally Deaf Residents in Nursing Homes and Hostels – an information kit for staff'. This kit was created for staff working with Deaf residents and aims to foster a better understanding of the Deaf residents' needs. The presentation will go over the process and results of the project.

Sheena Walters and Jasmine Fox will be presenting on the results of the recent unfunded interpreting project. Following the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Australian government along with other tools such as the Disability Discrimination Act and Disability Action Plans, the Australian Federation of the Deaf Societies felt it was an ideal time to work together with each other and others to seek out opportunities to enable access to interpreting in areas that are currently unfunded. The presentation will also bring the audience up to speed with the status of unfunded interpreting in Australia and discuss areas of priority and the way forward.

We are very much looking forward to having Mr Markku Jokinen, President, World Federation of the Deaf who will be the keynote presenter at the Deaf Australia Conference. For more information about the Deaf Australia Conference please visit www.deafau.org.au/community/conferences.php

Visual Smoke Alarm Scheme Project

The DSNSW has been in collaboration with the NSW Fire Brigades to prepare a proposal to the NSW Department of Disability Service to fund the scheme project. In December 2010, Colin Allen and Susannah Macready along with Jim Smith and Melanie Rebane from Fire Brigades NSW met with the Hon Peter Primrose, Minister for Disability Services to discuss how important it is to establish the scheme.

On 15th February 2011, NSW Premier the Hon. Kristina Keneally made an official announcement at the second day of the National Disability Service State Conference that the NSW Government will commit two million dollars to provide a Visual Smoke Alarm Scheme. The scheme will be administered by the Deaf Society over the next three years.

Further information will be announced on how to apply for a Visual Smoke Alarm when the details are decided.

DSNSW Centenary Committee

The DSNSW Board has formed a committee 'DSNSW Centenary Committee' to prepare the program to celebrate DSNSW's 100 years in 2013 throughout NSW. The Deaf Society was formally established by Deaf people on 20th October, 1913 at the Sydney Town Hall. The members of the Centenary Committee are Dr Breda Carty, Mr Glenn Welldon, Mr Tony Clews, Ms Caroline Conlon and Ms Sherrie Beaver.

The committee is drafting a very exciting celebration programme and the committee will create sub-committees to focus on what we hope will be the three main areas: Conference, History and Events. If you are interested to become a member of one of these sub-committees, please contact Colin Allen.

In December 2010, the DSNSW Board submitted a bid to host the 2nd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) of which the Deaf Society is an Associate Member. On 21st February 2011, WFD announced that Sydney has been chosen as the host city.

More information about the DSNSW Centenary will be announced soon.

Employment Assistance Fund (EAF)

Since March 2010, the Australian government introduced the Employment Assistance Fund (EAF) for people who have a disability, particularly Deaf people who need access to interpreting services for job interviews and Auslan interpreting in the workplace or real time captioning, as well as access to funds for workplace modifications, Deaf Awareness Training and costs for Certificate II in Auslan courses for hearing co-workers of employees who are deaf and use Auslan as their main method of communication.

EAF was instrumental in giving one of our consumers, a Deaf man, an opportunity to secure a Heavy Vehicle Mechanic apprenticeship with one of the large Heavy Vehicle service centres in Sydney.

This Deaf man had been wanting to become a Heavy Vehicle Mechanic for few years and studied at TAFE, but was not able to find an employer willing to hire him as an apprentice until one of our Employment Officers managed to find him one week's work experience with a Heavy Vehicle Service centre. During his work experience, the company liked him so much that they liaised with their Human Resources Department to see if they could offer him a position. The Human Resources Department had concerns about Occupational Health and Safety regulations and how this Deaf man could work in a safe environment, but after our Employment Officer explained that they could access funds through EAF workplace modifications to set up a flashing light fire alarm system in the workplace, they agreed to take him on.

The flashing fire alarm system was installed a week after he started working and he continues to enjoy his apprenticeship. It shows that you can achieve your dream job if you are able to convince your prospective employer that they can receive some form of funding assistance through EAF.

For more information about EAF, go to

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Programs/DES/Employer_Support/Pages/EAF.aspx

SLC NSW can manage your EAF interpreting funding!

SLC NSW is providing a new service to clients who book interpreters regularly with SLC NSW. This service is the administration of the EAF interpreting funding from JobAccess. Each Deaf or hard of hearing employee can claim up to \$6,000 per annum for interpreting costs relevant to work.

To access this funding, the process includes getting approval for the funds, booking an interpreter, paying for the interpreter and then claiming reimbursement for the interpreter. Rather than your employer having to do this – we can do this for you!

If you or your employer would like more information or would like SLC NSW to administer your EAF funding, please contact Jasmine Fox, Manager, SLC NSW on jfox@slcommunications.com.au or 8833 3618.

Deaf Awareness Training

The Deaf Society offers a range of informative and practical Deaf Awareness Training (DAT) programs designed to improve understanding of communication within workplaces and provide an awareness of the Deaf Community, its language and its culture.

DAT provides the opportunity to:

- Gain insight into the lives and needs of Deaf people
- Improve communication with Deaf people
- Facilitate better access to information and services for Deaf people
- Build understanding that promotes positive communication and experiences
- Develop strategies to improve communication and pathways

Eligible organisations that employ Deaf people can access funding to partially or fully cover the cost of DAT through EAF.

Unpacking the Curriculum – a Packed Day!

On 8th December 2010, Deaf Education Network (DEN) and Blacktown TAFE ran a workshop on the new Auslan Curriculum. The new curriculum was written last year and TAFEs and colleges around Australia have been frantically preparing to teach the new courses. The new curriculum has a very different format, more detailed language information, and lots more flexibility for teachers.

The workshop was called “The New Certificates in Auslan: Unpacking the Curriculum Day”. When we first started planning the day we imagined a small group of teachers from Sydney, but in the end we had about 40 people from NSW, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania, South Australia and the ACT.

The workshop was lead by Kate Matairavula, Gerri Ricci and Susannah Macready, but there were plenty of opportunities for everyone to try reading, using and understanding the curriculum itself. The only complaint was that the day was far too short!

A big thank you to Blacktown TAFE for their partnership with DEN and for providing a great venue. It was a marvellous time of collaboration for teachers from all around Australia and we hope it will happen again in the future.

John Ferris Interpreter Internship Program 2011

This year Sign Language Communications (SLC NSW) is again running the John Ferris Interpreter Internship Program. The 2011 program has a new and different focus and rather than being focused on newly accredited paraprofessional (formerly level 2) interpreters, this year’s program focuses on enhancing the skills of our experienced paraprofessional interpreters.

This year our four interns will be Rebecca Schultz, Brendan Harding, Linda Finucane and Paula Bun. A big congratulations to our four new interns who will benefit immensely with the feedback and support of our mentors Chevoy Sweeney and Gerry Shearim.

Auslan Interpreters in Legal situations

You may or may not be aware that if a deaf person has an appointment with a legal practitioner with Legal Aid NSW or a solicitor that is funded by Legal Aid NSW, they must provide you with an Auslan interpreter. Recently Legal Aid NSW reminded private legal practitioners about this in a newsletter to make sure they know that they are responsible for providing an Auslan interpreter for these appointments.

“Where there is an identified need for an interpreter for a client who has a grant of legal aid, Legal Aid NSW will pay for the interpreter where prior approval has been obtained.”

If the appointment is with a legal practitioner and there is no funding from Legal Aid NSW you can still ask that they book an interpreter for you.

For all bookings or assistance with booking an interpreter for a legal appointment you can contact SLC NSW:

slc_nsw@slcommunications.com.au

Crossing Borders Youth Camp

Between Sunday 16th and Friday 21st January, 25 young deaf and hard of hearing participants from around NSW including Sydney, Camden, Dubbo, Tamworth and Lismore joined 19 Victorians, 2 Queenslanders, 1 Western Australian and 2 Kiribati participants aged between 14 and 17 for a week of sun, recreation and networking at YMCA Anglesea Recreation Camp, in Victoria.

The 49 participants were joined by 12 leaders, 6 from NSW and 6 from VIC as well as five Auslan interpreters.

The NSW group travelled down on coach, which took 12 hours and included very little sleep but that did not stop the NSW participants from participating completely on the first day! We luckily flew home on the Friday which proved to be much quicker.

The aim of the Crossing Borders summer camp was to expand the social networks of young deaf and hard of hearing people, and to provide them with an opportunity to develop a positive self-image through interacting with Deaf adult role models. This camp also aimed to help young Deaf and hard of hearing people to build a sense of identity and increase their circle of influence and friendship which in turn improves their wellbeing.

Activities during the week included low and high ropes, surfing, beach activities, skateboarding, mountain biking, canoeing, a hip hop dance workshop and a variety of evening activities organised by the leaders such as Minute to Win It!

The camp overall was a great success with terrific weather. New friendships and networks were formed, leaders were given hands-on training, all participants enjoyed the activities and went home with huge smiles on their faces.

After 12 months of fundraising, we were able to subsidise a lot of the costs for our participants. A thank you goes out to the Deaf community for supporting our events, the young people involved and the Deaf Society staff for giving up their weekends to support the cause.

Spotlight on Coffs Harbour

The Deaf Society's Coffs Coast office was opened in 2005 and began with a grant under the FACES scheme administered by ACE.

This was a 12 month grant and at the end of this period it was decided that the Deaf Society would fund the office on its own to keep the service open.

The Coffs Coast Deaf Community Inc. has been active in the mid-north coast for many years and it was a great opportunity to work alongside them for the betterment of the local Deaf community.

We have had several staff in that office and the current community worker, Terri Richardson has been there since 2008.

In the past we have been lucky enough to have worked out of an office donated by a generous person in the community but in 2010 we had to look elsewhere for office space as the old building was sold and torn down.

The office has now relocated to the Boambee Community Centre, just a few minutes out of Coffs Harbour CBD.

The Coffs Coast office also maintains links with the mid-north coast Deaf Community, who remain relatively isolated in the area between Port Macquarie and Forster.

“On this day...”

Silent Messenger used to have a Newcastle edition with local news.

The 1961 January edition of the Newcastle Silent Messenger recorded the wedding of Morna Corbett and Kent Power on Friday 6th January 1961 in Gloucester: “The bride looked beautiful in a full length lace and satin gown; she was attended by her married sister and a school friend Mrs. Betty Bonser.”

This edition also mentions a “Beetle Party” on Friday 13th January 1961 in Blackall House. No one at the Deaf Society knows what this is – please write to the editor (Colin Allen) if you can tell us what a “Beetle Party” is!

Deaf Retreat Weekend No.1 - Auslan Only (No Interpreters)

The Deaf Society will hold a Retreat Weekend for Deaf people as part of our goal in the Strategic Plan: ‘To actively develop the strength and capacity of the Deaf Community’

We are very pleased to announce that Robert Adam will be our guest presenter for the weekend. Robert is famous for his long involvement with the Deaf Community in Australia before he moved to London to pursue his work in the field of Deaf Culture, Deaf Community and Language. He is now studying for his PhD in the field of sign language linguistics. He has given numerous international presentations on a range of topics, and for this retreat will be sharing his knowledge of Deafhood and what it means to be a sign language user. The aim of the weekend is to learn, and to be inspired.

When: Friday, 27th May 2011 (7pm) – Sunday, 29th May (Noon)

Where: The Hermitage, Leumeah

Cost: \$200 per person (before 31st March 2011) \$250 per person (after 1st April 2011)

The registration fee includes shared accommodation & meals (1 Light refreshment, 2 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch & 1 Dinner)

You will be responsible for travel between your city and Leumeah. Limited Space (no more than 25 participants).

If you are interested to attend the Deaf Retreat Weekend, please contact Colin Allen, Director of Services – callen@deafsociety.com to get a copy of the registration form.

Memorandum of Understanding

A key area in our strategic plan was to strengthen and maintain partnerships with other deaf organisations so that we could work together to achieve common goals.

On Tuesday 21st December 2010 at Parramatta Park, Sharon Everson was delighted to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Deaf Australia (NSW), Ephpheta Centre, ASLIA NSW and PCDE. These MOUs acknowledge the work we have done together in the past and affirm our commitment to working together in the future.

Each organisation has contributed a few words on this page to explain more about their services and their hopes for future partnership with the Deaf Society.

Deaf Australia (NSW) Inc. – Rachael Ellis, President

Rachael Ellis in her role of President happily signed the MOU on behalf of Deaf Australia (NSW). The MOU consolidates the relationship between Deaf Australia (NSW) and the Deaf Society of NSW as the two organisations have been working together on a number of issues and events for the past several years.

An interesting fact is that the original Silent Messenger was actually the Deaf Society's newsletter before it was handed over to Deaf Australia (NSW) in 1989. This demonstrates a relationship going back many years.

Deaf Australia (NSW) is proud of the relationship we have with the Deaf Society and the support and partnership it provides especially in the area of advocacy which is a difficult area to get tangible results and often requires years of perseverance. Issues we have worked on together include advocating for bilingual education and the right for deaf children to access the school curriculum using Auslan.

Events and projects we have worked on together include:

- National Week of Deaf People events at NSW Parliament House in 2009 and 2010.
- Young Deaf Leaders Retreat in 2010.
- Sexual Health Week resource released in February 2011.
- Deaf Festival in 2009.
- Deaf Professionals Network set up in 2008.

Financial support has also been generously provided to conduct strategic planning and consultations with Matrix on Board. This will happen in the first half of 2011.

Deaf Australia (NSW) looks forward to the strengthening of our partnership with the Deaf Society and to working towards common goals for the benefit of Deaf people in NSW.

Ephpheta Centre – Stephen Lawlor, Director

As Director of the Ephpheta Centre I was privileged to be part of the signing of the MOU. I saw this as an important day for both organisations that support the wider deaf community. It is a chance to share and strengthen ties with the Deaf Society in relation to the variety of services provided by both organisations. We (the deaf community) as a diverse minority group are blessed with having different deaf or deaf related organisations that support the community. I see it as most important that we gather and work together to serve one purpose – to provide support for the wider deaf community.

I welcome this opportunity to tell you about the services we provide to the deaf and hard of hearing communities. The word “EPHPHETA” comes from Mark’s Gospel in the Bible when Jesus was healing a deaf and mute man; He looked up to heaven and said “EPHPHATHA” which means in Aramaic, “Be opened”. We take this as the mission of our centre – to be open to all people and to enable access and support to all people. One important thing to know about us is that although we are a Catholic organisation we serve all deaf and hard of hearing people regardless of religion - we are open to all.

The Ephpheta Centre is an agency of the Catholic Diocese of Sydney with support from the Parramatta and Broken Bay Dioceses. We provide services throughout the Greater Sydney area.

We provide services and support to all members of the deaf community and their families. We offer pastoral care (including home and nursing home visits), regular Mass and Sacraments, sacramental preparation, marriage preparation (for all couples), family support and advocacy, social and education groups, youth outreach, Catholic funeral service support, and deaf awareness education programs in Catholic schools and Churches. We also have a number of groups which meet at the centre on a regular basis (pre-school play group, craft group, deaf café) which are open to all. We also publish a quarterly newsletter.

Parent Council for Deaf Education (PCDE) – Mark Burfield, President

Parent Council for Deaf Education (PCDE) is the NSW “peak body” for parents with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. PCDE provides parents with independent and unbiased information, support networks and representation, irrespective of the chosen method of communication with their children. PCDE also seeks to collaborate with professionals, government departments and other organisations to promote equity of access to services and improve opportunities for the children to reach their full potential.

PCDE was established in 1961 as the Federation of Junior Deaf Education (FJDE) under the presidency of Brian Brecht. Brian was from the Burwood OD (Opportunity Deaf Class) Parent Group. Though the initial focus was on educational opportunities of deaf students, PCDE has been seeking to address and support the full range of issues for parents with children who are deaf or hard of hearing to the extent of contemplating another name change, possibly within this year, our 50th anniversary. Parent support groups (PODs) and information sessions

for parents and carers are held regularly. These groups are currently located in Randwick, Gordon and Liverpool and are free to join. The development of further groups is encouraged and supported. People can become members for \$33/year, which includes subscription to our quarterly magazine, "Sound News".

PCDE sees great benefits in formalising an ongoing relationship with the Deaf Society of NSW. These benefits include an opportunity to build on our networks with the broader deaf community and to gain a wider profile in that community. We see benefits for our members in linking them to a wider range of services and information sources. It also makes sense to pool our resources and expertise with work being done to lobbying government for improved services for deaf children.

We already collaborate with the Deaf Society in the provision of Parent-to-Parent Support. We are also supporting the Deaf Society's bid to host the World Federation of Deaf International Conference in 2013. In signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Deaf Society of NSW and PCDE, we are demonstrating yet again our commitment to work collaboratively with fellow organisations in the Deafness Sector. PCDE congratulates the Deaf Society of NSW on its initiative to formalise relationships through the Memorandum of Understanding. PCDE looks forward to an ongoing long and fruitful association.

Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association – Chevoy Sweeney, President

ASLIA (NSW) is the association that represents Auslan interpreters and Deaf Relay interpreters in NSW. ASLIA is a not for profit body that provides professional development workshops, information and advocacy on issues that affect the NSW interpreting community, and Deaf and hearing consumers.

As an association, ASLIA (NSW) enjoys a mutual relationship with the Deaf Society of NSW, working together to ensure that the Deaf Community of NSW has access to appropriately skilled interpreters. We were pleased to be able to sign the MOU with the Deaf Society in recognition of our ongoing partnership.

ASLIA (NSW) and the Deaf Society of NSW have worked collaboratively on numerous projects:

- ASLIA NSW and Deaf Australia NSW organised the 2009 awards night with support from DSNSW
- In 1997, the DSNSW supported ASLIA in providing the interpreters National Conference in Sydney
- Many professional development events for interpreters





































In 2008 the Deaf Society also won the 'Organisation of the Year' award at the ASLIA NSW awards night.

ASLIA (NSW) is pleased that the informal collaboration that we have had in the past has led to a more formal memorandum with the Deaf Society, ensuring that our partnership continues to grow, providing benefits to both interpreters and Deaf consumers alike.

In signing the memorandum, we hope to maintain a professional relationship with the Deaf Society, in which we can gain support to continue in our provision of opportunities for interpreters and keep on providing the Deaf Society with ideas and feedback from our association. In this way, interpreters will be able to work in a field in which they can look for and receive support and encouragement to work to their fullest potential.

Deaf Sudoku

(answer on page 25)

Silent Messenger

Message from the Secretary – Sherrie Beaver

With a new issue of the Herald, comes a new introduction. This edition will introduce the current Vice President of Deaf Australia (NSW), Katrina Lancaster. Katrina is no stranger to the board, being Board Member, Secretary and President between the years of 2004-2006. Katrina currently works as a Family and Youth Worker for the Deaf Society and has been in this role for over three years. Katrina graduated from her Bachelor of Community Welfare (International Social Development) in late 2010, after spending five months working as a volunteer in Samoa. Katrina is involved in the NSW Deaf Community and Interpreter Awards committee as well as the QLD Floods Fundraiser committee.

Time Capsule

As some of you may remember, Deaf Australia (NSW) when it was known as the New South Wales Association of the Deaf (NSWAD) or Deaf General Committee (DGC) formed a subcommittee in 1981, as part of the International Year of Disabled People (IYDP). This subcommittee put together a time capsule; the contents are unknown to the general public.

This time capsule was created to celebrate the rights of people with disabilities, which was a profound breakthrough not only for people with disabilities but members of the Deaf community.

This time capsule was placed in Stanmore where the Deaf Society once held its offices, now known as Newington College. When the Deaf Society sold the buildings to Newington College, it was agreed between the two organisations that the time capsule would remain secure until 5th February 2082 - when it can be opened.

The Deaf Community can feel assured that the time capsule is secured and has not been forgotten about. Only 71 more years before this can be opened!

Insight on SBS

For those who are not familiar with this program, Insight on SBS is a forum-style TV show where new and different ideas are discussed with a variety of people. This show encourages debate from all levels. Deaf Australia (NSW), along with the Deaf Society and PCDE are lobbying for an improvement in Deaf Education and we would love this topic to be discussed on Insight so we would like to encourage our readers to go to <http://news.sbs.com.au/insight/suggest> and enter your details and suggest Deaf Education and a bilingual approach that respects sign language or Deaf Education and how it can incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Hopefully this will become a topic on Insight so we can promote awareness of the issues surrounding Deaf Education.

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.

Community News

This section is new. If you wish to submit your news, please contact Colin Allen, Editor. Word limit: 200 words, and please include a good quality photo.

Presentation on life as a Deaf Person

Graeme Stevenson

Graeme Stevenson, who works at the Defence National Storage and Distribution Centre gave a presentation on his life as a deaf person to an audience of 60 people on Friday 3rd December 2010 (the International Day of People with a Disability). Graeme enjoyed playing tennis as a child and was very disappointed when it was decided that he shouldn't play competition tennis because he wouldn't be able to hear the umpire. Graeme has enjoyed many years of playing bowls with Deaf Bowling Clubs, travelling Australia for competitions, and is in the Deaf Darts Group at Revesby Workers Club. The audience found the presentation informative and enjoyable, and a highlight was watching Graeme doing his first tandem sky dive at Picton. A gold coin donation was requested from the audience and a total of \$120.00 was collected for donation to The Deaf Society.

Deaf Women's Guild of Sydney

Susannah Macready and Colin Allen

According to the book "Deaf Women's Guild – 75 Years Celebration", the Deaf Women's Guild started as a Ladies Committee with fortnightly meetings in 1922 when the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of NSW had its headquarters in Daking House, Sydney. Now, 89 years later, the Deaf Women's Guild is still going strong. They meet on the first Saturday of each month at the Barn House, 45 Belmore Street, Burwood at Noon. The programme offers a variety of games and activities, and the group also plans a Christmas luncheon each year. Mary Cook succeeded Margo Allen as president 14 years ago, and has been leading the group ever since. The patron of the group is a long-standing member, Dorothy Sankey.

Country Music Festival Jan 14th - 24th 2011, Tamworth

Julie Grimwood and Ann-Maree Marshall

The Country Music Festival is held in Tamworth in January for 10 days every year, and many of the Tamworth Deaf community put on their boots, cowgirl/boy hat, belts, jeans etc. Many visitors came from Sydney, Newcastle, Dubbo, Cowra, and Melbourne, just to name a few.

A group of us went and bought tickets to watch several country music shows and one of the most popular shows of all was Adam Brand's Midnight Birthday Bash. Ann-Maree Marshall first met Adam Brand in 2000; they became not only great friends but very close friends. In 2000, Ann-Maree performed sign singing with Adam Brand in front of 1,500 fans and she has been performing with him ever since. Adam admitted that he was blown away by Ann-Maree's spirit, rhythm and determination when they first met. Adam Brand won Dancing with the Stars in 2009 with his partner, now wife Jade.

A group of Deaf people attended his show for the first time with great excitement and throughout the show they all cheered him on. They not only loved the show but also fell in love with Adam. Adam Brand came out at the end of the show, just to meet some Deaf people. The Deaf couldn't get their eyes off him and rocked on.

Every year, we all get together at The Albert Pub on the last Saturday of the festival. A large group of us got together and we all had a fab time. Many of us put on our hats n boots, joked and laughed throughout the evening. Some of us danced and shared great memories and there were smiles all round.

The next Country Music Festival will be held from Jan 13th - 23rd 2012.

Come join the Australian Deaf Pilgrims Group going to World Youth Day 2011, Madrid!

Danni Wright

We, at the Ephpheta Centre, have exciting news!

We have an Australian Deaf Pilgrims Group going to World Youth Day 2011 (WYD11), Madrid, Spain! More information about our group and access provisions is below. If you (or someone you know) are interested in joining our group, please contact me on danni@ephpheta.org.au urgently!

At the end of 2010, our group number was 13, including two Group Leaders, both Deaf, and three Professional Auslan Interpreters, experienced in conference interpreting and interpreting overseas. Seven young Deaf people are very excited about this opportunity and are working hard, fundraising for this event.

We will leave Sydney around 8th August and return home around 24th August 2011. We will be doing the Spirit of St Francis (Italian) tour before WYD11 week in Madrid, joining with the International Deaf Pilgrims!! Many activities during WYD11 week will be with the International Deaf Pilgrims and are fully accessible!

The information applicable is on the website, just click on this link: www.ephpheta.org.au/wyd11deaf.shtml

We would like to invite YOU to join the Australian Deaf Pilgrims Group & experience World Youth Day 2011, Madrid, with these Deaf Youth and to use the resources (Interpreters and Group Leaders) we have.

What do you need to join the Group?

- \$5600 plus pocket money
- Passport valid until after February 2012
- Return flight to Madrid (we can help you arrange this.)

If you don't have the money, but are very keen to go, please let us know. We can support you by writing to your diocese (area) Bishop (e.g. the Bishop of Townsville) to ask them to support you in going.

NSW KODA CAMP 2011 (8th - 10th APRIL)

Kylie Pickup (NSW Camp Co-ordinator)

Is your child hearing and has Deaf parents? Is your child between the ages of 10-17? Then come along to the NSW KODA camp 2011!

The KODA committee (linked to CODA Australia) have planned three fantastic camps - one to be held in NSW in April. We have a number of wonderful activities planned and a parents' workshop on the last day of the camp. We are really excited and hope your kids can come along to KODA 2011!

The NSW KODA camp is getting closer! Parents - please make sure that if you wish your child to attend this camp you fill out the registration forms and return them to the KODA committee.

The camp fee of \$150 also needs to be paid ASAP.

For more information, visit www.codaaustralia.com and www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifyz6ggY-J4

Also make sure you share with your friends so nobody misses out! Don't forget we have two other KODA camps running in Queensland and Victoria so if you have friends in other states who might be interested, forward it on to them. If you have any question, please let us know. We are very excited about the weekend we have planned.

Deaf Sports News

Editor: Tony Clews

If you want to send a story for the next issue, feel free to email me at tclews@deaf.nsw.edu.au

2012 Australian Deaf Games

The 2012 Australian Deaf Games will be held from Saturday 14th to Saturday 21st January 2012 in Geelong with the opening ceremony on the evening of the 14th.

The program will feature 20 sports as outlined in the Australian Deaf Games website and is designed to maximise participation and ensure those wishing to play multiple sports are given the opportunity to do so where possible.

The 2012 Australian Deaf Games website has now been launched!
The website can be viewed at www.austdeafgames.org.au

Sydney Star Ten Pin Bowling Club

Deaf people meet on the second Sunday of each month (except in months where the weekend falls on the long weekend, they meet the first Sunday). There are about 30 players to enjoy the Ten Pin Bowling Club; they meet at the Blacktown WestPoint Centre (Top Floor). If you wish to get more information about this, please email shadan@netspace.net.au

Deaf Sports Working Group in NSW

The Deaf Sports working group held an open meeting on 17th December 2010 at Club Burwood with a turnout of 50 people.

Ida Rogers, who is a contact person of the Deaf Sports working group, gave a presentation about the current situation with Deaf Sports in NSW and the Australian Deaf Games – Geelong 2012.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the group agreed to hold another meeting with deaf sport clubs representatives on 23rd February 2011.

The aim of this meeting will be to see how many sports clubs will send their teams to participate in the XVI Australian Deaf Games and to see if we can work with the Deaf Society of NSW to set up Deaf Sports NSW in the near future.

For more details about Deaf Sports, please contact Ida Rogers at irogers@deaf.nsw.edu.au

International Deaf Cricket

Results of a recent international deaf cricket tournament in Geelong – 17th to 27th January 2011.

Deaf Ashes

Australia – 157 & 246 drew with England 188 & 7/129

One Day Internationals

Australia 5/279 defeated South Africa 147

South Africa 123 lost to England 5/235

Australia 180 lost to England 6/278

FINAL – Australia 1/63 defeated England 62

T20 Internationals

South Africa 85 lost to England 91

Australia 104 lost to England 5/154

Australia 4/147 defeated South Africa 8/140

FINAL - England 1/91 defeated Australia 9/90

Upcoming sports events:

- April 4 World Deaf Lawn Bowls Championships – Perth, Western Australia.
- May 6-8 2011 Australian Deaf Golf Championships – Normaville, South Australia.
- July 8 – 10 Deaf Basketball Association of South Australia - 50th Year Anniversary
More information please contact Secretary David Edwards: dbasa@live.com.au or
text Alan Sandon: 0418 881 144

Deaf Sports in NSW

Please contact the individual groups for their event program.

Sports/Recreation Groups	Contact Person	Contact Details
Deaf Basketball Club	Sokong Kim	sokong@tpg.com.au
Deaf Cricket Club	Andrew Park	dcnsw@live.com
Deaf Darts Club	Wendy Lancaster	wez.lancaster@gmail.com
Deaf Football Australia	Brian Seymour	secretary@deaffootballaustralia.com.au
Deaf Lawn Bowls	Peter Hannan	pjenny1@optusnet.com.au
Deaf Poker Group	Sokong Kim	dpa@deafpoker.com.au
Deaf Rugby	Simon Mahony	southerncrossdeafrugby@hotmail.com
Deaf Table Tennis	Trevor Boyle	tboyle.mgirke@bigpond.com
Deaf Tennis	John Lui	jlui@deaftennisaustralia.org
Deaf Ten Pin Bowling Club	Bruce Shaw	shadan@netspace.net.au
Deaf Volleyball	David Larkin	David.Larkin@aecom.com

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

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

Deaf Women's Guild of Sydney

The Guild meets on the first Saturday of each month at The Barn, 45 Belmore Street, Burwood at Noon. Each month they have a different activity program

Usher Group

Usher's Group Meeting

Friday, 8 April

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

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

Northern NSW Region

Lismore Games Day

Second Wednesday of the month

10am to 12pm.

Deaf Society office Lismore, 22 Conway St, Lismore

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

Lismore Office Morning Tea

Mondays: 28 March, 18 April, 30 May

10am to 12pm

Deaf Society office Lismore, 22 Conway St, Lismore

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

Deaf Chat

Friday, 4 March

10am to 2pm

Casino RSL Club, 162 Canterbury St, Casino

Contact: Kathryn Rathborne: SMS: 0427 535 856

Friday, 1 April

10am to 2pm

Jenny's Coffee Lounge, 72 Summerland Way, Kyogle

Contact: Kathryn Rathborne: SMS: 0427 535 856

Friday, 29 April

10am to 2pm

Ballina RSL, River St, Ballina

Contact: Kathryn Rathborne: SMS: 0427 535 856

Friday, 13 May

10am to 2pm

Alstonville Federal Hotel, Main St, Atstonville

Contact: Kathryn Rathborne: SMS: 0427 535 856

Friday, 10 June

10am to 2pm

Lismore RSL Club, Keen St, Lismore

Contact: Kathryn Rathborne: SMS: 0427 535 856

Coffs Coast Region

Coffs Harbour Morning Tea

Every Wednesday

10am to 2pm

Boambee Community Centre, Bruce King Drive, Boambee

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

Social days

Third Sunday of the month

between 11am and 3pm

Various locations

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

Grafton

Sunday, 20 March

From 11am

See Park, Pound St, Grafton

Bring meats, drinks & chair

Contact: Bernadette Keane: SMS: 0439 604 637 or Peter-John Ross: SMS: 0438 518 283

Myleston

Sunday, 17 April

From 11am

Alma Doepel Park, George St, Myleston

Bring meats, drinks & chair

Contact: Bernadette Keane: SMS: 0439 604 637 or Peter-John Ross: SMS: 0438 518 283

New England Region

Social days

Saturday, 19 March - 7pm

Good Companions, 9-11 Brisbane St, Tamworth

Contact: Julia Griffiths: jgriffiths@deafsociety.com / SMS: 0406 672 500 or
Anne-Maree Marshall: SMS: 0409 655 263

Saturday, 9 April

10.30am

Lake Keepit Dam, Keepit Dam Rd, Lake Keepit

Bring BBQ meat/picnic

Contact: Julia Griffiths: jgriffiths@deafsociety.com / SMS: 0406 672 500 or
Anne-Maree Marshall: SMS: 0409 655 263

Monday, 25 April

11am (Easter Picnic)

Anzac Park, Fitzroy St, Tamworth

Bring BBQ or picnic, chairs

Contact: Julia Griffiths: jgriffiths@deafsociety.com / SMS: 0406 672 500

Sunday, 1 May

9.30am

The Great Nundle Dog Race

Bring picnic, chairs & dogs

Contact: Julie Grimwood: SMS: 0429 203 769 or Ann-Maree Marshall: SMS: 0409 655 263

Saturday, 11 June - 1pm

Longyard Hotel, The Ringers Rd, Tamworth

Contact: Julie Grimwood: SMS: 0429 203 769 or Ann-Maree Marshall: SMS: 0409 655 263

Hunter and Central Coast Region

Deaf Community BBQ

Saturday, 26 March

10.30am

Jesmond Park

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

Newcastle Deaf Society Night

Fourth Saturday of every month (except April changed to 30 April due to Easter)

6pm at the Bistro for dinner or 7.30pm at the bar

West's Leagues Club, Hobart Rd, Lambton

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: deafclub@goldcoastinc.net / SMS: 0408 762 414

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

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

Every tuesday from 9am

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

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

Wing & Pears Coffee Shop

First Friday of every month. 10am to 12pm

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

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

Auslan Practice Groups

Glebe

Every second Saturday morning

10am to 12pm

Broadway Shopping Centre Food Court

Contact: 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

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.

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

Contact: Anne Ward: SMS: 0427 123 013

Third Saturday of the month

10.30am

Aroma's Cafe at Glendale Shopping Centre

Contact: Pam Wells: SMS: 0411 855 950

Central Coast

Second Saturday of the month

"MyCafe" Imperial Centre, Gosford (opp. Woolworths)

Contact: richard.james.waters@gmail.com

Coffs Harbour

Every Wednesday

10am to 12pm

Boambee Community Centre, Bruce King Drive, Boambee

Contact: Coffs Coast Deaf Community: SMS: 0439 604 637

Orange

First Sunday of the month from 2pm

Beekeeper Inn, 2319 Mitchell Highway, Vittoria

Contact: Paul Nordheim: pnordheim@deafsociety.com / SMS: 0409 745 288

Gold Coast

Third Saturday every two months from 2pm

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

Contact: Christine White: SMS: 0415 952 205

South Coast

Every Tuesday - 9.30am-11am

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

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

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.

<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 June edition of the Herald is 2nd May 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.

Subscribe online:

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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 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/03-nsw_deaf_herald.pdf

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 – 9.00am to 3.00pm

Level 3, 108-110 Hunter St, Newcastle

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

Coffs Harbour

Wednesdays – 9am to 2pm

Boambee Community Centre, Bruce King Drive, Boambee

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

Port Macquarie

First Tuesday – (Feb, May, Aug & Nov)

Port City Bowling Club, 4 Owen St, Port Macquarie

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

Lismore

Wednesdays & Thursdays – 9.30am to 1pm

22 Conway St, Lismore

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

Tweed Heads

Third Thursday of each month – 10am to 12.30pm

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 1pm (Mondays – 1.30pm to 4pm Appointment Only)

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

First Tuesday – (March, June, Sept & Dec)

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

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 (type **PPP**), fire (type **FFF**) or ambulance (type **AAA**).
- 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.

End of line.