

Interview with Jody Saxton-Barney, Consultant, Deaf Indigenous Community

Colin Allen interviewed Jody Saxton-Barney

Who are you?

My name is Jody Saxton-Barney. I'm a deaf Aboriginal woman from Eastern Queensland. I'm one of 11 children and have a twin brother who is deaf. I'm actually a triplet but my identical sister died of meningitis. I bridge four cultures – I have an Irish mother, a hearing family, am deaf, and with an Aboriginal father. He was stolen when he was two years old, and then I was stolen when I was two, in 1973. I was stolen because I was both deaf and fair. My twin brother was also stolen for similar reasons, although my other brothers and sisters weren't. Being stolen was a loss of identity and spiritual knowledge. It took me thirty years to fully understand my kinship, friends, etc.

What made you establish the deaf Aboriginal consultancy?

At that time, I was working for an organisation for migrants. I realised I couldn't help people from overseas if I couldn't help my own people. At the same time I was being prevented from doing client work at another workplace because of my deafness. So I went to TAFE and later to university and recently completed my Bachelor of Management degree. My business was set up in 2007 and has been growing ever since. It is about making sure there is a bridge between deaf and Aboriginal groups.

Is that company you are running now the only one in Australia providing that service?

Yes, it's the only one, but there are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who advise me; I go to the community and ask for information and also they give me accountability and make sure I am respecting the culture. That keeps me responsible for my behaviour and the advice I provide.

How many deaf Aboriginal people are there?

I have over 700 profoundly deaf Aboriginal people on my database and over 8,000 hearing impaired in Australia. According to Aboriginal health statistics, 40% of Aboriginal people are severely or profoundly deaf (in remote communities up to 80 or 90%). In NSW, 40% of 180,000 equals 60,000 Aboriginal people with what the Australian Bureau of Statistics calls a "significant hearing loss".

Is there any official reconciliation plan between a deaf organisation and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities that you know of?

No. Not yet.

So if we wanted the Deaf Society to be the first deaf organisation with a reconciliation plan, how can we start working on one? Should we build more partnerships in this area?

First you need an introduction to the community, and I can help to establish the first contact so you can have a good yarn with them. That would be a starting point. If you establish a connection with elders, the community will be more accepting of your approach.

Why haven't many organisations done this yet?

I think in the past organisations have tried to encourage the inclusion of deaf Aboriginal people but haven't known how. Consultancy has happened with organisations, but not with the community. The organisations can be great, but talking to them is not real community consultation. Real community consultation is difficult to understand within a Western framework.

Deaf people are open-minded, but they also need to learn that Aboriginal deaf people need their Aboriginal culture too. I think it is also important that if a deaf person meets an Aboriginal deaf person they should not make assumptions that they are white, just because they may look fair.

From the CEO

In our feature story for this edition, you will see all the exciting news from the XVI World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf in Durban, South Africa, where we had a wonderful experience (see page 14 - 16).

The Board of the Deaf Society is very proud of our two staff members who have been elected to international boards. Colin Allen was elected as the President of the World Federation of the Deaf and Sheena Walters was appointed as the Australasia and Oceania Regional Representative for the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters. Congratulations Colin and Sheena!

In more good news from the Deaf Society Board, we have two new casual board members; Mr Michael Lockrey and Mr Vivek Prahbu. They will be casual board members until the Annual General Meeting, when they will be able to stand for election. Both have a high level of experience in finance which will be of great benefit to the board in keeping a good balance of all the many skills needed for governance.

Inside the Deaf Society, we also have exciting news. The board has approved a new department called Advocacy and Community Development. The purpose of this new department is to support community development, and lobby for changes that will improve access and quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing people. The Advocacy and Community Development Department will be established on 1st October and will look after three main programs; the Community Education Program (run by Tony Clews), the Youth Development Program (run by Katrina Lancaster) and the Smoke Alarm Subsidy Scheme (run by our new project co-ordinator, Greg Mills). The manager of the department will also focus on advocacy work to improve access for deaf people. The new manager of the department will be Kate Matairavula.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to attend the Deaf Society of NSW's 98th Annual General Meeting which will be held on Saturday, 29 October at the Heritage Centre, Church Street, Parramatta. The meeting will give everyone insight into the work the Deaf Society has done for the Deaf Community in NSW in 2011, and will elect the board for 2012.

Looking forward to seeing you on 29 October.

Sharon Everson

Chief Executive Officer

Editorial

Welcome to the fifth issue of the *NSW Deaf Herald*. As part of our annual plan we asked our readers for feedback on the last four issues of the *Herald*. 10% of the *Herald* subscribers provided feedback and these are the main results:-

- 51% Respondents are deaf readers /
8% Respondents are hard of hearing readers
- 55% Respondents are female
- 60% Respondents are between 31-50 years old
- 80% Respondents are happy with the timing of the NSW Deaf Herald (every three months)
- 92% Respondents stated the *Herald* is clear and easy to read.

We asked about your preferred sections to read in the *Herald*, and the results were:-

- 64% - Updates and News from the Deaf Society
- 62% - Community News
- 59% - Events
- 49% - Silent Messenger
- 46% - "On this Day..."
- 40% - Deaf Sports News
- 40% - Spotlight on the Regional Office
- 36% - Auslan Practice Groups
- 38% - Emergency Contact Details
- 28% - Walk In Services
- 13% - Deaf Sudoku

Thank you for your feedback! This gives the Editorial Team a good opportunity to review the *Herald* and keep improving upcoming editions.

The Deaf Festival is back! The Deaf Festival will be organised by Deaf Australia (NSW) with support from the Deaf Society, PCDE, Ephpheta Centre and ASLIA (NSW). The Festival will be held on the riverbank of the Parramatta River on Saturday, 15 October 2011. Kate Matairavula has written a wonderful piece on the history of the Deaf Festival – it shows just how important the Deaf Festival has been for the Deaf Community. Enjoy her story on page 6.

And finally, one more piece of exciting news. The Deaf Society is now partnering with the NSW State Emergency Service for a very important research project by the University of NSW. This project will research how to prepare the Deaf Community in NSW for natural hazards and disasters such as floods, cyclones, and bushfires – please see more information on page 13.

Enjoy the spring days!

Colin Allen

Director of Services

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Deaf Festival – 2011

Contribution by Kate Matairavula

Did you know the word 'festival' is about 700 years old? It is closely related to the word 'feast'. We tend to think of 'feast' meaning lots of food or a huge meal but the older meaning of the word is 'joyful' or 'merry'. The meaning comes from the Latin word 'festus'. This word was also used as a plural noun: 'festa' which meant 'celebratory ceremonies, particularly of a religious nature'.

Well, Deaf Festival is about 20 years old. We don't always do a lot of eating (maybe a sausage or two) but we do hope to have a joyful time. We certainly celebrate each other as deaf people and the importance of the Deaf Community. Our festival is not a religious one but some people do religiously attend.

This year the Deaf Festival will be part of National Week of Deaf People. Please keep 15th October free for a unique celebration on the banks of the Parramatta River.

Before we had National Week of Deaf People, we had Deaf Pride Week and before Deaf Pride Week we had Deafness Awareness Week.

Before 1991 the Deaf Community and hard of hearing people used to celebrate together through Deafness Awareness Week. The Deaf Expo was one of the events held through this time. In 1991 the Deaf Community in NSW started Deaf Pride Week. Deaf Pride Week was set up because the Deaf Community wanted to celebrate and take pride in their language and culture in a more assertive way. Events such as Deaf Writers In The Park, film and art competitions, story telling nights and theatre performances were how we celebrated. After 1991, Deafness Awareness Week changed its name to Hearing Awareness Week and this is when the Deaf Community and hard of hearing people began separate events.

The first Deaf Festival in Australia started in 1991 in Brisbane. In NSW, the first Deaf Festival was planned for 1995. It was first held in Parramatta. Then it was held for several years until 2000 at Darling Harbour. We have now come full circle with the festival being held in Parramatta again this year.

So come along and be 'festus' at our 2011 'festa'.

There will be food, entertainment, workshops, face painting and circus skills!



DSNSW Board Profile - Ken Deacon, Chair

Ken joined the board of the Deaf Society following the successful merger with Deaf Education Network (DEN) in 2006. Ken was the President of DEN at that time, a former student of DEN who became interested in deafness through his work at IBM and association with deaf colleagues. Ken is married with two daughters who are both grown up and at university.

Ken is passionate about education and equity for deaf people particularly in the area of education. He is a prolific reader and creator of documentation especially policies and procedures. In his spare time he is an avid collector of many diverse items; he also loves dining out and socialising in the Deaf Community.

Deaf Sudoku

(answer on page 30)

A message from Australian Taxation Office - ATO

It is tax time! Do you need help?

The ATO has a service called "Tax Help." Tax Help is a free and confidential service for those who have earned around \$50,000 or less and have simple tax matters.

Tax Help volunteers are fully trained by the ATO and can help you with your tax return at a local community centre near you.

If you want more information about Tax Help or want to make an appointment, visit the ATO website at www.ato.gov.au/taxhelp or call the ATO on **13 28 61** through the National Relay Service.

- TTY users phone **13 36 77**
- speak and listen (speech-to-speech) relay users, phone **1300 555 727**
- internet relay users connect to **www.relayservice.com.au**

You have a number of other options to fill out your tax return:

- 1. Internet** by using e-tax. You can download e-tax on ATO's website: www.ato.gov.au/etax
- 2. Paper forms** using Tax Pack and TaxPack 2011 supplement from ATO shopfronts and most newsagents

Remember if you are preparing your own return you need to lodge it by **31 October 2011**.

If you are using a tax agent for the first time or you are using a different tax agent this year, you must contact them by 31 October 2011. Make sure your agent is registered. A list of registered tax agents can be found on the Tax Practitioners Board website at www.tpb.gov.au.

Success Story – DSNSW Employment Service

We asked some consumers to write their stories about finding work through us, and one woman wrote a lovely six page story about her experiences of seeking employment, her frustrations and successes. This is her edited story.

Lynn was a social worker with a postgraduate degree in Teaching (Infants/Primary) and worked in the UK and Australia before experiencing yet another drop in her hearing resulting in severe to profound deafness. She was not able to get assistance in the UK so she returned to Australia.

She was referred to a local Disability Employment Service (DES) provider. Her first appointment was only ten minutes long and her caseworker said she was confident she would find employment for her and took note that she should be contacted by sms, email or 'snail mail'. The next appointment reminder (and the next) came via a voice call! A few weeks later the DES provider informed her that she had a new job and they said it would be perfect for her.

It was a job working with Hydroponics! She had to cut the roots of hydroponically grown vegetables with a sharp knife. She was up for it as she had experience doing process work when she was a university student. However, when her caseworker visited her and was talking to her behind her back, he realised Lynn could not hear so picked up some vegetable leaves and threw them to get her attention. Remember, she was concentrating hard, working with a very sharp knife. Being hit with vegetable leaves in the back of the head certainly got her attention, but it also impaired her vision and nearly cost her a finger. That job did not work out and Lynn felt dispirited.

A few weeks later at the local library Lynn saw a brochure for a new Employment Service – the Deaf Society Employment Service. She turned up at our Niagara Park office and was surprised with the service she got. David asked her how she would prefer to communicate; by sign, by writing or through the spoken word. This time the appointment reminders came by letter and sms! Lynn was astonished to find that she could drop in and use the computers when she wanted to. When she found an advert in the newspaper with a job that looked promising she got support, encouragement and ideas all the way through the application process.

When she got an interview, the Employment Officer passed on her communication requests to the interview panel and the panel were keen to work with her so that she would feel comfortable with communication in the interview. The Employment Officer had also made suggestions about how to take control of the communication and the interview went well.

Lynn got the job! There were a couple of hurdles – relying on colleagues to make phone calls was awkward, and accessing the staff meetings every three months was another challenge. Lynn got a TTY to make NRS calls as the workplace had a strict IT policy and she couldn't make calls through the internet. The Employment Officer organised for the NRS to come in to give Lynn training on how to use the TTY. The Employment Service also applied for an iPad for Lynn so she can access real time captioning at meetings. The meetings now go really well and she participates in them comfortably.

Lynn’s confidence has returned, she is employed in a job which utilises her social work skills, and she can function on par with her hearing colleagues. Thanks to Lynn for sharing her story with us and allowing it to be printed in the *Herald*.

Launch of the Family Safety in Auslan Video Resource

The “Family Safety in Auslan” video resource was officially launched by the NSW Minister for Women and Minister for Family and Community Services, the Hon. Prudence Goward MP on 24 June 2011 at the Heritage Centre, Parramatta.

This project created and produced a set of video resource materials in Auslan and is accessible to deaf Australians on the Deaf Society website: www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/domestic_violence

These videos have information about domestic violence and support services.

“This project will see deaf people in possession of a better understanding of principles of safe family relationships, greater confidence in accessing support services, and full information about services that are available for the prevention of domestic violence,” said Deaf Society Chief Executive Officer, Sharon Everson.

There are 15 clips on the website and each clip is approximately 2 – 3 minutes in length. The information is presented in Auslan and English text is provided for access to people who don’t use Auslan.

Video content includes the following:

1. What is Domestic Violence?		
1. Physical Abuse	2. Sexual Abuse	3. Emotional Abuse (Intimidation)
4. Emotional Abuse (Isolation)	5. Verbal Abuse	6. Financial Abuse
2. Cycle of Violence	3. Effects on Children	4. Warning Signs
5. Is Your Relationship Healthy?	6. What Can I Do?	7. Apprehended Violence Orders
8. Where Can I Get Support?	9. Credits	

Content for the videos was developed in consultation with specialist services such as Women’s Legal Services NSW and NSW Network of Women with Disability, a division of Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association, and deaf women. The project was funded by the Violence Prevention Coordination Unit, Office of Women’s Policy, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Deafhood

On 28 May 2011 the Deaf Society organised a workshop on Deafhood and Deaf Gain for Deaf people. The aim of this workshop was to build on earlier workshops on Deaf Studies that Breda Carty pioneered in Australia, and was led by Robert Adam, a former Deaf Society staff member who now works as a postgraduate researcher at the Deafness Cognition and Language Research Centre at University College London.

There were a total of 22 people at the workshop and there were plenty of lively discussions about some of the issues which came up. It was very good to see such a range of people from different age groups and different backgrounds come together to talk about such important things.

The workshop had four themes: what is Deaf Culture, what is Deafhood, what is colonialism and resistance and what is Deaf Gain. There is research being done in other countries on sign language and Deaf Culture and it is important for Deaf people to keep up to date with what is happening.

We started by talking about what we know about Deaf Culture, and how it is very strongly linked to our sign language – the two cannot be separated. We discussed minority cultures and how they are almost always oppressed cultures. It is important for Deaf people as a minority group to control how the language and culture are described, portrayed and taught – Deaf interpreters are a possible way for Deaf people to take back some cultural control!

Deafhood is a concept that was developed by Dr Paddy Ladd at the Centre for Deaf Studies at the University of Bristol. It is seen as the opposite of being deaf: a positive situation where Deaf people feel liberated by being Deaf. It is a process and Deaf people experience different journeys as Deaf people in their lifetime.

We also talked about colonialism and resistance; where it happens (in education, in interpreting, in society) and how oppressed groups respond to oppression. We even saw a YouTube clip of elderly Deaf people protesting in Nottingham, England about cuts to Deaf services.

The workshop ended with the topic 'Deaf Gain'. We discussed the positive things about being Deaf and how the world has benefitted from Deaf people. One important example is that Deaf people for example contribute to knowledge of neuroscience. Research in the UK has shown that the same parts of the brain for example are activated when a Deaf person watches sign language as when a hearing person listens to spoken English. The world of neuroscience now knows that these parts of the brain do not necessarily need to process speech.

It is hoped that this workshop will lead to more discussions on this topic.

“On this day...”

Many people still remember a visit from the Indian Deaf Cricket Team in 1985, and the Silent Messenger for January/ February 1986 has a report talking about this. The teams played a test series and a limited overs series. Australia won the test series 2-0 with 3 drawn, and the limited overs series 2-0. The man of the test series was S. Magan from India, and the best all-rounder of the series was P. Jurgenstedin of Australia. The man of the limited overs series was M. Holloway from Australia. Were you in the team? Were you involved in helping out? Why not write to us with information for the next *Herald*?

Youth Deaf Leaders Retreat

The Deaf Society had the opportunity to send two NSW representatives; Joshua Sealy (Sydney) and Siobhan McAlary (Newcastle) to Vicdeaf’s Young Deaf Leaders Retreat in Flowerdale, VIC between 26 and 28 November 2010. The NSW representatives joined nine other representatives, five from Victoria (one from regional VIC); three from Queensland and one from South Australia.

The aim of the retreat was to give young deaf and hard of hearing people confidence to be leaders in whatever area they choose to pursue. The retreat had workshops in leadership, ‘thinking outside the square’, overcoming fear, and self confidence which were run by three leaders and guest speakers from Melbourne. On the last day of the retreat, there was a planning workshop where all participants discussed ideas for their own projects to work on.

The follow-up workshop was held on 7 May 2011, where all participants got together and discussed progress on their individual projects as well as having two guest speakers discuss motivation, expectations and planning with the aim of encouraging participants to do more within their projects.

Joshua Sealy, who chose to work on establishing a local youth group in Sydney, said “it was a unique experience to gather with young deaf people like myself and muse on ideas of leadership with the aid and wisdom of adult deaf leaders. It was great to hear various perspectives, stories and experiences on the topic of leadership. ”

Siobhan McAlary, who set up a reading/literacy program in primary schools for deaf and hard of hearing children, said “the retreat was great, I met some very inspiring people who helped give me focus in my career and learnt that getting out of your comfort zone is the best way to progress.”

On 12 May 2011, representatives from Vicdeaf and the Deaf Society of NSW met in Tasmania to discuss the future of this project and other youth initiatives. Exciting things to come!

Preparing the Deaf Community in NSW for natural hazards and disasters – an exciting new research partnership

The Deaf Society has joined forces in a new partnership with the NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) and the Natural Hazards Research Laboratory at the University of New South Wales (NHRL – UNSW) on an exciting new research project. The aim of the project is to make the Deaf Community better prepared for natural hazards and disasters like floods and bushfires.

NSW regularly has natural hazards that take human life, cause injuries and suffering, destroy homes and businesses and damage roads, bridges, and other important services.

In the recent floods (January 2011) and Cyclone Yasi (February 2011) both of which badly affected Queensland communities, many people noticed that Premier Anna Bligh and Emergency Management Queensland used Auslan interpreters to communicate directly with the Deaf Community during live television conferences. Premier Bligh should be congratulated for using interpreters, but when the power failed and television, internet and telephones stopped working, Deaf Community members couldn't get the information they needed to stay safe. This is not acceptable.

The Deaf Society has partnered with the NSW SES and the NHRL - UNSW to get a two year research grant worth over \$500,000. NHRL – UNSW and the Deaf Society will use the money to investigate what members of the Deaf Community of NSW already know about hazards and disasters that could happen to them. We will ask deaf people across NSW what types of information they need to help them prepare for future hazards, and how the emergency services can communicate with deaf people during real emergencies. The project also aims to inform emergency services organisations about the needs of deaf people.

The project is a partnership and overall management will be shared between the Deaf Society, the NSW SES and the NHRL - UNSW. However, the research work will be led by Associate Professor Dale Dominey-Howes, Co-Director of the Hazards Laboratory at UNSW.

World Association of Sign Language Interpreters Conference, Durban, South Africa - July 2011

Contribution by Sheena Walters

I have recently returned from a visit to South Africa where I attended my second WASLI Conference which was held in Durban from 14-16 July 2011. The Conference was fantastic and extremely worthwhile. The keynote presentation was delivered by fellow Australian, Colin Allen, and there were also presentations from other professionals from our WASLI region (Australasia/Oceania) including from Jemina Napier, Della Goswell, Rachel McKee, Angela Murray as well as expats Robert Adam and Paul Bartlett. At the WASLI Conference it is customary to ask a representative from each country present to talk for five minutes about the situation for sign language interpreters in their country and what has changed in the last four years. This was a highlight for me and many others as it was amazing to hear about the status of interpreting in so many countries.

The new WASLI board was nominated at the General Assembly and I am pleased to take over the role of representative from the Australasia/Oceania region for the next four years. As you may be aware George Major has been in the role over the last four years and has done a wonderful job with strengthening ties between interpreters in our region and contributing to WASLI's work. Currently, Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association (ASLIA) and Sign Language Interpreters Association of New Zealand (SLIANZ) are the only two member countries with professional sign language interpreter associations established in the region and it has been agreed between the two associations that while this is still the case the role of WASLI regional representative will alternate between the two countries every four years. This year was Australia's turn and I applied to be elected to the role when ASLIA circulated expressions of interest.

The board is made up of four executive positions and eight regional representative positions. The newly elected President is Dr Debra Russell from Canada who was also the keynote presenter at the ASLIA National Conference. The executive is also made up of a Vice President (from Columbia), a Secretary (from Uganda) and we should congratulate another fellow Australian, Susan Emerson, who has been elected as Treasurer. The rest of the WASLI board is made up of representatives from the eight regions of WASLI. For details of who they are you can visit

www.wasli.org/wasli-executive-board-2011-2015-p17.aspx.

At the WASLI Conference there was opportunity for delegates from each region to meet briefly and eight colleagues from Australia and New Zealand and I met to discuss future plans for our region. Also, interpreters from Australia and New Zealand raised funds for an interpreter from Madagascar to attend the WASLI Conference who benefited greatly from the Conference. It is hoped that initiatives such as this to develop interpreting in the Australasia/Oceania region will feature prominently in the plans for the region over the next four years.

Since my experience in Durban at the Conference I have returned to Australia and organised a

meeting of key representatives from the region in Sydney. There was an opportunity to meet in Sydney as many interpreters were attending the ASLIA National Conference from 26-28 August 2011. At this meeting a representative from ASLIA, SLIANZ, the President of WASLI, the previous WASLI representative for the region, two representatives from Fiji, one from the Solomon Islands as well as Della Goswell, Colin Allen and I discussed a four year strategic plan for the region. This will include a focus on expanding the network of interpreters in the region and support activities for our colleagues in the Pacific Islands. I will continue to update interpreters in our region and can be contacted on austoceania@wasli.org.

I am excited to be part of the new board and look forward to continuing the work of WASLI in the region.

XVI World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, Durban, South Africa

Contribution by Sharon Everson

I was extremely fortunate to be able to represent the Deaf Society at the WFD Congress in Durban in July 2011.

It was a fantastic experience to see over 2,100 deaf people from around the world gathered in one place and all focused on working together to share knowledge and information to improve equality for deaf people.

Day one was taken up with helping to promote Colin Allen's bid for the presidency of WFD. The announcement of Colin as the new President was extremely emotional, as I know how hard Colin has worked over many, many decades to support the Deaf Community, not only at a national level, but internationally. I was sitting with Sheena Walters and Colin's daughter, Tara, when the announcement was made – we were all a bit teary, but they were tears of happiness and pride.

The opening ceremony was a lovely event, we all had the opportunity to join in with the drumming activity at the start which warmed up the audience for the next three hours. The highlight of the opening ceremony was the introduction by Siphon the Lion, who signed the name of each of the countries of origin for all participants. The opening ceremony featured many presentations from young deaf people from schools all over South Africa. It was wonderful to see their performances and to reflect on the fantastic opportunity that hosting WFD provided for the South African Deaf Community, particularly in engaging with young people.

Day two was extremely challenging – WFD had agreed to let us share their information table so we could promote the 2nd WFD Conference to be held in Sydney in 2013. We had lots of

promotional material, as well as clip-on Koalas for delegates. We also had a competition to encourage delegates to provide their contact details for our mailing list for 2013. The prize was a giant cuddly koala, which I brought along from Sydney. It was a real attention grabber and we received almost 200 contact details. The lucky winner was Withayoot Bunnag from Thailand, who was delighted with his win.

My first day on the information table was challenging – as my international signing was very poor – I'm happy that it improved over time, with lots of practice. Over the next few days Breda Carty and I shared the responsibility for spreading the word about the 2nd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf in October, 2013, assisted by Sarah Markey-Hamm from Australia who is our Professional Conference Organiser.

During WFD I had the opportunity to meet with Markku Jokinen, former President of WFD, as well as a number of other delegates, including some from Australia. The Congress also provided the opportunity for networking and information sharing, and I met a number of deaf people undertaking challenging projects around the world. Some of this innovative work will be transferrable to other countries, even our own. Feras and Wael Al-Moubayed (Syria) agreed to make their parenting booklet in Arabic available for us to trial with Arabic speaking families in Australia and there are many opportunities for us to collaborate or seek information and research results from other countries. This will be extremely important in assessing the impact of individual funding on both service providers in the deaf sector and deaf people themselves and will assist us in identifying gaps before the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme starts in Australia.

The Congress also highlighted the gaps in equality of services around the globe for deaf people, in particular the inability to access equal education in not only developing countries, but also our own.

The closing ceremony came all too soon. Once again the Deaf Federation of South Africa provided wonderful entertainment showcasing the performances of young deaf people. Breda Carty gave a presentation about 2nd WFD Conference, which included a scenic DVD of our beautiful city Sydney.

After the closing ceremony, emotions grew flat, as it was all over for another few years. However, with Sydney 2013 just around the corner, and the wonderful relationships established in Durban, I know we will all be very proactive in working on our future plans, with an international focus, which will help us to promote equity for deaf people.

Silent Messenger

Message from a board member – Kate Matairavula

Welcome to this Spring edition of Silent Messenger. My name is Kate Matairavula. I have been on the board of Deaf Australia (NSW) since 2008. My main role on the board is advocacy in partnership with Parent Council for Deaf Education and the Deaf Society. We have been lobbying the Department of Education on issues concerning us about how deaf children are educated. I also work with those two organisations to plan events for National Week of Deaf People. In my day job I work at the Deaf Society coordinating Auslan courses. I have had lots of different jobs in my life starting out as an usher at my local cinema, cleaning bathrooms at a university college, waitress, actor, rehabilitation counselor, teacher and sign language researcher. I do really enjoy the challenges of working in and for the Deaf Community most of all and hope to stay on this path for some time. My favourite colour is green and I love eating mangoes.

A New Direction for DA (NSW): to represent Deaf people in NSW

The board members of DA (NSW) work on a voluntary basis and we try to do as much as we can but in recent years we have struggled to know what to do and how to do things well. In short, we felt a bit lost! The Deaf Society came to our rescue and very kindly gave us some money so that we could hire a professional to help us do some strategic planning and get us back on track. So after several meetings and consultations with our stakeholders we now have a new strategic plan for the next three years. We also have a new mission: **to represent Deaf people in NSW**. So we plan to focus on representing you to government, to the private sector, to other organisations and to the general community. This means that some of the things we have done in the past we will no longer do. We have decided that to do our mission well we need to focus on it and not try to do everything. Our new strategic plan is being finalised but once it is, we will make it available to you. Thank you to all the people who did the survey for us and participated in the consultations. You have helped us get back on track and helped us to know how to best represent you.

World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section – Durban, South Africa

Drisana Levitzke-Gray (WA) and Rachael Ellis (NSW) were the two young Australian representatives chosen to go to the WFD youth camp held in Durban, South Africa from the 6th to 14th July. It was a blur of activities, workshops and guest speakers. Some of the key guest speakers (all Deaf) included:

- Megan Youngs – a Canadian who is passionate about Deaf education and community issues and has worked for the WFD under the Human Rights and Capacity Building Training in Western and Central Africa project.
- Braam Jordaan – a visual effects supervisor/director/activist who has Deaf parents. He is recognised both locally and internationally for his work and has produced several TV advertisements and one children's book 'The Rubbish Monster'. He promotes sign language and human rights for deaf people through his work.

- John Meletse – a gay activist who works on HIV and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered issues. He is passionate about educating deaf people about issues relating to gender, sexual rights and HIV.
- Markku Jokinen – President of WFD from 2003 – 2011. He talked about the work of WFD and encouraged participants to continue their work within the Deaf Community in their respective countries.

Rachael observed that most other countries represented at the camp had a Deaf youth association separate from the national Deaf association.

Participants from 40 different countries came together and shared information. Friendships were forged and memories made to last a lifetime. The next camp will be in Istanbul, Turkey in 2015.

Thanks to Deaf Australia for making this opportunity possible.

Living Life My Way

The NSW government is leading a series of consultations to get information about the needs of people with a disability in the community. This will help them to build a disability service system that gives decision making, choice and control to people with a disability. We are attending a consultation on 8th August in Burwood to make sure the needs of deaf people are represented. If you as an individual want to make a submission you can by emailing pcaconsultations@dhs.nsw.gov.au or you can go to the website www.adhc.nsw.gov.au for more information.

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.

Spotlight on South Coast

The Deaf Society opened a part-time South Coast office in 2008, based at the Albion Park Rail Community Centre. At present, this office is open only on Monday mornings for Walk In and there are limited “by appointment” times available on Monday afternoons and Tuesdays.

Out of the South Coast office we also run a quarterly Walk In service in Nowra, to assist the Deaf Community in that area. This service operates in March, June, September and December.

The South Coast has a large Deaf Community and our community worker is kept very busy in this area with the limited time she has available.

The Deaf Society was aware that there are deaf groups not only in Wollongong but in areas south of that as well, so in choosing an office location, we really had in mind to place ourselves centrally for all of these communities. We were very happy when we were offered the use of the Albion Park Rail Community Centre, which we hope is convenient for all.

We are very aware that the current extent of our services does not meet all the needs of the growing and dynamic population of deaf people on the South Coast. The Deaf Society is actively engaged in lobbying for further funding in the area in the hope of expanding services in the future.

Community News

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

Deafblind Camp on Phillip Island - By Joyce Tully and photos by Lizzi Price

On 1st April Lizzi Price, Rebecca Cramp and I flew to Melbourne where we were picked up by a volunteer and driven to Phillip Island for the weekend. About 26 Deafblind people and people with Ushers stayed at the Adventure Resort Camp and there were 37 volunteers. The food was all fantastic, and the cabin I stayed in was great – it even had an ensuite. After breakfast the next day we all went for a walk and did some activities. One of them involved ropes and I nearly had a fall, but it was a fun time. That afternoon some people went to a wine tasting while others rode canoes. After dinner that night people went to watch the Penguins, although I didn't go myself because I had been there many years ago. I stayed and played games including one that was like ten pin bowling, only with jugs! I found out later to my surprise that I had won a prize. The kitchen staff made a lovely big fresh birthday cake for five people and it tasted great. We also visited the markets, although I didn't buy anything myself. Finally a group photo, some packing, then a sad farewell and hugs goodbye. The volunteers took us back to the airport and we arrived home on the evening of 3rd April. I would like everyone who was there to be able to come to the camp in the Blue Mountains next year, but sadly it is difficult for them to make it because of lack of funds.

What is ACCAN?

ACCAN represents all consumers on communications issues, including TV, **telecommunications and broadband**. ACCAN supports the Deaf Community by campaigning on issues like TV captions and the National Relay Service. ACCAN works closely with Deaf organisations. **You can join ACCAN** at www.accan.org.au/become_a_member.php

Information in Auslan

- **National Broadband Network (NBN):** http://accan.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=262:nbn-quick-guide-inauslan&catid=98:access-for-all&Itemid=318
- **Internet scams** – how to protect yourself: www.youtube.com/user/internetscamsprotect
- **Triple Zero (000) and Deaf:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ocXaH6zCOA
- TV stations must improve **captioning:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLI_pw4gT8Q

Information in EASY English

- **How to make a complaint** about your phone or internet provider: http://accan.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=313:how-to-make-a-complaint-that-gets-heard-easy-english&catid=91:your-rights&Itemid=181
-

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

The Australian Deaf Games are a few months away and if your club or you want to know more about the games itself, feel free to discuss with me anytime from Tuesdays to Thursdays at the Deaf Society's office. It would be ideal to make an appointment with me prior to your visit to the office. Email me at tclews@deaf.nsw.edu.au or text me at 0421 066 663.

Christine Suffolk, a deaf athlete and a well known community member, recently won the 2011 Shoalhaven Masters Sports star of the year. She competed in elite masters races including the NSW State Cross Country Championship in which she won a silver medal.

A great achievement!

Melinda Vernon, dual Deaflympics Gold medallist in Taipei gave another shot at this year's City to Surf after winning the event in 2009. She came 4th this time but it was a great effort from her after recovering from an injury!

Melbourne Deaf Cricket Club, the oldest deaf sport club in Australia, will be turning 130 years old and will hold an anniversary party on 30th October 2011. It is an extraordinary achievement for a deaf sport club to have been around for that long!

The 3rd National Deaf Poker Championship will take place in Adelaide on 22nd October 2011. For the last two consecutive championships, a New South Welshman won the title of national champion – will we have another NSW champion this year? If you wish to know more about Deaf Poker Australia, please email Sokong Kim at dpa@deafpoker.com.au or visit their website – www.deafpoker.com.au

Belmore Eagles Deaf Soccer team fared very well in this year's competition and was sitting pretty on the ladder before the final stages but unfortunately their rivals, Roselands, defeated them in extra time. Bet they will go one better next year.

Come and play Cricket this summer for a deaf team – Silent Warriors. They are playing in the Inner West Harbour Cricket Association this summer. For more details of the competition, please contact Andrew Park at dcnsw@live.com

On behalf of Deaf Sports in NSW, we want to congratulate Mr Colin Allen, a Sydneysider, for his recent appointment as World Federation of the Deaf president in Durban, South Africa. He has been invited to attend the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf forum in Italy next month.

If you have any sport news that you or your club want to share with our readers, feel free to contact me with news for the next edition of NSW Deaf Herald.

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

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

Employment Walk In Service at Parramatta!

Employment Walk In Service held every Thursday between 1pm and 3pm.

What support can we give you at Employment Walk In? We can:

- Talk about problems at your workplace
 - Assist with Employment Assistance Fund
 - Give advice about workplace modifications
 - Explain forms, letters or your employment contracts/awards
 - Make future appointments with Employment Officers if you need more time
 - Assist you to advocate to improve your workplace
 - Refer you to other services
 - If you are worried you may lose your job because you are deaf or hard of hearing, we can help!
-

Lifestyle Courses: (All courses are taught in Auslan only)

“Looking Great in the Workplace” – Presentation Skills Workshop

Thursday 27th October 2011

Presenter: Todd Wright

Time: 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Where: To be confirmed

RSVP: 20th October 2011

- Greater confidence in presenting in front of 2 or 500+ people
- Tips of how to be good presenter
- Getting on with your audience

Email Tony Clews to confirm your attendance for catering purposes.

Limited spots.

Coming Soon!

- **Diabetes workshop in Central Coast**
- **Social Media**

Feel free to discuss with me about any course / workshops in near future.

Contact: Tony Clews - sms: 0421 066 663

tclews@deaf.nsw.edu.au

Visit me in the office (Tues to Thursdays only)

EVENTS

Deaf Community Groups:

Deaf Seniors Group

7 September - Sydney | Bingo, Cards & Fathers Day Raffle

21 September - Sydney Bazaar

27 September - Gosford Carpet Bowls & Cards

05 October - Sydney Hoy Cents & Cards

19 October – Sydney Market Day

26 October - Newcastle Carpet Bowls and Cards

02 November - Sydney Games & Cards

16 November - Sydney Bingo & Cards

30 November – Wollongong Christmas Luncheon - venue not yet decided. South Coast contact details below.

7 December- Sydney Carpet Bowls and Cards

14 December – Sydney Christmas Luncheon at Burwood RSL Club

21 December – Sydney Christmas Farewell

Sydney Deaf Seniors Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at Burwood RSL, Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood. Hours: 9am to 2.30pm.

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

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.

South Coast Wednesday 31 August, for more info

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

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, 28 October – normal Usher's Meeting

Friday 02 December – Usher's Group Christmas Lunch 10am to 12pm

Deaf Society, Level 4, 69 Phillip St, Parramatta

Contact: Margaret Craig / mcraig@deafsociety.com / TTY: 02 8833 3691

Sydney Region

The Deaf Club, Sydney

Parramatta RSL Club, O'Connell Street, Parramatta

Meets every 1st Friday of each month

Club Burwood, 2nd Floor Function Room, 97 Burwood Road, Burwood

Meets every 3rd Friday of each month

More information on the Deaf Club, Sydney www.thedeafclub.org.au

School Holiday Activity (young people aged 12-17)

Luna Park - Wednesday 28 September

9.30am - meet Parramatta or 11am - meet at Luna Park

\$25 ticket to be purchased by 21 September.

WFD Youth Camp Presentation by Rachael Ellis - Friday 30 September

10am to 2pm at Deaf Society's training room.

Email Katrina on klancaster@deafsociety.com for more information.

Liverpool City Library

Liverpool City Library is offering FREE Internet lessons for Deaf Seniors.

For more information about the course:

Contact: Carmel Martin, Access Services Librarian at c.martin@liverpool.nsw.gov.au

Northern NSW Region

Lismore Games Day

Second Wednesday of the month - 10am to 12pm.

Deaf Society office Lismore, 22 Conway St, Lismore

Lismore Office Morning Tea

Mondays: 26 September, 31 October, 28 November - 10am to 12pm

Deaf Society office Lismore, 22 Conway St, Lismore

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

Deaf Chat

Friday 30 September - 10am to 2pm

Hilltop Tavern, Ballina Road Goonellabah

Friday 28 October - 10am to 2pm

Box and Dice Café, 137 Summerland Way Kyogle/Exchange Hotel, 65 Summerland Way Kyogle

Friday 25 November

Christmas Lunch at Evans Head

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

September: Brelsford Park adventure playground, Cnr Albany and Earl street Coffs Harbour
Bring along a picnic from 11am

October: Dorrigo Heritage Hotel/Motel, 19 Cadgery Street Dorrigo
11.30-2.00pm

Contact: Bernadette Keane / SMS: 0439604637 or Peter- John Ross / SMS: 0438518283

New England Region

Social days

Third Sunday of each month, Market on Peel Street - 9am to 12noon

Meet at Post Office, Tamworth

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

Tamworth

Every first Saturday of every month

Meet for dinner at 6.30pm in the Banjo's Family Restaurant or for drinks at 7.00pm

West Leagues Club, Phillip Street Tamworth

Contact: Elizabeth Spires / tamworthdeafsocialnights@hotmail.com

Facebook group: "Tamworth Deaf Social Nights"

Thursday, 22 September

12noon at Weswal Art Gallery Cafe, 192 Brisbane Street, Tamworth

Deaf Outback Camp - October Long Weekend, Near Gloucester

30 Septemeber - 3 October

The campsite will be limited to 120 people.

Saturday, 15 October

6.30pm at 83 Restaurant, 199 Marius Street, Tamworth

Saturday, 10 December

New England Region Deaf Christmas Party

Contact: Julie Grimwood / SMS: 0429 203 769 or Anne-Maree Marshall / SMS: 0409 655 263
isingnsign2u@hotmail.com

Central West Region

Central West Deaf Club - Orange

Thursday 15 October 2pm - Orange Ex-Services Club

Thursday 13 November 2pm - BBQ at Botanical Playground

Thursday 10 December 6pm - Central West Deaf Club Christmas Dinner at Hogs Breath Cafe

Hunter and Central Coast Region

Newcastle Deaf Society Night

Fourth Saturday of every month - 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.

Sunday 11 September - 7am to 10am

DCGC 3rd Anniversary Celebration Buffet Breakfast

Four Winds Revolving Restaurant, 26th Floor, Crown Plaza Hotel, 2807 Gold Coast Hwy, Broadbeach

Saturday 15 October 10am - Glenda & Iris Ellis 17th Annual Wet 'n' Wild Day

At Wet'n'Wild Water World Theme Park, Pacific Highway Oxenford.

Adults: \$30, Children: \$29, Children under 3 free.

Contact: David London / deafclub@goldcoastinc.net / SMS: 0408 762 414

South Coast Region

Tuesday Coffee Mornings

Every Tuesday from 9am

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

Contact: Sara Willyan-Payne / southcoast@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

Deaf Club (Illawarra/Wollongong)

Saturday 29 October 6pm

West's Illawarra Club, Hargreaves Street, Unanderra

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 Thursday 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

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

Tamworth

Please contact Julia Griffiths for more information

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

Click **LIKE** on the NEW Deaf Society of NSW page on Facebook to receive the latest information. We have regular events planned over the next few months which all are revealed on pages 13 - 15.

www.facebook.com/deafsocietynsw

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 December edition of the Herald is 1st November 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.

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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

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You can see this bulletin with photos at

www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/herald/05-nsw_deaf_herald.pdf

Answer:

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

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 / centralcoast@deafsociety.com / 0410 909 286

Newcastle

Mondays & Tuesdays – 9am to 1pm

Level 3, 108-110 Hunter St, Newcastle

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

Coffs Harbour

Wednesdays – 9am to 2pm

Boambee Community Centre, Bruce King Drive, Boambee

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

Lismore

Wednesdays & Thursdays – 9.30am to 1pm

22 Conway St, Lismore

Contact: Melissa Mahony / northernnsw@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 / northernnsw@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 / newengland@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 / southcoast@deafsociety.com / 0406 940 899

Nowra

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

Nowra Community Centre, 134 Kinghorne Rd, Nowra

Contact: Sara Willyan-Payne / southcoast@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 or 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.