



# NSW Deaf Herald

Equity for deaf people



Issue 06 - Summer 2011/12

## Interview with David Gibson, MP

Colin Allen interviewed David Gibson



### Who are you?

A very deep question! I define myself as many things, but the one thing that overarches everything is that I'm the child of two deaf parents. I'm a politician, a father, a husband, a company director, and I've been an Army officer, but through them all I've had the experience of growing up with deaf parents and that has influenced my values, and the way I see the world.

### And what is your role now?

I'm an MP in the Queensland Parliament for Gympie. Gympie is a beautiful regional area two and a half hours North of Brisbane. I've been in the Parliament since September 2006 and was re-elected in 2009. I am standing again and hope to be re-elected in 2012.

### Why did you decide to get into politics? Was it the Deaf Community?

Where I live there is a very, very small Deaf Community, so it wasn't that directly. It was seeing inequity in the system generally, seeing injustice, and a belief that I could do something. I've seen through experience that if you want to change something you have to be the person to do it. It's no use sitting on your hands. If there's a problem I can fix then I should be the one to fix it.

### Are there other children of deaf adults (CODAs) in any Australian parliament that you know of?

I believe in the past there have been CODAs in parliament, but as far as I know I'm the only one now. I know that my maiden speech was the first speech given in Auslan in the Queensland Parliament.

### Could Australia have a deaf Member of Parliament one day?

Yes, but the first deaf MP is going to be doing the equivalent of climbing Mount Everest. They not only have to convince deaf people to vote for them, but they have to convince the hearing community too. It can be done, but it's not easy. The person who does it will have

an incredible sense of focus and tenacity, and will be a "people person" who can connect with all kinds of people. When it will happen, I don't know, but I'm convinced it will happen.

### What would the benefit be of having a deaf MP?

Insight. All parliaments are there to represent their communities. A deaf person in parliament could represent not only the Deaf Community, but other people too. They would have a different perspective to offer. What makes parliament and democracy work is having a broad cross-section of people involved. You don't want a parliament full of just lawyers, just unionists, or just doctors.

### If you could give one message to the Deaf Community, what would it be?

One message that I'd like to get out is for deaf people to contact their local MP. It doesn't have to be about a deaf issue. You can talk to them about tax, roads, education. Just get involved in

democracy. If every MP met one deaf person per year and had a real conversation, an engaged conversation, just once a year, then I think we'd see a real shift in understanding. There's a quote I love from John F Kennedy that sums up my message:

"Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country." It's a fundamental shift from "what can I get?" to "what can I give?", and the Deaf Community has so much to give.



David Gibson presentation

## Offices Hours during Xmas / New Year Day

| OFFICE        | CLOSING DATE      | OPENING DATE |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Parramatta    | 23/12/2011 (Noon) | 03/01/2012   |
| Lismore       | 23/12/2011 (Noon) | 03/01/2012   |
| Coffs Harbour | 22/12/2011 (2pm)  | 03/01/2012   |
| Tamworth      | 19/12/2011 (1pm)  | 06/02/2012   |
| Newcastle     | 20/12/2011 (1pm)  | 09/01/2012   |
| Wollongong    | 20/12/2011 (11am) | 16/01/2012   |

If you require an interpreter for an emergency please call or SMS 0412 422 059, for all other urgent enquires please call or SMS 0412 893 855

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## From the CEO

Since the last issue of NSW Deaf Herald, the Deaf Society has been recognised for several achievements. In September, we received the 2011 Employment & Inclusion of People with a Disability award at the Diversity@Work Employment and Inclusion Awards. This award is not just recognition of our work, but shows how valuable the NSW Deaf Community's contribution is to the Deaf Society – without your ideas and help, we would never have been able to make our workplace so accessible for staff and community members. The Deaf Society was also one of the finalists in the "Outstanding Contribution to the Industry" award at the AUSIT Excellence Awards Night for our John Ferris Interpreter Internship Program. Both stories are available in this issue ([pages 4 and 5](#)).

On the subject of awards, I am proud to announce that one of our staff members, Katrina Lancaster, was awarded the Young Disability Challenge Award at the 2011 National Disability Awards on 22nd November in Canberra. The award recognises young people aged 12-25 years who have advanced the rights of people with disability. Receiving this national award is a sign of Katrina's dedication to young deaf people in NSW, through both her work and her volunteering.

The Deaf Society of NSW recently became an Associate Member of Deaf Sports Australia to enable our Deaf Community members to participate in the Australian Deaf Games in Geelong, Victoria in early January 2012. If you would like more information, please contact Tony Clews at [tclews@deafsociety.com](mailto:tclews@deafsociety.com)

The Deaf Society of NSW had its 98th Annual General Meeting on a Saturday afternoon, 29th October and it was lovely to see good number Deaf Community members there. The AGM looked back over 2010-2011 and highlighted that we met 91% of the targets in our Annual Plan – a terrific result. The members elected Mr Alastair McEwin to be our President for next three years and two casual board members were formally elected to the board; Mr Michael Lockery and Mr Vivek Prahbu.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas, safe travelling, and a relaxing summer break.

*Sharon Everson*  
Chief Executive Officer



## Editorial



It is amazing to think that we are already at the end of another year – the days, weeks and months have flown past us so quickly! We have published four issues of the *NSW Deaf Herald* during the year, sharing all kinds of information with our loyal subscribers. Thank you for your ongoing feedback which has helped us to improve each edition. In this issue we have added a section on deaf access at various churches in Sydney, and we look forward to further suggestions from you, our readers.

The Deaf Society of NSW, Australian Theatre of the Deaf and Sydney Deaf Senior Citizens organised our Vice Patron Nola Colefax's 90th Birthday Celebratory Luncheon at Burwood RSL. The luncheon was attended by more than 120 friends of Nola who shared in celebrating her glorious life and contributions to the NSW Deaf Community.

Four organisations in NSW have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Deaf Society; Deaf Australia (NSW), Australian Association of Sign Language Interpreters (NSW), Parent Council for Deaf Education and Ephpheta Centre. The five organisations have agreed to establish an interagency meeting every three months, and at the last interagency meeting they decided a clear goal for the group:

'To collaborate, by sharing resources and information, for the benefit of our community'.

The meeting discussed the success of our collaboration on National Week of Deaf People events, which were Deaf Festival, Deaf Society Office Open Days (Lismore, Parramatta and Newcastle), School Tours at NSW Parliament House, Opening of the National Week of Deaf People at NSW Parliament House by the Minister for Disability Services Andrew Constance, MP, Deaf Youth Panel Discussion at NSW Parliament House and Garden Party at the Ephpheta Centre.

I expect everyone in the NSW Deaf Community has been waiting for more information about the new Smoke Alarm Subsidy Scheme, for which we have received funding for three years. Both Greg Mills and Kate Matairavula have been working hard to get the program set up and running smoothly and the pilot program will start on Friday, 9th December. Details of this program are our feature story for this issue ([pages 8 and 9](#)).

Sadly, this is my last issue as editor of the *NSW Deaf Herald*. I have enjoyed planning each edition, chasing people up to write our articles, working with the layout and seeing each of the last six editions come into print. It has not just been me; there are many people involved to ensure each issue is a brilliant bulletin for our readers. I would like to acknowledge the Promotions and Information Department, June Stathis and Richard Aarden, and my secret colleague Susannah Macready who has assisted me in editing the Herald. Your new editor for future bulletins will be Kate Matairavula. I know she will be great in this role and give you many exciting pieces of news to read.

Enjoy the summer days!

*Colin Allen*  
Director of Services

## Message from the new DSNSW President



Alastair McEwin

I am delighted to have been elected by the members of the Deaf Society of NSW to be its President for the next three years. I thank the members for their confidence in me and I intend to carry out my duties to the best of my abilities.

My primary aims for the next three years will be to work with the chairperson, Ken Deacon, Board and CEO to lead the Society through what will no doubt be challenging and exciting times for the Deaf Community. This includes the new National Disability Insurance Scheme and how this will impact deaf people in Australia. We will be celebrating 100 years of the Society in 2013 and I look forward to welcoming people from all over NSW, Australia and the rest of the world to our centenary events, including 2nd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf in Sydney. I will also work hard to ensure that deaf people are represented in a positive way in the wider community, including media portrayal of deaf people.

I thank Tony Gorrige for his work as President from 2008 to 2011. Tony was the first deaf person in the Society's 98-year history to be elected as President. He will continue as a board member and I look forward to working with him in this capacity.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank everyone who attended my 90th birthday luncheon on 3rd September and the many friends who sent me cards on the occasion. I would particularly like to thank the members of the Deaf Society of NSW Board. That day will be a memory to treasure as a high point in my life.

The Deaf Society of NSW has been an important asset to our Deaf Community for so many years. I look forward to seeing its ongoing support for many more years to come.

Nola Colefax OAM



2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf  
16 - 18 October 2013 • Sydney - Australia

## Equality for Deaf People

2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf  
Sydney, Australia

16 - 18 October 2013

[www.wfdsydney2013.com](http://www.wfdsydney2013.com)

[wfdsydney2013@icms.com.au](mailto:wfdsydney2013@icms.com.au)

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## Updates from the Deaf Society

**Contributors:** John O'Neill, Jasmine Rozsa, Richard Aarden, Andrew Wiltshire, Colin Allen, Stephen Nicholson and Kate Matairavula.



Andrew Wiltshire (Manager, Employment Service) Suzanne Corbert AM (Chief Executive, Australian Network on Diversity) left, and Donna Faulkner (Chairperson, Disability Employment Australia) right.

### Diversity is the winner for the Deaf Society

The Deaf Society of NSW has been awarded the 2011 Employment & Inclusion of People with a Disability award at this year's Diversity@Work Employment and Inclusion Awards.

The Diversity@Work Awards celebrate the achievement of Australian organisations in promoting a diverse and inclusive workplace and the aim of the Employment & Inclusion of People with a Disability award is "to recognise excellence in initiatives or programs related to the employment and inclusion of people with a disability". The Deaf Society competed against thirteen other employers (including Crown Melbourne Ltd, Department of Transport, H&R Block, The Westpac Group, Wesley Mission Victoria and Woolworths Ltd) to take out this prestigious award.

The awards are aimed at recognising the efforts and accomplishments of leading Australian organisations leveraging the differences of employees to build their businesses.

The Deaf Society's vision is "Equity for deaf people", and our deaf-friendly workplace initiatives include a deaf-friendly work practices policy, equal opportunity employment, a bi-lingual website and bi-lingual workplace programs such as in-house English support and in-house interpreting. Deaf and hard of hearing staff are employed across all levels of the organisation including management, senior management and board.

"Increasing the number of our deaf staff is not tokenistic. Being a diverse, bi-lingual and bi-cultural workplace has enabled us to deliver our services with greater empathy and understanding of the needs of deaf people. It also provides a much richer and interesting work environment for our employees," said Sharon Everson, CEO.

### Auslan Only Weekend and the DEN Graduation

October has been a busy month for the DEN team. We have held our Auslan Only Weekend 1 (AOW1) and the DEN Graduation.

Auslan students attended their AOW in Stanwell Tops. This is a no-voice, fully catered Auslan immersion weekend and gives the students the opportunity to experience real deaf culture. This semester we had a group of 40 students which included 9 external students and one student from Victoria.

This year the weekend was presented by Stephen Nicholson from NSW and Co Presenter Amanda Sullivan (from Canberra). They were joined by a very vibrant group of deaf team members who volunteered their time to ensure the weekend was a success.

The voice-off aspect had a strong impact on many of the students – especially when mixing with the wider community on Saturday night. They were intrigued about how they were treated when people thought they were deaf.

DEN also held its annual Graduation for our Accredited Courses in Computer Skills, Job Skills and Auslan. We had over 60 people in attendance on the day and collectively we handed out over 101 Certificates.

Studying is a big commitment for all our students and can be difficult while trying to juggle work, family and personal commitments.

On behalf of the DEN team we would like to say thank you to all our AOW participants and congratulations to all our graduating students.



Auslan Only Weekend



DEN Graduation



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



Michaela Sloan at ANC

## Sign Language Communications NSW

August 2011 saw our home town Sydney host the ASLIA National Conference (ANC) at the Novotel in Brighton-Le-Sands.

All of our SLC NSW office staff, in-house and contract interpreters attended the conference this year and we were able to network with our colleagues and engage in some brilliant professional development.

SLC was honoured to be the sponsor of the Friday night J W Flynn Oration event and Michaela Sloan (Manager, SLC WA) spoke on the night to thank all of the interpreters who enable SLC's around the country to provide a great service to our Deaf Community. A fantastic night was had by all and the conference was enjoyed by many!

## John Ferris Interpreter Internship Program

On 11th November, Kathy Wright attended the AUSIT Excellence Awards Night to represent SLC NSW as a finalist for the "Outstanding Contribution to the Industry" award.

Unfortunately, SLC NSW didn't win the award. However, we did receive a "Highly Commended" award for Outstanding Contribution to the interpreting industry through the John Ferris Internship Program. It's really lovely for SLC NSW to receive public acknowledgement for such a valuable program. The Deaf Society CEO Sharon Everson had lunch with John Ferris and she was able to share the news with him also.

On the topic of professional development SLC NSW has recently advertised for new interpreter interns to take advantage of the 2012 John Ferris Interpreter Internship Program. If you would like more information about this program please contact Kathy Wright, Coordinator SLC NSW on [kwright@slcommunications.com.au](mailto:kwright@slcommunications.com.au) or (02) 8833 3663.



## Employment Service

### Disability Service Standards Audit

The Employment Service department has an annual audit of our service, to check whether our services comply with the 12 Disability Standards. This audit looks at how the Deaf Society handles all governance procedures, complaint procedures and Employment Service's continuous improvement practices, including interviews with both our consumers and staff.

The auditors did an audit of both the Parramatta and Niagara Park offices and the feedback we got from the audit was that they were very happy with our services and that we were making good changes to our service.

### New Staff structure

As the Employment Service continues to grow and for us to prepare the new tender for 2013, it has become necessary to add two new positions in our team and they are:

- **Employment Liaison Officer (ELO)**

This is a new role. The ELO provides support to all the employers who employ our deaf and hard of hearing consumers and finds positions for those who are looking for work. ELO also runs a reverse marketing workshop for consumers who are 'ready' for work and writes success stories about our consumers who have found employment, for publishing in various newspapers or media.

The ELO is also responsible for organising employer events such as business breakfasts and conducting an employer satisfaction survey every 6 months.

- **Administrative Officer**

This position is a new role is to assist the Employment Service Team with their every day administrative functions and projects. This involves some filing, liaising with suppliers, making bookings for interpreters and presenters, maintaining databases and documents and assisting with meeting and workshop preparation.

## Better Hearing Australia Conference in the Central Coast region



The Deaf Society was proud to be a sponsor of this conference during the Hearing Awareness Week Conferences on Friday 26 August 2011 at Gosford and Woy Woy. There was a well known key speaker at the conference, our former Prime Minister John Howard, who talked about his life as a hearing impaired person. Stephen Nicholson and Justine Lorenz represented the Deaf Society at the conference. Stephen gave a presentation about our services to the Deaf Community and hard of hearing people. Stephen also talked about the Smoke Alarm Subsidy Scheme (SASS) and John Howard expressed his support for the scheme; he said it is important that we can sleep knowing that we will be woken if there is a fire.

## A New “Baby” at the Deaf Society

The Advocacy and Community Development department was recently born on 4th October 2011. ‘ACD’ as we call ourselves is doing well. We have two growing arms: Katrina Lancaster leads the Youth Development arm and Tony Clews leads the Community Development arm. We have two strong legs in Greg Mills co-ordinating the Smoke Alarm Subsidy Scheme and Emma Calgaro co-ordinating the Natural Disaster Resilience Project. We also have Alice Ansara as the History Research Assistant working with us towards our centenary celebrations. At the moment we are doing lots of growing and learning how to walk but we can’t do this without your help.

One of the things we want to do is grow and strengthen the Deaf Community. We will be doing a review of the community courses we provide and asking for your input. We are also planning a community weekend for 2012 where we can share our deafhood experience.

To increase access to the world around us, we have decided that advocacy is important. We want to work with other organisations like Deaf Australia (NSW), the Ephpheta Centre and Parent Council for Deaf Education to ensure the deaf ‘voice’ is heard. We will be stronger together. We are looking to set up an advisory group to guide us on advocacy issues. If you are interested in applying to join the advisory group please contact Kate Matairavula to express your interest: [kmatairavula@deafsociety.com](mailto:kmatairavula@deafsociety.com)

As part of the next Deaf Society roadshow, Kate Matairavula and Colin Allen will be travelling to two regional centres and one city in NSW in March, 2012.

## The Deaf Society is committed to supporting and strengthening the Deaf Community.

This is one of the aims of our Strategic Plan. There are currently four Deaf Society community funding opportunities which are available for deaf people:

### Deaf Community Fund

[www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/deaf\\_community\\_centre\\_info.html](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/deaf_community_centre_info.html)

There was a lot of community consultation about a future Deaf Club before the Stanmore Centre was sold in 1994. After the sale, a Deaf Club was established at Lidcombe Memorial Bowling Club. This Club closed down after two years. In 1997 the Board of the Deaf Society set aside \$100,000 in a special fund to help support a Deaf Community Centre. Some of this funding was spend on support for the Deaf Seniors and the Northern Rivers Deaf Association. As at 1 July 2011 the amount in the provision account is \$96,800.

Funding applications must be supported by members of the Deaf Community and members of the Deaf Society.

### Anthony M Houen Community Grant Fund

[www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/pdfs/a\\_m\\_houen\\_community\\_grant\\_fund\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/pdfs/a_m_houen_community_grant_fund_guidelines.pdf)  
[www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/pdfs/a\\_m\\_houen\\_community\\_grant\\_fund\\_application\\_form.pdf](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/pdfs/a_m_houen_community_grant_fund_application_form.pdf)

In July 2010, the Deaf Society Board established the Anthony M Houen Community Grant Fund. The Fund provides one-off funding assistance to support deaf and hard of hearing people to achieve or contribute to any one of the following priority areas:

- |                    |                          |                         |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| a) Leadership      | b) Community Development | c) Conference / Seminar |
| d) Art and Culture | e) Sport                 |                         |

Past recipients:

- **Disability Discrimination Legal Centre Conference**, “Hate Crimes against Persons with Disability – Time for Action”
- **KODA Australia Committee**, *Camp for KODAs (Kids of Deaf Adults)*
- **Better Hearing Australia**, *Central Coast, Hearing Awareness Week Information Day*
- **Deaf Netball NSW**, *Deaf Netballers from regional areas to participate in the training weekend in Sydney to prepare for the Australian Deaf Games.*

### Kenneth W Tribe Fellowship Fund

[www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/kw\\_tribe\\_info.html](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/contact/kw_tribe_info.html)

The aim of the Kenneth W Tribe Fellowship Fund is to provide financial assistance to deaf or hard of hearing people wishing to undertake a course of study which will lead to improved employment opportunities and enhance their ability to contribute to the NSW Deaf Community.

Previous recipients completed their study in the areas of Engineering, Masters of Arts, Law, and others.

### SLC NSW Deaf Community Fund

Sign Language Communications NSW has a special fund to support community events at a minimum cost. Some examples of events provided with support are: Nola Colefax’s 90th Birthday Celebratory Luncheon, and Deaf Australia (NSW) – Night of Entertainment.

Please contact Jasmine Rozsa for further information: [jazroza@deafsociety.com](mailto:jazroza@deafsociety.com)

## “On this day...”

For this edition we are taking you back to the Christmas edition of Silent Messenger in 1978. A little bit about craft, and a fair bit about church, but almost all about sport! Cindy-Lu Fitzpatrick is mentioned as having won the inaugural “Sportsman of the Year Award” from the Deaf General Committee, very early indeed in her swimming career. There is also an article by Dot Shaw on “The Education Debate – Continued” which concludes: “It was agreed that any move to include qualified deaf persons as teachers of deaf children would be supported by the Adult Deaf Community.” Very true!



## Spotlight on Newcastle

The Newcastle office is the Deaf Society’s oldest regional office, having been established in 1958 after the sale of the James Laskie Holiday Home at Lake Macquarie (which had been purchased by the Deaf Society in 1953).

Today, after 53 years, Newcastle continues to be one of our busiest regional offices. It has seen many staff come and go during that time.

Beryl McLeod was probably the longest serving staff member we have had in Newcastle and is still well loved in the area. The Deaf Society’s current Manager, Consumer and Consumer Services, Stephen Nicholson was a community worker at this office between 2004 and 2007. One of our regional professional level interpreters, David Barnes, also worked as a Community Worker in this office many years ago and is still remembered fondly.

The Newcastle office is currently staffed by Justine Lorenz who has worked as Community Worker since 2008. Sandra Campbell provides employment services from the Newcastle office.

Currently located in the CML Building on Hunter St, the office will be relocating during the last few months of 2011 and details of this move and the new address will be released once everything is complete. The services provided at the Newcastle office are:

- Consumer and Community Services – providing Walk In services and case management services to consumers who would like to have our assistance to improve their quality of life. Walk In is on Mondays and Tuesdays between 9am and 1pm. From the Newcastle Office, Justine also provides Walk In at our Niagara Park office in the Central Coast on Thursdays between 10am and 2pm.
- Employment Services – assisting deaf and hard of hearing people look for work and stay in employment on Thursdays and Fridays. Sandra provides similar services at the Niagara Park office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



**NWDP**  
(National Week of Deaf People)

\*Deaf Festival \*DSNSW Open Day  
\*Parliament House - School Tour & Panel Discussion



## The NSW Smoke Alarm Subsidy Scheme (SASS) - Pilot

**If there was a fire in your home at night, do you have an alarm that could wake you up? Maybe you don't have one because they are too expensive? The SASS is here to rescue you!**

### What is it?

The SASS makes visual and tactile smoke alarms affordable for deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind people in NSW. These smoke alarms (which normally cost \$400-\$650) are available for a fee of \$50. This fee will be waived in some situations where a person can explain that the fee would cause financial hardship.

### Why?

The law in NSW says that every home must have a working smoke alarm installed. Standard smoke alarms are not effective in alerting you to a fire if you are profoundly or severely deaf, especially when you are asleep. The SASS will help make sure you can afford a smoke alarm in your home that will wake you if there is a house fire. This is important because people who do not have a working fire alarm in their home are twice as likely to die in a house fire.

### Who is it for?

If you live in NSW and are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing then the SASS is for you.

### How do I get an alarm?

You need to apply. You can apply anytime from 9th December 2011, which is when the pilot starts. The first alarms will be sent out in February 2012. Application forms are available from the Deaf Society of NSW website at [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/smokealarms](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/smokealarms). If you do not use the internet, you can ask us to send you an application form.

In your application you will need to show us that you are a member of the Deaf Community or have a profound or severe hearing loss. You can do this by providing a reference or showing an audiogram. The application form explains how you can do this. You will also need to pay the \$50 fee.

If we get many applications we will need to prioritise so that people who are most at risk get an alarm first. There will be eight application rounds over the next three years. When you apply we will let you know when you will get your alarm. If there are lots of applications and you do not get an alarm in the round you applied, your application will automatically be moved to the next round. If you change your mind and want to withdraw your application we will refund your \$50.

### What kind of alarm will I get?

You can choose which alarm you want. All the alarms that we offer through SASS have a smoke detector, flashing light and vibrating pad. The three different models of alarm available through the SASS are:

- The **Brooks Battery alarm**, which includes a 10-year lithium battery in the smoke detector which is fixed to your ceiling; a flashing light alarm which goes next to your bed and connects to the smoke detector wirelessly; and a vibrating pad which you can place inside your pillow. This alarm is good for people who want to take their alarm with them if they travel or move house.
- The **Brooks Wired alarm**, which includes a smoke detector that is connected to your mains electricity and is fixed to your ceiling; a flashing light alarm which goes next to your bed and connects to the smoke detector wirelessly; and a vibrating pad which you can place inside your pillow. This alarm is good for people who own their own home.
- The **Mains Smokie alarm**, which includes a smoke detector which is fixed to your ceiling and is connected by wires to your flashing light alarm and vibrating pad. This alarm system plugs into an existing electrical power point, and is good for people who do not want to set up a wireless alarm connection.

Videos that explain the different alarms and how to install them are available at [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/smokealarms](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/smokealarms). If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Deaf Society of NSW for a DVD of all the information.

If you have any questions please contact us at the Deaf Society or you can email us on [smokealarms@deafsociety.com](mailto:smokealarms@deafsociety.com)

Soon, deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing people will be able to sleep well, knowing that we have a trusty alarm to wake us up in case of a fire.



For more information about fire safety read our tips below:

## Fire Safety in Your Home this Summer

- NEVER, EVER USE WATER TO PUT OUT A KITCHEN FIRE. Putting water on burning fat or oil will cause an explosion that can burn or kill you;
- If a fire starts in your pot or pan, turn off the stove and cover the flame with a lid or another pan, but only if it is safe to do so. You may instead use a fire extinguisher or fire blanket if you have one. Otherwise, leave the kitchen, close the door (if you have a kitchen door) and contact Fire and Rescue on TTY 106, or go to a neighbor for help contacting Fire and Rescue NSW;
- If you use a BBQ, make sure you don't leave it unattended. Check the expiry date of your gas cylinder, which you can exchange at most petrol stations and some supermarkets. Also check that all connections are tight, and the hoses haven't cracked. Do this check only when the BBQ is off;
- Now that winter is over, store your electric blanket safely by storing it flat if possible, and with nothing on top to damage the wiring;
- Draw up a fire escape plan so that everyone in your home knows how to escape in the event of a house fire, and where to meet outside.
- Make sure that you can escape your home quickly in the event of a house fire. Keep your key in the deadlock, or install deadlocks that can open from the inside without a key, and that security grills on windows open outward easily from the inside.
- For more fire safety in your home, go to [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/smokealarms](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/smokealarms)

Source: Fire and Rescue NSW

## Other fire safety tips

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't leave your kitchen if you are cooking. Turn your stove off before you leave;</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn pot and pan handles inwards so that children cannot reach up and scald or burn themselves;</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loose clothing can catch fire easily. Wear natural fibres like cotton when cooking, roll up your sleeves and tie back long hair. Also, make sure that kitchen curtains are kept away from your stove, and don't store your tea towel over the oven handle;</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many substances in your kitchen are dangerous and catch fire easily. Flammable substances such as pressurised sprays, cleaning products and cooking oils should be kept away from heat and children;</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't use appliances with frayed or damaged electrical cords;</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't plug power boards or double adapters into other power boards or double adapters;</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn off your computers, monitors, game consoles, TVs, VCRs and DVD players when you aren't using them, and make sure they have good air circulation to cool down;</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Never place anything within one metre of a heater, and check that it is kept away from curtains and drying clothes;</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't cover light bulbs with any fabric or material; install a lampshade;</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure that children cannot reach any lighters or matches;</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candles should be kept away from curtains, and blown out if you leave the room;</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear the lint filter in your clothes dryer before you use it, every time.</li> </ul>   |

Source: Fire and Rescue NSW



**Family & Community Services**  
Ageing, Disability & Home Care





## Message from a board member – Joshua Sealy

### Deaf Festival

On 15th October, the Deaf Festival was held at Parramatta River on a very beautiful, sunny Saturday. Many stalls were established and did a great job promoting the Deaf Community. Attendance was much higher than expected, the number of people that turned up estimated to be at least 500. Amongst those were prominent members of the community including Colin Allen, the current President of WFD (World Federation of the Deaf), and Cr. John Chedid, the Former Mayor of Parramatta, representing the currently elected Mayor by proxy. It was overall a very successful and smoothly run day, and we would like to thank Ephpheta Centre, ASLIA (NSW), PCDE, and The Deaf Society NSW for having made the day possible.

## National Week of Deaf People – Panel Discussion at the NSW Parliament House

As part of NWDP (National Week of Deaf People), a Panel Discussion comprising of deaf and hard of hearing youths was held at the NSW Parliament House on Wednesday 19th of October. Many people from different communities turned up for the panel discussion. Facilitated by renowned TV/Radio personality, James O'Loughlin, the topic discussed was "Life Stories – Experiences of deaf and hard of hearing young adults". The panel consisted of six young deaf and hard of hearing people: Rachael Ellis, Sherrie Beaver, Shirley Liu, John Lui, Lloyd Williams and Rania Saab. There were no heated discussions or conflicting ideas which would have made the panel discussion have a more powerful presence and awareness of the issues at hand. That is not to say it was not insightful or beneficial for many people; the variation of experiences amongst the panel made for an interesting discussion that revealed very slight differences between the deaf and hard of hearing. It became obvious that oral deaf people are no different to the signing deaf; both encounter very similar experiences with issues and obstacles every day in relation to academic learning experiences, identity issues, countless questions of belonging, and questions of accessibility to everyday living and so on.

Here are what some of the panellists had to say about the discussion:

**Shirley Liu:** I found it to be an interesting discussion, seeing perspectives from three hard-of-hearing panelists; we were all in the same boat, having to overcome the same issues in today's society.

**John Lui:** The only difference between oral and signing deaf are methods of communication. This may lead to varying degrees of what is essentially the same problem that everyone on the deafness spectrum faces - the right to access resources that allow us to enjoy an equal playing field in all facets of life. Where those who are oral may only require minor adjustments in comparison to the signing deaf, this is not a reason to give lip service and only put forward changes that require the least amount of work as it disadvantages us all in the end.

**Rachael Ellis:** What interested me the most was that regardless of each of our educational upbringings, which were different to each other, we all wanted the same thing - accessibility and increased awareness. I think that says something in itself.

## 17th Annual General Meeting

We had our AGM on Saturday 19th November. We have a new board with a mix of old and new members. Rachael Ellis decided to step down from the board as President. The current board thank her for her commitment and hard work over the last three years as both board member and as President. Our new President is now Donovan Mulligan. We look forward to working with him under his leadership. The Vice President is Katrina Lancaster. Our Treasurer is David Parker. Thank you to Mevlet Cet for his work as Treasurer over the last year. Mevlet will be continuing to help us with the website we are developing. Secretary is Kate Matairavula. Other board members are Sherrie Beaver, Josh Sealey and Karen Eu who is new to the board. Sherrie Beaver will continue as public officer. We still have one vacant board position so if anyone is interested please contact Kate. We would love to have the commitment and support of one more person.

### 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

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

### Deaf Outback Camp

- By Ann-Maree Marshall

Deaf Outback Camp was held during the October long weekend recently. The air was filled with much excitement and we all packed up our camping gear, headed off to the Steps of Girrba which is nestled beneath Mount Prince Charlie and bordered by the Barrington River, near Gloucester.

Many of us Deafies travelled from as far away as Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Tamworth, and Melbourne, just naming a few. The Steps of Girrba is a camping destination of spectacular natural beauty. We sat back and watched or listened to the sounds of the river cascading its way over the famous Steps rapid.

There were about 60 of us who turned up – rain, hail or shine, we still came, filled with enthusiasm, adventure, thrill and every one of us had a magnificent time!

We meet up with the old and welcomed the new. It was fantastic to see and catch up with each other again. It was also a real delight to welcome those we had never met before.

A group of us went Kayaking in the wild rapid rivers for several hours; another group of us went horseback riding along the superb mountains, viewing the most beautiful breathtaking landscape ever seen. Another group of us took a bush walk to neighbouring Copeland Tops and others went off in their 4WD's to see the striking rainforest and waterfalls.

On Saturday evening we had a Dress Up theme night and many of us put on our outfits, joked and laughed about whatever theme we were dressed up as. We all gobbled up some wine and spirits, sat by the fire, shared jokes, wonderful memories and most importantly of all there was warmth and smiles all round.

Throughout our stay the natural beauty totally washed away our stress and revitalised our spirit and none of us genuinely wanted to go home. But once again, we'll all be looking forward to getting together, welcoming old and new faces at our next electrifying camp on the Easter long weekend in 2012.

If you want more information about our next camp please feel free to contact me (Ann-Maree Marshall – pictured in centre) on 0409655263 or [isingnisng2u@hotmail.com](mailto:isingnisng2u@hotmail.com)

There's also a facebook page "Deaf Outback Camp". Add us to your facebook and I'll be able to keep you updated with the latest details of our upcoming Easter camp.



### Rickie Carr receives \$2000 TAFE scholarship - By Kellie Moore



Rickie is 39 yrs old, lives in the Newcastle area and has been a student of Belmont TAFE since February 2011.

Having been born profoundly deaf Rickie has had to overcome many challenges and obstacles in life (as a majority of deaf do) and found that welding has given him the feeling of empowerment and the opportunity to be treated as an equal in the workplace.

Rickie found his passion for welding some years ago whilst he was working for a company who specialised in the elevator manufacturing industry. Unfortunately he was not given the opportunity to pursue study and gain valuable experience in his chosen field.

He commenced employment with Economy Sweepers in February 2008 as a labourer. His job there involved welding and he wanted to gain a recognised qualification so he enrolled in Certificate II in Engineering Production Technology.

Rickie was nominated by the Head Teacher of Engineering Trades as he successfully attempted and completed 10 competencies in 192 hours of attendance in the Cert II course which is 60 hours ahead of his hearing peers and the allocated nominal duration for these competencies. Although he found the theoretical component of the competencies more challenging he utilised an interpreter 2 hours per week.

The money Rickie receives from winning this scholarship will assist him in paying for a Certificate III in Engineering Fabrication Trade course next year.

The \$2000 Hunter Manufacturers Encouragement Scholarship Award will be presented to Rickie Friday 21 October 2011 at West Leagues Club New Lambton.

It is wonderful to see positive achievements of deaf people particularly in regional areas where there are fewer opportunities available.



## 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](mailto:tclews@deaf.nsw.edu.au)

### The Deaf Society of NSW becomes an Associate Member of the Deaf Sports Australia.

The Deaf Society of NSW has become an associate member of Deaf Sports Australia at DSA's recent Extraordinary General Meeting in Geelong and therefore we are now eligible for ADSF Cup points at the coming Australian Deaf Games in Geelong this January. There will be some sport teams and individuals from NSW attending the Games to compete against other states and hopefully we will be able to obtain enough points to win the ADSF Cup again after NSW Deaf Sports being in exile since the 2003 Australian Deaf Games in Sydney. Let's bring the Cup back to where it belongs!

Apart from being an associate member, The Deaf Society is currently working with DSA to seek funding to employ an Administrator / Junior Development Officer in the near future to oversee Deaf Sports in NSW.

### NSW Flag Bearer at the Australian Deaf Games

The sports teams are currently nominating a member from their respective clubs to be the flag bearer of the NSW Deaf Sports team at the Australian Deaf Games and the announcement will be made at The Deaf Club's end of year party at Parramatta RSL Club on 2nd December 2011. Feel free to get tickets asap to avoid disappointment!

Check the website for more details of an event! - [www.deafclub.adhfonline.com](http://www.deafclub.adhfonline.com)

James Ashley, a veteran of Deaf Sports and basketball stalwart, has been appointed as a NSW Deaf Sports Team Co-ordinator at the Australian Deaf Games. His role at the Games will be assisting the state deaf sports team if needed. He will be the NSW team's main contact person at the Games.

### Australian Deaf Poker Championship



Landon Blackhall – Tournament Director, David Galpin – Adelaide Casino, Sokong Kim – President and the 2011 winner, Stacey Reilly

A deaf South Australian, 41-year-old Stacey Reilly, has become the first female to win the 2011 Australian Deaf Poker Championship, beating a field of 70 players from all over Australia to win and defeating fellow South Australian Kathleen Ogders, heads-up for the title.

The 2012 Australian Deaf Poker Championship will take place on the Gold Coast, Queensland, so start working your way up to be the national deaf poker champion.

The 2012 NSW Deaf Poker Championship is on again at Club Burwood and up to 40 players are expected for this prestigious tournament.

2012 NSW Deaf Poker Championship -31 March 2012 at Club Burwood, 97 Burwood Road, Burwood NSW 2134.

Registration begins: 4.30pm / Cards in the air: 5.30pm.

Advance Registrations: Please email [dpa@deafpoker.com.au](mailto:dpa@deafpoker.com.au) if you wish to register in advance for the tournament.

### Deaf Rugby Australia

Deaf Rugby Australia sent a deaf rugby team consisting of 20 players from all over Australia on 2nd November 2011 to play two tests against Japan. Between test matches, the team contributed their time to rebuild the deaf schools in the tsunami affected areas. The boys love their rugby and at the same time they want to give something back to the community, which is a great gesture from the fair dinkum blokes!

**Administrator Wanted for Deaf Lawn Bowls Australia.** They are currently looking for a part time administrator. Please contact Tony Gorringe, DLBA President for more details of the position. Email: [gorr95@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gorr95@bigpond.net.au) or send a letter: 95 Clinton Street, Orange NSW 2800. Applications close 13th January 2012.

### 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      | <a href="mailto:sokong@tpg.com.au">sokong@tpg.com.au</a>   |
| Deaf Cricket Club         | Andrew Park     | <a href="mailto:dcnsw@live.com">dcnsw@live.com</a>   |
| Deaf Darts Club           | Wendy Lancaster | <a href="mailto:wez.lancaster@gmail.com">wez.lancaster@gmail.com</a>                               |
| Deaf Football Australia   | Brian Seymour   | <a href="mailto:secretary@deaffootballaustralia.com.au">secretary@deaffootballaustralia.com.au</a> |
| Deaf Lawn Bowls           | Peter Hannan    | <a href="mailto:pjenny1@optusnet.com.au">pjenny1@optusnet.com.au</a>                               |
| Deaf Poker Group          | Sokong Kim      | <a href="mailto:dpa@deafpoker.com.au">dpa@deafpoker.com.au</a>                                     |
| Deaf Rugby                | Simon Mahony    | <a href="mailto:southerncrossdeafrugby@hotmail.com">southerncrossdeafrugby@hotmail.com</a>         |
| Deaf Table Tennis         | Trevor Boyle    | <a href="mailto:tboyle.mgirke@bigpond.com">tboyle.mgirke@bigpond.com</a>                           |
| Deaf Tennis               | John Lui        | <a href="mailto:jlui@deaftennisaustralia.org">jlui@deaftennisaustralia.org</a>                     |
| Deaf Ten Pin Bowling Club | Bruce Shaw      | <a href="mailto:shadan@netspace.net.au">shadan@netspace.net.au</a>                                 |
| Deaf Volleyball           | David Larkin    | <a href="mailto:David.Larkin@aecom.com">David.Larkin@aecom.com</a>                                 |



## Need a Auslan Interpreter?

SLC NSW is the DSNSW's interpreting service; we provide high quality interpreters.

**Pictured is your "Need an Interpreter card"**  
Please cut this out and put it in your wallet or purse. If you need an interpreter, show this card so they can contact us and we'll do the rest.



Sign Language Communications

SLC NSW is a department of The Deaf Society of New South Wales

### SLC NSW

Interpreting Service

Level 4, 69 Phillip Street  
Parramatta NSW 2150

**Phone** 1300 123 SLC (752)

**SMS only** 0427 891 774

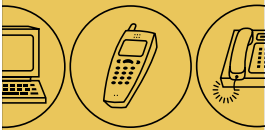
**TTY** (02) 8833 3653

**Fax** (02) 8212 5836

slc\_nsw@slcommunications.com.au

www.slcommunications.com.au

Problem with your telephone, mobile phone or internet service?



Can't resolve it with your service provider?

Contact the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman

www.tio.com.au

## Technology Problems? TIO Information in Auslan

Do you know about the **TIO** (Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman)? The TIO is a free service that can help you solve problems you have with your phone, mobile phone or internet provider.

For **information in Auslan**, please go to [www.tio.com.au/about-us/ombudsmans-message/ombudsmans-message-auslan](http://www.tio.com.au/about-us/ombudsmans-message/ombudsmans-message-auslan).

It's great that the TIO is providing information in Auslan! Please tell your friends, family, students and clients to visit this site too – the more people who do, the more likely it is that the TIO will provide MORE information in Auslan, and that other service providers will start to provide information in Auslan too.

## Employment Walk In Service at Parramatta!

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

### What support can we give you? We can:

- Talk about problems at your workplace
- Assist with your Employment Assistance Fund
- Give advice about workplace modifications
- Explain forms, letters or your employment contract or award
- 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!

## Events

### Deaf Community Groups:

#### Deaf Seniors Group

7 December- Sydney Carpet Bowls and Cards

14 December – Sydney Christmas Luncheon at Burwood RSL Club

21 December – Sydney Christmas Farewell

18 January – Sydney Welcome Gathering

01 February – Sydney Carpet Bowls and Cards

15 February – Sydney Card Games

07 March – Sydney Bingo & Cards

21 March – Sydney Seniors Week - Healthy Living

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

**South Coast** for more info  
**Contact:** Lyndall Keppie  
SMS: 0402 206 977

Annette Lapins  
SMS: 0418 474 010  
Robyn Nock  
SMS: 0416 244 279  
Amanda Day  
SMS: 0435 989 274

#### 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 02 December – Usher's Group Christmas Lunch

Friday, 17 February – normal Usher's Meeting

Friday, 20 April – normal Usher's Meeting

10am to 12pm  
Deaf Society, Level 4, 69 Phillip St, Parramatta  
**Contact:**  
Margaret Craig  
[mcraig@deafsociety.com](mailto:mcraig@deafsociety.com)  
TTY: 02 8833 3691

#### Sydney Region

##### The Deaf Club, Sydney

Parramatta RSL Club  
O'Connell Street, Parramatta  
Meets 1st Friday of each

month

Club Burwood  
2nd Floor Function Room, 97 Burwood Road, Burwood  
Meets 3rd Friday of each month

More information on the Deaf Club, Sydney  
[www.thedeafclub.org.au](http://www.thedeafclub.org.au)

#### 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  
[c.martin@liverpool.nsw.gov.au](mailto:c.martin@liverpool.nsw.gov.au)

#### Blue Mountain Region

##### Deaf Social Night

First Friday of each month except January  
Springwood Sports Club  
Macquarie St Springwood  
6pm at the Bistro

7.30pm at The Lounge  
**Contact:**  
 Anthony Hastings  
[hastingsag@hotmail.com](mailto:hastingsag@hotmail.com)  
 SMS: 0410 936 758

## Northern NSW Region

### Lismore Games Day

Every second Wednesday beginning 1st February 2012  
 Weekly in NSW school holidays  
 10am to 12pm.  
 Deaf Society office Lismore, 22 Conway St, Lismore

### Lismore Office Morning Tea

Mondays: 27 February, 26 March, 30 April 2012  
 10am to 12pm  
 Deaf Society office Lismore, 22 Conway St, Lismore  
**Contact:**  
 Melissa Mahony  
[mmahony@deafsociety.com](mailto:mmahony@deafsociety.com)  
 SMS: 0422 013 451

### Deaf Chat

Friday 3 February 2012  
 10am to 2pm  
 Casino RSM  
**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](mailto:trichardson@deafsociety.com)  
 SMS: 0401 230 911

### Social days

Third Sunday of the month between 11am and 3pm  
 Various locations  
**Contact:**  
 Bernadette Keane  
 SMS: 0439604637  
 Peter- John Ross  
 SMS: 0438518283

## New England Region

### Social Days Tamworth

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:**

Julia Griffiths  
[jgriffiths@deafsociety.com](mailto:jgriffiths@deafsociety.com)  
 SMS: 0406 672 500  
[tamworthdeafsocialnights@hotmail.com](mailto:tamworthdeafsocialnights@hotmail.com)  
 Facebook group: "Tamworth Deaf SocialNights"

## New England Region Deaf Christmas Party

Saturday, 10 December  
**Contact:** Julie Grimwood  
 SMS: 0429 203 769 or Anne-Maree Marshall  
 SMS: 0409 655 263  
[isingnsign2u@hotmail.com](mailto:isingnsign2u@hotmail.com)

## Central West Region

### Central West Deaf Club - Orange

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

## Riverina Region

### Deaf Xmas Dinner - Wagga Wagga

Saturday 10 December 6pm  
 Jasmin Village Chinese Restaurant, 35 Kincaid Street, Wagga Wagga  
 Welcome all Riverina & Ex-Riverina Deaf Group member & friends.  
 RSVP: 3 December 2011  
 For more info:  
**Contact:**  
 Matt, SMS: 0438 848 189  
[riverinadeafgroup@live.com.au](mailto:riverinadeafgroup@live.com.au)

## Hunter and Central Coast Region

### Newcastle Deaf Social Night

Fourth Saturday of the month  
 6pm at the Bistro for dinner or 7.30pm at the bar  
 Wests Leagues Club, Hobart Rd, Lambton

## Tweed Head/ Gold Coast Region

### Tweed Deaf Social Night

Fourth Friday of the month from 6pm  
 Twin Town Services Club, 1st floor, family and friends lounge, Wharf St, Tweed Heads.

24 Feb, 23 March, 27 April

### Contact:

David London  
[deafclub@goldcoastinc.net](mailto:deafclub@goldcoastinc.net)  
 SMS: 0408 762 414

## Tweed Coast Deaf Group Christmas BBQ Picnic Day

Sunday 4 December 10am  
 Lions Park Kingscliff (next door to Kingscliff Surf Club  
 BYO meat, drinks, chairs etc.

## Santa Christmas Hat Night

Sunday 10 December 7pm  
 Nerang RSL Club, 69 Nerang Street, Nerang QLD  
 \$15 members, \$20 non-members  
 Hot & cold finger foods provided  
 RSVP: 1 December 2011

## Pre-Australia Day BBQ Picnic

Sunday 22 January 10am  
 Broadwater Park, Gold Coast Highway, Southport (opposite Australia Fair)  
 BYO Foods, drinks, bathers, suncream, chairs etc.

### Contact:

David London  
[deafclub@goldcoastinc.net](mailto: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](mailto:southcoast@deafsociety.com)  
 SMS: 0406 940 899

### Wing & Pears Coffee Shop

First Friday of the 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 (South Coast)

Saturday 25 February 6pm  
 Fraternity Club, Bourke Street, Fair Meadow  
 Over 18 yrs only

## Auslan Practice Groups

### Glebe

11am to 1pm  
 Every second Saturday morning  
 Broadway Shopping Centre Food Court  
**Contact:** Gemma Jones  
 SMS: 0424 261 987

### Parramatta

11am to 2pm  
 Every second Saturday morning  
 Mars Hill Cafe on Church Street  
**Contact:** Gemma Jones  
 SMS: 0424 261 987

### 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  
 Ph: 9821 9450  
[c.martin@liverpool.nsw.gov.au](mailto:c.martin@liverpool.nsw.gov.au)

### Penrith

Second and Fourth Monday of each month from 6pm  
 Peachtree Hotel, Peachtree Rd, Penrith.  
**Contact:**  
 Meagan, SMS: 0410 691 381  
[mrudd@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mrudd@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
 or Erin, SMS: 0421 216 122  
[etaylor86@hotmail.com](mailto:etaylor86@hotmail.com)

### Newcastle

First Saturday of the month from 11am  
 McDonald's at Green Hills  
**Contact:**  
 Anne Ward  
 SMS: 0427 123 013  
 Third Saturday of the month from 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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
[southcoast@deafsociety.com](mailto:southcoast@deafsociety.com)  
 SMS: 0406 940 899

**Tamworth**

Third Saturday of the month  
 2.00pm to 4.00pm  
 West Leagues Club, Phillip  
 Street Tamworth  
**Contact:**  
 via Facebook "Tamworth  
 Auslan Coffee Club"  
[tamworthauslancoffeeclub@hotmail.com](mailto:tamworthauslancoffeeclub@hotmail.com)

**Deaf Access at Churches in NSW**

**C3 Ryde Deaf Pentecostal Church** 201 Cox's Road, North Ryde 2113  
 Contact: Alex Nyam, 0405 266 761 (sms only) [www.c3churchryde.com.au/what-we-do/c3-deaf.html](http://www.c3churchryde.com.au/what-we-do/c3-deaf.html)

|                                      |   |                                     |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1st Sunday – Deaf service at 10.30am | 2nd Sunday – Interpreted service at 10.30am | 3rd Sunday – Bible study at 10.30am | 4th Sunday – Interpreted service at 10.30am |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|

**Deaf Christian Fellowship** St Marys Presbyterian Community Church, 14 Marsden Street, St Marys  
 Contact: Rev Alan Kilborn, Correspondence Deaf Christian Fellowship of NSW, PO Box 4425, North Rocks NSW 2151

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Auslan service every Sunday at 11.30am. | Fellowship lunch after the service in the hall (bring a plate of food to share). |
|---|--|

**Ephpheta Centre (Catholic)**

Contact: Stephen Lawlor, ph: 9708 1396 fax: 9709 5638 tty: 9708 6904 [www.ephpheta.org.au/index.shtml](http://www.ephpheta.org.au/index.shtml)  
 (please contact Ephpheta Centre for details in case of changes) [www.ephpheta.org.au/calendar/201112.shtml](http://www.ephpheta.org.au/calendar/201112.shtml)

|                        |                                     |                          |                              |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1st Sunday – Punchbowl | 2nd Sunday alternates Gosford/Manly | 3rd Sunday – Seven Hills | 4th Saturday Vigil – Revesby |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|

**Inspire Church, ACC, Assemblies of God** Cnr Spire Crt and Hoxton Park Rd, Hoxton Park  
 Contact: Pastor Stan Grimmett, 0439 640 656 (sms only) [stanley.grimmett@inspirechurch.com.au](mailto:stanley.grimmett@inspirechurch.com.au)  
<http://inspirechurch.org/liverpool/purpose/our-association/>

|                               |                                  |                              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday 10.30am – Deaf Service | Sunday 6pm – Interpreted Service | Tuesday 7.30pm – Bible study |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|

**North Rocks Anglican Church** North Rocks Public School hall, cnr of North Rocks Rd & Barclay Rd, North Rocks  
 Contact: Darren Kirkegard, 0432 900 904 [Darren.Kirkegard@gmail.com](mailto:Darren.Kirkegard@gmail.com)  
[www.northrocksanglican.org.au/deaf\\_auslan](http://www.northrocksanglican.org.au/deaf_auslan)

|                           |                                  |                          |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1st Sunday – Deaf service | 2nd Sunday – Interpreted service | 3rd Sunday – Bible study | 4th Sunday – Interpreted service |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|

**Riverlands Christian Church, ACC, Assemblies of God** Level 1/535 High St, Penrith 2750  
 Contact: Sean Sewell, 0415 205 877 (sms only) [sewell\\_sean@hotmail.com](mailto:sewell_sean@hotmail.com) [www.rcc.org.au](http://www.rcc.org.au)

|                           |                                  |                          |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1st Sunday – Deaf service | 2nd Sunday – Interpreted service | 3rd Sunday – Bible study | 4th Sunday – Interpreted service |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|

**NEW** 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](http://www.facebook.com/deafsocietynsw)

**Submission deadline:**  
 If you wish to submit any articles or information for publication, you are encouraged to email us at [herald@deafsociety.com](mailto:herald@deafsociety.com). The deadline for contributions to the March edition of the Herald is 1st February 2012.  
 Please remember that the editors of the Herald may need to change your article because of space or to make the style consistent with the rest of the Herald. No promotional, commercial or personal advertisements are accepted unless the editor believes they are of direct value to the Deaf Community.

## Deaf Society Walk In Services

### Parramatta

Mondays & Wednesdays – 9am to 12pm  
Fridays – 1pm to 4pm  
Level 4, 69 Phillip St, Parramatta  
Contact: Jenny Rozsa / [jrozsa@deafsociety.com](mailto:jrozsa@deafsociety.com)

### Central Coast

Thursdays – 10am to 2pm  
Niagara Park Community Centre,  
Washington Ave, Niagara Park  
Contact: Justine Lorenz /  
[centralcoast@deafsociety.com](mailto: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](mailto:hunter@deafsociety.com) / 0410 909 286

### Coffs Harbour

Wednesdays & Thursdays – 9am to 2pm  
Boambee Community Centre,  
Bruce King Drive, Boambee  
Contact: Terri Richardson /  
[coffscoast@deafsociety.com](mailto: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](mailto:coffscoast@deafsociety.com) / 0401 230 911

### Lismore

Wednesdays & Thursdays – 9.30am to 1pm  
22 Conway St, Lismore  
Contact: Melissa Mahony /  
[northernnsw@deafsociety.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pnordheim@deafsociety.com) / 0409 745 288

Keep up to date with events - visit:

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

## Emergency Contact Details:



### Emergency Call 106

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

#### How it works:

- Dial 106. This is a toll-free number. You will be asked if you want police (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.

### Contact the Deaf Society of NSW:

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

Email stories to [herald@deafsociety.com](mailto:herald@deafsociety.com) Subscribe online at [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/subscribe](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/subscribe)