



# **Auslan Student Newsletter**

**December 2005 / January 2006**

**Welcome to the fifth edition of the Auslan Student Newsletter.**

Can you believe it is almost Christmas? I get so excited at Christmas time... our tree has already been up for two weeks, and I have started wrapping presents. Every morning my 2 year-old daughter asks me if it is Christmas yet, and when I tell her it's not she sighs and asks, "One more sleep?"

If you are stuck for gift ideas this year, don't forget to check out the product range at DRA. They have something for everyone (not just Auslan students), in every price range.

I will be on holidays from 23 December until 17 January, so this will be the last edition of the newsletter until February 2006. If you need CIA course information during this time please contact DEN reception (contact details on last page).

If you have any ideas for this newsletter, or would like to be included on the mailing list, email me at [nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au) or call (02) 8845 9405. Snail mail newsletters are also available.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season. I hope to see you out and about in the community over the next few months.



**Natalie Kull  
Program Coordinator,  
Certificates in Auslan**

## **Congratulations**

### **'There and Back' Cast & Crew Australian Theatre of the Deaf**

Congratulations to the cast and crew who were involved in ATOD's 'There and Back' in November. The show was incredibly popular with both Deaf and hearing audience members, and played to a theatre full of applause and laughter every night. I heard an interview with ATOD Director Caroline Conlon on 2ser radio two weeks ago, and the radio station's review of the performance was fantastic. Well done!

### **Olena La Macchia (formerly Kulchycki) DEN CIA student**

A big congrats to Olena who was married in October. After much thought about how to make the day unique and memorable, Olena decided to sign her vows to her husband in Auslan, while the Pastor voiced for her. Olena undertook private Auslan tutoring with DEN to prepare her for the big day, and she has told me that the wedding was beautiful. Apparently the signed vows were an incredibly special moment in the ceremony, for everyone who attended. Congratulations to Olena and her husband, Robert.

## **DEN Student Graduation 2005**



**Danni Wright,  
DEN Vice President**

On Sunday 4 December we held our annual DEN graduation ceremony, for all students (Deaf and hearing) who have completed a Certificate course in 2006. The day was a wonderful opportunity to catch-up with old class mates, and to officially recognise the hard work and achievements of DEN students.

The ceremony was MC'd by Danni Wright, and included an interview with Young-Joo Byun (DEN student and Australian winner of the 'ICDL Impacts Lives' Competition), a sign singing performance by Deb Hayes, and an address by Counsellor David Weiley from Burwood Council, as representative for John Murphy MP. More than 120 people attended the graduation ceremony at Burwood RSL, and I noticed that a number of people were having so much fun socialising after the formalities, they didn't want to leave!

A huge congratulations to all DEN students who graduated on the day. Also, a special congratulations to Karen Jahn, who was presented with a Recognition of Contribution for 15 years of committed service to DEN.

## Auslan Student Groups

- **Strathfield**

Lots of regulars at this group, but they are always happy to see some new faces.

**Where-** Gloria Jeans, Strathfield

**When-** Tuesday night, 6-8pm, once or twice a month

**Skill level-** Would suit students who are at CIA III or IV level, possibly even CIA II.

**How to get involved-** Email Andrew Charleston at [ACharleston@odpp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ACharleston@odpp.nsw.gov.au)



- **Glebe**

This group, started by community course student Christine Murtagh, is expanding rapidly!

**Where-** Near the fountain in Broadway Shopping Centre Food Court

**When-** Every second Saturday morning, 10am- 12pm

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

**How to get involved-** Email Christine at [christinemurtagh@yahoo.com.au](mailto:christinemurtagh@yahoo.com.au) (please include the word 'AUSLAN' in the subject line).



- **Liverpool**

This could be one of the oldest Auslan student groups in Sydney - they have been meeting for over 15 years. Coordinator Carmel Martin warmly encourages everyone to come and join in.

**Where-** Liverpool Library

**When-** Every Friday, 10am- 12pm

**Skill level-** This group is for everyone, from community course level and up.

**How to get involved-** Contact Carmel at [c.martin@liverpool.nsw.gov.au](mailto:c.martin@liverpool.nsw.gov.au), or call (02) 9821 9450.



- **Newcastle**

DEN CIA II student Kate Southwell is looking to get in contact with other Auslan students and teachers in the Newcastle area, for regular social events and Auslan practise. Meeting times will be established once she knows who is interested.

**How to get involved-** Contact Kate on 0421 746 835 (SMS or voice)



- **Wollongong**

TAFE student Robyn Gray has set up a student group in Wollongong. Come along to the next meeting and make some new signing buddies.

**Where-** Stuart Park, Wollongong (bring your own food and drinks)

**When-** Saturday 10 December, starting 10am

**Skill level-** Suitable for Cert II or III students

**How to get involved-** Contact Robyn on 0431 472 828 or email [dperusco@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dperusco@bigpond.net.au)

- **Sydney City**

Deaf DEN student Young-Joo Byun is starting a 'Coffee & Practise' Group in the city. The perfect place to hang out on the way home from work.

**Where-** Gloria Jeans, Corner Park & Pitt St, City

**When-** The first Thursday of every month, 4- 6pm (Next meeting 2 February 2006)

**Skill level-** Everyone welcome.

**How to get involved-** Email Young-Joo at [Young-Joo.Byun@lands.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Young-Joo.Byun@lands.nsw.gov.au) for more info.

## Did you know...?

- That Deaf people in Japan are not allowed to get their drivers licences?
- That individuals who are not accredited by NAATI should NOT provide interpreting services, whether paid or unpaid?
- Australian Association of the Deaf (AAD) will be 20 years old in 2006? They have been lobbying for improvements in access, services, education, employment, and telecommunications for Deaf people for two decades!

## **Deaf Community Events**

- **Dancing with Deaf Stars!**

This will be a fantastic evening. NSWAD are hosting this night of dancing- come along and find out who the Deaf stars are, then help the Deaf judges vote for the winner.

**When:** Friday 9 December

**Time:** 7pm onwards

**Where:** The Dome @ Burwood RSL, 96 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood

**Cost:** Individual- \$15 per person,  
Group- buy 6 tickets & get one free for \$90  
(NOTE: group tickets not available on 9<sup>th</sup> December)

Email [nswad@bigpond.com](mailto:nswad@bigpond.com) or  
fax (02) 9871 8218 for more info.

- **Deaf Social Gathering, Blacktown**

A group of Deaf people have started a regular social group in Blacktown, and are happy for CIA students to come along and join them for drinks and a chat.

**When:** Every second Friday of the month. Next meeting is Friday 10 February 2006.

**Time:** 8pm onwards

**Where:** Blacktown Worker's Sports Club, Reservoir Rd, Blacktown

For more information email Karen Jahn at [kjahn@deaf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kjahn@deaf.nsw.edu.au)

- **Signing Art January 2006**

This month's tour '**Points of View**' explores an exhibition of exciting Australian photography from 1985 to 1995, a decade in which photographic practise saw the incorporation of contemporary ideas with rapid technical innovation. Following this will be a family performance with Dennis Clare, who will use mime, creativity, and cheekiness to explore the world of art. Bring the kids!

(NB- Sometimes in their excitement to watch the interpreter, students have been known to stand in front of Deaf people during the tour. Please be aware of the communication needs of the people around you)

**When:** Sunday 29 January 2006

**Where:** Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery Rd, The Domain, Sydney.

**Time:** Meet in main foyer at 1:25pm for the guided tour. Family event follows at 2:30pm- ask at the help desk for performance location.

Visit [www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/events/accessible](http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/events/accessible) for more details.



## **DEN Courses for Hearing Learners**

### **New DEN Brochure for Hearing Learners**

This month DEN's 2006 brochures will be ready to send out. For a comprehensive listing of all courses for hearing students, and detailed information about DEN's 2006 Community Courses, Auslan Only BBQs, AOWs, Certificate Courses, etc, email Jennifer Clements at [den@deaf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:den@deaf.nsw.edu.au) or call (02) 8845 9444. Make sure you include your full name, address, and post code.

If you have a Deaf friend, tell them to email DEN for a copy of our 2006 Deaf Learners brochure.



**Kasey Murray**  
DEN teacher

### **DEN's Certificate in Auslan Programs**

DEN is now accepting enrolments for CIA II, III, and IV starting February/ March 2006. For an information and enrolment package contact me at [nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au), or call (02) 8845 9405. But be quick- one of these courses is already full, and we have started a semester 2 waiting list!

### **Dates for your 2006 Diary...**

**Auslan Only BBQ 1 & 2** - 29 April 2006  
**Auslan Only Weekend 1 (Stanwell Tops)** - 19-21 May 2006  
**Auslan Only Weekend 2 (Elanora Heights)** - 23-25 June 2006  
**Sing 'n' Sign Workshop**- 24 June 2006

## **Positions Vacant**

- **Tutor of Accredited Literacy/Numeracy- Deaf Education Network**

In 2006 DEN will be employing qualified tutors to teach classes in written English, Numeracy, and Job Skills for adults who are deaf/hearing impaired. Successful applicants will be placed on an Eligibility List of casual tutors, for the Gosford & Sydney regions. Interviews will be held during the week of 16 January 2006.



**Essential Criteria:**

- State recognised teacher qualifications which may include a degree or diploma, with studies relevant to teaching Literacy and/or language in Adult Basic education
- Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training or Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
- Demonstrated evidence of good teaching practice

**Desirable Criteria:**

- Postgraduate qualifications related to essential criteria
- An understanding of the Deaf community and Auslan
- A flexible approach to teaching literacy to Deaf adults
- Experience teaching Certificates in general education for Adults

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 11 JANUARY 2006**

For a job description contact DEN on (02) 8845 9444, fax (02) 8845 9455, tty (02) 8845 9411, or email [den@deaf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:den@deaf.nsw.edu.au). Please send your application (addressing ALL selection criteria) to John O'Neill, Programs Manager, Deaf Education Network, PO Box 5004, North Rocks NSW 2151.

- **Interpreting Services Officer- Deaf Society of NSW**

DSNSW is seeking an Interpreting Services Officer (casual position) who will be available to replace the full-time Interpreting Officer when required. The successful applicant must be able to undertake (paid) training in January 2006, and must be able to work for approx. 4 weeks during Feb/March. This position involves communicating with clients, coordinating interpreting appointments, and providing admin support to the Community Relations & Development team. Hourly rate is \$16.52 to \$21.48 p/h, depending on qualifications.



**Essential criteria:** Excellent English communication skills (both written and spoken), excellent phone manner and organisational skills, an understanding of the Deaf community, basic Auslan skills, ability to work in a team, HSC or equivalent, and willingness to work out of hours when necessary.

**Desirable criteria:** Interpreting qualifications, understanding of and/or experience in the field of interpreting.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 16 DECEMBER 2005.**

For further info contact Danielle Fried on (02) 8833 3615 or email [dfried@deafsociety.com](mailto:dfried@deafsociety.com) Applications addressing the above criteria should be sent to Danielle Fried, Coordinator, Community Relations and development, The Deaf Society of NSW, PO Box 1060, Parramatta NSW 2124, or emailed to the above address.

- **Australian Theatre of the Deaf**

**1 - Office Manager**

ATOD is looking for a new Office Manager, to start late February 2006 with a one year contract.

Responsibilities will include school bookings, tour planning, publicity, and membership. The successful applicant will have fantastic phone and communication skills, good organisation and office skills, and preferably some Auslan. Experience within the Deaf community is also desirable. For an information kit contact ATOD (details below).



**2 - Deaf Actor**

ATOD is looking for a new Deaf actor for their 2006 Schools Touring Program. Position starts in March 2006. For an information kit please contact ATOD (details below).

**Australian Theatre of the Deaf**

4/245 Chalmers St  
Redfern NSW 2016

Tel: 02 9310 1255  
Fax: 02 9318 2835

TTY: 02 9310 1205  
Mob: 0421 828 222

Email: [info@atod.org.au](mailto:info@atod.org.au)  
Website: [www.atod.org.au](http://www.atod.org.au)

- **Chief Executive Officer- Deafness Forum of Australia**

Deafness Forum is now calling for expressions of interest in the position of CEO, starting in April 2006 and based in Canberra. Official advertisements for this position will be released 4 February, with interviews starting 27 February. Anyone interested in applying for this position is invited to express interest now- they will be provided with a package of information about Deafness Forum and the sector it represents, along with Position Description and Selection Criteria.

This is a challenging role, which requires hands-on application of proven administrative, financial, marketing, and people skills. The successful applicant will have excellent communication skills. To express interest in this position contact

Deafness Forum of Australia

Tel: 02 6262 7808

TTY: 02 6262 7809

Fax: 02 6262 7810

Email: [info@deafnessforum.org.au](mailto:info@deafnessforum.org.au)

Websites: [www.deafnessforum.org.au](http://www.deafnessforum.org.au) and [www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au](http://www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au)

## **Volunteers Needed**

- **Auslan Heritage School**

A message from Sarah Dearlove, Community Worker at the Deaf Society of NSW...

"...It was wonderful to receive such a positive response from Auslan students interested in volunteering at the Auslan Heritage School this term. The Heritage School ended on 3 December and was a success!

I would like to extend a big thanks to those who volunteered their time and also to those who contacted me to offer their time. With such an overwhelming response, I was not able to contact each and every individual who contacted me. So to any that I may have missed, please accept my sincere thanks for your interest.

The Auslan Heritage School is held twice every year, so please watch this space as there are always volunteers needed to assist..."

- **Mullauna Nursing Home**

Mullauna is in the Blacktown area, and is home to many Deaf and DeafBlind folk with a wide range of communication needs. At the moment the nursing home needs volunteers with signing skills, who are willing to take the time to chat with the residents (many of whom do not have regular visitors). If you would like to get involved, email Deaf Liaison Officer Caroline at [carolmar@bigpond.net.au](mailto:carolmar@bigpond.net.au), or call 0425 250 144 after 3pm.

- **Hand Over Hand Club**

The Hand Over Hand Club is a group of self-determining people with both vision and hearing loss, and is an important part of the DeafBlind Association of NSW. The club provides outings, services, information, and social interaction for its members, and are looking to recruit new volunteers. If you would like to meet some truly amazing and inspiring individuals, and are ready to challenge your Auslan skills, contact Paula McMahon at [dbansw@bigpond.com](mailto:dbansw@bigpond.com) or call (02) 9744 0160 (Mon, Wed, Fri) to get involved. A Volunteer Training Workshop will be conducted in early 2006. You can also contact DBA at this email address, if you wish to be put on the mailing list for 'Rainbow News', the Hand Over Hand Club newsletter.

- **Shhh Australia**

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People is a non-profit, non-funded volunteer organisation committed to providing info and resources for hearing impaired people who communicate orally. They also provide info and support for carers and family members in the management of hearing loss. Although your Auslan skills would not be the focus of volunteer work with Shhh Australia, there would still be some opportunities for signing. To get involved, or for more info about their services, call (02) 9144 7586 (voice & TTY), email [shhh@netspace.net.au](mailto:shhh@netspace.net.au) or check out [www.shhhaust.org](http://www.shhhaust.org)

## **PCDE Raffle**

Parent Council for Deaf Education has been invited to host a 3 day conference in Merimbula in February. The focus of this event is to discuss issues encountered by families with Deaf or hearing impaired children, living in remote/rural areas. PCDE are selling Rotary Club Community Chest raffle tickets to raise money for the conference, and I encourage all Auslan students to support this cause in whatever way they can.

Tickets are \$2.00 each (80c in every \$1.00 is retained by PCDE). Please purchase your tickets by Friday 16 December. The raffle will be drawn on 25 January 2006. First prize is a Toyota Corolla Manual Hatch (value \$22,000), second prize is jewellery by Kurt Seifert Jewellers (to the value of \$3,000). For more information contact Louise Rakowski at PCDE on (02) 9871 3049 or email [pcde@bigpond.com](mailto:pcde@bigpond.com) ... GOOD LUCK!!

**Buy your raffle ticket by filling in the form on page 6 and mailing it to:  
PDCE, PO Box 4748, North Rocks NSW 2151.**

# Christmas Shopping with Deafness Resources Australia

DRA has a number of exciting novelty gifts that your friends and family will love. If you cannot get to the showroom to collect your purchases, DRA will be happy to post them out to you.



- **Christmas Activity Pack**

Give your family hours of signing fun! This beautiful set includes activities for the whole family. Young children love sending out Christmas signing cards they've made themselves, and even non-signers will pick up Christmas signs quickly with the Christmas bingo game. This pack includes: Colour-in Pages, Christmas Bingo, Christmas Card Making, Merry Christmas Song Sheet and a Signing Christmas CD-ROM.

Cost: \$20.00 for entire pack

- **'I LOVE YOU' Scented Soap**

This 7cm x 8cm soap is a small sculpture of a hand in the I LOVE YOU sign. What better way to show someone you care than to say it in sign with soap! Explain to your Nanna, partner, or child what it means and they'll adore it.

Available in Rose (with bois de rose & rosemary oils) and Lavender (with thyme & rosemary oils).

Cost: \$5.50 each

- **'Say it in Sign' Badge**

Get a cute pin-on badge for your fellow students, or get a few for your family members to make them stop singing carols after Christmas lunch!

Cost: \$3.30 each

- **Character Puppet**

Make a new best friend with your very own Character Puppet! Simply slip your arms into the puppet's sleeves, and your arms and hands then become the puppet's - watch them come alive! They can now sign or put on a fun performance. Fantastic for everyone, not only children and Auslan users. They're colourful, well dressed, stand at 60cm tall, and are full of personality. Befriend a boy puppet with black hair or blonde hair, a girl with red curls and tartan frock, or even a clown.

Cost: \$95.00

To receive a copy of the catalogue "Deafness Resource Guide - Sign Language 2005- 2006" contact DRA on (02) 9895 2970 (v), (02) 9895 2971 (TTY), or email [dra@deafnessresources.net.au](mailto:dra@deafnessresources.net.au) Check out the regularly updated product range at [www.deafnessresources.net.au](http://www.deafnessresources.net.au)

DRA's showroom is on the ground floor at **33 Argyle St, Parramatta**. Open Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm.


## Information on DEN Courses

For further information about Auslan courses, to receive the DEN brochure every semester, or to enrol in a course, please contact DEN.

Deaf Education Network Inc.  
PO Box 5004, North Rocks NSW 2151

Ph: (02) 8845 9444 Fax: (02) 8845 9455 TTY: (02) 8845 9411 Email: [den@deaf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:den@deaf.nsw.edu.au)

## PCDE Raffle Form

Name: ..... Number of tickets required @ \$2 per ticket: ..... 

Address: ..... I am paying by cheque/money order or please debit my credit card with \$ .....

..... Bankcard/Mastercard/Visa: .....

..... Name on card: .....

Postcode: ..... Expiry date: ..... / .....

Phone: ..... Signature: .....