



Auslan Student Newsletter

November 2005

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Auslan Student Newsletter.

October was fantastic!

54 of you came along to the Auslan Only Weekend at Stanwell Tops, making it one of the biggest and best AOWs ever. The Glebe Student Group got so big that no café could fit them all in, and they had to move into a nearby Food Court. National Week of Deaf People was celebrated with a week of successful events, and saw some wonderful members of the Deaf community awarded for their contributions (including DEN staff member Tony Clews). And finally, this newsletter is now officially sent out to 180 people. Wow!

Now it is November. Three more student groups are about to start meeting, so there are no excuses for not getting out there, and joining other students in your area. Still don't have a student group close to your place? Why not organise one yourself?

I'd love to hear about what you are doing out there in the community. Got a job through the newsletter? Joined an Auslan group? Saw some theatre? Please tell me all about it!

Don't forget, 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 Snail mail is also available.

I hope you have a fun Auslan filled month!



Natalie Kull
Program Coordinator,
Certificates in Auslan
Deaf Education Network

Congratulations

National Week of Deaf People, 8- 14 October

Congratulations to everyone responsible for organising events during NWDP. The week was a huge success, and helped to raise awareness for Deaf Culture and Deaf related organisations.

In particular a massive pat on the back for the Deaf Award winners and nominees, announced at the NWPD launch at Sydney RSL. The winners of these prestigious awards were:

TONY CLEWS - 2005 Deaf Australian of the Year

ALEXANDRA SHAW - 2005 Deaf Australian Youth of the Year

MELBOURNE 2005 DEAFLYMPICS (DEAF SPORTS AUSTRALIA) –
2005 Fair Go Award Winner (Award accepted by Caroline Conlon,
Kathy Wright & Tony Clews on behalf of M2005)



Tony Clews
Deaf Australian of the Year

Michael Sutjiadi

Auslan student and Masters of Design student Michael Sutjiadi has created the world's first tactile comic book for blind children. He has been asked to present his work to an audience at The World Tactile Graphics Conference in Birmingham, England in December 2005. This is an amazing achievement, and Michael is in the process of raising money to get him to this respected international event.

Last month Michael held a trivia night fundraiser. About 70 people attended, and over \$1300 was raised, which will go towards the cost of Michael's trip to the UK.

To view Michael's abstract for the Birmingham conference, go to <http://www.nctd.org.uk/Conference/Conf2005/abstracts/P7-C.asp>

DEN wishes Michael all the best for his presentation at the conference.

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



- **Glebe**

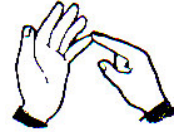
This group, started by community course student Christine Murtagh, is expanding rapidly!

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 (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, 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 is setting up a Student Group at North Beach. Come along to the first meeting and make some new signing buddies.

Where- The Lobby Bar (next to reception area), Novotel Hotel, North Beach, Wollongong.

When- Friday 2 December, 10.00am

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

- **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 (starting December)

Skill level- Everyone welcome.

How to get involved- Email Young-Joo at Young-Joo.Byun@lands.nsw.gov.au for more info.

Deaf Films Update

The campaign to bring Koichi to Australia to show a selection of Deaf films has been successful. Koichi, a Deaf Japanese man, will be showing the films (made by Deaf filmmakers and Deaf actors) on behalf of MATA TV in Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne.

Koichi will be in Sydney from 1- 8 December, and is looking for someone who knows ASL or Japanese to host him during his stay.

If you are interested, contact James Kerwin at jameskerwin882@hotmail.com for more information.

At this stage all I know is that the films will be shown in Sydney on Friday 2 December. If you are interested, and would like a flyer, email me at nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au or call (02) 8845 9405, and I will send you one as soon as I have them.

Deaf Community Events



- **Signing Art November**

This month the Auslan interpreted art gallery tour is "Visions of Colour"- an exploration of artists who use vibrant and vivid colour in the paintings (to complement the exhibition *Grace Cossington Smith*). This will be followed by a family performance by the amazing Etcetera Duo, who use puppetry, illusion, and comic action to take the audience on a visual journey through Australian 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 27 November

Where: Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery Road, The Domain, Sydney.

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

Cost: FREE

Visit www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/events/accessible for more details.

- **Deaf Film Night**

NSW Association of the Deaf presents the film of the 2005 Melbourne Deaflympics. Relive the fun if you were there, and find out how much fun you missed if you were not!

When: Friday 4 November

Time: 7pm onwards (film starts at 7:45pm)

Where: Burwood RSL, 96 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood

Cost: Gold coin donation

For more information email Julia Allen at nswad@bigpond.com or fax (02) 9871 8218.

- **Maritime Museum Tour**

The Deaf Society of NSW and Maritime Museum have organised an Auslan interpreted tour of the Maritime's Viking Exhibition. Come along and find out all about those people with the horns on the side of their helmets.

(NB: Maritime Museum is providing Auslan interpreters to make this exhibition accessible to the Deaf community. Hearing people are welcome to come along, but priority will be given to Deaf bookings)

When: Sunday 4 December, 2-3pm

Where: Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour (Harbourside), Sydney

How to book: RSVP to Dani Fried at dfried@DeafSociety.com or call (02) 9893 8555, by 25 November.

- **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 9th December)

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

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) and can be purchased using the form below. 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 ... GOOD LUCK!!



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:

Positions Vacant

- **Office Manager- Australian Theatre of the Deaf**

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

Australian Theatre of the Deaf
4/245 Chalmers St, Redfern NSW 2016
Tel: (02) 9310 1255
TTY: (02) 9310 1205
Fax: (02) 9318 2835
Email: info@atod.org.au

- **Nanny**

Amanda Parsonage is looking for a Deaf person or a hearing person with Auslan skills to help look after her children after school, at her home in Denistone. The kids are a 3 yr old, a Deaf 5 yr old who uses Auslan, and a 9 yr old. Responsibilities include light house work, and sometimes picking up the children from school in North Rocks. Hours from 3pm weekdays, at \$18.00 per hour.

If you have a driver's licence, have experience working with children, and are interested in this role, please contact Amanda on 0403 336 122, fax (02) 9874 5651, or email liamanda@bigpond.net.au

- **Auslan Interpreter Service Coordinator- ACT Deafness Resource Centre**

ACTDRC has a Coordinator position available within their Interpreting Service (ACT based). The occupant of this position is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Service, and reports to the Manager of ACTDRC. This role would suit a NAATI qualified Auslan interpreter who requires an assured income while still having the opportunity to accept interpreting assignments. This is a part-time position (20 hours week), and pay is in accordance with SACS level 4.

For more info please contact Margaret Hackett on (02) 6287 4393, fax (02) 6287 4395, or email Auslan@iimetro.com.au Applications close 30 November.

Volunteers Needed

- **Auslan Heritage School**

Are you interested in being involved in fun activities for Deaf/Hard of Hearing children and their siblings?

The Deaf Society of NSW and the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children will be having the Auslan Heritage School, and volunteers are needed on Saturday mornings from 9.45am- 12.15pm at RIDBC in North Rocks. Volunteers are required to have conversational Auslan skills and a sense of fun, and will be asked to support the children in art and craft activities in an Auslan immersed environment.

If you would like to know more about how you can be involved, please contact Sarah Dearlove at the Deaf Society of NSW on (02) 9893 8555 or TTY (02) 9893 8858, or email

sdearlove@DeafSociety.com

- **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, 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 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 or check out www.shhhaust.org

Deafness Resources Australia - Product of the Month

The Survival Guide to Auslan- A Pocket Beginner's Dictionary of Australian Sign Language

Ed. Trevor Johnston & Adam Schembri



Otherwise known as 'The Little Blue Book', this dictionary is proving to be very popular with beginner level students (particularly Community Course and CIA II students). 500 basic vocab items are listed alphabetically, in an easy-to-carry reference book. All signs are illustrated by a Deaf artist, and are accompanied by a description of how to form the sign. For Auslan learners, this book is the perfect companion to *Discovering Auslan: A Beginner's Dictionary of Australian Sign Language* (CD-ROM). **Cost: \$25.00**

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 You can also check out the regularly updated product range at www.deafnessresources.net.au

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

Did you know...

- The NRMA now has an SMS Roadside Assistance number for Deaf and hearing impaired customers?
- That individuals who are not accredited by NAATI should NOT provide interpreting services, whether paid or unpaid?
- That the 2008 Australian Deaf Games will be held in Queensland?

Lismore TAFE Student Reunion

Lismore TAFE is celebrating 11 years of Auslan courses! They are holding a reunion for all past students on 12 November 2005, and are trying to track down as many past Auslan students as possible. For more information contact Auslan Coordinator Bronwyn Watson on 0414 555 348 or (02) 6626 6406, or email Bronwyn.Watson@det.nsw.edu.au

DEN Courses for Hearing Learners

Semester 1 courses, 2006



Gavin Rose-Mundy
DEN teacher

We are now taking expressions of interest for CIA II, III, and IV starting in February/March 2006. It looks like competition will be very stiff to get into these courses, due to the huge number of students that have already shown interest, so make sure you register your details ASAP to have an enrolment package sent out to you.

If you have friends who want to start learning Auslan (or want to know what YOU are so excited about), they can enrol in DEN's Community Auslan Courses for Terms 1 and 2 – courses throughout Sydney, on the Central Coast, and in Newcastle.



Sheila Hudson
DEN teacher

New DEN Brochure for Hearing Learners

Next 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 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 brochure with courses for Deaf students. DEN wants to hear what courses members of the Deaf Community want!

Australian Theatre of the Deaf

If you are interested in Deaf or Auslan interpreted theatre, ATOD promises to keep you busy over the next few months.



There and Back

Written by Kate Nelson, Directed by Caroline Conlon
With Michael Ng, Anna Hrubby, Danni Wright, Gerry Shearim, Medina Sumovic, Neil Phipps

When: Wednesday 23- Saturday 26 November

Where: Sidetrack Theatre, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville

Cost: \$12 ATOD members, \$20 non-members, \$16 concession

**** Natt says "Do not miss this event!"*

Festen

Directed by Gail Edwards

With Jeremy Sims, Tom Long, Victoria Longley
Auslan Interpreted Performance

When: Saturday 3 December, 2pm

Where: Drama Theatre, Sydney Theatre Company

Cost: \$40 ATOD members, \$43 non-members

Interpreters: Andy Carmichael and Karin Banna

BOOKINGS CLOSE TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER

To book tickets for these performances, contact ATOD on Tel: (02) 9310 1255, TTY: (02) 9310 1205, Fax: (02) 9318 2835, or email info@atod.org.au.

Have you considered becoming a member of ATOD?

Members receive a newsletter every 2 months, discounted entry into interpreted theatre events, and cheap tickets for ATOD performances. Membership prices are \$25 Single, \$40 Double (does not have to be a couple), and \$20 for Concession (proof required). A fantastic way to support Deaf theatre! Contact ATOD for more information.

DEN's Auslan Only Weekend - October 2005



This semester's AOW was a huge event- I think I am still recovering! In total we had 3 Presenters, a Site Coordinator, a photographer, a Program Coordinator, 12 Deaf community Team Members, and 54 Auslan students from all over NSW and ACT, all come along to be part of this amazing weekend. For 45 hours we signed, laughed, ate, signed and laughed some more, and took part in a variety of activities in the stunning bushland surrounds at Stanwell Tops. Thank you to all the staff and students who made this AOW so special.

How do you make a banana with 12 human bodies? Which male Deaf community member looks fantastic in a little black dress? Why would you buy old toilet rolls at an Op Shop? Who is the hug champion of AOW? If you don't know the



answers to these questions, make sure you come along to the next AOW and find out.



Come to the next Auslan Only Weekend!

When: 19- 21 May 2006

Where: The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops

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