



Auslan Student Newsletter

September 2005

Welcome to the second edition of the Auslan Student Newsletter.

It has been a very pleasant surprise for me to see how fast this newsletter has spread. In the past 4 weeks, since the release of the first edition, over 100 Auslan students have joined the mailing list. I have had reports of copies being handed out in DEN and TAFE classes all over Sydney, and I have even been told that a lecturer was handing them out at Newcastle Uni. It would be great for this newsletter to become a connection and a resource for students and organisations all over NSW, so print it, read it, and pass it around!

If you are looking for things to do this month, and somewhere to practise your Auslan, I am sure you will find the perfect place in the pages of this newsletter. DEN would love to hear about your experiences out there in the community, so please email us with your stories, your thoughts, or anything else you would like to share. Thanks to all the people who contacted me in August, with suggestions, leads, and words of encouragement.

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, for those of you who prefer the old fashioned way.

I hope you have a fun Auslan filled month!

Natalie Kull
Program Coordinator, Certificates in Auslan
Deaf Education Network



Auslan Student Groups

- **Strathfield**

This group has been meeting for sometime now, but they are 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 for more info.

- **Glebe**

This is a very new "coffee and practise" group, started by community course student Christine Murtagh.

Where- Various cafes in Glebe

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 on (02) 9821 9450.

***Are you a student group in Newcastle, Wollongong, or the Blue Mountains?
I know that there are students out there that want to know about you.***

Deaf Community Events

• **Signing Art September 2005**

This month sees the return of the Sunday afternoon art gallery tour, followed by a performance for families. Both events will be Auslan interpreted, and are FREE to attend. This is the perfect opportunity to watch interpreting at its best, and to meet fellow Auslan users. The topic for September's tour is 'Love and Death- Art in the Age of Queen Victoria'. After this, kids (and grown ups!) will love 'Didge, dance & black fella yarns', by Aboriginal performer Jilkamu.

(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 25 September

Where- Art Gallery of NSW

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.

Please visit

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

• **Moving Hands Harbour Cruise**

This should be one crazy party! As the flyer says, "Give in to the glittering city lights and party all night!" This cruise is being organised by NSWAD Deaf Youth, and is for over 18's only.

When: Friday 28 October

Where: Meet at the Man O' War Steps, Opera House, and then cruise around Sydney Harbour.

Time: 7- 11pm

Cost: Early bird price (before Wednesday 12 October) \$25, after this date tickets are \$30 each. Price includes snack foods. Drinks available separately at the bar.

RSVP: By 19 October at the latest.

Contact Mevlut Cet 0424 239 905 (SMS), or Amanda Barber 0433 394 153 (SMS) for tickets. For more info go to www.movinghands.com.au

• **Comedy Night**

An evening full of jokes and hilarious stories, presented by NSWAD. Come and witness the beauty of Deaf storytelling!

When- Friday 16 September

Where- Burwood RSL, Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood

Time- 7pm

Cost- \$10 for members/pensioners/concession, \$15 for non-members, \$5 for 6-14 year-olds, under 5's are free.

Congratulations Yong-Joo

Congratulations to Deaf Australian woman, Young-Joo Byun, who was recently judged by the Australian Computer Society as the Australian winner of the "ECDL/ICDL Impacts Lives" competition.

Young-Joo gained her ICDL (International Computer Drivers Licence) through one of DEN's Deaf Learner courses, which are delivered in Auslan. She said "The ICDL has given me added confidence to fully participate in the IT society. I am ready for whatever lies ahead. I encourage all deaf and hearing impaired people to give it a go".

As Australian winner, Young-Joo will compete against winners from 138 countries in the international competition.

Deaf Films

James Kerwin, a Deaf Australian man, is trying to organise the screening of international Deaf films here in Sydney, on behalf of Koichi, a Deaf Japanese man. Koichi is involved with MATA TV, which produces and shows Deaf films across Asia, and in the United States.

Koichi is planning on travelling to Australia in November and December, to show the Deaf films, which are made by Deaf filmmakers and Deaf actors. He needs to prove he will have an audience of 100+ in Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne, so that his budget for the trip can be approved by MATA TV.

If you are interested in seeing these Deaf films screened here in Sydney, please contact James Kerwin at jameskerwin882@hotmail.com. He will add your name to the audience list, which will be passed on to Koichi to show the Board at MATA TV (your email address will not be passed on, but kept by James for future contact regarding the dates and screening times of the films).

James also needs a volunteer in both Sydney and Melbourne, to be the contact person for this project, and to help him gather the names of audience members. Please contact James for more details.

Support for the International Deaf Film Industry! (For more information about MATA TV go to www.mata.tv)

Volunteers needed

- **Parents Council for Deaf Education**

PCDE are still looking for volunteers, to help out with their "Whole Child Conference" in September. They need people with a wide range of skills and interests, so give them a call on (02) 9871 3049, or email pcde@bigpond.com

- **Sydney Community College**

In the past, Sydney Community College has advertised for Auslan students to act as note takers for Deaf students. Due to a lack of interested volunteers, they had to withdraw this service, but are keen to offer note taking again. The college coordinators would like to set up a contact list of people who are willing to be involved in the program starting in February 2006, so if you have finished Auslan III and would like to take part, please email Bekki Cowie at beki.cowie@scc.nsw.edu.au or Ann Brady at ann.brady@scc.nsw.edu.au

(NB- It is very important in situations like this, that all parties understand the Auslan student is **NOT AN INTERPRETER**, and therefore cannot act as such. As a student entering into a note taking arrangement it is your responsibility to explain this, if anyone expects you to interpret. Should you chose to interpret information, you could be placing yourself, the Deaf student, and the organisation at great risk)

- **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.

Positions Vacant

- **Teachers Aides- Newington Public School**

Newington Public School use Teacher's Aides to support Deaf and hearing impaired students, who use Auslan in their mainstream classrooms. They sometimes have positions vacant, or need replacement Teacher's Aides at the last minute, and are compiling a contact list of eligible people. If you have strong Auslan skills, are willing to undergo all necessary background checks, and enjoy working with children, becoming a Teacher's Aide could be a wonderful experience.

For more information, or to register your interest, contact Cathy Lucantonio or Cheryl Clarke on (02) 9748 7933, or email Newington-p.School@det.nsw.edu.au

Mock Conference

As part of the Auslan/English Interpreting program at Macquarie University, a mock conference will be held to facilitate a 'real life' interpreting situation. The object of the conference is to provide a safe environment in which the interpreting students can gain experience working at conference level, and to provide a forum for discussion on issues facing Deaf organisations.

All Auslan students are encouraged to come along to this FREE event. You will hear presentations from key Deaf organisations, witness conference interpreting, and gain a deeper understanding of the Australian Deaf community.

When: Sunday 11 September

Time: 2-5pm

Where: Bldg W5A, Lecture Theatre T1, Macquarie University

RSVP: Places are limited to 100, so please RSVP to Jemina Napier by Friday 2 September if you wish to attend. For more information, a map of Macquarie University, or to RSVP email Jemina at jemina.napier@ling.mq.edu.au

Products

- **Deafness Resources Australia**

Need to know technical signs for mathematical terms? Curious about the personal stories of professional interpreters? Want to see The Wiggles party it up in Auslan? Deafness Resources Australia (DRA) has more than just dictionaries for sale, and their latest catalogue has plenty of items to add to your Christmas wish list- videos, books, posters, accessories, and even a character puppet that can sign!

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 Street, Parramatta, and is open Monday- Friday, 9am-5pm. Pop in for a browse!

DEN Courses for Hearing Learners

For further information about the following courses, to receive the DEN brochure every semester, or to enrol in a course, please contact DEN on (02) 8845 9444 (v), (02) 8845 9411 (TTY) or check out www.deaf.nsw.edu.au



- **Auslan Only BBQ 1 & 2**

Bust out those tongs-the Auslan Only BBQ is happening soon! This semester we have introduced another Auslan Only BBQ workshop- BBQ 2. This new program runs along side the original BBQ program (now called BBQ 1), and is ideal for students in CIA III, or those who have already attended BBQ 1. The BBQ provides a day of organised activities, social interaction with members of the Deaf community, and a chance to build on your Auslan skills.

When: Saturday 10 September

Time: 11am -3pm

Where: The Royal Institute of Deaf and Blind Children, North Rocks

Cost (includes food): BBQ 1- \$45.00, BBQ 2- \$55.00

- **Auslan Only Weekend**

It is on again! This semester AOW 1 & 2 will be held in the beautiful bushland setting at Stanwell Tops Conference Centre. Open to all Auslan students who have completed Auslan 3 community course (or equivalent), this weekend will challenge your communication skills, expand your vocabulary, and immerse you in Deaf language and culture. Book before 21 September to pay the Early Bird rate of \$252 (normally \$288). Price includes 2 nights shared accommodation, all meals, and structured Auslan program.

When: 7pm Friday 21 October- 4pm Sunday 23 October

Where: Stanwell Tops Conference Centre, Helensburgh

Cost: Before 21 September - \$252, after 21 September- \$288

- **Sing 'n' Sign**

Sorry, this course is now full. One of our most popular courses ever (judging by the speed that the enrolment forms came back in), Sing 'n' Sign is hoping to provide NSW with its very own Sign Idol! To register your interest for future sign singing workshops please contact Program Coordinator Tony Clews at tclews@deaf.nsw.edu.au

- **Certificate IV in Auslan**

Want to take your Auslan to the next level? If we have the student numbers, DEN will be providing CIA IV in October. This course will run 2 nights a week for one semester (with some weekend workshops), and includes the Mentor program and the Great Debate. To register your interest contact Program Coordinator Natalie Kull on (02) 8845 9405 or email nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au

(NB- This course IS NOT funded, and course fees apply. Please contact Natalie for more info)

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