



Auslan Student Newsletter

February 2006



Welcome to the 6th edition .

For most of you, the silly season is well and truly over, and now it is time to dust off your dictionaries and head back to class.

A problem commonly encountered by many Auslan students is what to do when there is a large break (six months or longer) in between courses. I have been contacted recently by a lot of concerned people in this situation! Whether you are an out-of-practice student about to face your first night of class, or a student who has to wait another semester for the next Auslan course to begin, it is vitally important that you do as much signing as possible to keep your Auslan skills fresh and your confidence high. Auslan is not a language that can be learnt in isolation, or by listening to tapes while you drive to work, so the only way your skills will improve is if you are signing in real life settings, with real people.

If you live in Sydney you have an abundance of student groups, Deaf Community events, and volunteer opportunities right on your door step, and I encourage you to take advantage of this good fortune. If you live further away it might not be as easy to find people to sign with, so that means you have to get proactive and organise something yourself. Start your own student group, arrange to travel with friends to some of the Deaf events in Sydney, and come to the Auslan Only Weekends. Get creative!

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 or call (02) 8845 9405. Snail mail newsletters are also available.

Good luck going back to class, or filling in the gap!

DEN's New Website.



DEN will shortly have a new website!

Check out www.deaf.nsw.edu.au.

The site contains all the latest news and courses available from Deaf Education Network. It also has information about DEN's Auslan Interpreting Service, application forms and information kits for DEN's services and products, backdated copies of the Auslan Student Newsletter, and links to deafness-related websites.

During the coming months, DEN will add other really useful information for Auslan Students. We plan to add links to newspaper articles and white-papers about Deaf issues. So keep checking out the site over the coming months to see the changes. And give us some feedback.

We want to make this site a resource for students as well as provide the latest news and information about the DEN organisation.

The image above is a draft version of the new site. We hope the new site will be up by the end of this week. Thanks to RamtinWorld for the great design. See more of Ramtin's work at www.ramtinworld.com.

Information about DEN Courses

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

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

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 & Auslan practise.

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

Wollongong

Come along to the next meeting of this group, started by TAFE student Robyn Gray, and make some new signing buddies.

Where- Gloria Jeans Coffee, Crown St, Wollongong

When- Friday 3 February, 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.

Sydney City

Deaf DEN student Young-Joo Byun is starting a 'Coffee & Practice' 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)

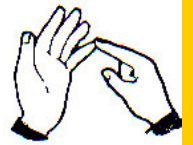
Skill level- Everyone welcome.

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

North Shore/ Northern Beaches

Do you live on Sydney's North Shore or Northern Beaches, and find it difficult to travel into the city for Auslan practise? DEN student Olena La Macchia would like to hear from anyone that wants to meet closer to home, possibly somewhere between Manly and Dee Why.

How to get involved- Contact Olena on 0423 981 328, or email olamacchia@hotmail.com.



A Sad Farewell

A few weeks ago the Auslan student community lost one of its members. Madelen Kirton (nee Rea), or Maddy as some of you knew her from Auslan practise, was fatally injured in a motorcycle accident. To add to the tragedy of this situation, Madelen was just married in September 2005 to her husband Ben, who also shares a love of motorbikes - this is how they met.

Maddy has been described as a colourful character, with a good sense of humour and a vivid passion for life. We wish to offer our sympathies to Madelen's family and friends during this time.



What's On

Captioned Cinema

There will be 12 different captioned screenings this month at both the Greater Union Cinema on George St, Sydney, and at the Glendale Cinema (Stockland Supercentre), Newcastle. Movies include The Chronicles of Narnia, Chicken Little, Rumour Has It, and The Producers.

For further information go to www.auscap.com.au/community, or call the cinemas directly.

Deaf Community Events- Auslan Students Welcome!

Valentine Cruise

NSWAD Youth have organised a night cruise around Sydney Harbour to celebrate the day of love. Follow the colour code for a bit of cheeky fun, and to avoid a \$2 fine!

Pink: Single (and looking!)

Purple: Single but not looking

Red: Taken

When: Friday 10 February

Time: Meet at 7pm for 7:30pm departure

Where: Man O War Steps, Opera House

Cost: \$35 (includes music, games & food)

N.B. THIS EVENT IS FOR OVER 18's ONLY.

For tickets & more info contact Katrina Pickup at speshy@gmail.com or 0433 236 835 (SMS), or Amanda Barber at fluttaby_maz@hotmail.com or 0433 394 153 (SMS).

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.

Time: 8pm onwards

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

For more information email Karen Jahn at kjahn@deaf.nsw.edu.au

Signing Art February 2006

"...The world of art is populated with compelling characters, some of them noble and gallant while others are deliciously wicked!..." Come along to this Auslan interpreted art gallery tour, to meet the **Heroes and Villains** that appear on the walls. Following the tour is a family performance by Adam Hill, using Indigenous music, story, song, humour, and art. The kids will love it!

(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 26 February

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.

Cost: FREE



Sign Idol Night

If you're like me, and have always had a secret desire to become the next Australian Idol, do not miss this fundraising event. You can go along to watch the fun, or the brave can perform a song on the night (song list will be provided). There will be individual and group prizes, so start rehearsing!!!

Proceeds of this event will go towards Aust Deaf Basketball Squad Training Camps, to support their quest to participate at the 2nd World Deaf Basketball Championships in China 2007.

When: Saturday 18 February

Where: Macquarie Room, Parramatta RSL Club, Cnr Macquarie & O'Connell St, Parramatta

Time: 7:30pm for 8pm start

Cost: \$20 (finger food will be provided, drinks at bar prices)

RSVP by 15 February to Sokong at sokong@unwired.com.au or Irena at secretary@deafbasketball.org.au.

Australian Theatre of the Deaf



Auslan Interpreting Theatre Workshop

ATOD and ASLIA will present this one day workshop, which would be ideal for all Auslan Interpreters, both professional and in-training.

When: Saturday 25 February

Where: Alexandria Town Hall, Sydney

Time: 10am – 4pm

Cost: \$40 for non-members, \$25 for ASLIA and ATOD members (prices include morning tea & lunch)

Bookings are essential and close on Friday 17 February.

For specific details about the contents and presenters of this workshop, please contact ATOD on tel (02) 9310 1255, fax (02) 9318 2835, TTY (02) 9310 1205, or email info@atod.org.au.

DOUBT- Interpreted Theatre

Starring Alison Bell, Jennifer Flowers, Christopher Gabardi, Pamela Jikiemi

Directed by Julian Meyrick

Written by John Patrick Shanley

When: Saturday 4 March

Where: Sydney Opera House Drama Theatre

Time: 2pm

Cost: \$42 (To receive this discounted price, and be placed in seating close to the interpreter, you must mention you are an ATOD patron when you book)

Please note: Starting this year all ticket sales for Sydney Theatre Company's (STC) Auslan Interpreted Performances will be taken directly through STC.

The STC has taken over ticket sales, as a further step in ensuring their theatre is accessible to the signing community. It is one thing to make the actual performance accessible, but is something different to ensure their booking procedures cater for everyone as well. This is another step in creating accessibility in the arts.

HOW TO BOOK:

Call STC on (02) 9250 1777 or email boxoffice@sydneytheatre.com.au.

It is possible to book via the STC website but it does not allow you to receive the ATOD discount or book specific seats. It is best if you use one of the methods above.

DEN Courses for Hearing Learners

New DEN Brochure for Hearing Learners

Our new brochures are ready. 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 Deaf Learners brochure.



DEN's Certificate in Auslan Programs



Becky Rose-Mundy
DEN teacher

This semester DEN will be running CIA III and CIA IV. **Thanks to everyone who got their enrolment forms in on time!** We are now accepting people onto the official CIA waiting lists for semester 2. If you would like to complete Certificate II, III, or IV in second semester, and do not want to miss out on a place in the course, you can enrol now. Contact DEN for an enrolment form, fill it in, and then send it back with your full payment OR first instalment of \$390, and you will be guaranteed a spot in the class. Contact me at nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au or call (02) 8845 9405 for more info, or an enrolment form.

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

Resource Consultant (Part-time) – Australian Communication Exchange (ACE)

ACE is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing quality information and communication services for people who are Deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment. Deafness Resources Australia (DRA) is the retail arm of ACE, and distributes a huge range of deafness related products throughout Australia.

Based in Parramatta, this position involves handling customer enquiries over the telephone (voice & TTY) as well as via fax, email, and in-person, assisting customers select appropriate products, ordering & receiving stock, invoicing, handling technical repairs, etc. The position would suit an excellent communicator, who is able to learn quickly, show initiative, and complete accounting tasks accurately. Working in a team environment, you must be willing to learn Auslan.

Hours are Monday - Friday, 10am - 3:30pm.

Applications close 5pm, Tuesday 28 February 2006. People with disabilities and Aboriginal and Islander people are actively encouraged to apply.

For position description and an application form contact Margaret:

Tel- (02) 9895 2970, Fax- (02) 9895 2972, or email margaret.haenke@aceinfo.net.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

Websites: www.deafnessforum.org.au and www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au

Employment Consultant for the Deaf- Nova Employment

Nova Employment at Campbelltown is a free service to help Deaf or hearing impaired people into work. As Employment Consultant for the Deaf your duties would include getting to know your clients' needs, skills, and job preference, preparing or updating resumes/CVs, job seeking for/with clients, attending interviews and supporting/interpreting for clients, travel to locations around Sydney, attending in-house training as required (Certificate course offered), etc.

The requirements for this position are:

1. Fluency in Auslan
2. Confidence using a computer (Basic office & email programs)
3. The ability to make appointments with employers, and place people in work
4. A confident and outgoing personality

Training is provided by Nova, including a 1 week induction and 13 weeks on site training. Package is valued over \$43, 000 including a company car. For more information see www.novaemployment.com.au, or contact David Budd (Branch Manager) on (02) 4625 7888, 0412 628 881, or email david@novaemployment.com.au.

So you want to be an interpreter?...

"How do I become an Auslan interpreter?" is one of the most common questions I get asked by students.

Check at the following webpage for information on NAATI, the accreditation pathway, and the skills required to become an Auslan interpreter - www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/asliansw/career/career2.htm.

Volunteers Needed

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.

Product of the Month

Signs of Australia - Dictionary & CD-ROM

Ed. Trevor Johnston, Reprinted 2005

With the first day of class just around the corner, now is the perfect time to buy your own Auslan Dictionary. The Signs of Australia Dictionary contains over five thousand main signs, which are used to express the meanings of approximately ten thousand common English words! It is not only an English to Auslan dictionary, but vice versa – if you are unsure of the meaning of a sign, simply look up the handshape and discover an English explanation.

The dictionary is also available in CD-ROM format, using colour video clips of native Auslan users demonstrating signs. Features include slow motion and repeat viewing (to see how the sign REALLY happens), fingerspelling practice screens, historical and language background notes, and more.

Cost: Dictionary **\$75.00**
CD-ROM **\$114.00**
Combined Package of
Dictionary & CD-ROM
(SAVE \$14) **\$175.00**



DEAFNESS RESOURCES AUSTRALIA

Locked Bag 5380, Parramatta NSW 2124

SHOWROOM: 33 Argyle St, Parramatta
open Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm

DID YOU KNOW...

If you can't drop in to DRA to pick up your products, you can phone, email, or fax DRA with your order details and credit card information, and they will post your goods to you.

If you do not have a credit card, you can post a cheque or money order, along with order details, to DRA.

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.

Check out the regularly updated product range at www.deafnessresources.net.au.