



Auslan Student Newsletter

April/May 2007



Welcome to the 14th edition of the newsletter.

Unfortunately, this edition of the newsletter starts with sad news.

On Friday 9 March, we at DEN lost someone very close to us.

Luka Slusaarczyk, a former DEN student and regular Team Member at DEN's Auslan Only events, was killed in a road accident whilst riding his little Vespa scooter late at night. He was only 23 years old. On Tuesday 20 March Luka's family and friends gathered to remember him and celebrate his life, in a beautiful funeral service in Richmond, followed by a wake at the home of his best friend.

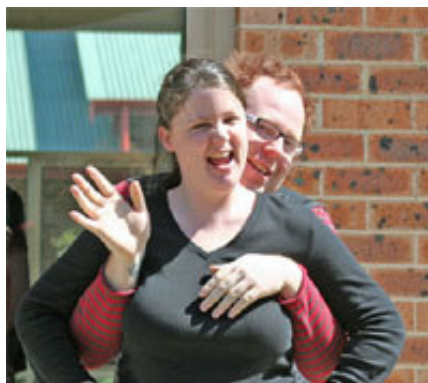
Princess Luka- you are dearly missed.

Natalie Kull
Program Supervisor, Certificates in Auslan

(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) 8833 3605. Snail mail newsletters are also available.)

➔ **Message for Student Group organisers-** If you would like to advertise the details or meeting dates of a group, please contact me with the relevant info BEFORE the following dates: 25 May 07 (for June/July edition), 26 July 07 (for August/September edition), 26 September 07 (for October/November edition).

Goodbye Luka



Luka started out as a student at DEN, and quickly became one of our most loved and memorable Team Members. He will be remembered for his constantly changing crazy hair, his cross-dressing antics (he did a great Auslan Fairy and a sexy Hippie Chick!) and his zany personality. He loved life to the full, and was always getting up to mischief.

Luka was very important to DEN, and I have had many students tell me their favourite memories of AOW, BBQ and Hippie Feast involved something wild Luka had done. I cannot imagine organising theme days without him.

When a good friend broke the news of Luka's death to me, I could not believe it. It was not until she showed me a picture of Luka in her phone that I actually believed she was talking about *our* Luka. In that photo, Luka is wearing tights, hot pants, a cape and a mask, and is striking his best superhero pose. That image is now tucked inside my heart. I don't know where Luka is watching us from now, but wherever it is, in my mind he flew there dressed just like that.

On behalf of DEN and DSNSW, I send much love and sympathy to Luka's family and friends at this sad time.



Auslan Student Groups

Glebe – NEW DATES

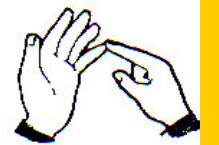
The perfect Saturday morning– some signing practice and a short stroll to Glebe markets.

Where: Near the fountain in Broadway Shopping Centre Food Court, top level.

When: Every second Saturday morning, 10am-12pm (next meetings 7 & 21 April, 5 & 19 May).

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

How to get involved: Email Christine Murtagh at christinemurtagh@yahoo.com.au
(Please include the word 'Auslan' in the subject line).



Liverpool

One of the oldest Auslan student groups in Sydney – they've been meeting for over 16 years.

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 Coordinator, Carmel Martin, at c.martin@liverpool.nsw.gov.au
or call (02) 9821 9450.

Sydney City – NEW DATES & MAY VENUE

This *Coffee & Practice* group is a fun place to hang out on the way home from work.

Where: Food Court, Lower Ground Floor (same as Town Hall), The Galleries Victoria, Corner Park & Pitt St, City. This group also sometimes meets for dinner at various locations.

When: The first Thursday of every month, 5-7pm (No April meeting due to school holidays).

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 3 May, from 5.30pm onwards, at **Tony Roma's Famous Ribs** restaurant, 121– 123 Sussex St, Sydney (5– 10 min walk from Town Hall).

Skill level: Everyone welcome.

How to get involved: Email Young-Joo Byun at Young-Joo.Byun@lands.nsw.gov.au or SMS 0425 279 938 for more info.

Outer Western Sydney – NEW ANNOUNCEMENT

The meetings for this group are on hold for the moment. If you have any questions about this group, or would like meet up for social events, please contact Laila Peters at lpeters8@bigpond.com or call/SMS 0412 291 060.

Shellharbour/Wollongong – NEW CONTACT

Sara Willyan-Payne is interested in starting a social group or practice group in the Shellharbour/Wollongong area. If you are keen to get involved or want more info please call/SMS Sara on 0409 987 147, or email beadfreak@bigpond.com

St George – NEW CONTACT

Karen Honey is interested in starting a social group or practice group in the St George area. If you are keen to get involved or want more info please call/SMS Karen on 0429 382 982, or email stormeewaters@yahoo.com.au

Eastern Suburbs - NEW GROUP

This new student group has been set up by Sharon Rae, who wants to run structured meetings for students who "wish to focus on improving specific skills, e.g. fast fingerspelling readback". Sharon asks that everyone bring a pen and paper.

Where: Westfield Eastgardens Food Court, Cnr Bunnerong Rd & Wentworth Ave, Eastgardens (Unlimited free parking, bus 391/392 from city, Express bus 400/401 Burwood to Bondi).

When: Every second Saturday morning, 10am-12pm.

Skill level: Suitable for students who have completed CIA IV (or beyond).

How to get involved: Contact Sharon at voiceoff@optusnet.com.au

Central Coast—NOW IN CONJUNCTION WITH CENTRAL COAST DEAF GROUP

After a successful 2006 with an average of 35 people turning up each month, this group is now being organised in conjunction with Central Coast Deaf Group, to help students from TAFE, DEN and Uni mix with more Deaf people. Timothy Edwards organises this group with the aim of practicing and improving Auslan with a mix of Deaf and hearing friends.

NEXT MEETING– BIKE/WALK PICNIC DAY

Where: Long Jetty Foreshore Park, Central Coast.

When: Saturday 20 May, 10.30am start.

Bring your own lunch & a gold coin donation (all proceeds go to Chertsey School for Deaf student needs), and come meet other Auslan learners and users!

Skill level: Everyone (from beginners to interpreters) warmly welcomed and encouraged.

How to get involved: For more info, or to receive regular updates of social group meetings email Timothy at auslansocialgroup@hotmail.com

Other Upcoming Events: BBQ (June), Ten Pin Bowling (July) and Trivia Night (August).



What's On

Hollywood Party – WFD Youth Camp Representative Fundraiser

Nidio Sarmento is hosting this fundraising event to raise the funds he needs to attend the World Federation of the Deaf Youth Camp in Madrid, as an East Timor representative. There will be a DJ and raffles throughout the evening, and judging of the best Hollywood themed costume.

When: Sunday 8 April 2007

Where: Starlight Function Room, Wentworthville Leagues Club, 50 Smith St, Wentworthville
(10 min walk from train station)

Time: 6.30pm– 12am

Dress: Formal (no jeans) or Hollywood costume for a chance to win a prize!

Cost: \$50 per person, which includes a three-course meal (drinks can be purchased at the bar).

To purchase tickets please contact Kim Boudin on 0438 210 497 or cutemoocow@hotmail.com, Nidio Sarmento on 0404 094 207 or nidiosarmento@yahoo.com.au, or Fawad on 0405 572 219 or holy_squall@hotmail.com

Deaf Community Events - Auslan Students Welcome!

Mr Deaf NSW – You Vote for the Winner!

A fundraising event for the NSW basketball players who will be representing Australia in China, in June 2007.

When: Friday 18 May 2007.

Where: Burwood RSL, Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood.

Tickets: Adults \$20, Pensioners/Students \$15,
Family \$40.

More info:

Contact Rohan Fraser rjf_7@hotmail.com,
Ida Rogers idarogers82@hotmail.com,
or Sokong Kim sokong@unwired.com.au

ATOD Show & Tell Night

Australian Theatre of the Deaf are hosting this night of laughter. They will be introducing 3 new Deaf actors and SHOWing their entertaining new school show *Futures*. You will also have the opportunity to TELL a funny short story and win a prize. Caroline Conlon will be your host for the evening, with Andrew Wiltshire judging the talent.

When: Friday 20 April 2007.

Time: Doors open 6.30pm,
show starts 7.30pm sharp.

Where: Burwood RSL, Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood.

Cost: Full \$15, Conc/Member \$10,
Kids 4-15 yrs \$5.

For more info contact ATOD at info@atod.org.au,
call (02) 9310 1255, fax (02) 9318 2835 or
TTY (02) 9310 1205.

Black Panthers Deaf Social Group

Everyone is welcome to drop in.

When: Friday 27 April 2007.

Time: 6.30pm– 9pm for coffee, then 9.30pm
onwards at Red Cow Pub.

Where: Meet at Starbucks Coffee,
Penrith Westfield Plaza,
152 Henry St, Penrith.

Drinks to follow at Red Cow Pub, 9 Station St, Penrith.

For more information contact Matthew Thornley at
blackpanthersdeafsocial@hotmail.com

Aliens - ATOD Central Coast performance

Gosford City Council presents this one hour performance about the story of a Chinese acrobat and an Afghani nurse held in an Australian detention centre. Due to a community grant the cost of tickets have been subsidised to only \$2.00 each. Because of the size of the theatre, there are limited seats available. The venue is accessible and has a hearing loop.

When: Friday 18 May 2007 at 7.30pm.

Where: Peninsula Theatre, Woy Woy.

Tickets: ON SALE NOW! \$2.00 each.

To book contact Laycock St Theatre Box Office on
(02) 4323 3233 (voice only – to use the NRS please
call 133 677 and quote the above phone number).

More info: Check out www.laycockstreet.com

Blue Mountains Deaf Social Group – April & May events

For more info about these events or to RSVP, TTY (02) 4782 1671 or fax Margaret on (02) 4751 5090.

EASTER BUNNY FANCY DRESS GATHERING

When: Friday 13 April 2007, from 7.30pm onwards

Where: Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre, 62 Whitecross Rd, Winmalee.

WINE TASTER TOUR OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

When: Saturday 28 April 2007, from 7am.

Where: Meet at Parramatta Station at 7am sharp!

TROLLEY BUS TOUR AROUND KATOOMBA & LEURA

When: Saturday 9 May 2007, time TBC.

Where: Meet at 285 Main St, Katoomba.



Interpreted Events— Students welcome!



Gleebooks Literary Event – A discussion with Clive James

Gleebooks hosts this discussion with Clive James, about his new book *Cultural Amnesia: Notes In The Margin Of My Time*. This event is expected to sell out quickly so book your ticket now.

When: Tuesday 19 June 2007, 6pm for a 6.30pm start.

Where: NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, 39-41 Reservoir St, Surry Hills.

Cost: \$15 Adult, \$12 Concession, Gleeclub welcome.

To book: Call (02) 9660 2333, email events@gleebooks.com.au or visit www.gleebooks.com.au/events to RSVP.

Signing Art April & May 2007– Auslan Interpreted Art Gallery Tours

29 APRIL

The second of a two-part exploration, *Colour and Light* will examine the different ways oil painting has been used by artists, including which techniques have been utilised to capture plays of light and the subtleties of facial expression. Following, the kids can be entertained by a cast of carnival characters in Commedia dell'Arte, a mischievous puppetry performance with Dennis Murphy.

27 MAY

Riders on the Storm- A close look at Marino Marini's beautiful sculpture *Rider*, which challenges the ancient tradition of portraying military conquests with heroic equestrian monuments. Stay at the gallery for the family show that follows– Artbeat will have the kids giggling along with Mic Conway's mad and magical antics.

(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 April/ Sunday 27 May.

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

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

Cost: FREE

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

ATOD Theatre Club– Interpreted performance of *Self-Esteem* at Sydney Theatre Company

A black comedy from Brendan Cowell (*Love My Way*) about an Australian family, "...however, truth gets a working over, justice gets a re-jig and that Aussie lackadaisical thing is history!"

When: Thursday 3 May 2007, at 8.15pm.

Where: Wharf 2, Sydney Theatre Company, Pier 4, Hickson Rd, Walsh Bay.

Tickets: Full \$34, Concession \$21. Booking fee applies if not booked at box office in person.

To book tickets visit the box office at The Wharf, Pier 4, Hickson Rd, Walsh Bay, or email boxoffice@sydneytheatre.com.au with your credit card details. Make sure you mention you want seats reserved for the signed performance. Be quick– only a limited number of these seats are being held.

DEN Courses for Hearing Learners

Certificates in Auslan Semester 2, 2007

Please contact DEN if you would like to receive a Course Information Guide for any following accredited Auslan courses, which will be running in Semester 2 -

Certificate IV in Auslan (21202VIC): Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Diploma of Auslan (21203VIC): This will be the first time this course has been offered in NSW! It will run for approximately 20 weeks, Monday and Wednesday nights (TBC), with some weekend commitments.

To obtain a Course Guide for any of these courses, please call Natalie Kull on (02) 8833 3605 or email nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au

DEN Auslan Only Events April– June 2007

We are currently accepting enrolments for the following Auslan Only events. These events are very popular so get your enrolment in quickly so you don't miss out!

Auslan Only BBQ 1 & 2: Saturday 28 April, North Rocks NSW

Auslan Only Weekend 1: Friday 18 – Sunday 20 May, Elanora Heights NSW - **NOW FULL**

Auslan Only Weekend 2: Friday 1 – Sunday 3 June, Stanwell Tops NSW

Check out the DEN website at www.deaf.nsw.edu.au for more info about these Auslan Only events.



Product of the Month

From Christina Galvin at Deafness Resources Australia:



DEAFNESS RESOURCES AUSTRALIA WEBSITE – UPGRADED!

DRA is proud to announce the launch of its upgraded website. If you like shopping and browsing just to see what is available, you will enjoy perusing our new website. Some of the improvements include:

- The addition of 'In Focus' which allows you to see, at a glance, products recently added to DRA's range.
- Revised access to technology products making it quicker and easier to search for these items.
- Sign Language products have been re-grouped into 5 categories making searching easier; helpful information that appears in the *Deafness Resource Guide – Sign Language* has been added (e.g. recommended products for CIA courses, Deaf Studies, etc).
- Added icons to denote which products are DVDs, CD-ROMs and videos.

Please take a moment to explore the new website at www.deafnessresources.net.au and, as always, we welcome your feedback.

Australian Sign Language (Auslan) – An Introduction to Sign Language Linguistics

Trevor Johnston & Adam Schembri, 2007

Soft cover book, \$49.95 (includes GST)

As promised in the last newsletter, the first comprehensive introduction to the linguistics of Auslan is now available. Trevor Johnston & Adam Schembri's new book includes

- An accessible overview of Auslan grammar (how sentences are structured).
- Phonology (the building blocks of signs).
- Morphology (the structure of signs).
- Lexicon (vocabulary).
- Semantics (how meaning is created).
- Discourse (how Auslan is used in context).

The authors, also discuss a range of myths and misunderstandings about sign languages, provide an insight into the history and development of Auslan, and show how Auslan is related to other sign languages such as those used in Britain, the USA and New Zealand.

Complete with clear illustrations of the signs in use and useful further reading lists, this is an ideal resource for anyone interested in Auslan as well as those seeking a clear, general introduction to sign language linguistics.

For an order form to purchase this book go to www.deafnessresources.net.au/dra_frm.pdf

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 Deafness Resources Australia, Locked Bag 5380, Parramatta NSW 2124.

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.

DRA's showroom is located at 33 Argyle St, Parramatta, and is open Monday – Friday 9am-5pm.

Volunteer Build 2007 in Ghana

Help build the library for Cape Coast School for the Deaf in Ghana in July!

Volunteer Build 2007 is a charitable building project run by Ikando, a registered NGO. They are currently looking for volunteers to join their team in Ghana to complete work on the above school's library, and to help them create an environment for the children where learning is fun. They are especially keen to have deaf people come and help. The project is scheduled for 1– 28 July 2007, and volunteers can either go for two or four weeks. They are looking for labourers, project coordinators, skilled craftspeople, trades people, a librarian and basically anyone who doesn't mind mucking in and getting a bit dirty while they plaster and paint.

For dates, prices and more info visit www.volunteerbuild.org or email info@volunteerbuild.org. I have a flyer I can forward you so email me at nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au if you want me to pass it on to you.



Volunteers Needed

Mullauna Nursing Home

Mullauna is in the Blacktown area, and is home to many Deaf and Deafblind people with a wide range of communication needs. At the moment the nursing home needs volunteers with signing skills to join their new Volunteers Program. Due to the costs involved with preparing each volunteer, Mullauna is looking for a few wonderful people, who are prepared to commit to regular visits. The residents of the home will appreciate some new visitors, and you will be enriched by the exposure to some truly fascinating and inspiring people.

If you would like to get involved, email the Volunteers Program Coordinator Elsy Brammesan at dt@wrv.org.au or call (02) 9680 1500 on Monday or Wednesday, and ask for Mullauna Nursing Home Volunteer Program.

Hand Over Hand Club

The Hand Over Hand Club is a group of self-determined 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 amazing 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. 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.

NEW LISTING!- DSNSW Family Fun Day, Sunday 6 May 2007

Deaf Society of NSW is looking for volunteers to help out at their Family Fun Day on Sunday 6 May. This will be a great opportunity to take your Auslan skills out of the classroom, and to meet members of the Deaf community. You need to be comfortable having a basic conversation in Auslan, and be willing to work a 2– 3 hour shift. Lots of different types of jobs are available for volunteers on the day.

To register your interest contact Jessica Peyton at DSNSW on (02) 8833 3608, email jpeyton@deafsociety.com, or send a fax to (02) 9893 8333.

Notice Board

- A film about Paul and Shelley, a 65 year-old couple who decide to get **cochlear implants** after being Deaf all their lives, has won a Sundance Audience Award and will now be featured in the **Sydney Film Festival** in June. **Hear and Now** is the personal account of this true story told by film maker, and daughter of the couple, Irene Taylor. For more info about when this film will screen during the festival keep an eye on www.sydneyfilmfestival.org. For a plot summary visit www.imdb.com/title/tt0912587/plotsummary
- Michelle Tuckwell is interested in hearing from other Auslan users (Deaf or hearing) with an interest in **photography** and who would be interested in going on weekend excursions to take photos. To get involved or for more info contact Michelle on 0419 956 885 (SMS only)
- Carleeta Manser has been lobbying state and federal ministers for additional funding for people who are **Deafblind**, and has now started a **website about Deafblind issues**. The aims of the website are to inform people about Usher and Deafblind issues, link people who are Deafblind and get an idea of the number of Deafblind people out there and the issues relevant to them. Check out Carleeta's website at www.deafblind.bravehost.com and pass on the word to anyone you know who might be interested!
- Janelle has started her own cake decorating business. **Cakes from the Heart** makes **beautiful cakes for beautiful occasions**, such as weddings, christenings, kids birthdays, engagements, etc. Readers of this newsletter get a discount if they mention this ad when they order! To order a cake email janelle@cakesfromtheheart.com.au, call (02) 8814 9456 or 0438 227 527, or visit www.cakesfromtheheart.com.au
- Westlink's (Anglicare) Host Family Program provides a playgroup for families with Deaf children in the outer west. **Deaf Playgroup** will run at the group's Westminster Street premises (Rooty Hill) on Friday mornings between 10am-12pm. For more info contact Westlink Coordinators on (02) 8805 0974 or (02) 8805 0915, or TTY (02) 9625 0145.
- **Parent Council for Deaf Education (PCDE)** is planning an **advocacy workshop** for parents of Deaf kids. What are your rights? What are your Deaf child's rights? This workshop is aimed at empowering parents to stand up and succeed in ensuring their child's rights are met. PCDE is now taking expressions of interest in this program. Contact Kelly Norton at pcde@bigpond.com to register your details.



Personal Profile

Each edition of the newsletter includes a profile of a person who is involved with the Deaf community and is using Auslan in their life; it may be a student, a teacher or a staff member of a Deaf organisation. If you have any suggestions for people to profile please email me at nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au or call (02) 8833 3605 (and it's okay to nominate yourself!)

Teacher Profile – Rebekah Rose-Mundy

I have been teaching Auslan for 13 years. I have been teaching for DEN for more than 11 years, as a Deaf Studies/ Language Teacher in the CIA courses, and as a Community Course teacher. I am also a presenter at DEN's Auslan Only events– Auslan Only Weekend, Hippie Feast, Auslan Only BBQ and Story Day.



Becky teaching at DEN's Hippie Feast workshop.

Each AOW, Hippie Feast, etc is a different experience for me, I couldn't say that one was better than another. However, last semester's AOW 2 was special– other than myself, there were only 8 students and 4 team members at the camp. We all became very close over the weekend, and shared some of the issues that were happening in our personal lives at that time.

We recently lost one of our Team Members, Luka. He was one of my favourite volunteers and that AOW was the last time I had him with me. It makes the memory of the weekend more special.

I choose to work with hearing students because I feel if I can share with them who I am and what my language is, the world will be a better place for the deaf. Growing up isolated has taught me a lot about loneliness and how it can really affect deaf people. If I can teach students my language and my culture, those people can make life for deaf people easier by being their friend, employee, workmate, lover, supporter, interpreter, educator, and many other things. The more people that learn to sign, the better for us.

I have 3 children and they all are deaf. My eldest daughter Heloise is sixteen, my son Phoenix is two and a half, and my youngest daughter Scarlett-Oceania is one. My husband Gavin and I both have deaf genes which is why our children are deaf. We all use Auslan at home. Are my kids noisy? Phoenix can be very loud when he doesn't get what he wants and can holler for the whole street to hear! Scarlett-Oceania is a vocal baby but her voice is beautiful (as a mother of course I have to say that). Heloise loves her music so of course she has it cranked up loud, but I guess all teenagers do!

I love my life in the Deaf community- my friends, my language, my social outings, my mother's group. It is who I am. My Deaf values are what is most important to me. The decision to give Scarlett-Oceania a cochlear implant was life changing, and that decision was one of the hardest things Gavin and I ever had to face. Those first seven months were agonising as we made up our minds. Scarlett-Oceania is still the same girl, our baby, and she will always be Deaf, will always be a proud pure Deaf member, nothing will ever change that. Having the implant has given her the opportunity to learn speech and listening. In this generation and lifestyle she does need as many opportunities as possible. We are glad we did it because now four months on, she is doing brilliantly; she can hear many sounds, responds to her name and is very vocal.

I find it frustrating that there is not enough education options for my children in Sydney, and no programs that provide both signing and spoken English. We had to fight for Phoenix to have access to both, as it was unheard of before. We have that access to signing and spoken English now but, because he is getting older and is almost ready for school, we have to work that out yet again. Sydney is a very expensive and huge city. Gavin and I would love to live by the seaside in a quiet town, but we can't because our children need the best education opportunities possible.

If I had one bit of advice for hearing students learning Auslan it would be practice, and practice some more. Don't think in English words, think in signs. Everywhere you go, even when you're in the car waiting at the traffic lights, use sign language. You won't see those people in the car next to you again, so who cares if they think you're nuts talking to yourself. Be proud that you are learning a visual language. Be proud and practice.



Becky teaching literacy Support for DEN's Teaching Auslan course in 2005.

(An article about Becky and her family, entitled 'Silent Nights, Silent Days', accompanied by a beautiful series of photos, appeared in the most recent April/May edition of Mother & Baby magazine).



Workshops & Seminars

The Renwick Centre For Professional Education and Research– Hearing Impairment Events

For the full Continuing Professional Education Calendar of confirmed Events for 2007 visit www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/courses/continuingcalendar.asp. To enrol in any of these courses email cpe@ridbc.org.au, call (02) 9872 0207, fax (02) 9873 1614 or register online at www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/courses/

Renwick Centre Auditory-Verbal Therapy Mentoring Program

In response to the growing awareness and demand for auditory-verbal therapy, the Renwick Centre has developed a mentoring service for aspiring clinicians who are seeking to achieve formal certification as an Auditory-Verbal Therapist. See the Renwick website or email jill.duncan@ridbc.org.au for more information.

Advanced Auditory-Verbal Therapy - Auditory-Based Learning For Children Who Are Deaf And Hard Of Hearing

When: Monday 21 May-Tuesday 22 May (2 day event)

Presented by: Dr Ellen Rhoades, Ed.S., Cert. AVT

Fee: \$240

Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf Conference 2007

When: Friday 7 September

Fee: \$120

Auditory System and Hearing Impairment

When: Wednesday 6 June 2007 (2.00 – 4.00pm)

Presented by: Genelle Cook, Audiologist, Jim Patrick
Audiology Centre, RIDBC

Fee: \$30

Examination in Auditory-Verbal Development

When: Friday 27 July from 10am – 2pm

Facilitated by: Dr Jill Duncan, Certified Auditory Verbal Therapist, Senior Lecturer, the Renwick Centre, Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children.

Auslan Skills for Families / Auslan Heritage School

When: Term 2 Beginners and Advanced classes
Term 4 Beginners and Intermediate classes

Presented by: Deaf Society of NSW and the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children.

Fee: FREE

DSNSW Early Signs– Auslan for Hearing Babies & Toddlers

The Deaf Society of NSW are providing sign language classes for parents of hearing babies and toddlers. Based on the WA Deaf Society's *First Signs* program, this series of three workshops will be presented by two experienced trainers (who are also mothers and Auslan users themselves), in Parramatta. Babies 0- 5 are welcome, although as there are no crèche facilities on site, parents should bring along their own toys and play mat.

Where: Level 4, Macquarie House, 169 Macquarie St, Parramatta NSW

Cost: \$100 per adult or \$170 per couple

To register your interest in upcoming Early Signs workshops :

Email Sheena Walters at swalters@deafsociety.com, call (02) 9893 8555 or fax (02) 9893 8333.



Interpreting Professional Development Opportunity:

Platform Interpreting workshop with Julie Simons

This workshop will provide an opportunity to learn about and practise interpreting on an elevated stage. Discussion will focus on situational and sign production considerations, and self-preservation considerations.

DECIDE: A model for ethical decision making presentation with Lynne Wiesman

This presentation provides the framework of DECIDE with the aim of assisting interpreters to make solid ethically-based decisions. Lynne is the founder of Signs of Development, an internationally known professional development organisation.

When: Saturday 7 April 2007

Time: 9.30am– 3.30pm

Cost: \$20

Where: Parramatta Town Hall, Church St, Parramatta

RSVP: Email Sheena Walters at DSNSW by Friday 6 April at swalters@deafsociety.com. Please provide your name and a contact number.

MEDIA ACCESS AUSTRALIA– Free Captioning Information Sessions

Over the next few months Media Access Australia will be running free information sessions around Australia. The focus is on captioning quality, but cinema and DVD captioning and digital equipment will also be discussed. Locations for the sessions include Lismore, Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Toowoomba, Ballarat, Cairns, Canberra and Perth. Hearing loops & Auslan interpreters will be available in most places– please check with MAA for details.

For session details please visit www.mediaaccess.org.au/News.aspx?id=103. To RSVP for a session call/TTY (02) 9212 6242, fax (02) 9121 6242 or email info@mediaaccess.org.au



Deaf Sports Updates

Deaf OZTAG Tournament 2007– NSW CITY vs NSW COUNTRY

The OZTAG crew will be organising friendly exhibition games for MEN, WOMEN and MIXED Deaf teams to promote the game in the Deaf sporting community. Everyone is welcome to come and watch! BBQ will be available.

When: Saturday 5 May 2007.

Time: 8.30am for welcome and demonstration, kick-off at 9am sharp.

Where: Kingsway Playing Field, The Kingsway Drive (off Charles Hackett Dr, St Marys), Werrington

Who: Deaf, hard of hearing and CODAs are invited to play, everyone welcome to watch the fun!

RSVP: Contact organisers Matthew Thornley & Timothy Edwards at deafoztagnsw@hotmail.com by 30 April. Please include in email where you live, your age and which team you want to play on (mens, womens, mixed).

After the game there is a Deaf Social Night at Penrith Panthers– All welcome! Have a drink and watch the NRL/Super 14/AFL on FOXTEL.

When: Saturday night, 5 May 2007, from 6pm until late.

Where: Panthers World of Entertainment, Mulgoa Rd, Penrith

Deaf Aquatics NSW

Formerly known as NSW Deaf Swimming, Deaf Aquatics NSW now has a temporary website to keep in touch with aquatic lovers all over NSW. If you want to become a member, and be the first to know about the latest swimming news, events and functions, you can fill out a membership form on online and join up.

Visit <http://groups.msn.com/deafaquaticsnsw> to check out the new site.

Deaf Basketball Australia Wine Drive

Deaf Basketball Australia is currently raising money to support the Men's and Women's basketball teams on their World Championships Campaign to China in June 2007. The Wine Drive will continue throughout the year- place your orders for your Arlewood Estate wines now for Christmas!

James Halliday's Wine Companion of 2006 states: "The quality and consistency of [Arlewood Estate] wine is now impeccable– 4.5 stars". Check out www.arlewood.com.au for more info about the wines. With RRP between \$22– \$25, the Wine Drive price of only \$12 a bottle (\$130 for a case) for Sauvignon Blanc Semillon, Semillon, Shiraz and Cabernet Merlot is a substantial saving.

For more info about the Wine Drive contact Rohan Fraser on 0417 132 377 (SMS only) or email rjf_7@hotmail.com

Salsa Republic– Salsa Dance classes for Deaf and hearing impaired

With top dance instructor Ricardo, an awesome salsa dancer who has worked with deaf children in Chile. Wear comfortable clothing, not too tight so you can move and turn easily. Shoes should be leather or resin sole with strap/tie so they stay on (rubber soled shoes can stick to the floor).

Beginner 8 week course– starts Saturday 28 April, 3-4pm. \$130 for 8 classes.

Level 2 (Intermediate) 8 week course– starts Saturday 28 April, 2-3pm, \$130 for 8 classes.

Where: Salsa Republic Studios, 42 Kensington St, Central Station (just off Broadway opposite UTS)

Bookings: Bookings Essential! Email salsarepublic@bigpond.com, SMS 0402 993 244, or call (02) 9212 6739. Payment can be made by credit card over the phone, via SMS or by email. CASH ONLY on the day.

XV Australian Deaf Games Update

The Australian Deaf Games will be held on the Gold Coast, Queensland from 3– 12 January 2008.

At the end of last year, a new and permanent Australian Deaf Games logo was unveiled. It was designed by Dean Hecker of Heck Designs– a deaf athlete who has participated in multiple Deaflympic Games for Australia. Each boomerang represents a letter: A D G. These boomerangs were extracted from the original DSA (Deaf Sports Australia, formerly ADSF) logo, and represent Australia's rich Deaf sport history. The Southern Cross is symbolic of Australia.



The Games slogan will be "The Games we love...", illustrating the passion deaf and hard of hearing have for the ADG.

For updates on ADG events and locations email DSA at goldcoast2008@deafsports.org.au, call/TTY (03)9473 1191, or check out the new Games website at www.austdeafgames.org.au



DSNSW & DEN NEWS

Deaf Society NSW Family Fun Day

DSNSW will be hosting an event for families who have a Deaf member— hearing parents with Deaf kids, Deaf parents with hearing kids, etc. Everyone (parents, grandparents, children, siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles) is welcome to come and join us in this celebration of families. Check out the Taronga Zoomobile with Australian animals and reptiles, have your face painted, join in the family relay races and take part in craft activities with the kids. BBQ lunch and drinks will be provided, or you can bring along a family picnic. This is the first Family Fun Day, and DSNSW plans to make this day an annual event.

When: Sunday 6 May 2007, from 10.30am until 3pm
Where: Woodstock, Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood
Cost: FREE!

For more info contact Jessica Peyton at jpeyton@deafsociety.com, call (02) 8833 3608, TTY (02) 9893 8858 or send a fax to (02) 9893 8333. Volunteers are still needed for this event- please see listing on pg 6 for more details.

Sign 'n' Tots— Deaf parents & Kids Playgroup

A very special School holidays Playgroup for babies and bigger kids. Deaf kids, hearing brothers and sisters, and CODAs all welcome! Free Kindy Gym class for toddlers and babies. Toddlers playground out the front. Free activities for bigger kids aged 5– 10 years.

When: Friday 20 April 2007, from 10am until 12pm.
Where: The Domain Rooms, 1 Oakes St, Westmead (plenty of street parking or easy 10 min walk from Westmead Station)

For more info contact Sandra Carroll at email: scarroll@deafsociety.com, TTY: (02) 9893 8858, voice: (02) 8833 2636, OR Nicole Clark at email: nicole@ephpheta.org.au, TTY: (02) 9764 4520, voice: (02) 9764 4711.

NORTH COAST DATES FOR THE DIARY!

North Coast Sibling Camp – A camp for the brothers & sisters of Deaf children

When: 5pm Fri 21 Sept– 2.30pm Sun 23 Sept 2007
Where: Lake Ainsworth Sport & Recreation Centre, Pacific Parade, Lennox Head.
Cost: \$30 per child, \$20 per additional child from same family.

Auslan Only Weekend- North Coast community

When: 6.30pm Fri 23 Nov– 2.30pm Sun 25 Nov 2007
Where: Camp Koinonia, Broadwater Rd, Evans Head
Cost: \$85 per person. Numbers strictly limited so book early to avoid missing out.

On Saturday night there will be a monster-themed 'voice-off' excursion to Evans Head Bowling Club. Everyone is encouraged to dress for the occasion!

To book a place at either of these events or for more info contact Craig Bishop at DSNSW Lismore at email: cbishop@deafsociety.com, voice: (02) 6622 5572, fax/TTY: (02) 6622 4087.



DEN Graduation Ceremony 2007– Congratulations!

A massive thank you to all of the students, teachers, parents, friends, staff and volunteers that attended the annual DEN Graduation Ceremony at Burwood RSL in March. Over 120 Deaf and hearing students graduated from a DEN course in 2006, which is a wonderful achievement. Congratulations to everyone.

Congratulations also to our Information Officer Jennifer Clements (new Nanna to Jacob) and Quality Assurance Senior Advisor Sharon Nann, both of whom received awards in recognition for the love and hard work they have put into DEN over the past 15 years.

DSNSW Interpreting Service Online Booking System

The Deaf Society's Interpreting Service are completing the final stages of the new online booking system. From March, you can book an interpreter via <http://interpreting.deafsociety.org>

The new system will make the booking process more straight forward. You will be able to track the status of your booking, check your details and see who your interpreter/s will be at any time.

For more information, contact the Deaf Society's Interpreting Service by calling (02) 8833 3611 or emailing interpreting@deafsociety.com.

