



Auslan Student Newsletter

August/September 2007



Welcome to the 16th edition of the newsletter.



Happy Second Birthday Auslan Student Newsletter!

In August 2005 the first edition of this newsletter was distributed to a small group of DEN students. It was a single-sided page, announcing five upcoming events. By November 2005 there were 180 people on the mailing list, and the newsletter was six pages in length. Now, two years since that first edition was sent out, the Auslan Student Newsletter is sent to 470 readers, representing every state and territory in Australia.

Thank you to all of our readers for your continuing support. Your ongoing feedback, input and encouragement is greatly appreciated.

This month introduces a new section of the newsletter— **In Your Hands**. Feel free to share your comments, experiences, ideas or random musings with us. This is also an opportunity for you to network with readers in different areas (one Deaf Society staff member warned that it would not be a good idea for this section to turn into an Auslan student dating forum, but as I have never been one to stand in the way of blossoming love between like-minded souls, I *may* be willing to publish romantic requests ♥).

And lastly, a warm welcome to the twenty-eight students who started an accredited Auslan course at DEN this month. *Certificate III in Auslan* and *Diploma of Auslan* have both commenced, and we wish all of these students the best of luck in their studies.

Happy reading!

Natalie Kull

Program Supervisor, Certificates in Auslan

(P.S. Thank you David for giving me Tim Tams while I wrote this edition of the newsletter).

(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: 26 September 07 (for October/November edition), 26 November 07 (for December update edition).

Congratulations SignPost!

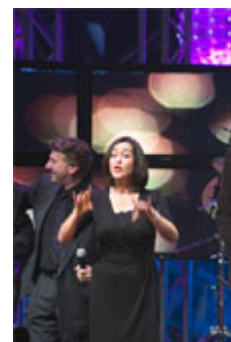
SignPost has won 'Program of the Year' at the recent Antenna Awards. AAD announced this achievement in a June media release, and published the following comments from SignPost Executive Producer Andy Carmichael:

"This is a 'feel good' story of the best type. It is evidence of an Australian community proactively showing that their stories can captivate and entertain across the audience spectrum. The fact that Signpost won this award in its first year of eligibility is proof indeed

of the wider community's interest in innovative and accessible programs. Let's hope that this recognition helps to give the Deaf community a seat at the broadcasting table in Australia — a move that is long overdue if you compare what is available in other countries the world over."



The SignPost team accepting the award (L to R): Marcel Leneham, Andrew Wiltshire, Kyle Miers, Andy Carmichael, Cameron Davie, Caroline Conlon.



Presenter Caroline Conlon at the Antenna Awards.

SignPost plans to release a DVD package with all of the 2006 episodes, along with some extra footage. To find out more about this or to keep up-to-date with SignPost news visit the SignPost page at www.aad.org.au (N.B. This page is currently under construction and should be fully functional soon).

To view more photos of the award ceremony or to find out more about Community TV, visit www.c31.org.au.



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 Sat morning, 10am-12pm (next meetings 11 & 25 Aug, 8 & 22 Sept).

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 & SEPTEMBER 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 October meeting due to school holidays).

Next meeting: Thursday 6 September 2007 (please SMS if you will be attending).

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

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

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

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

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 (next meeting 18 August).

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—AUGUST EVENT

This group is organised in conjunction with Central Coast Deaf Group, to help students from TAFE, DEN and Uni mix with more Deaf people. Everyone (from beginners to interpreters) are warmly welcome. For more info contact Timothy Edwards at auslansocialgroup@hotmail.com

August Event– A Trivia Night fundraiser for Chertsey School Deaf students

An evening for adults and kids with games and fun throughout the night. BBQ and soft drinks will be on sale from 5.30pm. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of educational resources for the Deaf students at Chertsey School. Ticket price includes tea/coffee and refreshments.

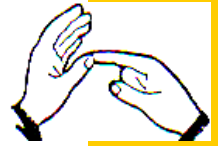
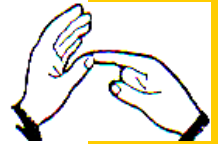
Where: Jaspers Café (at old Mingara Club), Adelaide St off Wyong Rd, Tumbi Umbi.

When: Saturday 11 August 2007.

Time: Doors open at 5.30pm, game starts at 6.30pm.

Cost: At the door- \$6 / \$3 conc. / \$10 family. Before the event- \$4 / \$3 conc. / \$8 family.

To purchase tickets SMS Jan Strachan (President) on 0409 398 101, email Timothy Edwards (Secretary) at angie_timothy@hotmail.com or SMS Dionne O'Meara (Treasurer) on 0407 939 874.



What's On

Coffs Harbour Events – Everyone Welcome!

For more information about any of these events please contact Simone on 0410 684 310 (SMS only).

National Week of Deaf People Social Barbecue

When: Saturday 14 October 2007
Where: Jetty Foreshores
Time: 11am
Bring: Nibbles, drinks & money for a sausage sizzle.

Coffs Coast Deaf Community Picnic Day

When: Sunday 26 August 2007
Where: Pet Porpoise Pool Reserve (next to the creek)
Time: 11am
Bring: Nibbles, drinks and a picnic lunch.

Coffs Coast Deaf Community Social Day

When: Sunday 23 September 2007
Where: Sawtell Pool (If it is raining we'll move to 109 Albany Street, Coffs Harbour)
Time: 11am
Bring: Picnic lunch and drinks.

For further information please SMS Bernadette on 0439 604 637 or SMS Simone on 0410 684 310.

Melbourne Event

Guggenheim Collection at the National Gallery of Victoria- Auslan Interpreted Tours

1940's to Now – The most important exhibition of post war and contemporary art ever is coming exclusively to Melbourne from the internationally renowned Guggenheim Museum.

When: Sunday 26 August and Sunday 30 September for Deaf and hearing impaired patrons
Time: 11am (crowds permitting)
Where: NGV International, St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

The EASE Ticket Service, a major program of Arts Access Victoria, is dedicated to enabling people with a disability or an impairment and people who are disadvantaged to access arts and cultural events in Victoria. Membership is strictly open to people who have a disability/impairment (including Deaf patrons) or organisations/groups working with people who have a disability or are disadvantaged.

For more information please contact EASE on (03) 9699 8497 (voice), (03) 9699 7636 (TTY) or fax (03) 9699 8868 from 10am - 4pm Monday to Thursday or visit the website on www.artsaccess.com.au/attend

Sydney Events - Auslan Students Welcome!

Signing Art June & July 2007 – Auslan Interpreted Art Gallery Tours

Sunday 26 August

Meander back into the history of art on the *Fantastic Worlds* tour, and encounter dragons, mermaids, angels and other mythical and mystical creatures. Afterwards, take the kids to see Bronwyn Vaughan perform *When Camels Could Fly*, and enjoy tales from the Silk Road told through theatrical storytelling, song and music.

Sunday 30 September

The Spirit of Qi - Embarking from the Taihu Rock, follow the energy of Qi, or *life force*, through the Asian Gallery. Consider the interpretations of Qi by Buddhist and Taoist artists. Discover the stories, treasures and words of wisdom in this sumptuous collection. Also happening today at the gallery are the *Moon Festival Celebrations*; Sydney's Chinese community offer a day of music and dance, and lessons in the craft of knot tying.

(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 August/30 September 2007

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 location.

Cost: FREE

Visit www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/events/accessible or www.gallerykids.com.au for further information.



Blue Mountains Deaf Social Group – August & September events

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

AUGUST- Chat night or walk around Winmalee

When: Friday 17 August 2007, from 7.30pm

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

SEPTEMBER- Putt Putt Golf

When: Friday 21 September 2007, 7.30pm

Where: Behind Penrith Panthers Club (Panthers
World of Entertainment, Mulgoa Rd, Penrith)



Parent Council for Deaf Education

The PCDE is a support group based in NSW for parents and families with children, teenagers and young adults who are deaf or hearing impaired. They provide information, give advice, produce a quarterly newsletter and assist parents to advocate for themselves.



PCDE is always looking for new parents/families to join the organisation. Strength in membership numbers provides PCDE with a powerful voice when advocating and campaigning for NSW families and their deaf and hearing impaired children

PCDE membership entitles families to:

- A quarterly copy of Sound News
- Invitations to upcoming events such as information sessions and forums
- Member discounts at PCDE events
- Voting rights at the Annual General Meeting
- Linkages into other support organisations

PCDE is seeking to identify any existing support groups for parents across NSW.

Are you part of a parent support group? Where and how often do you meet?

Do you know of any groups that exist?

Do you find support groups useful?

What type of things do you discuss at your group?

OR

Would you find it beneficial to join a support group?

How frequently and where would you want to meet and what things would you want discussed?

To answer or discuss any of the above questions or to become a member of PCDE, contact the Information & Advocacy Manager on (02) 9871 3049 (voice) or via email pcde@bigpond.com.au. Feel free to browse the website www.pcde.org

DEN Courses for Deaf & Hearing Learners

Auslan Only Weekend 1 & 2 Semester 2, 2007

We are currently accepting enrolments for AOW 1 and AOW 2 in Semester 2. These voice-off weekends are very popular so get your enrolment in quickly so you don't miss out!

When: 7pm Friday 19– 4.30pm Sunday 21 October 2007

Where: Stanwell Tops Conference Centre, Helensburgh NSW

DEN Courses in Semester 1, 2008

➤ *Certificate II in Auslan* (21200VIC): 18 February–2 July 2008, Monday & Wednesday nights.

➤ *Certificate IV in Auslan* (21202VIC): 12 February–10 July 2008, Tuesday & Thursday nights.

To add your name to the expression of interest list for either of these courses or for more info about the AOWs, contact Anna Humphery on (02) 8833 3604 or email programs@deaf.nsw.edu.au. Further information can be found on the DEN website at www.deaf.nsw.edu.au

Chocolate Appreciation Workshop for Deaf and Hearing Learners– Auslan interpreted

Oh my! The flyer for this workshop says it all really-

“...Smell the heady aroma of an exquisite 17th Century French chocolate drink that will send your taste buds into raptures... Feel the finest chocolate melt in your mouth as it mixes on your palate with the taste of fine sparkling wine....”

I can almost taste the chocolaty goodness already. Yum, yum!

When: Tuesday 21 August 2007, 6.30pm until 8.30pm

Where: Kimberly Chocolates, 209 Lilyfield Road, Leichhardt (Sydney's Inner West).

Cost: \$55.00 per person

To enrol: Contact Tony Clews or John O'Neill at DEN on (02) 8833 3630 (voice), (02) 9893 8333 (fax), (02) 9893 8858 (TTY) or email den@deaf.nsw.edu.au. Hurry! Limited places.



In Your Hands

This section has been included for the first time this edition, in response to the many emails I receive from readers about their student activities, Auslan adventures, passions and politics. If you have something to say, say it here! Email me at nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au or fax (02) 9893 8333 (Attention: Natalie Kull) with your submissions.

(N.B. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of Deaf Education Network, Deaf Society of New South Wales or the staff of either of these organisations. No responsibility will be taken for any loss or damage as a result of communication in this newsletter. Submission of material does not guarantee publication. Submissions may be edited although all care will be taken to retain the true intent of the author).

FROM WITHIN THESE HANDS (by Henry Anastasi, March 2007)

From Within These Hands Lies
The Voice To My
World
Of Silent Sounds and Words
You cannot
Hear
Have Lived My Life With All
It Threw And
Hurled
Never A Time In My Life
When My Existence,
So Never Made
Clear

From Within These Hand
I Can Hear With My
Eyes
I Can Paint You A Picture
Of The Rainbow In Colours
Of Brightly
Hues

Coz I Am Deaf In A Hearing World
Adapted To Things You'll Never
Realise

A Mouth I Have, Not used for Speaking
My Hands Are My Voice
And To That I Cannot
Choose

In A World Of Silence
My Voice Is My
Hands

Don't Be Afraid Because
I Am A Little
Different

We Can Be Friends And Together
As one we can
Stand

To bring us together To
Be As friendship was
Meant

Within These Hands,
Nimble Fingers That Can Paint A
Scene

Or A Song Of Floating
Words In The
Air

To Show The World What
Exactly I
Mean

Just View My World
From Within These Hands
And a path to understanding
Is that we'll
Share

Hi Natalie,

Thanks for your lovely comments. I hope there will be others who will want to read my book, especially the children. The website for the book is www.trafford.com/4dcgi/dosearch. Type the title, "Let Me Speak To You" and author, Nena Hernandez. Thanks.
Nena.

Nena Hernandez has written and self-published a book, *Let Me Speak To You*, which was influenced by her study of Auslan. To find out more visit the web address in the letter above.



ACON in Western Sydney wants to know the needs of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and HIV+ people who live in Western and South Western Sydney. It would be good to make sure the needs of Deaf people are included.

You can fill out the survey at http://www.acon.org.au/community/index.cfm?doc_id=1839&cat_id=76

Ruth Blakely at Arts Access is in discussions with production company "The Really Useful Company", organisers of Phantom of the Opera in Australia. Arts Access is TRYING to arrange for the Phantom to be Auslan interpreted, but at this stage interpreters will not be provided.

Please email rblakley@artsaccess.com.au and tell her WHY you want to watch the show and WHY you need Auslan Interpreters. The more Deaf people who send emails to Ruth ASAP saying that they want to see the show interpreted, the stronger the case will be when Ruth speaks with "The Really Useful Company" again!

Dear everyone,

There have been some complaints regarding the Greater Union Birch Carroll & Coyle captioned movies in George St, Sydney, especially regarding time and program changes at the last minute, difficulty parking and catching public transport on Friday nights which is not safe.

I am starting a petition to try and change it all, maybe moving the captioned films to Broadway or Burwood which will be a lot easier (free parking, etc).

Much appreciated for your time.

Ela.

To sign the petition email Daniala Mitchell at dmitchel@bigpond.net.au

I am supervising a pharmacy research student who is looking at interaction of Deaf and hearing people with pharmacists and doctors.

If you have a few minutes to participate in this online survey about your experiences in communicating with pharmacists and doctors it would be greatly appreciated. All you need do is click on the link below:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=fPPj0vL5EP_2b6YKz_2fy9SCww_3d_3d

Thanks.
Deb.

Debbie Burton PhD CRFS
Associate Head of School
Senior Lecturer, Course Coordinator Bachelor of Clinical Science
School of Biomedical Sciences
Charles Sturt University
Email: dburton@csu.edu.au

Weblinks suggested by readers:

- ☆ http://www.d-pan.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=36&Itemid=45 Beautiful film clip!
- ☆ http://www.barcodeart.com/art/other/sign_clock/sign_clock.html Interesting ASL clock.
- ☆ http://canberra.yourguide.com.au/detail.asp?story_id=1016789&class=Lifestyle Canberra Times article about the controversial auditory brain-stem implant.



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.

Notice Board

- 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).
- Here is an article about the recent language change in QLD schools. Previously students were schooled in signed English, but the QLD Education Department has recently announced that students will now be schooled in Auslan. Have your say! <http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,22085504-23272,00.html>
- Hawkesbury Disability Forum will present the **Hawkesbury Disability Expo on Tuesday 4 September 2007**. 10am to 6pm at The Richmond Club, Cnr Francis & East Market Streets. Free admission to everyone. Exhibitions will include disability related equipment, accommodation information, government services, community organisations, education, support groups and more. For info call Lyn on (02) 8784 2907 or email lyn.wallace@afford.com.au
- 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.
- In a their recent newsletter, **Media Access Australia** warned:

"A common misconception is that all digital equipment will allow a user to access captions. This is not true. Caption decoding and display is a requirement for compliance with the Australian Standard for digital signal receivers (AS 4933). But unfortunately, industry compliance with Australian standards is not mandatory.

If you are looking to buy a new digital set top box, digital television, personal video recorder (PVR) or a DVD recorder with an inbuilt digital receiver, please ensure that the equipment you are purchasing complies with AS 4933. This should be marked on the box or in the instruction manual.

Email info@mediaaccess.org.au or ring (02) 9212 6242 to subscribe to the newsletter or get involved in MAA's campaigns.



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 & Staff Profile – Tony Clews

I was born into a Deaf family. Both of my parents and one of my sisters were Deaf, so we used Auslan as our primary language in the family home. I also have three hearing sisters, two of whom have gone on to become interpreters.

I spent some time growing up in New Zealand and went to a mainstream school there. One of my worst memories of school is of being sent to a 'hearing' English class for a year with another deaf boy. We were forced to sit at the back of the classroom doing nothing while the teacher taught the class about George Orwell's *Big Brother*. The hearing students were allowed to do the related activities during class time, but we were told to be quiet and just read the book until bell time. We then we had to do the work with a tutor after class, while the other boys went to out to enjoy their sports! I was not happy.



Sport has always been a passion of mine. Some of my fondest school memories are of wagging school with my deaf mates to go and play footy at the back of the field.

I worked as a Deaflympics Sports Liason Officer for a year prior to the 2005 Deaflympic Games, and then I was a Sports Manager for the football during the Games in Melbourne. That was absolutely fun! It is great to mingle with deaf people from other countries, but it was also a great opportunity to mingle with people who use the same sign language– Auslan! I don't know if I am proud to be Deaf, I have never really thought about it, but I've always been proud to be Australian!

I am currently working for Deaf Education Network as a Program Supervisor of Deaf Leisure Courses. My role involves setting up classes, visiting deaf social events and gatherings to promote the courses and doing administration work as well.



I don't do too much teaching these days. I enjoyed teaching in the early days but now with two young daughters who do a lot of activities, I don't have a lot of spare time. Marking assessments and teaching at night can be very time consuming. But teaching Auslan was always rewarding too. The best thing about teaching is meeting hearing students who come from all walks of life, and seeing these students still hanging around in the Deaf community years later. Natalie Kull was one of my students eight years ago and she is now sitting next to me as a work colleague! Good on ya Natt!

My words of wisdom for hearing students learning Auslan are learn at your own pace and enjoy the language. Make sure you mingle in the community, regularly go to Deaf events and work in Deaf organisations to get the gist of the language.

I've been married to a Deaf pommie, Lise, for ten years and we've created two daughters Brooke (9) and Amy (7). They are adorable, but make a lot of mischief (just like their Mum). In twenty years time I see Lise and I living up the Coast somewhere. I just want to play sport and be a lazy bum.

Editor's Note: In 2005 Tony was received recognition as the **Dorothy Shaw Deaf Australian of the Year**. Reflecting on this incredible achievement Tony says

“ Winning the award made me feel good personally, because it meant that the hard work and support from my family and friends has been recognised. I dedicate my award to my deaf role models, who have contributed so much in their own way for the benefit of the deaf community and the society at large.”



Tony is the poster boy for DEN's website.



Education & Consultation

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/continuing_calendar.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.

Second Annual Meeting of Leaders in Oral Deaf Education

When: Wed 12 - Thurs 13 September 2007

Featuring a keynote address by Dr Todd Houston

Fee: \$175

Annual Conference for Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf, Teachers of Hearing Impaired Students :

Keynote address by Dr Todd Houston

When: Friday 14 September 2007

Fee: \$120

The Renwick Centre Library's latest edition of *InsideInfo*, an information resources newsletter for parents of children with sensory impairment, is now available online. The current issue focuses on the subject of *play therapy*. Visit <http://www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/library/insideinfo.asp>

Auslan Skills for Families / Auslan Heritage School

When: Term 4 Beginners & 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.



An Introductory Course to Australian Sign Language– LISMORE

This is an introductory level course aimed at anyone who is interested in learning basic level Auslan. No previous knowledge of Auslan is required. Numbers are strictly limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

Where: Lismore office of Deaf Society of NSW, 2/7 Carrington St, Lismore NSW (entry via County Lane)

When: Starts Tuesday 14 August 2007. Every Tuesday night for 8 weeks.

Cost: \$88 per person.

Enrol: Payment can be made directly to the Lismore office (prior contact is recommended to ensure office is staffed when you want to visit). For further information contact Craig Bishop on (02) 6622 5572 (voice), 0423 488 619 (voice & SMS), (02) 6622 4087 (fax & TTY) or email cbishop@deafsociety.com



Able Australia Deafblind Camp (Victoria)

Able Australia in collaboration with VUDBC (Victorian Ushers and Deafblind club) and VHSC (Vision Hearing and Support Club) are organising a Deafblind camp. The camp is a great opportunity for Deafblind people to make new friends and have exciting experiences in a safe and supported environment. Activities include flying fox, indoor rock climbing, trout fishing, archery visiting the town café and walking on high ropes.

Where: Forest Edge recreational Camp, McKenzie Rd, Neerim East (Victoria)

When: Friday 5 October– Sunday 7 October

Cost: \$100 per person. \$50 deposit required by 15 August. Balance can be paid at camp.

Enrol: Contact Emely McCord at Able Australia on 1300 225 369 (voice), (03) 9882 6786 (fax), (03) 9882 9210 (TTY) or email emely.mccord@ableaustralia.org.au



Deaf Sports Updates

Deaf OZTAG—NSW Zonal Tournament 2007

The Black Panthers OZTAG crew will be organising a few friendly games for players living in their zonal areas (zonal= North Vs South Vs East Vs West). Men, Women and Mixed teams will play on the day to promote the game in the Deaf sporting community. Everyone is welcome to come and watch! BBQ and drinks will be on sale.

- When:** Saturday 6 October 2007
Time: 9am– Welcome and meet your team, 9.30am- Kick-off.
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!
Cost: \$2 coin donation.
RSVP: Email Matthew Thornley & Timothy Edwards at deafoztagnsw@hotmail.com by 1 September. Please include in your email where you live and your age. Please note: All participants play at own risk.

Black Panthers Deaf Social– White-water Rafting

An action packed introduction to white-water rafting, lead by experienced river guides. All trips are 90 minutes in duration, and include safety briefing, flat water instruction and white-water rapids in crews. A moderate to high adventure level for anyone who is a confident in the water and wants some extreme fun! A game of beach volleyball and a BBQ will follow.

- When:** Saturday 15 September 2007
Time: Be there by 9.30am, 10am start.
Where: Penrith White-water stadium, McCarthy's Lane, Cranebrook NSW
Price: \$80 per person, includes raft, equipment, instruction & guides. Please pay by 1 September.
Fitness: No experience necessary but it is recommended all participants are physically fit and strong swimmers.
RSVP: By 26 August to Matthew and Rebecca Thornley at blackpanthersdeafoztag@hotmail.com

Yoga DVD with Auslan and Subtitles

Inner Cor Yoga and Vicdeaf have created a Yoga DVD with Auslan and subtitles. Inner Cor Yoga founder Swami Prema Ananda (Pauline Rooney) was inspired to create the "Everyday Yoga" DVD by her profoundly deaf niece, and did so in recognition of the difficulties Deaf people can encounter when learning yoga, which include not being able to read the instructor's lips during certain poses. Swami has had over thirty years of yoga teaching experience and hopes this DVD will allow Deaf people to experience yoga comfortably in their own homes.

For further information contact Inner Cor Yoga on (03) 5244 1130 (voice), email info@innercor.com.au or check out www.innercor.com.au.

XV Australian Deaf Games Needs You! 3-10 January 2008

If you are Deaf or hard of hearing and interested in playing ANY sport, particularly sports such as Beach Volleyball, Table Tennis, Squash, etc contact your State Branch (below) for more information and to register. Deaf Sports aims to fill all national team positions; there may also be exciting opportunities to play international competitions.

New South Wales and ACT

Deaf Society of New South Wales
Level 4, Macquarie House
169 Macquarie St
(PO Box 1060)
Parramatta NSW 2124
TTY: (02) 9893 8858
Fax: (02) 9893 8333
E-mail: tclews@deaf.nsw.edu.au

Western Australia

Western Australian Deaf Recreation Association (WADRA)
PO Box 8558
Perth BC WA 6849
TTY: (08) 9441 2690
Fax: (08) 9441 2695
E-mail: tonyklimek@hotmail.com

Queensland and

Northern Territory
Deaf Sports Recreation Queensland (DSRQ)
PO Box 173
Annerley QLD 4103
TTY: (07) 3848 6002
Fax: (07) 3848 6045
E-mail: dsrq@dsrq.org.au

Tasmania

Tasdeaf (Att: Australian Deaf Games)
59 Cadbury Road
Claremont TAS 7011
TTY: (03) 6249 1174
Fax: (03) 6249 8818
E-mail: training@tasdeaf.org.au

South Australia

South Australian Deaf Recreation Association (SADRA)
c/o PO Box 7095
Hutt Street, Adelaide SA 5000
TTY: (08) 8223 6530
Fax: (08) 8232 2217
E-mail: jaquis@deafsa.org.au

Victoria

Deaf Sports Recreation Victoria (DSRV)
Level 3, 340 Albert Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002
TTY: (03) 9473 1161
Fax: (03) 9473 1122
E-mail: dsrv@pacific.net.au

Social Tennis Day

All players who have tennis skills are warmly welcome!

- Where:** Thomas Pattison School Tennis Courts, 361-365 North Rocks Rd, North Rocks.
When: Sunday 12 August 2007, 10am until 2pm.
Cost: \$10 per person, including lunch. Drinks on sale during the day.
RSVP: By Saturday 11 August to Stephen Payne 0422 506 572 (SMS only) or (02) 9636 9276 (TTY) or Mary Profilio 0400 985 519 (SMS only)



Positions Vacant

Deaf Children Australia (Melbourne-based)- 2 positions available

**Education Policy Officer
Mental Health Policy Officer**



Deaf Children Australia provides information, advocacy and support to families of deaf and hearing impaired children. They require two skilled, qualified people to work in a range of State and National projects focusing on deaf education, mental health and deafness. The successful applicants require strong research, analytical and communication skills. Relevant tertiary qualifications are essential.

For further information contact Cherry Loveridge (03) 9539 5320 (voice), email cloveridge@deafchildren.org.au or visit www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au/. Applications close Friday 17 August 2007.

Community Worker (Newcastle & Central Coast)- Deaf Society of NSW



A vacancy exists for an experienced Community Worker in the Community Access and Information Service. This position is for 2 days per week, for twelve months, working on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The community worker provides professional specialist information, consultation, casework and advocacy services to members of the Deaf community and their families in the Hunter and Central Coast regions. Clients are assisted to access generic community welfare services, government departments and legal services.

Applicants must meet the following essential criteria:

- ⇒ Tertiary qualifications in Social Sciences/Welfare/ Rehabilitation
- ⇒ Previous work experience in a related social service area
- ⇒ Excellent communication skills in Auslan / English
- ⇒ Knowledge of the Deaf community, its language and culture
- ⇒ Proven project management skills
- ⇒ Time management and planning skills
- ⇒ Experience working with interpreters
- ⇒ Own car (petrol allowance payable for travel)

To obtain an application package please call Nicole Gray (nee Harris) on (02) 9893 8555 (voice), (02) 9893 8858 (TTY) or email info@deafsociety.com.

For further information about the position please contact Stephen Nicholson on (02) 9893 8858 (TTY), (02) 9893 8333 (fax) or email snicholson@deafsociety.com.

Selection criteria must be addressed in all applications. Applications close on Friday 17 August 2007.

Other Deaf Society News.....

Deaf Adult Literacy anyone?

A new online group is forming for teachers, managers, coordinators and supervisors of **Deaf adult literacy** courses. Open to interested people from all organisations, including student teachers. This online group is hosted by DEN and facilitated by Susannah Macready. For more information, contact smacready@deaf.nsw.edu.au or call (02) 8833 3666 (voice).

Changes to Centrelink Payments

An update from Veronica de Ferrari, Manager, Employment and Workplace Support:

"...A stay-at-home parent looking after the children, receiving Parenting Payment from Centrelink, is called a Principal Carer. As of 1 July 2007 these parents will have employment obligations, if their YOUNGEST child is 7 years old or older. This also applies to grandparents or other relatives who receive the Parenting Payment or a Carer Allowance to look after children.

These parents and carers must contact their Centrelink office to get into an Activity Agreement. They may then be referred to Employment Agencies.

It is important that these parents advise Centrelink because if they don't, Centrelink will continue to pay their allowance as normal until they identify their situation, and then the parent will have to pay all of the allowance back to Centrelink.

It is important that you know this information and let others know, because changes are not always announced in the media."

