



Auslan Student Newsletter

October/November 2007



Welcome to the 17th edition of the newsletter.

Ahhhh.... Spring. Blossoms unfurling their delicate pink petals, fluffy white lambs bleating softly in lush green fields, warm breezes gently carrying the scent of new growth.

At least that's what it was like in New Zealand. I flew back into Sydney and was greeted by 34°C heat and roaring hot winds literally howling around the DSNSW building. Spring has sprung right into Summer.

September was eventful. The ASLIA National Conference, held here in Sydney, was a huge success and I was thoroughly impressed by the extensive interpreting experience and depth of knowledge represented by the presenters and delegates. As a conference first-timer and interpreting student I was made to feel welcome at all times throughout the weekend, and despite not working in the interpreting field the conference was of immense benefit. I encourage any Auslan student considering a career in interpreting to join their state branch of ASLIA and stay informed about upcoming events.

I also popped down to Melbourne last month to meet the awesome staff and students at Kangan Batman TAFE. Like DEN, Kangan Batman offers all of the nationally accredited Auslan courses, from CIA II through to Diploma of Auslan. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Julian and his crew of great teachers for having us and to thank the KB students for welcoming us into their classes.

Best of luck to everyone heading into Term 4 of an Auslan course this month. May the Force be with you.

Happy reading!

Natalie Kull

Program Supervisor, Accredited Auslan Courses

(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 November 07 (for December update edition), 26 January 08 (for February/March 08 edition).

Congratulations!

- ➔ To DSNSW staff member **Thuy Van Do** and her family on the arrival of their handsome baby boy! Ethan John Geoffrey Kapral is the new baby brother of 2 year-old Madison Love.
- ➔ To Auslan student **Raphaella Dernocoure** who recently came 9853rd in the City To Surf after doing the run in 82.08 minutes. Raphaella raised about \$400 for his chosen charity, Thomas Pattison School.
- ➔ To the AMAZING students in the **Thomas Pattison School Sign Choir** and their teacher **Daphne Peterson** for their wonderful production of "Life is a Song". The film clip can be viewed on the 'Music Count Us In' website at www.musiccountusin.org.au/content/view/30/6 Nice work guys and girls!
- ➔ To the winners of the St Jerome Awards, which were held in Parramatta on 10 August to recognise the work of NSW interpreters:

Kathy Wright was the recipient of the Community Interpreter award, for her contribution to interpreting in community settings.

IBM Australia was awarded for their consistent provision of interpreters and their support of interpreters needs.



Gerry Shearim was awarded Tertiary Education Interpreter for her contribution in tertiary settings AND was named **St Jerome Auslan Interpreter of the Year 2006** for NSW for her outstanding contribution to the field of interpreting. Nice work Gerry!

If that wasn't enough, as the state winner Gerry then went on to compete for the **Australian Interpreter of the Year 2006** award at the ASLIA National Conference 2007. And she won that too!

What a woman.

PHOTO: Gerry Shearim is awarded the **St Jerome Auslan Interpreter of the Year 2006**. With awards night hosts, Stephen Nicholson (L) and Alex Jones (R).



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 20 October, 3 & 17 November).

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 groups in Sydney – they have been meeting for over 16 years.

Where: Liverpool Library.

When: Every Friday, 10am-12pm.

Skill level: Class-style group, suitable for beginners (community level).

How to get involved: Contact Coordinator, Carmel Martin, at c.martin@liverpool.nsw.gov.au or call (02) 9821 9450.



Sydney City – NOVEMBER DATE FOR PRE-CHRISTMAS DINNER

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 more Thursday meetings for 2007).

Next meeting: Friday 2 November for a pre-Christmas dinner. Location to be announced.

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 CONTACT NUMBER

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 0432 802 099.

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

Eastern Suburbs – NEW DATES AND DETAILS

Want to improve your fingerspelling read back skills and increase your Auslan vocab? This small study group has been meeting for a few months and would love some new members.

Where: Westfield Eastgardens Level 1 Food Court (under large staircase).

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 meetings 13 & 27 Oct, 10 & 24 Nov).

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

How to get involved: Contact Sharon at voice.off@three.com.au

Central Coast – NOVEMBER & DECEMBER EVENTS

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

November Events – Deaf Sports Gala & BBQ, followed by Deaf Social Night

A day of friendly sports activities for all ages (soccer, volleyball, touch footy, tug-o-war, etc) and a BBQ. There will also be The Deaf Society of NSW and Australian Deaf Games info stalls.

Where: Central Coast Grammar School (Carlton Rd, off The Entrance Rd).

When: Saturday 10th November 2007.

Time: 10am to 4pm.

After the Deaf Sports Gala come to the Deaf Social Night! Last year saw 230+ people - will this year be bigger???

Where: Central Coast Leagues Club, Admiral Quarters function room (upstairs)

Time: 6pm to LATE

December Event – Deaf BBQ Xmas Party

When: Sunday 2nd December 2007

Where: TBA on Central Coast

For more info or to receive a flyer for any of these events please email Timothy Edwards at auslansocialgroup@hotmail.com



What's On

National Week of Deaf People Events – Students Welcome

Kicking off on Saturday 13 October 2007 is the National Week of Deaf People. There are events planned all around Australia, many of which welcome Auslan students to join in with the festivities. Here are just a few...

Deaf Chatter Picnic

When: Sunday 14 October.
Where: Parramatta Park,
Cnr Pitt & O'Connell Sts.
Time: 10am-3pm.
No tickets needed. Just turn up!
A BBQ will be on sale during the day.
For more info visit
www.nswad.org.au

Movie Arvo

When: Wednesday 17 October.
Where: DEN Training Rm,
Ground Floor, Macquarie House,
Macquarie St, Parramatta.
Time: 2-5pm.
Free event. Just turn up!

Wine and Cheese Night

When: Thursday 18 October.
Where: Ephpheta Centre,
108 The Crescent, Flemington.
Time: Starts at 7pm.
Cost: Gold coin donation.
RSVP: By 12 October to Katrina
Pickup at
Katrina@ephpheta.org.au

Afternoon Coffee Time

When: Tuesday 16 October.
Where: Café Moda, Shop 25
225 Macquarie St, Parramatta.
Time: 2.30pm-5.30pm.
No tickets needed. Just turn up!
Menu prices at café.
For info visit www.nswad.org.au

Deaf History Seminar

When: Monday 15 October.
Where: Burwood RSL,
Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood.
Time: 2-5pm.
Cost: Gold Coin Donation.
Contact Karen Jahn at
kjahn@deaf.nsw.edu.au for more
info or call (02) 9893 8555.
**N.B. THIS EVENT MAY NOT BE
INTERPRETED.**

After Work Drinks

When: Friday 19 October.
Where: Commercial Hotel,
2 Hassall St, Parramatta (opp
Station).
Time: 5.30pm onwards.
Bistro and drinks available at
menu/bar prices. Just turn up!

A Bra Day

A day focused on women. Men are
welcome to come along too! Special
guest presenters, creative crafts, sign
singing.
When: Thursday 18 October.
Where: Burwood RSL,
Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood.
Time: 10am-3pm.
Cost: \$5, includes morning tea.
For more info contact
nswad@aad.org.au or visit
www.nswad.org.au

Other events happening for NWDP 2007:

- ⇒ DSNSW Deafair (Community
Consultation BBQ) – See pg 10
- ⇒ National Relay Service Internet
Relay Launches – See pg 10.
- ⇒ Deaf Society Open Day – see pg
10.
- ⇒ A special section in the Saturday
Daily Telegraph on Saturday 13
October.

Art Gallery of NSW Interpreted Tours

Signing Art October & November 2007 – Auslan Interpreted Art Gallery Tours

Sunday 28 October

Since French mariner La Perouse arrived at Botany Bay there has been a link between French and Australian culture. Join the *French Connection* tour, and investigate the influence of French art on Australian artists from the Impressionists through Modernism and beyond. Stick around afterwards for *Interactive Art*- imaginative and explorative improvisational storytelling with Open Stage Productions.

Sunday 25 November

The Art Gallery of NSW was born during a time of turmoil and revolution in Europe. In the *Portrait of a Gallery* tour discover the idealism and hope embedded in the history of the building and collections, and consider the ways in which their development reflects Australia's identity and place in the world. Reward the kids for staying quiet by taking them to *Aditi and her Rickshaw* (theatrical storytelling with Bronwyn Vaughan) afterwards.

(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 28 October and Sunday 25 November

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 – October & November events

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

OCTOBER –

Picnic at Glenbrook

When: Sunday 21 Oct, 11am

Where: Euroka Clearing National
Park.

NOVEMBER –

PICNIC & SWIMMING

When: Sunday 18 Nov, 11am

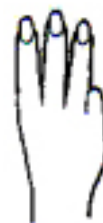
Where: Lawson swimming pool
and park.

NOVEMBER –

CHRISTMAS DINNER

When: Friday 30 Nov, 7.30pm

Where: TBA



Websites, YouTube and more...

The diversity of the internet blows my mind. Over the past couple of months I've had so many different YouTube clips and cool website links sent to me that I thought it was worth sharing a selection of them with you. If you know a great signing or Deaf related link, please send it in. Thanks to everyone that passed these on.

YouTube Clips

- ⇒ Did you know Princess Di could sign? (Thanks Emma) www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkiKXJ54t_E
- ⇒ Deaf rapper dude. (Thanks Tony) www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kxoAx7Ewq0
- ⇒ A CODA comedian (ASL). You'll never sign PIZZA wrong again. www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVW4wtPXU9Y&mode=related&search
- ⇒ Same comedian. Extra funny to anyone that remembers Vanilla Ice. www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2nX41KvnNY&mode=related&search
- ⇒ I love this guy. A signed rendition of "Son of a Preacher Man" (BSL). And no, it is NOT Justin Timberlake. www.youtube.com/watch?v=20Xb9pORFRk&mode=related&search
- ⇒ Here are two that encapsulate the beauty and versatility of hands. This one has shadow puppets www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zlODJsngXE and this one uses body painting techniques to bring animals to life www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zmpj4fEpTw&mode=related&search

Websites

- ⇒ The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) has updated their website. www.humanrights.gov.au
- ⇒ This is the national website for The Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association (ASLIA). It has links to all the state branches. www.aslia.com.au
- ⇒ Janelle Whalan has created this website to keep everyone informed of social events happening in the Deaf community. www.freewebs.com/deafparty
- ⇒ Another website with the aim of keeping the Deaf community posted. Also has a forum and some great links to Deaf organisations. www.deafiesaustralia.com
- ⇒ Check out what is happening in France. Cute written English translations. <http://mainsparis.skyrock.com>
- ⇒ And don't forget Signbank. www.auslan.org.au

Links

- ⇒ This one came to me with the title 'Japan cuts funding for disabled po*n' (* due to spam filters). I was intrigued. <http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=286266>
- ⇒ This one made me cry happy tears. This is the very talented Thomas Pattison School Sign Choir performing their version of "Life is a Song". www.musiccountusin.org.au/content/view/30/6
- ⇒ This has been in the newsletter before but it's quirky enough to mention again. It's the ASL clock. www.barcodeart.com/art/other/sign_clock/sign_clock.html

DEN Courses for Deaf & Hearing Learners

Auslan Only Weekend 1 & 2 Semester 2, 2007– FINAL CALL

Last chance to enrol for AOW 1 and AOW 2 in October. There are only a few spots left for these very popular voice-off weekends- 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

Certificate III in Auslan Hippy Feast, Semester 2 2007

Here are a few photos from the recent DEN Hippy Feast!



In Your Hands

This section has been included 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).

Hi Natalie,

Although I have been unable to get past Cert III or even attend any practice groups due to constant location work, I always look forward to the newsletter.

This latest one came to me here in Africa today and I was absolutely delighted to share it with one of our extras, a Deaf boy from Cape Town, who is playing one of the Marines in the series I am working on.

When I first met Sean I realised he was Deaf, to the surprise of several crew members who have worked with him often and not known, due to his extraordinary lip reading skills and speech. Although oral, he also signs; South African sign is BSL based, so we swap signs whenever we get time, which is a joy for me, but maybe not so much for him as I'm always calling for him to come to the set while the others get to hang around at the trailers!

Have been away most of this year so far, but look forward to catching up with all the folk I have met through DEN when I return in September, at practice, at functions, at the DEN offices, at anywhere.

Sign rules, even in Africa!!!

Best Regards, Karan Monkhouse

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!

Products

'Signs of Australia' Auslan Dictionary

With Deafness Resources Australia's services currently suspended, there has been some concern about where to get the Auslan dictionary from. These can now be purchased from Jill Watson at Renwick College. The dictionary and postage needs to be paid for in advance of being sent out, and this can be either by credit card over the phone or by mailed cheque or money order. The cost for the dictionary, including GST is \$71.50, **plus postage**. Postage cost depends on where the article is being posted to, so purchasers need to ask what they will be charged.

Jill can be emailed at jill.watson@ridbc.org.au, contacted by phone on (02) 9872 0303 or you can post a letter to Locked Bag 29 Parramatta NSW 2124. (N.B. Jill only works on Wed, Thurs and Friday)

SignPost Episodes 1-6 on DVD – Just in time for Christmas!

This DVD contains the six episodes from 2006 and, appearing in this DVD only, a bloopers reel of all the presenters outtakes. Covering Deaf events, profiles and Deaf community stories; profits from this DVD will go towards SignPost and their ongoing work. Available in Auslan, spoken English and captions for hard of hearing.

Duration: Approx. 25 minutes x 6 episodes plus 8 minutes of bloopers.

Cost: Individuals- \$30 AAD members, \$35 non-members. Organisations- \$85 AAD members, \$90 non-members. P&H is \$8.00 per item posted.

To obtain an order form contact AAD on (07)3357 8266 (voice), (07) 3357 8277 (TTY), (07) 3357 8377 (fax), email aad@aad.org.au or visit the AAD website at www.aad.org.au

'Look At Me'- Book by Lisa Mills

After visiting different Deaf communities in Africa and India, Lisa Mills created this beautiful book of photos and statements in celebration of Deaf culture. Perfect for the coffee table. Hardcover, 128 full-colour pages. Books cost \$19.95. An order form can be downloaded from the Honeybee Creations webpage at

www.honeybee-creations.com. For more info email Lisa at lisamaree_mills@yahoo.com.au.



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.

Kids Activities at Heritage School– NEW LISTING!!!!

The Deaf Society are looking for volunteers to help entertain children while Heritage School is running at Thomas Pattison School. A basic conversational level of Auslan is needed- this would be the perfect opportunity for students. Experience with kids is good, but not necessary to do this work.

When: Saturday mornings, 27 October, 03, 10 & 17 November 2007, from 9.00am – 12.30pm

For more info contact John O'Neill, Manager, Education and Training on 02 8833 3630 (voice) or email joneill@deaf.nsw.edu.au

Notice Board

- After a recent review of the **Telephone Typewriter (TTY) Directory, Sensis** (in consultation with AAD and Deafness Forum Australia) has deemed the current directory format no longer relevant, due to the widespread use of technology such as SMS and email. These directories will no longer be published. TTY listings also currently appear at www.whitepages.com, www.sensis.com.au, and within Telstra's Directory Assistance, 1234, and Call Connect (12456). Directory Assistance can be accessed via the **National Relay Service**. For further info email service@sensis.com.au or FREECALL (voice or TTY) 1800 814 907.
- On Wednesday 8 August, a new national voice for parents, families and carers was formed. They have adopted the name **National Federation of Parents, Families and Carers**. Their website can be found at www.civilsociety.org.au/federation.
- The '**Don't DIS my Ability**' campaign will be running from November until December. Keep an eye out for posters on buses, at train stations, etc. DEN teacher **Alex Jones** and ATOD Director **Caroline Conlon** are both ambassadors for this campaign. For more info or to obtain a calendar of events (available after 5 November) visit www.internationaldayofpeoplewithadisability.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.
- 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).



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!)

Interpreter & Staff Profile— Sheena Walters



Sheena Walters; Manager, Interpreting and Advocacy at DSNSW. Sheena is also involved in the executive committee of ASLIA (NSW) Inc.

I started signing before I could speak. Both of my parents, my older brother and my twin sister are Deaf so Auslan was the primary household language as I was growing up. I also have Deaf aunts, uncles, cousins and my beautiful niece, Jade, is also Deaf.

Now I have a hearing flat mate so we usually use spoken English at home but she knows some Auslan, so occasionally we sign. There are some things I can express so much more clearly in Auslan, and I love that.

I remember interpreting from a very young age, my first memory perhaps being interpreting for mum in Target when I was about seven. I went on to become accredited as a Paraprofessional interpreter in 1998, and then gained my Interpreter level accreditation in 2000.

I accepted a job once for a performance that was part of an arts festival in Adelaide. I wasn't given enough information prior to the event, and when I arrived I was told to interpret from a sheet of paper on a music stand- while the 'artist' licked milk out of three different size bowls. I was only eighteen at the time so didn't have the confidence to say "I'm not doing this job!". It was a good lesson in making sure I have more information next time!

I started formally interpreting quite young. I was lucky enough to have a mentor support me through my first years in the interpreting field, who also encouraged me to sit the NAATI level 3 exam. The biggest hurdle I had to overcome was my nerves. I had not been through a formal interpreter training course, as none were available in Adelaide at the time I was accredited. Looking back, I would have loved the opportunity.

When I was 20, I moved overseas to spend two years living in London (as many Aussies do!), and after working as a freelance BSL interpreter for a while I worked with a Deaf production company. They took me to Ghana in my first week and I interpreted while they filmed footage for an educational video on HIV/AIDS! I was also based in Kosovo for 18 months, working with Colin Allen for the Finnish Association of the Deaf. My role was Project Interpreter/Interpreter Trainer and also Survey Assistant for a report on the standard of living of deaf people in Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. I have also done some work with interpreters in Albania, and I recently traveled to Spain for the WASLI and WFD Conferences.



Sheena taking part in video interpreting.

While working in Kosovo, I learnt Kosovar Sign Language. Although throughout the Balkan region various spoken languages (or dialects of spoken languages) are used, Kosovar Sign Language is quite common throughout Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. This came in handy while traveling and working in the region.

The most inspiring Deaf person I know of is Liisa Kauppinen. She has spent so many years fighting for the rights of Deaf people all over the world and recently won the WFD Human Rights prize. I've met her in passing, and would love to meet her properly to find out more about her experiences.



Sheena interpreting for Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, at the 2007 Australia's Silent Film Festival.

But if there is one person I would have loved to have met, it is my grandmother's mum. I've heard such lovely stories about her, but I never got the opportunity to get to know her as she passed away before my sister and I were born. She had seven children and her husband died when my grandmother was only three. She had none of the rights and technology that Deaf people enjoy today, so I often think about what she would have thought about things, particularly things which I advocate for on a daily basis.



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/continuinged_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.

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

Australian Theatre of the Deaf Theatre Workshops

In January 2008 ATOD will be conducting drama workshops for Deaf people of all ages. These workshops will run for six days, and include activities focusing on facial expression, body movement, gesturing and more. These workshops are designed to increase skills and confidence and to allow the participants to have fun!

When: Monday 21 January–Saturday 26 January 2008, 9.30am-4pm.

Where: Alexandria Town Hall (Sydney).

Cost: \$30.00 (morning & afternoon tea provided).

For more info contact ATOD on (02) 9310 1205 (TTY) or email info@atod.org.au



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@deafnsociety.com, call (02) 9893 8555 or fax (02) 9893 8333.



Government Commitment to Captioning Announced



This media release was sent to me from Erin Copping, Marketing Assistant at Media Access Australia, on Thursday 13 September 2007. For a full copy of the media release titled '*Media Access Australia Welcomes Investigation Into Access To Electronic Media*', please email me at nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au or contact Erin on (02) 9212 6242 (voice & TTY), (02) 9212 6289 (fax), email erin.copping@mediaaccess.org.au or visit the MAA website at www.mediaaccess.org.au

'Minister Announces Commitment to Captioning'- Media Release

Yesterday Senator Hon. Helen Coonan announced a government investigation into the provision of captions across electronic media content. This is a monumental step towards achieving equality of access for the four million Australian affected by hearing loss. Please see the attached media release for more information.

This is quite a topical news item, particularly as the investigation could have enormous implications for students and young people and their ability to access downloadable material, such as web casts, movies, and television programs. Media Access Australia was hoping that it could be included in your next issue of the Auslan Student Newsletter. With the support and backing of the deaf community greater accessibility of the internet could be realised!



Deaf Sports Updates

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 Updates

As you probably know by now, the XV Australian Deaf Games are being held on the Gold Coast from 3-10 January 2008. Their website is packed with information for athletes, families, volunteers and the general community and can be visited at www.austdeafgames.org.au. Specific questions can be emailed to enquiry@austdeafgames.org.au.



Information Nights

Info nights in Sydney will be held on Fridays 12 October, 9 November and 14 December from 6.30-8.30pm. For more information contact Tony Clews at tclews@deaf.nsw.edu.au.

Children – FREE!

Children 12 and under are free! Each child will receive registration ID and will have full access to Opening Ceremony and all sports. Fill out a Visitor Registration form online for each child who is eligible and send it to your State Branch, with two passport photos.

Closing Ceremony Festivities

The Big brother Studio has been selected for the Closing Ceremony on Thursday 10 January. Afterwards, everyone will enter Dreamworld for a night of socialising, rides and fun! Tickets are on sale for \$40 adult/ \$35 for 5-17 year olds and seniors. Children 4 and under are free.

If you would like to get involved or want more information you can also contact your State Branch on the details listed below:

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
Email: 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
Email: 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
Email: dsrq@dsrq.org.au

Tasmania

Tasdeaf (Att: Australian Deaf Games)
59 Cadbury Road
Claremont TAS 7011
TTY: (03) 6249 1174
Fax: (03) 6249 8818
Email: 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
Email: 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
Email: dsrv@pacific.net.au

Deaf Soccer Australia- Deaf Soccer Camp

There is another Deaf Soccer training camp coming up and Deaf Soccer Australia wishes to invite players to attend. Interstate players will be picked up from Sydney Airport and taken to the camp, but must arrive by 3.30pm.

When: Thurs 29 November - Sunday 2 December 2007, check-in at 6pm.

Where: Narrabeen Sports Centre (on Sydney's Northern Beaches)

Cost: \$500, paid prior to camp commencing. \$0 for players who attended the first camp.

To find out if you are eligible to attend or for more info, email bseymour8@pacific.net.au.



Indoor Soccer Gala Day

NSW Deaf Soccer Association presents this Indoor Soccer Gala Day. Two hearing players permitted per team.

When: Saturday 28 October 2007.

Where: Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre, 62 Cabramatta Ave, Milperra NSW.

Time: Registration opens at 8.20am, kick-off at 9am sharp. Don't be late!

Cost: Men- \$30 per player, Women- \$25 per player.

I couldn't find any contact details so try contacting one of the organisations above or maybe just turn up.



DEN, DSNSW & NRS Events

Deaf Society NSW Open Day

To celebrate National Week of Deaf People, DSNSW will be holding an Open Day. Come and visit our offices and see where all the magic happens! There will be Lebanese cooking and Video Phone demonstrations through the day, and drinks and nibbles will be provided to everyone.

When: Friday 19 October 2007, from 10am until 3pm.

Where: The Deaf Society of NSW, Level 4, Macquarie House, 169 Macquarie St, Parramatta.

Group Tours: Contact Pat Knight at pknight@deafsociety.com to organise by Friday 12 October. For further info email info@deafsociety.com or contact Jenny Rozsa, Pat Knight or Margaret Craig on (02) 9893 8858 (TTY) or (02) 9893 8333 (fax).



Deafair– DSNSW Community Consultation Day

A day for Deaf people and their families. Find out more about Deaf Society services and join us for this family fun day. There will be a free sausage sizzle, free kids activities and Deaf sports stalls. Auslan interpreters will be available.

When: Saturday 13 October 2007, 10.30am-3pm.

Where: Woodstock Community Centre, The Ballroom, Fitzroy St, Burwood (off Shaftesbury Rd).

Please RSVP by 3pm on Friday 12 October to info@deafsociety.com, 1800 898 333 (freecall fax), 1800 893 885 (freecall TTY) or call 1800 893 855 (freecall phone).

National Relay Service Internet Relay Launch

The NRS Internet Relay service is now up and running from the NRS website! Free training, free training sheets and free info sessions are available if you want to know more about this service. It's so simple to use. Just visit the NRS website at www.relayservice.com.au and click on *Make an Internet Call Now* section– this will take you to the page you need and you can make your call straight away. You don't need a TTY to do it!

To celebrate this exciting new service, NRS is hosting an official launch and YOU are invited.

When: Saturday 13 October 2007 at 5.30pm.

Where: Ryde-Eastwood Leagues club, 117 Ryedale Rd, West Ryde.

Parking available. Auslan interpreters and hearing loop provided. Complimentary refreshments available.

RSVP: By 3pm, Friday 12 October to helpdesk@relayservice.com.au or freecall 1800 555 660 (voice), 1800 555 630 (TTY) or 1800 555 690 (fax).



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).

Lipreading Group

The DSNSW Employment service has identified the need for a **lip-reading (non-Auslan-user) deaf group**. These people frequently experience isolation due to not belonging fully to either hearing or Deaf communities, and Employment thought it would be beneficial for non-Auslan using deaf people to meet and break the isolation. David McQuiggin has been organising the first gathering, but nothing will be confirmed until there is a minimum of 10 participants (this number has almost been reached).

Please send expressions of interest in this group to info@deafsociety.com

Congratulations Craig Bishop and David McQuiggin !!!!!



DSNSW recently had some wonderful news– two of our staff members have been NAATI-accredited as Level 2 Paraprofessional interpreters! David and Craig both sat for their NAATI testing in July, and have been hanging out for their results for the past three months.

DSNSW is stoked that there are two more male interpreters on the books, and we wish them all the best!

Left – Craig Bishop of the Lismore office.
Right – David McQuiggin of the Parramatta office

