



# Auslan Student Newsletter

## February/March 2008



### Welcome to the 19th edition of the newsletter.



Happy 2008, welcome back and Happy Year of the Rat!

They say change is as good as a holiday and with lots of new things happening here at DEN this semester, it almost feels like we're still on Christmas break. Then again, maybe that's just all the fruit cake still in the staff fridge. At any rate, this month we welcome 32 accredited Auslan students and over 100 Community course students into the fold and wish them well with their studies.

Some of the changes around here include the extension of Certificate IV in Auslan (which has been extended by an additional 60 face-to-face hours) so that it is now three terms in length, the addition of Auslan Only Weekend 3 (which will be delivered for the first time in August), the introduction of the Sign Language 1 and Sign Language 2 Community programs and a range of new literacy and lifestyle courses for Deaf learners. For more information about any of DEN's courses check out our newly released brochure at [www.deaf.nsw.edu.au/course.htm](http://www.deaf.nsw.edu.au/course.htm)

This year the DEN team also has a new staff member – the lovely Kate Nelson. Kate has joined us as Program Officer of the Accredited Auslan courses. Her previous adventures include developing a sign language dictionary in Fiji and working as a professional actor for Australian Theatre of the Deaf. Kate also has an MA in Theatre Studies and is the author of the very successful 'There and Back' script, which was performed by ATOD in 2005. Kate has already added a sparkle to the DEN office and we all look forward to working with her in the coming year.

Best of luck to everyone starting an Auslan course this month, no matter where you are or what level you are studying at. May your homework be light and your enjoyment plenty!

Happy reading!

*Natalie Kull*

Project Supervisor, Accredited 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](mailto: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: 20 March 08 (for April/May edition), 20 May 08 (for June/July 08 edition).

## Congratulations !

- ➔ To DEN teachers (amongst other things) **Rebekah and Gavin Rose-Mundy**, who welcomed their handsome boy **Archer Forest Nye Rose-Mundy** into the world on New Years Eve. Little Archer is the much loved new brother of Heloise, Phoenix and Scarlett-Oceania.
- ➔ To all of the **DEN students**, Deaf and hearing, who will be graduating from an accredited course at the DEN Graduation Ceremony in March. Congratulations on your perseverance and achievement.
- ➔ To Westpac, who has been congratulated by Human Rights Commissioner Graeme Innes on the commencement of its pilot Auslan interpreter service.

"This is recognition that Deaf Australians - just like any other Australians - need to be able to talk with their bank about the financial issues we all have to deal with from time to time. I'm sure that the availability of this free service will be of great assistance to the 16,000 Australians who use Auslan," Commissioner Innes said.

Westpac is offering Deaf customers in NSW and QLD access to a free interpreting service by appointment through the Deaf Society. The bank has also employed an Auslan interpreter who will be available to assist its employees working in Sydney.

For more information on the service please go to:

[www.westpac.com.au/internet/publish.nsf/content/wicrcuas%20people%20with%20disabilities](http://www.westpac.com.au/internet/publish.nsf/content/wicrcuas%20people%20with%20disabilities)

### IMPORTANT DIARY DATE– DEN Graduation Ceremony, Saturday 8 March 2008

If you successfully completed an accredited course or Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process at DEN in 2007, we welcome you to join us for your Graduation Ceremony. Your invitation will be sent to your enrolled address. If you have recently moved, please contact [info@deafsociety.com](mailto:info@deafsociety.com) to update your details.



# 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 9 and 23 Feb, 8 and 22 March)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:c.martin@liverpool.nsw.gov.au)  
or call (02) 9821 9450.



## Sydney City – NEW DATES & NEW LOCATION

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

**Where:** Wagamama restaurant, First Ground Floor (next level up from the station), The Galleries Victoria, Corner Park & Pitt St, City. This group also sometimes meets for dinner.

**When:** The first Thursday of every month, 5-7pm (next meetings 7 February & 6 March)

**Skill level:** Everyone welcome. Bring your friends or make new friends.

**How to get involved:** Email Young-Joo Byun at [Young-Joo.Byun@lands.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:beadfreak@bigpond.com)

## Eastern Suburbs

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

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

**How to get involved:** Contact Sharon at [voice.off@three.com.au](mailto:voice.off@three.com.au)

## Central Coast

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](mailto:auslansocialgroup@hotmail.com)

**NO FEBRUARY OR MARCH OUTINGS LISTED AS YET. CONTACT TIMOTHY FOR MORE INFO ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS.**

# Blue Mountains Deaf Social Group

**NB– This is not a student group, although students are welcome to come along!**

For more info about the Blue Mountains Deaf Social Group events or to RSVP, TTY (02) 4782 1671 or fax Margaret on (02) 4751 5090.

**The next event is scheduled for Friday 15 February. Contact Margaret for more details.**



# What's On

## Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Events 2008

This year Mardi Gras celebrates its 30th anniversary! Here are a couple of interpreted events happening around town...

### Fair Day — Sunday 17 February

Last year, 60,000 people attended Fair Day and this year New Mardi Gras are planning an even bigger and better picnic day. It is a FREE community day, boasting a diverse range of stalls, entertainment, shopping, politics, events, kids activities and people. There is even a doggie show! Visit [www.mardigras.org.au](http://www.mardigras.org.au) for more info.

**Deaf Society of NSW will be holding a stall at Fair Day so make sure you say hello!** Come along and meet our glamorous staff, bring along your non-signing friends to learn some Auslan and find out more about the services DSNSW offer. You might even score a free rainbow-coloured balloon.

**When:** Sunday 17 February, 2008

**Where:** Victoria Park, corner of City Rd & Broadway, Camperdown.

**Time:** 10am—7.30pm



### Mardi Gras Parade — Saturday 1 March

A limited number of seats are still available in the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation Glamstand – full views of the floats and a four hour Auslan interpreted show. Book quickly to secure your seat! Tickets are \$135.80. For more info contact Kasey Moloney on 0409 157 196 (SMS only).

### Mardi Gras Party — Saturday 1 March

New Mardi Gras has this to say about the party, which will also include sign singing performances- *If you think you've seen it all before, think again. This year's Mardi Gras Party is going to be big and bold! We have an incredible line up of international and Australian DJs and fantastic out-of-this-world shows and entertainment to see you though the night. Expect the unexpected...* Visit [www.mardigras.org.au](http://www.mardigras.org.au) for more info.

**When:** Saturday 1 March, 2008

**Where:** Royal Hall of Industries, Moore Park

**Time:** 10pm—8am

**Tickets:** \$150 (General), \$120 (Members), \$100 (Concession). Call Ticketek on 132 849 or visit <http://premier.ticketek.com.au> for ticket sales and info.

### VOLUNTEER INTERPRETERS NEEDED!

The 2008 Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras needs Auslan interpreters for:

#### **Fair Day**

Interpreters are needed to interpret for MC (introducing acts, making announcements, etc.) and presenters. Usually only very short sections of interpreting, but can be very fast-paced. Interpreters will work alone for 2-hour blocks – possibly able to negotiate preferred times to work. If interested, there may be option for some sign-singing – if performers are able to provide music and lyrics in advance (please indicate if interested in this).

*NAATI Paraprofessional accreditation or higher essential.*

#### **Party (selected shows & speeches)**

Sign-singers required!!! Details about shows still unknown, so uncertain of how many interpreters will be required. Deaf and hearing performers encouraged to apply. NAATI accreditation preferred, but not essential.

**For more information and to express interest contact Marcel Leneham at: [majole@tpg.com.au](mailto:majole@tpg.com.au)**

## Art Gallery of NSW Interpreted Tours



### Signing Art February & March 2008– Auslan Interpreted Art Gallery Tours

#### **Sunday 24 February- *Drawn with light***

Emerging from the scientific advances of the 19th century, photography at first appeared to supercede the role of painting in art. Explore the many roles played by this new medium, documentary, narrative, landscape, scientific, paranormal and its developing relationship with painting. Following at 2.30pm is Interactive Art– take the kids along for some interactive, imaginative and explorative improvisational storytelling with Open Stage Productions.

#### **Sunday 30 March- *Michael Riley: sights unseen***

Discover the prolific talents of a quiet observer whose photomedia continues to have a profound effect on Australia's contemporary representation and comprehension of Indigenous Australia. Following at 2.30pm is Adamriginal, an energetic performance by Dhungatti descendant Adam Hill, who blends Indigenous music, song, story, information, humour and art into a show for the whole family.

(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 24 February and Sunday 30 March

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

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

**Cost:** FREE

Visit [www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/events/accessible](http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/events/accessible) or [www.gallerykids.com.au](http://www.gallerykids.com.au) for further information.



## Discovering Deaf Worlds- The Adventures of Christy & Dave

Some of you probably remember Christy Smith, the Deaf woman from Survivor. Christy is now having another incredible adventure as she travels the world with Dave...

*Greetings!*

*We are currently traveling around the world to meet various Deaf and hard of hearing people to learn more about the organizations, schools, etc in each country. We are interviewing and filming people we meet to share stories, information, language, and culture on our website. Later we will also make a DVD collection of international sign language and culture. We will be traveling throughout Japan from January 17th - February 26th.*

*Please visit our website, [www.discoveringdeafworlds.com](http://www.discoveringdeafworlds.com) to learn more about us and to follow our adventures.*

*Christy Smith and Dave Justice.*



Christy & Dave visit DSNSW in December 07.  
From left- Sharon Everson (Executive Director), Christy Smith, Dave Justice, Rebecca Ladd (Executive Director).

To check out the January edition of Discovering Deaf Worlds newsletter, go to <http://discoveringdeafworlds.com/users/120/ddwjan08.pdf>

## The Auslan Shop is Coming!

### **What is The Auslan Shop?**

- ⇒ Established, owned and operated by the Australian Association of the Deaf (AAD). *AAD is wholly managed by Deaf people.*
- ⇒ The Auslan Shop will be trading online soon – order and pay online in the one go!
- ⇒ You can buy materials in Auslan and about Auslan, Deaf culture, Deaf history, interpreting and education
- ⇒ All Auslan materials for sale are approved by the Auslan Endorsement System – a new system established by AAD. *If you buy it in Auslan from The Auslan shop you can be sure it is Auslan!*
- ⇒ Walk-in shop in Sydney. Opening times will be advertised soon.

### **How do I know when The Auslan Shop has started trading?**

- ⇒ Check the AAD website [www.aad.org.au](http://www.aad.org.au) for latest news
- ⇒ Send an email to [aad@aad.org.au](mailto:aad@aad.org.au)

## DEN Courses for Deaf & Hearing Learners

### **Auslan Only Weekend 1 & 2– Semester 1, 2008**

Get your enrolment in early and take advantage of our Early Bird rates! Email Anna Nardi at [programs@deaf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:programs@deaf.nsw.edu.au) for more info about these fantastic voice-off retreats or download an enrolment form at [www.deaf.nsw.edu.au/course.htm](http://www.deaf.nsw.edu.au/course.htm)

**When:** 7pm Friday 30 May – 4.30pm Sunday 1 June 2008

**Where:** Stanwell Tops Conference Centre, Helensburgh NSW

### **Auslan Only Weekend 3– Expression of Interest list now open!**

Later this year DEN will be running AOW 3 for the first time.

**When:** 7pm Friday 29 August – 4.30pm Sunday 31 August 2008

**Where:** The Collaroy Centre, Collaroy Beach NSW

Although no other information is available at this stage, we are now accepting expressions of interest. If you have completed CIA III, IV, Diploma of Auslan/Interpreting or if you are an accredited interpreter and would like more information about AOW 3, please email Natalie Kull at [nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:nkull@deaf.nsw.edu.au) or call (02) 8833 3605 to register your interest.

### **Accredited Auslan Courses at DEN in 2008**

For more information about any of these courses or to place your name on the waiting list, please contact Anna Nardi at [programs@deaf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:programs@deaf.nsw.edu.au), call (02) 8833 3604, or visit [www.deaf.nsw.edu.au](http://www.deaf.nsw.edu.au)

#### **SEMESTER 1, 2008**

Certificate II and Certificate IV are now full. To place your name on the waiting list contact Anna Nardi.

#### **SEMESTER 2, 2008**

To be sent a Course Information Guide next term for Certificate III in Auslan, which starts late July 2008, please contact Anna Nardi with your full name, postal address, contact number and email address.



# 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](mailto: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).

## THE VOICE THROUGH MY FINGERS

FROM MY MOTHER'S WOMB  
TO A WORLD OF GESTURES AND  
MIMES  
I WAS BORN INTO THIS SPHERE  
SEEING ONLY SILENCE, HEARING ONLY  
SIGNS  
THE "VOICE" THROUGH MY FINGERS  
LIKE A CAREFULLY CHOREOGRAPHED  
DANCE  
EMBRACES MY WORDS LIKE  
AN INSCRIPTION  
UPON THE STILTED  
BREEZE  
THAT PAINTS YOU A SCENE  
FROM COLOURS OF A RAINBOW  
WITH A BEAUTY  
ENHANCED  
BUT WHERE DO I BELONG IN  
THE HEARING WORLD  
THAT PLAGUES ME EACH  
DAY I AM  
TEASED  
THE VOICE THROUGH MY FINGERS  
IS ONE THAT IS  
SEEN  
MY LIPS IN MOTION THROUGH  
A VOICELESS  
PLAIN  
WILL TELL YOU EXACTLY,  
PRECISELY WHAT IT  
MEANS  
ONLY THE SHADOWY WORLD  
AROUND ME, TO PEOPLE I CANNOT EXPLAIN  
OF MY MUTED  
WORLD  
THAT GAZES UPON THE SILENCE  
WHEREIN NO LAUGHTER WHEREIN NO  
SOUND  
CAN YOU HEAR MY HAND  
THAT WHISPERS...  
WANTING TO BE  
HEARD  
OR EMBRACE IN MY PRESENCE  
ONLY WANTING TO BE  
FOUND

Henry Anastasi

Hello All,

I would like to let you all know that the website [www.deafiesaustralia.com](http://www.deafiesaustralia.com) is now back online; it has undergone new layout and renovations. Feel free to check it out. Also, I would like to see if you have any new events that you wish to add to the events page for the coming months of 2008? If so, please email details of the event to [info@deafiesaustralia.com](mailto:info@deafiesaustralia.com)

Regards,

**Jacob Clarke**

Head Manager, Deafies Australia

Mob: 0404 298 050 (SMS ONLY)

Email: [scruffyjake87@hktop.com.au](mailto:scruffyjake87@hktop.com.au)

## Open Captioned Campaign

Hornsby and Ryde Councils will be hosting their open air cinemas starting on 2 February 2008.

Hornsby Shire Council confirmed this week that none of their movies will include captions this year. The Events Manager at Hornsby Shire has confirmed that they are willing to show captioned movies- next summer! Ryde Council has also been contacted. They are only showing one movie with captions this year- *The Queen*.

In the past 2 years, Ryde screened a couple of captioned movies. This year we have to let these councils know we still want to go and watch the films! Last year, Willoughby City Council showed the acclaimed movie "*The Inconvenient Truth*" in captions and over 60 Deaf people attended.

Here are the links for more information:

**Hornsby:**

<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/news/index.cfm?NavigationID=8&ArticleID=8046>

**Ryde:**

<http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/news/cinema.htm>

I am asking for your help. It would be GREAT if you could please email both councils to tell them you want to watch movies with captions! The more people emailing these councils will show them we have a very strong Deaf Community willing to watch these outdoor movies. I am hoping for a positive outcome if the councils receive a lot of emails from the Deaf community. Can you please email:

**Hornsby:** Christen Woods- [KWoods@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:KWoods@hornsby.nsw.gov.au) & [media@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

**Ryde:** Courtney Long - [clong@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:clong@ryde.nsw.gov.au) & Derek McCarthy [dmccarthy@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dmccarthy@ryde.nsw.gov.au)

Let them know you want captioned movies!

Thank you for your support.  
Glenn Welldon

Here are two YouTube videos your readers might enjoy:

**Dancing Queen-** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWSM5Lbk1U&NR=1>

**Four Deaf Yorkshire men-** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xj1ueXFsr1U&mode=related&search=>

Cheers, Tony.



# Volunteers Needed

## Kids Activities at Heritage School – NEW DATES

The Deaf Society is 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, 10, 17, 24 & 31 May, 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](mailto:joneill@deaf.nsw.edu.au)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

- Brian Seymour, Territory Manager- **Refund Home Loans**, is hosting a free seminar, designed to give people thinking about **investing, purchasing their first home or consolidating debt** information to make an informed decision. Specifically designed for the Deaf community, there will be interpreters available on the night. Guests include Nick Plat (PT Partners Accountants, Business & Tax Advisers, Harris Park) and Chris Maley (Maclaren's Solicitors, Merrylands). The seminar will be held in Merrylands NSW on Monday, 17 March. For more info contact Brian on 0419542430, email [brianseymour@refundhomeloans.com.au](mailto:brianseymour@refundhomeloans.com.au) or visit [www.refundhomeloans.com.au](http://www.refundhomeloans.com.au).
- **Accessible Arts** is the peak arts and disability organisation across NSW. For more info about what Accessible Arts does or to receive their monthly newsletter, visit [www.aarts.net.au](http://www.aarts.net.au)
- Community course student Lauren Chandler is a **Wellbeing Solutions coach**. She says about her company Shine- "We can coach you on improving your health and wellbeing! We cater for all styles and levels of fitness in Personal Training, Group Personal Training and Consulting. Sessions are designed for the hearing impaired, if you are overweight or in need of a physical overhaul. You can expect lots of fun on the way to your goals and ease of communication through Auslan" Contact Lauren to receive a complimentary health chat (you'll need to mention this newsletter) on [shine@usana.com](mailto:shine@usana.com) or call/SMS 0409 058 384.
- 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](mailto:janelle@cakesfromtheheart.com.au), call (02) 8814 9456 or 0438 227 527, or visit [www.cakesfromtheheart.com.au](http://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 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**. 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](http://www.deafblind.bravehost.com) and pass on the word to anyone you know who might be interested!



# Personal Profile

## Kate Nelson— Program Officer , Accredited Auslan



Like 90% of deaf kids, I was born into a hearing family. I was born in Suva, capital of Fiji. They say I was born deaf but my parents did not find out until I was 4, so it was a bit hard to prove anything by then. I was happy to get my hearing aids - they became a part of my body.

As a kid, I wore my hair up so that people would see my hearing aids and know I was deaf, but most people never realised. I started signing when I was 21 after backpacking in Europe and having two different deaf men come up to me (they saw my hearing aids) and asking if I could sign. I was embarrassed that I couldn't and felt I should learn, as I've always felt Deaf in my soul.

If there were Lipreading Olympics I'd enter and aim for gold. I wore two hearing aids until last year, when I suddenly lost all my hearing, so since then my family and friends have been using their hands a bit more. We may see some enrolments in DEN this year!

I worked as an actor with Australian Theatre of the Deaf (ATOD) for four years. *Language of One* was my first professional performance in 1999. My favourite show was *Smiling Prisoner* in 2000; I played a man who was a deranged power freak, and had to shave off most of my hair for the performance. I also enjoyed *I Want My Potty* which was a performance for kids. I played a girl learning how to use a potty and there was one scene where she smeared poo all over the walls. I loved the reaction of the audience, groaning and hiding their faces.

Watching my script *There and Back* being performed on stage by ATOD in 2005 was the most amazing experience. I got a shock because I had attempted to write something "deep and meaningful" but when I first saw it performed I was rolling in my seat with laughter. I thought it was hilarious but that was not what I intended. I really enjoyed being behind the scenes for a change, and not having to beat myself up about what I thought of my acting ability.

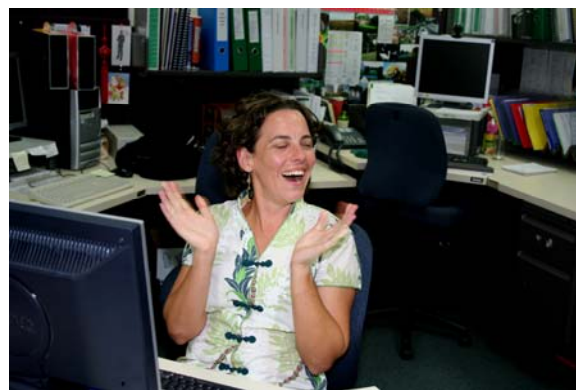
Usually, the people with the scripts and power just don't understand the Deaf world so inevitably you get misrepresentations. I saw a Hindi film based on the life of Helen Keller and while it was a good film, they used ASL all through it, even though it was set in India. Or you'll see an advertisement for a product with ASL fingerspelling because the production people have gone onto the web and looked up 'sign language' not realising that we use Auslan here in Australia. Things like that happen all the time.

I have spent the last two and a half years working in Fiji. When I first arrived in Fiji the Deaf community did not have a name for Fiji Sign Language, they called it 'broke broke' sign. They had no concept of Deaf culture or even a Deaf community even though it was there. They had no concept of classifiers and how vital they are to sign language. So I started talking about those things. It was very rewarding when I started seeing the Deaf talking to each other and using FJSL instead of 'broke broke' or identifying a classifier or an aspect of Deaf culture. Because it is such a small Deaf community, information gets passed on very quickly.

What surprised me most about the Deaf community in Fiji is how quickly it has evolved. The first deaf school only opened in 1968. They've had Signed English imported since 1983 or so, they have formed a community, developed FJSL, made a dictionary, done interpreter training, formed a Deaf association. They have made do with so little and yet have such solidarity.

The hardest thing about being in Fiji was being an outsider; being white and comparatively rich.

Now I am working with Anna Nardi, managing and organising the accredited Auslan courses here at DEN. Soon I'll start working on a legal project with the Deaf Society, getting legal information translated into Auslan. Now that I am completely deaf, it makes it much easier to work in a deaf organisation. I think I would be very lonely otherwise.



I am not a good 5 year planner person so for now I'm just following my nose and seeing what happens. I am happy here but if I had to move and live in another Deaf community somewhere perhaps I'd pick Mumbai – so I can start training as a Bollywood actress, singing, dancing and signing.



# DEN, DSNSW & NRS Events

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

For the full Continuing Professional Education Calendar of confirmed events for 2008 visit [www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/courses/continuingcalendar.asp#hi](http://www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/courses/continuingcalendar.asp#hi)

### 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.

Participants must have a graduate degree in deaf education, speech pathology, or audiology and must have a current auditory-verbal therapy (one-on-one teaching) caseload of a minimum of five hours per week.

Jill Duncan, PhD, Cert AVT and Kay Hooper, Cert AVT will coordinate the program. For further information please contact Dr Duncan at [jill.duncan@ridbc.org.au](mailto:jill.duncan@ridbc.org.au)

### Sign Language 1 (Auslan)

This course offers you the unique and fun experience of communication visually using Auslan, the natural language of the Australian Deaf Community. Taught by both Deaf and hearing teachers. No pre-requisite.

**Tuesdays 10am – 12pm, 5 February to 18 March 2008, (2 hours x 7 weeks)**

Fee: \$140

Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, 361-365 North Rocks Road, North Rocks, NSW 2151

### 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](mailto:swalters@deafsociety.com), call (02) 9893 8555 or fax (02) 9893 8333.



## 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](mailto: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. Please email [info@deafsociety.com](mailto:info@deafsociety.com) for more info.

### Employment Service Recycled Mobile Phone Bank

A word from VERONICA DE FERRARI, Manager- Employment and Workplace Support:

*We have a number of clients who, due to being unemployed, have no money to buy a mobile phone. Unfortunately, disability employment programs allow no funds whatsoever for client help, and although sometimes we have purchased phones for clients, we cannot do this permanently.*

*I know a lot of people have unused mobile phones at home. If that is your case, and you would like to donate your old mobile for a good cause, the Employment Service is starting a "Recycled Mobile Phone Bank" in order to help those clients.*

*You will get a receipt to show that your pre-loved phone will be used for a good cause.*

To donate your phone please contact Veronica De Ferrari at [vdeferrari@deafsociety.com](mailto:vdeferrari@deafsociety.com), call (02) 8833 3620 or fax (02) 9893 8333.

