



# Auslan Student Newsletter

## June/July 2008

### Welcome to the 21st edition of the newsletter.



Hello avid readers!

Welcome to the first edition of the Auslan Student Newsletter published without our fearless editor Natalie Kull, who decided that it may be worthwhile to go gallivanting around the globe in search of adventure and experiences (we miss you Natt). In her absence the job of getting the Newsletter out has been my pleasure and I thank you all while I went through the teething process.

This edition is short and hopefully sweet, but there are many cool events coming up and I hope to see most of you out there attending some of them!

For those interested in learning Auslan please note on page five (5) information about the upcoming Certificates in Auslan! Places fill up fast so make sure you get your application in as soon as possible after the open date!

Happy reading and take care 😊

*Anna Nardi*

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](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 Natalie with the relevant info BEFORE 20 July (for the August / September edition).

## Congratulations !

- ⇒ **To the Auslan Shop!** Officially trading as of Monday 7 April 2008!!! To visit the Auslan Shop check out their website: [www.auslanshop.com.au](http://www.auslanshop.com.au)
- ⇒ **To SIGNPOST!!!** Congratulations to the Sign Post team, it's an excellent achievement to win an Antenna Award two years in a row, keep up the great work!!

### **Media Release, 7th May 2008: SignPost wins again at the Antenna Awards 2008**

SignPost, the Sydney-based TV magazine program of the Australian Deaf community, has won the 'Best Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Program' award at this year's Antenna Awards in Melbourne. This is the second award for SignPost, after winning the coveted 'Program of the Year' at the Antennas in 2007.

This award is not only a significant achievement for the hard working team of volunteers who make the show, but a recognition of the value and interest in Deaf television programming, including Deaf people, their families, friends and many others outside the community. Since its inception in late 2005, SignPost has expanded from its Sydney focus to a national one. The program now screens in most capital cities, including Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

Program Presenter, Todd Wright, who attended the ceremony with Executive Producer, Andy Carmichael, had this to say:

"The team is very proud and pleased to be recognised for the hard work we put into producing SignPost. This award reinforces our aim to provide a high quality, entertaining program for the Australian Deaf community, and boosts our resolve to continue lobbying for a fully funded program in Auslan for ALL Australians, not just those fortunate enough to receive community television in the major cities." The Antenna Awards were broadcast live from BMW Edge, Federation Square on C31 Melbourne on Thursday 24th April.



# 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

The next meetings are 14 and 28 June, 12 and 26 July 2008.

**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). *If you've been meaning to get to practice but for one reason or another haven't been able to manage it, think about heading down there this Sat or another meeting soon or else one day it may cease to be! If you do intend attending practice at some stage and want the group to continue, would you please email Christine so that she can gauge the current level of support?*

## 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

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. (Next meetings 5 June and 3 July 2008)

**Time:** 5pm to 7pm (can stay bit longer or have a cuppa at Gloria's Jeans afterwards)

**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.

## 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)

## Art Gallery Auslan ★NEW CITY GROUP

On the last Sunday of every month there is a free Auslan interpreted tour at the Art Gallery of NSW. To coincide with this a new coffee and practice group is starting. Practice with fellow Auslan students and then see an interpreter in action.

**Where:** Art Gallery of NSW Coffee Shop

**When:** Last Sunday of the month – Practice from 12.30pm then tour from 1.30pm (next meetings - 29 June, 27 July)

**Skill level:** All skill levels welcome

### **How to get involved:**

Email Karleena Marjoram at [karleena\\_marjoram@hotmail.com](mailto:karleena_marjoram@hotmail.com) or SMS 0418 746 480 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 for more info.

## Eastern Suburbs—

### BIG CHANGES & SEEKING NEW IDEAS

This practice group wants to hear from enthusiastic students who are serious about improving fingerspelling readback skills and increasing their vocab.

"...We welcome your suggestions for activities and places to meet that suit everyone. Ideas include regular practice and meet for coffee, Voice Off dinner at a restaurant, attending Auslan interpreted events and chat afterwards, etc. Open to suggestion for dates & venue. Let's discuss via email.

Our group's aim is to continue to improve our signing after completion of DEN's courses...."

**Skill Level:** Suits CIA IV and beyond. All native Auslan users are appreciated and VERY welcome!

### **How to get involved:**

Contact Sharon Rae at [sharonrae@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sharonrae@optusnet.com.au)

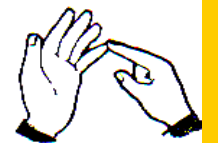
## Central Coast

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)

**CONTACT TIMOTHY FOR MORE INFO ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS.**

## The Deaf Club

Please note that we have a new deaf social group starting this month and the website links are: <http://au.geocities.com/esdcsydney/>



# What's On

## Deaf Cricket NSW

Farewell to the Australian Deaf Cricket Team before they fly to England for the Deaf Ashes on 1 July !!

**Where:** The Olympic Hotel, 308 Moore Park Road, Paddington NSW  
**When:** Saturday 28 June 2008, 7pm onwards.  
**Bookings:** Free Admission. Food and drinks are on sale at the hotel.

## Deaf Football Australia Fundraising Dinner

A fundraiser and farewell to the Australian Deaf Football team before they leave to compete in the World Championships in Greece. All money raised goes towards School Development Programs and State and National camps for men and women.

**When:** Saturday 21 June, 2008. Starts at 7pm.  
**Where:** Club Marconi, Marconi Plaza, Bossley Park.  
**Dress:** Semi-formal.  
**Tickets:** \$100 per person, \$1500 per corporate table (12). Ticket prices include a 3 course dinner, including beer, wine and soft drink. For ticket sales and enquiries contact Brian Seymour on 0419 542 430 (SMS/voice), email [brianseymour@refundhomeloans.com.au](mailto:brianseymour@refundhomeloans.com.au), or SMS Daryl Jordan on 0433 582 455.

## Renwick Centre for Research and Professional Education

**Deaf History Workshop:** This week-long course gives a detailed overview of Deaf people's history, and an introduction to issues of interpretation, effective teaching, resources and research. Presented by Breda Carty, Susannah Macready and Darlene Thornton

**Where:** RIDBC Renwick Centre (361-365 North Rock Road)  
**When:** Monday 22 September to Friday 26 September 2008  
**Bookings:** To Express your interest please email: [cpe@ridbc.org.au](mailto:cpe@ridbc.org.au)

**Australasian Deaf Studies Symposium III: *Deaf identities in a time of change.*** An opportunity to re-examine Deaf identity from a variety of perspectives, and to discuss its evolution in a changing world.

**Where:** RIDBC Renwick Centre (361-365 North Rock Road)  
**When:** Friday 19 and Saturday 20 September 2008  
**Bookings:** To Express your interest please email: [cpe@ridbc.org.au](mailto:cpe@ridbc.org.au)

## NSWAD and ASLIA Award Ceremony: Black & Silver!

The Awards Ceremony is an opportunity for NSWAD, ASLIA (NSW) and the wider community to publicly recognise and honour those who have made a contribution to the Deaf community or to the field of Auslan interpreting in our community.

**Where:** Club Burwood (97 Burwood Road) Dress code: Classy Black & Silver  
**When:** Friday 13 June 7pm—12pm.  
**Bookings:** For more info please email [blackandsilver08@hotmail.com](mailto:blackandsilver08@hotmail.com)

## Special Access programs for the Biennale of Sydney

"Revolutions – Forms that turn" Guided tours of the 16<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney.  
Meet at the information desk, ground level.

**When:** Saturday 23 August 2008, at 1.30pm is the Auslan interpreted tour.  
**Where:** The Art Gallery of NSW  
**Bookings:** For details of accessible programs, contact the Public Programs Department: tel: (02) 9225 1770 fax: (02) 9225 1842 email [pp@ag.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pp@ag.nsw.gov.au) or [www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/events/access](http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/events/access)

## Deaf Football Australia vs Celebrities!

Celebrities include Alex Tobin, Gavin Robertson, Nick Farr - Jones, Clifly Lyons, Laine Beachley, Chris Garling, (Biggest Loser) Captain Feathersword

**When:** Sunday 15 June 2008 from 11:30 am (Celebrity vs Deaf team kick off at 1.45pm)  
**Where:** Cromer Park (101 South Creek Road– Cromer) Contact Brian Seymour for info 0419542430

**BRING THE FAMILY AND ENJOY THE DAY!!!  
CAPTAIN FEATHERSWORD, JUMPING CASTLE, FOOD AND DRINKS... ALL WELCOME!!!**



# What else is on...

## Proposed Camp - Woody Head

Woody Head Camping area is a delightful sheltered swimming area and fishing haven just minutes out of the Iluka Township.

**When:** 5 to 12 July 2008

**Bookings:** Book your spot by the 1st of June, \$14.00 per adult per night. (Children 5-15 \$7.00)  
For more information call or SMS David 0403 932983 or Kelly 0414 682 089

## Auslan Only Weekend - North Coast

This is a great community event and excellent Auslan practice for those of you who just don't get the opportunity to practice much in your day to day life.

**THEME: The Circus is in town!** Saturday night will be "Pub night" which will be a "voice-off" excursion to the Evans Head Bowling Club. In addition, this evening is themed "**Circus Night**" and all participants are encouraged to dress for the occasion and bring a trick or skill if you have one. A prize will be given to the wearer of the best costume.

**When:** Friday 31 October 6.30pm to Sunday 2 November 2.30pm

**Where:** Camp Koinonia, Broadwater Rd, Evans Head, NSW

**Cost:** \$90.00 per person

**Booking:** Numbers are strictly limited so book fast! Closing date for bookings is Monday 29 September. Contact the Deaf Society of NSW -Lismore Office and speak with the lovely Craig Bishop on (Ph) 02 6622 5572 or (Fax TTY) 02 6622 4087 or email [cbishop@deafsociety.com](mailto:cbishop@deafsociety.com)

## The Wild Boys

Australian Theatre of the Deaf mainstage production for 2008 is **The Wild Boys** directed by **Caroline Conlon**. Designed by Caroline and the ensemble cast, *The Wild Boys* is a physical movement piece, very different from anything ATOD has produced before. You will be amazed and excited by the level of skill and creativity when they merge sign language and physical movement / dance.

**When:** 13 - 29 November 2008

**Where:** NIDA's Parade Theatre in Kensington

**Bookings:** Contact ATOD on <http://www.atod.org.au/>

## Auslan interpreted tours at the Art Gallery of NSW

(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)

### **Plum Blossom Autumn Moon**

Contemplate the Spirit of nature in Asian art and discover the poetic associations of the seasons and the beauty and poignancy of transience.

**When:** Saturday 29 June, 1.30pm (meet in the main foyer)

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

**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.



## Deaf Club - Burwood

**Where:** Club Burwood (97 Burwood Road)

**When:** 20 June 2008 from 6.30pm til late

**Bookings:** Direct any questions to [esdcsydney@yahoo.com.au](mailto:esdcsydney@yahoo.com.au)

## Salsa Dancing for Deaf or hearing impaired!

Next 8 week courses only \$130.00!

**Where:** Salsa Republic Studios—42 Kensington St, Chippendale (near Central Station)

**When:** Saturday 28 June, Level 1 Beginner Cuban Style 2 - 3pm

**Bookings:** BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL contact [www.salsarepublic.com.au](http://www.salsarepublic.com.au) for more info!



## Community News

### **FREE Financial Management Service– Tamworth**

Disability Advocacy NSW, Deaf Society of NSW and the Anglican Financial Counselling Service are providing FREE private financial management meetings with an interpreter to Deaf Clients. Anyone interested should book early as there are very limited places and each appointment takes about one hour.

**When:** First Monday of every month. 3-5pm

**Where:** Anglican Financial Counselling Service, 88 Bridge Street. Across from West Tamworth Primary School, near the pink sewing machine shop and Vespa's Restaurant.

**Bookings:** SMS Helen at Disability Advocacy NSW 0423 290 393

### **POD Macarthur– A Support Group for parents of children who are deaf/hearing impaired**

POD is run by Parent Council for Deaf Education (PCDE) and provides peer support to parents/families without any bias of communication method (i.e. signing or oral) they have chosen for their child. This support group is for all parents, carers and families who have children that are deaf or hearing impaired.

**When:** 11 June, 9 July, 20 August

**Where:** Liverpool Community Centre, 148 Mill Road, Liverpool.

**Time:** 7pm–8.30pm

For more info about PCDE or POD please contact Nickie Flambouras at [pcde@bigpond.com](mailto:pcde@bigpond.com), call (02) 9871 3049 or visit [www.pcde.org](http://www.pcde.org)

### **Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) is looking for a Sign Language Interpreter and trainer with the Gambia Association of the Deaf and hard of Hearing (GADHOH)**

VSO is an international development charity that works through volunteers. Their program in Gambia is urgently seeking a volunteer to help improve the provision of sign language interpreting in Gambia.

You will work with current interpreters to improve their skills, deliver training for new interpreters and teach sign language to deaf and hard of hearing adults and children. You will need a professional or academic qualification relating to sign language and experience of teaching deaf people, teaching sign language and interpreting sign language. The position is for 12-24 months and you will receive extensive training before your placement as well as a financial package including a local salary, return flights, accommodation, insurance and more.

For more details go to <http://www.vso.org.uk/volunteering> or call 0208 780 7500.

## DEN Courses for Deaf & Hearing Learners

### **Buying and Selling on Ebay**

Designed for Deaf people who have little or no experience in selling and/or buying via eBay and would like to develop skills to allow them to get started in selling their items or buying items.

**When:** Thursday 19 and Thursday 26 June 2008. 6.00pm to 09.00pm.

**Where:** Central Coast Youth Club, Washington Avenue, Niagara Park NSW.

**Cost:** \$20.00. For more information email Tony Clews:

### **Auslan Only Weekend 3 ★FIRST EVER!**

AOW 3 is open to any student who has completed CIA III- it is ideally suited to students who have studied CIA IV, Diploma of Auslan or Diploma of Interpreting. The program is designed to complement the CIA IV National Curriculum, while weaving together fun activities which focus on Deafblindness, features of storytelling (role shift, use of space and non-manual features) fingerspelling skills and team communication.

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

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

If you would like more information about AOW 3, please email Anna Nardi at [anardi@deaf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:anardi@deaf.nsw.edu.au)

## CIA II & CIA III Semester 2, 2008 STARTING SOON

Department of Education and Training has confirmed there will be no purchasing allocations for semester 2 2008 for our Accredited Auslan programs. All course fees are detailed below. **Enrol quickly- places fill up fast!**

### **Certificate II in Auslan**

**Applications Open:** 9am 1 July  
**Applications close:** 3pm 15 July  
**Course fee:** \$1,950.00  
**Start and End dates:** 29 July - 09 December

### **Certificate III in Auslan**

**Applications Open:** 9am 2 July  
**Applications close:** 3pm 9 July  
**Course fee:** \$2,150.00  
**Start and End dates:** 23 July - 17 December



# 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).

## Check out some of these very cool Web-links:

- ⇒ Marlee Matlin on Jimmy Kimmel Live, after being voted off Dancing with the Stars. (thanks Mev)  
<http://billcreswell.wordpress.com/2008/05/15/mm-on-jimmy-kimmel-live-4222008-subtitled/>
- ⇒ Fastest Hands in the West. This is in ASL but is awesome display of productive gestural signs (Thanks Susannah)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvGbMxFHwUw>
- ⇒ FDA Seeks Civil Penalties from Calif. Device Maker (Thanks Sharon)  
<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01813.html>
- ⇒ International Day of People with Disabilities: This is an add starring the lovely Caroline Conlon (Thanks Sharon)  
<http://www.idpwd.com.au/media.asp>
- ⇒ This is a very cool ASL clip based on a Marilyn Manson song. It shows that sign singing doesn't always have to be sweet and sensitive NOT FOR CHILDREN (Thanks Sandra)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaAmlhzELpw>
- ⇒ World Federation of the Deaf's website  
<http://www.wfdeaf.org/>
- ⇒ This is an AMAZING ASL clip that looks like cinematography! Just like an actual movie. Check it out!! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L91KVUXRBq8>
- ⇒ Deaf people and WW2 Incredible – it runs for about half an hour but is incredible to watch. (Thanks Susannah) <http://www.rit.edu/deafww2/>
- ⇒ D-PAN BEAUTIFUL ASL Music Video Clips  
[http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=D-Pan&search\\_type=](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=D-Pan&search_type=)
- ⇒ Australian airline slammed on deaf policy. Spokesman denies having policy that bars hearing impaired passengers  
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24065596/>
- ⇒ Great BSL SignBank sites:  
<http://www.sciencesigns.ac.uk/default.asp>  
<http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/bsl/list.html>  
<http://www.biology.ed.ac.uk/public/sibe/signingbiotechnology/MMOV/index.html>

## Do you feel supported?

### Do you feel left out of your community?

I am looking for Deaf or hard of hearing people who are queer, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, or transvestite to be part of a survey.

This survey is at [www.netsurvey.com.au](http://www.netsurvey.com.au)

So far, my interviews with people who are blind and of diverse sexuality shows there is a need for issues to be addressed to ensure they are included in the wider Queer/LGBT community. My research hopes to help solve exclusion by finding out what Deaf and hard of hearing Queer/ LGBT individuals have experienced in their life whether positive or negative. The motive is to help find a way forward for all communities to feel part of the broad Queer/LGBT communities. Easy and interesting:

<http://www.netsurvey.com.au>

Thanks! This survey is anonymous and confidential. Any questions or feedback? Email me at: [warwick.abrahams@student.griffith.edu.au](mailto:warwick.abrahams@student.griffith.edu.au)  
Griffith University, Logan Campus, Queensland

***MIUSA will bring together 25 women leaders with disabilities from around the world to strengthen leadership skills, create new visions and build international networks of support to explore new leadership opportunities for women and girls with disabilities.***

WHO CAN APPLY? Emerging and established women leaders with disabilities.

\*Women with disabilities who are from rural areas and/or indigenous backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply\* <http://www.miusa.org/exchange/WILD2008/index.html>

Here is a link to the **DDW April 2008 Newsletter**.

Thank you for being a subscriber to this publication.  
<http://discoveringdeafworlds.com/users/120/ddwapr08.pdf> (Thanks Natalie)

My name is Vikki Hardy and currently I'm studying Auslan 1 and am enrolled in two classes. I am eager to find an **Auslan tutor**. I am a childcare worker and also a cleaner and I could possibly do some housecleaning perhaps 2 hours a week in exchange for 2 hours tutoring.

Perhaps you know someone that could be interested or you yourself may consider helping me.

I understand people are pushed for time so all I can do is keep on asking.

My phone no: 0401 919 337,  
(I am prepared to travel, I have my own car.)

Thanks for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers, Vikki Hardy NORTH STRATHFIELD



# Volunteers Needed

## SignPost is looking for hearing Parents with Deaf children

SignPost is looking for a family of hearing parents with deaf children for a segment in their show.

Ideally these parents would have had minimal or no exposure to deaf people and the Deaf community until the birth of their deaf child or children, and these parents decided to let their child/children learn Auslan and aim to communicate using sign language at home (perfect Auslan is not required).

The purpose of this segment is to explore the parents decisions about the upbringing of their deaf child/children impartially and to investigate what advice the medical profession provided or what advice the parents sought.

If interested, please contact Todd at [tjw007@gmail.com](mailto:tjw007@gmail.com). SignPost is a TV program produced by Deaf volunteers for the Deaf community - for more info visit: <http://www.aad.org.au/advocacy/signpost1.php>

## 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

- **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.
- Newsletter reader 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.
- Jeree Milroy is looking for a **nanny to care for her 5 month old baby** (hearing & sighted). Applicants must be able to converse with her partner using the **Deafblind Tactile alphabet** and be confident reading back Auslan fingerspelling. They will need to hold a Senior first aid certificate and have experience in childcare. If the applicant has no formal childcare experience but is a parent themselves, this is also OK. The position is currently only for 3 months but it's likely this will be extended until the end of 2008. Pay is \$23-25 p/h, dependent on level of experience.

The applicant will need to attend an interview with Sydney In Home Child Care in Parramatta. The person to contact there is Amanda on (02) 9683 3400. Jeree is happy for the position to be shared amongst 2 or more people. The nanny is needed on Monday 3.30-5.30pm, Wednesday 1-10pm, Thursday 9am-5pm, Saturday 1-5pm and all day Sunday (starting 9am at Kogarah swimming pool if possible).

For more information contact Jeree on 0400 400 966 or (02) 9399 7699 or email [jeree@dodo.com.au](mailto:jeree@dodo.com.au)



# ...More Notice Board

## 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) To enrol in a course visit the website, email [cpe@ridbc.org.au](mailto:cpe@ridbc.org.au), call the Continuing Professional Education Team on (02) 9872 0207, fax your registration to (02) 9873 1614 or in person to RIDBC Renwick Centre, 361 - 365 North Rocks Road, North Rocks NSW 2151 (8am-4pm weekdays).

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

## Letter from Natasha Stott Despoja - Senator for South Australia

Hi there,

I write in relation to the inquiry into electronic media access for the deaf and hard of hearing, which was initiated by the previous Government in September 2007.

I am pleased to advise that, despite doubts about whether the inquiry would go ahead under the new Government, last week I received responses to my estimates questions regarding the inquiry which indicate it will proceed.

The responses, from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) state that:

- HREOC has been advised by the Department that the investigation is to proceed;
- a Discussion Paper is due to be released very soon; and
- at this point HREOC has no information about the proposed completion date for the investigation.

As you know, I have long been concerned about the inadequacy of captioning for the deaf and hard of hearing, and am a long-term campaigner for increased captioning (indeed, 100% captioning!) so deaf and hard of hearing Australians have equal access to electronic media.

I was proud to help initiate this inquiry - along with the deaf community around Australia, who lobbied local MPs so successfully on the issue - and remain hopeful it will lead to improved captioning very soon.

I will keep you posted on developments as they arise.

Yours sincerely

**Natasha Stott Despoja**  
Senator for South Australia



## “I Was Born”

*A poem by Henry Anastasi (“dedicated to my teacher, Rosie Lipman”)*

I was born	MY HANDS HAVE MADE ME TO WHAT I AM TODAY	I AM CERTAIN FOR REAL THIS LIFE TO ME BORN, I'LL SURELY SEIZE	BUT IN LIFE I HAVE REALISED, I MAKE MY OWN SERENITY
FROM MY MOTHER'S WOMB TO A WORLD OF GESTURES AND MIMES I WAS BORN INTO THIS SPHERE SEEING ONLY SILENCE HEARING MERELY SIGNS	TO INTERPRET WORDS SET AFLOAT LIKE AN AERIAL NOTION HAS SET MY LIFE'S PATH WITH AN EVER LASTING DEVOTION	I WAS BORN NEVER TO BE SUCCUMBED IN THIS HEARING WORLD BUT FOUGHT ABUSE THAT HEARING PEOPLE HURLED	TO LIVE AS I WAS BORN TO LIVE TO HOPE THAT I MAY ALWAYS GIVE
INTO THIS HEARING WORLD I QUICKLY LEARN'T TO SIGN UNDERSTANDING TALKING HANDS BEFORE I COULD DEFINE	MY WORLD, THOUGH SMALL HAS OPENED UP WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF SIGN NEVER PRETENDING WHAT WORLD IS REALLY MINE	MY HANDS WILL SIGN WILL LEAD THE WAY THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION IN MY MESSAGES WILL BE CONVEYED	BUT AT TIMES WHEN PLAGUED WITH IGNORANCE AND FEAR CAN I RID THE FRUSTRATIONS PRESENTED TO MEHERE
I WAS BORN TO INTERPRET TRANSLATE TO RELAY	FOR EACH GESTURE THAT SWIRLS IN THE FORMLESS BREEZE	I WAS BORN NOT KNOWING MY BEING, MY IDENTITY	WHEN I DO..I WILL BE FOREVER KNOWING....

