



# Deaf Regional News



News and events from regional New South Wales



## Happy New Year

Hello everyone and welcome back to the first issue for 2009.

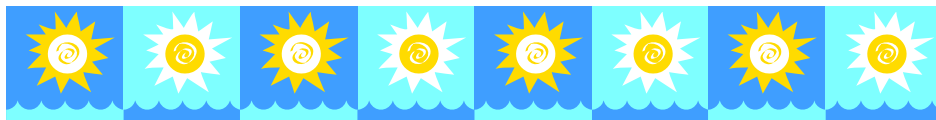
I hope you all had happy and safe holidays over the Xmas and New Year period.

The Deaf Society will be back visiting regional communities soon, starting with Port Macquarie on Saturday 31st January, so check the following pages for more information.

As it is the start of the new year, this newsletter will be a little shorter than normal, but we look forward to bringing you much more information in the coming months.

I hope 2009 is a successful year for all members of the Deaf community and that we can keep moving forward together to build a better community for us all.

I look forward to working with you all again in 2009.



## Newsletter Deadlines

In order to streamline production of the regional newsletter I am setting a deadline of the second Friday of every second month (Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov) for receiving information to be included in the newsletter.

So the dates are Jan 9th, March 13th, May 8th, July 10th, Sept 11th & Nov 13th.

If any Deaf social groups, or any other organisations want to make sure their information is published in the Deaf Regional News then it needs to be sent to Craig by these dates.

I hope to include everything in this newsletter so I need your cooperation to make it all come together.

Thank you ☺☺

Volume 2, Issue 1  
January 2009

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Green up : If it is possible for you to receive this newsletter by email rather than normal post, let us know.

You can save time & the environment.



## Lismore drop-in

As we have mentioned on page one, Lismore will be starting a regular drop-in service soon, now that we have a new staff member.

Details of this drop-in will be released in a month or so, but it will mean that there is a regular time set aside for clients every week so they will know there is always someone in the office at these times.

Craig's new role has meant that he is away from the office more than he used to be, so the Deaf Society are now looking to make the office more accessible again.

We will provide more information on this once our new worker has started and we have organised times etc.

## New staff for Lismore office

It is with much pleasure that I would like to announce that Melissa Mahony has been appointed into the part-time position of community worker at the Lismore office of the Deaf Society.

Melissa will be helping Craig with clients and organising the Lismore office drop-in service which we have talked about elsewhere in the newsletter. We are confident Melissa will prove to be a very valuable member of the Deaf Society team.

I trust that the Lismore and north coast community will help in making Melissa's new position a successful one and welcome her into this new role.

Congratulations Melissa and welcome to the team.

## Deaf Social News

### **Mid-North Coast**

Sunday 8th February 2009

Crescent Head Camping Area from 10.30am

BYO Everything.

This will also be the Mid-north Coast Deaf Club's AGM.



## Deaf Social News...continued

### Lismore

WHEN 10 am February 1<sup>st</sup>

WHERE Summerland House With No Steps  
265 Wardell Road Alstonville

Don't forget to bring your swimmers and towel when you visit Summerland House With No Steps!

The fantastic new water park and play area is the ideal way to have fun and cool off in the north coast warmth and sunshine! Parents can sit back and relax while the kids enjoy a splash and a play in the fully fenced in playground and picnic park area.

There's lots of shade and large grassed areas to spread out and enjoy the sun. Bring along a picnic or enjoy some snacks and treats from the Turning Point Café while lazing on the grass.

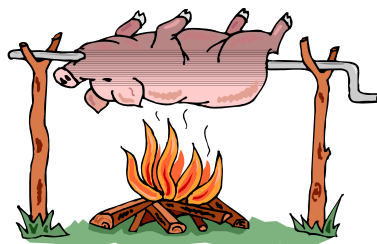
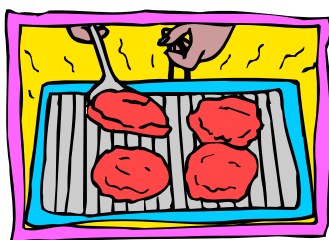
WHEN 11 am March 8th

WHERE Lake Ainsworth Lennox Head

This is market day sms Hilary 0429171256 where best to meet. I will try and get there early and grab a good spot for us. Bring picnic or buy food at the market or Surf club. BBQ are available, Beach or lake swimming.

### Office Morning Teas

Lismore office morning teas are being held on Mondays 16th February & 23rd March



No pigs were harmed in the making of this newsletter.

### Coffs Coast

Sunday 22nd February 2009

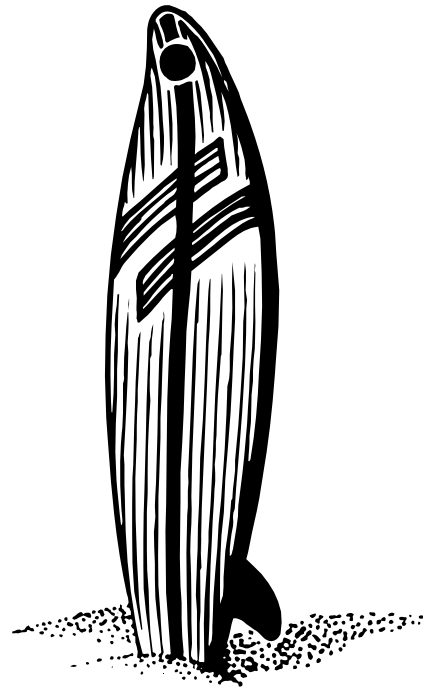
Park Beach Reserve, Ocean Parade Coffs Harbour at 11 am

This is a Deaf Society Free community BBQ and most of the Deaf Society's regional staff will be there for the day, so come along and meet some new people.

## Deaf Social News...continued

### Gold Coast

At the time of print we have no current information on Gold Coast Social activities.



### Central Coast

Central Coast drop-in will now be by appointment only.

Due to poor attendance at Niagara Park we are trialing a new system which we hope will be best for everyone.

Anybody on the Central Coast needing to speak to a community worker can contact Justine Maggs at the Newcastle office on 0410 909 286 for an appointment.

At the end of 6 months we will review this process and ask for community feedback to see if it has been successful.

### South Coast

#### **South Coast Community Consultation**

Monday February 9th @ Kiama Leagues Club Auditorium

Starts at 6.30pm

The Deaf Society are committed to local deaf communities and would like a chance to meet with you and discuss local issues as well as let you know what the Deaf Society is doing in 2009.

Please come along and join us.

### Newcastle

No information on Newcastle social days was made available at the time of printing.

### Tweed Heads

Deaf Society Walk-in service & Coffee morning

Meet at Tweed City Shopping Centre, Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads South (Food Court)

Third Thursday of every month - 19th February & 19th March

10am to 2pm

Twin Towns Social night

Meet at 1st Floor, Family/Friends Lounge Room, Wharf St, Tweed Heads

Every Fourth Friday of the month - 27th February & 27th March

7pm to Midnight

### Tamworth

Sunday 1st February

Anzac Park, Cnr upper & Fitzroy Sts, Tamworth at 11am

This is a Deaf Society Free community BBQ . Food & soft drink will be provided.

### Port Macquarie

Saturday 31st January

Foreshore Reserve, Ocean Dve, Lake Cathie at 11am

This is a Deaf Society Free community BBQ . Food & soft drink will be provided.

Deaf Society of NSW  
Regional Services



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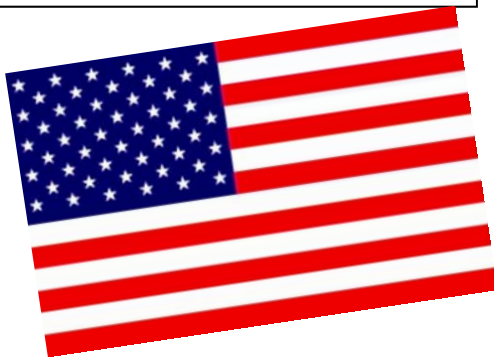
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Regional Services Coordinator  
Craig Bishop



## World News

### New devices open communications for deaf

Five years ago the staff at Ken Gan's auto repair shop told him they needed to find a better way of communicating with customers who were deaf.

'I said, let me go shopping — I'll buy you whatever's out there,' said Gan, of Rochester, N.Y., which has a significant community of deaf people.

For three months, Gan came up empty-handed. There wasn't anything in the market to facilitate face-to-face communication in a situation such as a shop or office.

So Gan hired some electrical engineers and a patent lawyer and came up with the Interpretype (<http://www.interpretype.com/>).

The small device with a keyboard and display hooks up to another Interpretype or a PC, allowing a hearing person and a deaf person to type messages to each other. It turned out to be such an improvement over passing scribbled notes that Gan gets up to 30 deaf customers a month, up from two to three per month before.

Gan started a business above the shop that has sold more than a thousand Interpretypes to schools, libraries, government offices and businesses. The basic setup starts at \$995 (U.S.).

Other technologies are also making inroads in bridging the gap between hearing people and the deaf.

Jason Curry founded a company in Independence, Mo. with his father that makes a communications device similar to the Interpretype. The UbiDuo (<http://www.scommonline.com>) uses two portable units, connected by wireless technology. A pair, which can be folded together, starts at \$1,995.

Curry has already sold hundreds since starting sales at the beginning of the year, and expects to sell several thousand next year. He said he's talking with Starbucks Corp. about getting UbiDuos installed in coffee shops.

Curry, who is deaf, said that he was able to directly communicate with his wife's family for the first time last Christmas by using one of the devices. Not having his wife interpret was a 'life-changing experience' for him, he said.

'Deaf people have a lack of power to sit down across from a hearing person and have a conversation without a third party interpreting for them,' Curry said through a sign language interpreter.

Another technology that has seen even greater growth in recent years is the video relay service (<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/videorelay.html>), which allows a deaf person to telephone a hearing person using a sign language interpreter. The interpreter and the deaf person communicate in sign language using a broadband video connection, while the interpreter speaks with the hearing person over a speakerphone.

Deaf people say video relay services mark a major improvement over the previous telephone method available, which involved an operator reading text that a deaf person would type into a device called a TTY — a technology more than 20 years old that exchanged basic text over phone lines using a modem.