



Life and Deaf

Deaf Society of New South Wales
Lismore Office

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Port Macquarie Picnic Day and Consultation

On Saturday 13th May 2006 the Deaf Society of NSW held a community bbq and a workshop on interpreters for the local deaf community.



It was a good social day though and everyone had a good feed.



for your warm welcome and encourage you all to contact me with ideas for future community development in the area.

People came from as far as Gloucester in the south & Coffs Harbour in the north and all points in-between.



That evening we had a workshop on interpreters for the local community. Like so many regional communities, Port Macquarie and the mid-north coast struggle to find interpreters when they are needed, but hopefully everyone left the workshop feeling better informed about the ways to book an interpreter for different things.



Thanks too, to the ladies from Quota who traveled so far to attend.



We had a great day and the sun was shining for most of it, though it did get a little chilly on Flynn's Beach when the sun went behind some clouds after lunch.

I would like to thank the mid-north coast deaf community



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New Drop-In Service for the Tweed Community

Starting Thursday 15th of June the Deaf Society of NSW are opening a drop-in service for the Tweed Heads community.

right.

The drop-in centre will be open only one day a month at this stage, on the third Thursday of the month from 10am to 2pm.

If you enter from the carpark then we are through the kitchen area and last room on the left.



It is important that people know the drop-in service is for small problems that can be fixed quickly like problems with bills, or for getting information.

This will be located at the Banora Point Community Centre, Corner of Woodlands St and Leisure Drive Banora Point. A few blocks up from Club Banora.

This is a trial for 6 months to see how well it goes in the area. We are hoping that it will be successful and help the Tweed Community access services better.

No appointments are needed but time will be limited during busy times and it will operate on a first come, first served basis.

If you enter the centre from the Leisure Drive side then we are the first room on the

After the 6 months we will see if it was a success and if it is then we will keep going.

If needed follow-up time can be organized for more difficult problems.



Tweed Heads Morning Tea & Community consultation



On Thursday 27th July the Deaf Society are holding a morning tea and community consultation at the Banora Point Community Centre (Cnr Woodlands St & Leisure Dve).

This will be held in the room opposite the drop-in room. This is a large room with many windows on the Leisure Drive side of the Community Centre.

We will start at 10am with morning tea and a social chat and then begin the consultation at approximately 10.45am.

The consultation will run for just over an hour, depending on how many questions you have.

I will be doing a presentation on interpreters during the consultation as well as dis-

cussing the future work in Tweed Heads and what has been going on to try and develop services in the Tweed region.

I look forward to seeing you all there in July.



Deaf & Disability Employment Forum - 5th June 2006

I would like to remind everyone that the Deaf & Disability Employment Forum is being held at the Lismore Workers Club on Monday 5th June commencing at 10am.

There has been a lot of interest in this event so I would like to encourage everyone to come along and learn about the changes to the welfare system that start on 1st July.

Auslan interpreters are being provided for Deaf people by the Deaf Society of NSW.

This is a one off event so if you miss it, it will not happen again. Pass the word around to anyone who might be interested and invite them to come.

The event is open to all members of the community, their carers, family and service

providers.

It aims to give the community an opportunity to get an overview of the government's new Welfare to Work reforms that start on 1st July and to understand your rights and responsibilities under this system.

A brochure has been sent out but if you've missed out on getting one please contact

Craig as soon as possible and he will send one to you.

If you have any questions contact Craig during working hours.



Song-Signing workshop for Lismore

On Saturday 22nd July 2006 the Deaf Society of NSW are hosting a song-signing workshop for deaf or hearing people.

The workshop is being presented by a Tamworth Deaf woman, Ann-Maree Marshall who regularly performs at the Tamworth Country music Festival with artists such as Adam brand and Beccy Cole.

Ann-Maree also performed at

the opening ceremony of the Deaflympics in Melbourne in 2005.

This is a great opportunity to learn a lot about expression in signing or to just have a good time with other signing people. The workshop caters to all skill levels, so don't be shy.

I have attended one of Ann-Maree's workshops in Tamworth and it was fantastic!!

The workshop will cost \$5 each and places will need to be booked and paid for by 14th of July to help in the organizing of the event.

Do NOT leave it to the last minute to book please.

Contact Craig at the Deaf Society for tickets.

If anyone has any problems with money please talk to



Craig and we will arrange something. Don't miss out just because money may be a problem.

The workshop will run from 10.30am to 5pm, with a one hour break for lunch and further details will be available when you book your tickets.

Deaf Social News

Coffs Harbour

June 17th - Coming to Lismore for the Lismore Lantern Parade.

July 16th - Lunch at Marjorie's Place. 53 Sixteenth Ave, Sawtell. Starts at 11am.

Tweed Heads

Tweed Deaf Social Night : Friday 23rd June & Friday 28th July at Twin Towns Services Club. Horizons Level 3, lounge Bar/

Coffee Shop from 7pm.

Community morning Tea & Consultation : Thursday 27th July at 10.30am.

Banora Point Community Centre starting at 10am. (See story on page 2).

Lismore

Family Day : Sunday 2nd July at 11am.

Kadina Park, Kadina St Goonellabah.

Lantern Parade : Saturday 17th June. 4.30pm at Harold Fredericks Carpark. (Same as last year.)

Family Day : Sunday 6th August at 11am.

Crawford Park, Cnr Centre & Light St's, Casino.

Grafton picnic day

Thank you to the Coffs Coast Deaf Community for organizing such a great picnic day in Grafton on Sunday 21st May.

People came from Lismore, Grafton and Coffs Harbour and the park was beautiful with lots of trees, playground equipment for the children, a big fountain where the children fed the ducks and a good covered bbq area for the adults to chat out of the sun.

The weather was fantastic too.

Everyone agreed we should have a bbq there again as it was a great halfway point between the Coffs Coast people and the Lismore people.

So keep an eye out on the social news for another bbq at this park next year, and be sure to get along to it.



ATOD

Thanks to everyone who came to ATOD on Wednesday 24th May.



This year was even better than last year, with well over 100 people turning up and enjoying the show.

Once again, by sheer coincidence, we managed to clash

with a State of Origin game, but that didn't stop people coming (and thankfully NSW won).

Thank you to the ATOD performers who stayed

back afterwards to socialize and chat with members of our community. It was great to talk to them.



Hopefully we will be seeing them again next year and maybe even more people will come.

Thanks everyone for your support, we hope you enjoyed the show.

Lismore Lantern Parade - 17 June 2006

Don't forget that the Lismore Lantern Parade is just around the corner.

The parade is on Saturday 17th June 2006 and I believe it starts at 5pm in the Harold Fredericks Carpark, the same as last year.

People wanting to be lantern carriers have to register this year as the parade has made some changes. Anyone wanting to help carry the lantern should contact Craig as soon as possible at the Deaf Society office in Lismore.

Special seating has been reserved for lantern carriers only, to im-

prove on problems with visibility we had last year.

Lantern carriers will wear special wristbands to get them access to the reserved area.

The photo on the right is of the Deaf Society lantern we will be carrying this year.

It has been decorated over the last month or so and is now ready for us to carry.

Thank you to Andrew Parry for all his help with the decoration.



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Working with and for the Deaf
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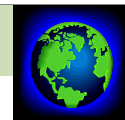


We're on the Web!

www.deafsocietynsw.org.au



**Regional Services Coordinator
Craig Bishop**



Ukrainian interpreter receives award for courage

Ukrainian Sign Language interpreter Natalia Dmytruk was one of four Ukrainian women who received the Fern Holland Award in Washington, DC during the Vital Voices Global Partnership's fifth annual ceremony, honouring women from around the world who have made a difference.

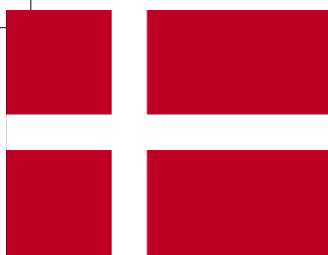


Natalia made headlines around the world in 2004 when, during the tense days of Ukraine's presidential elections, she staged a silent but bold protest, informing deaf Ukrainians that official results from the November elections were fraudulent.

In her interview with The Washington Post Melanne VERVEER, chair of the Board of the Vital Voices, described Natalia's actions as having "sparked the public outreach and the new and fair elections on 26 December 2004".

Social interpretation in Denmark

The Danish Social Ministry has recently confirmed a permanent grant of 13 million DKK (1.75 million €) a year for social interpreters for deaf.



This means that deaf can now get interpreters for social activities.

Deaf in Denmark has had to pay themselves for an interpreter for eg. a visit to the doctors, but with this grant these social activities will be free of charge for deaf. The President of the Danish Deaf Association, Mr. Asger Bergmann

is delighted and says that the grant is "close to equality for deaf in the Danish society".

Deaf and Hearing Impaired are Now Able to Send Emergency Text Message to 112, Iceland's National Emergency Number

The deaf and hearing impaired are now able to send an emergency text message (SMS) to Iceland's national emergency number, 112, and communicate with the emergency unit with these messages. This arrangement improves the chances that these individuals can receive the help they need in emergency.

This new service was developed in consultation with the Icelandic Organization of Disabled People and as a collaboration among 112, the phone companies and the engineering firm Samsyn to incorporate the technical changes. The emergency response unit at 112 has undergone training on how to handle emergencies announced through text messages. 112 is not aware of any other country offering this specific service.

If an individual cannot verbally communicate needs for assistance, he or she can now send a text message to 112 to summon emergency help. The initial message should include the nature of the problem and the individual's location. The message appears on the 112 dispatcher's screen along with the originating telephone number, the registered owner of the phone and the owner's home address. At the same time the case is registered in 112's database, just as voice calls are handled. The dispatcher can then continue to communicate through text messages if needed.

As the emergency response team cannot locate the mobile phone based on a text message, the most important information

to communicate is where help is needed. If this information is not included, the dispatcher will ask for the location by text message. The person in distress can then reply by sending a text message with the location or by placing a call to 112 as the mobile phone can be traced through a voice call.

It is important that those who may use this service create a readymade message and save it in their mobile. This message can then be easily accessed and sent in an emergency. This is especially critical for those who are at risk, such as those suffering from heart disease.

