



# Life and Deaf

Deaf Society of New South Wales  
Lismore Office

Volume 4, Issue 1  
February 2007

## An Inconvenient Truth : Free Captioned Screening

The Deaf Society of NSW have organized free captioned screenings of the important movie "An Inconvenient Truth" for Deaf communities throughout northern NSW.

This movie talks about the truth behind global warming and climate change and looks at the future of our planet.

It also shows how we can all make changes in our own lives to help save the Earth.

Everybody has been talking about this movie so now is the chance to come and see it for free.

It will be fully captioned so that the Deaf community can understand the message of this film for themselves.

Screening sessions will be



St Lismore.

6.30pm - Thursday 3rd march.

### Tamworth

Quest Apartments conference Room, Armidale Rd Tamworth.

6pm Monday 12th March.

### Coffs Harbour

Coffs Ex-Services club, Vernon St Coffs Harbour.

6.30pm - Wednesday 28th March.

Please come along and learn the important message of this movie and

also share in a great social occasion.

I hope to see you at one of these screenings and please feel free to bring a friend.

Don't be the only one to miss out.

held at;

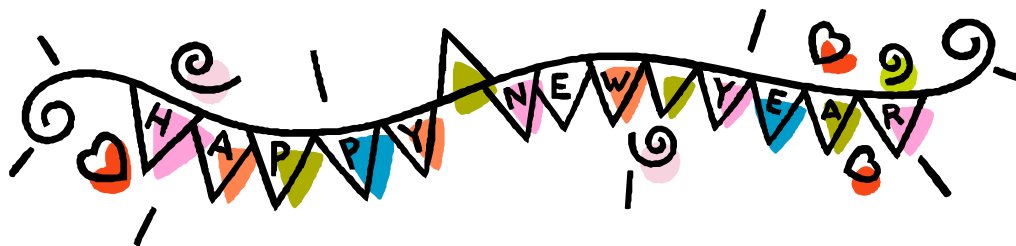
### Tweed Heads

Banora Point Community Centre, Cnr Woodlands Rd & Leisure Dve, Banora Point.

6pm - Thursday 22nd February.

### Lismore

Lismore Workers Club, Keen



Welcome to another year of the "Life & Deaf" newsletter. This is our fourth year now, having started back in 2004 (doesn't time fly).

We look forward to another year of fun, information and community activities.

As always, the newsletter will continue to be published bi-

monthly (in Feb, April, June, August, October & December).

It is available via email or normal mail and is always available on the Deaf Society's website for you to download yourself.

If you are not receiving the newsletter and want it, then contact Craig at the Lismore

office.

I look forward to sharing another year with the Deaf communities of northern NSW.

I hope 2007 is a great year for all of you, your families and your friends.

See you soon.

Craig ☺

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### Ben Bruggy

Congratulations to our local celebrity Ben Bruggy who won the Australian Senior Sportsman award at the Lismore Australia Day Awards.

Ben's always been a bit of a local legend and now he has another trophy to add to his collection.

Ben has successfully represented Australia in Deaf Squash both nationally and internationally.

## New Auslan classes - Banora Point



There will be a new community Auslan course starting on Tuesday 6th February at the Banora Point Community centre.

These classes will run from 7pm to 9pm and will cost \$10 per night.

The classes will be run every week and you can come at your own pace.

You can come for as many or as few nights as suits you.

These classes will be taught by local Deaf woman Betty Bonser, who many in the Tweed Heads community will already know and who has a wealth of Auslan teaching experience.

If you know anyone in the Tweed region who might be interested in learning Auslan then please pass on this information.

It would be great for people thinking of doing the new Auslan Certificate II course at Kingscliffe TAFE, but who want to try it first.

## Tamworth 2007

Well we're off to the country music capital again soon and looking forward to it.

Starting with a **community BBQ** on Sunday March 11th, we will be in Tamworth for three days.

As well as a **free screening**

of **"An Inconvenient Truth"** as mentioned on page one, there will be workshops over the Monday and Tuesday as well.

Monday 12th March from 2pm to 4pm there will be a **workshop on employment** including writing resumes and doing job interviews.

Details of the other workshops are not yet finalized but we will send out information soon via email.

We look forward to catching up with the Tamworth community again. ☺



## Lismore Office - Access Policy

For those of you who have not yet been to the new office, it is accessed by a set of stairs.

Unfortunately, due to the fact Lismore is in a flood zone, most of the office space in town is upstairs.

Only the newest and most expensive offices have lifts or ramps and not only were these not available but they were not within our budget.

We do however take disability access seriously.

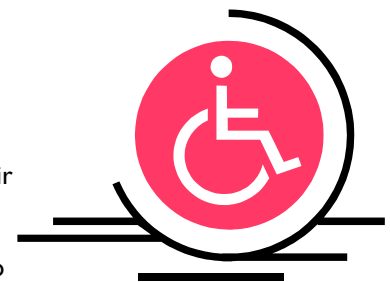
We have done a lot of research into improving access to the office and have found out that it is not possible for us to install a wheelchair lift on the stairs, unfortunately.

As a matter of policy though we are letting everyone know that disabled clients are able to make alternative arrangements for service provision.

For example they could request to be met at their own home or at a local coffee shop or somewhere else convenient to them.

Similarly for training courses, if a person with a disability wants to attend a course we are providing in our offices then we will relocate to another venue which will allow them to attend.

We do not want any person to be disadvantaged.



If there are any issues at all in regards to access then please talk to Craig at any time and we will see how we can best meet your needs.

We remain committed to the best service provision we can deliver in Lismore and all of NSW.

## Deaf Social News

### Gold Coast

Regular coffee group meets at Café Campanile at Robina Town Centre on the first Monday of the month at 10am.

### Tweed Heads

Tweed Deaf Social Night : Friday 23rd February & Friday 23rd March at Twin Towns Services Club.  
Horizons Level 3, lounge Bar/ Coffee Shop from 7pm.

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New contact for the Tweed Deaf Support Group is David London. SMS 0408 762 414 or Fax 07 5524 8988

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Free captioned screening of "An Inconvenient Truth" at Banora Point community Centre.  
Starts Thursday 22nd February at 6.00pm.

### Lismore

Family Social Days : First Sunday of every month.

Sunday 4th March - Wet & Wild theme park on the Gold Coast.

This is not 100% confirmed yet. Contact Felicia on 6622 7997 or 0431427533 if you wish to go.

Cost is \$26 if they can get a group of 20 or more. Need payment by 18th February.  
There will also be a cost for the bus of \$23

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Sunday 1st April  
We have no information about the April social day at this time. Contact Felicia for information.

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Free captioned screening of "An Inconvenient Truth" at Lismore Workers Club  
Starts Thursday 1st March at 6.30pm.

### Coffs Harbour

Sunday 18th February - Grafton Aquatic centre.  
\$3.50 entrance and \$20 for all day on the waterslide.

Starts at 10.30am.

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Sunday 18th March - Boambee Creek Reserve.  
Bring own food and drink for BBQ.

Starts 11am

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Free captioned screening of "An Inconvenient Truth" at Coffs Ex-Service Club.  
Starts Wednesday 28th March at 6.30pm.

### Tamworth

Free community BBQ at Anzac Park in Tamworth.

Starts Sunday 11th March at 11am and all food and soft drink are provided by the Deaf Society.

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Free captioned screening of "An Inconvenient Truth" at Quest Apartments Conference Room.  
Starts Monday 12th March at 6.00pm.

## NDTV

### What is NDTV?

The National Deaf TV project was established in 1998 by a Deaf man, Tony Clews. During his travels overseas, Tony was impressed by the availability and quality of national television programs for Deaf people in the UK and Europe. This inspired him to work towards establishing similar TV programs for Deaf Australians.

The Project was formally established as an Australian Association of the Deaf (AAD) sub-committee at its Annual General Meeting in 1999.

The aim of NDTV is to have a regular Deaf TV program on national television in Australia, with Auslan (Australian Sign Language), captions and voice-overs to make it accessible for everyone.

### Why NDTV?

Sign Language has been in Australia since the Second Fleet (1790), yet there is still no major TV program in Auslan for Deaf Australians, their families and friends, and other interested people.

In Australia, there are at least 16,000 Deaf Australians whose primary language is Auslan. These people have family members and friends who also use Auslan, thereby increasing the number of people who use this language. Deaf Australians do not see themselves as disabled. Rather, they identify themselves as members of a cultural and linguistic minority group known as the Australian Deaf community.

To access information, hearing people read newspapers and magazines, listen to radio and TV, which are largely in English. Because English is a second language for many Deaf people, the language is either inaccessible or difficult to comprehend. The most equitable way to fully inform Deaf people, at a level equal to hearing people, is to present information visually in Auslan on TV.

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Thanks to AAD for this information. For the rest of the story go to [www.aad.org.au/info/ndtv1.php](http://www.aad.org.au/info/ndtv1.php)

## Port Macquarie visit

The Deaf Society will be coming to Port Macquarie on Sunday 22nd April to host a free community bbq.

All members of the mid-north coast Deaf community are encouraged to come as well as any other people who are interested.

We are particularly interested for people to come along and talk to Craig about things they

would like to see happening for the Port Macquarie Deaf community in the future.

All food and soft drinks will be provided free by the Deaf Society.

It will be held at Flynn's Beach Reserve on Tupenny Rd Port Macquarie starting at 11am.



PO Box 1148  
Lismore  
NSW 2480

Phone: 02 6622 5572  
Mobile: 0423 488 619  
Fax/TTY: 02 6622 4087  
E-mail: [cbishop@deafsociety.com](mailto:cbishop@deafsociety.com)

Working with and for the Deaf  
community of NSW



**We're on the Web!**

[www.deafsocietynsw.org.au](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au)



**Regional Services Coordinator**  
**Craig Bishop**



## New Human Rights Convention widely protects Deaf people's rights

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) hails the newly adopted UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for covering widely Deaf people's rights. There are still serious short-ages in the protection of Deaf persons' rights both in developing and developed countries. The convention will be a significant step forward, especially in the promotion of equal participation as well as in prohibiting discrimination based on disability.

The World Federation of the Deaf regards the most significant achievement for Deaf people the recognition of Deaf people's linguistic rights. For example, the new convention outlines rights to receive education and access to information in sign language, to have professional sign language interpreting, to accept and facilitate the use of sign languages, and to promote cultural and linguistic identity of the deaf community. In addition, sign languages are defined as languages, more to say, as equal languages together with spoken languages.

Altogether five articles have a direct reference to Deaf people's rights. In addition to linguistic rights, most of the 50 articles of the convention protect Deaf people of all ages in many aspects of life.

Discrimination based on disability is still a big problem in the world. Most of the Deaf people do not get any education in developing countries and approximately 80 % of the world's 70 million Deaf people do not have any access to education. Only about 1-2 % of the Deaf get education in sign language. In particular the situation of women and children is weak. Legal development and recognition of sign languages can promote many Deaf people's equal participation in society.

WFD hopes that countries ratify the convention and also implement it in their national legislation. WFD wishes that the convention will be translated into different national sign languages soon. In future, WFD will participate in the international monitoring and also supports national monitoring in many ways. It is important that Deaf people are actively engaged in the implementation and monitoring of the convention.

In future, WFD will train its national members and to assist in the implementation of the convention with its members, states and UN's special organizations. "There is a new time arising for all the world's Deaf that use sign languages, a time to recognise our equal rights", says Liisa KAUPPINEN, WFD's president emerita, who represented WFD at the General Assembly.

The World Federation of the Deaf has been part of the convention process from the beginning and has participated in all the sessions over the five years. Non-governmental organizations as well as disabled people's organizations have actively participated in the creation of the new human rights treaty. Also the World Federation of the Deaf has been part of the larger coalition in the drafting process called the International Disability Caucus.

From European Union of the Deaf