

Life and Deaf

Deaf Society of New South Wales
Northern NSW
Office

Volume 5, Issue 1
February 2008



Welcome to the 5th year of Life and Deaf newsletter.

I hope you all had a great Xmas break and enjoyed your New Year festivities.

As we move into another year I hope that this newsletter provides you with the things you need to know and that the Northern NSW office of the Deaf Society can

continue to assist the Deaf communities of northern NSW through this year.

As always, I am keen to hear from different communities about what they want to do and to learn in 2008.

If you have ideas for workshops etc please let Craig know and we will see if we can help. It is always good to hear what each community needs.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

From Craig ☺

Important Reminder

I want to remind everyone that the Northern NSW office of the Deaf Society of NSW will be closed for most of the month of March because Kim and I are finally getting married and I will be away on my honeymoon.

We will have special opening times on Tuesday 18th &



Wednesday 19th of March from 9am to 5pm and the office will be staffed by one of our Sydney staff for help with whatever you need.

Our regular office morning tea will be at 10am on Tuesday 18th, so come and give the Sydney staff a Lismore welcome.

Song Signing in Port Macquarie

On Saturday 1st March 2008 the Northern NSW office of the Deaf Society of NSW are hosting a song-signing workshop at the Port Macquarie Panthers Club.

This workshop is being presented by Ann-Maree Marshall a Deaf woman from Tamworth.

Ann-Maree has performed at the opening ceremony for the

2005 Deaflympics with Guy Sebastian & Paulini and is a regular at the Tamworth Country Music Festival performing with some of Country music's biggest stars.

This has been an extremely popular workshop in the past, so don't miss out.

This workshop is free and

will start at 6pm in the Atlantis Room at Port Macquarie Panthers Club.

Song Signing is a wonderful way to improve your expressiveness in Auslan, something most of us hearing people need to work on.

Please bring a portable CD player if possible.



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Emergency contacts

During the month of March whilst Craig is away you can contact the Client and Community Services manager in Sydney on;

snicholson@deafsociety.com

Or SMS 0438 419 152



Tamworth - February 2008

We're heading to Tamworth in February for a series of workshops and a community bbq and the dates are as follows.

Friday 15th Feb - 1st of a two part workshop on "Feeling Good and Getting On at Work and in Life". This workshop is presented by Deb Maes of Imagine More Coaching and Consulting and it will deal with Self Esteem, Positive relating, Solving Prob-

lems and Influential communication.

This workshop is free and will be held at UNE's Tamworth Centre at Peel house in Fitzroy St in the Campbell Howard Lecture Room.

It starts at **6pm**.

Saturday 16th Feb - A Workshop on Practical Financial Management, starting at **10am**

This will also be held at Peel house in the Campbell Howard Lecture room.

Saturday 16th Feb - 2nd of Deb Maes' workshops on "feeling good and Getting On at Work and In Life".

Starts at **2pm** and is also at Peel House in the Campbell Howard Lecture room.

Sunday 17th Feb - Starting

at **11am** there will be a free community bbq at Anzac Park on the corner of Upper and Fitzroy Sts in Tamworth.

The Deaf Society will provide all the food and soft drink for the bbq.



Office Morning Teas for 2008

Due to the success of our office morning teas here in Lismore last year we have decided to continue them for 2008.

The office morning teas are not only a great social morning but they are an opportunity for hearing signers to come and practice their signing in a social context with a variety of other people.

The morning tea's have been very well attended and all those Auslan students who complain about never getting to practice their skills outside of class have no excuse now.

The office morning tea's will be on at 10am on the following dates in 2008.

Feb - 12th

March - 18th

April - 8th

May - 20th

June - 17th

July - 15th

Aug - 5th

Sept - 16th

Oct - 21st

Nov - 18th

Dec - 19th (special Xmas morning tea)



Tweed Drop-In

The Tweed Heads drop-in starts again on the third Thursday in February and runs through until November.

There is no drop-in during December or January.

Tweed drop-in is located at Showcase on the Beach in Coolangatta at the café area near Muffin break.

This is always on the third Thursday of the month.

Drop-In is not only social time but Craig is also available if you want to discuss any problems with him or ask for help.

We can leave the group and discuss your issues privately if you want to do that. That is why we are there.

Let Craig know if you need him for anything and we will do what we can to help.

Special Thanks

The Northern NSW office of the Deaf Society would like to thank Deaf Services Queensland and their Community Access Worker, Petra Svab for all their help and partnership in the Tweed/Gold Coast region in 2007.

We have done a lot of work together to try and provide better service to the Tweed/Gold Coast region and there is a lot more yet to be done.

We hope that we can continue to work together to assist and support the Deaf community of Tweed/Gold Coast in 2008.

Thanks for everything ☺



Deaf Social News

Mid-North Coast

Taree

Annual meeting and BBQ.
Sunday 10th February 2008.

At Taree on Stevenson St
opposite the Rowing Club.

Starts at 10am. BYO every-
thing.

Port Macquarie

Free Deaf community BBQ.
Sunday 2nd March 2008 at
Settlement Point starting at
11am.

All food and soft drink pro-
vided.

Lismore

February

Office morning tea Feb 12th at
the Deaf Society office from
10am.

Lismore Family Camp at
Woody Head from Friday 15th
to Sunday 17th February.

March

Special office morning tea with
Sydney staff of Deaf Society.
Starts 10am as usual at the
Lismore office.

Lismore Family Social Day.
Sunday 2nd March at 11am.
Meldrum Park, Norton st
Ballina.

If heavy rain meet at 12 pm,
Ballina Ten Pin Bowling,
Clarke st.

Tweed Heads

Tweed Deaf Social night

Friday 22nd February & Friday
28th March 2008.

Horizons Lounge Bar, level 3
Twin Towns Services Club

7pm onwards...

Tweed Drop-In and Coffee morning

Showcase on the Beach,
Coolangatta from 10am to 2pm
in the Muffin Break coffee area.

21st February & 20th March
2008.

A reminder that Craig will not
be at the coffee morning in
March due to being on his hon-
eymoon.

Gold Coast

Gold Coast Deaf Club

2nd Saturday night of the
month at Helensvale Tavern.

8 Sir John Overall Dve
Helensvale

6pm onwards...

Come along for drinks and a
chat.

Reasonably priced meals avail-
able at the Tavern.

9th February 2008 & 8th March
2008

Gold Coast Deaf Group

1st Monday of the month at
Robina Town Centre.

At Café Campanile near the
waterfall in the centre of the
shopping complex.

10am onwards...

For further information contact
Christine White SMS 0415 952
205 or Fax 07 5578 5032

Coffs Harbour

Sunday 17th February at the
Jetty Foreshore Park from
10am to 4pm.

BYO Meat, drinks and chair.
If raining meet at 109 Albany
st, Coffs Harbour.

Sunday 16th March at the
Woolgoolga Lake (near the
Lakeside Caravan Park) from
10am to 4pm.

BYO everything as usual.

Tamworth

Free community BBQ on
Sunday 17th February at An-
zac Park on the corner of
Upper and Fitzroy Sts.

Starts at 11am and food and
soft drink will be provided by
the Deaf Society.

For workshop schedule see
page 2.

Congratulations Hannah Britton

Congratulations to our own Hannah
Britton for her success at the Austra-
lian Deaf games recently.

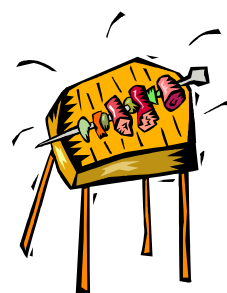
Hannah won gold medals in the 50m
Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke and
100m Freestyle in the under 13's
category and won silver medals in
50m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly in
the under 13's category, plus 100m
Breaststroke in the open category.

Hannah also broke games records in
the 50m and 100m breaststroke.

Hannah has also qualified to partici-
pate in trials for the Paralympics this
year and has her sights set on future
achievements at the next Australian
Deaf games and if possible, the
Deaflympics.

Hannah is one of our most accom-
plished young sportswomen here on
the north coast and it is fantastic to
see her achieve so much.

Great work Hannah, we'll be watch-
ing your progress in the future.



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Working with and for the Deaf
community of NSW



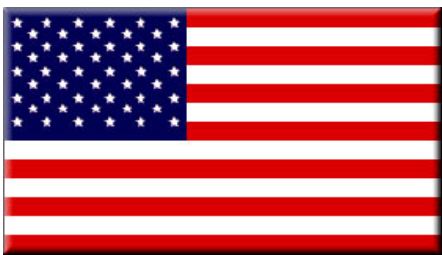
We're on the Web!

www.deafsocietynsw.org.au



Regional Services Coordinator

Craig Bishop



Deaf people & the Justice System

Justice may be blind, but it isn't deaf. Gary Cacciatore of Colorado Sign Language Services and other certified sign language interpreters make sure of that.

For more than 10 years, Cacciatore has provided sign language services for defendants and jurors in the 4th Judicial District.

Much like witnesses who get sworn in, interpreters take courtroom oaths to be truthful. They are paid by the state, which also funds language interpreters for non-English speaking defendants.

In a recent homicide case, Cacciatore and two other interpreters helped a deaf juror not only to understand all the testimony in the multiweek trial, but also went into the jury room with him to help with deliberations.

"I've had three deaf jurors who actually became the foreman of their jury," Cacciatore said.

"Personally, I feel we could have someone here full time," said Jury Commissioner Dennis McKinney of the need for sign interpreters.

At least every other week, there's a juror who needs a sign language interpreter. That interpreter will start with jury selection, then follow that potential juror to the courtroom for jury selection, through the trial then into the deliberation room.

If the person makes it to the final jury panel, there will often be two interpreters working.

"They back each other up and keep each other on track," Cacciatore said. "That ensures accuracy and prevents them from wearing out. It's very mentally taxing to go from American Sign Language to English, then back." Repetitive motion injuries are also common for sign language interpreters.

During the homicide trial, one interpreter would work about 15 to 20 minutes, then the other would pick it up. They sat in front of the judge and the witness box, directly in front of the juror needing interpretation.

They use not only their hands, but full facial expressions and body language to convey the language's nuances.

"About 50 percent of the language is facial expressions and the use of body movement," Cacciatore said. "If there's no facial expressions, they don't know if you're asking a question or making a statement."

Both of Cacciatore's parents are deaf, so sign language is his "first" language.

When Cacciatore heads back to the jury room for deliberation, he said he keeps his opinions in check. "I make it clear to all the jurors I'm not involved in the deliberations," he said. "The only thing I'm doing is helping the deaf person communicate with them."

At times deliberations can get heated and the interpreters have to remind the other jurors to speak one at a time.

"A lot of people don't take turns talking," VonFeldt said. "So it's very much a challenge." Both said the interpretation doesn't seem to bog down deliberations.

"I've never actually deliberated as a juror, so I wouldn't know," he said. "But the process seems to go smoothly."

Sign interpreters are about the only nonjurors allowed into the jury deliberation room. Foreign language interpreters, for example, aren't allowed because a juror must read, write, speak and understand English.

Cacciatore estimates he's probably interpreted for more than 100 jurors and worked about 21 trials.

Before the Americans with Disabilities Act, judges often dismissed deaf people from jury pools, Cacciatore said.

"The ADA has made a difference to give people more equal rights and an opportunity to participate in the judicial system," he said.