

December  
2013

**SLIANZ**

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC

## NEWSLETTER

- Presidents Report:
- Update on NZSL expert advisory group.
- Jacqui Iseli & her journey in PNG.
- Returning to study the AUT BA.
- Professional Development Dates
- PD Ethical health check summary
- Summary of the Medical & Mental health conference

Merry Christmas SLIANZ members,  
We have jam-packed this month's newsletter with many great articles, to suit the realms of our great profession.

The NZSL expert advisory group has been busy – more details below! AUT's first BA course has come to an end this year and that's a huge milestone in our growing profession. Lynx has written a great summary of how she felt heading back to study.

Another of our members, Jacqui Iseli, has shared the story of her intrepid journey to her new home in Papua New Guinea. This is a rare opportunity for an up close and personal insight into the struggles other Deaf communities face.

This year Professional Development has been a huge focus for SLIANZ and we have included some great summaries of different events that have happened. With geography and time always a challenge to full participation, these stories give us an insight into what has been happening around the country.

From myself and the SLIANZ committee we wish you a safe and festive Christmas holiday and a happy New Year.

Noreen Smith  
Newsletter Editor



SLIANZ will shut down for the christmas period between 22 Dec 2013 - 6th Jan 2014, If you need to contact anyone we recommend to use our appointed email addresses and we will get back to you once we re-open.

## From the Presidents

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The date has been set, and plans are well and truly underway for our Conference 2014, entitled “Interpreting as a profession: is the climate changing?”, and you should expect to see a call for papers later this week.

We are very excited to announce our guest speaker Lori Whynot, an American interpreter and interpreter educator, currently based in Sydney, has agreed to travel a little further “Downunder” to sample a bit of Kiwi hospitality, and of course share her wonderful knowledge with us.

Thanks again to Felicity Crowe, Geri Durville and Melissa Sutton for agreeing to support our committee members (B Cutelli, Julie, Donna, Rachel, Elinor and Louise) with the conference organisation.

As part of our focus on community relations, Rachel and myself have both separately co-hosted Community Forums (in Wellington and Auckland), with the wonderful support of Lisa Alexander. Massive thanks to Lisa for the time and effort she put into both preparing and facilitating. Both forums focused on the theme of “Interpreters & Deaf: Working together” and were designed to enable sharing of perspectives in a non-threatening way. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and with plans to run further workshops in Christchurch and Hamilton in the New Year, I sincerely hope we can keep the communication lines open and encourage further discussion and stronger community ties.

In other news:

- Both Presidents met (via Skype) with ASLIA president Paul Heuston, on Dec 1st, for a scheduled 6 monthly liaison meeting.
- A MoU between SLIANZ and NZSTI is being drafted, to formalise our previously established working relationship
- SLIANZ recently made a contribution of \$2,000 to the WASLI “Creating Opportunities Fund” to support efforts to train interpreters in Fiji. This project is scheduled to take place in 2014. We will bring you updates as they come to hand.

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## NZSL Experts Advisory Group

In Sept 2013, the Human Rights Commission Inquiry into NZSL recommended the establishment of a temporary Experts Advisory Group to lead action in the area of promotion and maintenance of NZSL

(for information on the HRC report: <http://www.hrc.co.nz/key-projects/the-right-to-sign-new-zealand-sign-language-and-human-rights>).

The Ministry of Social Development has facilitated this group, and it has completed three out of six monthly meetings planned from Sept 2013 to March 2014. Its task is to make a recommendation to Ministers about the form and scope of a body that could guide and monitor the promotion of NZSL. Members of the Experts group do not represent organisations, but were selected to ensure a spectrum of knowledge and perspectives on NZSL issues - which includes interpreting. Information about the group, and summaries of meetings can be accessed here:

<http://www.odi.govt.nz/what-we-do/nzsl/experts-advisory-group.html>

## **A recent announcement from the President of WASLI**

Dear members and friends,

Today we celebrate the United Nations Human Rights Day in a special way, as our own Deaf leader, Dr. Liisa Kauppinen, will receive the UN Human Rights Prize today in New York City. It is a fitting honour, that places her with other leaders such as Nelson Mandela, who we also remember and celebrate today. Liisa, with Nelson, have life time achievements that mark lives of giving to the global community and protecting human rights for all. Congratulations, Liisa, from WASLI and interpreters around the world!

Debra Russell, President [www.wasli.org](http://www.wasli.org)



## **News from Oceania: Jacqui Iseli in Papua New Guinea**

We are now living in Kokopo, in the Province of East New Britain, due to my husband's contract as VSA Programme Manager for Papua New Guinea. VSA is very supportive in development amongst the disadvantaged in society here.

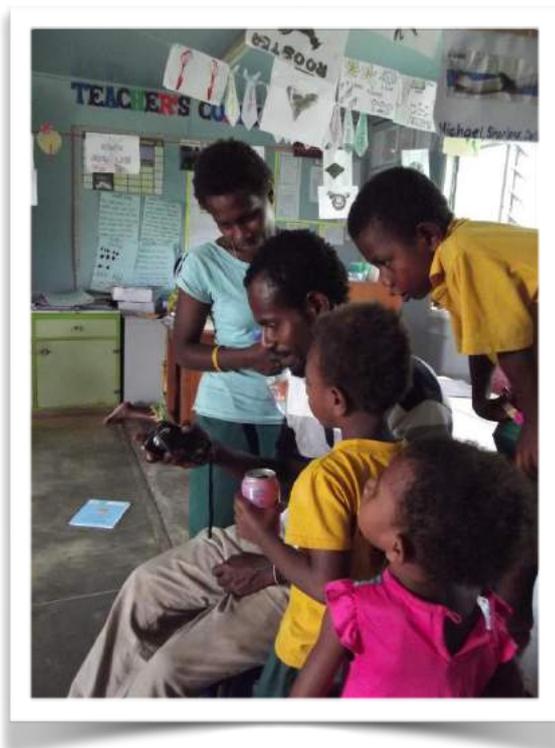
There are over 865 languages amongst 7 million people. East New Britain has approximately 20 languages and 230,000 people of which Kokopo has 20,000. The

people can be very friendly. The infrastructure is much stronger than in Vanuatu, with tarsealed roads, water and power, although these disappear from time to time. The hardest part of life is coping with the high temperatures – it is often 32 degrees inside with fans on. However this may change when the wind blows towards us from the volcano and everything becomes covered in ash crystals. These Rabaul volcanoes are a short way across the sea, providing magnificent views from the compound.

I have been out and about looking for the Deaf community and a role for me. People tell me there is nowhere that the Deaf get together except at events like disability sports days

and meetings. They do not have phones. Kokopo market is very big but I have not seen any hands moving. One day I saw a young man signing to a friend over the road and I asked him about it but they were hearing and using their general village sign.

Callan Services focuses on people with disabilities but there is still no census on how many people there are with disabilities in PNG. However, Callan Services has approximately 19 Deaf Units throughout PNG. Callan are currently trying to procure government funding to pay their Deaf teacher assistants as previously an Austrian



organisation Light of the World has provided these funds. They also previously funded the Health Workers who I understand find and diagnose anyone who is deaf or has a disability.

There is a Deaf Unit at Kabileo Primary School which has only been operating for one year. I have visited a few times and taught one morning when the teacher was away. There is a partially qualified teacher and a Deaf teacher assistant who work together to provide the nine students ranging from 5-24 years. Student attendance is an issue. This may be because the classroom is very small with no fans. Or it could be the focus on literacy using Signed English for the majority of the day, or the lack of resources to provide the students with interest and variety. But even more likely is that their parents cannot afford the PMV return fare to school! This might cost

approximately NZ\$2 per child per day. There are also as many deaf students mainstreamed without extra support.

If someone with a disability is interested in setting up a small business for example a small chicken farm or growing vegetables then the family with the disabled member and Callan Services must each provide 200 kina. This is then gradually paid back into Callan for someone else to use.

While out in a village photographing one of the VSA volunteers who work with Callan I met another Deaf Teachers Assistant. Apelis is interested in documenting his signs with me. So I now have my first video clip. *Photo: Apelis and the children watching Shona McGhie sign a NZSL story on the video camera.* Today and tomorrow is the Open Forum for Disabilities where the various organisations are promoting awareness about the PNG Government's signing of the UN CRPD. It is attended by 10 young Deaf adults who are spread amongst the villages. They sat together and communicated with each other but there was no interpreter except for when the teacher came with her Deaf students and Deaf TA to perform the National Anthem in sign.

I wait to see what evolves for next year but I am glad to have made a few community connections now.



**THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND**  
**NEW ZEALAND**

## **BA in NZSL-English Interpreting: Interpreters Returning to Study**

**By Lynx**

Four years ago I wanted to enrol in the Postgraduate Diploma offered by Macquarie University, but for a variety of reasons it was impossible. So when I realised that 2013 would be the first time that qualified interpreters would

be able to participate in the third year of the BA in NZSL-English Interpreting offered by AUT, I decided that this year would be an ideal opportunity for further study.

Looking back, it is hard to remember what exactly I expected from the programme. I knew that I didn't have to repeat the 'Advanced Interpreting – Legal' paper, as I successfully gained that qualification in 2008. This meant that I would only have to undertake three papers per semester; still considered a 'limited' full time course, but not quite as heavy as the workload of four papers per semester. This was a relief, because I have been continuing to work full time as an interpreter as well as continuing my role as a Connect director. I take my hat off to those students who have completed eight papers this year while working long hours in paid employment.

Upon enrolling I discovered that I would have to complete a minimum of three 'core' papers. These are papers which all BA students must complete, regardless of the programme. The intention behind this requirement is to prepare students both for potential postgraduate study and for future employment. The three core papers that I chose were '*iCommunicate*', '*iResearch*' and '*iReflect*'. The lower case 'i' should have given me an inkling of what was to come; it was probably a good thing that I was blissfully unaware of the challenges in store. For many younger students these papers, which were all in some way using information technology, would simply require the application of lifelong skills learned as 'digital natives'. However not only was I about 35 years older than most of the natives, but when I was last at AUT in 2001, assignments were still often written in longhand, or typed on a typewriter; some students didn't even own a computer. Since that time I have become much more comfortable with using information technology, but as an interpreter computers aren't necessarily a huge part of my life. Hence my distress in the first week, when I learned that I would have to make an iMovie, complete a fully online paper focusing on academic research analysis, and develop an electronic portfolio.

I am pleased to report that after my initial panic, I managed to get to grips with the requirements. Not only that; I even started to enjoy learning new skills and meeting the challenges of these core papers. While the research analysis paper primarily taught me that this is a field of applied linguistics that I will never pursue, it was definitely helpful in terms of academic writing in general. The electronic portfolio provided a platform for some interesting reflections on my portrayal of affect. And iCommunicate was an interesting exercise in creating an informative movie about NZSL, with a zero budget and limited resources.

In the second semester I found myself in much more familiar contexts. I had to repeat NZSL 4, which was fun. Every class that I attended and every presentation that I gave was an opportunity to either learn a new sign, recognise a bad habit, identify some good skills or to improve on vocabulary articulation or grammatical features. The practicum paper was

a great reminder of the benefit of regular, in depth self reflection on our strengths and weaknesses, using Demand-Control theory as a framework. And last but definitely not least, the Advanced Interpreting Techniques paper (roughly equivalent to the old Simultaneous Interpreting paper) was invaluable for close analysis of our interpreting work, discussions of interpreting theory, and constructive feedback.

While there were times throughout the year that I seriously wondered why I had ever thought that studying and working full time was a good idea, now that it is all over I am really pleased I took on the challenge. I can recommend the programme as a professional development opportunity to any interpreter thinking of returning to complete the BA.

| 2014 Professional Development:  |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| JAN   | FEB  | MARCH   | APRIL   |
| <p>After the positive responses from the Wellington and Auckland</p> <p><b>Community forums</b> more are planned for:</p> <p>Hamilton (date to be confirmed)</p> <p>Christchurch<br/>28 January</p> | <p>iSign:<br/><b>Peer Supervision</b></p> <p>15 February</p> <hr/> <p>Signal Theatre / The Edge Presents:</p> <p><b>Theatre workshop</b><br/>Auslan Stage left</p> <p>Presented by Della Goswell &amp; Alex Jones</p> <p>Auckland<br/>22 &amp; 23 February</p> | <p>Plans are underway to bring an international presenter for two full-day</p> <p><b>DeafBlind workshops</b></p> <p>Auckland and Christchurch.</p> <p>28 &amp; 29 March – to be confirmed</p> | <p>Our very own Noreen Smith is preparing a workshop entitled:</p> <p><b>“Technological tools:</b> getting the most out of your smartphone or tablet”</p> <p>Auckland (notes and Powerpoint to be made available to other centres).</p> |

**Announcement:**

CONFERENCE



2014

AUCKLAND

July 5 & 6

Interpreting as a profession:  
is the climate changing?

Key Note Speaker: Lori Whynot.

## Musings on our Ethical Health Check Workshop

(Held 5 October 2013):

### Exploring our professional conduct, By Louise Hackshaw

In 2012 SLIANZ adopted a new Code of Ethics and supporting code of conduct.

*“The Code of Ethics defines the principles that guide interpreter behaviour and informs consumers about the professional role and obligations they can expect from interpreters.” – SLIANZ, 2012*

The workshop was an opportunity for us to review the first principle of the code, that of “Professional Conduct”, paying particular attention to the ways in which we manage our professional relationships.

While the number of attendees was a little disappointing, the quality of the discussion was not. We began by spending some time in small groups doing a close reading of the new clauses pertaining to professional conduct. Firstly, we looked at the clauses which reinforce behaviours such as integrity, reliability, accountability, and respect. All the groups seemed to agree that interpreters are confident and fairly “healthy” when it comes to these areas of responsibility. We know what is expected of us as professionals and we do our best to act accordingly. There are checks and balances in place, and we know our boundaries and the limitations of our jobs.

Secondly, we looked at the clauses which guide professional relationships; ethics, consistency, and working relationships with our colleagues. The consensus seemed to be that while we understand and generally support our Code of Ethics, the health of our working relationships is not always what it could be. We may not be all that “fit” when it comes to the ways in which we sometimes treat each other. Some participants gave examples of feeling particularly unsupported, even undermined by their colleagues at times. Clearly, that kind of working environment is less than healthy.

I appreciate the honesty and openness of the participants. I would encourage you all to engage in ongoing dialogue about our adherence to the Code of Ethics and the ways we interact within the profession.

Thanks to those who attended.



## Medical and Mental Health Conference

Presented at “Connect” headquarters, by Karen Malcolm from Vancouver.

Wow.... I left this conference buzzing! It was fantastic and well worth the travel from Christchurch. It was also fun to catch up with my colleagues from Auckland. The catering was simply

delicious. Thanks to everyone who made this weekend possible. Now for a little bit of an insight as to what some of you missed out on: Karen has a wealth of experience and knowledge. She was able to share strategies and techniques that we can now use in our practice. Topics included “DCCRC” Demands, Controls, Consequences and the Resulting Demands. The conference included time for us to be involved in role plays which gave us the opportunity to practice our learning in a non judgemental setting. This proved to be thought provoking and useful. Pre-assignment preparation was another area covered.

Connect are considering making this conference an annual event, which I would strongly recommend people attend.

By: Marlene Beale (Christchurch Sign Language Interpreter)



Here are some useful resources that you can check out:

[Nigel Howard - Medical Signs](#)

[Psychiatric Interview, University of Nottingham.](#)

### **Students Perspective:**

As an AUT interpreting student in my final year, I found this workshop to be a great way to bring my studies to a close. At first I questioned how much I would be able to participate, having little to no experience in interpreting (especially in these settings), however I felt heard and respected by the qualified and experienced interpreters I interacted with and really look forward to working with them in the future

Our guest speaker Karen Malcolm was eloquent and knowledgeable, displaying a great memory for names and a willingness to hear the thoughts of all participants, even students. Various strategies were incorporated, keeping the audience of interpreters (spoken and signed language interpreters) and psychologists engaged throughout the entire weekend.

Here are some highlights:

- **Interactive group activities:** breaking up into groups of 4 – 6, we were given specific situations and directed to brainstorm potential demands and how they could be controlled. A main theme that was carried throughout the weekend was the Demand/Control theory as laid out by Dean and Pollard. And if there was a thought of sticking to ones' comfort zone, this was banished early on as we were encouraged to group with different people. I particularly enjoyed this as it exposed me to a range of thinking on ethical decision making as well.
- **Sharing a wealth of knowledge:** throughout the weekend many interpreters shared some of their experiences and how they managed demands that occurred during jobs. It is always a great opportunity when interpreters gather to learn from others' experiences. It was additionally educational to hear from the two spoken language interpreters who attended the workshop, and also some psychologists. I think that this is something to build on in future, the relationships between not only professionals within the same industry but professionals that interpreters interact with. A greater understanding from all sides may lead to improved collaboration in the field I believe and less miscommunication.

- **Incorporating new Research in the Field:** During my studies I have become familiar with Dean and Pollards Demand/Control theory, having to incorporate it into my practicum and ethical papers and was pleased to see it again. An added bonus was some more recent research by the same authors that was suggested to me for further reading. The main highlight of this though was a Liberal --- Conservative scale which neatly summarised how some decisions may lean toward one or the other. Definitely, this will be a valuable tool for self-reflection to identify where decisions stand on the scale, and may be adjusted to better suit situations.
- **Venue and Refreshments:** No successful workshop could be complete without a suitable venue or rejuvenating refreshments, and in this instance I don't think anyone could have been disappointed. The venue was comfortable and open, with some background music during intervals. The food was exquisite, catering for all with vegetarian and gluten free options available. The sandwiches were truly a delight and I confess I may have been slightly generous in helping myself!



In retrospect, while I nearly passed up this opportunity I am very pleased that I was able to attend. I hope to attend more in the future and it would be wonderful for Karen Malcolm to join us again.

Tanya M.

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|------------|--------------------------------|--|
| President  | Rachel McKee & Louise Hackshaw | <a href="mailto:president@slianz.org.nz">president@slianz.org.nz</a> |
| Secretary  | Kelly Hodgins                  | <a href="mailto:secretary@slianz.org.nz">secretary@slianz.org.nz</a> |
| Treasurer  | Donna Baliey                   | <a href="mailto:treasurer@slianz.org.nz">treasurer@slianz.org.nz</a> |
| Newsletter | Noreen Smith                   | <a href="mailto:newsletter@gmail.co.nz">newsletter@gmail.co.nz</a>   |

