



SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC

THUMBS UP | Quarterly Newsletter

December 2012

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Hi All

Since our last newsletter edition things have been a buzz for our SLIANZ members. There have been professional development opportunities in Auckland and Wellington, interpreter get togethers throughout the country and Christmas functions in the main centres.

On a national front we have witnessed Hobbiton's streets filled once more, prompting a world premiere. Just as exciting, was when Royalty graced our shores and one of our interpreters was present.

The committee has been hard at work fundraising, creating data surveys, organizing mentoring and PD workshops and strengthening bonds between SLIANZ and ASLIA.

The SLIANZ committee will be on break from December 21, 2012 and will resume duties on January 14, 2013. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, safe holidays and a Happy New Year.

Take care,
Kelly Hodgins

Newsletter Editor,
Middle Earth
New Zealand

Regional Updates

As promised The SLIANZ PD committee has been hard at work providing professional development to interpreters throughout the country, exciting times indeed. There have also been a number of other professional development opportunities that our members have taken advantage of. Here is a snippet of what's been happening around NZ.

AUCKLAND



Equivalents Workshop

On Wednesday 28th November 2012 at Auckland Deaf Society an exciting professional development event was held; a Cultural Equivalents workshop. The two hour workshop aimed to get participants to look at different scenarios, sentences and phrasing and discuss the different ways they could be interpreted from the source language of English into the target language of New Zealand Sign Language. It was a refreshing, open minded approach to a task interpreters do every day looking to create a peer support environment to share and advance mutually beneficial skills. While it was the first Cultural Equivalents workshop, it most likely won't be the last so those who missed out first time around may have another opportunity next year. A \$100.00 profit from the workshop will be donated to Deaf students at Kelston Boys High School to participate on the 'Spirit of Adventure' programme 2013. Thanks to Scott Hamilton for leading and preparing the content for the PD event and the hard working team that helped to organise it.

Jen Andrewartha

Maori Sign Language and Marae Protocol Workshop

On the 15th of November 2012 Interpreters, Teachers, students and members of the Deaf and hearing community converged onto Ruamoko Marae for a SLIANZ facilitated workshop. After a formal welcome by Michael Wi and a sumptuous kai we settled down to the kaupapa at hand. Our kaiako Richard Peri gave us an insight into Maori signs and tikanga. This was a good opportunity to clarify, reflect and digest the origins of signs used, learn new signs and why they were so named. On a personal note I was certainly appreciative to add to my kete of knowledge and I look forward to more wananga in the near future. Tena Koe Felicity for organising the event and to the team for their tautoko. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation and acknowledgement to Ruamoko Marae for their warm welcome, their mihi, the venue, and for the valuable learning opportunity that was afforded to us all.

Nga mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa.

Laura Cherrington

Networking Lunch

On Thursday 25th November, professionals were invited to attend a networking lunch hosted by Auckland Deaf Society. This was a fantastic opportunity to meet other professionals working in similar communities, share information and keep up to date with current developments.

Anna Dubbelt, a Specialist Deaf Advocate from Nationwide Health & Disability Advocacy Service gave an informative presentation about 'Basic advocacy and the Code of Rights for Deaf consumers'. Participants were educated on how service providers can communicate and advise Deaf clients in a culturally appropriate way, learned about the Code of Rights, and discussed how health and disability services can become more accessible for Deaf clients. If you would like further information about health and disability advocacy, or the Code of Rights, please refer to the [HDC website](#).

Auckland Deaf Society is currently planning networking lunch events for 2013. If you are interested in sharing information or want to socialise informally and learn from likeminded people, these events are for you. Contact the ADS Booking Coordinator for more information - bookings@auckland-deaf.org.nz

Ginette Rawlinson

WELLINGTON



Deaf- blind Workshop

Last weekend a few of us attended a Deaf-blind workshop in Wellington. It was presented by Elinor Cuttiford and Zoe Haws as a first step to get conversations started about this interpreting niche. We learnt some valuable information about different causes and degrees of sight loss and also had two guests who shared amazing stories of their journey with Deaf-blindness. Among the things we learnt, I felt that learning about different communication modes and protocol of guiding and working with Deaf-blind people was most valuable. Before the workshop I had the common misconception that the Deaf-blind Manual Alphabet was used with the majority of Deaf-blind people but we discussed other communication methods such as Haptic Communication and the Rochester Method which can be the preferred method for some. Overall I found this workshop to be extremely helpful and I hope that this is the start of many more to come. It is an important part of interpreting that needs more attention and this workshop has hopefully started the snowball. Hand waves to Elinor, Zoe and SLIANZ for a great day!

Melissa Sutton

Letter to the Editor

By Henry Liu

Dear Editor,

As a “speakie” who has been speaking out of turn in many of your conferences, I will do so again. I am writing in response to Catherine Winfrey’s excellent and thought-provoking article ‘**Formal Interpreter Registry: Who Leads**’ in your March 2012 issue.

NZSL interpreters and indeed SL interpreters in general are in a unique position amongst interpreters - you are nearly always non-Deaf. Interpreters of any other pairs of languages would belong to/occupy at least one of the socio-cultural populations they interpret from or into, whereas SL interpreters are always the “foreigner” in the Deaf world.

Being a “foreigner” in many worlds, I can appreciate why one feels the need to keep quiet (not that it has ever stopped me, you might rightly say). So I won’t address that specific aspect of Catherine’s article.

But I will look at it from a different angle. Before the Deaf community, individually or collectively, wishes to seek legislation or formal registration process (assuming also that they are empowered to do so), there is one critical element, in my opinion, that a qualified NZSL interpreter is always better than one who is not qualified, however being qualified is defined – be in primary qualification, ongoing CPD, membership of professional association, subspecialist training, or combination thereof.

But of course, you all say! Really? Are all “communicators” incompetent or less competent than a qualified? Are all “communicators” less ethical than a qualified? And how could the consumers (Deaf or professional hearing) decipher such differences? What are the differences? And even if this were true, under most circumstances, there would not be a head-to-head comparison between a communicator and a qualified. So why study, especially when many of you have devoted considerable time, energy and resources towards pursuing this rewarding career.

I would flip the question the other way. What would make consumers value your skills? What are the tangible differences? You may have your own answers. But I would suggest that one of the critical differences is accountability – accountable to your clients, accountable to your colleagues and to the profession and to the wider society. Such accountability can only be inferred and conferred through your adherence to a set of standards which are widely accepted, transparent, impartial and enforceable, and most importantly with appropriate sanctions.

The recent step SLIANZ has undertaken to update your Code of Ethics and to align it with NZSTI and with the wider global professional interpreting community is thus critical. The more universally acceptable the Code is, the more credible it will be, and thus the more accountable you are. The same logic applies to Complaints and Disciplinary process, which is part and parcel to Code of Ethics

So we should all petition our MPs then for compulsory registration? You may. But as Catherine astutely pointed out, that takes time, if ever achievable or even desirable. It does not have to be. Legislation is not the only way. By the time you read this article, NZSTI will be the standard setting authority on Court Interpreting in Aotearoa (including Te Reo Maori, but excluding NZSL). All court interpreters (excluding NZSL interpreters) will be subject to NZSTI Code of Ethics and consequently the disciplinary process of NZSTI. No MP has ever been formally involved in this process, and no legislation has ever been passed.

So to come back to Catherine's vexed question – should interpreters be leading the call? Or put it more broadly, should SLIANZ or any other interpreters' organisation take on this role, this extended role of pseudo-/quasi-registration board? Again you may have your own answers. Perhaps, one could answer this question by applying the same logical standpoint in the spirit of enhancing autonomy, do you as an NZSL interpreter wish to have standard imposed on you or to take the (collective) responsibility to set and impose (y)our standard. Whose responsibility is this anyway?

HTKL

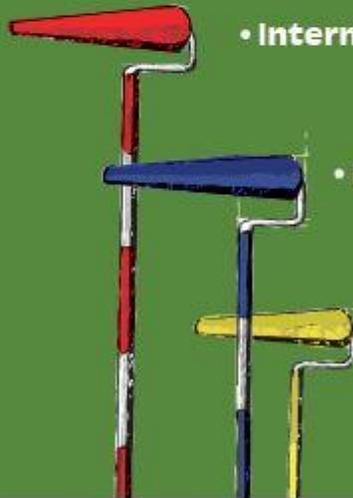


DEAFVIEW3

8th -10th March • 2013 • Wellington



our Changing Community



• International Keynote Speakers

• Deaf Short Film Festival

• Exhibits



www.deafview3.co.nz



SLIANZ Raffle Winners

Congratulations to Kaisy Misini of Auckland and Virag Czubok of Hamilton, who are winners in the SLIANZ fundraising raffle. SLIANZ committee would like to acknowledge the support of everyone who entered the Sign Language Interpreters Association of New Zealand (SLIANZ) raffle. Funds raised will help to support interpreters' professional development, as well as New Zealand's participation in the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters.

For your diary

Upcoming important dates

December 2012

21 December- SLIANZ Christmas Closedown

January 2013

14 January – SLIANZ committee resumes work

March 2013

8-10 March – Deaf View 3 Conference, Wellington

April 2013

1 April – SLIANZ Membership forms and fees due, PD forms due

July 2013

5-7 July – SLIANZ Conference and AGM 'Staying Alive', Wellington

October 2013

16 October – ASLIA ANC Conference (1 day), Sydney

16-18 October– 2nd WFD International Conference, Sydney



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