

SLIANZ

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC

March 2008

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March 2008!

Greetings! Tell us: Where is this year going? Apparently it's already March and even Easter is happening earlier this year! Come to think of it, there are only 4 months until our annual conference and AGM!

Our apologies for the lateness of this newsletter; it was due out earlier this year but the holiday period got in the way!

Recently someone asked why the newsletter has all photos down the left column and the text down the right column – and suggested it could be more “interesting” looking by mixing it up in a more “magazine style”. There is really a very simple reason for the very simple design. As a pdf/electronic only publication, it is easier for readers to scroll up and down between pages, as opposed to a more magazine-styled layout that requires readers to scroll up and down within pages. That's not to say it may not change down the track!

We are looking for contributions from SLIANZ members and also affiliated or associated individuals or groups. If you have something you would like to share, raise, debate or promote with, or to, SLIANZ and our readers around the world, please submit it to newsletter@slianz.org.nz.

Photos: Special thanks must go to Susan Emerson, AUSLAN interpreter (Melbourne, Victoria), who kindly provided the photos from the ASLIA Annual National Conference.

Happy reading!

Alan Wendt & George Major



Alan Wendt and George Major representing SLIANZ and WASLI at the ASLIA Annual National Conference (ANC) in Sydney, September 2007

SLIANZ

Newsletter

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SLIANZ CONFERENCE 2008
Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th July
North Shore City, Auckland

CALL FOR PAPERS

“Best Practice: The Bridge to Professionalism”

How can we as interpreters apply the idea of best practice to our everyday work, and improve our professional practice?

We invite abstracts for papers (30 minutes) and workshops (90 minutes). These should relate to professional development of sign language interpreters and the conference theme of “Best Practice: The Bridge to Professionalism”.

For example:

- * Standards within the interpreting profession
- * Promoting our profession
- * Practical workshops to develop specific skills

Please send a summary (abstract) of your presentation – this should be less than 200 words. There is now an extended deadline to the **15th March 2008** for abstracts – please remember to include your name and contact details. Video or DVD submissions in NZSL are welcome; these should be less than 3 minutes.

We strongly support all members of SLIANZ / ASLIA / WASLI and Deaf consumers of interpreting services to think about what skills / experiences you can share with your colleagues, in a very supportive environment.

Submissions can be emailed to conference@slianz.org.nz or posted to P.O. Box 6090 Wellesley Street, Auckland. We will let you know the outcome of your submission by 31st March 2008.



Rangitoto Island (dormant volcano), seen from Auckland City

President's Report

Greetings members! First, I would like to extend my congratulations to the graduating AUT class of 2008 and wish you all the best for your developing careers as professional interpreters. In an earlier newsletter I shared 3 pieces of useful advice that I received when I graduated; they have stood me in good stead and might for you too. I make no guarantees!

- Foster a great SLIANZ mentor-mentee relationship with 1 or more interpreters – they come in handy at the best and worst of times.
- Keep a diary or journal – like a running record – of your working experiences (ethical, linguistic, social, professional and interpersonal, etc) and use it to reflect on your progression and development.
- Avoid drinking directly out of water bottles when on the job – it looks unprofessional and you run the risk of spilling water down your chin. Always unscrew the cap and sip!

Since the last newsletter, the committee has been beavering away with portfolio work, and of course preparations for our annual conference and AGM. Again the conference will be in Auckland, in July (more information further on), and this year will neatly coincide with the NZ Sign Language Teachers Association conference (www.nzslta.org.nz), which falls on the Friday and Saturday. We are also planning an exciting combined Saturday night event.

It has been 1 year now since I became the SLIANZ representative on the NZSTI Council (www.nzsti.org). We hold an affiliate membership to NZSTI and it has proved valuable to strengthen our links; and as always, SLIANZ ordinary members who choose to become members of NZSTI as well are able to do so at a discounted rate.

It has also been over 1 year now since SLIANZ became a paying member of WASLI – an organisation we are proud to be part of. Our Secretary, George Major, is the Oceania representative on the WASLI Board and is keeping SLIANZ members well-informed on WASLI activities.

The current WASLI Secretary and past Chair of ASLI(UK), Zane Hema, is – proudly – a New Zealander, and we are especially pleased to have him back in the Antipodes delivering mentoring workshops in 3 cities: Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. We are grateful that he has been able to squeeze us into his more socially inclined plans. Welcome home Zane!

As you may know, the United Nations declared 2008 to be the "Year of Languages" and UNESCO is the leading agency. I was invited to the NZ UNESCO launch here in Wellington; there was a wide representation of stakeholders who were invited to speak, including Rachel Noble, CEO of the Deaf Association of New Zealand. UNESCO states:

"To celebrate the International Year of Languages, UNESCO invites governments, United Nations organizations, civil society organizations, educational institutions, professional associations and all other stakeholders to increase their own activities to promote and protect all languages, particularly endangered languages, in all individual and collective contexts."

What a lofty vision! There will be an opportunity in May, during NZSL Week, for us to contribute to the Deaf community's efforts that celebrate, promote and protect the 3rd official language of New Zealand; I encourage you to keep abreast of plans for this week and see how you might be able to contribute.

At our AGM in July, a number of committee positions will be vacant. If you are interested in nominating yourself for committee position, think about it now. Feel free to contact me or other committee members to discuss this further. There is a lot of exciting work to do, and a great team to do it with.

The Sign Language Interpreters Association of New Zealand (SLIANZ Inc.) is a national professional organisation which represents and advances the profession by informing members and consumers and promoting high standards of practice and integrity in the profession. SLIANZ recognises New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) as the indigenous language of the NZ Deaf community and respects the diversity of communication modes and cultures of consumers of interpreting services.

Stop all the clocks: Our Secretary is Sydney-bound!

If you haven't heard already (you are clearly not well-connected to the grapevine), George Major, our Secretary, is heading to Sydney, Australia, very shortly to begin her PhD in linguistics at Macquarie University with Jemina Napier and Trevor Johnston. While we are sad to see her go, we are grateful that she will continue her Secretary term to our AGM in July, though with reduced responsibilities, as well as her term as the Oceania WASLI representative. In the meantime, we will be shoulder-tapping members to help fill the breach till the AGM in July.



George (Georgina) Major

In 2006, George and I agreed to take on the Secretary and President roles together in the knowledge that we would work well as a team because of, or even perhaps in spite of, our friendship! I take this opportunity now to thank George for her (continuing!) mammoth efforts and support to the committee and the membership – and to me personally as a friend, colleague, and sometimes minder. We wish her well with her studies (and a new sign language – good luck with all that AUSLAN fingerspelling!)

Alan Wendt

President

president@slanz.org.nz

Postgraduate Diploma in Auslan/English Interpreting

To be delivered in NZ, 2009-2010: Preliminary announcement

In response to interest from NZSL interpreters, Macquarie University has agreed to offer the Postgraduate Diploma in Auslan (NZSL)/English Interpreting in NZ, in collaboration with Victoria University. A pilot delivery is now being planned for 2009-2010. Course components will be taught using a blended approach of intensive teaching blocks, independent study, and online learning, so that study can be completed part-time (2 yrs), and over distance. The programme aims to advance the practical skills and professional knowledge base of working interpreters, and to increase skills in critical analysis, problem-solving, and interpersonal self-awareness in relation to interpreting. Rachel McKee is currently seeking avenues of funding to subsidise tuition fees, which will be in the region of \$10,000 per student (start saving now!). The viability of offering the course to NZ interpreters may depend upon finding a way to significantly lower this cost (please contact Rachel if you have any bright ideas or useful contacts in this regard). A minimum of 12 participants will be required to run the course. The next immediate step is for the two universities to sign a formal Memorandum of Understanding about conjoint delivery. Further developments about this initiative will be published in the next issue of the SLIANZ newsletter. Meanwhile, if you want to signal your interest in being kept informed about course developments, please email rachel.mckee@vuw.ac.nz.

SLIANZ Committee Portfolio updates

Below we provide a brief update for each of the SLIANZ committee portfolios. We hope you agree that for a volunteer committee we are using our time and skills in the best way for the benefit of our membership. We are always open to comments and suggestions for our work programme – these can be sent to the email addresses provided below, or general enquiries can be sent to secretary@slanz.org.nz. We will continually keep you updated on our portfolio work via this newsletter and the members' only pages of the new SLIANZ website.

Membership / Directory – Lynnley Pitcher

Membership notices/subs will be sent out soon so please keep an eye out for those. Also a Directory form will be sent to either confirm or update current entries. We no longer publish our directory in hard copy, only in electronic format. You can download a copy at www.slianz.org.nz.

Publicity / Liaison – Alan Wendt & Tania Davidson

Alan and Tania are investigating ways SLIANZ can provide awareness training or workshops on working with interpreters. They are also working on ways to better publicise SLIANZ and the importance of booking SLIANZ registered interpreters – in particular to the Deaf community and interpreter booking agencies. To this end, Lorraine Butler has designed some new promotional posters for us, which were first shown at the Deaf and Hearing Impaired expo in August 2007. They are also planning talks at Deaf clubs around the country in 2008, to promote SLIANZ and its members to Deaf people directly, as well as provide another mechanism for the Deaf community to raise issues with SLIANZ. Alan also represents SLIANZ on the NZSTI Council and regularly attends their meetings, providing reports on SLIANZ' progress as well as attending to general Council duties.

Working Conditions – Delys Magill & Micky Vale

The plan all along for this portfolio has been to create a paper outlining the position taken by SLIANZ on best practice working conditions for NZSL interpreters. We would like this resource to be useful not only to our members, but for those hearing and Deaf clients who work with interpreters, and also booking agencies. In time, we expect to create other relevant papers also. Building on last term's research, Delys and Micky have drafted and completed SLIANZ' first "Best Practice" paper on recommended Working Conditions for NZSL interpreters. The document includes facts and figures from the SLIANZ survey as well as overseas research findings. Delys and Micky would like to thank those who provided feedback on this document. The document is posted on the website. Future Best Practice paper ideas include a terms and conditions paper, as well as a teaming paper. We are always open to suggestions from our members – what other papers would you like to see?

WASLI – George Major

Since taking on the role as our WASLI regional representative, George has been working on making contact with interpreters in our region, keeping interpreters up to date with WASLI development, as well as contributing to WASLI board discussions (via email). Many WASLI conference related documents (minutes, country reports etc) as well as photos are now on the WASLI website www.wasli.org, along with bios and photos of the new Executive Board. George attended and presented at the ASLIA National Conference in Sydney, September 2007 (see report, this newsletter). If anyone has questions or suggestions for WASLI work in our region, these would be very welcome! Please email austoceania@wasli.org.

Professional Development – Delys Magill, George Major, Tania Davidson

We are well on track to having a Professional Development system ready for launching (in a trial phase to begin with) at the SLIANZ conference 2008. Delys mailed out PD survey part 2 last year, seeking ideas from members about what activities should be recognised under this system, as well as what SLIANZ should provide. Over the next 4 months, Delys, George and Tania will be working to collate these results (a report will be posted on our website), as well as design the PD system and related documents. On an ongoing basis, they are collecting relevant documents and resources (electronic where possible) and are working to coordinate up to 5 PD workshops around the country before the next conference. One has already been held in Wellington ("Lexical Variation and Interpreting in NZSL", presented by Rachel McKee, David McKee, George Major, and Sara Pivac – Deaf Studies Research Unit, VUW) – this was well attended by Wellington and



George Major presenting WASLI report and message from WASLI President Liz Scott-Gibson at the ASLIA ANC, Sept 2007

Palmerston North interpreters and Deaf people. The PD team is currently in discussions about workshops for other centres and will be in touch when more details are available.

Website – Lynnley Pitcher

Please remember to send documents you'd like to share with your colleagues via the members' only pages as well as feedback to enquiries@slianz.org.nz. The website is looking fantastic, with regular updates for the general public as well as our members. Our new members-only section is fast filling with information and administrative documents, and is proving to be an efficient and convenient repository for members.

Newsletter – Alan Wendt (with help from George Major)

You're reading it! Alan is back on newsletter duty! The SLIANZ committee hopes you are happy with our newsletter and welcome contributions or suggestions for improvement. We exchange newsletters with ASLIA (www.aslia.com.au) and ASLI (www.asli.org.uk) for the benefit of our members. Our newsletter is also sent to our colleagues in Fiji and we are also pleased to know that our newsletter makes it further afield than the Pacific, even to Sweden! Please send any contributions to newsletter@slianz.org.nz (international submissions welcome also). Deadline for the next newsletter will be posted on the SLIANZ website or contact us on newsletter@slianz.org.nz.

Conference – Delys Magill, Lynnley Pitcher, Scott Williams, Judith Reweti, Felicity Crowe (non-committee member)

See conference announcement and call for papers in this newsletter. As well as launching the trial professional development system, we hope to bring you a conference jam packed with practical professional development papers and workshops, and we encourage all our members to think about what skills and experience you have that you could share with your colleagues. Scott, Lynnley, Judith and Delys along with Felicity Crowe, an Auckland member, are working hard on conference plans. If you have feedback or questions, or if you would like to volunteer your time to be a part of the conference subcommittee, please email conference@slianz.org.nz.

Fundraising – Scott Williams & Tania Davidson

Scott and Tania – both experienced fundraisers – are working to find funding and sponsorship for priorities identified by the committee. These include the SLIANZ 2008 conference, funding to allow 2 interpreters from Fiji to attend our conference, and mentoring workshops, being held this month.

NZSL Act Implementation – Micky Vale

The NZSL Act Implementation portfolio was established last year at the SLIANZ AGM. Narrowing down the broad remit of taking action to implement the NZSL Act, we decided to focus initially on two aspects: producing guidelines for government departments on working with and booking sign language interpreters, and developing standards for sign language interpreters in legal settings. A Working Group was created in October 2007 to work on these projects. The Working Group consists of Micky Vale (SLIANZ Committee), Rachel McKee, Lynx, Catherine Winfrey and Zoe Haws. We would also like to welcome Victoria Manning to the working group, who brings a range of expertise. Sadly however, Lynx has had to temporarily withdraw from the Working Group and although we hope to welcome her back some time this year, we would also be keen to hear from other members who would like to join the Group. The SLIANZ committee is pleased to have secured a contract with the Office for Disability Issues to create guidelines for government departments. This project has started to examine existing guidelines and consultation has already taken place with SLIANZ members at the Regional Meetings held last year and early this year, as well as with organisations such as DANZ and the Wellington Community Interpreting Services.

Mentoring – Judith Reweti & Micky Vale

To date Judith and Micky have two exciting projects underway. The first is to ascertain exactly how many of our members are involved in either



Joneti Rokotuibau (Fiji), George Major (NZ), Inise Tawaketini (Fiji), Alan Wendt (NZ) at the end of the ASLIA ANC

mentoring or as a mentee, as well as comments and ideas for improving this system. A questionnaire was sent out last year and 40 responses were received. The results of the questionnaires have been collated and a brief report will soon be available on the SLIANZ website.

The second project is the Mentoring Workshops being offered this month by Zane Hema in Auckland & Wellington & Christchurch. For some, this will be an initial workshop and for others an update/refresher course. This will mean we will have a core group of members with basic knowledge & mentoring skills with which to support those we mentee. As we write, the Christchurch workshop will have taken place and the Wellington and Auckland workshops are fully booked.

In March we will start to match up prospective mentees to their mentors. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee, drop us an email on mentoring@slianz.org.nz and we will be in touch.

ASLIA ANC Conference 2007

Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, September 2007

George Major and Alan Wendt

In September 2007, we were both very lucky to go to the ASLIA National Conference (ANC) in Sydney. The SLIANZ committee agreed to financially assist Alan (as SLIANZ President) and George (as WASLI regional representative) to attend this conference. Being able to meet and learn from many of our Australian colleagues was invaluable for both of our roles, and we very much appreciate the investment made by SLIANZ.

Friday morning was an Interpreter Trainers Workshop, for which Rachel McKee was the main guest speaker. She gave a workshop on lexical variation and implications for interpreting training (Rachel later presented a version of this locally for staff and students of the DipSLI at AUT). We weren't actually registered for the ITW, but ASLIA kindly let us attend Rachel's workshop as 'supporters', since George had worked on the research presented.

The ANC conference was held on the Saturday and Sunday and was a really great conference! The quality of the papers was very high, and Rachel represented New Zealand well as the keynote speaker. Her paper was on a new research project she has done on the role of mouthing in NZSL and interpreting. She showed some video clips of NZ Deaf people of a variety of ages, and some differences between Auslan and NZSL (fingerspelling versus mouthing!) became very clear. Rachel then went on to discuss how NZSL interpreters change their use of mouthing depending on the age / background of the Deaf client, and other mouthing strategies, for example its use to expand the meaning of signs.

George also represented us on a panel that brought some international perspectives to interpreting. This panel included Rachel talking the NZSL Act and the (lack of) impact this has had since passing, Inise Tawaketini and Joneti Rokotuibau from Fiji (see their report in this newsletter also) about their recent training programme and new developments in Fiji, and George as the WASLI Australasia & Oceania representative talking about WASLI and the July WASLI conference.

It was helpful to listen to the sorts of issues that came out of both the papers and the ASLIA AGM – in many ways their issues are similar to ours. They are struggling to meet the demand for Deaf relay interpreters, though they now have Deaf relay interpreter members who have had training, something we hope New Zealand can look at in the future! This is particularly tricky in areas like the Northern Territories with Aboriginal and Islander (Torres Strait) Deaf communities, where an Auslan interpreter isn't often enough, especially in legal settings. Karin Fayd'herbe (see photo) and Alma Waia (photo: to the right) are both interpreters in NT and are particularly experienced in legal settings; Alma is a Deaf relay interpreter for Aboriginal and Islander Deaf communities.



Karin Fayd'herbe (AUSLAN interpreter) & Alma Waia (Deaf relay interpreter) presenting at ANC on cultural implications of interpreting for Deaf Aboriginal and Islander indigenous communities

The networking was one of the big highlights for us. We now have close contacts with the 3 branches of ASLIA still in operation (ASLIA NSW, ASLIA VIC and ASLIA in Western Australia). One of those is Jemina, who is now the new ASLIA National President too. This will bode well both for Trans-Tasman work between SLIANZ and ASLIA and also for George's role as our new WASLI regional representative. We also got to know Joneti and Inise from Fiji better, and met a number of the top interpreters and interpreter trainers there, who were all keen to talk about SLIANZ and building networks with New Zealand. And it sounds like our newsletter is well-read by their membership, which was nice to hear -- the feedback was very positive about it.

On the Saturday evening there was dinner and entertainment. The Australian Theatre for the Deaf performed 'Princess Smarty Pants' which was BRILLIANT! They also presented the award for ASLIA Interpreter of the Year -- this went to an interpreter named Gerry Shearim. It was the inaugural awards -- they actually had awards ceremonies first in each of the branches and then the winners of these went forward to the national ceremony. The winner got a trophy and a \$500 cash prize, as well as recognition from her peers!

The next ASLIA conference "Growing the Profession" will be in Darwin, 5 -- 8 September 2008 (<http://www.freewebs.com/anc2008/>) and we'd recommend you think about going! If the next conference is anything like this year's, it will be well worth the trip! We very much value our links with ASLIA and will continue to keep you updated. We send the ASLIA National newsletter to our members, and likewise our newsletter is sent to ASLIA members. Also, SLIANZ has recently subscribed to ASLIA Victoria Branch's *Across the Board* magazine. This hardcopy magazine is published 4 times a year and is full of interpreting articles, opinion pieces, updates, dilemmas etc (see <http://www.asliavic.com.au/atb.htm>). We definitely recommend this magazine as a professional development resource for interpreters. If you're interested in subscribing (\$AUD75 per year, often tax deductible!) please email secretary@slianz.org.nz -- we'll post you a copy to take a look at.



Joneti Rokotuibau, Rachel McKee, Inise Tawaketini: participants at the Interpreter Trainers' Workshop,

Interpreting Practice in Fiji

Inise Tawaketini (Chairperson) and Joneti Rokotuibau

The interpreting profession in Fiji is at an emergent stage and slowly developing. The first interpreting course was just recently conducted in 2006, where about 20 interpreters became "qualified", and in the same year, the interpreters committee was just established.

Interestingly, the idea to form the committee came from the president of the Fiji Association for the Deaf who happens to be deaf. Nine committee members started off the committee including an AVI volunteer, Kate Nelson and an interpreter from NZ, Ruth Spencer.

The aim for the committee at first was to look after our new full-time interpreters who were interpreting at the 2 prominent high schools i.e. Gospel High School and Marist Brothers High School. The aim of the committee has been furthered to standardising the interpreting practice here in Fiji. Kate and Ruth were our advisors and our facilitators for the interpreters' course as none of the local committee had any experience in this field. Their departure has been a great loss to the committee and to the FAD.

The main challenge now in Fiji is training more interpreters to be absorbed into education settings as more and more deaf students are mainstreaming into high schools. Most of the interpreters who graduated from the 10weeks intensive course in 2006 are full-time teachers in *Gospel School for the Deaf* and *Hilton Special School*. The other challenge is developing further the current interpreters we have, to be more competent and committed to the job.

We want to thank God for His continuous strength and wisdom that has enabled Fiji to come this far. We want to thank the two volunteers Kate and Ruth for their contributions to the interpreting course and to the

committee. They will be missed by all the interpreters and the deaf whom they have helped a lot. We also want to take this opportunity to thank ASLIA and SLIANZ for including Fiji in their development plans. VINAKA VAKALEVU!

Book review

The Interpreter: The Biography of Richard 'Dicky' Barrett
by Angela Caughey. Auckland: David Bateman Ltd, 1998. (296 pp.)

Reviewed by Rachel Locker McKee

(Ed: for our overseas readers, 'Te Reo Māori is the language of Māori people, the indigenous people of New Zealand)

There are several ways to become an interpreter: one is being 'married into the tribe' and being handy to fill a communication need at an opportune time. Thus, Dicky Barrett - whaler, sailor, speaker of rough and ready 'whaler Māori' - was thrust into the high stakes role of interpreting notorious land transactions for William Wakefield around 1840, as the New Zealand Company pursued its plan to purchase and on-sell millions of acres to the settlers streaming off ships from the UK. Step one in this bold enterprise was acquiring land from tangata whenua (*Ed: Māori term meaning indigenous people of country or area*), a tricky task that required the cooperation of someone with the local cultural, geographical and linguistic savvy necessary to broker negotiations in a manner that would achieve, one way or another, the New Zealand Company's objective of alienating Māori from possession of their land to make it available to settlers (at a profit, and in defiance of the British Crown's wishes). Interpreting is seldom a cut and dried role, but brokering or facilitating is a better description of Barrett's job if you consider navigating ships, distributing blankets and booty in payment, and breaking up skirmishes as beyond an interpreter's role.

Angela Caughey's biography of Dicky Barrett is an absorbing and solidly researched account (supplemented by excellent notes and illustrations) of the events, relationships, and moral tensions brought to bear on Barrett's 'man in the middle' role in a fraught process that had repercussions reaching into present day race politics. Barrett was one of the earliest European residents of NZ, arriving as a young whaler in Taranaki in 1828, where he married into Ati Awa. He later settled his family in the Marlborough Sounds, whaling in the Tory Strait and Kapiti area with partner Jacky Love and their Māori and European employees. In 1839 he was discovered by the newly arrived Wakefield, who invited him to swap whaling for a post as interpreter and cultural guide in transacting his intended land purchases in Te Whanganui a Tara (Wellington), Wanganui and Taranaki regions. Wakefield's options for suitable Māori-English speakers at that time were limited; some educated fluent bilinguals (such as the earliest missionaries and their offspring, and English literate Māori) lived in the far north, but Wakefield arrived in the Wellington-Marlborough area, and hastily seized upon Barrett's apparent fluency in Māori, his useful tribal connections, and his obliging (if uneducated) character as the tools needed to accomplish his plan. Barrett, for his part, probably saw opportunities to secure material advantages for his wife's kin and for himself.

I read this book over the summer when I had time to concentrate on the historical details (lots of dates, places, names) that surrounded 'The Interpreter's' story. I learned a lot about some of the earliest interactions between Māori and Pakeha; these revealed how current grievances are the culmination of a long chain of miscommunication and misconceptions between cultures, which become more understandable when illustrated by individual actions and events. For example, Barrett's incompetent (or expedient?) translation of explanations and 'agreements' over land purchases, and his failure to impart to the English parties his understanding of Māori customary land law and awareness of intertribal land disputes, resulted in unjust outcomes that laid the foundation for tensions leading up to the



Rachel presenting at the Interpreter Trainers Workshop (ITW) at the ASLIA ANC, September 2007

Interpreting is seldom a cut and dried role, but brokering or facilitating is a better description of Barrett's job if you consider navigating ships, distributing blankets and booty in payment, and breaking up skirmishes as beyond an interpreter's role. "

Taranaki Land Wars of the 1860s (and subsequent grievances). As a Wellingtonian, I was fascinated by the description of life in this area prior to the time of Pakeha settlement, and learned the details of how the heart of the city (particularly Te Aro Paa flat) was appropriated by assuming consent to sell, distributing the requisite blankets, and then proceeding to survey and build around the furious native residents. Caughey suggests that the interpreter shared some culpability in such outcomes, by giving the impression that his pidgin interpretation of complex deeds and foreign notions of land transfer was adequate, when he was probably quite aware that real comprehension of their meaning by Māori was minimal. She writes:

Barrett's attempts to explain Wakefield's concepts and objectives to the visitors [chiefs] must have been limited by the fact that however willing, he came to the job ill prepared. His grasp of the Māori language, after about eleven years in the country, was adequate for his needs, but not for the ambiguous statements and power plays of the people among whom he would be working, their different attitudes to the occupation of land, and the nuances of meaning in languages. Barrett had to try and explain 'buy' and 'sell' to the chiefs. They had no concepts to cover these terms, nor could they imagine the total alienation of land that such transactions involved ... [their] understanding did not encompass the hundreds of settlers who would appear, nor the long-term heartbreak and difficulties they would produce (p.93).



The Kiwis: Rachel McKee, George Major and Alan Wendt (paying attention to the "free food" announcement) at the ASLIA ANC

Perhaps the intrinsic challenges of interpreting, and the characteristics of some of those who profess to practise it, don't change greatly across time and place. Some of the limitations of shared thought-worlds, and skills of the go-between could easily be applied to describing some interpreted encounters between Deaf and hearing people.

Caughey illuminates how Barrett's motives and actions as an amateur interpreter vacillated - sometimes unwittingly and sometimes deliberately - between serving the aims of the NZ Company which coincided with his desire to see more of his own kind settled around him, protecting the mana whenua of his wife's hapu and iwi, and maintaining alliances with various people necessary to his own commercial and social survival. The author (an historian, not an interpreter) summarises Barrett's position thus:

Barrett could have been used by Wakefield; or, conversely, Barrett may have tried to use the opportunities, which William Wakefield's arrival presented, to increase his own fortunes. Complications must have arisen from the differing expectations or private agendas of the people involved, and consideration of their actions and words, taken with their apparent strengths and weaknesses, inferred hopes, ambitions and disappointments, may further clarify the background to the settlement of New Zealand (p. 19).

Barrett's story (really a bigger slice of NZ social history) highlights how interpreted encounters and their outcomes can be complex bundles of motives, thought-worlds, and decisions, in which it may be difficult to pinpoint the effect of the interpreter, or even of language itself. This is somewhat reassuring, but doesn't lessen our responsibility to aim for clarity, and for reflecting honestly on what we do. As a case study of the consequences of ethically conflicted interpreter behaviour and the stresses of an individual trying to find a 'neutral' position between membership of two cultural groups, Barrett's story is a real minefield that I found deeply interesting.

The Learning Connexion's Deaf connection

2008 marks the second year of The Learning Connexion's onsite Deaf programme. The programme got underway with a bang last year with the addition of a full time communicator and the enrolments of four Deaf students.

TLC, based in Island Bay, offers students a diploma in art and creativity which can be gained by onsite or extramural study. Deaf students who are currently studying from home are enjoying captioned course DVDs and course notes that have been adapted to better suit their visual learning style. TLC's extramural study option has been catering for Deaf students for nearly 4 years. Both the extramural and the recently established onsite Deaf programmes have proved to be a huge success.

In October last year, the Deaf students contributed artworks to TLC's first annual Deaf Exhibition. This was proudly supported by Wellington City Council, and was held on the mezzanine bridge in the Wellington Central Library. The theme of 2007's Deaf exhibition was "hands" as they are an important tool both for Deaf people who communicate using sign language, and for artists. The aim of the exhibition was to raise awareness of Deaf culture and to promote TLC's Deaf programme which is growing fast! A great turnout of 40 people attended the exhibition opening to the delight of the exhibiting students and Deaf programme staff. Some people had travelled from as far as Auckland and the Hawkes Bay to attend the event. The opening was filmed by TLC staff member Ruth Korvor, and these DVDs are available by contacting the Deaf programme coordinator Stefan Hall, who is TLC's first Deaf staff member. Make sure to keep an eye out for this year's Deaf exhibition!

As well as raising public awareness of Deaf culture, TLC's onsite Deaf students are opening the eyes of their fellow students and TLC staff to the Deaf world. So many students and staff were interested to learn New Zealand Sign Language, that TLC is now running 2 free sign language classes a week for those at the Island Bay campus.

The students taking part in the Deaf programme are finding it a valuable and rewarding course. Edan Chapman studies full time onsite. He found out about TLC through the Deaf Association and thought he'd take the plunge and work at what he's always known he was good at. Illustration and Computer based art are his two main passions, but he's also trying the entire syllabus to see if there is anything else that catches his attention. He has taken part in two exhibitions – and has already sold work. About TLC Edan says "The tutors are passionate and inspiring. I'm telling all my friends about what I'm doing and how I'm enjoying it".

Broadening TLC's programme to accommodate Deaf students has been a positive experience all-round, and 2008 is going to be another busy and exciting year for the Deaf programme. Anyone who is interested in learning more about this course is welcome to contact Stefan Hall by emailing stefan@tlc.ac.nz, or ring 0800 ART POWER for more information.

Intakes are every term and the term dates for 2008 are as follows:

Term 1 28 January to 28 March

Term 2 21 April to 20 June

Term 3 14 July to 12 September

Term 4 6 October to 5 December

NZSL Week Update

By now you will be familiar with the NZSL Week campaign logo – the butterfly – and will have no doubt learnt that butterflies are also deaf! SLIANZ is very pleased to be supporting the NZSL Week campaign again



*"Hands of Dreams" – final revision.
Artist's name unavailable at time of
publication.*



*"Hands"
Artist's name unavailable at time of
publication.*

this year, which will be held **May 5 – 11**. This year's theme is: "Sign Language is our Freedom of Expression"

AUT University Update

Shizue Sameshima, Interpreting Program Coordinator

2007 was another hectic and eventful year at AUT. Time now to focus on paperwork and in tidying up our messy office. (Yes, I admit that it is ME and not my colleagues who have made it this way. I need more shelving!)

Many students assume that they are the centre of our lives and that once they have gone staff relax and switch into holiday mode. No such luck! This is also the time to get more training for the various new technologies that are being introduced to make our lives easier and allow more creative ways of making SDL (self-directed learning) materials. The challenge ahead is how we can ensure the quality of the programme is not compromised when contact hours are once again being reduced for 2008. There will also be some minor changes to four paper names to better reflect the content that is taught.

In mid-September we were very fortunate to have Dr Rachel McKee present the findings to date from the Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) Deaf Studies Research Unit (DSRU) team on lexical variation in NZSL. Almost all of our students were able to attend, even though the second years were still in mid-semester break, and some qualified interpreters were also able to come. I am very much looking forward to further presentations on this topic (and others) from VUW.

The NZSL Public Speaking night in late October was another successful event. Students never fail to amaze me with what they can pull off on these nights and this year was no exception. As usual there was a lot of laughter. Thank you to all the Deaf people and interpreters and others who came to support the students on the night.

Lynette Pivac used her Distinguished Teaching Award grant to head to the States for a Deaf Studies conference in California in late October. She is full of enthusiasm after this visit, and will hopefully be presenting to the School of Languages about her experience for Staff Development Day in early December.

Many many thanks to those interpreters and interpreter booking people who helped us with Practicum Experience this year. As you all know, this paper cannot run without your support, and I do appreciate the extra time and effort you put in to make this happen every year. Also a big thank you to the people who come every year to present to the class, and the Deaf Community members who have given up their time to visit classes or to be videotaped. I can't mention names because some of that material will be used in future exams! But you know who you are, and we really truly appreciate the time and commitment you have given to support our programmes.

A big thanks also to the Visual Languages Section (AUT University) team for all their hard work, in particular Shannon Knox who came just for one semester to teach the Simultaneous Interpreting paper. I know it was a challenge for Shannon to teach the most crucial paper of the whole programme and juggle her other important priorities as well.

To end the year, I was privileged to facilitate a small workshop on 3 December for working interpreters on the topic of teaming and positioning and Delys also kindly offered to present her OOS Prevention workshop. I have heard this presentation on many occasions but am always surprised at how much I have forgotten – another good reminder.

In 2008 we start the semester much later than we did this year, so we will have camp almost as soon as we return. We will go to Kawau Island again on the weekend of March 14-16. Zane Hema has offered to take a workshop for students around this time also, which I am very excited about. Thank you everyone again for your continued support.



"Hatty Hands"

Edan Chapman

Interpreter Resources

Exclusive for SLIANZ members: ASLI (UK) – SLIANZ newsletters

ASLIA (UK) and SLIANZ have agreed to share their newsletters. On behalf of its members, SLIANZ would like to thank ASLIA for their generosity and encourage other sign language interpreting professional bodies, especially WASLI members, to increase their international links by sharing their newsletters. The ASLI publication is an exciting addition to the WASLI and ASLIA newsletters that our members currently receive.

SLIANZ members are reminded that the ASLI newsletter is not for wider distribution.

Human Rights Commission Te Waka Reo: National Language Policy Network

The Human Rights Commission facilitates a national language policy network as part of the New Zealand Diversity Action Programme. The Purpose of the network is to connect people and organisations with an interest or practical involvement in language issues, to keep them informed of initiatives and activities concerning languages, and to promote further development of national language policy.

If you would like to submit an item of interest, please email nzdiversity@hrc.co.nz. Please feel free to pass this update on to others who may be interested, as we would like to grow the network further. To join the network mailing list e-mail nzdiversity@hrc.co.nz and specify National Language Policy Network in the subject line.



George Major & Jemina Napier (outgoing WASLI Oceania representative and incoming ASLIA President), ASLIA ANC

Websites

World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI): www.wasli.org

Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association (ASLIA): www.aslia.org.au

Association of Sign Language Interpreters (UK): www.asli.org.uk

NZSTI Annual Conference

Auckland, Queen's Birthday weekend, May 31 – June 2

“Re-writing for new audiences – Translations between globalisation and localisation”

At its Annual Conference, the New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters wishes to explore old and new aspects of translation and interpreting as re-writing for new audiences in business, political, economic, cultural, literary, or community-interpreting contexts. For more information, please visit www.nzsti.org.

ASLIA National Conference 2008

CALL FOR PAPERS

Darwin, Australia, September 5 – 8

“Growing the Profession”

The conference theme is 'Growing the Profession', which looks to the future by sharing knowledge & experience, and generating new ideas on interpreting.

The ANC2008 Organising Committee is now asking for people to send proposals for presentations for the ASLIA National Conference 2008. Presentations should be relevant to the conference theme.

Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- Working with Indigenous clients
- Interpreting in remote areas
- Deaf Interpreters
- Consumer and/or interpreter perspectives on sign language interpreting
- Engaging with the Deaf community



ASLIA ANC 2008: "Growing the Profession"

- Future directions and changing needs

Presentations will be 45 minutes long, including 5-10 minutes question & answer time. We invite proposals from Deaf or hearing interpreters, people who work with interpreters, people who train interpreters, and people who do research on interpreting.

The official conference languages are spoken English and Auslan. If you are interested in presenting, please send us your proposal including:

- Your name & contact details
- Postal address
- Email address
- Title of presentation,
- And an abstract (summary) of your presentation. The abstract should be up to 300 words long in English, or up to 3 minutes long in Auslan.

Deadline Friday 7th March

Acceptance: Notifications will be made by Monday 31st March

Please send proposals to info@anc2008.info or mail to: ANC2008, Shop 14, Casuarina Plaza, Casuarina, NT, 0810, Australia

All presenters must accept responsibility for covering the cost of getting to Darwin, conference registration & accommodation.

www.freewebs.com/anc2008

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE SLIANZ NEWSLETTERS

We welcome any contributions to our newsletters from interpreters and anyone with an interest in the interpreting profession: announcements, articles, book reviews, opinion pieces, photos, anecdotes, etc. Please contact the Editors at newsletter@slanz.org.nz with any queries.

Dates

MARCH 2008						
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APRIL 2008						
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28	29	30				

March

21 Good Friday
24 Easter Monday

April

1 April Fool's Day
25 ANZAC Day

May

5-11 NZSL Week

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