

October 2018



SLIANZ

Sign Language Interpreters Association of New Zealand
Te Rōpū o Ngā Kaiwhakamārama Reo Turi o Aotearoa

In This Issue:

WASLI – Oceania Conference, Fiji, August 2018

Angela Murray

WASLI – Oceania Conference, Fiji, August 2018

Felicity Crowe

WASLI – Oceania Conference

By Rebeccah Curtis

Street Leverage

Rosie Henley

ASLIA National Conference

Rosie Henley

Enabling Good Lives, Systems Transformation and the MidCentral prototype.

Micky Vale

Update from AUT

George Major

Central North Island Squad

Sarah Billing

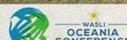
Coaching and mentoring skills workshop

Mickey Vale

WASLI – Oceania Conference

Nadi, Fiji, August 2018

The first WASLI Oceania Conference was held in Nadi Fiji from the 17th to the 19th of August. A large number of New Zealand Interpreters and Deaf people took the trip to Fiji and there were many Kiwi presenters as well. SLIANZ was able to contribute as a major sponsor of the event thanks to generous member donations. Thank you to Angela Murray for her big role on the organising committee working with partners from Australia and Fiji.



NO INTERPRETER IS AN ISLAND
FIJI 17 - 19 AUG 2018

WASLI – Oceania Conference Nadi, Fiji, August 2018

Angela Murray

Organising and delivering the WASLI Oceania Conference was a very challenging but rewarding experience. Originally, I thought there might be 60 delegates, but we were thrilled to have more than double that number with 138 delegates from 17 different countries. We had a good turnout of Kiwis in Fiji and many of them made us proud as the majority of presentations were from New Zealanders.

I arrived in Fiji 5 days before the conference was to start and headed firstly to Suva where I met with the local organising committee, other interpreters and the Fiji Association of the Deaf. I gathered lots of bits and pieces for the conference, was shown around Suva and the university, USP, where many interpreters work. Back in Nadi I met with the WASLI board for our annual face to face meeting. There were 6 of us physically present and others joined us online for a very productive two days.

The conference started off in true Fiji style with a kava ceremony. I was honoured to be one of the 4 special guests sitting up the front drinking the kava. It was not my first-time trying kava so was very nervous knowing the numbing effects kava can have on the tongue. I was worried I wouldn't be able to speak! Thankfully it wasn't too strong and went down smoothly. My favourite part was the dance that the Fijian interpreters did for us- it set the mood and got us all pumped for the weekend. I was particularly excited to welcome our Pacific Island delegates to Fiji. It was wonderful reconnecting with the Samoan, Solomon Island and PNG crew I already knew. We were fortunate to get funding to cover the costs of approx. 50 Pacific Islanders (including Fiji) interpreters and Deaf leaders.

Without the generous support of our sponsors we wouldn't have had so many delegates and the conference and social events wouldn't have evenuated as they did. Thank you again to all who supported us, especially to SLIANZ for being one of our conference partners.

WASLI – Oceania Conference Nadi, Fiji, August 2018

Angela Murray

It meant a lot to the local Fijian interpreters that we chose to hold the first ever WASLI Oceania Conference in their country. One Fijian interpreter recently told me: “The conference was a good booster for Fiji...the celebration for the International Week of the Deaf was nothing like we’ve had in years...this is all because the conference was brought to Fiji. Thank you for your support to the Pacific”

More heartening feedback: “The conference made such an impact on the Pacific delegates. We left feeling more confident, inspired, re-oriented”.

From a participant from outside of Oceania: “Such an amazing collaboration between both Deaf and hearing interpreters and community representation for the entire Oceania region has most definitely made this the ultimate conference experience. I feel like I will never be able to beat such a truly amazing experience, so many positive discussions and actions taking place on this side of the world”

Following the conference, we held a two day workshop for the Pacific Island Interpreters. The workshops were practical and tailored to the group’s needs focussing on ethics, role, working in a team and classifiers. At the end of both days the group of Pacific Deaf leaders met with us (they had separate workshops) and both groups were able to share their goals and expectations for future developments in the region. Thank you to our presenters Rachel McKee, Alan Wendt, Della Goswell, Debra Russell and David McKee.

I hope you’ve been able to see our fabulous photos and videos online of the conference and social events. Search for WASLI Oceania Conference and you should be able to find them. It was an honour to have a key role in this conference and although it was a lot of hard work the benefits for our region, for both the Deaf community and interpreters made it all worth it.



WASLI – Oceania Conference Nadi, Fiji, August 2018

Angela Murray



Opening Ceremony

Kiwis in Fiji



Conference organising committee

Kava Ceremony



WASLI – Oceania Conference Nadi, Fiji, August 2018

Felicity Crowe

A conference in Fiji what could be better, right? Nothing! As far as conferences go the WASLI conference was as good as they get. The Conference theme was “No Interpreter is an Island” and this played out on many levels throughout the three days. Throughout the Pacific, Deaf communities are coming together and are working alongside fledgling interpreter groups. The coming together of interpreters and Deaf people helped build collaboration in their own nations and between nations.

There were attendees from all over the Pacific; Samoa, PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Timor Less, Fiji, Australia, USA, England, Canada, Brazil and Hong Kong and no doubt I have forgotten some. We are all part of a global interpreting fraternity.

The opening ceremony kicked off the weekend and ensured an upbeat mood throughout. We had our first experience of Pacifica dancing and it got many of us up on the dance floor. The warmth of our hosts was evident from the outset, with everyone feeling welcome and in for a fun time.

Dr Debra Russel, WASLI President was the first speaker and her topic was “Collaboration and Communication: Interpreters & Deaf Communities”. WASLI demonstrates that collaboration begins at the top with its close working relationship with WFD. Collaboration is needed at all levels starting with the individual up to the international organizational level. The principles are the same and must be underpinned by “clear and constant communication, shared work plans and common goals”.

There were so many highlights during the conference. The opportunity to meet other interpreters and Deaf people and to share their stories and experiences was invaluable. Our own Angela Murray, who is the Oceania regional representation for WASLI and was on the conference committee, led in her understated but humorous way and made us all proud of her hard work and dedication. Ange facilitated a panel discussion titled, “Interpreting in the Islands: Current context and challenges”. This discussion highlighted the lives of Deaf people across the Pacific and the prejudice they deal with.

WASLI – Oceania Conference Nadi, Fiji, August 2018

Felicity Crowe

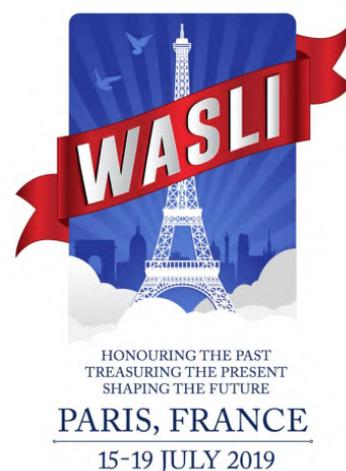
There was a good-sized contingent of Kiwis attending and presenting at the conference. There was Kelly Hodgins presenting on “Unpacking poetic language and frozen texts”; Rebeccah Curtis spoke about the SLIANZ Tuakana – Teina mentoring programme. George Major spoke about developing Professional Development Skills and Alan Wendt and Rachel Tate jointly talked about the collaborative work that is needed when working with refugees.

Jacqui Iseli presented her research on socio-linguistics for ni- Vanuatu Deaf people and Rachel Marr and Felicity Crowe made a presentation about Deaf empowerment in a Catholic Church setting. As you can see a widely diverse range of topics, but they all focused on collaboration between interpreters and Deaf participants. And while the sessions were valuable the highlights were the social occasions.

There was an opening night cocktail party on the hotel lawn surrounded by lush tropical plants and balmy night air. We met and mingled, exchanges names and experiences. The Saturday night Sunset Cruise was magical with it ending after a fantastic dance show and then a fundraising auction of cartoons that were drawn by a local artist and showed humorous aspects of our work. The weather was perfect and the sunset we watched from the boat’s deck was gorgeous.

The conference ended with many thank-you speeches, along with an announcement from the hotel of a possible tsunami. Luckily the hotel was on high ground and in no danger, the ensuing tsunami turned out to be nothing more than a ripple. I highly recommend you attend the WASLI conference that is happening next year in Paris. If it is as half as good as the Fijian one you are in for a treat.

As a member organisation, SLIANZ receives regular WASLI newsletters. These will be available from our website. We also encourage you to become an individual member to support WASLI’s work. Individual membership also gives you discounted registration costs for WASLI conferences – something to bear in mind if you are considering attending the conference in Paris in July next year.



WASLI – Oceania Conference

By Rebeccah Curtis



WASLI Oceania Conference

Fiji | No Interpreter is an Island | 17-19th Aug 2018
By Rebeccah Curtis

Photos courtesy of WASLI, Angela Murray or myself

WASLI – Oceania Conference

By Rebecca Curtis

Conference Organising Committee



Conference Bag, Lanyard, Program and SLIANZ banner up.

Opening Ceremony



Kava ceremony by Fijian Deaf group and Fiji Deaf Interpreter Krishneer Sen working on stage.

(From left) Angela Murray, WASLI Oceania Rep; Deb Russell, WASLI President; Nigel Howard WASLI Board Deaf Interpreter Rep; Leona Morris WFD Oceania rep.

WASLI – Oceania Conference

By Rebecca Curtis



Fijian Interpreters and Deaf Community performing an opening song for us.



WASLI – Oceania Conference By

Rebecca Curtis

The Presentations



Deb & Nigel, Keynote Speakers



Nigel's International Sign Workshop



Deb says "Be an Ally"



Nigel on 'Deafhood & Diversity'



Pacific Island Interpreters Panel

WASLI – Oceania Conference

By Rebecca Curtis



The amazing Angela Murray, who was the MC and Co-convenor for the Conference.



*Alan & Rachel presenting on working
with Deaf refugees.*



*Me presenting on our
Tuakana – Teina Programme*

There were other Kiwis who also presented, but unfortunately I don't have any pictures of them. They were;

- ◆ Zane, co-presenting with Krishneer on Teaching Interpreters in Papua New Guinea
- ◆ Kelly on Unpacking Poetic Language
- ◆ George and Shiz on Practicum
- ◆ Jacqui on the Vanuatu Deaf community
- ◆ Felicity and Rachel Marr on Deaf empowerment in the Catholic Church.

A really good effort from everyone who came from NZ! And a huge thank you to Angela for all her hard work.

WASLI – Oceania Conference

By Rebecca Curtis

Post Conference Workshop



This experienced and wonderful team worked with the Pacific Island Interpreters for a few days after the conference. Wow, those are some amazing teachers, right there!

We did manage a little fun during the conference too...



Me with some of the Fijian Interpreters, (from left) Gael, Krishneer (Deaf interpreter) and Eve (also a Deaf Interpreter)

WASLI – Oceania Conference

By Rebecca Curtis

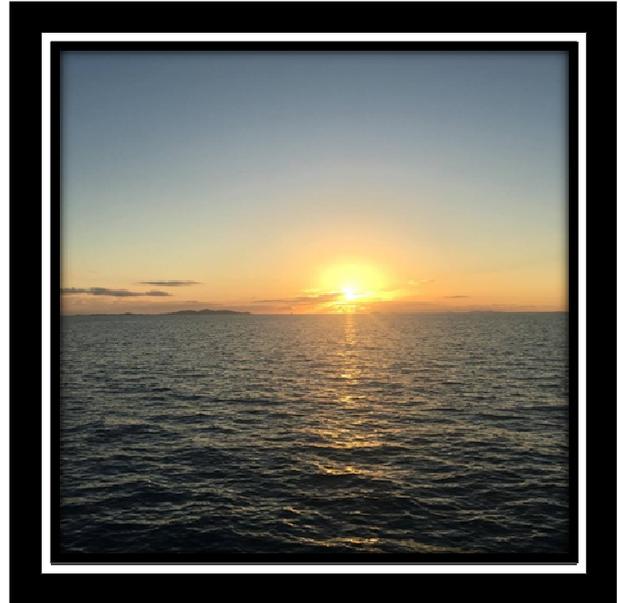


And then to the boat....



WASLI – Oceania Conference

By Rebeccah Curtis



WASLI – Oceania Conference

By Rebecca Curtis

Closing Ceremony



The banners were auctioned off and won by Deb and Wordsworth Interpreting and they donated them back to the Fiji Deaf Association and the Fijian Interpreters Group

WASLI – Oceania Conference

By Rebecca Curtis

**A little R & R was well deserved,
after....**



Street Leverage

Rosie Henley

Street Leverage is an US-based organisation with a wide online following of interpreters and industry stakeholders from around the globe. Its mission is to create virtual and physical spaces (via their website and live events) where people can critically re-examine the story and the work of the sign language interpreter in relation to the people that they serve. The first ever Street Leverage live event to be held outside the USA took place in Brisbane on the 21st September. I was privileged to attend this event with support from SLIANZ. The day was hosted by the Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association (ASLIA) and AUSLAN Connections (interpreter booking agency); and facilitated by Brandon Arthur, Street Leverage founder. Two presentations took place in the morning. These led onto interactive workshop sessions in the afternoon.

The first presenter, Liza Clews, focussed on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – Australia's new system of individualised funding for Deaf and disabled people. Liza's presentation covered some of challenges that NDIS presents for the Deaf community and the interpreting workforce.

Liza observed that NDIS is an opportunity for the Deaf community to become stronger but that currently there is a lot of uncertainty about changes under the new system within both the Deaf and the interpreting communities. The workshop was an opportunity for Deaf and hearing participants to share their thoughts, comments and questions with one another.

Discussion focussed on issues such as what the interpreter role and ethics looks like under the NDIS: Firstly, participants considered how interpreters facilitate ethical and effective access for Deaf people to get NDIS funding, for example, when interpreters are working between Deaf individuals and NDIS staff who have no Deaf-awareness? (Is this advocacy or cultural bridging?). Secondly, discussion focussed on questions relating to the interpreter role, ethics and working conditions as Deaf people (some of whom may have not previously used interpreters) increasingly engage interpreters for non-traditional interpreting assignments such as family events and local community activities.

The establishment of the NDIS has resulted in a huge increase in demand for interpreters, with not enough qualified interpreters available to fill the demand. For this and other reasons (such as affordability) many Deaf people are choosing to engage communicators, which has reignited the debate of when it is appropriate to use communicators, and who should make that decision. The question of whether the NDIS threatens the code of ethics was raised – especially when untrained individuals are being employed, and booking agencies are operating in a context where the demand for interpreter outstrips the supply. Workforce succession planning, working conditions, responsibility, power dynamics and relationships were all dis-

Street Leverage

Rosie Henley

Liza asked us to consider the potential pitfalls that come with so much opportunity and to reflect on what are we paying attention to, and what are we not focussing on. Her session concluded with a plea to participants to engage in ongoing dialogue on these issues.

The second presenter, Stef Linder, observed that the NDIS has made AUSLAN more visible within the wider hearing community. She asked participants to consider how interpreters use their increased visibility, power and privilege in ways that support the Deaf community. Workshop participants worked in groups discussing questions such as:

Power of language? – how do interpreters continue to get input from Deaf community about language as it evolves?

Power of interpreters? – Have issues around demand and supply resulted in a power imbalance between interpreters and the Deaf community?

Power of booking systems? – How much information is given to interpreters/ Deaf participants during the course of a booking? What factors influence who is booked for a job?

Power of Deaf people's opinions? - Do Deaf people's opinions feed into research and interpreter training? What weight do interpreters give to Deaf people's opinions in work? Do different generations of Deaf people want different things from interpreters?

Power dynamics within the interpreting community? - Is there a tension between native and non-native signers? If so why? what are the power dynamics/working practices between Deaf and hearing interpreters? Who decides when a Deaf interpreter is needed?

The power of qualification? – what does it say about power when Deaf interpreters are still low on the qualification scale? How is the power of interpreter qualification affected when unqualified communicators are increasingly being used?

Power dynamics within the NAATI certification and the perception of interpreters in the media and social media were also discussed. My group looked at issues around interpreters being employed at events at which there are no Deaf participants. We discussed the individual and collective dilemma Deaf people and interpreters face when considering where the limited interpreter workforce is employed. Throughout this session groups used the Mentimeter app to type in brief thoughts and comments, which came up on the big screen in real-time. There was limited time for reporting back in this workshop, the focus being more on starting an ongoing dialogue on these issues, than finding definitive answers to the questions.

Street Leverage

Rosie Henley

Stef outlined the history of AUSLAN and of interpreting, reflecting that the interpreting profession started with a love story between Deaf people and their hearing friends and family who served as the community's first interpreters. She commented on how the professionalisation of interpreting has created a distance between Deaf people and interpreters and called for that distance to be reduced— asking how visibility, power and privilege can be used to realign the communities.

The NDIS obviously raises moral, ethical and practical questions for the interpreting profession; and for Deaf people who have this opportunity to take stock of their lives and the things that they want.

Much of this is potentially relevant to us in NZ, even though the details of individualised funding under the planned roll-out of System Transformation look to be different. Street Leverage created a space for interpreters (both Deaf and hearing) and Deaf people to participate in reflective dialogue around these pressing philosophical, practical and ethical issues. The workshop occurred in AUSLAN (interpreted into ASL) and was structured to allow plenty of time for in-depth dialogue between participants. The event was both stimulating and collaborative and set the scene for the ASLIA National Conference which began on the following day

ASLIA National Conference

Rosie Henley

ASLIA National Conference is a biennial event which I had the pleasure of attending over the weekend of the 22nd - 23rd September in Brisbane. The theme of ANC2018 was Partners in Practice and while the conference officially began on Saturday 22nd September, a large crowd turned out on Friday evening to see the 2018 J W Flynn Orator, Susan Emerson. The evening was filled with stories and laughter as Susan talked about her life and her work as an interpreter and an interpreter trainer, reflecting on the partnerships and alliances within and around the Deaf and interpreter communities that have shaped and sustained her.

The conference formally began on Saturday, with traditional Welcome to Country songs and dances performed by a local Aboriginal cultural group. Brandon Arthur of Street Leverage (see previous report) then delivered the opening keynote address in ASL (which was skilfully interpreted into AUSLAN by two Deaf interpreters). Brandon noted the current market disruption occurring under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (Australia's new system of individualised funding), drawing on the advent of video interpreting services in the States in the 1990s as an example of how legislative changes can disrupt an interpreting industry. He shared observations and lessons learned from that experience; and alluded to the changes to interpreter certification that are currently occurring in Australia. Brandon's presentation concluded with a reminder to interpreters that no matter what industrial or professional upheavals or challenges are occurring in the background, the provision of quality interpreting services remains the most critical part of the equation for Deaf people in a society where they face systemic barriers to participation.

The conference itself was conducted mostly in AUSLAN (seamlessly interpreted into English by the ANC2018 interpreting team) and was attended by Deaf and hearing participants and presenters. It involved several local and National Deaf organisations who held stalls in the conference foyer and/or hosted conference sessions and the gala dinner. Conference papers included a mixture of research and practice-based presentations all of which highlighted different types of partnerships – These included partnerships between interpreters when teaming; as well as partnerships between interpreters and legal professionals; researchers; Deaf participants; hearing participants; service providers; interpreter training providers; the national accreditation body (NAATI); technology and media providers; and, notably, with the Deaf community - particularly in relation to the ongoing challenges and opportunities that the NDIS presents. Sadly, I was unable to attend every workshop as many of the sessions were concurrent. But those that I did attend challenged me to think more deeply about how we, as interpreters, can maintain our professional role and also foster collaborative and respectful relationships as a way to navigate some of the more challenging aspects of our work.

Enabling Good Lives, Systems Transformation and the MidCentral prototype.

Micky Vale

By now you have probably heard the terms 'EGL' and 'Systems Transformation' floating around, but you may not quite know what they mean, and what the possible implications are for interpreters and the Deaf community.

Background

Enabling Good Lives (EGL) is a partnership between the disability sector and government agencies, aimed at long-term transformation of how disabled people and families are supported to live everyday lives. The vision of EGL is that in the future, disabled people and their families will have greater choice and control over their lives and supports, and make more use of natural and universally available supports.

To work towards this vision, the EGL approach involves changes in how supports and services are provided and funded (hence, Systems Transformation). Disabled people and their whānau will receive individualised funding from across government departments, so that have more control over the kinds of support and services they want to receive. Other characteristics of the EGL approach are that the person is considered in their wider context; strengthening of families or whānau of disabled people; and community building to develop natural supports.

This new approach has been piloted with small groups of disabled people in two areas since 2012: a three year demonstration in Christchurch, and a current demonstration in the Waikato. The experiences of disabled people in these pilots have generally been positive, and so there is the intention to roll out the EGL approach in other areas.

A prototype of what the transformed system might look like has just begun in the MidCentral area (Palmerston North, Horowhenua, Manawatu, Ōtaki and Tararua). This prototype is also known as Mana Whaikaha. Disabled people (including Deaf people) living in this area who meet the eligibility criteria can choose to join Mana Whaikaha and receive individualised funding. Individuals can get information and plan for a funding package via a contact person, or they can work with a Kaitūhono / Connector (who can guide people through the system but will not make decisions for them).

At this early stage the details of the new system are still very uncertain. The prototype uses a 'try, learn and adjust' approach – in other words, there will be on-going feedback from disabled people, whānau, providers, workforce, government agencies and staff on how things are going. Advice on the final model and plans

Enabling Good Lives, Systems Transformation and the MidCentral prototype.

Micky Vale

What does all this mean for interpreters?

Existing interpreting service provision for which the responsibility sits with a government agency will continue to operate, i.e. when a Deaf person has a hospital appointment or a Work and Income appointment, interpreters will be provided under existing (or renewed) contracts.

Currently, Workbridge funding is still separate but people who choose to join Mana Whaikaha may get the choice next year whether to manage their Workbridge funding individually or to continue with the current arrangement.

Deaf people who take part in the MidCentral prototype (or eventually nationwide) may choose to purchase some services directly, and that includes interpreters. The emphasis on 'natural supports' means that individuals could potentially choose to use a family member or a person without interpreting qualifications. They could choose to contact interpreters directly or via an agency. Rather than having set criteria around the situations in which interpreters can be provided, Deaf people choose to get interpreters for leisure or family events etc.

What is happening to prepare for these changes?

You may have seen that there have been a number of information events and livestreams for the Deaf community, and there are NZSL videos available on the EGL and ODI websites.

Annette Hansen has been appointed to the Mana Whaikaha leadership group and she will continue to liaise with the Deaf community in the MidCentral area.

SLIANZ has co-opted Sarah Billing, currently based in Palmerston North, to work with us to ensure that interpreters stay up-to-date about developments, and to represent SLIANZ where necessary. Sarah has already provided a lot of input and has established good connections with others in the MidCentral area.

Last week, Micky and Sarah met with Sacha O'Dea, the programme lead for Systems Transformation, to discuss how SLIANZ could be involved in the ongoing monitoring and feedback on Mana Whaikaha and beyond. We also raised some concerns, especially around the current lack of standards which means that potentially the use of unqualified 'interpreters' might increase, and around the possible impact of these funding changes on our small and unevenly spread workforce, in terms of supply and demand. We have been told that it may be possible to get together a group of 'Deaf sector' stakeholders in the MidCentral area to discuss our concerns in more detail. . In common with other service providers in the disability sector, it will be left up to interpreters themselves (and interpreter providers) to create appropriate 'business models' to deliver services under the new model – so, for example, there may not be any guidance on appropriate

Enabling Good Lives, Systems Transformation and the MidCentral prototype.

Micky Vale

Separately from this meeting, the Deaf Aotearoa Board have also approached us to ask how we can work together on this issue. We welcome the opportunity to work together with the Deaf community, and over the next couple of months we will focus on providing opportunities for Deaf people, interpreters, and agencies to have these conversations.

We will also tie this in with our PD programme and hope to run some workshops not only looking at how our way of working could change, but also at the kind of business skills we will need as directly contracted individuals – e.g. setting up invoicing systems and terms and conditions, working safely, maintaining good records, ensuring that you have good supervision and backup systems etc.. Since the most immediate impact of EGL is in the Waikato and MidCentral areas, we hope to have a workshop either in Hamilton or in Palmerston North in early December, with similar workshops planned for Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington in the New Year (February / March).

Although the details of the Systems Transformation are quite different to the Australian individualised funding model under the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme), there are also strong parallels. As you will see from Rosie Henley's report in this newsletter, our ASLIA colleagues are very active in discussing these issues and we will stay in close touch with the ASLIA Board to learn from them and share experiences.

Please contact Sarah Billing or myself (Micky Vale) if you have questions, suggestions, or especially if you would like to facilitate a workshop (or part of one).

Update from AUT

George Major

Kia ora koutou and warm greetings from the team at AUT.

We have some big news to share if you have not heard via the interpreter grapevine yet – Lynette Pivac is retiring from her role as senior lecturer at AUT in November this year. This is truly the end of an era for our profession! Lynette has worked at AUT since 1992 and so has been hugely involved in the training of most NZSL interpreters working in NZ today.

We are really sad, of course – life at AUT is not going to be the same without Lynette here. On a personal level we worry that our work/social life balance will not be as healthy without Lynette's insistence that it's best to have meetings over coffee or lunch [Lynette just read this and would like to add "because it's very important to have FUN at work!"]. On a professional level the programme will dearly miss the vast amount of experience Lynette brings, and the care that she invests in helping all NZSL students (and future interpreters) achieve the very best they can. Lynette leaves big shoes to fill but she has taught us very well. At the same time, we are also really happy for Lynette. No more 8am classes, no more university admin, but plenty of new projects to get stuck into! It will be a fun retirement ☐

Lynette would like to add a few words to this:

"There is so much I could say, I have so many memories from my time at AUT. It has always been fun, challenging, and I'm always learning. It's not just about me but also about all the wonderful staff and students I have worked with closely over the years. I will remember

many wonderful graduations. It's been amazing to see how the NZSL interpreting profession

has grown since I started here. We used to have no interpreters at all... now we have a lot of qualified and skilled interpreters in NZ, and still the demand to train many more. I'm leaving

the programme in good hands, there is an excellent team here at AUT. I will miss all the café

catch ups, the chats with staff and students, and the beautiful view from my office. I will not



Update from AUT

George Major

On a different note...

This update is also a good chance to extend a massive thank you to all the interpreters (and agencies and deaf and hearing people!) around NZ who have supported our practicum students this year. We have been blown away by interpreters' generosity – not only welcoming our students to observe and work alongside them, but also taking a lot of time to help them prepare and debrief. I've heard about occasions where a job has been cancelled or finished early, and the interpreters take the time to sit down with our students and share advice, rather than leave straight away. On other occasions interpreters don't have time to stay but will make a time to meet later, or phone the students to debrief. Other interpreters have given up their time to come and share their experiences in our lectures at AUT. All in all, this support from the profession not only extends our students' learning and readiness for professional practice, it also helps develop a strong sense of collegiality in the next generation of interpreters. So, a really big thank you to SLIANZ members for all of your support of practicum.

We are just heading into the very busy period of final exams – wishing our students all the very best for their exams! We are looking forward to a great graduation December 14th this year, with graduates from both interpreting and Deaf Studies.

Central North Island Squad

Sarah Billing



CNIS stands for Central North Island Squad!

The dearly missed Ruth Spencer Medcalf set up our group when she realised there were a few of us knocking about in the regions. We are - myself from Palmerston North, Kerry Locker-Lampson from Hawkes Bay, Catherine Bloomfield representing the Wairarapa and Bernadette Cutelli from Whanganui. And we have just welcomed Fiona Love from Shannon to our group. Hayley Smeaton from Feilding is also in the loop. We meet 3 to 4 times a year for professional development and collegial support. Each of us brings a plate and a recent interpreting experience to share.

We follow the What? So, what? Now what? structure and sometimes the Demand-Control Schema as a framework for our discussions. I think we all get a lot out of our time together because as regional Interpreters we can feel a bit isolated. It is also an opportunity to share some of the ups and downs of interpreting life. As well as yummy food!

Cheers Ruth, for setting up the Squad :-)



Coaching and mentoring skills workshop

Mickey Vale

We are planning a coaching and mentoring skills workshop in Auckland, run by Aly McNicoll from the NZ Coaching and Mentoring Centre. This workshop is especially aimed at current tuakana / mentors but will be open to all SLIANZ members (including teina / mentees). The workshop will be tailored to sign language interpreters, but you can have a look at <https://www.coachingmentoring.co.nz/training/coaching-mentoring-skills> to give you a general idea of the content.

- Our planned date is 24th November, to start around 10 or 10:30 a.m. and finish at 3 or 3:30pm.
 - Cost for current tuakana is expected to be \$50 and for others \$100 (to be confirmed depending on attendance numbers).
 - You may be able to apply to the Individual Development Fund to subsidise your travel or attendance costs.
 - We need a minimum number of people attending to run this workshop, and we also have a maximum (20 people).
 - If the date of 24th November doesn't fit in with enough people, then we will look to postpone the workshop until February next year.
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Important Dates:

November 2018

6th and 8th – iSign Interpreter Workshop “Back to Basics” Part Two in Wellington

8th – SLIANZ Committee Meeting

17th – iSign Interpreter Workshop “Back to Basics” Part Two in Auckland

24th – Coaching/Mentoring Workshop

December 2018

13th - SLIANZ Committee Meeting

21st of December to 20th January – Christmas Close Down

February 2019

10th – SLIANZ Committee Face to Face

March 2019

14th - SLIANZ Committee Meeting

April 2019

11th - SLIANZ Committee Meeting

May 2019

16th - SLIANZ Committee Meeting

Deafview Conference date to be announced

June 2019

13th - SLIANZ Committee Meeting

29th to 30th – SLIANZ Conference and AGM in Wellington

July 2019

15th to 19th – WASLI Conference “Honouring the past, treasuring the present, shaping the future.”
