

Committee update September 2018



*Committee at the Face-to-Face meeting in Auckland,
15-16 September 2018.*

*With many thanks to Felicity Crowe and Chris Browne
for providing the venue.*

Welcome to this first update from your 2018 – 2019 Committee. The first two months since the AGM and PD day on 7th July have flown by. We had our first video conference meeting in August and last weekend we got together in Auckland for our Face-to-Face planning meeting. Here you can read our committee profiles and summaries of what we have been working on so far. We will aim to send an update to members after every committee meeting.

Committee 2018-19

The following committee members were elected at the AGM:

President: Mireille (Micky) Vale
Treasurer: Louise Hackshaw
Secretary: Tarsha Cutelli
Committee: Kimberley Olivecrona
Shizue (Shiz) Sameshima
Dale Thomas
Debbie Lynch

Unfortunately, Debbie has since had to withdraw, and we therefore have a vacancy on the committee. More on that later in this update. Thank you Debbie for your hard work over the past years and we wish you all the best.

At our Face-to-Face meeting, we allocated responsibilities following the restructured SLIANZ governance model implemented by previous committees in the past few years. Each committee member will oversee one or more strands of SLIANZ's operations at a governance level, as well as contributing work to specific portfolios or projects.

Previous President Rebeccah Curtis and previous committee member Noreen Smith gave up their time to attend part of the Face-to-Face to allow us to have a smooth handover. In her explanation of the new SLIANZ structure, Rebeccah stressed that it was important for the committee not just to get tasks done, but also to get to know each other better and to have a sense that we belong to the same SLIANZ whanau. So in the spirit of whakawhanaungatanga, we have written a brief profile of ourselves to share with you.



Micky Vale – President

Main operational strand: Relationships

Portfolios / projects: Standards / strategy, Liaison (Deaf Aotearoa, ASLIA, Other), Website, AGM, Complaints, Conference (with Wellington subcommittee)

I'm originally Dutch and got involved with the Deaf community as a 13-year-old when a foster family with six deaf children moved in next door. This led to night classes in Sign Language of the Netherlands, and eventually a move to the UK in 1989 to study part-time for an M.A. in Sign Linguistics. In my final year at uni I met my husband and when his parents moved to New Zealand, we followed suit. We moved to Wellington in 2004 and can't imagine ever living anywhere else now. We have a daughter who starts high school this year.

After completing my M.A. and working as a note-taker, electronic note-taker and Communication Support Worker in primary, secondary and tertiary education, I completed a Postgraduate Diploma in BSL/English Interpreting in 2004. In New Zealand I have mainly interpreted in tertiary education settings, but I also work as a community interpreter. Since 2008 I have worked intermittently in the Deaf Studies Research Unit as the Database Manager for the NZSL Online Dictionary. I occasionally teach on the NZSL courses at Victoria University and taught on the Postgraduate Diploma in sign language interpreting. I completed my PhD in 2017.

My goal for the coming term is to continue to nurture the relationships SLIANZ has built with other organisations as we navigate through a changing environment: different funding mechanisms, developments around standards and registration, and interpreting for remote audiences amongst other issues. Regular professional development opportunities and information sharing are also high on my priority list.



Louise Hackshaw – Treasurer

Main operational strand: Finance, Membership

Portfolios / projects: Membership registration, ID Cards, Directory, Constitution

Born and bred in Auckland, and back in the “Big Smoke” after 19 months traveling the country in a motorhome.

I graduated with the DipSLI in 2000 and interpreted predominantly in Tertiary Education, with minor stints in the community. Completed the Post Graduate Diploma in Sign Language Interpreting through Macquarie University / VUW in 2012. I also spent about 5 years teaching part-time on the DipSLI / BA at AUT.

In my previous life I worked in the travel industry.

I am currently working for Connect Interpreting as Regional Scheduling Manager.

My goal for the NZSL interpreting profession would be to see more member involvement in SLIANZ, particularly from those in the regions, and increased opportunities for all our members to further education after graduating. I also hope to see the inclusion of Deaf interpreters in the profession in the not too distant future.



Tarsha Cutelli - Secretary

Main operational strand: Human Resources

Portfolios / projects: Committee induction, Meetings, Face to Face, Welcome to new members

Originally I'm from Whanganui, but started learning NZSL after a move to Lower Hutt when I was 24. I have previously trained, and worked, as a secretary. I have also completed Level 4 and 5 computing. I am currently studying Māori.

I graduated in July 2012. I completed the Medical Interpreting and Legal Interpreting Certificates in 2013. I have mostly worked in compulsory education settings, but have been working in tertiary and doing more community work recently. I have a special interest in medical interpreting as I grew up quite sick and know what it's like to not understand the doctor!

I am a twin, and my twin sister B is also an NZSL Interpreter.

My goals for the next term are for SLIANZ to really get our heads around the Standards/Registry and to support the committee in whatever way I can!



Kimberley Olivecrona – Committee member

Main operational strand: Communications

Portfolios / projects: Website, Publicity/PR, Tuakana teina, Liaison (NZSTI)

Originally born and bred in Wellington, I moved to Auckland in 2014 to study at AUT. Having completed my degree I decided that Auckland is where I would stay. I have done previous studies at both Victoria University and Massey University which has lead me to be currently part way through a Bachelor in Business Studies, this was put on hold when I decided to pursue a career as a New Zealand Sign Language Interpreter.

I completed the Bachelor of Arts NZSL - English Interpreting in 2016 and have been working interpreting as one of the Connect Interpreting Interns. I've been enjoying interpreting in the community as well as some Tertiary interpreting.

One of my goals for the next term is, with the launch of the new website, I am looking forward to working with this platform to make the SLIANZ website an even more useful resource for Interpreters, Deaf community members and the wider community in general.



Dale Thomas

Main operational strand: Communications

Portfolios / projects: Social Media, Internal procedures / documents, Drive maintenance

I'm a young buck from the mighty town of Hamilton (Go Chiefs!). For those who do not know who I am, I am a CODA of two parents and so naturally, NZSL was my first language and eventually picked up English through my time at primary school. As for me personally, I like to catch up with mates and throw down with a board/card game or three. Right now Auckland is where I live but Hamilton will always be home for me.

As the eldest child in my family, I had the delight/privilege/curse of being the family interpreter. Little did young Dale know that all of those years being family interpreter help lead him to becoming a professional interpreter! Completing my time at university in 2016, where some of my rough edges were smoothed out, I have been working as an NZSL interpreter since that time. Another area of interest that I had was actually economics and business management. It was a field I was always interested in, and if I was not interpreting, it's where I'd be.

My role on the SLIANZ committee is to continue being a strong supporting member, providing a youthful perspective that may come in handy when tackling some of the issues that may arise.



Shizue (Shiz) Sameshima – Committee member

Main operational strand: Quality / Procedures

Portfolios / projects: Professional development, Mentoring (wider membership), Newsletter, Membership communications

I'm originally from Japan but I came to New Zealand when I was 7. I graduated as an interpreter in 1996 and now work booking interpreters for one of the agencies.

For the next term, I would like to contribute something back to SLIANZ as it has been a long time since I last served on the committee.



Rose Butler-Stoney – co-opted

Portfolio: Tuakana/Teina programme

I live in the Franklin district; graduated AUT in the year 2000 and then completed my Post-graduate studies with Macquarie/Victoria University in 2011. I have had the opportunity to work as an Interpreter locally and abroad, spending 4 years in the UK. I am currently commencing my fifth year with the SLIANZ committee, at present in a co-opted role as the Tuakana/Teina programme leader and am dedicated to continuing to work towards implementing this programme. I currently divide my time between the Video Interpreting Service and tertiary.



Angela Murray – co-opted

Portfolio: WASLI Representative

Angela has served as the Oceania representative for the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) for a number of years, and has led much of the work in organising the first Regional WASLI Oceania Conference in Fiji. Next year, the role will pass back to the other major interpreter association in the region, our Australian colleagues in ASLIA.

Updates from the AGM / PD 7th July 2018

PD at the AGM

In lieu of a conference on home ground (with many members focused on the first WASLI Oceania regional conference this year), the AGM was combined with a programme of discussions around standards and registration as well as an afternoon of workshops by George Major and Rosie Henley (interpreter role fluidity and role space), Thora Huebner (how to team with a Deaf interpreter in a minimal language setting), Natasha Jumelet (How to work successfully with Deaf community that have minimal language), and Julie Whitcombe (Legal speak and how to make it accessible).

Feedback via a survey afterwards was mainly positive, especially about the PD workshops, with a number of good suggestions of themes for further PD workshops or next year's conference. Members would like to see more discussion time for important agenda items at the AGM, but less discussion on details around the wording of remits; an opportunity to ask questions from committee candidates; livestreaming of the AGM for members not able to attend; and a clear agenda that indicates which items are being voted on.

Logo



The outcome of last year's logo competition was shared and winner James Bichan was invited to explain the significance of his design. The previous committee also carried out consultation with various stakeholders and advisers about a Te Reo Māori name for our organisation. We are in the process of going through all our templates and any place we have a digital presence to replace the logo. Thank you again James for your work on this (including giving us a comprehensive style guide which I hope I haven't broken already!) and thank you to everyone else who took part in the competition.

Website

The SLIANZ website will shortly move to a Wordpress platform which is easier to manage and update. Unfortunately there has been some delay in this project but we are now hoping to have the new site up and running within the next 3-4 weeks.

E-pamphlet

Another project completed by last term's committee was the creation of three 'e-pamphlets': videos to help hearing and Deaf presenters to understand the demands of platform interpreting and what they can do in preparation. There have already been a number of requests to share the e-pamphlets via other websites, but for the moment the intention is to launch them on our new website so that other sources can provide a hyperlink.

Standards and registration

A good part of the day was devoted to discussing some options for a possible interpreter registration system. The discussion was guided by six questions posed by Fitzgerald & Associates on behalf of the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) around the make-up of a registry board and whether the registry would be administered by an independent body or by SLIANZ.

A summary of the discussions was sent round to SLIANZ members a few days after the AGM. This summary covered the implications, advantages and disadvantages of the different administration options as well as other concerns and questions around the registry's development and implementation. The overall opinion of the membership was that at this point there is no clear preference for either an independent body or an administrative arm of SLIANZ to maintain the register.

The summary we submitted was included in its entirety in Fitzgerald & Associates' third report to the ODI, which was mainly focused on feedback from the Deaf community, interpreter coordinating agencies, and government and related agencies that use interpreting services. This report will shortly be available to the public via the ODI website. In the meantime, the report has been shared with SLIANZ committee members to assist us in our planning for the year. We appreciate the ODI's willingness to release this information to us early.

While the report indicates that there is widespread support from all quarters for developing a registration system and agreement as to the key components of a registry,

there are still many uncertainties about how a registry would be funded and administered. We have indicated to the ODI that SLIANZ welcomes ongoing close involvement in discussions around the establishment of a registry, and we will update you as often as we can.

In the meantime, the summary from the AGM discussions provides us with a good starting point for preparing both as individuals and as an organisation for a future where registration might be part of our professional training and working life. We hope to provide plenty of opportunities for discussion as well as a practical professional development programme and further work on the tuakana teina programme and wider mentoring opportunities.

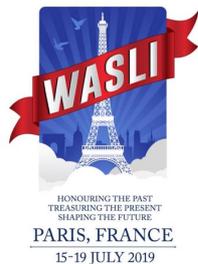
WASLI

The first WASLI Oceania Conference was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 17-19 August. A large number of NZ 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.

Our first newsletter for the year, planned for the end of October, will be filled with reports back from the conference. If you presented in Fiji and we haven't asked you to write anything yet, expect a shoulder tap in the near future!



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're considering attending the conference in Paris in July next year.

<https://wasli.org/membership/individual-member>

PD

Due to the difficulties with our website, it has been difficult to trace some submissions for PD points. Rather than asking people to resubmit, the committee has agreed that we will not record the points from last membership year. Instead, we will focus on making it easier to record your points via the new website, and streamlining the process for the current membership year.

If you are considering applying for the Independent Development Fund, one of the criteria is still that you must have obtained at least 16 PD points in the past year. You will be asked to provide evidence of this with your application.

The PD subcommittee (led by Shiz) are working on setting the year's priorities for the Independent Development Fund along with deadlines for the funding rounds and an indication as to how much funding will be available this year.

At the AGM, I raised the idea of setting a few overall themes for the year and combining online discussions, local activities and SLIANZ-run PD events focused on the same theme, culminating in a newsletter summarising the discussions. As already mentioned, our first newsletter for the year will be taken up with conference reports from WASLI Fiji as well as from ASLIA National Conference and Street Leverage Australia. After that, we hope to kick off with our first theme: **Enabling Good Lives: what does it mean for interpreters and the Deaf community?** We will aim to provide you with information around the changes in the funding system, and we hope you will join us in online discussions via our Facebook members group. We also plan to hold practical workshops in the regions with hints and tips on how to run your own business, since one of the impacts of the funding changes may be that some Deaf clients will choose to engage interpreters directly rather than through an agency. A newsletter is planned for the beginning of February 2019.

Further themes and workshops will be confirmed later in the year, but plans are underway for a workshop for mentors / tuakana in Auckland before the end of the year (this will be open to all members). We also plan to hold regional meetings in April / May 2019 where your committee members will share reports and you have the opportunity to ask questions. We hope that sharing this information early will streamline the AGM process. We will probably combine the regional meetings with a PD workshop around OOS prevention and the new WorkSafe regulations.

Given that we are a very small committee this year, we would really appreciate a volunteer from each region to coordinate dates, times and venues locally. There is some scope in the budget for SLIANZ to provide some funding for locally run PD events as well. If you have a great idea for a workshop, get in touch!

Conference: save the dates!

The conference will be held in Wellington next year. Because a number of members will want to go to WASLI and/or WFD Congress in Paris, we're proposing to have the conference a little earlier this time, the weekend of 28-30 June 2019. We realise that this is not yet in the school holidays, so if we get a lot of requests we can postpone to 5-7 July. At the moment, our Facebook poll shows a preference for the earlier date though.

Tuakana Teina

Since SLIANZ has been lucky enough to have Rose Butler-Stoney continue to coordinate the Tuakana Teina programme, there has been a lot of activity in these early months. A successful speed dating event was held for new teina, and many third year students are signing up to the programme and are finding a tuakana. A financial workshop is planned for October / November this year (before the students graduate). A court workshop in two parts is also planned for current teina who are completing their second year on the programme. The Tuakana Teina Facebook group is being used to share tips and tricks.

Rebecca Curtis presented on the Tuakana Teina programme at the WASLI Oceania conference and this was very well received. Plans are underway to share the programme framework on the WASLI website as a model for other countries.

Information about the programme will also be updated on our website very soon.

Liaison

NZSTI

Kimberley was welcomed as the SLIANZ representative on the New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters (NZSTI) board. She will be taking part in their monthly board meetings.

Deaf Aotearoa

Micky had a meeting with the Deaf Aotearoa management team to discuss two issues:

1. Communicators – concerns have been raised by our members about the fact that communicators at times present themselves as qualified and are hired even when qualified interpreters are available. Deaf Aotearoa / iSign are in the process of developing a Policy on the use of interpreters and communicators which will strictly confine the use of communicators to very limited situations, with the overall aim of using only qualified interpreters in the long term. There was also an agreement to update the iSign website profiles and ID cards to clearly differentiate those people who are not qualified.
2. Our Joint Agreement, modelled on a WASLI/WFD agreement in 2012, needs to be updated. The Deaf Aotearoa Board has agreed to work together with SLIANZ committee members to redraft the agreement, likely early in the new year.

DINZ

Micky has had two Skype meetings with a representative from the Deaf Interpreter Network (DINZ). While we were not able to commit to being a fundholder for DINZ at present, we agreed to have further discussions about how the two organisations can work together.

Your committee needs you!

As you can see from this update, we have a lot of exciting work in progress. We are currently looking to fill at least one vacant position on the committee, but more are always welcome. Whether you are passionate about a particular area, want to help us make strategic decisions, or get an all-round insider view of the interpreting profession, we'd love to hear from you.

If you don't think a full committee role is for you, then please think about what else you can contribute. For example, Fiona Love has kindly agreed to be our newsletter editor for this year (so hopefully the next update / newsletter will look a lot better!)

What you can do:

- Design and edit promotional material
- Scan and archive old SLIANZ records
- Edit video recordings of previous conferences
- Be a local contact for our PD coordinator
- Run a workshop
- Fundraise
- Draft letters, submissions, or position papers
- Write a blog / be a roving reporter for our Facebook page or Twitter account
- Write an article for the newsletter
- Be a Tuakana
- Help organise the conference (thanks Wellington volunteers!)
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For your diary

Upcoming important dates

September 2018

- 20 Sep Connect peer supervision, Auckland
- 21-23 Sep ASLIA National Conference 'Partners in practice', Brisbane
- 25 Sep iSign interpreter workshop 'Back to some basics' Part 1, Canterbury Deaf Society, Christchurch

October 2018

- 11 Oct SLIANZ Committee meeting

November 2018

- 6 Nov iSign interpreter workshop "Back to some basics" Part 2, Wellington
- 8 Nov SLIANZ Committee meeting
- 8 Nov iSign interpreter workshop 'Back to some basics' Part 2, Wellington
- 10 Nov iSign interpreter workshop "Back to some basics" Part 2, Canterbury Deaf Society, Christchurch
- 17 Nov iSign interpreter workshop 'Back to some basics' Part 2, Auckland Deaf Society

December 2018

- 13 Dec SLIANZ committee meeting
- 21 Dec - Christmas closedown
- 20 Jan

February 2019

- 9-10 Feb SLIANZ Committee Face-to-Face 2

March 2019

- 14 Mar SLIANZ Committee meeting

April 2019

- 11 Apr SLIANZ Committee meeting

May 2019

- 16 May SLIANZ Committee meeting

June 2019

- 13 Jun SLIANZ Committee meeting
- 29-30 Jun SLIANZ Conference and AGM, Wellington

July 2019

- 15 - 19 Jul WASLI Conference 'Honouring the past, treasuring the present, shaping the future', Paris, France
- 23 - 27 July 18th WFD Congress, Paris, France