

# SLIANZ

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



## YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

Say hello and welcome to your new committee, pictured here at the first face-to-face meeting in September. Left to right they are (with details of portfolios held and intended term of service):

Cheryl Astley, Auckland – Treasurer, Tuakana-Teina, 2yrs

Leo Goldie-Anderson, Wellington (*Leo regrettably has had to step down from the committee due to health issues, but is super excited to see the awesome mahi this group will do!*)

Tote Hemeheha, Auckland – Secretary, 2yrs

Rebekah (Reb) Guy, Auckland – Communications, 1yr

Sarah Billing, Palmerston North – PD, Mentoring/Supervision, 1yr

Phoebe Leyten, Christchurch – Conference, Tuakana-Teina, Fundraising, 2yrs

Felicity Crowe, Auckland – Membership, Tuakana-Teina, Complaints, 1yr

Kerry Locker-Lampson, Central Hawkes Bay – PD, Mentoring/Supervision, 1yr

Micky Vale, Wellington – President, 2yrs

## Newsletter

October 2019

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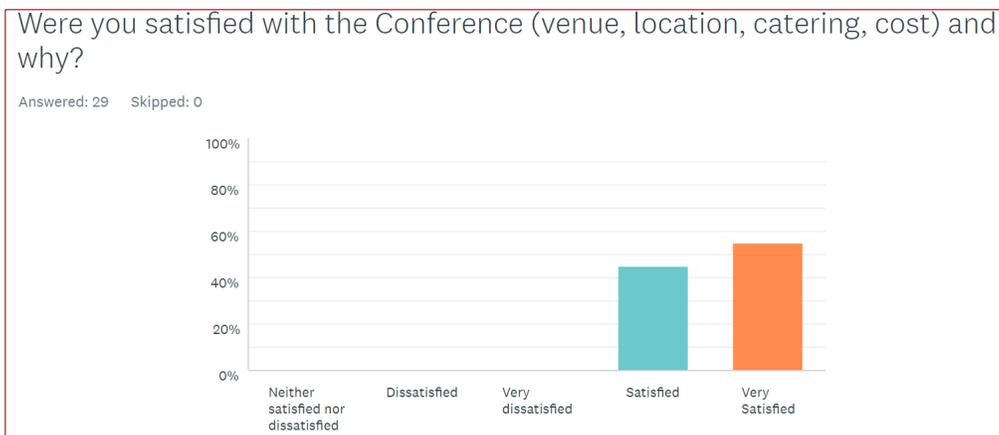
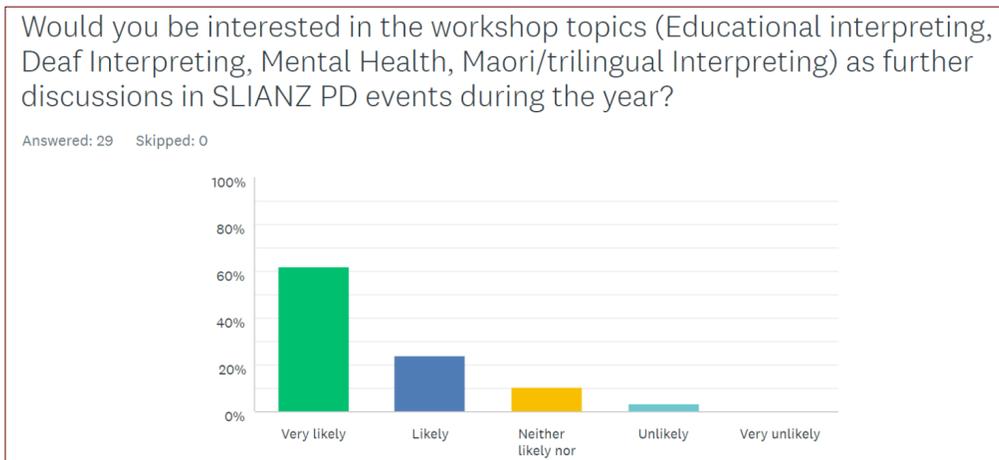
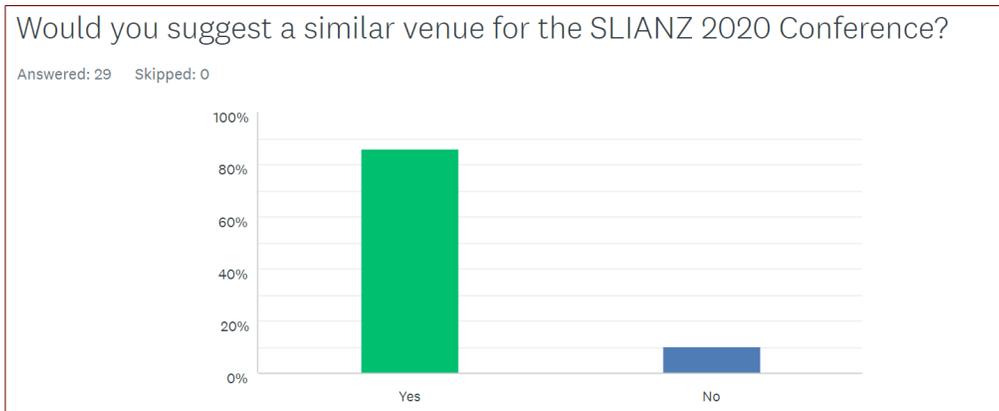
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# SLIANZ CONFERENCE, 2019: A SUMMARY

Kia ora all,

Thank you all for completing the Post-Conference Survey sent out some time ago. Of the 49 members the survey was sent to, 29 were completed. Your feedback is important and we appreciate you all taking the time to complete this. It has given us the opportunity to incorporate your suggestions into our planning and delivery to ensure that our members needs are met.

Here are some of the results from the Survey:



## SLIANZ CONFERENCE, 2019: A SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

**We received fantastic feedback about the Friday night event at the Wellington Deaf Club.**

A huge thank you to Millie Sutton, Jake LaBerge and the rest of the Wellington crew who created a very fun and interactive evening. It was also a great icebreaker in meeting other interpreters and Deaf members of the local community for the first time

The feedback about the conference catering received the 'Thumbs Up' award for the Wellington crew. The style, presentation, amount of food and varieties of interesting flavour combinations made break times very satisfying. Thanks guys!

The presentations and information provided added new skills to many interpreters toolkits and were a valuable resource. Thank you to all presenters for their research and sharing new and in-depth knowledge.

### APPRECIATION CORNER

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to the previous committee members who put in so much time and effort in the planning, implementing and facilitating of all parts of the conference to ensure it ran smoothly for all of us attending. We acknowledge your efforts, thank you.

Thank you to all the wonderful presenters, our keynote speaker Julie Judd, the amazing interpreters who interpreted, organisers, Wellington crew, Wellington Deaf Club, AUT student volunteers and Victoria University who all came together to provide an enjoyable conference in Wellington.

Thank you to all who were able to attend from far and wide.

We look forward to seeing you all at the next SLIANZ Conference in 2020.

Ma tini ma mano ka rapa te whai.  
*Many hands make light work. Unity is strength.*

Nga mihi,

Tote Hemeheema

(On behalf of the SLIANZ Committee)



Debut conference interpreter Julia Freeman (left) interprets for Rachel McKee (right)



SLIANZ and DANZ representatives after establishment of MOU



SLIANZ president Micky Vale with keynote speaker Julie Judd

## DEAF ARTS RULE IN REIMS

The Clin d'Oeil Festival is a biannual Deaf Arts Festival held in July, in Reims, France; this year marked its 9th anniversary. A group of Kiwis went to experience it, many for the first time, led by recent French expat and experienced Festival-goer, Anthony Cathala.

SLIANZ would like to thank Rachel Coppage and Catherine Greenwood for sharing these videos of the reflections of the Kiwi Deaf contingent (Anthony Cathala, Matthew Flynn, Daniel Greenwood, Kat Hickson, Mark Berry, Karyn Palaone, Eric Coppage, Jeff Wendt). Please make sure to set your Youtube playback at 0.5 speed (use the settings button at the bottom-right of the youtube video screen) and enjoy!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VfhGuiD1o>



<https://youtu.be/6Nqliq4FNuo>



<https://youtu.be/Nm4dzXfXoMo>

## STUDENTS AS A REFLECTIVE TOOL

By Rebekah Guy

**When we graduate, are we finished with academia? Do we say goodbye to those hallowed AUT halls and never look back? I say no. I say, the closer we are to formal analytical tools, the closer we are to reflective practice...**

Recently I did a job that left me feeling... yucky. This feeling was new – I didn't recognise it, it wasn't familiar. It left me feeling uncomfortable about feeling yucky, and for me that doesn't usually happen. I've had plenty of jobs where I felt disappointed or unsatisfied with what I produced, but I've always had a balanced perspective on things like that. I know, I know, I'm only four years into my career, I can hear your sardonic tone from here, but as a person of 38 years' life experience I'm past the days of beating myself up about things I can't control, both personal and professional. Thus, this inability to gain equilibrium was unnerving. I discussed the job with my teamers-two, I bent the ear of a trusted hearing friend, I considered bringing the story to supervision, but nothing felt right. My usual ways of processing defeat were not cutting the mustard, and I didn't know why. I needed some hard-core, in-depth analysis in my life, the likes of which I'd never needed before.

Or, rather, I had needed it before, I'd just forgotten.

I'd forgotten the robust discussions with my classmates when I was studying, when we had to break through interpreting concepts to find the nuggets of empiricism inside. In my third year at AUT, suddenly everything I'd seen on paper was standing up and moving in front of my eyes and I had to reconfigure my perspective on what communication means when it happens compared to when we talk about it happening. Back then, I did that by talking to the people whose minds were filled with theories, frameworks and schemata (that's the more interesting version of the plural; "schemas" is a bit pedestrian) that are there to help us make unfamiliar things familiar: my fellow students.

This, then, was how I was going to process the yucky feeling. I would take it to the people whose minds are filled with theories, frameworks and schemata. I didn't have a mind filled with theories, frameworks and schemata anymore, it was now occupied with so much practical data I'd had to jettison the academic stuff to make room (every now and then I still read the odd Street Leverage article, but that stuff doesn't stick in my head the way it used to). I needed the students.

And they certainly came through for me, with gusto. All it took was a message to George to make sure my conundrum was relevant, and I was sitting in front of the group of 2nd-years the next week. I used the Demand-Control Theory to frame my thoughts, was honest about my thinking, and open to questions. My teamers Skyped in to the discussion and shared their thoughts as well – my goodness what differing perspectives we had on that job!

Apparently this was all good fodder for the students, which is lucky because it was extremely helpful for me!

Going through the steps of describing the job to people who weren't there; identifying difficulties and categorising them for an audience that weren't quite at the same understanding as me of how the theoretical relates to the practical; verbalising feelings about those difficulties and how it all played out, all in a safe and welcoming environment... I cannot overstate how beneficial that was and I highly recommend it to all reflective practitioners (i.e. all interpreters).

George mentioned that a couple of interpreters had done something similar in the context of practicum observations, and I'd like to see more of us take up that wero. It's a true tuakana-teina context, where all benefit. I made more sense of that yucky feeling, which has now subsided to a familiar, comfortable "aw well". Which I can totally live with.



*Reb (L) with some of the 2nd year interpreting students: Kathy O'Carroll, Rosie Elder, Gwenn Hebert, Tui Hawke and Jaime Brown.*

## STUDENTS AS A REFLECTIVE TOOL (CONTINUED)

By Kathy O'Carroll, 2nd year interpreting student

**I was overwhelmed by the way Reb shared her experience and thought processes when interpreting in a demanding public setting.** This session opened my eyes how the demand control schema helped her dissect the challenges and implement coping strategies to overcome the demands during the assignment. I have learnt that it is healthy to talk to someone or a confidant right after a difficult assignment. Self-reflection is one way to repair tangled emotions and feelings whereas expressing your thoughts to someone can offload the pressure as that person may have had a similar experience. I realise now by applying the DC-S is an effective way to self-reflect and perhaps do some soul searching how to improve is beneficial for my future development as an interpreter. Reb was very brave to perform her duties as an interpreter on the night despite many challenges outside of her control and when I asked her would she do it again, she immediately replied "Yes". If it was me, I don't think that I would yet have the courage to do it again. However, by having a support network to guide you along your journey as an interpreter helps you to grow stronger and aspire to be the best interpreter you can be.

## FIRST YEAR ON THE JOB



By Mark Hodgson

**The wee fella in the bottom corner is my boy, Tobias (Tobi) Hodgson-Clark. He came along six months after I qualified as an interpreter, and if being new to**

**the profession wasn't daunting enough, the demands of fatherhood mean I've been taking all the support I can get.**

Luckily, Connect Interpreting offers an internship program where one or two graduates are supported through their first year of interpreting. I was this year's successful applicant.

The internship program involves a retainer for set hours of availability through the week. The retainer represents financial stability, which was a huge thing for me starting out. One less worry as I find my feet.

In my first month on the job, Connect sent me as an observer for around half the jobs I went to. These observations served as an introduction to many of the clients I would later work with. As well as that, seeing skilled interpreters in action got me familiar with the pragmatics of delivering a successful job from start to finish.

At each step, I've also had an open line with Shiz, Connect's Auckland scheduler. Shiz crafts a daily schedule to match my developing skillset. Increasingly challeng-

ing jobs have been carefully scaffolded through observations and teaming.

With all this support, I've taken great enjoyment in the work itself, which has been fairly evenly spread across medical, workplace, and education settings.

Thanks to this foundation, I'm looking at my interpreting career with optimism for the future. As a service to the industry, the Connect Internship is a model programme for bringing graduates through their first year into the profession.



## CNIS UPDATE



### Last Sunday the CNIS group got together. We are growing!

The Central North Island Interpreting Squad are: Sarah Billing, Leisa Francois, Kerry Locker-Lampson, Fiona Love, Bernadette Cutelli and Catherine Bloomfield.

It was great to have us all together sharing yummy food and collegiality.

Our sessions are used for peer support, topical issues and the ups and downs of being regional interpreters. On Sunday we discussed the possibility of hosting the SLIANZ Conference sometime. We'd love to have you here - we are very central!

## CONNECT PD: TE REO MĀORI

On Friday 27th September Connect Interpreting hosted a two-hour Te Reo Māori PD session, taught by Mātua Arapeta Whaanga (Araz). The session aimed to provide an introduction to Te Reo for some, a refresher for others; however, the primary purpose was to encourage interpreters to seek further training in Te Reo. A two-hour lesson, as we all know, is not enough to learn a language! Learning Te Reo is something all NZSL interpreters should be addressing – we are encountering more and more Te Reo and Tikanga Maori in our work.

Mātua Araz skillfully covered pronunciation, the Māori creation story, pepeha, and some basic sentence structures. The response from the evening was overwhelmingly positive, as illustrated by the following feedback:

“ I thoroughly enjoyed the "Te Reo Māori Professional Development Evening" organised and hosted by Connect Interpreting on Friday 29th September. It was a great success because the mātua/kaiako delivered his workshop in an engaging and authentic way. We were introduced to both te reo and te ao Māori....I was blown away with how well [he] gauged our needs and pitched to a level that everyone could benefit from.

“ This session was great! Practical, pitched at the right level for age and linguistic understanding of

participants, non-apologetic about insisting on correct pronunciation, and tutor was skilled and able to change direction to cover needs as they arose. Great tutor, useful content, friendly and supportive environment.

“ I really enjoyed this session! It was the first Te Reo Māori lesson I have had and I feel like I learned a

lot. Not just about the language, but about te ao Māori as well. And the tutor was great, very knowledgeable and funny! If there is another session I will definitely be there.

“ I was excited when Connect organised some Te Reo Māori PD for us...I arrived to a Connect warm welcome (as always) and a lovely full room of interpreters. Our teacher was...skilled at putting us all at ease. His pace was excel-

lent. I loved how he explained why and how a person shares their pepeha. It made so much sense. Thank you so much Araz and Connect Interpreting for a fantastic PD session.

“ The tutor was engaging, funny and created a lovely safe learning space for us. This is so vital now to our profession... I had already decided to learn Te Reo after I graduate and this PD cemented that goal and also exercised some language skills I forgot I had. On a more general note, I'd like to thank the Connect team for the commitment to ongoing PD....Thank you so very much.



## PASSING THE WASLI OCEANIA TORCH: JONETI ROKOTUIBAU



**Bula vinaka, greetings from the beautiful islands of Fiji.** It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to be greeting you in my capacity as the newly elected Regional Representative of the Oceanic Region. I want to thank God for this opportunity and the challenge that is now my shoulders to lead the region.

Firstly, my name is Joneti Rokotuibau and I am a native Fijian (an Itaukei). I was a teacher of the Deaf at the Gospel School for the Deaf before I got into interpreting. I am current the curriculum director of the school.

As the theme of the Paris conference goes "honoring the past treasuring the present shaping the future" I would like to therefore acknowledge the work of past regional reps, Angela Murray, George Major, Anna Vost and Jemina Napier. I am simply building on the work they had done and it was through their sacrifices and sweat in the region that has resulted in a Fiji rep being nominated to take on the role.

I also would like to thank ASLIA and SLIANZ who have greatly supported the work in Fiji and I would like to keep the spirit of collaboration burning as the role of regional rep is not an easy one but not impossible neither as long as we all work together.

I am calling on all interpreters and organizations alike to hold hands together and bridge the vast oceans between us to achieve our goals and those of WASLI!

## POSTGRAD OPPORTUNITY

You may have heard about AUT's new Master of Language and Culture – a great option for anyone who wants to do develop the skills to conduct research on interpreting!

The MLC is 1.5 years and includes coursework followed by a thesis or dissertation study. Paper choices include an individualised reflective interpreting paper, a project paper that can be focused on NZSL, research methods, and a popular new paper on multilingualism and diversity. You can do thesis/dissertation study from anywhere, but currently you need to be on campus in Auckland for the papers. We hope to offer online courses in the future as the programme develops.

Applications are open now for our February intake. Here is a link with more information <https://www.aut.ac.nz/study/study-options/language-and-culture/courses/master-of-language-and-culture>.

Please also feel free to contact George Major ([gmajor@aut.ac.nz](mailto:gmajor@aut.ac.nz)) if you have any questions!

## REFLECTIONS FROM WASLI PARIS

By Micky Vale

**There is so much more to WASLI than just the conference.** The WASLI Paris programme included:

- A day of pre-conference workshops (on including Deaf people in interpreter training, both as participants and as teachers, and on supervision).
- Regional meetings - an opportunity to plan and reflect with our interpreting neighbours. The Oceania region escaped the university halls where larger regions were meeting, and instead discussed our priorities over croissants and coffee in a cafe. Very civilized!
- The general meeting, where membership organisations (including SLIANZ) get a chance to help shape WASLI, to hear about the committee's work and to hold elections. A nice tradition is that the two representatives from each member organisation get a little country flag to show their status - in Durban we had ended up with an Australian flag but Paris got it right :-)
- Poster presentations in the foyer at all break times.
- Opening and closing events - often an opportunity for a cultural showcase of national costumes and dance, this was less prominent in Paris but I still enjoyed seeing some amazing dances and was especially thrilled to spot a Dutch colleague on clogs :-)



Angela Murray, Micky and Rosie Henley

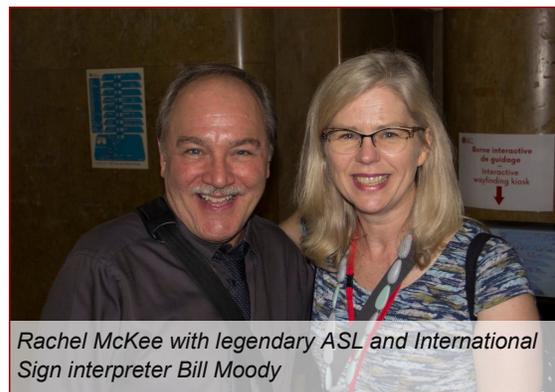
The main reason to be at WASLI is to make contact with colleagues from all over the world and to find so much common ground even when the contexts in which we do our work can be so different. I had some fruitful discussions with interpreter association board colleagues as well. All this, lots of quality time with New Zealand friends (I think I saw more of them in a week than I do at home in a year!) and celebrating my birthday in style - amazing ice cream! - made this a trip to remember. Start saving for Seoul 2023!

By Rachel McKee

**'Paris' and 'conference' is a tricky combination: the destination is so diverting - the food, the sights, the ambience.**

So much to appreciate, so hard to be confined in a conference venue! But some of us toughed out the challenge of dividing our attention to partake in the buzzy event that was WASLI Paris. It was the largest ever, at about 500 strong, with a sizeable contingent from Oceania: 11 from NZ, around 36 from Australia, 7 from Fiji. The food was very French: petit fours, lovely cheeses, and other elegant delicacies on offer at breaks. But we weren't there just for the food, and definitely not for the antiquated, uncomfortable auditorium seating installed mid-last century. The opening keynote took a 'memory lane' approach with Bill Moody (a pioneering international interpreter) and Lisa Kaupinnen (former long-serving

WFD president) 'chatting' about key moments they recalled in the growth of interpreting as a worldwide profession, and interpreters' integral role in international deaf advocacy which led to WASLI and its partnership with WFD.



Rachel McKee with legendary ASL and International Sign interpreter Bill Moody

## REFLECTIONS FROM WASLI PARIS (CONTINUED)



By Inga Friedrich

**One of my favourite presentations focussed on an interpreting student exchange programme.** Students from the USA were paired with a BSL student from England and visited for two weeks – one semester. With the introduction of a new Sign Language all students showed improved flexibility in thinking, especially with Sign Language concepts such as use of space and classifiers. I found this fascinating as I have seen a student visiting New Zealand go through this process and had wondered whether it would confuse more than help. This presentation has motivated me to continue to seek out DGS, ASL and LSF and jump in without hesitation.



*Kelly Hodgins, Victoria Manning and Kat Hickson*



*Interpreters from Fiji and NZ*