

# SLIANZ

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

Newsletter

April 2021

## In February, the SLIANZ committee attended the first of two workshops funded by the NZSL Board on the topic of governance, delivered by Carol Scholes.

We thank the NZSL Board and the secretariat support at the Office for Disability Issues for this opportunity. Previous committees have identified that our organisation needs better governance know-how to work smarter and more nimbly for our membership. This first workshop proved valuable in helping the committee to better understand what good governance is and how organisations like ours should be structured to deliver good governance that supports the memberships' needs and goals.

The first workshop was excellent – eye-opening but also reassuring – and the biggest takeaways were:

- 1. The modern model of good governance is not reflected in SLIANZ' current structure.*
- 2. After 25 years, structural changes need to be made to better serve members' needs and interests.*
- 3. A revamped structure would make SLIANZ' governance and management easier, and, dare we say it, more appealing to be involved in!*

In mid-April, the committee will attend the second day of training with Carol Scholes, which focuses on strategic planning – both

what it is and how to do it. On the back of this training, we will present some initial ideas to the membership at the June conference about good governance and what changes we feel need to be made; and, with membership discussion, seek to task the new committee with developing and undertake a consultation process about how we reshape and reset SLIANZ.

I appreciate that this sounds high level without any detail, and it is, but as Carol has reassured us, and as we wish to reassure you, with good process and good consultation will come good outcomes. We (the current committee and the next committee) will work with the membership and our stakeholders to ensure that is the case, and we'll begin that discussion at this year's conference.



Left to Right: Phoebe Leyton (Committee), Francesca Collins (Committee), Cheryl Wiltshire (Treasurer), Amy Hewgill (Committee), Alan Wendt (President), Melissa Sutton (Committee), Angela Murray (Co-opted Committee), Tote Hemehema (Secretary).

## MORE FROM THE COMMITTEE

We are also pleased to share the news that **Angela Murray** was co-opted in January 2021 to the committee until the AGM to assist with some WASLI work and to help with the governance project. Angela is the former Oceania representative on the WASLI Board (2015-2019), and has served on the SLIANZ committee in various roles. Thanks again to Angela for sharing your skills and experience with us!

## SLIANZ CONFERENCE

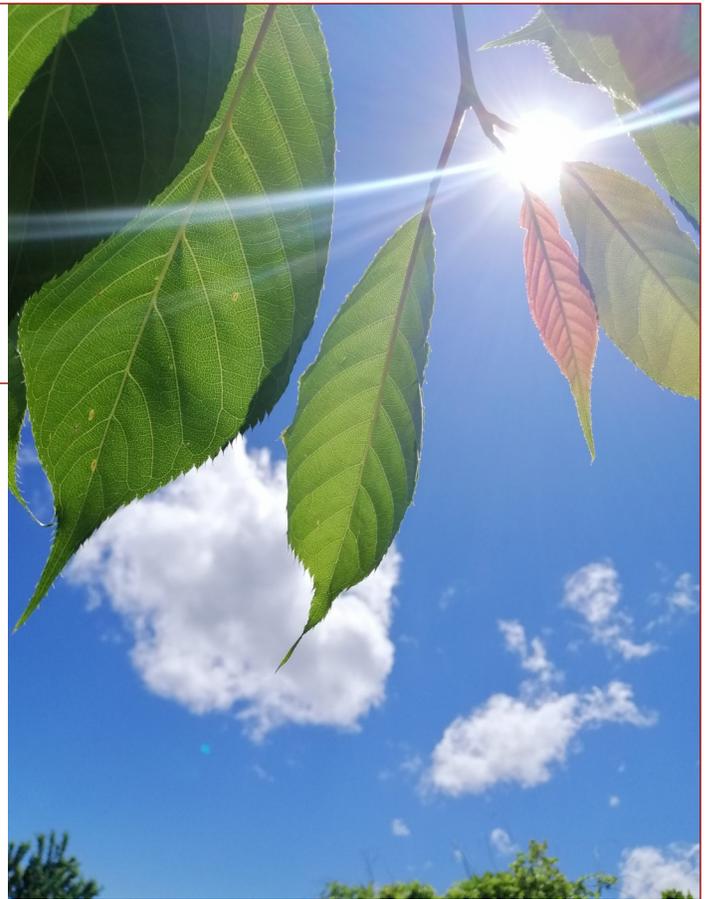
**Tēnā koutou katoa whānau! We're excited to announce that preparation for our 2021 conference is well under way with a healthy dose of optimism.**

This year's theme is ...



We're delving into our local talent to deliver a conference the likes of which you've never experienced before. Hosted in the beautiful city of Ōtautahi Christchurch, we're aiming for maximum participation and maximum engagement. This year also coincides with our SLIANZ 25 year Anniversary - a very special acknowledgement and celebration to behold indeed. We have a wonderful line up of workshop sessions that we are currently drafting into our conference programme - shout out to all our fantastic proposals.

Registration is set to open up in early April, where the final programme will be presented with all costs involved. Also, we are always seeking help with conference.



If you can offer help in a specific area please let us know. We will be requiring interpreters, a call for interpreters will go out in the next few weeks, however, in the meantime if you are interested in putting your hand up for this, please contact us. In the meantime, get your flights and accommodation locked in, team! We cannot wait to celebrate finally coming together and look forward to releasing more information in the coming weeks.

Get your excitement building. This is going to be a conference to remember!

**Ngā mihi nui,  
CHIG and SLIANZ**

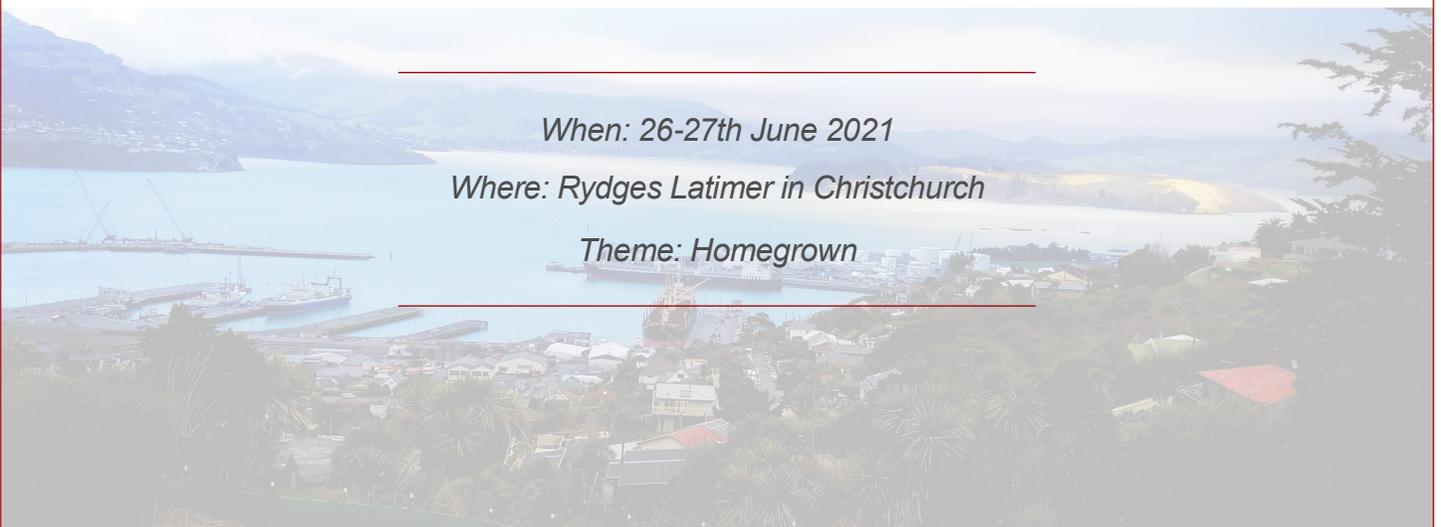
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*When: 26-27th June 2021*

*Where: Rydges Latimer in Christchurch*

*Theme: Homegrown*

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## EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS SUPERVISION GROUP

By Reb Guy

**Currently, many educational interpreters are working in quite challenging situations for various reasons.**

Long story short, that's why our Education Interpreters Supervision group was created. The group comprises 13 interpreters from all round NZ, working in various contexts from compulsory education to tertiary to teaching, as contractors and employees, with experience ranging from decades to weeks. We have a two-hour Zoom session every two months, and our supervisor is based in London.

These sessions have been building up our resilience, offering us new ways to consider our work, and providing a safe, structured space to make suggestions and give advice, while reinforcing a sense of collegiality. Our supervisor is skillful in probing to the roots of our issues.

Over the last year I wrote down some key quotes from the group, highlighting the kinds of issues we are facing:

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“ Whose responsibility is it?

“ I'm treated as if I'm not a professional or communication expert

“ ...your place in the team...

“ You did no harm. You planted a seed

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Until 2022 our ranks are full, but I encourage other interpreters to create their own speciality-based supervision groups. Now that we can access both overseas and homegrown expertise the possibilities are much broader. Ask me anything: [rebnzsl@gmail.com](mailto:rebnzsl@gmail.com)

## TUAKANA TEINA REVIEW

By Julia Freeman

**The Tuakana-Teina programme is extending so that students will get the support of a tuakana in their final year of study. As a lecturer of these students, I think it's a fantastic idea!**

I've also been a tuakana for the past two years and have realised how much I benefit from it too. Through the past year of COVID stresses, a topic that has come up a lot for my teina (and for many of us) is trying to navigate the additional demands on our time, energy and ethical decision-making. My tuakana role is not to provide an immediate solution, but to talk through situations together and unpack where the challenges come from. In sharing some perspective with my teina, it has been a good reminder to take my own advice, and to make time for this reflection despite being busy. For an hour a month commitment, it's a win-win!

We are doing two speed dates this year: one for AUT students and the second for existing pairs to un-pair, socialize and then re-pair. These events will be coming up very soon (late March and mid-April). We will need more Tuakana and would love to discuss this opportunity with you.

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*If you are interested in being involved in the Tuakana Teina programme please let us know.*

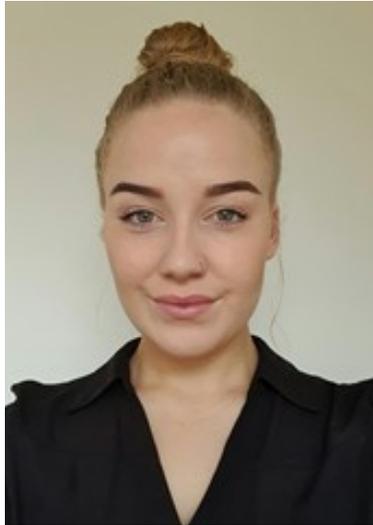
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## NEW GRADUATE INTRODUCTIONS

### Courtney O'Brien

**Hello everyone!** I am Courtney. I was born and raised in Christchurch. I love being with people and anything outdoors!

Animals have always been a huge part of my life, Horses especially, so I enjoy spending any spare chance I get as an equestrian.



### Gwenn Hebert

**I live in Auckland.** I am quite laid-back and social. I enjoy gardening, building furniture and DIY's. I have experience as a professional baker, pastry chef, barista, swimming instructor and strong background knowledge in building/construction. I look forward to meeting you all at future SLIANZ conferences or in the community.



### Jaime Brown

**Kia Ora everyone!** Some of you may know me as I have been in the community for some time and have been involved in Deaf sports (cricket & rugby), am on the executive board for NZSLTA and co-founded Merge NZ. I live in Auckland & have three young boys that keep my husband

and I busy (especially during rugby season!). I am excited to be joining the interpreting profession and having the opportunity to work and learn from you all!



### Gabrielle Bain

**Kia ora SLIANZ whānau!**

My name is Gabrielle and I am a 2020 graduate based in Auckland. I'm Incredibly passionate about people, culture,

language and seeing these three things creating unique and wonderful relationships. I'm passionate about music, arts and theatre, getting out in nature, cats and coffee by the bucket full. I'm incredibly excited to meet more of you in this new phase in my terp journey.



## DEAF INTERPRETER - THANKS TO RACHEL COPPAGE

Here is a video link about a Deaf interpreter based in the US at press conferences in COVID times.

<https://www.wmur.com/article/wednesday-february-24th-sign-language-interpreter-david-krueger/35551289>



[#whereistheinterpreter](https://whereistheinterpreter.com/2021/03/02/breaking-news-a-huge-win-for-sign-language-campaigners-as-a-judge-gives-the-go-ahead-for-the-whereistheinterpreter/)

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