



Victorian Council of Deaf People Inc *Est. 1982*

Voice for Deaf People

News

VCOD Members Survey Responses

Inside this newsletter:

Members Survey
Website
President Report
Managers Report
Thumbs Up / Thumbs Down
VCOD Happenings
Board Profile
World Federation of the Deaf
News around the World
Profile: Khang Chiem
Captions
Media
Interview David Grant
ASLIA Updates

In May 2009, VCOD sent out a survey to members to find out how much they know about us and how we can use the information gathered to assist in lobbying for funding.

The purposes of the survey were to

- Assist VCOD in identifying what members would like to see
- Information gathered for lobbying
- Access information and advocacy services

The survey was successful with 41 responses completed. There were three parts in the survey - first part of the survey was the current perspective on VCOD. Second part was about the Future Directions of VCOD and the final part was about you.

VCOD plans to use the survey responses for strategic planning in August.

We will be providing the survey results at the Annual General Meeting. Meanwhile VCOD Board and staff would like to thank all members for participating in the survey.

Website

The website is now underway with meetings with a webmaster and the comments from the survey expressed what members wish to see in the VCOD website which are:- "More information on what VCOD has been doing e.g. submissions, committees, reports; Research information on current local and international deaf matters; video logs in English and Auslan; information on deaf rights, how to be assertive; campaigns in progress; policies; human rights and newflash" .We will endeavour to include all the comments provided by our members and hopefully we can have the website up and going within the next two months. Again, we ask for your patience and positive outlook that it will happen.

Have you moved?



Did you remember to update your contact details with us?

To help us update our records we need your name, address, email address, and contact number, please email your details to admin@vcod.com.au

VCOD / Deaf Australia Membership

Just a reminder that VCOD / Deaf Australia member renewals are now due. Thanks to everyone who has already sent in theirs. Your support ensures that we can continue supporting the Deaf Community. Note that you can easily print out the membership application form from Deaf Australia or Auslan Shop

Deaf Australia Website - <http://www.deafau.org.au/>

Auslan Shop <http://www.auslanshop.com.au/>

For more information about renewing your membership or how to make a tax deductible donation, please contact Medina Sumovic admin@vcod.com.au

Encourage your friends to become members

From the President, Irene Holub

Dear Members

Recently I went to the local Video Ezy Store to rent a long awaited DVD that had rave reviews and guess what - no access to captions! So I thought with disappointment that I will try for another DVD only to find it had no captions either. Why do I need to check if the DVD has subtitles or not. WE should simply be able to access DVDs without worrying whether we will be able to watch it or not. Hearing people don't have to think twice on whether they will be able to understand the DVD—their main concern would be whether they will enjoy it or not. When we complain to the filmmakers or the government for not providing subtitles—they seem to think we are only complaining about one film but in reality that “one film” is the last straw. We should be able to access all DVDs and films without feeling like we should be grateful for a handful of captioned DVDs/ Many positive changes have happened in the deaf community such as free TTY relay services, subtitled programs (some), captioned theatre (some), free interpreting services (some), sms emergency services (some), etc. Who helped make this happen? Our community and people who had listened to us made these small changes happen. However, small doses of accessibility such as a handful of DVDs are not enough. We need to continue to demand that it is our right to access to all information equally as anyone else.

There are several ways and one of them is to complain via online to Media Access Australia or to AVSDA - Australia Visual Distributors Association. Your complaints will be documented and added to their data which they can use to present to the government for future legislation of accessible media. AVSDA will also respond on behalf of members of Media Access Australia to complaints about accessibility of specific DVD titles where access features were available overseas and not in Australia. AVSDA members are committed to increasing the amount of product available in Australia with access features and have already undertaken steps to educate, promote, accurately label and include features on Australia DVDs.

If you are unhappy with the accessibility levels on a DVD, and if the DVD is distributed by an AVSDA member, you can [complain directly to AVSDA via this website](#)

(http://www.mediaaccess.org.au/index.php?option=com_chronocontact&Itemid=99#1)

Alternatively contact AVSDA at:

AVSDA

Level 12, 37 Bligh Street , Sydney, NSW 2000

Email: info@avsda.com.au Website: www.avsda.com.au

AVSDA members are:

- Buena-Vista Home Entertainment
- Shock Entertainment Group
- Destra
- Icon Film Distribution
- Sony Pictures Home Entertainment
- Starz
- Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment
- Time Life Australia
- Palace Films
- Rainbow Products
- Universal Pictures Video
- Warner Vision
- Paramount Home Entertainment
- Warner Home Video
- Roadshow Entertainment

If you need assistance identifying a DVD distributor, please contact Media Access Australia on ph: 02 9212 6242 or email info@mediaaccess.org.au. Let VCOD know whether you were able to receive responses to your complaints from AVSDA and Media Access Australia.

I want to say thank you to the VCOD members for the recent survey on VCOD. Your feedback and comments will support and guide the VCOD future strategic plans and directions.

VCOD Survey

Results from the survey showed that 84.4 % of members sees VCOD as an advocacy and information service for the deaf community; 79.5% of members want VCOD to provide information on deaf rights, 56.8 % on advocacy and 50% on events; what members wanted to see in the future directions of VCOD, to name a few: 82.5% on subtitles access; 73.7% on education; 71.8% on emergency services; 68.3 % on interpreting; 71.1% on public transport. While VCOD strives to provide advocacy and information services to the community – it is interesting to note that many members have appreciated events in the NWDP and other times – therefore we will continue to provide or support events providing that they fit within the criteria of advocacy and information.

AGM

We will be holding the AGM on September 17th in the evening so please mark this in your diary. Mark Quinn and Marc Curtis will be the guest speakers at the AGM to discuss one of our deaf issues – “Sign On Television” . More information will be released later this year.

Name Change

Another matter we will need to discuss is the proposal of name change. *“At the 2007 AGM for AAD, the members of AAD have voted overwhelmingly to adopt name change of a national organisation. Many members who are members of state branches does not realise that they are members of national organisation, nor understand the relationship between national and state branch organisations. ...The purpose of name change is to show continuity and relationship between national and state branches organisations and to increase profile of national/state branches organisations.”* (Reference – Deaf Australia). A few states have adopted the new name by changing to Deaf Australia (NSW); Deaf Australia (SA).

There were some discussions on this proposal at the 2008 VCOD AGM and it was agreed that we will need to have a forum to discuss on whether we want to change the name or not. I will be issuing out an online survey shortly which will ask you whether you agree to the name change and if you wish to attend a forum to discuss this. The forum will need to be held in early August as we will need to submit a motion to be approved at least a month prior to September 17th.

Board Member

I would like to introduce Karen McQuigg who is part of our board as a temporary board member. She works for the Darebin Council where she has been productive in organising accessibility to local programs for deaf people and people with disabilities. We welcome her energy and ideas to the board. We currently have nine board members – Sue Westhead – Secretary; Pam Dethridge – Treasurer; Ann Darwin – Vice President and other board members James Blyth, Adrian Doyle, Gail Finn, Barry Darwin, Karen McQuigg and Irene Holub – President. If you are interested to learn about our board and what we do, you are welcome to watch us in action. Let me know if you wish to attend.

If you are also interested in advocacy and deaf rights, perhaps the idea of representing VCOD as a board member may appeal to you. To become a board member, you will need to be nominated by a member of VCOD. Nomination forms are usually sent at least a month prior to the AGM which must be completed and sent to the VCOD office. The other option is to be a volunteer for VCOD, as we always need and appreciate them.

Until next time, keep waving and lobbying for deaf rights.

Regards

Irene Holub
VCOD President

Manager's Report

Hello Everyone,

Winter is already upon us....

You may have recently been receiving Event Enews which contains a calendar with events listed on those dates. This is one of our new approaches to inform our members and Deaf community of activities happening around Victoria.

We will continue with Enews with greater focus on information and advocacy. New addition to Enews is 'Thumb up and Thumb down' which shows of good outcomes and poor outcomes. Your contribution to this would be appreciated.

Department of Early Childhood and Education has advertised a senior project manager for implementation of the Deaf Education. VCOD will monitor the progress and believes this is a fantastic outcomes and thank to all who have contributed in this campaign.

VCOD has recently enter a service agreement with Department of Human Services that will see VCOD continuing the service to 2012.

There has been a shift in funding arrangements as Department of Planning & Community Development now funds our advocacy programs. Department of Human Services still continues to fund VCOD on information services.

VCOD has been very busy advocating, providing information, organising events and attending range of meetings (see next column). VCOD is a small organisation and employs a manager & a part time administrator. The office is not always available due to manager attending meetings and to serve you better, please ring and make appointment to avoid disappointment.

Rachel—Manager

VCOD INFORMATION/ ADVOCACY

Board & Staff

To give you an idea of what we've been doing from April to end of June:

- 11 advocacy cases
- Provided 25 information requests
- Met with Dept of Human Services PASA
- Met with Karen Lloyd of Deaf Australia
- Hosted events including
 - ⇒ Rob Roy Show
 - ⇒ Deaf Talkabout
 - ⇒ First Home Loan Workshop
 - ⇒ Australian Theatre of the Deaf "Futures" Show
 - ⇒ Assisted with Madness Night for Vanessa Ravlich
- Members Survey online
- Board & Audit Meetings held three times
- Three Funding Applications
- Attended Dept of Justice Stakeholders Forum
- Attended Dept of Education - Netbook Launch
- Changes to Enews and Newsletter including new addition - Event Enews
- Attended Auslan VRI Meeting
- Attended ASLIA Awards
- Attended CSO Forum hosted by Department of Human Services

Thumbs Up & Thumbs Down contributions



Thumbs Up:

Subtitles on DVDs
but



Thumbs Up:

Captioned movies
at the NOVA
but



Thumbs Up:

Captioned Television at
Sydney Airport!!



Thumbs Down:

Recent visit to the
local Video Ezy
stocked less than
1/3 of films with
captions



Thumbs Down:

NOVA screens the
same film over
three weeks or
more....



Thumbs Down:

No captions on
television screens at
Melbourne Airport

VCOD Happenings

National Week of Deaf People 10 - 16 October 2009

The Theme for the National Week of Deaf People is "Year of Reconciliation: Bringing us all Together". VCOD have planned two exciting events - Deaf Market and Deaf Debate. Other organisations have planned events to coincide with the National Week of Deaf People, including Deaf Can Dance and DSRV - sports day .

Deaf Market

Deaf Market will be on Sunday 11th October in Deaf Children Australia Car Park from 10am—3pm. It will be a place where people can come and enjoy a community atmosphere, buy handmade crafts, paintings, food or treats for the children.

Expressions of interest are welcome. Stall holders welcome to contact VCOD Office to receive an application form & guidelines.

Deaf Debate

Deaf Debate will have an interesting topic—Does the Deaf Community need a Community Centre? Come and find out.

AGM 17th September

Venue: F J Rose Auditorium, Deaf Children Australia Building, 597 St Kilda Road Melbourne

Time: 7pm

Guest Speaker: Marc Curtis, Manager Auslan and Victorian Auslan Interpreting Service and

Mark Quinn, Title

Sign On Television

Also in the evening, there will be an announcement of E R Noble Award Winner. Susan Ashley was last years recipient winner of E R Noble Award. She developed her website www.auslanresources.com.au and was the guest speaker at VCOD Business Breakfast in 2007, of her blog.

You can nominate a person for E.R. Noble Awards, who have excelled in providing opportunities for Deaf People in participating community activities or improving access for the Deaf Community. Contact VCOD Office for nomination forms.

Happenings

Deaf Professionals Network

Networking for Deaf Workers & Students
Presents "You! and the Interpreters – Working with Interpreters"

Presented by...Susan Emerson, Cindy Cave, Teresa Paulet and Jen Blyth

When? Monday 20 July, 2009

Time? 5:45pm to 7:30pm

Refreshments will be provided

Where? JML Community Centre Vicdeaf
Level 3, 340 Albert Street East Melbourne

RSVP? Yes please! To rai@vicdeaf.com.au by Thursday 16 July, 2009

This is for the right number of chairs & food for you!

This event will be in Auslan only. If you need an interpreter, please let us know ASAP.

Board Profile

Irene Holub



Role with VCOD: President

How long on Board: Four & 1/2 Years – Four Years as a Board Member and nearly 7 months as the President

Favourite Day of the week: Saturday

What do you do in your spare time? : Cooking, reading, watching films, spending time with my partner, family and friends.

Last travelled and where? 2008 – Greece, Turkey, Czech Republic, France, Italy and Austria – with my whole family. Had a ball!

Favourite colours: Green

I wish I had.....the ability to banish cruelty and ignorance in our world.

Five people whom you would like to have dinner with? Jesus, Herman Hesse, Buddha, Mohammed, Pedro Almodovar (plus two interpreters)

Where do you want to see VCOD in 5 years time? VCOD as an inspirational example for reducing ignorance between people whether they are deaf or hearing

Did you attend to a deaf school? Attended Princess Elizabeth Kindergarten for three years then whisked away to mainstream education.

When did you first learn to sign? 17, but it was a slow process and became fluent in my 30s.

What you dislike? Ignorance - this leads to discrimination and divisions between people .Ignorance makes people do stupid and at times harmful actions like War.

Ann Darwin



Ann Darwin & her parents in front of the Lourdes

Role with VCOD: Vice President

How long on Board: 16 years

Favourite Day of the week: Saturday

What do you do in your spare time? Cats sitting on my lap and I relax.

Last travelled and where? 2007 - India

Favourite colour: Green

Cat or Dog: Cats

I wish I had.....I wish I am 6 feet tall!.....

Signature Dish - Seafood

Five people whom you would like to have dinner with? Barack, Rudd, Margaret and Gough Whitlam and Tony Blair

Where do you want to see VCOD in 5 years time? Self funded!

Did you attend to a deaf school? Yes

When did you first learn to sign? 3 years old

What you dislike? People shouting in front of me!

World Federation of the Deaf

Markku Jokinen's Anniversary Collection

President of the World Federation of the Deaf Markku Jokinen celebrates his 50th anniversary in June. Instead of gifts, he wishes his friends, colleagues and partners to donate a gift to the World Federation of the Deaf. Donations are used to strengthen WFD's human rights work in training and raising awareness on the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Deaf people face with poverty, inaccessibility and inequality widely in today's world. The new convention enables to take action against discrimination faced by Deaf people in their every day life as well as to fight against prejudices and myths that prevail on sign languages. The new UN convention widely covers Deaf people's rights to education, access to information and interpreter services. In addition, it recognises sign languages equal to spoken languages.

You can support WFD's human rights work and congratulate Markku Jokinen by making a donation to the World Federation of the Deaf. Please include a message in your donation that states anniversary donation (MJ) and your name.

World Federation of the Deaf

Message: Anniversary donation MJ "Name of the donor"

Bank: OP-Pohjola Group

Helsinki, Finland

Account no: 578007-2237861

Swift Address: OKOY FI HH

International Bank Account Number (IBAN): FI 74 5780 0720 2378 61

See Markku's invitation in International Signs at <http://www.markkujokinen.org/en-GB/Invitation/>
<<http://www.markkujokinen.org/en-GB/Invitation/>>

News around the World

Gallaudet WORLDEAF Cinema Festival

Taking place in Washington DC in November 4 - 7, 2009

An opportunity to network with motion picture industry leaders, participate in discussion forums on production, marketing and distribution issues.

Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing filmmakers who produce films with or about deaf or hard of hearing people are invited to submit works to the competition

Website:<http://wdcf.gallaudet.edu>

DEAF NATION—LAS VEGAS

<http://expo.deafnation.com/worldexpo/>

2010 DeafNation World Conference & Expo is an excellent place to truly bring the Deaf together under one roof. It will be in Las Vegas at a 200,000 sq. ft exhibit hall, the World Expo will have many things going on for the Deaf, including exhibits, workshops, performances, sporting activities and activities for the children.

Matt Daigle

Check out his website—www.mdaigletoons.com

A deaf individual, who does cartooning with deaf culture, with everyday life experiences reflected in the cartoons. And also experiences that Deaf and hearing people share everyday....

Matt mentioned in his website of the cartoons showing the humour when deaf and non-deaf people meet.

Some of the cartoons focus on deaf culture and life in the world as a deaf person. These are usually about technology used by deaf people (vibrating bed alarm clocks, pagers, TTY telephones and flashing-light doorbells). Some are also about services specifically used by deaf people, like interpreters and hearing dogs.

World Deaf Surfing Championship 2009

July 10-12 in Honolulu Hawaii

Check out the website

<http://www.deafsurf.org/events.html> for more information

Profile: Khang Chiem



Recently interviewed by Irene Holub

Here is his interesting story

Current location of residence: Prahran, Melbourne

Born: Vietnam

Work what do you do?

I work for Department of Human Services (DHS) in the Disability Division as an advisor. My role entails providing advice on DHS funding, policy and changes to legislation to organisations funded by the department. I am very fortunate to be in this job as it gives me the opportunity to contribute to improving the lives of people with a disability and to be involved in the Deaf and interpreting community in my role as an advisor. In addition to my full-time job at DHS, I also freelance as an Auslan interpreter outside of work hours. I love interpreting and want to maintain my Auslan skills and contacts with the Deaf community.

Family history:

I am from a family of 9 - mum, dad, 2 other older brothers, 4 sisters and me. I'm the second youngest. We immigrated from Vietnam in 1982 after the Vietnam War in search of a better life. We escaped Vietnam by boat with many other families and we were rescued by Thai coastal guards after being on sea for many days without sustenance. For almost a year, we stayed in a refugee camp in Thailand before we were sponsored to migrate to Australia.

As a result of our exposure to the chemical warfare (Agent Orange) used in the Vietnam War, my mother, and all my siblings who were born in Vietnam, including me, have varying degrees of hearing loss. I have a mild hearing loss and wear hearing aides. Despite my hearing loss, I have interpreted for my family and friends over the years. I did not become professionally qualified until 2004 at the prompting of my mentors.

It was a real surprise to have passed the NAATI (National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters) exam for Paraprofessional Auslan Interpreters. I've never looked back since!

My family and I are very fortunate to be living in Australia as it has presented, and will continue to present us with many opportunities that otherwise would not be available to us had we remained in Vietnam.

What do you enjoy doing?

I enjoy listening to music, going to the theatre and symphony orchestras, and bike riding.

What you would like to do in the future? I would love to travel the world!

What are your favorites sport/ teams?

Oh such a difficult question. It would have to be....umm...tennis. If I had to choose an AFL team, it would have to be the Carlton team. Don't hate me!

What does the deaf community mean to you?

The Deaf community is as varied as any other community. The Deaf community to me is one in which it has its own rich culture and history peopled by amazing and resilient individuals who have overcome adversities to achieve their dreams and the dreams of their peers. The Deaf community is also a global community. I'm constantly amazed at how easily Deaf people connect with one another regardless of their national/cultural background. I'm very proud to be part of it.

What you hope to see in the future of deaf community?

I hope to see that the Deaf community continues to grow in size and in its profile, and to maintain its cultural heritage. I believe that the Deaf community can become a strong advocate in defending the human rights of all Deaf/Heard of Hearing people, particularly in the area of accessibility and the recognition of its language.

Captions - Nova Launch: More access to captioned movies by Karen McQuigg

Deaf Australia, Deafness Forum and Media Access have been working for a long time now to get more access to the movies that most other Australians enjoy every day of the year.

Although the Jam Factory shows "blockbuster" movies, mostly from American film studios, what Deaf and hard of hearing people haven't been able to see at the movies are independently made movies.

What is the difference between blockbusters and independent cinema ?

The main purpose of many blockbusters is to entertain. Independent movies do that too but often their purpose is to get people thinking. Most Australian movies and many films from the UK and America are independently made, so this is a great opportunity for us to get to see a broader range of movies.

Last year the government gave a one off national grant so that twelve more cinemas could start showing movies with captioning. Blind and visually impaired people can also watch movies at these cinemas using a technology known as audio description.

The Victorian cinemas chosen are :

Nova (Carlton) , Deakin (Mildura), and Sale Cinema.



Last month the Nova launched its programme with a special screening of the Australian animated movie , Mary and Max, with Michael Parremore from Vicdeaf speaking on behalf of the Deaf community.. See photo of Auslan Interpreters Mark and Sasha admiring the poster Mary and Max.

How will I know if the movie has captions?

Look for this symbol -

OC

What times are the movies on ?

Session times will change each week so look up in the newspaper or on www.yourlocalcinema.com.au and look up Session Times.

Best Deals?

✦ Monday is half price night so look for tickets on that day.

You can park in the Coles carpark behind the Nova and receive two hours free parking if you show your movie ticket as proof that you have been at the Nova.

Upcoming movie : My Year Without Sex. (Australian movie)

How did Nova become involved in doing this ? Did someone approach you or how did you find out that the Deaf community and Blind/VI wanted this ?

- In June 2008 [Media Access Australia](http://www.mediaaccessaustralia.org.au) (MAA) and the Independent Cinemas Association of Australia (ICAA) met with the Office of Ageing to discuss an independent cinema access program.
- In recognising the small scale nature of the independent cinema sector, the Office of Ageing agreed to a one-off grant to equip 12 cinemas and support a nationally coordinated, locally focused promotion campaign for accessible cinema.
- One of the cinemas chosen by ICAA and Palace was Cinema Nova.

2. I looked and saw the session times - they look good - will they be subject to change without notice or will you stick to these advertised times?

The agreement stipulates that Cinema Nova will schedule at least 3 captioned screenings per week, including at least one weekday morning, a weekend afternoon and a weekday evening session. Extra sessions may be scheduled depending on demand.

3. I remember back in my hearing days that Mon, maybe Tuesday was a cheaper night for buying tickets - do any of the session times happen on a cheaper night? Also any other info on discounts would be good.

At this stage, we don't have any sessions scheduled on our cheap day (Tuesday), other discounts below:

- Regular adult ticket (\$15.50)
- Students/Health Card/Seniors - \$11
- Pensioner/Under 15 - \$9
- Groups over 20 (\$11)

4. How are the movies to be captioned chosen - can we have any input into what is shown or will you just choose the most popular ones ?

- The Motion Picture Distributors Association of Australia select the films and import the open caption/audio description discs with the film material
- Cinema Nova aims to provide a diverse section of international and local films, in line with our arthouse selection

Media Clippings

A good sign

Emerging Melbourne actor David Grant has been given a second shot at fame after an unsuccessful first audition to work on Neighbours.

The talented deaf actor, who unsuccessfully tried out last year for the annual Dolly magazine "Search for Neighbours Next Big Stars" competition, caught the eye of the soapie's producers and was invited back to appear in a guest role as Coby Phelps. Grant, whose scene will air in August, appears in the show signing alongside an Auslan interpreter

Source: Herald Sun, Tuesday June 2, 2009

Interview with David Grant

by Medina Sumovic

How old are you? Seventeen

Where did you grow up? Moe, about an hour and a half from Melbourne

What school do you go to? Victorian College for the Deaf

Is this your first acting role in TV? Yes, Neighbours. But I've done two on stage performance at VCD; Wizard of Oz and Grease

How did you get in this role? Last year I applied in Dolly magazine "Search for next big Stars" of Neighbours. My teacher saw this article and then I did a resume, made a tape, and took a profile picture of myself. Got my mum's permission of course, she had to sign a few papers, after that I mailed to Dolly! – And then finally in May! (After a couple of months) A man from Queensland rang my school they're asking for a deaf teenager! Then I got a message from my mum: *Good luck with audition. I am proud of you* I was like "eh what?"

When I arrived school, Robyn (my teacher) handed me a blue folder I didn't know what it was til she told me the news, I was like "Oh my God! Oh my God!" I was thrilled and started to practice my lines. Then Daniel (my Interpreter) and I went to audition for Neighbours, a lady named Lou said that I did a good job in the auditions, and she will let me know by that afternoon!!

When we went back to school, I waited impatiently to see if I was successful for this role, then my teacher Robyn came to announce the news "They want you!" I was like "frozen" I couldn't move for a second, I couldn't believe I actually got in!

Then I went to Neighbours for rehearsal (conuses,

makeup and all) It was amazing; met a few Neighbours stars. Then in mid May, the real film, I was so nervous! I met more Neighbours stars, they were so friendly except for Paul Robinson (Stefan Dennis) when we were at the back stage – the green room in the studio; he hardly said a word....I was so nervous. But I am fortunate to experience filming with Neighbours. I hope to go back!

Have you met any of the famous actors from Neighbours? Yes! Donna, Toadie, Sunny, Lucas, Declan, Paul, Karl, Susan, Zeke, Ringo, Dan, Katie, Harry, Sophie, and other I cant' remember. Oh also Callum!

Did you meet Paul Robinson (Stefan Dennis) was he nice? No he wasn't. - He didn't talk much but stared....

What was your first experience like when they first called you? I was like "Oh my God! Am I really in the Neighbours?! That TV show?" It was a really awesome experience ever in my 17 years of life!

What was the first day like when you did your first shooting? It was nervous, 'cause too many people in the backstage (green room) and I really enjoyed it....

Why do you like Theatre or Acting? I like acting more, because I believe deaf can do it...

What book are you reading now? I just finished reading "The Boy in Stripe Pyjamas..."

What would you like to do after you leave school? Acting!

What is your most memorial day of your life? Neighbours of course, a dream unreal! I am passionate about Neighbours TV series! (Isn't everyone?)

Who is your idol now? Umm... I have to say it's you!



ASLIA Vic

ASLIAS Victoria - 3rd Auslan Interpreter of the Year Awards , May 30th 2009

by Irene Holub

VCOD was nominated for the ASLIA organisation award which was awarded to Connect East. Although we didn't win, it was an honour to be nominated and appreciated for what VCOD have accomplished. The ASLIA award night was a night to remember with dancing, performances, speeches, flowers and great company. Interpreters are one of our partners in the deaf community for without them, we would not have had many opportunities to access education, employment and entertainment as equally as the hearing people. Interpreters have come a long way since the early days of welfare workers and CODAs interpreting for the deaf community and who were usually unpaid or taken for granted with the idea that they do it for love. Alongside with ASLIA, the interpreters have gained a higher level of professionalism and improved work conditions. Interpreters deserve a night to celebrate and a big pat on their back for their professionalism and support of the deaf community .It takes a special kind of breed and talent to be interpreters and we have been lucky to work with many of them.

VCOD congratulates all nominees and winners of the awards. The winners of ASLIA awards are as follows:-

Graduate Interpreter	Daniel Hately	Deaf Relay Interpreter	Stephaine Linder
Regional Interpreter	Pauline Hume	Organisation	Connect East
DeafBlind Interpreter	Dennis Whitcombe	Interpreter Advocate	Susan Emerson
Interpreter Agency	VAIS	Interpreter of the Year	Susan Emerson
Professional Interpreter	Susan Luscombe		



Photos taken by
" See the Moment"

ASLIA National Conference

by Susan Emerson

You've probably heard by now that the ASLIA National conference will be hosted by ASLIA Vic and will be held in Melbourne, 21-23 August. The organising committee, led by Susan Emerson, has spent many months getting ready to welcome the largest ever number of interpreters at an ANC.

The conference will feature our international keynote speaker, Ms Robyn Dean from Rochester University. Ms Dean's research into interpreting is well known and we are sure to learn a huge amount from having her here. On the second day of ANC, Ms Dean will present with Professor Robert Pollard on our conference theme: *Depends on the context: Unpacking the Interpreter*.

We have over 45 presenters across all ANC events, (including 10 Deaf presenters). Presentations include one called 'what Deaf people wish interpreters knew', a Deaf professionals panel, papers on Deaf interpreters and DeafBlind interpreting, Far North Queensland Indigenous sign language dialects and more.

As well as ANC, we have a number of pre-and post-conference workshops. Nigel Howard, a Deaf interpreter from Canada will present two workshops at Vicdeaf on Deafhood and Deaf interpreters. Brian Morrisson from America will bring his Broadway experiences to Australia when he presents a workshop (limited to 25 participants) on theatre interpreting. For the first time, Melbourne will host the Interpreter Trainers' Workshop, led by convenor Karen Bontempo (WA).

We are so proud to welcome interpreters from all over Australia and well beyond, that we had to make sure they had the chance to see Melbourne! So, Natalie Sandon and Medina Sumovic have come to our rescue and devised an excellent Auslan tour: *Hidden Secrets of Melbourne*. We can be sure that anyone on this tour would learn something from these two local experts!

Deaf and hearing interpreters will work together at ANC events to provide access and support to all our delegates, including interpreters from Uganda, Thailand, Cambodia and Fiji (sponsored by donations to the ANC09 Creating Opportunities Fund) as well as America, New Zealand and Canada.

Conference registration (one day or full registration including the gala dinner) and registration for any or all of the pre- or post- conference events is open now. This information, as well as the full conference program and much more can be found on the ANC website: www.anc09.com

Media

Lonely heart's \$110,000 agony

Sun Herald— Tuesday 7th July 2009

A MAN who claims he was conned into paying \$110,000 to a dating agency to find his dream woman has launched legal action for a refund and compensation for stress and humiliation.

Unemployed lonely heart Damien Clear thought he'd hit the romantic jackpot when he was persuaded to fly to the Gold Coast to meet his perfect match.

But the former pastry chef instead squandered almost all his workplace injury payout in just a few months. Mr. Clear, 33, of Viewbank, told the *Herald Sun* he felt cheated and devastated by the experience. "I feel sick," he said.

Mr. Clear, who suffers depression, is profoundly deaf and relies on hearing aids, alleges he was pestered with unwanted phone calls until he paid a joining fee late last year, and was then seduced into parting with his savings with false promises of a professional makeover and meetings with eligible women.

He claims the agency failed to arrange a promised meeting with a blonde named "Christy" when he handed over \$35,000 to match her alleged payment.

It is unclear whether the woman was a TLC client or aware her photo had been used as part of the service.

Days later he allegedly paid a further \$45,500 for a dinner date at an expensive Surfers Paradise restaurant with a pretty brunette, "Kelly".

A statement of claim lodged with the [Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal](#) says he was falsely told "Kelly" was a successful businesswoman who owned a Maserati sports car.

Mr. Clear was also allegedly told the woman's parents would pay for first-class around-the-world airfares once they were married.

But the honeymoon was over before it began when the dating service allegedly pocketed another \$15,000 and failed to arrange a second meeting.

Mr. Clear's claim, lodged yesterday, demands a \$110,000 refund plus \$10,000 damages for stress and humiliation.

His disgusted father, John, said he learned his embarrassed son had spent the money only when it was too late. "They really cleaned him out," he said. "They seem to pick on people with problems. I can't believe they can operate like that."

The Consumer Action Law Centre wants the State Government to act against the company. Consumer Affairs Minister Tony Robinson's spokeswoman, Rebecca Harrison, last night confirmed the Government was examining the company's conduct. The Consumer Action Law Centre, which is acting on Damien's behalf, alleges the agency is guilty of misleading, deceptive and unconscionable conduct and telephone marketing breaches.

A spokesman for the agency, which trades as [True Love Corp](#) and is based in Tweed Heads, was unavailable for comment yesterday.



Damien Clear paid large sums for dates of woman

[Victorian Council of Deaf People](#)

[TTY 03 9521 2466 Fax 03 9525 2595](#)

[597 St Kilda Road Melbourne Vic 3004](#)

If you wish to place information/ news/ clippings/ flyers in VCOD Event Calender,

please feel free to email me admin@vcod.com.au -

next available deadline for Next newsletter is September 14th 2009

[All feedbacks and comments are welcome](#)

[All feedbacks and comments are welcome- admin@vcod.com.au](#)