

communication

SUMMER 2012

matters

WELCOME TO NEW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VIDEOFLUOROSCOPY AUDIT

LIFE MEMBER

STUDENT CONTRIBUTION

APHASIA SOFTWARE



New Zealand
Speech-language
Therapists' Association

Te Kāhui Kairōhakatikatika Reo Kōrero o Aotearoa

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Editorial – Catherine Epps

THANK YOU FOR THE WELCOME THAT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO ME AS THE NEW EDITOR OF COMMUNICATION MATTERS. IT IS GREAT TO BE CONTRIBUTING TO THE VALUABLE WORK OF NZSTA AND EXCITING TO BE CONTINUING THE HARD WORK THAT HAS GONE INTO THE UPDATED LOOK OF COMMUNICATION MATTERS BY SARA MOORE.

For those of you who don't know me I am a UK trained SLT, who migrated to New Zealand in 2006. Since then, I have lived and worked in Auckland and Wellington. I currently work as the Rehabilitation Team Manager at ABI Rehabilitation in Wellington.

In this issue of Communication Matters, you will see some of the many of the new developments happening in our profession. There are reflections on our achievements and news; both of individuals within the profession, and within groups. As you can imagine I am keen to hear from all members of NZSTA with your ideas for articles, written contributions, and feedback on each issue. I intend that Communication Matters will be a welcoming and easy to access environment for the readers and contributors. It will be most straightforward to contact me by email at editor@speechtherapy.org.nz.

Communication Matters is just one way to be sharing the great work we are doing as a profession. As part of concluding the year, I also encourage you to reflect on your own professional highlights from the last twelve months, as well as those of your peers and colleagues. It is crucial to be affirming and valuing of each other in a more personal way; so do take the time to share with other SLTs both what you are proud of, and what you admire in them.

With best wishes for the season.

Catherine



COMMUNICATION MATTERS IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER USING VEGETABLE-BASED INKS



Dr Dean Sutherland –
President

Whaia te iti kahurangi - ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei
“Pursue excellence – should you stumble, may it be towards a high mountain”

KIA ORA KOUTOU,

As we approach the end of 2011, we welcome some key people to the NZSTA team. Adele Siave (nee Manna) has joined the Executive Council with responsibility for the Maori and Cultural Development portfolio. Adele will be with the EC until at least the next AGM in May 2012. Justine Wilkinson (Executive Director) and Gretchen Wade (Administrator) have also joined the Association since our last publication of Communication Matters. Justine has already been instrumental in several key achievements including the establishment of the national office, development of a new strategic plan and enhancing our budgeting and financial controls. In addition to learning SLT vocabulary and concepts, Gretchen has been enhancing our administrative systems and record keeping. Key changes include developing our new online membership renewal notices and switching our banking from ANZ, to Kiwibank. I appreciate the enthusiasm and commitment that Justine and Gretchen have demonstrated in the short time they have been with us. Thank you also to Catherine Epps for taking on the role of CM Editor and her work in developing this (and future) issues of Communication Matters.

Although we are a relatively small organisation compared to our International MRA (Mutual Recognition Agreement) partners ASHA (USA), CASLPA (Canada), RCSLT (UK) and SPA (Australia) we are a valued member of this alliance. This was reinforced during my recent visit to the American Speech and Hearing Association convention in San Diego. I participated in a number of meetings that included confirmation of the International Year

of Communication proposal and discussions about working towards Registration (with Australia and Ireland). Throughout these discussions I was reminded of how much we achieve in New Zealand with fewer resources than most International associations. Much of what we have achieved to date is due to the dedication of our members and our determination to work towards lofty goals.

Our ultimate challenge is to continue to enhance the NZSTA so that all Speech-language Therapists in New Zealand are members of the association. This is an ongoing priority that is reflected in the strategic plan and goals we have set for the next 3 years. Thank you to everyone who contributed feedback to the strategic planning process. Please take the time to view our strategic plan (available online at www.speechtherapy.org.nz). Strategic goals for 2012 include development of the website, a new mentoring programme, Conference 2012 and much more. Achieving these goals would not be possible without the hard work of Justine and Gretchen in our national office; EC members, area representatives, contributors to various professional groups such as the Programme Accreditation Committee, and your ongoing support of the association.

We appreciate and value your membership of the NZSTA – thank you. All the best for a memorable and relaxing festive season. I look forward to speaking with many of you in 2012.

Nga mihi,

Dean



Beyond Boundaries

A MESSAGE FROM THE CONVENORS

WORDS: ANDRÉA BENOIT & HELEN MCLAUHLAN

Planning for the 2012 biennial NZSTA conference is well under way. When we signed up to convene the conference, we weren't sure what we were getting ourselves into but we had a strong desire to create a programme that would get people thinking and talking.

We are very lucky to have a team of equally driven individuals working on the conference planning committee alongside us: Annabel Grant, Clare McCann, Felicity Bright, Jo Davies, Maryanne O'Hare, Tracey Kendall, Turid Peters, and Suzanne Purdy. We also have the great pleasure of working closely with our new Executive Director, Justine Wilkinson and the huge relief of having Pamela Richards of PR Conference Consultants managing the operational side of things.

Coming up with the conference theme was the first task. Ideas around professional barriers came up early in the discussion and we were off. There was a flurry of discussion around the multitude of barriers to best practice that exist and the boundaries of our profession: financial limitations; access to services; language and cultural barriers; boundaries with other professions, and with our clients... The list was extensive! So we tossed around phrases that would capture these ideas. "Beyond Boundaries" came easily; we had our theme in twenty minutes flat.

There were lots of ideas for keynote speakers and we are very pleased to announce that Dr Deborah Hersh and Professor Sheena Reilly will give keynote speeches and workshops. Many suggestions were also made for the Grace Gane Memorial lecture. How difficult it is to select one person when so many have made outstanding contributions to the evolution of Speech-Language Therapy in New Zealand. In the end, Terry Wackrow was given the honour and we very much look forward to her lecture.

As we write this article, the call for papers is coming to a close and we are excited to see what the scientific panel decides. The Sponsorship & Exhibition Invitation brochure has been circulated and we welcome InterMed Medical Ltd and Phonak NZ Limited as exhibitors. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please direct them to the Conference website or send their details to enquiry@prcc.com.au and the Conference Manager will make contact with them.

We look forward to presenting the conference programme to you and opening registration on February 3rd. We hope you will be inspired to join us as we look at innovative ways to move Beyond Boundaries.



Getting to know Justine Wilkinson, Executive Director, NZSTA

“To be the first Executive Director is a great honour and I look forward to the challenges ahead.”

WELCOME TO THE NZSTA, IT IS A GREAT STEP FOR THE PROFESSION TO HAVE AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT.

Thank you – I am excited to be working for an organisation where the members are so enthusiastic and passionate about their profession. To be the first Executive Director is a great honour and I look forward to the challenges ahead.

PLEASE TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOU, AND YOUR BACKGROUND.

In the interests of not boring the readers, I'll keep this part brief.

I am a chartered accountant who has held a number of key management positions (including Chief Executive of the Television Broadcasters' Council) in recent years and have a number of key skills that I believe will benefit the New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association including leadership, management, financial and advocacy.

I'm originally from Dunedin, but have also lived in Wellington. Since 2006 I've been based in Auckland with my husband Tony and our daughters Caitlin (aged 9) and Rylie (aged 7).

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO WORK WITH NZSTA?

I've always admired the work undertaken by Speech-language Therapists and know first-hand the difference that this profession can make to people's lives. My own daughter has previously received treatment from Speech-language Therapists. Therefore, I was interested in being able to work for a profession that had personally helped my family.

I was also excited to join the NZSTA at a time when the Executive Council is embarking on a number of new initiatives to improve the performance of the Association and benefits provided to Members.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO FOCUS ON DURING THE FIRST YEAR IN YOUR ROLE?

First and foremost is to ensure that the new office is operating efficiently and effectively. My next priority will be to ensure that the NZSTA achieves its key strategic objectives for 2012. These objectives are highlighted in the Strategic Planning Documents that will be posted on the NZSTA's website in December. Some of the strategic priorities for next year include -

- improving the NZSTA's website;
- preparing for the International Year of Communication in 2013;
- piloting a new CPD form;
- Speech-Language Therapy Awareness Week;
- developing a new mentoring scheme.

WHAT HAVE YOU ALREADY LEARNT ABOUT SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY?

That Speech-Language Therapy has an important role to play in society and can have a huge impact on a person's quality of life.

While there is always room for improvement, I believe that the NZSTA has achieved some impressive milestones over the years and I look forward to building on from this good work.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO GET HOLD OF YOU?

Probably best to call me during office hours:
8.30am – 1pm weekdays on 09 307 9224 or
email – executivedirector@speechtherapy.org.nz.

I IMAGINE THERE IS NO TYPICAL DAY, HOWEVER WHAT ARE THE SORTS OF THINGS YOU DO FREQUENTLY IN YOUR NEW ROLE?

A lot of my time in recent weeks has been spent on setting up the new office and preparing budgets/strategic documents for 2012 but this should change as we move into the implementation phase. To be honest, there has been no typical day yet – perhaps, you should ask me this question again in a year's time.

YOU ARE BASED IN THE NEW OFFICE IN AUCKLAND, WHAT IS IT LIKE?- AS MANY OF US HAVE NOT SEEN IT.

I refuse to give you too much information here on the grounds that I'd really like Members to come in and see the new office for themselves. In fact – I would love it if Speech-language Therapists would -

- book our new Board room for meetings; or
- come in and use the library resources which will be transferring in from Carlson School in December 2011.

The new office is – in my view, welcoming, smart, functional and a credit to the profession.

WHAT AND WHO INSPIRES YOU TO DO WHAT YOU DO?

Throughout my career many different things and people have inspired me at different times. Currently I am inspired by –

- my eldest daughter, who despite her communication/ hearing issues works hard to catch up with her peers; and
- the dedication shown by the NZSTA's current Executive Council. I'm not entirely sure if all Members are aware of the magnitude of the contributions made by the Council. However it is timely to acknowledge that many hours of unpaid time are put into the NZSTA by the Executive Council Members for the benefit of the profession.

HOW CAN WE MOST USEFULLY WORK WITH YOU AND SUPPORT YOUR ROLE?

Probably the best thing Members could do for me is to actively recruit other Speech-language Therapists into becoming Members too. The NZSTA will have more strength in numbers and we will become a truly unified profession.

YOU ARE WORKING ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NZSTA- WHAT DO YOU THINK NZSTA WILL LOOK LIKE IN 2015?

I'm optimistic that the NZSTA:

- will have within its membership all Speech-language Therapists in New Zealand; and
- will be a resourced going-concern that plays a greater role within the profession and serves the needs of its Members.



National Videofluoroscopic Study of Swallowing (VFSS) Audit

WORDS: ANNA MILES

In February 2011, the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapy Clinical Practice Guideline on VFSS was endorsed by NZSTA and The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists and launched on the NZSTA website.

As part of the guideline implementation plan, a national audit of current VFSS practice was undertaken using the new guideline as the gold standard. All 20 DHBs participated. Auditors were selected in each DHB and the audit consisted of interviews, a departmental documentation audit and a number of clinical case audits. Each DHB produced individual action plans on completion of the audit.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT PRACTICE;

- 70% of DHBs had a radiologist present, 95% had a Radiologist available
- 100% of DHBs used lead aprons & thyroid shields
- 90% of DHBs were able to use a client's usual seating position & 100% of DHBs individualised food types based on the client's specific issues or preferences
- High scores were found across all reporting measures

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT;

Safety

- Only 40% of DHBs had radiation training
- Only 42% of DHBs used radiation monitoring badges
- Gaps were found in awareness of types of contrasts and their risks

Professional Development

- Only 45% of DHBs had formal professional development plans
- Gaps were found in knowledge of the need for instrumental assessment for recommending many compensatory strategies and rehabilitation exercises

Equipment

- Improvements in recording quality are needed; only 50% of DHBs reported satisfactory recordings
- Availability of sound (10%) and timer (30%) was low

Procedure

- Increased use of A-P view is needed (50%)
- Increased use of oesophageal screen is needed (40%)
- Standardisation of recipes is needed (45%)

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GUIDELINE LAUNCH AND AUDIT;

We now have a national guideline endorsed by our own association and The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists. Many leaders have expressed the strength that an endorsed evidence-based document brings to regional service and competency development.

We have seen an exciting increase in discussions between SLTs and Radiology staff across the country. This has the potential to lead to improved quality of services to our clients.

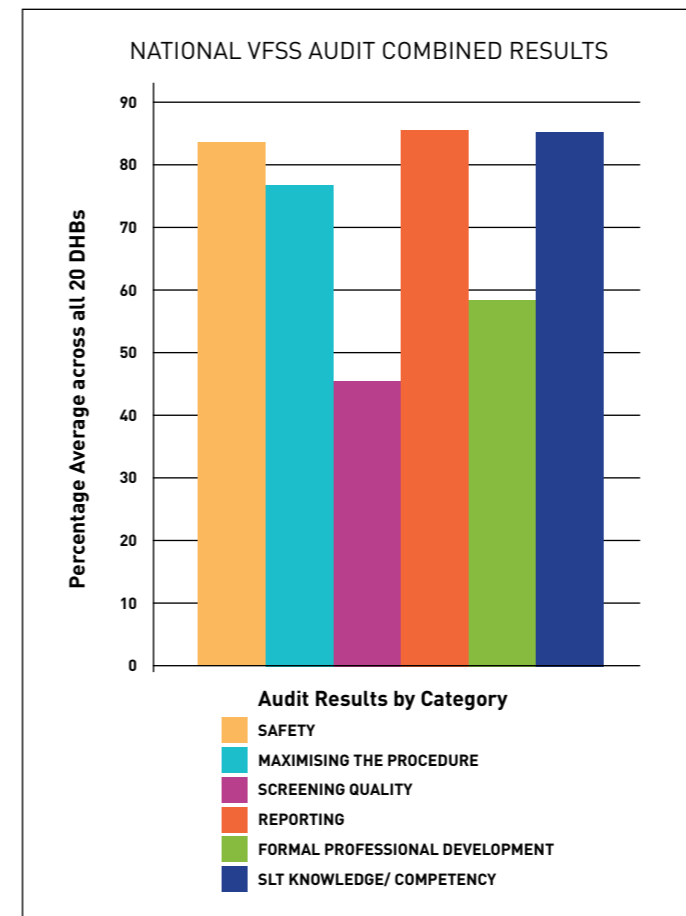
We now have the following new resources;

- Oesophageal dysphagia training package (Dr. Jacqui Allen & Anna Miles)
- Oesophageal screening protocol (Dr Jacqui Allen & Waitemata DHB)
- Radiation Safety for SLTs training package (Dr. Jacqui Allen & Anna Miles)
- Aphasia friendly education sheet (Bay of Plenty DHB)
- DHB- specific action plans

The national VFSS audit will be completed again in 18 months.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- 1) VFSS Guideline Working Group Members- Helen Rigby - Capital Coast DHB, Helen McLauchlan - Counties Manukau DHB, Melissa Keesing - Auckland DHB, Esther Ong - Auckland DHB, Margaret Sargent - Canterbury DHB, Leanne Whitteker - Canterbury DHB, Jodi White - Midcentral DHB, Andrea Benoit - Waitemata DHB, Philippa Williams- The University of Auckland
- 2) DHB SLT Leaders, DHB Auditors and all the SLTs who participated and developed action plans
- 3) Dr Jacqui Allen for her contribution to SLT training this year





Student Contribution

A PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE: START INTENSIVE FLUENCY COURSE

WORDS: JIZELLE YATES

For my first intensive block as a student, I was fortunate to be placed at the Stuttering Treatment and Research Trust (START) in Auckland. The clinicians at START are passionate about their field and helping those affected by stuttering. Alongside five other University of Auckland students, I assisted the clinicians in conducting a 5-day intensive group fluency course for adults based on the Camperdown Programme (O’Brian, Cream, Onslow & Packman 2001, 2003). Clients learned the prolonged speech technique, controlling their stuttering severity and naturalness. Throughout the entire week clients, students, and clinicians were asked to use this technique during all conversations, including lunch breaks, transfer tasks, and even at home. Everyone involved practiced so much within the five days that one client even reported his jaw muscles were beginning to hurt. By the fifth day I think most of us could recite

the exemplar by heart. It was nice to be a part of a group who were so supportive of one another and openly shared their personal experiences, successes, and challenges. This led to a relaxed atmosphere where they weren’t afraid to let their guard down, which helped improve the learning environment. On the last day, a client expressed that they had never met anyone else who stuttered and this group allowed them to see stuttering from an “external perspective.” Thank you START for allowing me to be a part of this and for all of your hard work!

1. O’Brian, S., Onslow, M., Cream, A., & Packman, A. (2003). *The Camperdown Program: Outcomes of a new prolonged-speech treatment model*. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 46, 933-946.
2. O’Brian, S., Cream, A., Onslow, M., & Packman, A. (2001). *A replicable, nonprogrammed, instrument-free method for the control of stuttering with prolonged-speech*. *Asia Pacific Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing*, 6, 91-96.



A website for sharing and reviewing Speech-Language Therapy Assessments

WEBSITE ADDRESS: MSLTPrac.wordpress.com

WORDS: JAE KIM

Recently, some of the University of Auckland Master of Speech-Language Therapy Practice (MSLTPrac) students have spent two weeks evaluating new child clients referred to the university clinic. While preparing for the first sessions, we were faced with some difficult questions –

- Which assessment should we use?
 - Is this assessment appropriate for this child with a particular diagnosis?
 - What is this assessment going to tell us?
 - Is this a reliable, valid and sensitive assessment?
- Especially as students, these are not easy questions to answer.
- Which test should be selected?
 - What is the rationale for choosing one assessment over the others?

To help answer these questions, The MSLTPrac students have been collaborating on developing a website for speech-language therapy assessments. The assessments are organised

into diagnostic labels or language schemas. The main purpose of this website is to provide a forum to discuss speech-language therapy assessments amongst the clinicians, students and researchers in New Zealand. Topics of discussion include;

- the appropriateness of test items in New Zealand context
- reliability, validity and sensitivity of the assessments
- the ease of test administration and interpretation
- different or adapted use of the available assessments
- experiences of and opinions about the assessments

The website is still being developed and needs much work to be done. With your contributions and suggestions, we would like to work towards developing this website into a useful learning resource for students and an avenue for practising Speech-language Therapists and researchers to share their clinical perspectives. Please email jkim240@aucklanduni.ac.nz to become a contributor and help develop this website.

Two Day Voice Workshop

THREE PERSPECTIVES

WORDS: ELITA MCDONALD, TIKA ORMOND, AND VAL SPOONER



FROM ELITA...

"The creation of a thousand forests starts with one acorn." That seemed to be the case when it came to the 2011 NZ Voice Workshop in Auckland. What started as an email of interest sent out to N.Z Speech-Language Therapy Departments, sparked a chain mail effect bringing other enthusiastic players on board and slowly but surely the two day workshop became a reality. Add in a world renowned guest speaker and 32 enthusiastic Speech-language Therapists, and we had ourselves an event that many said had been a long time coming.

The morning session I co-presented with Esther Ong, and covered initial assessment of voice disorders. It was great to see participants of all levels and expertise engaging in discussion and debate about the perceptual grading of voices; whether they were Lindsay Lohan's "gin and tonic" tone or Fran Drescher's New Yorker twang. Interactive components of the session included putting my very own vocal folds on display in a demonstration of endoscopy and stroboscopy with the fantastic equipment supplied by Siobhan and her Olympus team. Paediatric and adult therapists alike discussed strategies spanning from self ratings to departmental differences. For some, this session was a chance to re-cap and be reminded of helpful tools, while for others it was a chance to share some curly questions and anecdotes about complex patients.

"We need to be doing more of these types of workshops and hopefully have an annual event... to keep the momentum going within our great but small country"

FROM TIKA...

Getting ready for the voice workshop was interesting because no matter how long I have been practising in the field there is always the worry about how am I going to fill the time, and will I be able to fulfil the needs of the group. I remembered the very first voice workshop I went to after starting work at Wellington Hospital in 1986/7, organised by Bronwyn Davidson and the ENT department. It confirmed that voice was an area that I wanted to work more in and gave me the impetus to try new techniques and seek more experience and knowledge. With this memory I wanted to make the session practical and experiential so therapists too could go away and try out some different techniques but also know that what they were doing was effective in their clinical practise.

A number of people had attended workshops run by Alison Bagnall in the past, and with her sad death in May, it was fitting that we remembered her work, which for many of us was a turning point in how we worked with our voice patients. The focus of the session I ran on muscle tension dysphonia, followed well after Elita and Esther's session where GRBAS (Hirano) assessment was used by the group to complete perceptual assessment on a variety of voices. Video vignettes with patients showed how the same exercises can be used with different people and still achieve clear voice quality. Therapists had a chance to practise the techniques and discuss what works for some and not for others. The two days reinforced for me that we need to be doing more of these types of workshops and hopefully have an annual event of some description to keep the momentum going within our great but small country.

FROM VAL...

On the second day, we were fortunate to have Associate Professor Jenni Oates of La Trobe University, present on a range of complex voice disorders focussing on evidence-based assessment and management.

She described and illustrated how recent research is suggesting that there may be an association between psychosocial factors and onset of Functional Voice Disorders. Therefore, from a clinical perspective it is imperative that voice clinicians learn to conduct in-depth psychosocial interviewing to determine whether a client's voice problem has an emotional basis.

Jenni discussed the results of her own and colleagues' preliminary study that suggested vocal function exercises (VFE, Stemple) may have the potential to bring about positive effects on changes arising from physiological vocal ageing.

With regards Chronic Cough and Paradoxical Vocal Fold Movement, it was recommended articles be read as the textbooks "have not yet caught up".

It was evident throughout her presentation that she could not emphasise enough the current paucity of high level evidence on the effectiveness of voice therapy. Finally, she stressed the importance of collaborative research and the implications that this has for treatment approaches and service development.

Thank you so much to our speakers and NZSTA for a great workshop. I went home inspired and look forward to our next event in professional development of voice.



Marking the retirement of Prof. Renny Tatchell

WORDS: DR. MAXINE BEVIN

Renny began his career in Speech-Language Therapy in New Zealand in 1966 and, on August 15 2011, he retired from his position of Professor, Communication Disorders Department, Central Michigan University (CMU). In the intervening years, Renny has made an enormous contribution to the lives of people with communication disability, both directly as a Speech-Language Therapist but also as an inspirational educator of students.

Renny began his work as a Speech-Language Therapist in Wairoa. Following a move to Invercargill which saw him working as the District Senior at Waihopai School as well as working part-time at Kew Hospital, he took up a position as lecturer in Speech-Language Therapy at the Christchurch Teachers College. From November 1976 to January 1982 he was the Senior Lecturer in Charge of Speech-Language Therapy training.

Renny had completed a M.A. in the USA in 1978, and he returned to the USA to complete his doctoral study in 1982 where he continued his career focusing on student education.

I took the opportunity to ask him some questions about his very full and satisfying professional life.

WHAT ARE YOUR EARLY MEMORIES OF WORKING AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPIST?

Wairoa was a great place to start as a Speech-Language Therapist. At the time the population was approximately 50% Maori and 50% Pakeha. There were 34 schools in and around Wairoa that I was required to visit at least once a year. I have vivid and fond recollections of driving to, and seeing children at places like Ardkeen, Tuai, Nuhaka, Opoutama, and Mahia, among many others.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE DIRECTION OF YOUR CAREER IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY?

After completing a Ph.D. in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, I won a position as an associate professor in the Division of Speech-Language Pathology in the Department of Communication Disorders at CMU in 1985. I was promoted to the rank of professor in 1989 and at the same time became chairman of the department. For the two years before I retired in August, 2011 I vacated the chair position and continued as a full professor.

WHAT WAS IT THAT ENCOURAGED YOU TO STAY WITHIN THE PROFESSION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY?

It's a fascinating field. There is such breadth to the realm of communication sciences and disorders. I have been fortunate to be able to specialize in areas of teaching, research and service, and have thoroughly enjoyed helping clients with a wide variety of speech, language, voice, fluency, swallowing and hearing disorders. I also derived great satisfaction from helping to build the Speech-Language Therapy programme in New Zealand and the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Sign Language programs at CMU. Above all I love teaching students and motivating them to pursue successful careers by helping others in these chosen professions.

HAVE THERE BEEN MEMORABLE CLIENTS WHO INSPIRED YOU?

I particularly enjoy working with persons who stutter and those with psychogenic voice disorders. The life experiences of these

clients are such an inspiration and it is so professionally and personally satisfying to help them overcome their voice and fluency difficulties.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MOST FULFILLING AND SATISFYING PARTS OF YOUR CAREER?

During my tenure as senior lecturer in charge of the Speech-Language Therapy programme, we were able to develop stronger links between Christchurch Teachers' College and The University of Canterbury. This played a significant part in the transition of the entry level qualification for SLTs from a specialist area with teacher certification to a baccalaureate degree.

As chair of the Communication Disorders Department at CMU we were one of the first two universities in the USA to

develop and establish the Doctorate in Audiology (Au.D.).

I was instrumental in linking CMU and The University of Canterbury through the study abroad program.

Finally, one of the most satisfying courses I developed at CMU in 1986, and taught each summer until my retirement, was a human cadaver dissection course which has proved to be very successful and popular among Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Psychology students.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR YOUR RETIREMENT?

Having more time to spend with our family, traveling, and staying in our cottage in Pentwater, Michigan, a place that reminds us of NZ and its beautiful beaches!

More than just a job

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"I love the lifestyle, the people and the variety of caseload. Working in a rural area, the clients that I work with are all very grateful to have access to speech pathology services. I am also highly valued and respected by my professional team."
Loretta Johnston, Speech Pathologist, St George Hospital

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Search for vacancies or send an online Expression of Interest today at www.health.qld.gov.au/allied

Queensland Government Australia

Area Updates

SUMMER 2011/12

WHAKATANE

- Whakatane DHB SLTs are developing resources for working with people with aphasia who have Te Reo as their first language.
- Whakatane GSE are losing SLTs in Tauranga and Whakatane and they are not being replaced. Concerns have been expressed.

HAWKE'S BAY DHB:

- Recent position advertised resulted in 18 applicants – this may be indicative of the current employment situation for new graduates.
- Hawke's Bay DHB are setting up some training packages with the Radiology Department to help achieve the requirements of the VFSS guideline.

TARANAKI DHB:

- Caroline Blume is retiring after 28 years at the DHB and will be sorely missed. We have been lucky to have her in our profession.

PALMERSTON NORTH MOE SE:

- Numerous personnel changes have been occurring across the different services.
- Explore Service: Explore are currently also employing an SLT in a joint behavioural support specialist/SLT role.

WELLINGTON:

- Hutt DHB have started a Sequential Oral Sensory feeding group as a result of attending the SOS course and are measuring outcomes.



WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

- www.modelmekids.com produces useful DVDs for teaching social skills
- www.aphasiastsoftwarefinder.org is a website developed by The Travistock Trust for Aphasia SLTs and people with aphasia that highlights software resources available for aphasia therapy programmes.



Lower North Island Regional Study Day thanks Caroline Blume

WORDS: BRIGID FAY

On 16th September, Speech-language Therapists employed by District Health Boards in the Lower North Island gathered in Palmerston North for this twice yearly in-service event. We had attendees from Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley, Taranaki, Wairarapa, Whanganui, Hawkes Bay and MidCentral District Health Boards.

As part of the day, we paid tribute to Caroline Blume who was one of the original instigators of these meetings and is retiring from Taranaki Base Hospital at the end of this year. Caroline moved from Wellington to Taranaki with her family about 20 years ago. When she began work at Taranaki Base Hospital, she was on her own and there were few opportunities for Professional Development outside of the Biennial NZSTA Conference. At the time, Wellington Therapists had an established meeting and Palmerston North Therapists would travel down. However Wellington was too far for therapists from Taranaki to travel to in one day, so Caroline requested that the

venue was moved to Palmerston North. That was the beginning of the Lower North Island Regional Study Days. It is with some sadness that we farewell Caroline as she has always been a particularly enthusiastic supporter of these days, and in recent years she has continued to attend even on her days "off". She said that these regional days are a wonderful source of relatively "free" education for our profession and commented on the high quality of the presentations over the years. These days are also a great opportunity for networking, professional support, and case discussion for many therapists working in small teams or in isolation.

From all her colleagues in the Lower North Island and beyond, we wish Caroline all the very best for the next phase of her life and whatever exciting adventures lie ahead. We know that she is unlikely to be slowing down and putting her feet up!

For more information about the Lower North Island Regional study days, please contact Brigid.Fay@midcentraldhb.govt.nz



“It has been interesting learning for me to see the role that software can play: its benefits and limitations.”

Using Computer Software to Deliver Intensive Aphasia Therapy

WORDS: MERYL JONES

I recently had the opportunity to trial use of aphasia software with a client which he decided to purchase to enable more intensive home practice. The software is Step by Step version 4.5 produced in the UK by Dr Jane Mortley, an aphasia specialist SLT running a private practice. Website link: www.aphasia-software.com

This purchase coincided with provision of 30 minutes of therapy support 5 days a week from a support worker following a needs assessment.

The client's goal was to improve the accuracy of his verbal naming. At the start of his community therapy in July 2011 he was unable to name any items accurately on confrontation

naming tasks and also could not repeat any items accurately although he often moved a little closer to target. Semantic and phonemic cueing were of little benefit.

The client has worked systematically through the well-graded steps on the programme moving from repetition to naming with semantic and/or phonemic cueing. He has progressed rapidly since starting his therapy on 10.08.11, 5 times a week. By 01.09.11 his repetition (on software items) had improved to 67% accuracy and naming from phonemic cues had increased to 57% accuracy by 12.10.11. By the end of October, he was naming with more than 90% accuracy with no phonemic cueing needed and has now spontaneously moved on to sentence generation tasks. He has progressed to the point where he has almost 'outgrown' the software. His self-monitoring of paraphasic errors has also greatly increased.

Interestingly his spontaneous output has improved to some degree but there has not been as much generalisation as we had hoped. He is able to generate some full accurate sentences but many paraphasias and perseverative errors still occur. The focus in therapy is now on more graded sentence production tasks. He has throughout been quite resistant to a compensatory approach to communication rehabilitation and has been being highly motivated for impairment-based therapy.

It has been interesting learning for me to see the role that software can play: its benefits and limitations.

THE BENEFITS I HAVE FOUND ARE:

- It is very motivating and appealing for the client.
- It more readily enables intensive home practice - as a busy SLT it can be difficult to provide a large enough quantity of resources.
- The grading of the therapy tasks is already done (and very well designed), you just need to guide the client a little.

- Having the cues and steps built into the software bypasses the risk of inappropriate cueing/grading of tasks by an unqualified person.
- The client has more control: he can decide how much help he wants.
- Having the option for the clients to self record their utterances is a great feature to give instant feedback on accuracy.

THE LIMITATIONS:

- You need to take time to familiarize yourself with the software so you can guide the client (and therapy support person) appropriately. The department/practice therefore needs to buy the clinician version, which is almost \$900.00.
- There are probably only a few clients who are willing to self-fund the software, especially since they are likely to need it for a short time only (client version: just under \$500.00). Ideally the SLT service needs to provide the software on loan on a laptop or enable the client to use a therapy computer at the clinic, which brings a few logistical headaches!
- It is harder to obtain a written record of progress when therapy sessions take place only using the client's home PC.
- There is some risk the client may become fixed on the idea of therapy having to be in the form of software use and being therefore less willing to use paper based tasks at a later date, when the software tasks are no longer meeting their needs.
- As with all therapy, care needs to be taken that generalization of skills to spontaneous speech is not neglected.
- Some culturally inappropriate items: vocabulary names, accent differences.

If anyone has any queries my email address is merylj@orcon.net.nz.



Life Member

INTERVIEW WITH GWEN BROADLEY

WORDS: LUCY GREIG AND YVONNE COPE

I started my career as an SLT...

in 1944 when I trained under Miss Marion Saunders and Dr Jean Seabrook. After marriage, I moved to a town where there was no speech clinic. So instead I taught in a sole charge country school, in general schools, and had my family. By 1958, having moved earlier to Auckland, Miss Valerie Lewis (District Head of SLT in Auckland schools), offered me a relieving position at Grafton School Clinic. Following this, I took a permanent position at Glen Taylor School Clinic with subsequent seniority and overview of the Northland Clinics as deputy to Valerie Lewis.

What attracted me to the profession was...

observing in Nancy Caughley's clinic in Lower Hutt. I was awarded a 3rd year from Wellington Teachers' College in 1943 (to study Speech-Language Therapy).

I have been a member of NZSTA for...

fifty three years and feel privileged to have spent so many years in the profession.

My best day in the job was...

Valarie Lewis inviting me to come back to work to a job I really loved and after a long period since my training. It was the start of a marvellous career and I enjoyed it all!

My worst day in the job was...

none that I can remember.

The contribution I have made to the profession that I am most proud of is...

helping therapists return to the profession. Over the years clinics were encouraged to welcome returning therapists to observe. I had a lot of SLTs coming through. It was a great pleasure to do that...a scheme that benefited both therapists by sharing knowledge and strategies.

Being actively involved in the profession until the age of 78 speaks for itself. I enjoyed the work, the interaction with children of all ages along with their families...but it surely was time to retire.

The contribution I have made to the Association is...

being on the National and Conference Committees for years and with real enjoyment. I played a major part in establishing the Auckland Speech Therapy Association (the parent body of the NZSTA) and the setting up of the Auckland Speech Therapists' Library (now called known as the NZSTA Resource Room). That was a major achievement at the time.

The pearls of wisdom I have for other members/SLTs are...

acceptance and winning smiles!

Acceptance of the client's condition is paramount and from the first meeting the parent must observe this.

Make the session enjoyable. Set the activity to the age of the child...something so obvious but not always easy to do.

Final thoughts...

Along the professional way, one makes many lasting friends. Evidence of this was the 90th birthday party given to me in October 2010. It was so enjoyable and so much appreciated.



Dr Clare McCann – Professional Standards

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KIA ORA KOUTOU AND WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF COMMUNICATION MATTERS 2012.

Once again we have had a busy year with much to celebrate. Firstly, a very warm welcome to Justine Wilkinson our new Executive Director and Gretchen Wade our new Administrator. Both Justine and Gretchen have embraced their new roles with enthusiasm and skill. I am delighted to have them working for the Association as we move forward with the new strategic direction over the next few years. I would also like to extend my grateful thanks to Angela Leigh who was a superb 'interim' Administrator for seven months while we recruited Gretchen. Welcome also to Catherine Epps who has taken the new role of Editor of Communication Matters. We look forward to working with Catherine as she develops the focus and structure of this magazine.

HUGE thanks go to Felicity Bright (Professional Development) and Alison Steadman for a well organised and very well attended professional development seminar in Dunedin in May. This was a fabulous opportunity to learn from the varied presenters and to network in an informal way with colleagues.

Scope of Practice

The working party have developed a comprehensive draft of a Scope of Practice for the Association. We are in the final stages of development and expect to be able to adopt it formally in the first quarter of 2012. We will notify you (via the Executive Update) when the draft is available on the website and will invite your comments on this.

Programme Accreditation Committee (PAC)

Earlier this year all three University programmes met the requirements for continued accreditation (on the basis of the Annual Reports). The Programme Accreditation Framework has been revised and now includes much more detailed information about the New Zealand context (which will enable the Programmes to ensure they are educating Speech-language Therapists for practice in the changing workplace environments in New Zealand). 2012 will be a big year for the PAC as both the University of Canterbury and The University of Auckland will be seeking re-accreditation (as part of the seven-year accreditation cycle).

Registration?

With the general election occurring this year it was not possible for the Association to meet with the Minister of Health to discuss the current situation regarding Registration. Please be assured that we (the Executive Council) are acting in the interests of the members as we consider the best way to proceed (be that Registration or Self-Regulation). We intend to focus on this issue as a matter of urgency in 2012 and will seek to represent your views in all our discussions. As part of the new strategic plan we have a mandate from you the members to move this forward and we will keep you informed of our progress.

I hope you will join me in my focus to maintain the high standards of professional practice of Speech-Language Therapy in Aotearoa New Zealand. I wish you all a relaxing and happy summer break.

Clare



Felicity Bright – Professional Development

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Over the last three months, the primary focus of the Professional Development (PD) portfolio has been planning events for next year, while also reviewing the NZSTA awards and grants and refining the NZSTA's internal PD processes.

Conference Planning:

It is great to have our three keynote speakers for the conference confirmed - Professor Sheena Reilly, Dr Deborah Hersh and Terry Wackrow (Grace Gane Memorial Lecture). We look forward to hearing their informative and challenging keynote presentations. Thank you to everyone who has submitted a workshop, paper or poster presentation for consideration. I have no doubt we will have an excellent conference programme thanks to your input. Full details of the programme will be available early next year. I hope to see many of you at the conference in May. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Conference Planning Committee who, together with Pam Richards, are doing an excellent job of organising the conference.

Clinical Issue:

We are in the early planning stages for a clinical issue focusing on Speech-language Therapists' responsiveness to the Treaty of Waitangi. We are hoping to run this early next year via teleconferences and online forums. More details will be available soon.

NZSTA Awards and Grants:

I am currently reviewing all the NZSTA Awards. We are delighted to offer the inaugural Sir Donald Beaven Scholarship for post-graduate students while the Research Excellence Award will be open to all NZSTA members engaged in research. The closing date for these awards will be Friday 13 April. Full details of the awards, including criteria and application forms, will be available shortly.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution that Alison Stedman and Angela Leigh have made also to this portfolio over the last year. It is great to have Justine Wilkinson and Gretchen Wade on board in our new National Office, and I look forward to working with them over the remainder of my term on the Executive Council.

Felicity



Lucy Greig – Member Networks

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The end of the year is nigh. This not only means that the festive season is upon us and the holidays are just around the corner, but that it is also time to renew your NZSTA membership and to encourage others to join the Association! 2011 has been a huge year for the Association and has set the platform for further growth and development in 2012. We hope that this will ensure that all SLTs have a professional body they can be proud of.

There are many reasons why you should be a member of the NZSTA in 2012: you will continue to receive the informative and glossy new look *Communication Matters* (now with a dedicated editor); be kept regularly informed of important dates and issues that are facing our Association and the profession through the EC monthly update and area meetings; have opportunities to network and socialise with other members, such as participating in Round the Bays; attend the biannual conference, *Beyond Boundaries*, at a heavily discounted rate. There will also be new member benefits to look out for in 2012, such as a new website, including a section dedicated to student members, and the development of a mentoring programme.

Being a member of your professional body helps the Association to represent you, fellow members, and our clients/patients at a National level. 2012 is a key year for increasing the public's and the government's awareness of the important work we do in our communities.

I would like to thank the Area Representatives and the Student Representatives for the work they have done and the time they have given this year to help me in my portfolio. It makes my job that much easier having an enthusiastic and professional group to work with and bounce ideas off. Thank you also to all of you who have contributed and participated in the Association over the year. The strength of an Association depends on its members.

So don't forget to send in your renewal form and spread the word – the bigger, the better!

I wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season and look forward to your continued support in 2012.

Lucy



Sara Moore – Communications

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Phew! 2011 is drawing to a close, and what a year it's been for our profession and for our Association. This is the fifth edition of our now established, Communication Matters, and I'd like to join the Executive Council in welcoming Catherine Epps as our new dedicated editor. Her skills and knowledge will be a huge asset to this publication. I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to our first ever Executive Director, Justine Wilkinson. I'm excited to see what new heights our Association will reach with someone of her calibre and experience guiding us along the way. As Dean detailed, it is also good to have Gretchen Wade onboard as our administrator, she will be a great help to the members, and a friendly face as you enter our new national office in Parnell, Auckland.

I'd like to thank the membership for all their support, encouragement and feedback over the year. 2012 will see many more exciting projects and ventures to get involved with, with the continuing goal of raising the awareness and profile of our profession and the people we work with. Some

of the key projects that this portfolio will be focussing on is the redevelopment of our website, keeping awareness week moving from strength to strength, and engaging with global associations in preparation for the International Year of Communication 2013.

The International Year of Communication 2013 will be a concentrated effort, led by Speech Pathology Australia and our Association to raise awareness and coverage around our role. I will keep you posted on this great initiative as details progress.

Auckland University students are already in full swing of raising awareness for 2012, check out the NZSTA facebook page to get the details of the Round the Bays fun run/walk in March next year. The Executive Council will be there supporting this great venture and it will be a brilliant opportunity to show your pride, support and running shoes – as well as meeting other SLTs from around the country.

Lastly, my congratulations to our newest group of SLT graduates! It is a nerve-wracking and thrilling time, I wish you well with the beginning of your career.

All the very best for the festive season, and the New Year.
Sara



Adele Siave – Māori and Cultural Development

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Tena koutou katoa. Nga mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou.

Ko Pipitarawai te maunga. Ko Mangatuakarewa te awa. Ko Patangaroa te papa kainga. Ko Te Atiawa, ko Ngati Mutunga, ko Ngati Tama me ko Ngati Itari nga iwi. No Wharekauri ahau. Engari kei Tamaki Makaurau toku kainga. Ko Gwen raua ko John oku matua. Ko Aaron toku tane. Ko Declan toku tama. Ko Adele toku ingoa.

My SLT career began in 2004, after graduating from Canterbury University. I have spent most of my career at Counties Manukau DHB, with a year abroad in Ireland. My current role is full-time mum. Now that you know a bit about me, we can get down to business.

I am very excited to have this opportunity to be part of a dynamic, proactive and enthusiastic Executive Council. It has been a quiet time for the portfolio as I have been digesting information and familiarising myself with the work of the Executive Council and the portfolio over these first two months. Goal setting and identifying key projects for the portfolio have been my first steps in this role, with many of the plans for the portfolio continuing with the work that Kerrie initiated during her term.

The key areas of focus for the portfolio include;

- engaging the support of a kaumatua,
- relationship building,
- recruitment of Maori, Pasifika, men and other ethnic minorities to the profession,
- the creation of a workforce development plan,
- supporting members to be culturally competent,
- developing relationships with Maori service providers and iwi, raising the profile of the NZSTA and Speech-Language Therapy with these groups,
- contributing to the website and mentoring programme,
- helping to improve Maori access to SLT services.

2012 looks to be an exciting year for the profession and the association. I look forward to expanding this portfolio to meet the needs of the members and clients with which we work. I wish you all an enjoyable, relaxing and safe festive season with whanau and friends. Bring on 2012!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas, comments or are passionate about any of the areas of focus for this portfolio.

Mauri ora
Adele

Executive Board

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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