

# Communication matters



Megan McAulliffe

## President's Message

Welcome to the Winter Edition of Communication Matters – my first as President of the NZSTA. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself thus far and look forward to working with the membership over the next two years. A number of fantastic Presidents have preceded me and it is with a mixture of confidence and apprehension that I welcome the responsibilities of the role. As this is my first report in the role of President, it contains many words of thanks followed by welcomes.

First and foremost, on behalf of all members of the NZSTA I would like to thank Stella Ward for her fine work as President over the past four years. Her time in the role was a period of growth and maturation for the association. The NZSTA was highlighted internationally, particularly through her involvement in the Mutual Recognition Agreement. Other highlights of Stella's term were the development of the NZSTA Strategic Plan, her work towards registration of the profession, and her significant work towards ensuring that all academic programmes were accredited by the NZSTA. Finally, we shouldn't forget that Stella has kept speech-language therapy in the news with mentions in the newspaper and appearances on the radio and breakfast television. She is truly a hard act to follow! Stella has now moved on to bigger responsibilities as the Director of Allied Health, Counties Manukau DHB. However, she will continue to maintain a presence within the Association and as a campaigner for SLTs at higher levels. I am sure all members will join with me in thanking her for her excellent service and wishing her all the best in her new career.

In May Reflecting Connections, the second joint conference between the NZSTA and Speech Pathology Australia, was held. It was an excellent opportunity to meet with the respective representatives of Speech Pathology Australia and to strengthen ties between the two associations. Thank you to the NZSTA component of the Conference Planning Committee (two of whom have now taken up positions on the Exec!) for a marvellous conference. Thank you also to the student representatives from Massey University and the University of Auckland for their organisational assistance. A highlight for many was the inaugural Grace Gane Memorial Lecture. Associate Professor Margaret MacLagan delivered an entertaining and thoughtful address – a fitting tribute to the work of Ms Gane. It was also a pleasure to meet Grace's family who joined us for the address and presented the award.

The recent AGM signalled a significant moment in NZSTA history with the ratification of the proposed leadership structure. It is now up to the new Executive Committee and membership to implement that structure. You will notice the call for a working party within this edition of Communication Matters. Thank you to the Strategic Planning Committee, led by Simone Newsham, for their work in drafting the plan. This was a big undertaking and they did a superb job. I would also like to congratulate the winners of NZSTA awards presented at the AGM – Laura Wells, Anne van Bysterveldt, Christine Musgrave, Kirsten Wulff, Karen McLellan, and Meryl Bowen.

## Inside . . .

President .....	1
Executive Officer .....	3
Publications and Area Rep Liaison .....	4
Professional Development.....	10
Professional Standards .....	15
Public Relations.....	16
Conference and Courses .....	17
Situations Vacant.....	18
Executive Board.....	20



Welcome to the new members of the Executive Committee – Clare McCann (Professional Standards), Felicity Bright (Professional Development), and Dean Sutherland (Public Relations). Our first Exec meeting was held in Christchurch recently and there were many ideas and much enthusiasm for the Association. It is an energetic and conscientious team and Matt and I look forward to working with Clare,

Felicity, and Dean over the next two years. A final welcome to Shona Powell, our new Executive Officer - Shona has been a huge help to all of us in taking on our new roles. Thank you!

So, it is a busy time ahead for the NZSTA! However, first we must have a successful Awareness Day. Dean is currently working on the organisation and I would hope all

of you will become involved in celebrating the achievements of our profession and highlighting the work of SLTs to the community. I welcome your feedback and comments and look forward to meeting many of you at upcoming events.

Keep warm over the next little while!

**Megan**

## NZSTA Strategic Plan

### New Governance Structure - Working Party

The Strategic Planning Committee did a superb job developing the Strategic Plan for NZSTA through to 2012. The Executive Committee would like to acknowledge their valuable contribution to the Association. This is an important document - the next step is to bring it to life and implement the vision outlined in the document.

A key focus for the Executive Committee over the next year is to put in place the

new governance structure approved at the Annual General Meeting in May. Expressions of interest are invited from members who would like to be part of a Working Party to assist the Executive Committee in implementing the new structure. The Strategic Plan is available for viewing on the website at [www.speechtherapy.org.nz](http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz)

If you are interested in being involved in this phase of moving the Association

forward please send your name, contact details and a short summary of your background and skills you feel would be valuable to the working party by 20th August 2008 to:

Executive Officer  
NZSTA  
P O Box 38-070, Parklands  
Christchurch 8842  
e mail: [nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz](mailto:nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz)



*Outgoing NZSTA President Stella Ward with presenter of the inaugural Grace Gane Memorial Lecture, Margaret Maclagan, and members of the Gane family.*

It's hard to believe but I've been in the role for seven weeks now and that time has just flown by. My first introduction to the Association was at the Conference in Auckland which I was fortunate enough to be able to attend. This gave me the opportunity to meet so many of you and spend some quality hand over time with Ngaire. My first impressions from the conference are of a group of enthusiastic professionals who are very involved in their Association. Thank you to all those who stopped to welcome me and say hello. It has been an interesting time taking over from Ngaire, as she knew the Association inside-out and, of course the members, so I thank you all for your patience and Ngaire for the hard work she did. The Executive Committee and Area Representatives have also been wonderful in helping me ease into the role.

To introduce myself, I live in Christchurch which is where the office is now based. My work background has been in human resources and event management. My degree was in human resources and I spent over 15 years working in this field in the public service and in the health and education sectors. I then decided for a complete change and ended up assisting in the running of several large international sporting events held in Christchurch such as the World Firefighter Games and World Wheelchair Games. I returned to study and have almost completed my Masters. So although my knowledge of speech-language therapy is limited, I am learning fast and your website is a wonderful source of information for me.

I can see that there are exciting times ahead for the Association and the



profession and I am pleased to be able to be part of it for the next year. I am also looking forward to getting to know more about speech-language therapy and you, the members.

**Shona**

## Membership Update

As at 1 July 2008 there were 541 members (2007: 519)

Full members	382
Provisional	65
Non-earning	15
Non-practising	11
Associate	3
Student	52
Life/Honorary	9
Professional Associations	4

(RCSLT, SPA, CASLPA, and ASHA)

You can help by encouraging non-members at your workplace to join their professional body and invite them to come along to your local area meeting. Application forms for domestic (NZ based) applicants can be completed on-line, while application forms for therapists based overseas are available by emailing the Executive Officer or can be downloaded from the NZSTA website.

Membership of NZSTA has many benefits, check out the website for more information.

## Qualifications Approval

Since 1 March 2008 the following overseas therapists have had their qualifications approved:

Jennifer Carswell, UK – Provisional  
Lindsay Hovland, USA - Provisional  
Jessica Kidwell, USA  
Siobhan Lillie, UK – Provisional  
Emma Necus, UK  
Angelina Rose, UK - Provisional  
Melanie Street, UK  
Julie Taylor, Canada - Provisional  
Adrian Trotman, USA & UK

There are eight applications being processed by the Qualifications Approval Committee.

## Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the May 2008 Executive Committee meeting and the Annual General Meeting May 2008 can be viewed online in the "Information for Therapists" section of the website at [www.speechtherapy.org.nz](http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz)

## NZSTA Meetings

29/30th August 2008 - Executive Committee meeting in Auckland



Greetings! Hopefully, by now I need no introduction as I have been acting as this portfolio leader for the last two years! I'm very pleased to be continuing on for another term in the role, and am looking forward to working with a (largely) new Executive.

It was great to catch up with many members at the recent Reflecting Connections conference and NZSTA AGM. As many of you are aware, at the AGM, our new website was launched. Thanks to those of you who have sent me feedback regarding the new site. More information about accessing the delights inside can be found in this edition of Communication Matters.

At the conference, the Area Reps got together in order to network as a group and discuss some ideas for the role. I am thrilled to announce all our Area Reps are continuing on in their respective areas. I'm also very happy to welcome our new Student Reps from the University of Auckland: Libby French and Sandy Yang.

The next round of area meetings provides the opportunity for developing ideas for SLT Awareness Day. This will take place on Friday 22nd August and has the theme Sharing Our Stories: Making a Difference. More information and resources will be provided over the next month; but use the area meetings as a chance to brainstorm ideas for promoting this event in your area.

As always, any feedback around my efforts or questions relating to my role on the Exec are welcomed. Contact details for the Executive Board can be found on the back of this magazine, as well as by visiting the website.

## Catching up with the Times: the New Improved NZSTA Website

*Submitted by Matt Walker, Publications & Area Rep Liaison Portfolio Leader*

By now, I am hoping you will have all taken the opportunity to visit [www.speechtherapy.org.nz](http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz) and taken a look at the new features found within. After two years of development, I am thrilled to unveil the new site. Read on for more details about the new site and what it has to offer.

Parents and families now have access to an all-new "Information for Families" section. This section provides access to information sheets on a range of communication and swallowing difficulties, general descriptions of our clients, and information on national support groups.

Also in the "Information for Families" section (and accessible from the home page) is a brand new "Where to Find SLTs" section. Listed by district, this section provides access to contact details for services provided through the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education: Special Education, and private practitioners.

Largely a "members only" section, "Information for Therapists" offers a range of content for visitors to the site. Here, you can find updates on "news and events" (such as Awareness Day), access guidelines and position papers published by the NZSTA, find information on forthcoming professional development events, access information around SIGs and awards and grants funded through the NZSTA, access copies of minutes from Executive meetings, and view a calendar of important dates.

"About NZSTA" provides visitors with general information about the association, including a brief history (yet to be published), information on ethics, the NZSTA constitution, the qualifications approval process, how to advertise with the association, how to support the association financially, allied associations (such as SPA), and the publications produced by the association. Also in this section is information around becoming a member of the NZSTA, including an on-line membership form. Visitors can also access information on individual members of the Executive Board.

The website continues to be a gateway to career opportunities. Visitors to the site can access up-to-date job vacancies, and information on national and international recruitment agencies. Information on becoming an SLT and the three accredited programmes can also be found in this section.

An important part of any website is the access it provides to information and resources. Our new "Resources" section offers information about the Auckland Resource Room, access to the latest journal content pages subscribed to by the NZSTA, and access to internet links identified by members as useful resource links.

With the on-going development of the New Zealand Journal of Speech-language Therapy, on-line access through the "Journal" section is an important part of the new site. Non-members and general visitors to the site can access abstracts for contents from journals published since 2003, while members have full access to all journals from 2003.

An important aspect of the new site is access. Members have now been allocated with individual usernames. When members are "added" to the site, they should receive an email prompting them to set their own password. Consequently, the old username/password published in previous editions of Communication Matters and provided in membership letters no longer works. In order for this system to work effectively, it is vital members keep Shona and myself informed of any changes to their email address.

If you have feedback about the site, suggestions for improvements, or identify any missing or incorrect information, please feel free to contact me. Please note, however, that not all suggestions will be implemented – but they will at least be considered! Finally, I would like to thank Stella, Mike, Megan, Lucy, and, particularly, Ngaire, for their support in developing the site – it has been a long process, but I am thrilled with the stage we have reached.

## Area Updates

### Auckland

- Auckland University
  - Faculty of Education: Helen Higgott has retired. The position is unfilled. It is a short-term contract of 1-2 days p/week until Christmas
  - Suzanne Purdy will be taking 1 year sabbatical leave starting July 08. Dr. Lind Hand will be Acting Head of Programme
  - Kate Milford is now a clinical tutor with a voice clinic. The University is happy to accept child or adult voice referrals
  - Maeve Morrison is also tutoring and available to see children with cleft lip/palate issues on campus
- Therapy for Children
  - Now fully staffed with 2.6 FTE SLTs. Welcomed new part-time staff member, Sophie Hansrod, previously GSE Waikato

- Counties Manukau DHB
  - Several adult service vacancies at present – looking for SLTs with some experience. Short-term paediatric acute vacancy. Well staffed in Home Health care. Team welcomed Helen McLaughlan as new Prof Leader for CMDHB
  - Pukekohe student clinic running with Clare McCann.
  - Laura Wells awarded Medical Staffing International Award – presented at conference. She visited Manila and offered SLT cleft service with Operation Restore Hope

### Waikato / Bay of Plenty

- Tauranga Hospital
  - Talk Link sponsored an AAC MDT workshop which was very good

- Recently held two MND workshops; one for health professionals and one for carers. Both workshops were very good
- Have had recurring vacancies; these have been filled with locum posts and through provision of services on a sessional basis
- Waikato GSE
  - Have had three new graduates as part of their team for the last few months
- Waikato Hospital
  - Have had four new graduates as part of their team for the last few months
  - Have increased services to include rural hospitals throughout the Waikato

### Canterbury

- University of Canterbury welcome a new Clinical Educator: Ruth Ramsay

## Aphasia Association of New Zealand (AphasiaNZ) Inc. Update

*Submitted by the AphasiaNZ committee*

**Mission: to empower people with aphasia to participate in their own communities**

The Aphasia Association of New Zealand (AphasiaNZ) Inc. has now been an Incorporated Society for one year. During that year, the committee has worked hard to establish the Association, encourage membership, organise the second biannual New Zealand Aphasia conference, and raise funds for a number of projects. A newsletter has been established, and membership is growing steadily.

As a member of AphasiaNZ, you or your organisation can stay up to date with new developments and projects, or become involved in them. The Association's information leaflet and membership form

are available on request, and copies can be sent for your department. Please inform people with aphasia about the association.

AphasiaNZ is seeking contributions for the quarterly newsletter– this is an opportunity for you to communicate with a large group of people who have aphasia, their families and carers, as well as your colleagues. You may wish to celebrate developments in aphasia therapy in your region, seek participants for research you are planning, share research findings, and report any media coverage you may have obtained to help raise public awareness of Aphasia.

AphasiaNZ is also currently looking for expressions of interest in being part of a sub-committee to organise the next Aphasia conference in 2009. The last two conferences have been in Auckland, so this may be an opportunity for a group of people outside of Auckland to make a difference in their area. You do not need to be a member of AphasiaNZ to be involved in the conference, although we would encourage you to join! If you are interested in becoming part of the conference sub-committee or would like to be involved in any other way e.g. as a regional advisor, please contact [aphasianz@gmail.com](mailto:aphasianz@gmail.com).

## What's Happening Where We Work?

# Training Interpreters & He Kamaka Oranga in Supported Communication for People with Aphasia

Submitted by Lucy Martin, Speech-language Therapist, Auckland City Hospital / University of Auckland

Approximately 2000 people are admitted into the New Zealand healthcare system each year with aphasia. The most common cause of aphasia is stroke which disproportionately affects Maori, Pacific and Asian ethnic groups (Health Research Council of New Zealand). Interpreters are vital in bridging the communication gap for any non-English speaking patients; however they typically have no specific training in communicating with people with aphasia.

Training communication partners in 'supported communication strategies' is effective in enhancing communication for people with aphasia (Legg, Young, & Bryer 2005) and their wellbeing (Lyon et al 1997). This is vital to ensure correct diagnosis and appropriate patient-centred management (Kagan, 1995) and to uphold the ethical principles of autonomy and truthfulness (informed consent).

A training programme in 'supported communication for people with aphasia' was developed for Auckland District Health Board's interpreter service and the He Kamaka Oranga (Maori Health Service) with the aim to improve communication access for non-English speaking and Maori patients with aphasia within the healthcare setting.

The training programme was based on conversational partner training at the Aphasia Centre, North York (Kagan 1998). The training was reduced from eight to four hours due to time constraints. It consisted of four modules: What is a stroke? What is Aphasia? How does it feel to have Aphasia; Acknowledging and revealing competence-

strategies for communicating with people with Aphasia; how to apply techniques when interpreting; and real-life practice with volunteers who have aphasia. Role-play activities were used during the second module to practice specific strategies for 'helping to get the message in' and 'helping to get the message out' prior to the 45 minute session with the volunteers.

The experience of Allied Health professionals working with interpreters and patients with aphasia was evaluated prior to the training. They were specifically asked 'What skills do you think an interpreter needs to be effective in interpreting / communicating with patients?' These comments were taken into account when writing the module on 'considerations when interpreting for people with communication deficits'.

Three training sessions were provided in April and May this year to accommodate the number of interpreters and the He Kamaka Oranga who expressed interest in being trained. Numbers for each session were limited to ten to facilitate an interactive model of teaching and learning. Seventeen interpreters and five Maori health workers have now been successfully trained.

The interpreters completed a pre-training questionnaire to measure the change in their knowledge of aphasia and their use of supported communication strategies. The questionnaire asked how long they had worked as an interpreter, their experience of working with patients who have communication disorders, how competent they felt working with people who have communication deficits, and their knowledge of aphasia and appropriate strategies. The post-training questionnaire will be sent in 3-4 months time, after the interpreters have had the opportunity to work with someone with aphasia and put their new skills into practice.

It is hoped that these interpreters will now be utilised by all ADHB staff when working



Interpreters trained on May 5th 2008

with non-English speaking patients who have Aphasia – whether it be in a family meeting; doctor consultation; Physiotherapy session; Occupational therapy session or SLT assessment/therapy sessions. The interpreters who have been trained are now identified as 'Aphasia Friendly' on the ADHB website.

For more information or comments on Supported Communication training for health professionals, please contact [lucymartin@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:lucymartin@adhb.govt.nz) or [jridealgh@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:jridealgh@adhb.govt.nz)

Kagan, A. (1998). Supported conversation for adults with aphasia: Methods and resources for training conversational partners. *Aphasiology*, 12(9), 816-830.

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Lyon, J.G., Cariski, D., Keisler, L., Rosenbek, J., Levine, R., Kumpula, J., RAYff, C., Coyne, S & Blanc, M. (1997). Communication partners: enhancing participation in life and communication for adults with aphasia in natural settings. *Aphasiology*, 11 (7), 693-708.

## Speech Science Research at the University of Auckland: Introducing Our Team Part One

### Dr Linda Hand, Senior Lecturer

My research is in child language with a particular interest in multiculturalism, and in functional linguistic approaches which roughly translate to thinking about language at text-level, and investigating children using language for instructing, discussing, task-achieving, recounting and so on. I am involved in a project looking at language assessment protocols for NZ SLTs, and how these do – or need to – adapt for non-dominant cultures and whether this succeeds. My other big interest is in professional discourses, looking at the interactions between SLTs and clients and families. Having only been at the University of Auckland for about 5 months, I am still developing my research programme. I am very interested in collaborating and working in teams with practitioners, other researchers, and the community – so if you have an interest and it chimes with any of the above, let me know. I would love to have more Masters and PhD research

students, and hugely encourage anyone out there thinking vaguely about it, to think clearly and make contact! It is a great step to take, and it opens doors for you.

### Liz Fairgray, Research Fellow

The research in which I am involved is aiming to show that Speech-language therapy based on the principles of auditory-verbal therapy enhances both the receptive and expressive language skills and speech perception of children wearing one or two cochlear implants. Although the need for Speech-language therapy is widely recognised when working with children who are hearing impaired, there is little research evidence for improved outcomes after specific Speech-language therapy interventions. The most widely used therapy in New Zealand is “auditory-verbal therapy”. There is paucity of research evidence for the effectiveness of AVT due to factors such as the variability in levels and duration of deafness, varying provision of amplification,

different school settings and different causes of deafness. My research will seek to increase understanding of the impact of auditory-verbal therapy in children, looking at a range of speech and language outcomes.

### Jen Smart, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

My current research projects are investigating the efficacy of personal FM systems for children with auditory processing disorder (APD), test-retest reliability of APD assessments, reported benefits and uses of personal FM systems for children with APD, and the diagnosis and treatment of APD in adults. Additional areas of interest include auditory evoked potentials, diagnosis and outcomes for auditory neuropathy/auditory dys-synchrony, aural rehabilitation, newborn hearing screening and follow-up procedures, cochlear implants and tinnitus (diagnosis and management).

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## Reflections of a Journey: Looking back at the MSLT (Prac) Degree

*Submitted by Karen McLellan, Speech-language Therapist, Waikato Hospital*

Karen McLellan (who was the inaugural University of Auckland recipient of the Student Achievement Award) is now working at Waikato Hospital. She is grateful to NZSTA for this award which acknowledges her academic achievement, clinical skills and extra-curricular activities, while contributing to the university and the community. She has reflected on her two years as a Masters of Speech Language Therapy Practice student at the university.

Where do I start when writing about the MSLTPrac course? How can I condense into a few paragraphs the two years of my life in which I have worked the hardest and grown the most? Here are some thoughts...

The MSLTPrac course was formidable. I thoroughly enjoyed it... although I might have enjoyed it more had there been a bit less of it. There were many moments

of sheer panic – when there were more assignments to complete than there were hours in the day; when I was expected to ‘run’ a paediatric SLT session in my third week in the course; when I still didn’t have ethics approval for my research project in August (and the completed project was due in three months later); and when my adult patient slept the whole way through my final practical exam. But, with the exception of the occasional lecture, I was never bored.

The support of my lecturers, tutors, and classmates was fantastic. While I was working extremely long hours it was some consolation to know that my classmates and the staff were working just as hard. Somehow it worked out for us all in the end and graduation day was very special.

An essential part of the MSLTPrac course is the research project, and for me this

was one of the highlights. I loved having the opportunity to read about aphasia and psycholinguistics and to conduct original research in that field. My results were exciting and I am looking forward to extending my research this year.

I am now in my first job, at Waikato Hospital. I work in all the hospital wards and see outpatients, which is good for variety. I travel to Thames Hospital one day a week (about a one and a half-hour drive away), which gives me good experience at working independently. I am learning a lot from all the members of the multidisciplinary team and the medical staff, but there are many challenges in my job. Sometimes I get tired of being “the new grad”. I just want to be experienced, now! I’m sure that will get better though – if there is one thing MSLTPrac taught me, it’s how to rise to a challenge.

# Allied Health Stroke Team: Improving the Auckland City Hospital Patient Journey

Submitted by Janice McMillan, Speech-language Therapist, Auckland City Hospital

The Allied Health Stroke Team (AHST) at Auckland City Hospital (ACH), Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) was formed approximately 2 years ago with the aim of providing hospital wide, co-ordinated interdisciplinary care for patients with stroke. The AHST consists of an occupational therapist, a physiotherapist, a speech-language therapist, and a specialist nurse.

Current evidence shows improved outcomes (mortality, disability, cost) for patients with a diagnosis of stroke who receive early interdisciplinary care in a designated stroke unit (National Stroke Foundation 2007, Royal College of Physicians 2004). At ACH there are 12 stroke beds on an acute neurology ward, however these beds are not "ring-fenced" specifically for patients with a diagnosis of stroke. Therefore, other patients with a neurological diagnosis may occupy these beds resulting in stroke patients being admitted to other wards as "outliers". The AHST was created to help bridge the gap and create equity in service provision for outliers on other wards.

The AHST seeks to promote best practice for ongoing intervention with stroke patients. Patients remain under the care of the designated ward physiotherapists and occupational therapists. Due to the smaller

team of speech-language therapists, the designated ward speech-language therapist is also part of the AHST. The AHST is available to provide assistance, advice, and promote interdisciplinary working, as well as liaising with other members of the stroke team around ongoing care.

Since its creation, the AHST has focused on the development of skills within allied health and nursing teams. At present AHST is involved in:

- Assessment and treatment of stroke patients alongside ward therapists
- Formal teaching sessions to nursing staff across medical and older peoples health wards on topics including: stroke diagnosis/prognosis, correct positioning of stroke patients, communicating with people with aphasia
- Formal in-service training to allied health teams on assessment and treatment techniques and specific deficits such as dyspraxia.
- Creation of recommended best practice guidelines for the management of stroke patients in the acute environment
- Audit of current allied health and nursing practice, for example "Stroke Audit – Occupational Therapy" (Welman, Armstrong & Simmons Carlsson, 2007)

- Advice and joint working within the allied health team including goal setting and appropriate rehabilitation options
- Formalising allied health skill development, including portfolio evidence in the form of written feedback from stroke therapists.
- Live supervision and peer reviews

Future plans for the AHST include the creation of a combined assessment tool to streamline the initial assessment of patients, and a project investigating information requirements and education of patients and carers following a stroke. For further information contact Janice McMillan at [Janice@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:Janice@adhb.govt.nz) or Jonathan Armstrong (Clinical Supervisor: Occupational Therapy) at [jonathan@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:jonathan@adhb.govt.nz)

## References

- Royal College of Physicians. (2004). Clinical guidelines for stroke (2nd ed.). London, Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party.
- National Stroke Foundation. (2007). Clinical guidelines for acute stroke management. Melbourne, National Health and Medical research Council.
- Welman, J., Armstrong, J., Simmons Carlsson, C. (2007). In pursuit of excellence: Stroke audit pilot – Auckland City Hospital, ADHB. OT Insight, 28(6), 8-9.

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## Project HEIDI Update

Project HEIDI members have continued their participation in both the Implementation Advisory Group and its subgroups over the past few months.

The Workforce Working Group has met a number of times since our last update, to discuss the development and training needs of the workforce. HEIDI has good representation on this group, including through our Project Leader, Professor Peter Thorne, who is Chair of this group.

Another area of particular interest for our group is monitoring and evaluation

of the screening and early intervention programme.

HEIDI also looks forward to our continued involvement in the Group Special Education Reference Group, and its working groups, including the newly formed group focused on visual resources.

### Further information

Those parents or professionals wanting further information about progress towards a national newborn hearing screening and early intervention programme should visit

the website of the National Screening Unit or can contact the National Programme Manager, Vickie Rydz or Mark Hutton from Group Special Education. Vickie Rydz can be reached at [vickie\\_rydz@moh.govt.nz](mailto:vickie_rydz@moh.govt.nz) and Mark Hutton at [mark.hutton@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:mark.hutton@minedu.govt.nz).

*Editor's note: for the full Project HEIDI update, please refer to the "news and events" folder in the "Information for Therapists" section of the NZSTA website.*

## SLT in the Philippines for patients with Cleft Lip & Palate

Submitted by Laura Wells, Speech-language Therapist, Middlemore Hospital

In April 2008 I travelled to the Philippines as a participant in a surgical charity mission known as Operation Restore Hope. This volunteer team of Plastic Surgeons, Anaesthetists, and Nurses travel to the Philippines every year to treat children with cleft lip and palate who would otherwise be unable to access the surgery and treatment that they require. The long-term aim of this mission is to foster the development of the local cleft service and empower the existing health professionals to provide a high standard of care and treatment for children with cleft lip and palate.

The team this year consisted of four Plastic Surgeons, four Anaesthetists, 12 Nurses, a documentary television crew and one Speech Language Therapist. The team, from Australia, New Zealand and Germany, assembled in Manila for a week of intensive work at the President Diosdado Macapagal Memorial Medical Centre. As this was the first year an SLT was part of the mission, my first challenge lay in determining where my role as an SLT could be most effectively placed once the team swung into action. The team made the most of every moment and sometimes the pace was absolutely frantic.

The week started with a screening day. Dozens of families travelled, often long distances, to the hospital to meet with the team and be assessed and scheduled for surgery. Many patients returned for a second operation following surgery carried out in 2007 during the previous visit of an Operation Restore Hope team.

During my time in Manila I assessed patients with cleft lip and palate prior to and following their cleft surgery. I provided them with therapy advice and home programmes to follow. I had the help of a local Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) one day and three SLP students on two other days.

Most of the families spoke the local language Tagalog, and fortunately I was



able to use nurses, other local staff, and the SLP students as interpreters!

I had to address a variety of speech difficulties with the children I encountered in therapy sessions. Therapy focussed on teaching patients to articulate important pressure consonants gently and precisely. Much of the work centred on teaching parents and other carers how they might help a child improve his or her speech articulation. This was all done via interpreters and with the help of the SLPs and students available.

A major challenge arose when it came to persuading both the patients and the local staff to grasp the importance of speech therapy for those with newly repaired clefts. There seemed to be a perception that surgery would magically fix the speech problem! I found myself frequently explaining and demonstrating the importance of learning to articulate speech sounds correctly in order to maximise a child's benefits from having an operation.

At the end of a very interesting and busy week, I had seen 82 patients for speech sessions, including 37 pre-operative assessment sessions, 27 post-operative

assessment and therapy sessions, and 18 extra therapy sessions. The team as a whole had screened 103 patients. Seventy-seven had undergone operations with a total of 114 procedures completed during the week. We had all worked incredibly hard!

One of the main aims of the mission was to teach local staff as much as possible about all aspects of cleft care. Some steps were put in place to provide a follow up to the work I had initiated. Plans for ongoing speech therapy were arranged. A local ENT surgeon was to carry out six operations independently after the departure of our team.

I look forward to returning to the Philippines with the team in 2009. I will continue to develop speech assessment and therapy for these patients and to share ideas with the local Speech Language Pathologists and others in the team.



Felicity Bright

Hi everyone, my name is Felicity Bright, and I am the new Professional Development portfolio leader on the Executive Committee. I am currently on parental leave from my job as Clinical Supervisor for Speech Language Therapy at Rehab Plus in Auckland. This role involves working with working age adults with acquired illness and injury in a fantastic team of 5 SLTs and a diverse interdisciplinary team. Over the last two years, I've also kept myself busy as co-convenor of the Reflecting Connections joint NZSTA-Speech Pathology Australia Conference.

Over the next two years, I look forward to working with the Exec and with NZSTA

members to develop the Professional Development component of NZSTA and to work towards implementing the Strategic Plan. This portfolio has a lot of potential for development and I look forward to continuing the work Megan has done over the last two years. I am very keen to hear from members about what professional development needs or ideas they have. I still have all the emails that people sent through when we were developing the conference program, but would like this to be updated. Please email through any suggestions or dreams that you have!

To support the growth of professional development in our profession, I will initially be working on several tasks. One of these is to develop guidelines for people, areas or workplaces who want to host professional development events. Currently, Carla Darling Knott is working with our Executive Officer to organise a PD event for the Waikato/Bay of Plenty region on paediatric dysphagia, and NZSTA is delighted to be supporting this. The NZSTA has resources to assist with PD events, and we want to make this process easier and clearer for you. I also plan to spend time with therapists from different areas of

practice in New Zealand to understand more about the range of professional development needs and to look at how NZSTA can help meet these needs.

Even though we've just had our conference, planning will soon start for the AGM/PD event in 2009 and conference in 2010. We anticipate the AGM/PD event will take place in Nelson. The venue for conference 2010 has yet to be finalised but we will soon be seeking interest from people keen to join the conference planning committee. I would strongly encourage you to consider how you can contribute to the content of these events. Only 15% of presenters at Reflecting Connections were from New Zealand and many attendees said they wanted to hear more from New Zealand. I know there is a lot of great work going on in universities and clinical settings, and it would be great for this to be shared widely with fellow SLTs.

The next two years have the potential to be a busy and exciting two years! A big thank you goes to Megan and Shona who will support me in this role over the next three months as I juggle this new role with the arrival and demands of a new baby!

## Conference Report- Reflecting Connections

*Submitted by Catherine Epps, Professional Leader – SLT, Waitemata DHB*

Excitement had been building around New Zealand during phone calls and emails leading up to the joint New Zealand and Australian Speech-language Therapy conference at the end of May. There were over 500 delegates who came to SKYCITY, Auckland for the conference at the end of May. The programme was packed with many choices throughout to reflect the diversity of topics and interests within our profession.

Highlights of the event are always subjective. For me, they included the powhiri at the opening ceremony on Sunday night, and Dr Pamela Snow, who began the presentations with a strong wake-up call for the profession. She challenged us to recognise our role in preventing reduced oral language competence in children at risk of abuse or neglect. It was great to hear from someone who had used their background to conquer new frontiers.

The conference then divided up into a mix of short presentations of papers, and (in response to feedback from New Zealand SLTs,) there were two afternoons of more in-depth workshops. I lost count of the number of meetings and gatherings that went on during the week too - everything from Paediatric Dysphagia, to Traumatic Brain Injury, to Private Practice.

Both NZSTA and Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) held their AGMs during the conference. NZSTA used this opportunity to launch the new website [www.speechtherapy.org.nz](http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz). They also voted for a number of new committee members, and presented an organisational re-structure. Meanwhile, SPA used their AGM to launch their re-branding. The conference dinner with its "bling" theme deserves a mention too, as do the presenters who managed to help us rise, shine, and keep learning the next morning! A conference would not exist without the

presenters - their willingness to share their work was admirable - some were first timers, while others were of the more experienced variety!

Having completed the conference, there are many things I have taken away (apart from the usual post-its and pens). I now have a broader range of contacts, understanding of services, and even the geography across the Tasman. I also have a clear plan of how I will develop and update the service delivery in the acute hospital setting where I work. This includes implementing the new modified diet terminology, aiming to reduce burn-out in myself and colleagues, as well as tackling communication issues in patients with a tracheostomy. Of course, I also have that warm glow of increased focus, morale, and pride that I am part of a growing and developing profession. Oh - and I have put my wine cooler bag to good use too!

## Conference Report - Reflecting Connections

Submitted by MaryBeth Williams, Speech-language Therapist, Ministry of Education Special Education (Manakau) / Rehab Plus, Auckland DHB

It is not often that, as a Speech-language Therapist, I feel part of a large collective group. Attending the recent NZSTA/SPA joint conference provided me with that opportunity. It was fun to watch colleagues networking, renewing friendships and acquaintances, and coming together as a group with shared interests.

An incredibly wide variety of topics was covered over a relatively short space of time, and many of these have influenced my clinical practice already. Listening to a selection of interesting topics that differed from usual clinical challenges encouraged me to consider how to make changes in my own workplaces.

Pamela Snow's take home message for me was that to make change we need to get out there and be heard at the big picture

level and not be satisfied with being the ambulance waiting at the bottom of the cliff.

There was a reminder that it is within our role to provide recommendations to management for ensuring our offices, clinics, and workplaces are communicatively accessible – making a building accessible does not only mean installing a wheelchair ramp!

For the technological minded there was an interesting screening software for speech difficulties, encouragement to use websites in therapy sessions, and a fabulous EBP resource from SPA that is definitely worth a look: [www.speechbite.com](http://www.speechbite.com).

However, the highlight of the conference for me was listening to colleagues share

programmes developed as clinicians in their everyday workspaces. I believe it's important for us to celebrate the innovative and interesting things happening in our workplace and share them at forums such as this. Presentations and workshops don't have to be cloaked in formal research procedures; reports on well structured clinical reviews, programmes and training packages are relevant, interesting and worth sharing. Presenting was not as scary as I thought it may have been. Give it a go – feel the fear and do it anyway!

Finally, I would like to offer my congratulations to the conference organising committee for a very interesting, varied programme and a smoothly run event. I am already looking forward to the next one!

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## Update: Auckland Speech-language Therapy Resource Room

Submitted by Helen Higgott, Resource Room Secretary

### Resource Room Administrator

Katy Waalkens has taken over from Andrea as the Resource Room Administrator.

### New Resources

The Contents Page of the Summer 2008 Speech and Language Therapy in Practice is now on the website. Please visit the website and order articles through the Resource Room. Do not forget to include the photocopying fee plus a stamped addressed envelope.

### New Assessment

The Comprehensive Aphasia Test is available for borrowing. Hire fee for this assessment is \$5 and the Courier Cost is \$8.00.

### Toll Calls

If you live outside Auckland, please do not leave messages requesting Katy to return your call. If you want to speak to Katy, please phone when she is on duty between 4 and 6 on a Tuesday. If this

is not convenient, please either write or email. The Resource Room email address is: [sltresources@hotmail.com](mailto:sltresources@hotmail.com)

### AGM and Professional Development Event

We are working on arrangements for this – probably early in August. Flyers will be sent to Auckland therapists once arrangements have been finalised.

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## Websites of Interest

Fiona Kenworthy is setting up a NZ Paediatric Dysphagia Email group. All health professionals working with this population are welcome to participate. There are currently 28 members. Anyone keen to join or get more info is very welcome to email Fiona: [fkenworthy@middlemore.co.nz](mailto:fkenworthy@middlemore.co.nz) or join directly on <http://groups.google.co.nz/group/NZPaedDysphagia>

# New Zealand Journal of Speech-language Therapy: Editor's Report

Submitted by Megan McAuliffe, University of Canterbury

Given my recent appointment as President of the NZSTA, I have informed the Executive Committee of my decision to resign from the position of Editor, New Zealand Journal of Speech-Language Therapy (NZJSLT). My resignation is effective immediately and, following the decision of the Executive Committee, Dr Marleen Westerveld has been appointed Interim Editor for the 2008 edition of the Journal. I wish Marleen all the best in this role and have no doubt that she will do an excellent job. While I am stepping aside as Editor, I look forward to continued collaboration with the to-be-appointed Editor in my new role as President of the NZSTA. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight to the membership the current status of and possible directions for, the NZJSLT.

In the past three years, there have been significant changes to the NZJSLT; most obviously, the new formatting and appointment of an Associate Editor and Editorial Consultant Panel. While on-line publication of the NZJSLT is an ongoing issue, the new NZSTA website has been designed with a "journal" link. Members of the public and international researchers are now able to view, via standard search engines, the table of contents and abstracts of all peer-reviewed volumes of the NZJSLT. Access to full articles is available to current members of the NZSTA. This is one step towards increased exposure for the NZJSLT; however, it should be noted that this is an interim solution only and long-term, a better solution is sought.

This brings me to my own thoughts on the direction the NZJSLT should take over the coming years. These should be considered my personal views only and I welcome feedback from the NZSTA membership and NZJSLT Editorial Consultant Panel. It will be up to the new Editor to determine their strategic direction and focus.

To overcome the issues of online publishing and difficulty attracting submissions, in my opinion the best solution is to find an external publishing house for the NZJSLT. I have recently had a brief discussion with Plural Publishing regarding submitting a proposal for publication of the NZJSLT. This is something that I feel should be actively

pursued. I envisage that, similar to Speech Pathology Australia's official journal, the NZJSLT would evolve into a journal with international recognition and availability. Through a publishing house, increased recognition of NZSTA and the excellent research being conducted in New Zealand would be possible. This would also solve the problem of online publication and, potentially, result in an increased number of submissions to the Journal. However, it is also likely that such a move would force a name change for the NZJSLT, something the membership should consider. This is a suggestion only and it will be up to the new Editor, in consultation with the NZSTA Executive Committee and membership, to determine whether this is in the best interests of the NZJSLT.

I would suggest the inclusion of term limits for the positions of Editor, Associate Editor, and Editorial Consultant Panel. Perhaps a five-year term might be appropriate. Term limits for the Editorial team would be useful to ensure the continued development of the NZJSLT.

I would further suggest the NZJSLT ensures that, at all points, the Editorial Panel is comprised of a set percentage of staff based in NZ. For example, at least 50% of panel members based in NZ including at least one person from each of the accredited programmes. This will ensure the NZ base of

the Journal is not lost, even if it eventually becomes an international publication.

This brings me, finally, to a call for a new Editor of the NZJSLT. At the June meeting of the Executive Committee, the process for appointing a new Editor was decided. Applicants for the position are asked to forward a brief CV and statement of intent to the Executive Officer, NZSTA. Applications will be considered at the December Executive meeting with the new Editor to commence on the 1st January 2009. Given my conflict of interest in this appointment, I will exclude myself from deliberations. The appointment will be determined by the remaining four members of the Executive Committee. It is envisaged the new Editor will:

- Have a PhD and research programme in the area of communication disorders or swallowing;
- Be employed by a NZ based institution;
- Have experience in the peer-review process, preferably in an editorial role.

On that note, I look forward to continued collaboration with Editorial Panel of the NZJSLT. I would like to thank the membership of the NZSTA for the opportunity to act as Editor of the NZJSLT. It has been a busy and rewarding three years and I hope that the Journal is better for my input.

The Waikato/Bay of Plenty NZSTA Area  
is hosting a Tutorial Workshop on

## PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF PAEDIATRIC FEEDING

Friday 26 September 2008

9 am – 4 pm (registration from 8.30 am)  
Glenview Conference Centre, Hamilton

### Speakers:

Terry Wackrow, Clinical Supervisor, SLT, Starship Children's Hospital

Turid Peters, Paediatric SLT, Starship Children's Hospital

Melissa Keesing, Paediatric SLT, Starship Children's Hospital

Members are encouraged to support this event organised by the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Area and pass the information on to anybody else who may be interested in attending.

For further information about this event, costs, and registration please contact the Executive Officer, NZSTA email [nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz](mailto:nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz) or telephone 03 383 1518. Registrations and payment must be received by 15 September 2008.

## Special Interest Contact Person

The following people are not necessarily experts in the field, but people with a special interest in this area of work. To call or email someone on the list may provide you with a good web site, book reference, case study from experience, another local SLT contact, etc.

Interest	Therapist	Email Address
Accent Reduction	Tracy Kendall	speech.therapy@xtra.co.nz
Acquired Communication Disorders	Dr Megan McAuliffe	megan.mcauliffe@canterbury.ac.nz
Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC)	Cheryl Palmer	cheryl.palmer@minedu.govt.nz
Aphasia	Gillian Bell Clare McCann Rachael McEvoy Colette Murphy	communication@actrix.gen.nz c.mccann@auckland.ac.nz RachaelMc@adhb.govt.nz colette@notonlywords.co.nz
Aspergers Syndrome	Prue Wignall	prue@language-development.com
Auditory Processing Disorders	Lucy Sparshott	Lucy.sparshott@yahoo.com
Autism	Cheryl Palmer Prue Wignall	cheryl.palmer@minedu.govt.nz prue@language-development.com
Cleft Palate and Lip	Marilyn Heine Maeve Morrison Laura Wells	marilyn.heine@huttvalleydhb.org.nz mamorrison@middlemore.co.nz wellsl@middlemore.co.nz
Complex Needs	Cheryl Palmer	cheryl.palmer@minedu.govt.nz
Down Syndrome	Cheryl Palmer Prue Wignall	cheryl.palmer@minedu.govt.nz prue@language-development.com
Dysphagia, paediatric	Fiona Kenworthy	fkenworthy@middlemore.co.nz
Dysphonia (Singers & Performers)	Iris Hambling	irispeak@hotmail.com
Emotional /behaviour difficulties associated with children's language difficulties	Sally Kedge	s.kedge@uq.edu.au
ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) - working with refugee and migrant population or ESL (English as a second language)	Anita Hurburun	hurburun@xtra.co.nz
Fluency - adults	Roz Young	rozyoung@xtra.co.nz
Head and Neck	Vanessa Jerome	vanessa.jerome@otagodhb.govt.nz
Head and Neck cancer	Jeanette Gillibrand Fiona Hewerdine	jeanetteg@adhb.govt.nz fiona.hewerdine@bopdhb.govt.nz
Language/Phonological impairment – early intervention	Colette Murphy	colette@notonlywords.co.nz
Laryngectomy	Fiona Hewerdine	fiona.hewerdine@bopdhb.govt.nz
Motor Neurone Disease	Fiona Hewerdine	fiona.hewerdine@bopdhb.govt.nz
Motor Speech Disorders	Dr Megan McAuliffe	megan.mcauliffe@canterbury.ac.nz
Multicultural Issues	Dr Margaret Maclagan	margaret.maclagan@canterbury.ac.nz
Palliative Care	Rachael McEvoy	RachaelMc@adhb.govt.nz
Private Practice	Tracy Kendall	speech.therapy@xtra.co.nz
Stuttering	Anna Hearne	support@stuttering.co.nz
Voice Disorders	Jeanette Gillibrand Vanessa Jerome Gay Williamson	jeanetteg@adhb.govt.nz vanessa.jerome@otagodhb.govt.nz gwilliamson2000@xtra.co.nz
Voice Disorder (Adults)	Roz Young	rozyoung@xtra.co.nz

If you have a special interest in a disorder category or service focus and would be happy to be cited in this list, or the contact details are incorrect please contact Shona at [nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz](mailto:nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz) with your name, email and your special interest.

## NZSTA/Medical Staffing International Achievement Award 2008

Laura Wells, this year's Award winner, works for the Middlemore Hospital Cleft Lip and Palate service: a role she enjoys so much that the hard-working SLT even continues her work in her holiday time.

Last year Laura travelled to Manila in the Philippines with Operation Restore Hope NZ for a surgical charity mission with a team of surgeons and nurses.

"It was the first time a speech language therapist was involved in this mission, plus I was the only SLT on the team. So the first challenge was to define my role in the team and make it work," she reflects. "I'll be returning to Manila again in April 2009 so that'll give me the opportunity to iron out any problems and make an even bigger difference, especially as local therapists will be involved too."

Learning some Tagalog, the language of the Philippines, is important for Laura's work with the mission: "I needed to learn the local sound system so that I can help the local children with therapy, as well as communicating with them," she explains.

As well as Tagalog, Laura has previously studied Samoan as well as Te Reo Maori: "At Middlemore I work with children from a wide variety of linguistic backgrounds who are learning English as a second language," says Laura. "It's really interesting to work with children from all over the world and to undertake bilingual assessments and therapy."

Laura has a dual role at Middlemore Hospital: as well as working with the Cleft Lip and Palate team, she also works with Kidz First Child Development. This involves assessing and managing feeding and communication disorders in children with disabilities.

Winning the Award will allow Laura to attend and present at the Craniofacial Society of Great Britain and Ireland annual conference in Belfast, Ireland, next year.

"I wouldn't have been able to go if I hadn't won this prize, and it's a big deal for a New Zealand delegate to attend," says Laura. "It'll allow us to keep up with worldwide best-practice, and I'm particularly looking forward to bringing back the most useful



Stella Ward, Laura Wells, Kirsten Thomforde

learnings to apply to our work in New Zealand."

"I'm thrilled to have won the NZSTA/Medical Staffing International Achievement Award", smiles Laura. "It's so nice to be recognised for clinical work. I'd like to thank Kirsten at Medical Staffing International for sponsoring the Award. And thanks also go to Stella Ward, my previous SLT professional leader, and to Maeve Morrison, the senior SLT I work with at Middlemore."

Kirsten Thomforde of Medical Staffing International is pleased that Laura's won too: "So many therapists make a very real difference to people, every single day," she says. "Laura is incredibly dedicated to her work as a speech language therapist and I'm delighted to present her with this year's NZSTA/Medical Staffing International Achievement Award."

For more information on the NZSTA/Medical Staffing International Awards please visit [www.medicalstaffing.co.nz](http://www.medicalstaffing.co.nz).

### CONGRATULATIONS 2008 AWARD RECIPIENTS!

At the recent AGM, a number of awards were distributed.

They were as follows:

**Research Excellence Award – valued at \$1000**

Anne van Bysterveldt

**Clinical Field Supervisor's Award – valued at \$900**

Christine Musgrave

**MSI Award for Achievement in SLT – valued at \$1000**

Laura Wells

**Student Achievement Awards – each valued at \$250**

Meryl Bowen (Massey University)  
Karen McLellan (University of Auckland)  
Kirsten Wulff (University of Canterbury)

For more details about the awards, visit the "information for therapists" section of the NZSTA website: [www.speechtherapy.org.nz](http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz)

I am delighted to have taken over the reigns of the Professional Standards portfolio from Mike Robb. Mike has done a superb job of steering us through a number of changes facing the profession while he held the portfolio. It will be a challenge and a pleasure to carry on from him by working with my colleagues on the Exec in implementing the Strategic Plan, overseeing the next phase of the HPCAA application for regulation, coordinating the next round of accreditation site visits for the Programme Accreditation Committee, assisting with the writing and adoption of position papers, working with the Qualifications Approval committee, and supporting the signing of the MRA. Hours and hours of work by a number of dedicated, enthusiastic and energetic people have gone into each of these aspects of NZSTA and I will do my best to continue the commitment they have made.

I am working full-time at The University of Auckland where I have been since returning to New Zealand in September 2005. I

went to the UK for a six month "holiday" and ended up staying for just under ten years! During my time there I completed an MA in Linguistics (specifically in English Grammar) and a PhD in Clinical Linguistics (specifically, language processing in aphasia) so I guess it became a little more than a holiday. I have worked as a speech language therapist in health and education, with children and adults in acute and community settings and now in educating speech language therapists.

The area of professional standards has long been an interest of mine. I was fortunate to be on the working party that prepared the Clinical Guidelines for Aphasia (2005) for the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists when I was living in the UK. The guidelines for aphasia were the last ones to be written as we struggled to agree on several issues so I have some understanding about the process involved in these things (and just how long this can take). I have also been involved in university programme accreditation when I was working at The



Clare McCann

University of Reading so this too is an area I'm keen to work on.

I am keen to ensure that I make a positive contribution to the Executive and carry forward the initiatives which have already begun. Please let me know if there is anything you'd like to see me doing more/better/differently in my time as the Professional Standards portfolio holder. My contact details can be found on the back page of this edition of Communication Matters, or on the website.

## Position Paper: The Speech Language Therapy Assistant Role

While having my hair cut recently I was compelled to flick through the magazines on offer detailing the latest antics of various B-grade celebrities. Rather boringly I read an editorial where the editor bragged excitedly about being able to report a scoop "just hours before going to press". In a similar vein I am delighted to inform you that the final draft of the new NZSTA position paper entitled "The Speech Language Therapy Assistant Role" is hot off the press and available on the

website. This can be accessed via: [www.speechtherapy.org.nz/information-for-speech-and-language-therapists/guidelines-and-position-papers](http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz/information-for-speech-and-language-therapists/guidelines-and-position-papers)

Alison Paulin, Christian Wright and Adele Manna have made a fabulous job of this important position paper and I am extremely grateful to them for the way they have pulled together some rather complex material into such a readable and informative document. I know many of you

made contributions over the last year so I'm sure you will be interested to read the latest version.

We'd like you to read it and send any comments you have to Clare McCann who will make any final amendments before it is adopted by NZSTA at the next Executive meeting in August.



Dean Sutherland

A recent cinema experience highlighted the importance of stories and reinforced why Speech-language therapy is such a great profession! Hopefully many of you will have had a chance to see *Le Schaphandre et le Papillon* (The Diving Bell and the Butterfly). This is a French film based on Jean-Dominique Bauby's book by the same name. In his memoir, 'Jean-Do' eloquently reflects on his life with locked-in syndrome after a brainstem stroke at the age of 46. Sadly, Jean-Do passed away within a few weeks of his book being published. His story, however, continues to touch millions of people. This is the result of a Speech-language therapist helping him establish an alternative communication system. In

Jean-Do's case, an alphabet-based partner assisted scanning procedure using an eye blink to indicate yes. The whole book was dictated by this method of communication – a truly epic achievement! If you haven't seen the movie (or read the book) – take a look and feel great about your profession!

How many other inspirational stories are out there waiting to be told? Let's hear them and retell them to ensure people know about the special work we do and highlight the real differences we make! Speech-Language Therapy Awareness Day '08 is fast approaching. Mark it in your diaries for Friday 22nd August. The theme for the day is Sharing our stories: Making a Difference. For more details please see the enclosed advertisement and the website. I look forward to sharing your stories.

For those who do not know me, my name is Dean Sutherland, and I am pleased to take on the role of Public Relations portfolio leader. Based in Christchurch, I work in the Department of Communication Disorders at the University of Canterbury. My teaching and research interests include augmentative and alternative communication, articulation and phonological development, and autism spectrum disorders. I enjoy supporting and

inspiring students in their quest to become Speech-language therapists.

Over the next two years, I look forward to working with the new Executive Committee to build on the great work of the outgoing committee, particularly Lucy Sparshott, in developing our public profile. As we implement the strategic plan, my aims include ensuring our organisation is vibrant and attractive for existing and new members, visible in local and national media, and recognised and valued by the New Zealand public.

Investigating the use of a PR company to help promote NZSTA is also on my agenda. This will involve a cost-benefit analysis to ensure any money spent is effective in raising our profile. Please pass your thoughts and suggestions to me on these and any other PR-related issues. I look forward to speaking and meeting with many of you over the coming months. In the meantime, please consider these words from Jean-Dominique Bauby:

"The identity badge pinned to Sandrine's white tunic says "Speech Therapist" but it should say "Guardian Angel". She is the one who set up the communication code without which I would be cut off from the world."

## Tracing Our Roots

Submitted by Helen Higgott, Tracing Our Roots group

This project was set up by the Exec last year to record the important people, developments and events in the establishment of Speech-language therapy as a profession in NZ.

Ellie Glazer, Stephanie Grieve, Marilyn Heine, Lois Lawn and Clare McCann have all put their names forward to help with this important project. We are in email contact as a group and would welcome other volunteers.

We also request that all therapists send in any information that could be of interest. Please either give it to anyone in the group or send it to me at [higgoth@clear.net.nz](mailto:higgoth@clear.net.nz) Alternatively, hard copies can be forwarded to me at 34 Clevedon Road, Papakura 2110.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## "Sharing our stories: Making a Difference"

Speech-Language Therapy Awareness Day 2008  
Friday 22nd August

*Our day to highlight the great work we do. Let's make 2008 the best yet!*

### To get involved –

- Contact local media organisations (e.g. radio and newspaper) and tell your stories. Best coverage WINS \$200!
- Set-up an information stand in your workplace or local shopping centre.
- Present your stories to colleagues.
- Smile and tell people it is your special day!

Awareness day packs of goodies will be distributed via your Area Representative in early August.

### PLUS!!!! WIN \$200 - Poster Competition

Design a poster that meets one or a combination of the following criteria –

- summarises your story;
- describes the work of speech-language therapists;
- advises caregivers/ family / whanau;
- provides information on your favourite area of work.

Submit to NZSTA [nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz](mailto:nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz) by Friday, 8th August.

Best entries will be used to highlight Awareness Day

28 July 2008 - 4.45 to 6.00 pm

## Speech Science Seminar "Modelling Speech Production in Normal Ageing"

Dr Catherine Watson

The University of Auckland, Tamaki Campus, 730.220 Population Health Building

Contact Clare McCann at [c.mccann@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.mccann@auckland.ac.nz) for more information

30 July-1 August 2008

## TBI Functional Rehabilitation Conference 'It's About Time'

Millennium Hotel, Queenstown. For more information view [www.tbiconferences.co.nz](http://www.tbiconferences.co.nz)

14-16 August 2008

## The 9th International Mental Health Conference

Holiday Inn, Gold Coast, Australia. Managing the Psychologically Injured Worker – Research, Knowledge, and Practice. For more information view <http://gcmh.com.au/conference/>

26 September 2008 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

## Tutorial Workshop - Practical Aspects of Paediatric Feeding

Organised and hosted by the Waikato/Bay of Plenty NZSTA Area

Venue: Glenview Conference Centre, Hamilton

Contact the Executive Officer, NZSTA for full information, costs and registration information

e-mail [nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz](mailto:nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz) or telephone 03 383 1518

12-13 November 2008

## Inaugural National Allied Health Conference

Auckland. For more information view: [www.dhbnz.org.nz/Site/Allied-Health/Events.aspx](http://www.dhbnz.org.nz/Site/Allied-Health/Events.aspx)

14 November: A Leadership Master class for Allied Health Leaders in DHBs

## Rates for Advertising

Members are encouraged to advertise in Communication Matters to ensure a wide readership. Advertising rates have been set competitively to encourage you to use this service.

### Schedule of Rates (GST exclusive)

Size of Advertisement	Communication Matters	NZSTA Website
Full page (17cm width x 26cm depth)	\$400	\$500 for one month
Half page (8.5cm width x 26cm depth, or 17cm width x 13cm depth)	\$300	
Quarter page (8.5cm width x 13cm depth)	\$150	

Send camera ready advertisements email as a pdf, jpeg, tiff or eps files to the Executive Officer email: [nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz](mailto:nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz).

If sending word documents please send photos and graphics separately as jpeg, tiff or eps files.

### Closing Date

The closing date for receipt of advertising and articles for the next edition of Communication Matters will be advised and items should be sent to: Shona Powell, Executive Officer, email: [nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz](mailto:nzsta@speechtherapy.org.nz)

### Disclaimer

NZSTA reserves the right to refuse for inclusion in Communication Matters, any articles, advertisements which are contrary to the NZSTA Code of Ethics. Unless formally stated to the contrary, acceptance and publication of material and advertising does not imply endorsement of views, positions, programme or product by NZSTA.

### Theming Graphic – Front Cover

The graphic symbolises communication – soundwaves. It has a slight ethnic influence to include all cultures. Association colours of blue and gold have been retained.

**explore**  
PROMOTING  
POTENTIAL

**Speech Language Therapist  
New Zealand Registered  
Part time**

**Explore Specialist Services**

Explore provides Specialist Services (behaviour support, dual diagnosis, allied health and nurse consultancy) for people with an Intellectual Disability.

We are looking for people who are seeking an opportunity to become part of a service delivering support through a transdisciplinary team.

Ideally suited to people who enjoy working flexibly within a team environment and can demonstrate team skills.

If you are a therapist with experience and / or interest in the area of Intellectual Disability this will be an exciting opportunity. We offer flexible and competitive packages.

Assistance will be provided to keep Practising Certificates current.

Successful Candidates will be based in the Central Region of the North Island

Please forward your CV to:

Ita Magee  
Explore Service  
PO Box 1829  
Palmerston North  
Email: ita.magee@nzcaregroup.co.nz  
Telephone: (06) 353 2580

APPLICATIONS CLOSE Wednesday 6th August 2008

**Are you looking for an  
international teaching  
experience?**

Learning Matters Foundation invites applications from experienced speech and language therapists to work with students with mild to moderate language based learning difficulties.

We are a team of internationally qualified professionals providing services to school age students in New Delhi, India.

Successful applicants will be provided round trip airfare and accommodation stipend in addition to salary.

Contact: [lm@learningmattersindia.org](mailto:lm@learningmattersindia.org)

Website: [www.learningmattersindia.org](http://www.learningmattersindia.org)



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**Want to lead your profession?**

**Want to choose your clinical area in a hospital setting?**

**Want to expand your clinical and professional interests, whilst enjoying a fantastic lifestyle?**

**Then make the smart move to Otago.**

Due to an internal promotion we now have a vacancy for the Speech Language Therapy Professional Leader position. This position is both leadership and clinical.

As professional leader /advisor you will be responsible for providing leadership and direction to the SLT team across the organisation. You will lead the development and implementation of standards of practice and monitor supervision, group education, peer review and credentialing requirements as required. This advisory role liaises closely with Managers and Clinical Directors to ensure efficient, effective services are provided within the resources available. You will also be the key contact for external agencies with links to tertiary institutions related to SLT clinical placements.

Clinically we have a range of options available to you; these include working in the following areas:

- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Stroke Rehabilitation
- General medicine
- Neurology/ Neurosurgery
- Head and Neck/ Oncology

As an experienced clinician you would be responsible for co-coordinating the service provided to your clinical area. You will also have the opportunity to develop and lead service initiatives within your clinical area and within the SLT Team. You would be a key resource person for the SLT team in your chosen field.

The Speech Language Therapy Team is committed to delivering a high standard of service to our clients. As part of our team you will attend regular team meetings, supervision, observed practice, and in-services. We can offer you the opportunity to work as part of an innovative and supportive speech-language therapy/interdisciplinary team.

Applicants must hold a degree in Speech-Language Therapy and be eligible for membership of NZSTA.

**Other Speech Language Therapy positions also available – please contact us for more information.**

Please apply online or, for further enquiries contact:

Vanessa Jerome – Unit Manager, Allied Health Unit

Telephone: +64 3 474 0999 Ext 8607

Mobile: 0272228042

Email: [vanessa.jerome@otagodhb.govt.nz](mailto:vanessa.jerome@otagodhb.govt.nz)

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#### SLT Resource Room

C/o Carlson School  
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Epsom  
Auckland  
(09) 624 3308  
Open Tuesdays 4.00-6.00p.m.

Inventory of SLT Resources for borrowing  
Email: sltresources@hotmail.com

#### NZSTA Website Address

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