

# New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association (Inc.) Te Kāhui Kaiwhakatikatika Reo Kōrero o Aotearoa

Affiliated to the International Association of Logopaedics and Phoniatrics

## Wellington 2010: Practice Worth Spreading

### Innovation and Inspiration

From a young age Alexander was destined to make a difference in the lives of others. His mother's severe hearing loss, and his father's publications in the areas of dysfluency and articulation, inspired Alexander to work with people experiencing communication difficulties. At the age of 25, Alexander opened a school for improving the speech of those who were deaf, who stuttered, or had articulation problems. Three years later, Alexander's passion for communication led to an idea that would change the face of human communication forever: Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.

Alexander had an idea. He took his idea and applied some innovative thinking. The result? Something worth spreading.

As speech-language therapists we, like Alexander Bell, spend our professional lives trying to make a difference in the lives of others. We are no strangers to ideas of innovative practice. Much of what we do is worth spreading throughout the wider speech-language therapy community; all we need is the forum.

Wellington 2010: Practice Worth Spreading is the New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association biennial conference to be held at Te Papa from April 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010. This forum will provide the opportunity to share ideas and learn from others. Let us take the time to seek and inject new inspiration into our practice, to discover innovative approaches to familiar issues and develop a practice that is truly worth spreading.

### Conference Programme

We have an exciting programme to offer. It is still developing and we will continue to give regular updates as they are available.

We are delighted to announce our two keynote speakers, **Professor Linda Worrall** and **Dr Thomas Klee**.

**Professor Linda Worrall** will be known to many therapists working in the area of health and adult neurogenic disorders. Linda is a Professor and Co-director of the Communication Disorder Centre at the University of Queensland. She leads a team that has produced exciting, innovative research which focuses predominantly on how to assist people with aphasia in participating in their social networks and communities. She has been a leader in implementing the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health into speech language therapy clinical practice and research.

Linda's research interests include:

- Communication disabilities in ageing
- International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
- Functional communication in aphasia
- Communication accessibility
- Acquired brain injury

More information about Linda can be found at:

[http://www.uq.edu.au/uqresearchers/researcher/worrallle.html?uv\\_category=bio](http://www.uq.edu.au/uqresearchers/researcher/worrallle.html?uv_category=bio)



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**Dr. Thomas Klee** is a leader in the field of child language. Tom is a senior lecturer currently based at Newcastle University, UK. He will shortly be taking up a new role at the University of Canterbury. Tom has a strong focus on the identification and diagnosis of children with language impairment. He has a number of publications addressing specific language impairment (SLI), language delay and disorder and models of service delivery in schools.

Tom's research interests include:

- Improving how children with language difficulties are identified
- Evidence-based assessment and diagnosis of developmental language disorders
- Language assessment of children in naturalistic contexts (language sample analysis)
- Early word learning in typically-developing children and late talkers

More information about Tom can be found at:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ecls/staff/profile/thomas.klee>

Both Linda and Tom will present a plenary address and a two hour workshop. This will allow them to discuss key clinical areas in more depth. The workshops will have a strong practical emphasis

In addition to these workshops, a number of other workshops are being considered. Possible topics include:

- Adult motor speech disorders
- Traumatic brain injury
- Childhood apraxia of speech
- Understanding and applying the NZ curriculum
- Auditory processing disorder
- Running on empty – information and strategies to address SLT burnout and maintain healthy work practices
- Relationship management
- Goal setting

Alongside the Keynote plenaries and workshops, we will have a number of 30 minute paper presentations and a poster session. The conference planning committee will soon issue a Call for Papers. We encourage therapists working in all settings to submit a paper or poster abstract for consideration in the programme. More information about the themes will be available with the Call for Papers.

We will also have the second Grace Gane Memorial Lecture. This will be given by a person who has made a significant contribution to the field of speech-language therapy in New Zealand.

## **Conference Planning Committee**

The Conference Planning Committee comprises Kate McLean and Christian Wright (co-convenors) and Camilla Peet, Dr Clare McCann as the chair of the Scientific Programme Committee and Felicity Bright as the Professional Development Portfolio Leader.

A number of Wellington-based therapists have volunteered to support the CPC with different tasks in the build up to conference and this is very much appreciated.

## Conference Planning Principles

There has been much talk about the current economic climate and government support of conferences. While there is a perception the government does not support conferences, John Key has indicated that “he does not have a difficulty with conferences that have a clear ... educational outcome, and that are properly managed and organised<sup>1</sup>”. The NZSTA is very committed to ensuring our conference has strong educational outcomes and that the content is relevant to all components of our clinical and professional work.

We are taking a number of steps to ensure the conference is value for money, has a limited impact on clinical service delivery and is properly managed and organised. Key steps taken to date include:

- Reducing the conference length from three days to two days
- Mitigating accommodation costs by scheduling the conference to start on day one at a time that enables morning travel and concluding the programme at a reasonable time on the second day, enabling delegates to travel home the same day
- Securing keynotes and providing workshops that are highly relevant to speech and language therapists in a wide range of settings
- Offering a cost effective registration fee

Delegates, managers and employers can be assured we are committed to delivering a high quality, cost-effective professional development event. We are also committed to open and prompt communication with stakeholders. Many people we have spoken to have indicated they are interested in attending the conference or supporting attendance as employers. We know people need information as soon as it is available to plan budgets, clinical cover and conference attendance. We will do our best to ensure this information is readily available to you as early as possible. All updated information will be available on the NZSTA website at [www.speechtherapy.org.nz](http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz).

The NZSTA conference planning committee looks forward to communicating with you more in the future regarding the Wellington 2010: Practice Worth Spreading Conference. We appreciate your continued support of this professional development event.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Wellington 2010 conference, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Kind regards



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New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association  
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<sup>1</sup> Correspondence with Alan Trotter, Chief Executive, Conferences and Incentives New Zealand