

Exciting times for SPA at the mid-year mark!

The 2013 Annual
General Meeting and
National Conference
commence on
the Gold Coast

SPA's incoming
National President
announced

2014 SPA
National Conference
theme launched

2013 Book of the Year
judges announced



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The official booking form must be received at National Office by COB Friday 28 June 2013. The artwork material deadline is COB Wednesday 3 July 2013.

See the Association website for further information

www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

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From our President



Chris Stone



Deborah Theodoros

WHAT AN HONOUR it has been to hold the position of National President of Speech Pathology Australia for the past three and a half years. During that time I have had the opportunity to work closely with so many talented people, to participate in and promote the countless exciting projects and initiatives undertaken by the Association and to witness firsthand the dedication, innovation and passion of our members. It has been an absolute privilege.

But all good things must come to an end and in September this year I will step down from this role. I am absolutely delighted to announce that Professor Deborah Theodoros will be taking up the baton and will move into the role of National President from 1 September 2013.

Deborah will already be well known to many of you through her distinguished career in academic leadership and research. But, for those of you less familiar with Deborah's work, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to your President-elect.

Deborah is currently Professor and Head of Speech Pathology at the University of Queensland. Her academic career spans almost 18 years, half of which has been spent as Head of the Division of Speech Pathology. Prior to this, she held clinical positions as a speech pathologist and an audiologist at major metropolitan hospitals and as a speech pathologist in private practice.

Deborah is a founder and co-director of the multidisciplinary Telerehabilitation Research Unit within the University of Queensland. Her program of research in telerehabilitation has placed Australia at the forefront of this field in speech pathology and identified Deborah as a leading expert in the area. Deborah also has a keen interest in the application of simulated learning in speech pathology and has been active in leading investigation in this important arena.

Deborah's leadership, teaching and research skills are highly regarded. She has over 140 publications and book chapters, and three books to her name. She is in demand as a national and international speaker and holds several high level strategic appointments within Australia and abroad.

I'm sure you will agree that Deborah's breadth of experience across clinical, teaching, research and leadership domains means she is well connected to the everyday experiences of contemporary speech pathologists as well as to the political and strategic climate we operate in. This places her in an ideal position to lead the Association.

Welcome Deborah.

Chris Stone
National President

A vision for the future – supported by a new Constitution

MEMBERS WILL BE AWARE that Speech Pathology Australia has been undergoing a review of its Constitution as part of an overall review of the governance structures and processes of the Association.

Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) has been in existence since the late 1940s and has been served well by its constitution over these years. Gradual refinement has occurred with specific changes to the constitution approved by members at various Annual General Meetings. Largely these changes to date have been procedural or to reflect current operations.

During 2011, Council identified that there was a need for a comprehensive review with respect to modernisation of SPA's constitution to reflect best practice and contemporary governance. SPA is in a sound position with respect to its strategic directions, financial basis, ability to meet operational objectives and its profile as the peak body for speech pathologists across Australia. It is important however that the Association positions itself for the future and has a structure that best serves its members and the communities we serve, for the next decade and beyond.

Throughout 2012, consultation was undertaken with governance experts and with our members which led to a set of specific recommendations for changes that will underpin a modern and responsive governance structure of the Association. In particular, there are a number of fundamental changes proposed to the way the Board of Management (Council) is appointed and governs the Association.

It was also considered important to remove from the constitution procedural and operational matters that can be better provided for through By-Laws and/or SPA's Policies and Procedures. This would allow for greater flexibility and responsiveness with respect to matters that can be considered outside an Annual General Meeting.

A revised Constitution to take the Association forward has now been drafted and Members are encouraged to vote on the new Constitution at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Gold Coast on 24 June 2013.

A vote of **"Yes"** to the proposed Constitution will ensure that SPA continues to evolve as a contemporary organisation that has best practice governance, which will underpin how we serve the interests of our members and the speech pathology profession.

How can members consider the changes?

The proposed new constitution document is available for all members to read and consider in its entirety and can be found on the website homepage. As there were many changes to the content and wording of the existing constitution, a 'track changes' copy was not accessible and therefore there has been a previous consultation document for members which describe the specific governance changes. This document remains available for members to peruse, and we encourage you to review the detailed description of these changes. Additionally a summary document has been prepared (please refer to the table on page 5), to present simply all major changes and the rationale and benefits for these changes. While the structure of the constitution may look different, the changes proposed have been reflected in this summary, and importantly are all recommended by your Council.

Where to from here?

Members are encouraged to vote "Yes" at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June, and if you will not be in attendance, you can vote by Proxy – please see the AGM Agenda (insert) which includes a Proxy form in this issue of *Speak Out*. Please note also, that those not attending the Conference itself can still attend the AGM. All voting members of the Association are entitled to attend and vote at the AGM.

Once adopted by members, the new Constitution will become effective as of 1 January 2014, to allow the current Council to remain and for the nomination and election of the 2014 Board to occur under the new constitution rules. Additionally, while some By-Laws will be immediately available, others will be developed prior to 1 January and all will sit alongside the existing Policy and Procedures of the Association.

In summary, Speech Pathology Australia members will directly benefit from voting "yes" as the proposed Constitution allows for:

- A more responsive and contemporary governance structure
- A more flexible and agile organisation that can embrace best practice and changes in the environment
- Greater member opportunity to be part of formal governance structures
- An additional pool of individuals who can contribute skills and expertise to the directions of the Association
- Consolidation of operational and procedural matters into By-Laws and Policies.

Gail Mulcair
Chief Executive Officer

Recommended Changes	Benefits of Change
Change in key Nomenclature For example, Councillor becomes Director; Council becomes Board; Association becomes Company.	Changes are consistent with contemporary governance and highlight the Association as a Company, managed by a Board of Directors that holds specific statutory responsibilities.
Definitions and Interpretation A number of definitions have been updated or removed to align with changes within.	An expansion of the list of definitions and updating of language provides for greater clarity of intent.
By-Laws Introduction of the use of By-Laws for key descriptions and procedures.	By-Laws will replace operational or procedural detail within the previous constitution. The Board will form By-Laws from time to time, as deemed necessary, but must be subject to and consistent with the Constitution. Members must be provided with appropriate notice of any new, revised or repealed By-Laws. By-Laws are also complemented by existing Policy and Procedures.
Annual Membership Year	The dates 1 January to 31 December have been removed so that while this remains the membership year at this time, the flexibility to move to a financial year has been created.
Classes of Membership	While the current range of membership classes are retained, the definitions and criteria for these have been removed to allow for greater flexibility in reviewing them from time to time. For example, eligibility for practising membership could be updated with respect to recency of practice and CPD requirements. It also allows the Board to make new membership classes as deemed appropriate. All definitions will be described in detail in Association By-Laws.
Voting and Non-voting members	Clarification provided and inclusion of Life Members as Voting members.
Governance Structure Directors will form a skills-based Board and not be drawn from a specific state or territory. Nominees will be drawn from anywhere in Australia and will apply against a set of predetermined Selection Criteria for Directors which will be outlined in terms of a skills and attributes matrix.	Best practice and Australia Institute of Company Directors guidance indicates that a Board of between seven and nine representatives made up of agreed skill mix is optimum for strategic decision making. Similarly skills-based boards, not representative boards, are considered best practice.
Introduction of External Directors Up to 2 Directors may be appointed by the Board as External Directors. These Directors are not voting members of the Association, and cannot hold office bearing positions.	This provides for the ability to appoint a member, non-member or non-speech pathologist who has specific skills required by the Board e.g. legal skills, high level marketing skills, government liaison, etc. This option increases the pool of individuals who can nominate for a position on the SPA Board and provide expertise in a designated field.
Member Election of Directors	Nomination and voting procedures will be set out in a By-Law, which removes operational detail from the Constitution, and allows for modernisation of processes over time.
Election of Office Bearers National President and Vice Presidents elected by the Board.	The timing of the election of National President and Vice Presidents has been brought into line. Changes also will optimise a culture of succession planning within the Board.
General Meetings of Members and Annual General Meeting	Notifications and processes of meetings of members have been simplified.
Voting and Proxy Instruments	Procedures for Voting at meetings and use of Proxy forms have been simplified and the Form of Appointment of Proxy included as an Appendix.
Execution of Documents	Simplification of language and authorised signatories.



Book of the Year Awards 2013

An enormous thanks to everybody who put their hand up to judge this year's awards – it was overwhelming, especially given our last-minute plea!

This great initiative couldn't happen without you, so thank you again for your support.

This year's judging panel:

Shortlisters

Jo Burnell, Kirsty McKenzie, Janet Boulton and Claire Monsour

Young Children

Jacqueline Cotton, Caroline Baker, Katherine Cooper, Natasha Clement, Skye Reimann, Franceska Edis, Stephen Moseley and Eleanor McMillan.

Lower Primary

Fiona Moore, Hayley Millard, Julie Lewis, Jacinta Law, Marion Wilde, Melissa Ridd, Lorelie Merton and Sarah Sarcevic.

Upper Primary

Lauren Osborne, Liz Lee, Jennai Beckett, Wendy Marshall, Leana O'Byrne, Ashley Harding, Natalie Kluss and Anna Russell.

Indigenous Children

Marie Pike, Brydon O'Niell-Guy, Kerrin Finch, Elysia Canning, Elizabeth Coy, Laura Williams, Jennifer Boer and Katherine Rodda.

Tennille Burns
National PA Coordinator

Joanna Wood
Communications & Marketing Manager

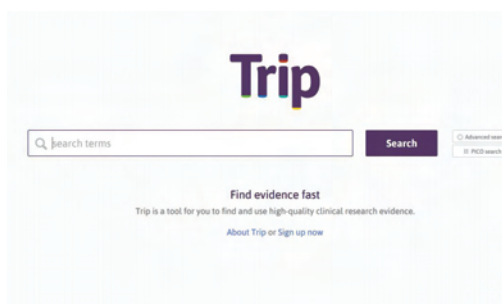
EBP update

IT SEEMS THAT the evidence available to speech pathologists is increasing at a very rapid rate. This was brought home to me recently when I searched for recent publications in one of my areas of interest – language impairment in children from multilingual backgrounds. It took a very short time for me to find ten papers published in the last year or two which were new to me – and the reference lists in each of those provided links to yet more papers of interest. I'm sure it's the same in your areas of interest.

Keeping up with the evidence is a challenge for us all. In recent electronic Evidence Alerts I have let you know about speechBITE™, and about the 'What works' website developed as a result of the Better Communication Research program in the UK.

The TRIP database (www.tripdatabase.com) is another tool you may find useful. This is a free search engine which allows users to search for and find evidence to support their practice. It is described as a medical tool, but includes a range of information relevant to speech pathology. It includes best practice guidelines, systematic reviews and abstracts taken from a range of sources. Some research papers are available at no cost. You will need to register to use the database – your personal page will save your searches and categorise the evidence found. As well as all this, you can search for images, videos, education, patient information and news. Well worth a look!

Cori Williams
National Advisor, EBP & Research



The TRIP database is a free search engine which allows users to search for and find evidence to support their practice.

Speech Pathology Australia

International Journal of Speech- Language Pathology (IJSLP) – Editor Position

(available from 2014)

Applications sought

After many years of providing excellent stewardship of the *IJSLP*, Professor Sharynne McLeod has elected to not seek a further renewal of her contract as the *IJSLP* Editor. The position will become vacant as of January 2014 and we are seeking applications from suitable candidates for a three-year term. As it is intended that a considerable hand-over period will occur, we are seeking applicants who can commence as of October this year.

This valuable and strategic role will continue to enhance the growth and international positioning of the Association's journal. The *IJSLP* Editor is responsible for the editorial coordination and strategic development of the Journal. Working closely with the *IJSLP* Executive Board, Council, CEO and external publishers, the Editor oversees the direction, standard and promotion of the journal as well as ensuring high quality issues are published in accordance with policies and timelines.

Applications are sought from members who have demonstrated experience and a passion for research and publications. The candidate should have achieved a higher degree, experience and demonstrated skill in editing and writing, a track record of publishing research in international journals, and an understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. Previous experience in editing academic publications or being a member of journal editorial boards is highly desirable. An honorarium is paid to the editor (or employer if required) on an annual basis.

A position description is available and applications (comprising a cover letter addressing the selection criteria, a current CV and 2 professional referees) are to be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer by **COB Friday 31 May 2013**. Enquiries can be made to the CEO on gmulcair@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au or the current *IJSLP* Editor, Professor Sharynne McLeod, via ijslp@csu.edu.au

Gail Mulcair
Chief Executive Officer

Speech Pathology Week 2013 – watch this space!

Speech Pathology Week 2013 ‘**Start the Conversation**’ will take place from 25-31 August. It will focus on bringing you up to speed on our plans for next year’s Global Communication Project 2014 and providing you with the tools to start the conversation about communication disability with your local community. Keep your eyes on the website and upcoming issues of e-News for more information.

CBOS 2011 Transition Project – Accreditation of university programs

UNIVERSITY ACCREDITATION is used by the Association to ensure that new graduates meet the entry standards for new speech pathologists as agreed by the profession in the Competency Based Occupational Standards for Speech Pathologists (Speech Pathology Australia, 2011). Over the past six months, the Association has reviewed how the CBOS 2011 will be used to accredit university degrees in speech pathology around Australia.

The review recommended and Council agreed that:

1. Multimodal Communication (Range of Practice)

The newly agreed area of practice “Multimodal Communication” applies to all areas of speech pathology work and is not limited to the disability sector. Multimodal as a Range of Practice is about the use of a number of communication modes simultaneously, not each mode separately. To assess multimodal communication universities must examine whether students are able to focus on the client in their environment as an effective communicator. For accreditation, the Association has adopted the definition of multimodal communication used in the 2012 Clinical Guideline: *Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)*.

2. Practice Principles (previously known as the Range of Practice Principles).

CBOS 2011 requires that universities generally demonstrate that their graduates understand a number of practice principles including Interprofessional Practice, Evidence Based Practice and the ICF. Students are not required to separately demonstrate their competence in these areas as they are already embedded in the Units and Elements of CBOS 2011.

3. Skill Transferability

Transferability refers to the skill of generalising learning from one context to another. These contexts include, for example, the CBOS Range of Practice, age groups, medical diagnoses and service delivery models. Clinicians in practice regularly need to use their clinical competence with new clients and thus demonstrate transfer of competence.

In the CBOS 2011 Transition Project many people raised the issue of how much skill transfer could be used to demonstrate entry level competence. One of the primary concerns was that CBOS 2011 requires students to be competent in adult and child speech, voice, language, fluency, swallowing and multimodal communication however with increasing student numbers and limited clinical placements, universities would like to use skill transfer and generic competency to fill gaps in student clinical experiences. The Association has taken on board this issue and will be examining it in more detail over the next 12 months.

4. Accreditation processes generally

The review identified a number of areas where the accreditation processes could be improved including increased engagement of the profession, implementation of a systematic quality improvement process for accreditation and review of the current model of accreditation. Council acknowledged these issues and will examine them in more detail over the next 12 months.

Dr Tricia McCabe
Project Officer
CBOS 2011 Transition Report

David Butt: Australia's first allied health champion

MEMBERS MAY already be aware of the appointment of David Butt to the role of Australia's first Chief Allied Health Officer via notices on SPA's social media and *National e-News*.

David Butt brings a wealth of high-level experience to his new role. Mr Butt, a Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing, has responsibility for national primary healthcare reform, population health, and regulatory policy and governance.

In this pivotal new position, announced in March by Minister for Health Tanya Plibersek, Mr Butt will be working closely with health networks and professional organisations to support and build links between the Government and allied health stakeholders.

One key focus will be the delivery of allied health services in an integrated primary healthcare system. The seniority of his office in the Department will ensure that allied health issues are championed and receive due consideration in national policy development.

Before joining the Department of Health and Ageing as Deputy

Secretary in August 2011, Mr Butt was for three years Chief Executive of the Australian General Practice Network, the peak national body for Australia's Divisions of General Practice and State Based Organisations.

Previously, he was National Chief Executive of Little Company of Mary Health Care (the Calvary Group), where he oversaw the operation of major public and private hospitals, as well as residential aged care and home care services, spanning urban, regional and remote communities in six jurisdictions.

He has also been Chief Executive of ACT Health, and chaired the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council for two years. In Queensland, he oversaw development of the state's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health policy.

As the Deputy Secretary responsible for primary health care, he chairs the Board of Rural and Regional Health Australia, which includes senior representation across key areas of the Department. His advocacy role ensures a whole-of-government approach to regional, rural and remote health issues. This responsibility will increase and be complemented by his new role.

Mr Butt continues to lead the introduction of the nationwide network of Medicare Locals, one of the key components of the Australian Government's national health reforms. Medicare Locals aim to improve primary healthcare services at community level. Mr Butt also continues to spearhead the Department's role in improving the health and wellbeing of all Australians, and in reducing preventable mortality and morbidity caused by chronic disease and substance misuse. Notably, he continues to play an important part in the implementation of the Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011.

To support the Chief Allied Health Officer, the Department will appoint an Allied Health Adviser, with allied health qualifications and experience. The vacancy will be advertised in the coming months.

Allied Health Professions Australia and SPA welcome Mr Butt's appointment and appreciate the good working relationships already building with Mr Butt's team, and will work to support his responsibilities for championing allied health.



Join the conversation at SPA's National Conference!

23-26 June 2013 – Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre,
Broadbeach Queensland

Get more out of the National Conference by taking part in the online discussion:
[#SPAConf2013](#)

For handy hints about tweeting during the Conference, visit the National Conference page on our website.

Scholarship opportunity: Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Research Scholarship in the Allied Health Sciences

THE SIR ROBERT MENZIES MEMORIAL FOUNDATION wishes to stimulate research in the allied health sciences and is offering one or two research scholarships in this field. The level of remuneration is \$27,500 p.a. free of income tax.

The award will be tenable at an Australian tertiary institution with adequate facilities for post-graduate research in the applicant's discipline. The scholarship will be open to persons who will be working as full-time students in a research PhD program which is likely to be completed during the first two year tenure of the scholarship. The applicant will generally have completed the first stage of the PhD project. The successful applicant will be expected to take up the scholarship during the calendar year 2014.

The purpose of the scholarship is to try to improve the health of Australians by supporting an outstanding applicant from one of the non-medical allied health disciplines whose research is likely to fall outside the conventional areas of medical research.

Application forms are available on written request from the Menzies Foundation at the address below or through the Foundation's website at www.menziesfoundation.org.au

The Scholarship Officer

The Menzies Foundation
210 Clarendon Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Email: menzies@vicnet.net.au

Closing date: 30 June 2013

Informa Healthcare email alerts



DON'T MISS OUT on breaking research in the *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology (IJSLP)* and other Informa journals of interest! Sign up for email alerts and receive timely announcements from Informa Healthcare's diverse selection of journals and be the first to know when new content is published.

The direct link to signing up for eAlerts is informahealthcare.com/alerts. It can also be accessed on the *IJSLP* journal website on the left-hand column "Sign up for eAlerts" button.

Members can register for free content alerts in five simple steps:

- 1 Visit informahealthcare.com/alerts and click on TOC Alerts
- 2 Log into your account, or register a new account, for free
- 3 Select *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, and all other titles of your choice
- 4 Select HTML or Plain text alerts
- 5 Click Submit – and start enjoying free content alerts!

Choose from any of the alerts below when you register at informahealthcare.com:

- New Content Alerts
- Citation Alerts
- Special Announcements.

Benefits of registration include:

- A unique User Profile that will allow you to manage your current subscriptions (including online access)
- The ability to create favourite lists down to the article level
- The ability to customise email alerts to receive specific notifications on the topics you care most about and special offers.

23-26 June 2013

Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach QLD



Speech Pathology Australia National Conference

THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE to update you with current Conference news before you arrive into Broadbeach. The Conference Planning Committee (CPC) is busy putting the final touches to the program and social events and looks forward to welcoming you to the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre on Sunday 23 June at the Pre-Registration and Welcome Reception.

Registration for SEA change: Synthesize, Evaluate, Act!

Congratulations to the members who took advantage of the early bird rate and registered before 7 May 2013. There are still places available so we encourage those who have not yet registered to do so quickly so as to not miss out on the opportunity of attending the National Conference.

Program Update

The **SEA change: Synthesize, Evaluate, Act!** program includes an excellent range of high quality presentations under a number of topics that will be of interest to a wide cross section of the profession. The CPC hopes these topics provoke discussion amongst delegates at the Conference.



Dr Rosemary Martino will explore three perspectives – clinicians, caregivers and patients – in the dimension of

medical consequences for those with dysphagia, presenting the findings of her research. In her workshop, Rosemary will present a review of literature on dysphagia screening and compare the existing practice guidelines in various countries, presenting evidence supporting reliable and valid tools along with emerging evidence that screening benefits patient health and overall recovery.



Dr Tiffany Hogan will be presenting a keynote address and workshop focused on the pathways to reading comprehension

impairment, with her workshop expanding on evidence-based approaches to working with language skills to improve reading comprehension.

Professor Sharynne McLeod,



invited presenter of the 2013 Elizabeth Usher Memorial Lecture, will present information from recent international

collaborations framed around the World Health Organisation's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. The collaborations have been established with the goal of supporting multi-lingual children to participate in society and have resulted in innovative and practical strategies to support speech pathologists during assessment, intervention and collaboration with families, communities and other professionals.

In addition to our full three-day program, where you can attend many quality paper, workshop and poster presentations, the CPC has included two workshops offered on the Sunday prior to pre-registration.

Intensity and aphasia rehabilitation: Who, what, when, and how and You can be a researcher too: Identifying, analysing, applying and gathering evidence in everyday clinical practice. These workshops are an optional extra to the registration fee and are limited to 100 participants per workshop, spaces remain available.

The dedicated Poster sessions on Monday and Wednesday will be an opportunity for delegates to meet with poster authors and discuss in detail the many areas of interest on display.

Member Network meetings are also held throughout the Conference. Please ensure that while at the Conference you check the program carefully to note the date, time and location of each meeting.

Any changes to the Conference program will be made immediately to the Online Brochure, so it is suggested you visit the site from time to time. You will be contacted directly if any major change affects your registration.

(continued next page)

23-26 June 2013

Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach QLD

Pre Registration & Welcome Reception

The CPC looks forward to welcoming delegates to the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre for the Pre-Registration and visit to the Exhibition between 5.00pm – 6.30pm, followed by the Welcome Reception at Sea World 6.30pm – 9.00pm.

We are looking forward to an informal, fun evening, especially watching our sunglasses winners in the 'Meet the Dolphins' competition. Please remember that if you are in possession of the 'limited-edition' sunglasses, these must be worn when you actually register so that you go into the final draw at Sea World.

Speaker Briefing

On Sunday evening between 5.00pm – 5.30pm, a presentation at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre in Meeting Room 4 will be made to speakers, chairpersons and student volunteers regarding things to remember when chairing a session, including the use of audiovisual equipment. Please ensure you are available at this time.

Presenters

As outlined in all communication, **all** presenters must register for the Conference.

Session presenters are reminded to please ensure they have returned their Speaker's AV Checklist form to Event Technology by **Wednesday 12 June 2013**.

Poster presenters are reminded that the dimensions for their poster are 90cm wide x 120cm high. Poster boards will be available from 4.00pm Sunday 23 or from 7.30am Monday 24 June 2013 for set up. Please ensure you bring your own velcro dots to adhere your poster to the board.

Conference Dinner

The Guild Insurance Conference Dinner will be the final event for the 2013 National Conference. The theme for the dinner is 'Gold, Glitz & Glamour'.

The Conference Dinner is your chance to experience a little of the gold, glitz and glamour of the Gold Coast – please add to the ambience of the occasion by wearing your interpretation of this theme. Wherever you are visiting from, show us your gold, glitz and glamour style!

Please remember that additional tickets to the dinner are available for purchase during the online registration process.

Sponsors & Exhibitors

The CPC would like to thank the Sponsors and Exhibitors for their support of the Association and the 2013 National Conference.

Gold/Major Sponsor



Sponsor of the Conference Dinner



Sponsor of the Online Conference Brochure & Registration



Sponsor of the Conference lanyards



Please show your support of the sponsors and exhibitors by visiting their stand during the Conference.

Restaurant Night

A reminder to members wanting to attend the restaurant night on the Tuesday evening of the Conference, please ensure you make your selection at the time of registration or if you decide to attend after this time, please contact National Office. This will assist in notifying the restaurants in advance of anticipated numbers. At the Conference, delegates will be asked to confirm their attendance by morning tea on Monday 24 June so restaurant reservations can be finalised. All payments are to be made to the restaurant on the night.

Accommodation

If you have not finalised these arrangements, please visit the Conference website and the link to the above. You can also make arrangements for transfers from and to Coolangatta Airport.

On behalf of the CPC, we very much look forward to welcoming you to the Gold Coast.

Alison Smith
Conference Convenor 2013

Pamela Richards
National Conference Manager

2014 National Conference – Connections: Client • Clinician • Context



SPEECH PATHOLOGY is an ever-advancing profession with speech pathologists servicing an increasingly varied and complex clientele. Research evidence is essential for best practice. The Melbourne 2014 Conference Planning Committee (CPC) invites clinicians, researchers, and academics to explore the three other key areas of evidence based practice, namely the **client's** perspective, the **clinician's** clinical experience, and the clinical **context**.

Marvellous Melbourne is diverse, energetic and multicultural; ideal for those seeking new and innovative experiences. So come join us in 2014 for **Connections: Client • Clinician • Context**.

Included with this issue of *Speak Out* you will find the 2014 Invitation and Call for Papers. We encourage you to 'spread the news' through your many networks, colleagues and friends, wherever they are in the world. Provide them with a link to the Association's website, www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au, where they can read more about the 2014 National Conference and submission process.

The online abstract submission will go live from **Friday 28 June 2013**.

We have also included on the Conference website **Instructions and Guidelines** for making submissions, which will assist you prior to the actual submission

process. Please remember that delegates will only have access to the title of the paper and author(s) name when they register and select sessions they wish to attend, so please carefully think about your presentation title. This will help ensure the audience you wish to attract and those who have the greatest interest in your topic will attend.

While the closing date for submissions is **Tuesday 24 September 2013**, there is no need to wait until the due date to submit your proposal.

Kerry Ttofari Eecen, Chair of the Scientific Program Sub-Committee looks forward to working with you during the submission process.

The CPC is currently liaising with the Keynote Speakers and we will introduce them to you over the coming months.

On behalf of the CPC, we look forward to bringing to you the 2014 National Conference,



Diane Jacobs
Conference Convenor 2014

Pamela Richards
National Conference Manager

2014 Conference Planning Committee

- Diane Jacobs – 2014 Conference Convenor
- Kerry Ttofari Eecen – Chair, Scientific Program Sub-Committee
- Leora Benjamin
- Susie Griffiths
- Hannah Stark

National CPD Update

National Office has a **1300 368 835** number to support members within Australia to have equity in phoning National Office for the cost of a local call.

When phoning about CPD, please have your SPA member number ready to help us assist you as efficiently as possible.

The 2013 National Tour by Dr Elise Baker



Dr Elise Baker has commenced her 2013 National Tour. *'Best practice in the management of speech sound disorders in children: Making every session count'* ran in Launceston, Tasmania, on 4-5 April 2013 with the event receiving very positive feedback, including:

- Elise had a great presentation style and really made the content applicable for clinicians. Thanks for answering all our specific questions about our clients
- Lots of helpful info re. websites and resources etc and framework for understanding Tx approaches
- Found the workshop very practical. Great overview and information about various treatment practices. Excellent summary of research and provision of internet resources. Thank you Elise
- Thought provoking. I have so many new ideas. I really liked the ideas and encouragement for how to introduce changes into practice after the workshop. Thanks!

The upcoming National Tour workshops include:

- **Canberra** on Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 July 2013
- **Adelaide** on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 July 2013
- **Perth** on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 August 2013
- **Darwin** on Thursday 5 and Friday 6 September 2013
- **Brisbane** on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 November 2013
- **Melbourne** on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 November 2013
- **Sydney** on Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 November 2013

Sharon Crane

Senior Advisor Professional Education and Certification (CPD & PSR)

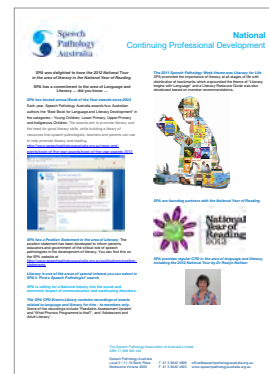
SPA resources related to CPD Events

We thank Sharon Crane at National Office for once again compiling an information sheet about Association resources, activities and initiatives related to the topic of a CPD event. The new information sheet relates to the 2013 National Tour and is on evidence-based practice and speech sound disorders. This information sheet can be found on the National Tour page as well as towards the bottom of the CPD Branch Events page under the heading, *'SPA resources related to CPD events'*.

Development of CPD topic related information sheets arose out of ideas generated at the South Australia Branch Forum held in May 2012 relating to membership and engagement and then discussed at a subsequent national teleconference of CPD portfolio leaders and coordinators. It was felt that a one-page information sheet might be a useful way of drawing the attention of both members and non-members to information about what the Association is doing in areas that are of interest to them, as indicated by their interest in, or attendance at, specific CPD events. The pages are made available on the website and provided to participants at the relevant workshop.

Two CPD topic related information sheets were produced in 2012 in the areas of:

- mobile technologies and apps
- language and literacy (pictured below).



The event specific information has since been removed from these pages and they can now be found at the bottom of the CPD Branch Events page as an ongoing source of information for both members and non-members.

Your feedback on this initiative, either to the CPD committee in your Branch or Sharon Crane at National Office, would be most welcome.

Barbara Lyndon

CPD Portfolio Leader, South Australian Branch

CPD Events Library – New additions:

- **Working Memory in Children and Adolescents** (recorded October 2012) Presented by Owen Lloyd and Dr Louise Cahill – Working memory plays a key role in supporting a wide range of everyday activities. There is a solid relationship between working memory skills and the development of language, as well as with the attainment of solid literacy and numeracy skills. Feedback included: "Wonderful presentation – made some very complex material very clear." **Cost of loan: \$55 for 3 weeks loan.**

National CPD Update

- **Executive Functioning in Children and Adolescents** (recorded November 2012) Presented by Owen Lloyd and Dr Louise Cahill – This presentation aimed to give participants a sound understanding of current models of executive functioning. The normal development of executive functioning, and its relationship to language development was discussed. This was an informative event, particularly to speech and language pathologists working with children in schools and in working with children with developmental delays and brain injury. A comprehensive booklet was provided to the participants and the speaker explained some difficult concepts and theories in a way that was very easy to understand. There were some great links with working memory and linking them with subtests in the CELF-IV and WISC-IV assessments. Practical and evidence-based strategies were also provided. Many participants were interested in hearing more on similar topics by this presenter. **Cost of loan: \$55 for 3 weeks loan.**
- **Dementia and Speech Pathology: assessment and diagnosis of communication** (recorded October 2012) Presented by Dr Erin Conway – This workshop aimed to provide a background to the different clinical presentations of dementia, the influence of cognition on communication and to introduce strategies for assessment of communication in this progressive population. **Cost of loan: \$55 for 3 weeks loan.**
- **Dementia and Speech Pathology: Progressive Aphasia – treatment and outcomes** (recorded November 2012) Presented by Dr Erin Conway – This workshop aimed to address the current understanding of the potential of people with dementia to benefit from rehabilitation and discuss up-to-date evidence for speech pathology treatment in dementia. **Cost of loan: \$55 for 3 weeks loan.**

PSR booklet – new and updated!



We are pleased to advise that the Professional Self Regulation booklet has been updated.

The revised booklet can be found on the Speech Pathology Australia website – log in, then proceed to *Professional Standards > Professional Self Regulation*.

Please feel free to provide feedback on the revised booklet as we continue to benefit from hearing from members.

Sharon Crane

Senior Advisor Professional Education and Certification (CPD & PSR)

Earlybird Registrations are available up to one month before the event date.

Please note – for 2013 events, an additional \$55 fee will apply to registrations made after the Earlybird closing date. Book before the Earlybird closing date to save money, to assist CPD committees in planning, and to avoid the disappointment of finding the workshop has sold out.

2013 CPD program is up and running ...

The CPD program for 2013 is underway – to view events open for online registration, watch out for the monthly *Events e-News*, check out the SPA website under *Upcoming Events*, or if you would like to see what events are open and upcoming, there is a webpage on the SPA website that provides up-to-date information on CPD Events planned for each state and territory, including ready access to brochures for events that are open for registration. Go to *News and Events > CPD Events > CPD Branch Events*

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 July

Canberra two-day National Tour workshop
“Best Practice in the management of speech sound disorders in children: Making every session count”
by **Dr Elise Baker**

NEW SOUTH WALES

Friday 5 July 2013

Sydney one-day workshop
“Creative Pretend Play in Language Intervention”
by **Dr Alison Winkworth**

Friday 12 July 2013

Sydney one-day workshop
“Across the Hemispheres: Read and Right”
by **Dr Elizabeth Cardell**

Thursday 1 August 2013

Sydney one-day workshop
“Learning to Read: Working with Literacy in School-Age Children – Workshop 1” by **Dr Roslyn Neilson**

Friday 2 August 2013

Sydney one-day workshop
“Reading to Learn: Working with Literacy in School-Age Children – Workshop 2” by **Dr Roslyn Neilson**

(continued next page)

National CPD Update

QUEENSLAND

Friday 5 July 2013

Townsville one-day workshop
"Acquired Apraxia of Speech: Recent Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment" by **Assoc Prof Kirrie Ballard**

Friday 9 August 2013

Brisbane one-day workshop
"Making Your Service Aphasia Friendly"
by **Professor Linda Worrall** and **Dr Tanya Rose**

Sunday 15 September 2013

Brisbane one-day workshop
"Expository Discourse in children and adolescents: Assessment and Intervention" by **Dr Marleen Westerveld**

Friday 20 September 2013

Rockhampton one-day workshop
"Learning to Read: Working with Literacy in School-Age Children" by **Dr Roslyn Neilson**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 July 2013

Adelaide two-day National Tour workshop
"Best practice in the management of speech sound disorders in children: Making every session count"
by **Dr Elise Baker**

Monday 21 October 2013

Adelaide one-day workshop
"Day ONE of New Developments in Dysphagia Diagnosis and Management" by **Dr Maggie-Lee Huckabee**

Tuesday 22 October 2013

Adelaide one-day workshop
"Day TWO of New Developments in Dysphagia Diagnosis and Management" by **Dr Maggie-Lee Huckabee**

VICTORIA

Thursday 8 August 2013

Melbourne one-day workshop
"Childhood Apraxia of Speech" by **Dr Caroline Bowen**

Friday 9 August 2013

Melbourne one-day workshop
"Sound Reasoning: Therapy Targets and Techniques for Children with Speech Sound Disorders"
by **Dr Caroline Bowen**

Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 September 2013

Melbourne two-day workshop
"Ageing and Dementia: Considerations for Assessment, Intervention and Holistic Care" by **Margaret Pozzebon**, with an introductory session by **Prof David Ames**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 June 2013

Perth two-day workshop
"1 to 5 year old Children with Language Delays and Impairments: What's new in Assessment and Treatment"
by **Kate Short**

Thursday 13 June 2013

Perth Sundowner 4.00-7.00pm
"The role of Constraint Induced Aphasia Therapy (CIAT) in early post stroke recovery"
by **Dr Erin Godecke**

Thursday 4 and Friday 5 July 2013

Perth two-day workshop
"BLADES I & II" by **Mellanie Sherwood**

Wednesday 24 July

Videoconference, 9-12pm (WA time)
"Developmental Pathways to Language Competence & Language Disorder: Implications for Speech Pathology Practice" by **Dr Patricia Eadie**

Thursday 1 and 2 August 2013

Perth two-day National Tour workshop
"Best practice in the management of speech sound disorders in children: Making every session count"
by **Dr Elise Baker**

Monday 5 August 2013

Perth one-day workshop
"Assessment and Treatment of Commonly Occurring Voice Disorders" by **Cecilia Pemberton** and **Jocelyn Priestly**

Tuesday 6 August 2013

Perth one-day workshop
"Differential Diagnosis and Treatment of Complex Voice Problems" by **Cecilia Pemberton** and **Jocelyn Priestly**

Thursday 24 October 2013

Perth one-day workshop
DAY ONE ONLY of "New Developments in Dysphagia Diagnosis and Management: Implications for Intervention" (THURS ONLY) by **Dr Maggie-Lee Huckabee**

Thursday 24 and Friday 25 October 2013

Perth two-day workshop
BOTH DAYS of "New Developments in Dysphagia Diagnosis and Management: Implications for Intervention" (BOTH DAY 1 & 2) by **Dr Maggie-Lee Huckabee**

Sharon Crane

Senior Advisor Professional Education and Certification (CPD & PSR)

GPs and speech pathology

Always wanted to engage with GPs? Medicare Locals provide a wealth of opportunities to do just that...

A FREQUENT LAMENT of speech pathologists is that GPs just don't understand what we do, coupled with the decree that it is essential that they have this knowledge. Indeed over the years I have taken part (and no doubt you have too) in frequent discussions around this very topic including at Speech Pathology Australia's (SPA's) Strategic Plan Workshop in 2010. The consensus on this occasion was that one of the key objectives listed under Key Result Area 5: Public Awareness and Advocacy should be that SPA will actively promote the role of the profession through the education of GPs.

The dilemma, however, has always been *how* do we make GPs sit up and listen. Well, no one was more surprised than me to have an email land in my inbox recently asking SPA to provide information to Medicare Locals (MLs) – and in particular GPs – which will assist them to understand more fully what speech pathologists do AND engage with and support allied health professionals. Yes, you heard right they were asking SPA how WE would like THEM to do what we've been trying to do for years!

This was promptly followed by a separate (and unrelated email) from an individual ML asking SPA to nominate a member to provide an hour-long education session for a group of GPs, and a flurry of other emails asking SPA to advise members of information sessions, opportunities to be part of Clinical Advisory Groups and, in one instance, an opportunity to purchase Argus secure messaging at a discounted rate.

We can't let these opportunities pass us by!

So here are some suggestions on how you can capitalise on this climate of engagement.

- Become a member of your ML or put your name on their mailing list.
- Find out if they have any SPs represented on their committees and in particular their Clinical Advisory Group.
- Offer to hold an education session for GPs (and other interested parties). Email sapp@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au to access SPA's PowerPoint presentation.

- Discuss with them what service gaps were identified in their needs assessment and what programs they are interested in rolling out to fill the gaps.
- Let SPA know if you are involved with your ML and how we can assist you.
- Talk to colleagues who may have had contact with their ML about how they became involved and what they are doing with their ML.

And here's what SPA is doing to assist the process.

- Information received from MLs about activities, events and news is added to Branch eNews and the Medicare Local webpage on the website.
- Provide members with advice and support on how to engage with their MLs.
- Provide members with a PowerPoint presentation they can use when conducting education sessions for GPs.
- Produce resources such as FAQs documents and fact sheets to be given out to GPs at education sessions.
- Include a Medicare Local search on the Find a Speech Pathologist search.
- Continue to represent and advocate for engagement with SPs through representation on organisations and committees such as Allied Health Professions Australia and National Primary Health Care Partnership which have regular contact with Medicare Locals and in particular the Australian Medicare Local Alliance.

Now for those of you who need a bit more information about what MLs are and why you would want to be involved, SPA has developed a FAQs document available on the Medicare Locals webpage. But I'm sure lots of you will agree with me that this is the finest opportunity we've ever had to educate GPs and ultimately the community about what SPs do, which will hopefully lead to increased levels of referrals and improved outcomes for clients with communication and swallowing disabilities.

Christine Lyons

Senior Advisor Professional Practice
sapp@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

Are you involved in your Medicare Local?

If so SPA would love to showcase your involvement and highlight to others ways in which SPs can engage with their ML. Please contact Christine Lyons (Senior Advisor Professional Practice) by emailing sapp@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au to discuss.

University updates



What's new at the University of Newcastle

OUR BACHELOR OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY degree program is currently being led by Dr Sally Hewat as Program Convenor, with Joanne Walters as the Director of Clinical Education, along with Professor Alison Ferguson, Dr Elizabeth Spencer and Dr Bronwyn Hemsley. Through the University's Department of Rural Health, Tamworth (UDRH), we benefit greatly from the input of Alex Little, Senior Speech Pathologist, for rural and remote curriculum and clinical education liaison. In addition, we are currently fortunate in having input into the teaching for clinical specialist areas of a range of experts from the field, including Dr Anne Vertigan (voice), Megan Barr (hearing), and the paediatric speech pathology team from John Hunter Children's Hospital, amongst others.

Our on-campus clinic is staffed by University-employed clinical educators who provide supervised clinical experience for our students in stuttering (Monica Anderson, Dr Sarita Koushik, Julie Macfarlane and Dr Gillian Zavos) and speech intelligibility (Helen Blake). We gratefully acknowledge the hard work in establishing our voice clinic by Dr Judy Bailey, who has recently moved on; and we welcome Sophie Egan and Jocelyn Gilbert who will be carrying on the good work. We continue to have a number of clinics embedded within community services which are jointly or solely university supported, including the newly created student unit at Muswellbrook. As always, we greatly value the support for our final year student placements offered by individual clinicians at the many locations across NSW and interstate. We have also been very pleased to be able to offer our students the experience of speech pathology in Vietnam, through Dr Sally Hewat's liaison with Susan Woodward, speech pathologist from the Trinh Foundation Australia, and Pham Ngoc Tach, University of Medicine.

Finally, it is with great pleasure that we would like to congratulate our two latest speech pathology PhD graduates: Dr Katherine Proudfoot (Thesis: *'An integrated framework for clinical education: Situating practice in*

the classroom', digital copy available from University of Newcastle library at <http://hdl.handle.net/1959.13/934249>), and Dr Samar Al-amawi (Thesis: *'The assessment of aphasia in the context of cultural and linguistic diversity'*, digital copy available from University of Newcastle library at <http://hdl.handle.net/1959.13/937479>).

Professor Alison Ferguson
Speech Pathology Discipline
School of Humanities and Social Science
Faculty of Education & Arts, University of Newcastle



Update from Charles Sturt University (CSU)

AT CSU, students undertaking studies in speech pathology gain knowledge and skills in traditional areas of practice, but also undertake a range of workplace learning experiences that give them a holistic appreciation of health and wellbeing. Students spend time with families of children with special needs to understand their perception of disability. They also work in schools with children from refugee backgrounds to support their language and literacy development, and work with community organisations to implement effective and sustainable speech pathology projects. There is a strong emphasis on developing students' awareness and skills in working with other health and education professionals, and with communities. We are committed to rural and remote health, social justice, cultural safety and issues of access and equity.

Our speech pathology course utilises blended learning to address the diverse learning needs of students. Students develop their speech pathology knowledge and skills through the use of tools such as virtual clinics, blogs, and iPhone apps, as well as lectures and tutorials. They are supported on placement by chat rooms and wikis as well as phone calls and emails. We anticipate that the use of online learning and teaching strategies will become an even greater feature of the course in future years.

Staff members in the speech pathology program are involved in a range of professional and community-based activities. One staff member has a weekly segment on ABC Goulburn Murray Radio to discuss the origin and

Speech pathology in the Top End

meaning of words and phrases, and another is the co-editor of the *Journal of Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology*. Staff members are also involved in conducting local and national research projects. We were part of a successful team to gain Australian Research Council funding to determine if a preschool computer-based service can promote speech development and reduce the risk of reading difficulty. We have also investigated the collaborative practices of early childhood educators and speech pathologists when working with preschool children with communication difficulties, and will present this work in Italy and Estonia later in 2013.

In December 2012, the twelfth cohort of students graduated from the speech pathology program at CSU. Past graduates are now working in a range of settings in Australia and internationally, in clinical and research positions.

Dr Jane McCormack
Lecturer in Speech Pathology
Charles Sturt University

Dyslexia study **urgently** needs your help!

Do you have clients with dyslexia or with a family history of dyslexia, who are:

- Parents of 0-6 month old infants?
- Expecting a baby?

The UWS MARCS BabyLab is examining the development of speech, language and cognitive abilities of 120 infants from six months through to 5 years of age. The study investigates possible acoustic, speech, and cognitive precursors of later reading ability, and what methods might be used for detecting such reading disabilities as **dyslexia**.

Participants will receive BabyLab degrees for their child, a small gift and \$30 for each visit to cover travel expenses. For more information or to refer your client to our study please contact Rachel Lee on 9772 6313 or email rachel.lee@uws.edu.au



Hooked on the lifestyle: After completing her degree interstate, Amy Southwood returned home to Darwin to practise speech pathology.

Home is where the heart is!

CROCODILES, CYCLONES AND HUMIDITY are often the things that come to mind when people think of the Top End. The Northern Territory is home to the jumping crocodile, Mindil Beach Sunset Markets, the Beer-can Regatta and the *NT News* and Territory Day (Firecracker night). At the tip of the Top End is the capital, Darwin; situated on the Timor Sea, Darwin is a hub of diversity and multiculturalism. With a population of 131,700 people, Darwin is by far the smallest of all of the capital cities in Australia.

I moved back home to Darwin after completing my speech pathology degree at the end of 2012. I am now currently employed as a new graduate speech pathologist at the Children's Development Team – Darwin Urban. Returning home was not a difficult decision for me – my family is here, I love the warmer weather, the people and the laid-back Darwin lifestyle. As a born and bred Territorian, I thought that it was important to give back to my community and work with other health professionals to provide much needed services to Territorians in need of assistance.

The Children's Development Team (CDT) services the Darwin and Palmerston region. *(continued next page)*

Student 'halfway' events across QLD

CDT services are largely comprised of individual, group and consultative services for children from birth to 18 years of age who have problems related to disability, delays in development, or trauma and neglect. I am one of eleven speech pathologists who work alongside a team of occupational therapists and physiotherapists. For me, as a new graduate, working with eleven other speech pathologists is like finding a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow!

Thanks to my colleagues, I have a great support network, I can talk to people who have a wealth of knowledge and discuss cases and any clinical dilemmas that may arise along the way, which allows me to continuously develop my skills as a clinician. I have found working in the Children's Development Team so far to be both a challenging and rewarding experience. Each day I am constantly learning new things and working with people from different professions and walks of life.

Since I began work at the CDT I have been fortunate enough to participate in a number of professional development events and interest groups (e.g. Maggie-Lee Huckabee's dysphagia workshop, SPA's Kelly Weir NT CPD paediatric dysphagia workshop, Paediatric Dysphagia Interest Group and the SPA Paediatric Indigenous Network) and in the next few months I will be attending the Marte Meo workshop. I am also an active member of the Speech Pathology Australia NT Branch along with a number of other energetic and enthusiastic members.

At CDT we definitely go by the motto 'work hard, but have fun'. Team work doesn't just apply to the office. After work I play netball and touch football with colleagues. On Tuesday afternoons at 5pm, a group of us descend upon the Dripstone Cliffs at Casuarina Beach to take part in a grueling hour of 'Boot Camp'. The rest of the week is spent recovering from the aftermath of the Boot Camp session. The CDT will also be participating in a triathlon in June to raise money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

So, there's a small snapshot of life as a new graduate speech pathologist in the Top End. I'm not out wrestling crocodiles, herding buffaloes or hunting for wild pigs along the Daly River; I'm playing pop-up pirate, organising home and school programs, writing reports and most importantly, I'm working with a great team of allied health professionals to deliver speech pathology services to children in the Northern Territory.

Amy Southwood
Speech Pathologist/Local Darwinite

Griffith University

The SPA QLD Branch hosted a 'Midway Celebration' morning tea for the first cohort in the new Master of Speech Pathology program at Griffith University. It was a great opportunity to speak to other professionals about SPA and helped encourage student membership (many of us wishing we had joined the previous year to reap the benefits both for the financial discounts and the resources for research!). Our thanks go to Nicky Graham and Simone Howells for organising such an enjoyable, welcoming event.

Jennai Beckett
GU SPA Student Representative



Midway celebrations: Speech pathology students from Griffith University (left) and James Cook University (right) attended events organised by the QLD Branch.

James Cook University

The Speech Pathology Australia 'halfway' event for James Cook University was held on Friday afternoon, 3 May. We had a great turnout of students from second and third year who thoroughly enjoyed the feast! It was wonderful to learn more about SPA and member benefits with thanks to local Townsville speech pathologists Candice Coe, Stephanie Waghorn and Sam Stafford. We feel our student membership numbers will definitely increase after this event!

Laura Maltby and Kirsty West
JCU SPA Student Representatives

University of Queensland

On 30 April 2013, Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) hosted a 'midway' morning tea for the undergraduate third year and graduate-entry masters second year students at The University of Queensland (UQ). The event was a great success and a good opportunity for students to understand the benefits of Speech Pathology Australia membership and how the Association can support students and graduates. With plenty of food, everyone was able to have a good feed. But more importantly, students were able to mingle and chat with SPA members to learn more about the profession and the Association. Thank you to all those members who attended and assisted in the organisation of the event. As students, we look forward to being further involved with SPA.

Michael Christian
UQ SPA Student Representative

Teddy Bear Hospital visit



All ears: A Griffith University student explains ways in which Indigenous children living in Cherbourg can look after their health.

Griffith students promote the deadliest ears

IN APRIL, a group of Griffith University medical, dentistry and speech pathology students travelled out to Cherbourg with teddy bears in tow to deliver the Teddy Bear Hospital to the children of Cherbourg State School. The Teddy Bear Hospital (TBH) is an initiative of HOPE4HEALTH, a Griffith student-run organisation. The TBH aims to educate primary school students about their own bodies and ways they can stay healthy. For the first time, the Masters of Speech Pathology students from Griffith were fortunate to be involved and headed to Cherbourg to deliver a pertinent message to the children, 'Keep your ears deadly' ('Deadly' is an Indigenous term meaning 'wicked' or 'good').

Cherbourg State School is located in the Indigenous community of Cherbourg, approximately three hours north-west of Brisbane. The school has approximately 170 students of which 99% are Indigenous. It was reported by the deputy principal that a large proportion of the children at the school suffer from otitis media (ear disease) often resulting in conductive hearing loss. Consequently an emphasis on ear health, particularly ways for the children of Cherbourg to keep their ears deadly, was and continues to be a high priority within the community.

The Griffith University speech pathology students taught the children healthy habits to help keep their ears 'deadly', including blowing your nose, taking all your medicine, getting your ears checked regularly, eating healthy foods and exercising regularly. All of the children made a chatterbox to take home and share with their families about ways to 'keep their ears deadly'. At the culmination of the TBH, all the children and the Griffith students alike had a smile on their faces and hopefully the deadliest ears in Queensland and possibly Australia!

Rebekah Nugent

Final year Speech Pathology Student, Griffith University

Retune Choir

Adelaide's first choir for people with aphasia

RETUNE IS THE FIRST CHOIR in South Australia for people with aphasia and their carers. The choir, which commenced in May 2011, is an exciting joint venture between the City of Port Adelaide Enfield, Talkback Association for Aphasia Inc. and Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre. The choir initially began with the support of a registered music therapist and speech pathologist and continues now under the guidance of a speech pathologist/singing teacher and a pianist. The choir runs in four nine-week blocks, to coincide with school terms, with performances at the end of each block.



Retune Choir members at their first concert of 2013.

Choir members come from both the community and from inpatient rehabilitation settings. Their carers are encouraged to participate in rehearsals and performances.

Those who are interested are invited to 'come and try' the choir during the first four weeks of the term. A number of choir members find that reading the lyrics of the songs assists them, so the song lyrics are always projected onto a wall during rehearsals and performances. This also means that the audience has no excuse not to sing along during concerts!

One of the aims of the choir is to involve the choristers in making choices about the songs they'd like to learn and to get them involved in setting up and operating the computer and projector. The Retune choir sings a variety of songs, rounds and carols and the members make decisions about what is included in the concert repertoire each term.

The main purpose of the choir is to create a fun, supportive environment where people with aphasia can come to enjoy music. While not the main focus of the choir, many members report that they feel they are speaking better after joining Retune and have increased confidence with their communication skills. Other members of the choir have reported generally feeling better within themselves and said they enjoy the social occasion.

If you, or someone you know, lives in Adelaide and has aphasia then Retune encourages you to come along and have a go! To find out more, call the Talkback Association for Aphasia Inc on 08 8443 5555 or visit www.aphasia.asn.au

Lauren Hollis

Speech Pathologist and Retune Choir Director

Education Support training

Support and training for Education Support students at the Tasmanian Polytechnic

IN 2011, Speech Pathology in the Department of Education (Learning Services North) were approached to provide an information session for Tasmanian Polytechnic Certificate III Education Support students. The brief was to provide students with an understanding of the role of a teacher's aide working with students who need intervention from, and/or assistance of, a speech pathologist.



SPA's fact sheets have assisted Education Support students in understanding the work of speech pathologists.

I was fortunate to get the opportunity to create and present this information to the students in 2011. I presented again to students in 2012 and will be presenting to the 2013 cohort

in the next month. The feedback from Polytechnic students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive and I understand that they see the session as a valuable addition to the course.

My presentation each year starts with a basic introduction of the work that speech pathologists do. The Speech Pathology Australia website and fact sheets have been very useful for this. We then discuss the role of speech pathologists working in schools. A large part of the session consists of information on how aides can best support children with communication difficulties at school (e.g. breaking down instructions, using visuals to support information, allowing a child more time to respond to questions).

Each year I am genuinely surprised by the number of questions and level of enthusiasm from the students. It has been a wonderful opportunity to promote our profession, particularly in the school setting. Importantly, for our clients, it has been a great chance to teach some basic strategies for working with school students with communication difficulties. It is hoped that our positive relationship with the Education Support workers and students continues to grow, to ensure a broader understanding of speech pathology in education.

Rachel Chivas

Department of Education (Learning Services North)

rachel.chivas@education.tas.gov.au

Volunteering insights

Speech pathology work at a 'healing home' in China

I SPENT A LITTLE over a week volunteering at a 'healing home' called Charity Dream Shanghai Orphans and abandoned children with cleft lip and palate (pre- and post-surgery) receive special care at this foster home. In addition, the home also raises money for their operations.

Children with cleft lip and palate are by default at high risk of delayed speech and language skills. Throw in the fact that these kids are in an orphanage, and their starting point for speech and language development is even further behind. It wasn't surprising that despite the fact that the home was such a bright, happy place, with nurturing nannies ("ayis"), many, if not most of, the children there had significantly delayed language skills.

Three days a week, some English-speaking volunteers run a language program in English using songs, rhymes, books, and signs for the one to two-year-old children. The kids also get Mandarin input with their ayis.

Together with my co-volunteer and unofficial mentor, Angela Gong, M.S., CCC-SLP, our main role there was to further develop the language program spearheaded by some volunteers. I also saw a few children to conduct case studies on their speech and language abilities to

suggest goals and strategies. Thankfully, I did some preparation work prior to China by attending a cleft clinic at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) in Melbourne. (Thanks, Andrea Verhoeven, senior clinician at the RCH, for graciously donating your time to impart knowledge to me to take to China!) I got a good refresher on working with this population.

By the end of my time there, Angela and I had a working document with specific goals for the language program. We also proposed including a structured play-based session. We modeled a few sessions for the volunteers, which meant we were up there signing songs, rhyming, signing, and having a lot of fun with the kids! I also got to work individually with two kids, and prepared case studies for the Director to share with her team.

Because I speak Mandarin, I was able to do some incidental teaching of language stimulation to the ayis and was able to sing some Mandarin rhymes and stories to include them in the program.

Our time there was just a small beginning of many potential projects and trainings at that home.

The experience in China was amazing, challenging and eye-opening. Speaking to Angela, a Chinese-American from New York who moved to Shanghai to work, as well as a



Cheryl Ye and Angela Gong.

few other volunteers, I received firsthand experience of the SLP profession there. Like a lot of developing countries, there are few SLPs and even fewer who can speak Mandarin. Currently, there are 1.3 billion people in China but only about 1,000 SLPs. Most locals cannot afford SLP services and the SLPs who work at therapy clinics service expatriate communities. Angela works for a pediatric therapy clinic called Olivia's Place that strives to provide services to those who need but can't afford them. There is even a foundation set up by the clinic just for this purpose! I was meant to see a couple of cases with her but there was simply no time during this trip. Fingers crossed, it won't be too long till my next visit to China.

If any speechies are inspired to go on an adventure to China to volunteer and/or work, regardless of whether you speak the language, there will be somewhere and some place that would desperately need you and greatly benefit from what you can offer.

Did I also mention that the food there is incredibly delicious and extremely affordable?

I'm happy to answer questions and speak to anyone who is interested in volunteering and working in China. Email me at: ye.lien.cheryl.c@edumail.vic.gov.au



Fresh perspective: (Clockwise from top left) Lynne Roberts, Professor Shelley Brundage, Jade Cartwright, Michelle Quail, Naomi Cocks, Janet Beilby and Brooke Sanderson.

Virtual reality researcher visits Perth

PERTH RECENTLY HOSTED a big name in the field of future stuttering assessment and treatment research. Dr Shelley Brundage was a visiting research fellow to the School of Psychology and Speech Pathology at Curtin University from April 5-19. Dr Brundage came to work with Dr Janet Beilby writing virtual reality avatars for adolescents and adults who stutter. Dr Brundage is a professor in the Speech and Hearing Science department at George Washington University in Washington D.C. She is a certified speech-language pathologist and holds the credential of Board Recognised Specialist in Fluency Disorders. Her research expertise is stuttering and in the use of virtual learning environments (VLEs) to standardise assessment and enhance treatment generalisation.

Dr Brundage's previous research has shown that virtual environments engender similar affective, behavioural, and cognitive reactions associated with stuttering that real environments do. In addition, stuttering can be manipulated in virtual space, with more stuttering occurring during challenging virtual scenarios than during supportive ones. Taken together, these findings suggest that virtual environments are valid tools for use in assessment, treatment and treatment generalisation in persons who stutter. Unlike the unpredictability of the real world, virtual environments are safe,

confidential, repeatable, and controlled environments in which to practice newly learned skills. VLEs offer almost unlimited potential for enhancing treatments for a variety of communication disorders and for improving students' clinical skill acquisition.

During her visit Dr Brundage gave presentations to faculty and students and met to discuss research opportunities with faculty and clinical staff. In her presentation, "Virtual Learning Environments: Educational, Clinical and Research Applications and Caveats", Dr Brundage described the steps involved in designing, developing, and validating VLEs for educational and clinical use. Subsequent meetings with faculty focused on the nature of possible VLEs that could be developed at Curtin University, including VLEs to assist in training allied health professionals in a variety of skills that are challenging to recreate in the classroom.

In keeping with her interest in standardised measurement, Dr Brundage's presentation to students focused on the use of Goal Attainment Scaling to document treatment gains across clients. During the lecture students worked in groups to scale goals for particular clients they had worked with clinically, and to write goals that were specific, measurable, appropriate, realistic and timely.

Dr Janet Beilby
Curtin University

Communication Access – “Good Communication is Good Business”

Communication Access is defined by people with communication difficulties as **“Communication Access is when everyone can get their message across”**.

Background

The Communication Access Network (CAN) is funded by DHS and consists of Scope’s Communication Resource Centre (CRC) at the hub, and 11 Regional Communication Services across Victoria. The Communication Access Network leads, supports and coordinates local and state-wide initiatives to ensure people with complex communication needs can communicate effectively and participate in their own communities.

In 2008-2010, the CRC led the process to identify a symbol for communication access through state-wide consultation which followed the Australian Standard AS 2342-1992. Over 1,700 people responded to 10 possible symbols. The symbol that was selected became the new symbol for Communication Access, and it was launched on 17 November 2011. This was the culmination of five years of work by people with communication disabilities and the Communication Access Network.

Communication access assessments and the communication access assessors



A group of communication access assessors.

Businesses, services and organisations are assessed by people with a communication disability who are employed as communication access assessors.

There are currently 15 trained communication access assessors, who were trained over three days to learn about Communication Access and the assessment process.

Communication access assessors have told us what communication access means to them:

- “Communication Access and the symbol will help educate people about different ways of communicating”
- “People remain relaxed and comfortable when talking with people who use different ways of communicating”
- “Communication is a two-way process”
- “Speaking to the person and not the person with them”
- “Taking time! Speak to me, not down to me”.

“Being employed as a communication access assessor has meant:

- Job satisfaction
- Making a difference
- Opportunity to travel and meet new people
- Presenting at conferences and forums
- Additional income
- New friendships and colleagues who are assessors
- Being part of the team at the CRC”.

Places that have been awarded the Communication Access symbol



The Communication Access symbol.

All places are assessed against 30 criteria and in order to be awarded the symbol, services must meet the minimum criteria.

A list of businesses and services that are communication accessible are on

Scope’s website: <http://www.scopevic.org.au/index.php/site/whatweoffer/communicationresourcecentre/communicationaccess>

These places include Able Australia, Barwon Health – Newcomb Community Health Centre, Bendigo Bank – Lara District Community Bank, Bundoora Park Café, Café Escape, Communication Rights Australia, Latrobe City Council – various offices, Scope’s Southern and Gippsland regional offices, Travellers Aid – Flinders Street and Southern Cross, and Warrnambool City Council.

At present Communication Access is a Victorian-based initiative, but there is interest nationally and internationally. Scope’s CRC is currently undertaking investigations to take this initiative beyond Victoria.

For further information about Communication Access, please contact the Communication Resource Centre on 03 9843 2000 or crc@scopevic.org.au

Denise West, Naomi Rezzani & Hank Wyllie
Scope Communication Resource Centre



SPA Twitter update

Links to recent newsworthy articles tweeted and/or re-tweeted on our Twitter feed in April-May included:

- “How foetuses learn language” (9 May)
- A virtual speech pathologist is being developed in America. Any thoughts? (2 May)
- A study of 900 pre-schoolers has found half of those with communication issues are neglected (29 April)
- Friday afternoon food for thought: How the Brain Speaks Two Languages (25 April)
- Speech pathology is 12th best job in 2013 according to Wall St Journal (22 April)
- Tasmanian member Holly Puckering on ABC Breakfast this morning speaking about Toungue Tie (18 April)
- Gelada baboons calls may help to reveal more about the origins of human speech (9 April)
- One in five kindy children are likely to struggle (4 April)

Join in the conversation and follow Speech Pathology Australia on Twitter: [@SpeechPathAust](https://twitter.com/SpeechPathAust)

Remember to join the discussion at the 2013 National Conference! [#SPAConf2013](https://twitter.com/SPAConf2013)



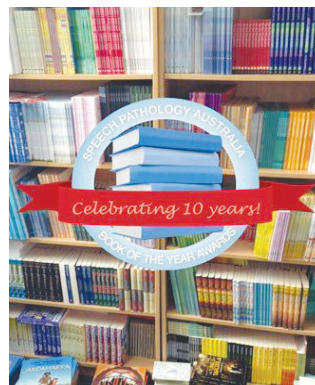
Speech Pathology Australia Facebook highlights from April to May included...

Thumbs up for a great effort!



The Speech Pathology Australia Facebook site has now reached an impressive **2,816 followers** at the time this issue of *Speak Out* went to print – this number exceeds half of our total membership!

As a member you can help us spread the news about the important work of our profession by ‘Liking’ us on Facebook, and if you see an article, photo and/or link posted on our page that piques your interest, please feel free to ‘like’ this and share it with your colleagues and wider Facebook network – the more the merrier!



(Clockwise from top left) Our shelves at National Office began filling up quickly with 2013 Book of the Year contenders; we launched the new suite of fact sheets with much positive feedback received; SPA showed support for important initiatives such as World Autism Awareness Day (2 April) and World Voice Day (April 16).



SPA profile – Belinda Hill



Role within SPA?

NSW Private Practice Member Network Leader; NSW Private Practice Reference Group representative and Western Sydney Member Network (MN) co-leader.

What do you do in this role?

Attend Branch meetings at Concord and regular teleconferences for PPMN and PPRG. Liaise with National Office (Chris Lyons, Senior Advisor Professional Practice) regarding issues members raise with me – including Medicare, HCWA (Helping Children with Autism), professional development events and general issues regarding management of private practice. The roles attempt to strengthen the connection between National Office and local members.

Role outside SPA

Senior Speech Pathologist and Director, Belinda Hill & Associates.

What do you do in this role?

Manage a clinical caseload; operate private practice; supervise students in our clinical education program; mentor four full-time speech pathology staff; develop resources under the TheraBee brand; co-leader for Western Sydney BI support group; actively participate in social media speech pathology forums.

What is your greatest achievement/favourite thing about your current roles?

Constantly interacting with other motivated and driven SLPs who are change-driven.

What do you see as the future challenges/directions for speech pathology and/or SPA?

Serving members across generations and geography.

It's back!

A simple, research-based tool for promoting language and literacy at home and in the classroom



Plus 4 bonus months!

Chock full of new research-based tips for parents and educators, Hanen's **2014 Preschool Language and Literacy Calendar** is a must-have for Speech Pathologists working with young children aged 3 to 5.

Use the calendar as a home programming supplement for parents or a simple activity guide for educators to help promote language and literacy learning throughout each child's day.

With each month centering around a critical early language and literacy skill, the calendar offers weekly tips for parents and educators to help them:

- Follow children's lead in conversations
- Expose children to rare and unusual vocabulary
- Help children understand how stories work
- Help children learn how print works
- Build letter-sound knowledge

LIMITED PRINT RUN - GET YOURS BEFORE IT'S GONE!

Purchase this practical resource and other Hanen products from our authorized Australasian distributor, Dart Products: www.dartproducts.com.au



“The phone is such a lifeline ...”



“... I advise many of my clients with speech or hearing impairments to use the NRS.”

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4/10



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Citigate Melbourne 16th & 17th August 2013
Mecure Perth 20th & 21st August 2013

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Registration

- Registrations available online at Clear Speech website: www.clearspechalbury.com.au
- Please email Clear Speech for further information: events@clearspechalbury.com.au

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Remember to check our 'Education and Careers' section of the website, available from the homepage menu.

For more information about our Job Board etc please call National Office on 1300 368 835.




Conference Announcement

Achieving Effective Outcomes: Language, Learning & Literacy
12th & 13th September 2013, Parramatta RSL

Keynote Speaker: Professor Nickola Wolf Nelson
Program Director, Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, Western Michigan University.

Evidence based practices that aim to improve effective outcomes for children and adolescents with language and/or learning impairments will be presented at this conference.

Professor Nelson is well known for her contribution to our current understanding of language disorders and has published widely, including her book 'Language and Literacy Disorders: Infancy through Adolescence.' She will present on models of spoken and written language disorders; assessment, diagnosis and intervention for children with language/literacy disorders.

Other speakers include Associate Professor Cori Williams, Associate Professor Genevieve McArthur, and Dr Roslyn Neilson, amongst others.

Register now & don't miss out! Early Bird Registration closes Friday 2nd August 2013.

To view the conference program and register on-line visit our website.

<http://www.cheri.com.au/conferences.html>



Speech Pathology Australia's bi-monthly members' magazine *Speak Out* is mailed to more than 5,000 speech Australian and international pathologists.

For more information about advertising opportunities please contact Publications Officer Lana Busby at pubs@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au



June 2013

**Speech Pathology Australia – National Conference
'SEA change: Synthesize, Evaluate, Act!'**
23-26 June 2013
Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre,
Broadbeach, Queensland
www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/news-and-events/2013-national-conference

July 2013

**Voicecraft® for Speech Pathologists –
Student workshop**
6-7 July 2013
Voicecraft International Pty Ltd, Nth Adelaide, SA
T: 08 8239 2088
E: anchor@voicecraft.com.au
www.voicecraft.com.au

**Laryngectomy: Rehabilitation and
Surgical Voice Restoration (Advanced Level)**
8-12 July 2013
Imperial College London, UK
E: cpd@imperial.ac.uk
www.imperial.ac.uk/cpd/svr

August 2013

**Speech Pathology Week –
'Start the Conversation'**
25-31 August 2013
www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

**29th World Congress of the International Association
of Logopedics and Phoniatrics (IALP)**
25-29 August 2013
Turin, Italy
www.ialpturin2013.it

September 2013

Scope Early Years Conference (Melbourne)
6-7 September 2013
E: earlyyearsconference@scopevic.org.au
www.scopevic.org.au/

**AAAPP Seminar: Hearing and Cognition –
Theory, Research and Practice**
20-22 September 2013
University of Sydney
Contact: Louise Collingridge
T: 0424 720 915
E: exec@aaapp.org.au
<http://www.aaapp.org.au/content.asp?c=7>

October 2013

10th National Allied Health Conference
17-18 October 2013
Brisbane Convention Centre
www.cdesign.com.au/nahc2013/call_for_abstracts.html

**9th Asia Pacific Conference on Speech,
Language & Hearing**
31 October-3 November 2013
Nan Shan Education & Training Centre,
Taichung City, Taiwan
www.apsslh2013.org/index.asp

November 2013

**48th Annual Australasian Society for Intellectual
Disability Conference**
6-8 November 2013
Sheraton on the Park, Sydney
T: 02 9331 1700
E: asid13@cccconferences.com.au

**Successes and Failures in Telehealth – 4th Annual
Meeting of the Australasian Telehealth Society**
11-12 November 2013
Brisbane, venue TBC
E: Stephanie Iovannella, stephanie@icebergevents.com.au
www.sftconference.com

Throughout 2013

**Autism Association of WA – Free workshops for WA
speech pathologists**

Various regional locations and dates:

Albany: 19-21 June 2013

Karratha: 24-26 July 2013

Broome: 28-30 August 2013

For more information and to register online,
please visit www.autism.org.au
E: regionaltraining@autism.org.au

**Key Word Sign Victoria (formerly Makaton Victoria)
workshops**

Various metro locations and dates:

Glen Waverley VIC: 23 June 2013

Moonee Ponds VIC: 3 August 2013

Box Hill VIC: 12 October 2013

Further details can be accessed at
www.newcastle.edu.au/kwsa

Secret Agent Society Practitioner Training

Various locations and dates:

Sydney NSW: 3-4 June 2013

Perth WA: 12-13 June 2013

Adelaide SA: 5-6 August 2013

Contact for all states: Caitlin Barker
E: training@sst-institute.net
www.sst-institute.net

April 2014

**New Zealand Speech-language Therapists'
Association Conference**
9-11 April 2014
TePapa, Wellington, New Zealand
www.speechtherapy.org.nz



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