

Speak out

April 2013



Speech
Pathology
Australia
National
Conference



Speech
Pathology
Australia

2013 SPA National Conference registrations now open!

23-26 June 2013

Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach, Queensland



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The official booking form must be received at National Office by COB Tuesday 30 April 2013. The artwork material deadline is COB Friday 3 May 2013.

See the Association website for further information

www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

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From our President



THIS YEAR is a particularly important one for Speech Pathology Australia. The first months of the year have been an absolute hive of activity as many of our larger projects enter their final stages. Concurrently, our sustained lobbying efforts of the past three years have also begun to bear fruit on several fronts. This has provided tremendous opportunities for dialogue with politicians and policy makers and exciting new project opportunities such as the SPyce youth justice pilot.

We are also beginning to get very meaningful traction with the simple message that 'communication is a basic human right'. The sobering statistics about the scale of disadvantage confronted by those who cannot access appropriate speech pathology services speak for themselves. We have had significant success in getting this message across to the broader community and to the media. It has been extremely gratifying to see their response as they truly understand the powerful difference speech pathologists make to the lives of everyday Australians with communication and swallowing difficulties, and to see them take up the challenge on our behalf to advocate for greater access to services for our clients.

The common strand uniting all our externally focused activities is advocacy for Australians experiencing communication and swallowing difficulties. We have deliberately distilled our campaigning and lobbying material to emphasise simple, powerful messages which we repeat

frequently and support with robust data. This strategy underpins our planning for Speech Pathology Week and for our international year of action and advocacy on behalf of our clients and consumers. You'll find much more information in this edition as we prepare to 'start the conversation' around communication disability in Australia and internationally.

Many more of the projects and activities the Association is involved in are detailed within. But, as always, there is simply so much going on it is impossible to cover everything. I do hope that many of you are planning to join us at our National Conference on the Gold Coast in June. Along with speakers presenting the latest research, the AGM is a fantastic opportunity to hear more about the Association's many achievements and to celebrate the tremendous successes of our award winners. At this year's AGM we will also be asking you to vote on our proposed new Constitution which has been the focus of so much work over the past two years. I hope to see as many of you as possible in person but please remember that if you are unable to attend you may forward a proxy vote. Please note, the AGM is a stand alone event open to all members, conference registration is NOT a requirement for attendance. Make sure you have your say about the future of our Association.

Until next time...

Chris Stone
National President

Legislation passed in Queensland Parliament to cease registration for Queensland speech pathologists

MEMBERS WILL have been following the Association's efforts to reverse the Queensland government's decision to repeal legislation which would lead to de-registration of the speech pathology profession in Queensland.

A poll of members indicated overwhelming support to continue registration in Queensland. This mandated the Association's position to maintain registration in Queensland while continuing to pursue inclusion in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

With the proposed legislation having been referred to the Health and Community Services Parliamentary Committee, the profession had the opportunity to submit a formal submission to argue its case in regards to seeking ongoing protection of the public through registration, so as to ensure safe, competent and high quality practice by all speech pathologists across Queensland. Queensland Branch President, Dr Petrea Cornwell, supported by National Councillor, Gaenor Dixon and CEO, Gail Mulcair, presented the Association's position with great clarity and conviction at the Parliamentary Hearing on 13 February. Representatives of the Registration Board, Meredith Kilminster (Chair) and Anne-Marie Hunter, Board Member, were also in attendance at the hearing.

It is disappointing to report that after this consultation and due consideration, the government's review committee determined that they supported the proposed



From left, Meredith Kilminster, Gaenor Dixon, Gail Mulcair and Petrea Cornwell outside the Queensland Parliament.

legislation, effecting that registration for Queensland speech pathologists will cease.

This legislation was subsequently passed at a second reading in Parliament, closing the door on any further negotiations.

The official date for ceasing registration of speech pathologists (and dental technicians) is not yet clear, however the Office of Health Practitioner Registration Board will be abolished one month after the registration boards are abolished. Transitional arrangements will be put in place for obtaining blue and yellow cards, as required, with a three month transitional period provided. We also understand that prorata refunds on registration fees will be provided depending on the timing of registration ceasing.

Speech Pathology Australia will do all it can to assist members over this transition period. We are also aware

that non-member speech pathologists will wish to take up membership and we are happy for them to contact us to discuss any issues or concerns.

This is a disappointing result with respect to reduction in consumer protection, given the vulnerable nature of those whom our profession serves, however we are very confident in the competence, knowledge and ongoing professional development of Association members, and will actively inform the public to ensure they seek services from speech pathologists who are members of Speech Pathology Australia.

Speech Pathology Australia will work closely with the Speech Pathologists Board in order to provide you with clear and definitive information as these changes to registration for speech pathologists take effect.

Gail Mulcair
Chief Executive Officer

Council highlights from February

THE FIRST Council meeting for 2013 was held over the weekend of 22-23 February.

Ahead of this meeting Speech Pathology Australia's Lobbying Consultant, Kerren Clark, facilitated a workshop with a number of Councillors and key staff to review and extend the priorities for lobbying in 2013 and beyond.

An important component of the February Council meeting is to receive the Audited Financial report. As is the case in most years, the report is presented by our Auditor, Duncan McGregor of McGregor West Chartered Accountants.

It was pleasing to confirm that the Association remains in a very strong financial position with a further profit gained from the 2012 year. Details will be reported within the Annual Report, to be circulated to members prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Other highlights from Council include...

- Council provided in-principle endorsement to the revised Constitution, with the final document to be presented to members ahead of the Annual General Meeting.
- Council heard that the legislation to repeal the Speech Pathologists Registration Act 2001 was passed by Queensland through the lower house of Parliament, where it was referred to the Committee of Health and Community Services, to receive public comment. Following a formal submission, P Cornwell, Queensland Branch President presented to the Committee, with G Mulcair, G Dixon and representatives of the Queensland Registration Board in attendance as witnesses. The committee are required to provide a recommendation on 12 March 2013. Please refer to the article on page 4.
- Strategies to strengthen the Professional Self-Regulation program and Certified Practising Speech Pathologist (CPSP) Status continue to be explored.
- The extremely positive outcomes of the Speech Pathology in Youth (Justice) Custodial Education (SPyce) project were discussed, with a final report received.
- Updates to various existing practice documents continue to progress including the Tracheostomy Clinical Guideline, Videofluoroscopic Swallow Study Clinical Guideline and NMES Position Statement.
- An initial suite of fact sheets, aimed to inform the public in relation to a number of areas of practice were approved by Council – please refer to page 6 for more information about the fact sheets.
- The Speech Pathology Week 2013 theme 'Start the conversation' was confirmed in preparation for 'The International Communication Project 2014' – please refer to page 12 for further information.
- A number of existing Association policy and procedures were reviewed (in accordance with the set review schedule). These will be finalised and uploaded onto the website in the near future.

Nicole Pantelleresco
Council and Executive Assistant

Notice of Annual General Meeting – Monday 24 June 2013

NOTICE IS hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of Association, the next Annual General Meeting of Speech Pathology Australia is to be held at 5.45pm, Monday 24 June 2013, at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach, Queensland.

All members are invited to attend this very important meeting of the members, regardless of whether you will attend the Conference.

As you will be aware Speech Pathology Australia has completed a significant Constitution review to reflect best practice and contemporary governance. The final Constitution will

be voted upon at this meeting. For information about the proposed governance changes please see the Constitution Review Information Package which can be accessed via a link on the SPA website's homepage. In the near future comprehensive details of all the proposed changes and access to the draft revised Constitution will be

made available to members via the website.

The June issue of *Speak Out* will contain the 2012 Annual Report, a detailed agenda for the 2013 Annual General Meeting and Proxy Form. Members unable to attend may vote using the Proxy Form.

Nicole Pantelleresco
Council and Executive Assistant

Introducing our new suite of fact sheets!

THE LONG-AWAITED updated set of fact sheets is now available!

You can now access the 11 revised or brand-spanking new fact sheets, with another four on the way soon.

Thank you to everyone who provided their expertise to make this project happen.

Now available from the 'Information for the Public' section of the website are:

- What is a speech pathologist?
- Communication impairment in Australia
- Stuttering
- AAC
- Helping your baby to talk
- The sound of speech: 0 to 3 years



- The sound of speech: preschool and school aged children
- Communication impairment following stroke
- Speech pathologists working with older people
- Speech pathology and Indigenous children

• Speech pathology in mental health services

Coming soon: Speech, Language, Swallowing and Voice.

If you think we should develop a fact sheet for a certain topic, please email your suggestion to marketing@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

Clinical guideline developed for management of laryngectomy

THE LARYNGECTOMY CLINICAL GUIDELINE has been developed in response to requests from the Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) membership for the development of a clinical guideline for laryngectomy management.

The Laryngectomy Clinical Guideline provides speech pathologists with comprehensive information about the management of individuals who have had a laryngectomy from the pre-operative phase through to the long-term/ongoing management phase.

The topics and content of the laryngectomy guideline address all aspects of communication and swallowing, and other important rehabilitation areas of focus; such as humidification and olfaction.

It is anticipated that the clinical guideline will assist clinicians and employers in identifying the knowledge, skills and resources required to work in the area of laryngectomy.

Stacey Baldac
Practice Document Coordinator

Applications for the 2013 RACV Sir Edmund Herring Memorial Scholarship are now open

THE RACV Sir Edmund Herring Memorial Scholarship scholarship aims to assist health professionals by funding important research projects that help prevent road trauma and improve the quality of care delivered to road trauma victims.

Applicants must be health professionals, Australian residents and work in the state of Victoria. Successful applicant(s) receive up to \$52,000 to undertake a project that will lead to improved care in the area of road trauma.

The RACV Sir Edmund Herring Memorial Scholarship has been awarded annually since 1983, in memory of the late Sir Edmund Herring, a former Governor of Victoria and RACV Patron for 34 years.

The recipients of the 2012 scholarship were:

- Bridget Hill (Epworth Rehabilitation), who is conducting an international study tour to view current therapy practices for peripheral nerve injuries and develop a multidisciplinary clinical program based on evidence collected;
- Associate Professor Jonathan Jackson and Dr Sharon Bentley (Australian College of Optometry), who aim to examine the important factors in the decision to stop driving among older people with vision impairment compared to those with normal vision.

Please note applications close on **Friday 7 June 2013**. Full application guidelines can be obtained from the RACV website www.racv.com.au



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 10 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

NDIS Update

THE NDIS is law! You may have read that the NDIS legislation has passed through both the House of Representatives and the Senate, with a name change announced along the way (DisabilityCare). We'll keep calling it NDIS for now, though.

So, we feel it is timely for us to share an update on the NDIS and how it looks at present. The first thing to know is that much of the NDIS is still under development. The Legislation has been passed, but the Rules that provide the real meat to the scheme are still in draft form, and many aspects of the scheme are not clarified under the rules (they may be clarified by the NDIS Agency in policies and procedures, or there may be further rules yet to be released – we are not sure).

With those caveats, we wanted to share what we do know at this point.

Summary of NDIS – what we know so far

Under NDIS, people accessing the scheme (participants) will be able to determine their support needs based on their goals and aspirations. They will use these goals to determine what supports they will access with their flexible funding. In order to become a participant, people will need to meet disability, age and residence criteria. These criteria can be read in detail in the NDIS rules <http://yoursay.ndis.gov.au/draft-NDIS-rules>. Briefly:

- Participants must be 65 years or under when they apply to NDIS. There was recent clarification from the government that participants who turn 65 can choose whether to continue to access supports under NDIS or move to the aged care system for support.
- Residence requirements are about citizenship or permanent residence status, however specifics relating to where people have to live in order to access NDIS in the launch sites are outlined in the NDIS Rules for Becoming a Participant.
- The disability requirements focus on a permanent impairment (defined as 'irreversible'), plus substantially reduced functional capacity to undertake relevant activities (any of communication, social interaction, learning, mobility, self care, or self management). The definition of substantially reduced is quite broad, encompassing:

(a) the person is unable to perform day-to-day tasks or actions required to undertake or participate in the activity; or

(b) the person experiences severe difficulty in independently performing tasks or actions required to undertake or participate in the activity; or

(c) the person can perform tasks or actions required to undertake or participate in the activity only with the assistance of other persons or with the use of assistive technology or equipment (other than commonly used items such as glasses) or home modifications; or

(d) the person can perform tasks or actions required to undertake or participate in the activity only with regular supervision or training by other persons.

The exact assessment tools and methods that will be accepted for establishing the above have not yet been determined.

Supports under NDIS – what can participants access?

The NDIS Rules Support for Participants provides general information about supports that will be 'in scope' for NDIS, including:

- the support will assist the participant to pursue the goals, objectives and aspirations included in the participant's statement of goals and aspirations;
- the support will assist the participant to undertake activities, so as to facilitate the participant's social and economic participation.

Although participants will choose their own supports, the NDIS Agency will have the final say in whether participants' choice of services meets certain NDIS criteria, including meeting their stated goals, efficacy, cost effectiveness, and whether the service is 'more appropriately' provided through a non NDIS system (e.g., the education system).

The rules provide some clarification about what NDIS covers, versus what is provided through health, education, mental health and other areas. Some supports of interest to speech pathologist that are generally considered appropriately provided by NDIS, versus other systems, include:

- delivery or supervision of care required as a result of a functional impairment, including PEG feeding, trachea tube changes;
- assistance for a person with complex communication needs or challenging behaviours to assist them to access health services, including hospitals;
- allied health and other therapy directly related to managing or reducing the functional impact of a person's psychiatric condition on undertaking activities of daily living or social and economic participation, including social and communication skills development;
- personal supports at schools or educational facilities that are required by an individual regardless of the activity they are undertaking, such as assistance with feeding and managing airways or ventilation;
- portable aids and equipment that are required by an individual regardless of the activity they are undertaking, such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, or personal communications devices;
- specialist transport to and from schools or education facilities required as a result of a person's disability (where no other transport option is available and not substituting for parental responsibility);
- specialised support and training for school staff related to the specific personal support needs of the participant, including specific behaviour management plans;
- allied health and other therapies to support a student's functional capacity which are delivered in schools or other education facilities for non-educational purposes.

Although it has not been specifically stated, it does not appear likely that assessment of a person's eligibility for NDIS will be funded.

Early Intervention

There is also an Early Intervention element to NDIS which can be accessed by participants (as defined above), or by children who meet 'developmental disability' criteria. In the last draft we saw, these criteria focused on a delay in the development of a child under 6 years of age that:

- a. is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of mental and physical impairments; and
- b. results in substantial reduction in functional capacity in one or more of the following areas of major life activity: (i) self care; (ii) receptive and expressive language; (iii) cognitive development; motor development; and

- c. results in the need for a combination and sequence of special interdisciplinary or generic care, treatment or other services that are of extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

There has been no further elaboration on these or how they will be evaluated at this stage.

Early Intervention supports will need to have the potential (as assessed by the NDIS Agency) to reduce future need for supports; mitigate, alleviate or prevent deterioration of functional capacity; or strengthen the sustainability of the informal supports available to the person, including through building carer capacity.

Providers under NDIS

Providers of services – including speech pathologists – will need to register with NDIS. They will need to meet certain criteria, including providing evidence that they are suitable to provide the support in question, including in relation to their qualifications, capacity, and experience – these aspects are not detailed as yet, and we will keep you updated as we get more information.

Although not mentioned in the rules, there is a funded project under the NDIS Practical Design Fund which is looking at 'accreditation' requirements for providers who are prescribing devices, and this is likely to include AAC devices.

What have we missed?

This is just a snapshot, but we hope we have covered the main parts of the scheme that might be of interest to you. If you have questions about things we have not covered, feel free to email them to research@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au. We are also happy to hear from members who have comments on any of the areas outlined above.

Don't forget that you can subscribe to our NDIS Interest Group email list so that you get updates like this sent to you. Please contact support@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au to register for this.

Jemma Skeat
National Advisor, Research and Policy

SPA's WA Branch undertakes strategic lobbying during the recent WA election

IN THE LEAD-UP to the Western Australian General Election, the WA Branch carried out a strategic lobbying campaign to raise awareness of the importance of speech pathology in schools and increase speech pathology services within the Department of Education.

A targeted policy was developed and endorsed by Early Childhood Intervention Australia Western Australia Chapter (ECIA WA), the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations, Investing in Our Youth (Bunbury), and the Faculty of Education at the University of Western Australia.

Hardworking SPA members were able to organise meetings with 22 candidates in marginal seats, taking our policy directly to these candidates and asking for their commitment to moving it forward within their party. Many more candidates were approached and either declined to meet with representatives or did not respond. Brooke Sanderson and Asher Verheggen also met with several key senior politicians including the Minister for Health, Hon Dr Kim Hames, and the Shadow Minister for Education, Paul Papilla, CSC, MLA.

The campaign was very successful and certainly



Read all about the lobbying efforts of the SPA Western Australia Branch on the WA General Election webpage.

brought speech pathology services for WA school children into the spotlight, and onto a lot of politician's agendas. In many meetings, candidates shared their own stories of accessing speech pathology support for their children or the children of friends and family, while others were interested to hear about us and the work that we do, some for the first time. Great media coverage was also achieved, with statewide print and radio coverage that highlighted the need for more speech pathology services.

While candidates from all sides generally acknowledged the need for increased speech pathology services and

offered their personal support for the policy, there was not a firm commitment from party leaders to providing a workable solution to the issue. The Minister for Health has requested the Department of Health prepare an option paper looking at the review of health injection funds with a view to redirecting some monies to fund speech pathologists within schools in the metropolitan and Peel regions. Leader of the Liberal Party, the Hon Colin Barnett's response differed somewhat, indicating that if re-elected the Liberal Government would appoint 155.5 school health nurses to provide school entry health assessments, which

would include screening for speech and language difficulties.

This campaign would not have been possible without the dedication and expertise of the SPA members who volunteered their time to attend the strategy workshop, identify families and case studies and meet with local candidates. Our most sincere thanks to you all.

Follow up of the winning Coalition has begun to build on the great momentum gained during the campaign.

To find out more visit the WA General Election webpage.

Brooke Sanderson
WA Branch PWG Leader

Research Grants Program 2013: Call for Reviewers

THE SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO is seeking interested members to participate in the Research Grants Program as reviewers.

If you have an interest in research, academia and evidence based practice, or experience and expertise in a specific professional area the Association would love to hear from you.

Reviewers play an important role in the development of evidence based practice within the profession and their contribution is much appreciated.

Research grant applications are due by **Friday 26 July 2013**. Reviewers have approximately four weeks to complete a maximum of three research applications.

Please submit an updated curriculum vitae outlining your qualifications and professional interests to: CouncillorCPD.SA@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au by **Friday 5 July 2013**.

Michelle Foley
National Scientific Affairs Coordinator

International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology (IJSLP) e-Alerts service available via Informa



Informa e-Alerts is a free email alerting service that delivers Tables of Contents in advance of printed edition journals to all users who subscribe to Informa Healthcare journals, including Speech Pathology Australia's *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology (IJSLP)*. Subscribing to Informa e-Alerts can serve as a tool for interested

members to keep up to date with *IJSLP* news and content.

If you would like to sign up to receive Informa e-Alerts, please visit the Informa webpage at <http://informahealthcare.com> and click on the 'Sign up for e-Alerts' icon on the homepage. Alternatively, SPA members can visit Informa's *IJSLP* website directly at <http://informahealthcare.com/loi/asl> and select



the 'Sign up for e-Alerts' icon located to the left of the journal's webpage.



**Don't forget to enter the
'Meet a Dolphin' grand
prize draw at SPA's
National Conference!**

Remember to check the next issue of *Event e-News* for your opportunity to win a pair of **SEA change** promotional sunglasses and go into the main draw to win the 'Meet a dolphin' grand prize at Speech Pathology Australia's National Conference in June!

Speech Pathology Week 2013: Start the conversation... 25-31 August

THIS YEAR Speech Pathology Week will be a little bit different. We still want you to spread the word about speech pathology. We still want you to celebrate being a speech pathologist. But this year, we want you to start the conversation.

You may have heard that we have been working with our sister organisations around the world to create a year dedicated to raising awareness of communication disability – and its here! 2014 is **The International Communication Project** and as a global profession, we will firmly put communication disability front and centre on the world health stage.

In the lead up to this campaign, we want you to really understand what we're doing and more importantly – why. That's why Speech Pathology Week 2013 will be a soft launch for **The International Communication Project** and we will start the conversation about communication disability in Australia.

Traditional events and resources, like promotional materials and media release templates, will still be available and we will let you know when they are. We will also launch **The International Communication Project** logo and encourage you to start the conversation with your clients, co-workers and local community about communication and why 2014 will be an important year.

Case Studies

Each year, we look for case studies from each state that highlight the theme of Speech Pathology Week, as they are the most successful means of conveying our message to the public. Stories and pictures about people are a great way of illustrating the impact literacy difficulties have on people in their everyday lives and we are looking for brilliant case studies from your clients.

If you have a great story, we'd love to hear about it – send an email with the following details:

- about the person – their name, age, interests;
- the challenges they face due to their communication or swallowing difficulty;
- how the communication difficulty has impacted upon their life, and;

- how they have triumphed over that difficulty or compensated for it (if appropriate);
- if they are willing for their story to be told (possibly nationally)

All case studies should be sent to Joanna Wood at marketing@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au before **Monday 20 May**.

Media Releases

As part of the 'Start the conversation' resources, a template media release will be developed to make telling your and your client's stories to your local media as easy as possible. Check upcoming editions of *Speak Out* and *e-News* for information on how best to utilise these in your local area.

Promotional Material

Information on marketing collateral developed by the Association, to supplement your events and activities, will be coming soon. Orders will be able to be placed online from the beginning of July and will close on **Sunday 4 August 2013**.



A colouring competition entry for Speech Pathology Week 2012.

Artistic talent

The Colouring Competition template is a popular resource that is used by many members. Each year, a multi-talented member provides us with a colouring competition template based on the theme. If you, or someone you know, may be able to volunteer to create a simple A4 template based on this year's theme, we'd love to hear from you – please email marketing@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au for more information. Please contact us by **Friday 3 May**.

Joanna Wood
Communications & Marketing Manager

Tennille Burns
National Public Affairs Coordinator

Book of the Year turns 10 in 2013!

A DECADE AGO, we started our campaign to help promote literacy. This year, Book of the Year turns 10 (ten!) and over this time we've seen:

- 29 winners in four categories
- Four 'Hall of Fame' awards for authors who have significantly contributed to Australian children's literature
- Over 350 books shortlisted
- More than 1,000 books nominated

To everyone who has nominated books or authors, been a (long-suffering) shortlister, acted as a judge, come along to a ceremony, put up a Book of the Year poster or recommended any of our winners, thank you. Without you these awards would not have become so successful and a wonderful vehicle for promoting oral language and literacy skills in children.

Each year, all our great judges and shortlisters donate the books they have read to worthy charities. Below is a list of some of the charities that benefited from our judges and the awards in 2012:

- Thien An Centre (Melbourne) – weekend program for refugee children
- The Smith Family Learning Clubs (Perth)
- Kutjala Playgroup, Kindergarten & Preschool (Charters Towers) – community centre with a large percentage of Indigenous and low SES children
- Royal Far West School (Sydney) – school supporting over 1500 rural NSW students experiencing learning difficulties



- John Hunter Hospital (Newcastle) – education unit
- Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative (Geelong) – under-resourced playgroup for local Koori children
- Ronald McDonald House (Brisbane)
- Women's and Children's Hospital (Adelaide) – Hospital Education School

- Minya Porlar Creche (Murray Bridge) – provides free child care to some of the most disadvantaged Aboriginal children in Murray Bridge
- St Michael's Belfield (Sydney) – dedicated class of Indigenous children with ASD
- Dhingu Oompee Indigenous Playgroup & Trackers Culture Club (Brisbane)
- Ashcroft 'Beehive' Schools Community Centres (Sydney) – a not-for-profit organisation funded by Families NSW providing support playgroups and early literacy groups, and works with local services and intra agencies to identify local needs in order to provide the best possible support for families with young children
- Ashley Detention Centre (Deloraine)
- Atherton Gardens (Melbourne) – program for primary school aged children from refugee background

Speech Pathology Australia also donated non-shortlisted titles to the Dunalley Primary School in Tasmania to help restock their library following the devastating bushfires in January 2013.

Joanna Wood
Communications & Marketing Manager

Nominations for the 2013 Book of the Year Awards have now closed. Make sure you keep an eye on upcoming editions of *Speak Out* and *National e-News* for all the latest news about the 2013 Book of the Year Awards!

23–26 June 2013

Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach QLD



Registration for SEA change: Synthesize, Evaluate, Act! is now live.

We can now count the weeks until the Conference and the Conference program and online registration is available from the Conference website. The Conference Planning Committee (CPC) is encouraged by the number of registrations received since it went live on March 8 but is planning for many more participants to come along. Remember if you want to take advantage of the early bird rates, you need to register by **Tuesday 7 May 2013**.

We ask that you read through the Conference program, select the sessions you wish to attend, and then proceed to the online registration process. This will ensure a faster process and less chance of being logged out. Some workshops have limited attendance so avoid disappointment and register today! There will be **NO** wait list for any sessions.

Program Update

SEA change: Synthesize, Evaluate, Act! has provided 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 to provoke discussion amongst delegates through its plenary sessions' relevance to speech pathologists.

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 on the Sunday prior to pre-registration. **Intensity and dysphasia 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 per workshop.

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

“Meet the Dolphins” Competition

For something different this year, each month in *Events e-News* lucky members have the limited opportunity to be part of this competition, which will be drawn during the Welcome Reception Sunday at Sea World. There are still two months to go, so an additional 20 members can participate. *Events e-News* is circulated electronically at the beginning of each month so make sure you read it.

Restaurant Night

The Restaurant Night is a long standing Conference tradition held on Tuesday evening. To help facilitate the process and have a clearer estimate of participant numbers, we are asking members to select their restaurant preference at the time of registration. Four restaurants of various cuisines have been selected. At the Conference, delegates will be asked to re-confirm their attendance by morning tea on Tuesday 25 June so restaurant reservations can be finalised. Payment for the dinner and drinks is to be made directly to the restaurant on the evening. You can even take the opportunity to attend a local Surf Club and experience Gold Coast Beach Culture.

Guild Insurance Conference Dinner

The Guild Insurance Conference Dinner, to be held in the Hall 4 of the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, will provide a fitting conclusion to **SEA change: Synthesize, Evaluate, Act!** A three-course, all-inclusive meal will be served and “Straight Up” will ensure a great night’s entertainment.

The Guild Insurance Conference Dinner is included with all Full Practising Member and Non Member Conference registrations. Additional tickets can be purchased from the online conference registration.

Join the CPC and celebrate the ‘Gold, Glitz & Glamour’ theme. 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!

Sponsors & Exhibitors

The CPC would like to welcome



who has sponsored the production of the online Conference Registration.

There are a few stands and smaller sponsorship opportunities available, so if you know of any company that might be interested please contact Pamela Richards, National Conference Manager.

Call for Student Volunteers/ Assistants

The Call for Student Volunteers/ Assistants is now closed and the CPC would like to thank those students who submitted an application. The National Conference Manager will be back in touch with you shortly.

Call for Session Chairs

Liz Ward, Scientific Program Sub-Committee Chair would like to thank the members who have volunteered to chair a session at the 2013 National Conference. Full details regarding the session and presenters’ biographies will be sent to you in May 2013.

Accommodation

PR Conference Consultants is ready to take your booking. To view the hotels and apartments available please visit the Conference web site and the accommodation link. Bookings can be made online.

Airport Transfers

Speech Pathology Australia has organised airport transfers with **Airport Con-x-ion** for the 2013 Conference attendees. **Airport Con-x-ion** is offering a 10% discount off the quoted fare. If you wish to avail this offer and make an online booking, please visit the Conference website and the Airport Transfers link for the online process. The code for the booking is **SPA13NC**.

Special Interest Group meetings

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are not auspiced under Speech Pathology Australia as they comprise members and non-members. However Speech Pathology Australia recognises the importance of these SIGs, and supports National SIG meetings at this Conference.

If you are planning a meeting during the Conference, please email relevant details to Pamela Richards by **Monday 13 May 2013** so they can be included in the Final Program.

Alison Smith
Conference Convenor 2013

Pamela Richards
National Conference Manager

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.

CPD Events in 2012 in summary:

- In 2012, the Association offered 59 CPD events across the nation, with the majority of events being one-day workshops. This was slightly less than the number of events offered in 2011 (63 events) but higher than all other preceding years (with the previous highest prior to the record number in 2011, being 54 events in 2010).
- A total of 1641 registrants attended these events.
- The average evaluation ratings for events were very high, as they have consistently been for a number of years. On a scale of 1-5 (where 5 = excellent), the average 'overall rating' of the events = 4.5 and the average 'quality of the presentation' speaker rating = 4.7.
- There were 33 different presenters (as per 2011), four of whom presented more than one event, including the National Tour speaker with 15 workshops.
- The National Tour was well attended with a total of 561 people attending the workshops which ran in all eight Branches, with 13 of 15 workshops being sold out.
- The traveller's incentive was taken up on 254 registrations, with the highest uptake being for CPD events in Queensland and in Victoria.

2013 National Tour Workshops

The planned itinerary is listed below. (Please note that this may be subject to change.)

Where	Dates of two-day workshop
Launceston	<i>Workshop has run</i>
Canberra	Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 July 2013 <i>Registrations opened</i>
Adelaide	Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 July 2013 <i>Registrations opened</i>
Perth	Thursday 1 and Friday 2 August 2013 <i>Registrations opened</i>
Darwin	Thursday 5 and Friday 6 September 2013
Brisbane	Friday 8 and Saturday 9 November 2013
Melbourne	Thursday 21 and Friday 22 November 2013
Sydney	Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 November 2013

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

The 2013 National Tour speaker... Dr Elise Baker



Dr Elise Baker will be presenting a two-day workshop – 'Best practice in the management of speech sound disorders in children: Making every session count' – exploring a range of evidence-based approaches for managing phonological impairment in toddlers, preschool, and school-age children.

The brochure for the 2013 National Tour workshop can be accessed via the SPA website – National Tour

webpage link, along with the planned itinerary as listed in the table above.

The CPD Events Library in summary:

- There has been an increased awareness and utilisation of the library following implementation of strategic actions relating to the library over the past 4 years.
- Loans were approximately evenly distributed between metropolitan and non-metropolitan members.

National CPD Update

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 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* or 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*

Events open for online registration (at the time of going to print) are listed below:

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Mon 15 and Tues 16 July

Canberra 2-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

Sat 11 May 2013

Sydney 1-day workshop
“NSW Private Practice Seminar”

Thurs 23 May 2013

1-day workshop
“Non-invasive brain stimulation applied in the management of acquired neurogenic communication disorders: Neuroscience meets clinical practice”
by **Prof Bruce Murdoch** and **Dr Caroline Barwood**

Mon 3 June 2013

Sydney evening workshop
“Hidden complexities in working with interpreters in the management of bilingual speakers with aphasia”
by **Dr Peter Roger**

Fri 12 July 2013

Sydney 1-day workshop
“Across the Hemispheres: Read and Right”
by **Dr Elizabeth Cardell**

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Mon 13 May 2013

1-day workshop
“Assessment and Management of Paediatric Dysphagia and Feeding Difficulties” by **Kelly Weir**

QUEENSLAND

Fri 10 May 2013

Brisbane 1-day workshop
“Treating Stuttering Children: recent developments”
by **Prof Mark Onslow**

Fri 5 July 2013

Townsville 1-day workshop
“Acquired Apraxia of Speech: Recent Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment” by **Assoc Prof Kirrie Ballard**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mon 29 and Tues 30 July 2013

Adelaide 2-day National Tour workshop
“Best practice in the management of speech sound disorders in children: Making every session count”
by **Dr Elise Baker**

Mon 21 October 2013

Adelaide 1-day workshop
“Day ONE of New Developments in Dysphagia Diagnosis and Management” by **Dr Maggie-Lee Huckabee**

Tues 22 October 2013

Adelaide 1-day workshop
“Day TWO of New Developments in Dysphagia Diagnosis and Management” by **Dr Maggie-Lee Huckabee**

VICTORIA

Mon 5 August 2013

Melbourne 1-day workshop
“Childhood Apraxia of Speech” by **Dr Caroline Bowen**

Tues 6 August 2013

Melbourne 1-day workshop
“Sound Reasoning: Therapy Targets and Techniques for Children with Speech Sound Disorders”
by **Dr Caroline Bowen**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mon 22 April 2013

Perth 1-day workshop
“Creative Pretend Play in Language Intervention”
by **Dr Alison Winkworth**

Mon 6 and Tues 7 May 2013

Perth 2-day workshop
“BLADES I & II” by **Mellanie Sherwood**

Mon 10 and Tues 11 June 2013

Perth 2-day workshop
“1 to 5 year old Children with Language Delays and Impairments: What's new in Assessment and Treatment”
by **Kate Short**

Sharon Crane

Senior Advisor Professional Education & Certification (CPD & PSR)

PSR points and online learning via social media

AT THE February 2013 Speech Pathology Australia Council meeting, part of the discussion around PSR was in relation to professional development and learning that occurs via social media networks and discussions.

The outcome of this Council discussion is that learning that occurs through social media – that meets the following criteria – can be counted in the activity type Attendance at Workshops and Special Interest Groups (W/S):

1. **The activity meets the criteria specified in the W/S activity type:** “Online learning relevant to speech pathology practice including relevant listservs or web-based discussion, blogs, Twitter (eg #slpchat discussions), Facebook (e.g., SPA Apps Group) = 1 point per hour of active involvement that extends professional skills/knowledge.”
2. **The activity meets the overarching criteria for PSR –** “Activities must be relevant to professional practice as a speech pathologist, extend the knowledge and skills of the speech pathologist, and be related to the individual’s PSR plan. As it is the position of Speech Pathology Australia that “speech pathology is a scientific and evidence-based profession and speech pathologists have a responsibility to incorporate best available evidence from research and other sources into clinical practice” (as per the SPA Position Statement on Evidence-Based Practice, 2010), it is the speech pathologist’s professional responsibility to review available evidence or lack thereof in relation to professional development activities.”

Council considered the following in arriving at this decision:

Discussions/forums/blogs/social media (including Facebook and Twitter) relevant to speech pathology practice. In looking to the recognition of the educational value of social media/networks for the speech pathology profession, there are many examples of the value of social media applicable to speech pathologists.

International speech pathology associations, such as ASHA, have adopted social media as a recognised learning opportunity for members to exchange information and connect with other SLPs. One of these associations is ASHA, with an ASHA Leader article dedicated to *The Social Media Mix: How SLPs and Audiologists Are Using Social Media in Their Professional Lives* by Maggie McGary (ASHA’s social media director at that time) of 21 December 2010.

Speech Pathology Australia utilises social media to provide opportunities for learning/professional development. These include:

- The Facebook Apps Group has proved to be a very valuable forum for information sharing and exchange between SPA members.

- Within SPA publications, the opportunities afforded for professional learning by speech pathologists have been addressed, including the recent article by Dr Caroline Bowen ‘Life Online’ (Bowen, *Webwords* 44, Life Online, *JCPSLP*, Vol 14, No 3, 2012).
- SPA has developed a Social Media Guide for Speech Pathologists available on the SPA website under Social Media. In a recent article in *JCPSLP SPAD (Speech Pathologists in Adult Disability) Top 10* it was noted that this guide “is a valuable resource for those exploring the benefits of social media for professional networking” and that “sites such as Twitter can provide an avenue for professional networking and learning.” (*SPAD Top 10, JCPSLP*, Vol 14, No 3, 2012).
- Additionally, SPA monitors a variety of social media sites to extract information that is felt to be of benefit for members, including staying abreast of trends in the profession, to allow up to date posting of information and to identify areas to flag with relevant staff, Council and/or members.

Speech pathologists utilising social media as a learning platform provide unprompted testimonials to its power and accessibility as a professional development tool.

Here are some examples from SPA members on the Facebook Apps closed group:

- “This is a really useful group to belong to!”;
- “Thanks for the great suggestions everyone. And what a great site this is too SPA!”;
- “We are very lucky to have free access to a wealth of information :)”.

Here are some international examples:

- From an international social media discussion by #slpeeps:



#SLPeeps #ASHAless I love Twitter. It's the best global CPD around & it's all free!
<http://chirpstory.com/li/33753>



Speech Pathology Australia continues to benefit from member feedback and aims to be responsive to the burgeoning world of online learning.

Stacie Attrill

National Professional Standards Coordinator

Sharon Crane

Senior Advisor Professional Education and Certification (CPD & PSR)

Advice for managing difficult client situations

Working with warring parents... avoiding getting caught in the crossfire!

WORKING WITH the parents of a client is usually very satisfying and rewarding, particularly when you see them grow in confidence and gain new skills that enhance their relationship with their child. There is, however, nothing more challenging than being caught in the crossfire between warring parents!

I'm sure we all know how acrimonious family breakdowns can be: with emotions running high, decision-making impaired and, unfortunately in some cases, one party wishing to inflict hurt on the other, leading to vexatious allegations or seeking to undermine the other parent's relationship with their child. SPA has noticed a sharp increase in members seeking advice as to how to deal with the issues they are encountering. Some of the most common scenarios include:

- the parent who is bringing the child to (and paying for) speech therapy wanting to restrict the other parent's access to information
- one parent disputing the diagnosis and/or disagreeing with the need for therapy
- both parents wanting to attend therapy but not be in the same room or wanting to alternate who takes the child to therapy
- one parent requesting that the SP not disclose to the other parent that they are seeing the child
- the parent not bringing the child to therapy wanting to be kept informed as to what is happening
- one parent seeking information from the speech pathologist which they wish to use in Court against the other parent.

There's no one-size-fits-all approach to these matters and all sorts of variables will come into play, so my first piece of advice is, if you anticipate that there may be an issue brewing with an existing client or the family situation sounds complicated for a new client, then seek independent legal advice before a problem arises. The Law Society or Institute in your state/territory will provide contact details for lawyers who specialise in family law or for those of you with Professional Indemnity insurance with Guild you have access to legal advice and support.

Despite the potential complexity of the situations you are going to encounter here are some general tips which you may find useful.

1. Know current legislation and understand your obligations

Relevant legislation includes Family Law www.familycourt.gov.au and the Privacy Act (1988) www.privacy.org.au. Privacy law currently affords both parents equal rights to consent to collection, access and disclosure of information about their child unless the right has been legally removed from one parent and/or the young person doesn't consent. If you are unsure whether there are orders related to a child you can contact the Family Court for assistance.

2. Gather sufficient information

The adage "forewarned is forearmed" certainly applies in this situation. Upon intake gather as much information as possible about the family situation. Who the child lives with and when, if there are any Court orders, who does or doesn't have access to information, potentially difficult times or situations and whether there is any information (i.e., one parent's contact details) that the other parent is not allowed to access.

3. Gain consent

Typically if only one parent brings a child

to speech pathology (and the parents aren't separated or divorced) we assume that the other parent has given their consent for the child to attend. We can't assume this for parents who are separated or divorced particularly if there is shared custody and it may be appropriate in this instance to seek consent from the non-attending parent, particularly when seeking information from (or disclosing information to) a third party.

4. Inform both parents of clinic policies and procedures

Having policies and procedures and providing these in writing AND explaining them to both parents can sometimes circumvent problems. Things to consider are how you are going to keep both parents informed about therapy goals and progress and how you are going to respond to requests for information from a non-custodial parent.

5. Review family arrangements regularly

Once you have gathered information don't assume that it is going to stay the same. Explain to parents the necessity for them to keep you informed of changes to their family situation.

One final word of advice: do not under any circumstances take sides! I'm sure this goes without saying but whenever you are working with parents (separated or not) it is important to remain impartial and not become involved in disagreements. This can sometimes be difficult particularly when you have developed a close working relationship with a parent and they are turning to you for support. In this situation offer them the contact details of a specialist in your area who can support them through this difficult time and stick with this mantra, "My duty of care is to your child and it is in his/her best interests for me not to become involved!".

Christine Lyons
Senior Advisor, Professional Practice

Branch update

Australian Catholic University commences a national Bachelor of Speech Pathology program

ONE HUNDRED and fifty students commenced a four year undergraduate Bachelor of Speech Pathology program this semester across the Sydney and Melbourne campuses of the Australian Catholic University (ACU). The program is part of the School of Allied and Public Health, which was established in 2012, and is one of four schools in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The speech pathology program will commence an intake in Brisbane in 2014. Demand for the 2013 ACU speech pathology program was high.

Professor Christine Imms, an occupational therapy researcher and academic, is Head of the School of Allied and Public Health. Dr Diane Jacobs, based in Melbourne, is the Assistant Head of School and National Speech Pathology Course Coordinator. Dr Geraldine Bricker-Katz is the Course Coordinator for the Sydney site. In addition to the course coordinators, teaching staff include Ms Marie

Atherton and Dr Kerry Ttofari. New academic staff will be sought regularly as the program is implemented. Clinical teaching will be supported by on-campus clinics. The North Sydney clinical facility will be ready for second year students in 2014.

The speech pathology program is underpinned by the ACU mission that carries the ethos of the Catholic intellectual tradition and drives the ACU principles of social equity, justice and fairness. These same principles underscore the values and code of ethics fundamental to the practice of speech pathology. Dr Michelle Smith-Tamaray led the writing of the course proposal and curriculum plan backed by an eminent steering committee including representation from Speech Pathology Australia.

The School of Allied and Public Health comprises Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, and Public Health. The occupational therapy program commenced on the St Patrick's campus of ACU in 2012 and expanded to North Sydney in 2013. The near simultaneous launching of speech pathology and occupational therapy programs at ACU is expected to engender close collaboration and collegial engagement between the two disciplines which will enable the development of an innovative model of interprofessional learning for ACU students.

Plans for Accreditation of the ACU speech pathology program are underway with the course coordinators steering the program with that goal in sight.

If you would like further information regarding the ACU speech pathology program you can visit the ACU website and download a course brochure at www.acu.edu.au/courses/2013/undergraduate/health/speech_pathology/bachelor_of_speech_pathology or please contact Dr Diane Jacobs via email at d.jacobs@acu.edu.au

Dr Geraldine Bricker-Katz

*Senior Lecturer in Speech Pathology and NSW Course Coordinator
Australian Catholic University*

Update from The University of Sydney

The discipline of speech pathology at The University of Sydney was honoured to have Professor Jan Edwards visit us this semester. Professor Edwards joined us as part of a University of Sydney, International Collaboration Research Award.

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



Professor Jan Edwards (pictured) is from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. Professor Edwards' research aims to better understand phonological development in preschool children. Her research includes examining the interactions between vocabulary growth and phonological acquisition, cross-linguistic phonological acquisition, and the impact of dialect mismatch on academic achievement.



Professor Edwards is collaborating with Dr Natalie Munro and Dr Elise Baker on examining the relationship between the memory processes involved in word learning and children's phonological knowledge so that effective strategies can be developed for remediating problems associated with children's small vocabularies. During her visit, Jan presented her latest research from a five year cross-linguistic study on preschoolers' phonological development while also enjoying the sights, sounds and senses of NSW! This was her first visit to Australia but I'm sure it won't be her last.

Happenings in childhood apraxia of speech research at The University of Sydney

The discipline was delighted to host Professor Larry Shriberg (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Associate Professor Edy Strand (The Mayo Clinic) in early February. Both are significant researchers in childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) and were in Sydney to further their collaboration with Dr Tricia McCabe and Associate Professor Kirrie Ballard. Their visit was funded by a University of Sydney International Development Program Fund (IDPF) grant specifically to improve international reporting standards for research on children with CAS. In addition to this collaborative project, both visitors presented a research seminar and met individually with seven postgraduate research students in CAS and other motor speech.

Allied Forces: The War on Parkinson's

Parkinson's NSW are running a seminar later in the year called Allied Forces: The War on Parkinson's. Details are as follows:

- **Date:** Wednesday 4 September, 2013
- **Location:** Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney
- **Target Audience:** Allied Health Professionals, Registered Nurses, Nurses and Care Workers.
- **Enquiries:** Information Line Parkinson's NSW
1800 644 189

Karen Atkinson and Jesica Rennie
NSW Branch Editors



Graduate Stephanie Waghorn has been awarded the SPA Student Award in recognition of her outstanding academic and clinical skills.

Q&A with winner Stephanie Waghorn (James Cook University)

Why you decided to become a speech pathologist?

I found out about speech pathology from a friend, and decided to study it as I wanted to work in the health professions. Throughout university I realised that this was definitely the profession for me as it was so diverse and interesting.

Why you're grateful/excited/appreciative of this award?

I feel extremely grateful about receiving the Speech Pathology Australia Student Award. Being recognised for my academic and clinical achievements was an honour.

A general comment about what this award means to you this year.

As a new graduate, membership with Speech Pathology Australia is crucial in order to access current research and apply evidence based practice, to network with other professionals Australia-wide, and to be part of a professional community which advocates on behalf of speech pathologists. The fact that this award included a year's free membership to the Association was great, as university students' funds are generally limited.

A comment about your future career as a speech pathologist.

I am currently working for Education Queensland in the North Queensland Region (Townsville). I would like to continue developing my professional skills in this workplace, as I love working with a paediatric caseload.

Simone Howells
QLD Branch Editor

DoE Awards



Rachel Chivas and Megan Baird, pictured with Learning Services North's General Manager Laurie Andrew, won a DoE Encouragement Award.

Well done Rachel & Megan!

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TASMANIA, sponsored by the RBF (Retirement Benefits Fund), presented 14 awards in 2012 to staff employed across the range of sectors. These sectors included teaching staff in the primary and secondary schools, colleges, LINC (Libraries) and TAFE. Included among the recipients were principals, teaching staff, corporate and finance staff, teacher aides, and school office staff.

The inaugural awards were based on nomination from peers and/or supervisors and primarily based on outstanding contributions to the DoE during the previous year. The nominations were sent to a panel and a group of finalists was selected, from which the winners were eventually drawn. All nominees received a letter advising them of their status and finalists were invited to a ceremony in Launceston. Presentations of certificates were made to all finalists with a short description of their contribution to the DoE. Winners were presented with a range of Tasmanian food and wine and a crystal memento marked with their name.

Two speech-language pathologists, from Learning Service North, were joint winners of the 'under 27' Encouragement Award. Megan Baird and Rachel Chivas were both recognised for their achievements in working with students, families and school staff. Their contribution to the Tasmanian Branch of Speech Pathology Australia was also noted. The presentation gave a snapshot of the work that they had done and was an excellent marketing exercise for speech pathology in education.

Well done and congratulations to Megan and Rachel!

Alison Henty
TAS Branch President

Branch update

A big thank you!

FROM EVERYONE at the Victorian Speech Pathology Australia Branch Executive we would like to pass on a big thank you to Kate Fleming for her tireless work as Branch President. Kate has decided to step down from the role and will be missed by everyone at the Branch Executive. Kate led the Branch superbly while also managing her crucial (and challenging) roles as clinical educator and speech pathologist at the La Trobe University Communication Clinic. We wish her all the best for her future endeavours!

The Victorian Branch is fortunate to welcome into Kate's role a very appropriate replacement. Jessica Andrianakis is the new Victorian Branch President and she will be ably supported by Charmaine Tu who will be moving into the Vice President role. We wish them both the best of luck in their new roles and they will be supported by all members of the Branch Executive.

Supporting research and evidence

A reminder to all Victorian members that the SPA Research Grants are again available in 2013. Grants are now up to \$10,000 for Clinicians and Students (Research/ Higher Degree), and \$600 for Student Research Grants (Entry level). See the SPA website for full details and to choose the most appropriate grant. Follow the 'Resources' link to 'Research Grants'. **Applications close Friday 26 July 2013.**

SpeechBITE™

Members are encouraged to become trained raters of research papers, and rate these papers for the SpeechBITE™ database. There are benefits to being a trained rater, including free access to a range of research papers each year within your field of interest and gaining knowledge of appropriate methodology for your own future research. If Victorian Branch members are interested in becoming a trained SpeechBITE™ rater, please contact Fiona Coulson (Scientific Affairs portfolio leader) at fiona.speech@yahoo.com.au

BECC MND Satellite Clinic presents at the International Symposium on ALS/MND Chicago

It was an unseasonably warm beginning to winter in Chicago, US for the 23rd International Symposium on ALS/MND from 5-7 December 2012. The symposium focused on Motor Neurone Disease (MND), also known as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's disease (as it's known in the US). This meeting of doctors, allied health clinicians, scientists, researchers, and other professionals working in the field of ALS/MND treatment met for the three-day symposium to hear about the newest research for this progressive neurological disease with no known cure.

Event feedback and updates

MND affects approximately 1,500 people in Australia, and on average every day in Australia at least one person dies as a result of MND and another is diagnosed. MND affects the neurones (nerve cells) which control muscles that allow us to breathe, swallow, speak and move, resulting in weak and wasting muscles. As there is no cure for MND, the focus of treatment is to preserve quality of life and aid symptom control. The main themes of the clinical stream of the MND symposium this year were: cognitive change; patient autonomy and decision making; carer and family support; clinical trials and trial design; clinical registers and epidemiology; multidisciplinary management; respiratory support; and surrogate markers.



The "You can do it too!" poster on display in Chicago with Susan, Jim, Rilda, and Rebecca.

The allied health Home and Community Care (HACC) team at Bundoora Extended Care Centre (BECC) – together with Calvary Health Care Bethlehem's (CHCB) Neurology team, the Victorian Respiratory Support Service (VRSS) and The Motor Neurone Disease Association of Victoria's (MNDAV) Regional Advisor – run a monthly clinic for MND patients in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. This specialised clinic was the focus of a poster titled, "You can do it too! The development of a satellite MND clinic in suburban Melbourne, Australia" produced by Dr Jim Howe (CHCB) and BECC Allied Health staff Rilda Bennett, Sarah Jeffress, Rebecca Lamont, Patsy Mills and Krystle Ng. The clinic aims to meet the specific and complex care needs for patients with MND and their carers by collaboratively planning their treatment between agencies, and providing specialised multidisciplinary symptom management in their own homes. This clinic demonstrates a positive model of care for patients with MND, with a high level of patient and carer satisfaction reported by surveys. A similar clinic is now in development in Geelong, due to commence this year.

Dr Jim Howe (neurologist, CHCB), Rilda Bennett (physiotherapist), and Rebecca Lamont (speech pathologist) from the BECC MND satellite clinic attended the International ALS/MND Symposium and presented the poster in Chicago. Susan Mathers (Neurologist, CHCB) also attended. The poster was well received with people asking questions about the clinic set-up and the collaborative management of patients with MND at BECC and in their homes. For more information about the ALS/MND Symposium or the poster, you can contact Rebecca Lamont on (03) 9495 3388 or Rebecca.Lamont@nh.org.au

Shane Erickson
VIC Branch Editor

Voice seminar feedback

LAST YEAR I was delighted to be able to invest in two interstate voice professional development events. I attended the Voice Summit held in Adelaide on 21-22 September and the Australia Asia-Pacific Laryngoscopy & Dysphagia conference held in Melbourne on 27-28 October.

Educating the voice user, practicing voice techniques and exercises, and measuring quantities and qualitative changes in the speaker's voice makes an enormous difference for my clients. I thoroughly enjoy seeing the return of normal voice to school students with nodules or severe inflammation of the cords and to adults such as teachers, deputy principals, singers and other voice users (e.g., sales people).

These conferences gave me additional information to support treatment of my paediatric and adult clients with voice problems in private practice. Knowing more about the latest surgery, assessment and research into the area of voice has updated my knowledge base. One of the biggest advantages in attending extra professional development has been the opportunity to network and share knowledge with ear, nose and throat (ENT) doctors and other voice therapists.

If you are interested in this clinical area, I hope to see you at future WA and/or national professional development events relating to voice because knowledge in this area can assist people of all ages.

Inge Aldum Gaudin
Speech Pathologist

For information about related workshops at SPA's upcoming National Conference (23-26 June 2013) please refer to your Conference program or visit the website.

WA CPD in 2013

A bumper 2013 is planned for WA CPD with some big names coming to Perth! Kate Short (June), Elise Baker (National Tour in August), Maggie Lee Huckabee (October) as well as dysphagia experts Cecilia Pemberton and Jocelyn Priestly (early August). A local favourite is also back – Mellanie Sherwood will be presenting BLADES I & II (registrations now open) and Jade Cartwright and Naomi Cocks later in the year. More dates and details to come so please keep an eye on *Events e-News* and the SPA CPD website. Remember that reduced rates are offered until 1 MONTH before an event, after which a \$55 late fee applies.

Erin Masson
WA CPD Coordinator

SPA online update and profile



SPA Twitter update

Links to recent newsworthy articles tweeted and/or re-tweeted on the Speech Pathology Australia Twitter feed in February-March included:

- Acting out dreams linked to development of dementia, study finds (21 March)
- Supplement aimed at children with speech delays is being deceptively marketed, could be dangerous (19 March)
- “Young offenders need a verbal toolkit to unlock literacy” An article by the brilliant Pamela Snow (6 March)
- Language gene more active in girls? (21 February)
- You're never too old to learn. Read tips to stay mentally active (6 February)

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



SPA Facebook highlights from February to March included...

(Clockwise from left) A piece about the Parkville School and SPA's SPyce (Speech Pathologists in Youth Custodial Education) program – featuring SPA's SPyce Project Officer Laura Caire – is covered by ABC1's 7.30 Report on 19 February; National Office staff don “lots of socks” in support of World Down Syndrome Day on 20 March; the range of books that received early nominations for the 2013 Book of the Year Awards!



SPA profile – Sarah Lemon



Role within SPA?

Rural and Remote Reference Group portfolio.

What do you do in this role?

Represent the rural and remote clinicians and communities in regards to the specific issues that arise within these locations.

Role outside SPA?

Outside of SPA, I work for Mount Gambier community health.

What do you do in this role?

Service clients from 0-100 years with a wide variety of presenting issues. Typical generalist speechie doing a bit of anything and everything ;)

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

Favourite thing about current roles is that I can work with and represent rural and remote communities to ensure the services and support they receive resemble that of the metro communities as best as possible. I also love being able to extend my skills in all the areas of practice!

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

Currently see future direction as promoting clinicians to experience working in rural and remote locations and to promote increased access to services for speech pathology and associated services in rural and remote locations.

Change of scenery – speech pathology work in Papua New Guinea

WONDER HOW familiar you are with Papua New Guinea (PNG), Australia's nearest neighbour? In 2009 when it became apparent that my husband Geoff and I would be moving to Papua New Guinea, I found so little in my speech pathology journals that I gave away most of my speech pathology texts and packed my easel and oil paints instead.

We were making our move so that Geoff could take up a role with Mission Aviation Fellowship, a Christian mission that flies tiny planes to PNG's most remote bush settings in the mountains and swamps of this rugged young country.

“In this country of 841 languages the challenges of bilingual education are enormous.”

To my surprise, from the first week on, I have been receiving invitations to offer my expertise. As an older therapist, I have very general experience, and practice at making do with few resources, which has been an advantage. I volunteer at the local provincial hospital, 'living' in the Physiotherapy department. Physiotherapists are trained at the Divine Word University in Madang. I visit the wards and run two outpatient clinics a week, one in conjunction with the regional ENT doctor. My caseload includes CVA, voice, TBI, cleft palate, stuttering, laryngectomy and ABI. I participate in the early intervention group, and the Physiotherapy student training that this also encompasses.

It is a privilege to be involved in teacher training. In this country of



Different perspective: Clockwise from left; Jennifer with her oil paints; catching a flight out bush for a follow-up consultation for cleft surgery; a highland dancer; a group of local villagers.



841 languages the challenges of bilingual education are enormous. I am finding my online masters in Applied Linguistics very helpful!

The Cued Articulation course I previously ran for teachers in the Victorian Education system has proved useful. I combine it with a phonological comparison with the regional vernacular languages, which allows the teachers to identify the phonemes which will present a phonological awareness challenge to their students. We then work on Phonological Awareness strategies and games for those phonemes. I have delivered this course here in Mt Hagen, my highlands home, and in Buka, on Bougainville.

Because services to those with disabilities are few, networking is

essential. This month I joined the ENT team and Callan Disability services in a provincial hearing screening exercise in rural health centres. Each day we saw over 80 patients (190 on one day) and were very aware that this was just the tip of the iceberg. Of those 80, most have experienced chronic otitis media and no longer have intact ear drums.

The needs here in PNG for speech pathology work amongst PNG's citizens are enormous. I often wish for some students to share the load! There is now an enthusiastic young therapist in Port Moresby and another pilot's wife expected this year. Perhaps one day I can go back to my oil paints!

Jennifer Boer, L.A.C.S.T, B.T.H., CERT IV TESOL
Speech Pathologist



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

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Registration

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- Please email Clear Speech for further information: events@clearspeechalbury.com.au

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 Melbourne, VIC Jul, 2013 TBC
 Sydney, NSW 2-4 Aug, 2013
 Auckland, NZ Aug, 2013 TBC
 Adelaide, SA 30 Sep - 2 Oct, 2013

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The Learning Language and Loving It™ Certification Workshop* can provide you with an effective framework for helping educators embrace the kinds of behaviours and strategies that are most powerful in building early language and literacy skills.

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19.5 Professional Development hours

Upcoming Learning Language and Loving It™ workshops:

Perth, WA 4-6 Sep, 2013

*Open to speech pathologists who have no previous Hanen training

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SAS features a spy adventure computer game, child and parent sessions and teacher tip sheets. Kids learn how to recognise and manage emotions, talk and play with others, prevent and manage bullying and much more!

2013 practitioner training dates

- Brisbane May 16-17
- Melbourne May 23-24
- Sydney June 3-4
- Perth June 12-13
- Adelaide August 5-6



www.sst-institute.net

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Lara, Darryl and family

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April 2013

Reflux Infants Support Association – Infant Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Disease Conference
20 April 2013
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
www.reflux.org.au/conference/

May 2013

AGOSCI 11th Biennial Conference
1-4 May 2013
Hilton Sydney
www.agosci.org.au

Helping Struggling Students to Master Reading (Adelaide)
6 May 2013
E: enquiry@adelaidespeech.com

Tasmanian Department of Education Speech Pathology Conference
6-7 May 2013
Axeman's Hall of Fame, Latrobe
E: carol.bellchambers@education.tas.gov.au

IWORDD: International Workshop on Reading and Developmental Dyslexia – From Theory to Practice
30 May-1 June 2013
Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain
www.bcbl.eu

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

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.apssh2013.org/index.asp

Throughout 2013

Autism Association of WA – Free workshops for WA speech pathologists

Various regional locations and dates:

Geraldton: 22-24 May 2013

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:

Northcote VIC: 21 April 2013

Parkdale VIC: 17 May 2013

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:

Brisbane QLD: 16-17 May 2013

Melbourne VIC: 23-24 May 2013

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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