



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TDS?

Pop ins to have a chat work well during the Senior Citizens Club. All members who attended on Tuesday 14th April very kindly assisted me with learning Auslan, I didn't have my phone to take pictures of the signs, so I've forgotten them already! It's a case of use it, or lose it, and that's very true for me. I'm looking forward to regular planned lessons with Michelle, once the Hobart staff team share the same working days – as much as we can share the same days, as most of the team work part time. Sharyn and David will be joining the Auslan learning too.

Sharing the same working days will help remembering when each of team members is in the building.

There will be staffing changes at Tasdeaf, through a restructure. The reason for the restructure is the NDIS is coming and Tasdeaf needs to be in a place to meet the many exciting challenges ahead of us, that the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will bring.

Updates on how we are getting ready for the NDIS will appear regularly in Signpost.

Thanks to Rachel for giving me a sign name. It was very useful to share at a recent meeting I attended. The people at the meeting looked curious – and confused. As a tasdeaf member this will be a common everyday experience for you.

Explanations are available when they attend Deaf culture awareness training, or sign up for Auslan classes. Both of which Tasdeaf provide as services. Tasdeaf needs to think how we market and promote all our services as many members may not be aware of all we do. We currently provide– interpreting, advocacy, support groups, hearing link, information, equipment and communication. All of which we can build on and make better. Listening to members stories of your experience with our services will help.

I'm keen to hear from members your experiences of our interpreting service. CEO popins are scheduled second and fourth Tuesday of every month, 11.00 to 11.30, and again at 5.30 to 6.30 with an interpreter present. Details on our website, and through Signpost.

Cheers

Mary

BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2015

20th April
22nd June
17th August
19th October
14th December

YOUR SAY, YOUR STORY ABOUT INTERPRETERS

VicDeaf will be coming to Hobart to see Mary Gays about our interpreting services next month.

Mary would appreciate if members could contact Tasdeaf to share their experience/stories about interpreting so that when she has the meeting with VicDeaf she can share your experiences with them.

LEARN AUSLAN

Auslan
Levels 1,2 & 3

Where: Hobart and Launceston only
Email—info@tasdeaf.org.au for more information

JEANETTE'S COMMUNITY SERVICES

April 27th | May 11th and 25th | June 15th and 29th | July 13th and 27th |
Aug 10th and 24th | Sept 7th and 21st | Oct 5th and 19th | Nov 9th and 23rd
and the final one on Dec 7th

All sessions will be held at the Devonport Community Health,
Centre 22 Steele St, Devonport 10–1.30pm





UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Great seeing members on our trip to the North and NorthWest of the State.

Equally great to chat with many members at Launceston and Ulverstone. Ray, Mary and myself felt very welcome meeting old friends and new.

A question from a member asked on the trip – do members own tasdeaf? A simple question, deserves a simple answer: Yes. How members own Tasdeaf is not as easy to explain.

I buy an item from a shop – a cake – I own it, because I paid for it, using cash that I exchanged for the cake – plus I have the cake in my hands to prove ownership, together with a till receipt to prove I paid for the cake.

When I am a member of a bowling team – do I own the team? Bowling teams have more than one member – which member owns the team? Do we all own the team together?

This membership can be better explained as belonging – I belong to the bowling team – I don't own the bowling team, but I do belong, and together with the team I own the team. Ownership/belonging is because we have the same interest – bowling – we share the same purpose – winning – particularly if it's a competitive team and the team competes in competitions.

Yet members of the bowling team may belong to that team for different purposes – having fun with friends, enjoying time together, time out from busy lives, and not care as much about winning.

Tasdeaf membership is different and the same again. Yes we have members with the same interest in common – deaf and hard of hearing – yet we know each person's experience of hearing loss at any level, is not the same as the next member's experience.

This is part of the reason we are experiencing difficulties with our constitution at the moment. Going back through our history, our constitution has stated this purpose:

To provide services which empower deaf Tasmanians to be independent, confident and achieve their goals.

Whilst reviewing the constitution, we can remind ourselves of this purpose and the reasons each of us first joined Tasdeaf, and the reasons each of us chose to continue to belong to Tasdeaf.

Through the constitution review we can also take the opportunity and ask ourselves, What – if anything – is missing from this historical purpose? Do we want to change it? Do we want to keep it the same?

This is where Tasdeaf is at, we can go back to our roots, and at the same time decide on our future. I encourage all members to join the conversations with our constitution review and shape our future.

The NDIS is coming and we need to be ready.

More to come in following Signpost editions on Tasdeaf's future.

Steve Hodgetts

FAMILY AUSLAN IN THE HOME

Thanks to generous funding from the Tasmanian Community Fund over the past two years Tasdeaf *Auslan in the Home* program has been able to provide individually tailored support in acquiring Auslan (Australian Sign Language) within the family environment, to encourage ease of communication, a sense of belonging and inclusiveness to families with a deaf child in the North and South of Tasmania. Feedback has been very positive and families have said that it has made a big difference in their lives.

“Basically our child needs Auslan, which means his family do too. We would be lost without this course so we are incredibly grateful and appreciative of it”.

“The project has provided access to greater and clearer communication in our family as a whole”.

It has been a joy and privilege to support our Auslan families and watch them develop their language, confidence and strengthen their relationships.

Sadly our funding has come to an end and the *Auslan in the home* program finished in March. Tasdeaf will be providing a weekly skills development class called “Deaf World” in the near future to ensure our families can continue their Auslan journey.

Jane Hodgkinson would like to say a big thank you to Ray Hilsdon, Jeanette Symonds, Rachel Freeman and Michelle Czyzowicz for all their wonderful skills, flexibility and hard work! Hodgkinson





TASMANIAN USHERS AND DEAFBLIND SUPPORT GROUP

Agfest

When: On Saturday 9th May 2015 and meet at 10 am

Where: Agfest at 415 Oaks Rd,
Carrick TAS 7291.

General Information: Agfest tickets cost \$15 per person but no concession. Tickets can be bought at Agfest or Coles. If you need a lift to Agfest then contact Carol Brown.

“Christmas in July”

When: On Saturday 11th July 2015 and meet at The Metz Café for lunch – 12 pm.

Where: The Metz Café,
119 St John Street,
Launceston TAS 7250

Any support for guide/volunteers/Auslan/tactile interpreters to help Deafblind adults would be very appreciated thank you.

Please contact Carol Brown mobile no 0417474208 TEXT only or email address: scb@bigpond.net.au

ABBOTT GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITY

The Abbott Government has today unveiled a new initiative to help people with disability access advocacy services. The Member for Bass, Andrew Nikolic, and Senator Mitch Fifield, the Assistant Minister for Social Services, today visited a disability advocacy service in Launceston to launch the *NDAP Provider Finder*.

“The Commonwealth funds organisations to provide advocacy services to people with disability under the National Disability Advocacy Programme (NDAP),” Minister Fifield said. “NDAP gives Australians with disability access to disability advocacy services that work to promote their rights and improve their ability to participate in the community.”

Andrew Nikolic said the *NDAP Provider Finder* is an online resource that will assist people with disability find the right person to help them access the supports they need. “The Provider Finder is quick and easy to use, and allows searching by location or by type of advocacy service,” Mr Nikolic said. “The Finder displays details on each advocacy service, as well as their service location, and directions to find them.”

Minister Fifield and Andrew Nikolic visited the *Speak Out Launceston’s* stall at the Carers Fair in Launceston to meet with staff and launch the Provider Finder. “It’s so important that people with disability in Launceston and across Northern Tasmania can access advocacy services to help them get the support they need,” Mr Nikolic said.

“As the NDIS rolls out in Tasmania, NDAP providers will continue to assist people with disability to participate in decisions that impact their lives, including helping them access both the NDIS and mainstream services,” Mr Nikolic said. Minister Fifield said more than 11,500 people received support through NDAP in 2013-14.

“The 59 NDAP agencies across Australia ensure there are advocates located in every state and territory, and there are different kinds of advocacy available depending on individual circumstances,” Minister Fifield said.

Mr Nikolic and Minister Fifield encouraged people with disability and their families to visit www.dss.gov.au/NDAPfinder to try out the NDAP Provider Finder.





SOUTHERN TAS DEAF SOCIAL CLUB
HIGH TEA FOR MOTHERS DAY

When: Saturday 9th of May
2pm—5pm

Where: TasDeaf Society, community room, 139 New Town Road, New Town

What: High tea for Mothers day, kids craft corner, make a card for mothers and raffles...

Cost: \$2 per person and \$5 for families

DEAF GALA BALL

When: Saturday 31st of October

Where: Hobart

Keep your eye for more information regarding the Gala ball next month

SCC EASTER RAFFLE

Senior Citizens Club had a great time with their Easter Egg Raffle on 31st March. They raised \$210 and donated the money to Tasdeaf as fundraising, in appreciation for using the premises every Tuesday along with the refreshments.

1 st Prize	Diana Hodgetts
2 nd Prize	Enid Stacey
3 rd Prize	Beryl Tabor
4 th Prize	Joyce Clifford
5 th Prize	Brian Tonks
6 th Prize	Leigh Harrison
7 th Prize	Rachael Jackson
8 th Prize	Dorothy Holstrom

Diana Hodgetts was shocked when asked to draw first prize to find that she had won!

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER



Website

www.tasdeaf.org.au

On the homepage there is an icon 'Become a member' click and sign up



Email

info@tasdeaf.org.au

Send an email to info and request a membership form



Visit us

139 New Town Road, New Town or 64 Cameron Street, Launceston

Come in and get a membership form from reception

INVITATION TO SUBMIT ARTICLES

TasDeaf would like to invite members to submit articles that they may wish to share with the community.

What: Articles are not to be longer than 250 words

Deadline: 14th of every month

Submission: Preferred by email to info@tasdeaf.org.au or fax to TDS on 03 6228 1966

Important Information:

- TasDeaf may refuse articles subject to space
- TasDeaf may edit your article with intent of clarifying content to reader not to change the intent to communicate of the writer

All best efforts will be made by TasDeaf to send out SignPost monthly between the 17th and 20th subject to staff availability, timing, receipt of articles, and other circumstances that may occur.

