

communication

SPRING 2015

matters



**SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY
AWARENESS WEEK**

THE ANGELMAN NETWORK

**MAKING THE MOST OF LIFE
AFTER STROKE**

MEET YOUR EXPERT ADVISORS



New Zealand
Speech-language
Therapists' Association

Te Kāhui Kaiwhakatikatika Reo Kōrero o Aotearoa

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COMMUNICATION MATTERS IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER USING VEGETABLE-BASED INKS



Editorial – R. Lucas van Ryn

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As I write, it is hailing today in Auckland. It seems that the spring weather has arrived just in time for the spring issue of *Communication Matters*!

I am proud to have recently been appointed as editor of *Communication Matters* and would like to take a brief moment to introduce myself. My interest in Speech-language Therapy began while I was undertaking postgraduate study in Speech Science at The University of Auckland. Although I had been thinking about language every day for a few years already, first as a linguistics student, then tutor and researcher, hearing about the work that my classmates and colleagues were doing with their clients highlighted for me just how important communication is to everyone in their daily life.

In this issue, our featured organisation is The Angelman Network. Ursula Cranmer talks about the Angelman Literacy Project, barriers faced in New Zealand by people with Angelman Syndrome and those who support them, and how research and resources can help remove these barriers.

We also hear an inspiring story about Colin Weston's post-stroke journey, his recumbent trike, and the Gavel Club that Colin and his wife have started (pp. 6-7). Speech-language Therapists can also get inspired about stroke care by attending the South Island Stroke Education Day this November (p. 21).

This issue also highlights the ways in which the NZSTA can support you, its members: We hear about the NZSTA's Expert Advisors (pp. 9-11) and about He Kete Whanaungatanga, a new group established to support the Māori and Cultural Development portfolio (p. 8).

Of course, for many of us, Speech-language Therapy Awareness Week is the highlight of the season. It has been

exciting to hear all the news about Awareness Week this year, including the stories that have appeared in media outlets around the country. We feature news and photos from Awareness Week (pp. 12-15), including the successful stalls held by students at Massey University (pictured on this issue's cover) and The University of Canterbury. The combination of engaging activities which get people thinking about communication and free food seems like a successful formula!

Ellen Faithful, Kristyn Gentry, and Stella Karaman presented a fantastic talk about Speech-language Therapy to the Linguistics and Language Society at The University of Auckland. Stella, Ellen, and Kristyn all spoke with confidence on a broad range of topics, including cochlear implants, the acute hospital setting, Sign Language, adult dysphagia, aphasia post stroke, and augmentative and alternative communication. Talks like this constantly remind me just how broad a field Speech-language Therapy is.

Thank you to everyone who sent an article or report for this issue of *Communication Matters*. We received such a number of submissions that we can't include everything in this issue: So I can tell you already that I'm looking forward to the next issue as well!

ERRATUM

In the previous issue of *Communication Matters* an author's name was omitted from the article entitled *Biculturalism and Multiculturalism*. This article was written by Waimirirangi (Jean) Andrews, Speech-language Therapist, as well as Karen Brewer. Sincere apologies to Waimirirangi for this oversight.



President's Report – Philippa Friary

KIA ORA TĀTOU,

What an industrious Speech-language Therapy Awareness Week this has been! I am looking forward to reading and hearing about all the fantastic activity that has happened nationwide. Kia ora to everyone who has been involved in our mahi to raise awareness about our profession, the difference we can make, and the communities that we can support. A massive thank you to Annette Rotherham and her team for all they have done to facilitate another successful event. I was really impressed to see the buzz across social media, with tweets reaching our Australian and United Kingdom colleagues and most Speech-language Therapists' Facebook pages being swamped with status updates such as 'Hug a Speechie' and 'We can make a difference'.

Given that this is my first time writing in *Communication Matters* as your new President, I wanted to take the time to say a few thank-yous and to tell you all a bit about me. This is a really exciting time to be a part of this dynamic association. The position that our association is in today is due to the tenacity of the Executive Councils before us. Our past Presidents and Executive Council members, including Megan McAuliffe, Dean Sutherland, Clare McCann, and Colette Maier, had the vision and commitment to establish connections with our national and international partners. Helen McLauchlan was then instrumental in establishing our partnership with our secretariat services, Business Professional Services Ltd. These smart moves have

enabled the present Executive Council to have the freedom to work strategically, truly connect with our membership, and engage with our colleagues internationally. Kia ora to everyone who has crafted the association into what it is today.

Now, I have a confession to make... I have not always been so engaged in our association. As a University of Canterbury student, I was too busy adjusting to life in Christchurch, after New Plymouth, and getting through the programme. As a new graduate, I didn't really have any idea of what it was all about. I thought the association was a group of people that made brochures that I could give to my clients. I then travelled to the United Kingdom, where I worked for eight years. During this time, I joined the Traumatic Brain Injury SIG committee and started to understand what a professional association was all about. Returning to New Zealand in 2009, I was one of those Speech-language Therapists who compared our association with our overseas partner associations, naively not realising the substantial difference in membership numbers and therefore in the paid workforce. At this point I had options. I could continue to 'lean out' and critique, saying, "What does the NZSTA do for me?" or I could 'lean in' and say, "What can I do for the NZSTA?" It was at this point that I started attending area meetings, and soon after took over the Professional Development portfolio. I am sure that my story is similar to others out there. As an association that relies on the strength of

its members, we need more people to 'lean in'.

My vision is that our NZSTA continues to grow into an association that all Speech-language Therapists want to be a part of. Instead of saying, "Why should I join?" I want therapists to say, "Why wouldn't I join?"

If you were not able to join us down in Christchurch in June for the AGM, please take the time to visit this link and meet your new Executive Council: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulTY9Yp6vxw> (or <http://tx0.org/71>) and catch up on the constitution changes by reading the AGM minutes found on our website. Please join me in warmly welcoming to the Executive Council Anna Miles, your new Professional Standards portfolio holder, and Claire Winward, who has taken over the Professional Development portfolio. They have both stepped in and stepped up very quickly. It's great to have you both on board.

Your Executive Council has been working solidly over the last few weeks to develop the strategic plan *twenty twenty* for 2016-2020. Thank you to everyone who contributed their ideas. We are looking forward to consulting with all of you over our new vision, values, mission statements, and strategic plan. The wordle, or word cloud, shown below gives you a preview of the feedback we gained from you all that has formed the foundation for our vision as an association.



Given the theme of planning for our future, I wanted to say ka kite with this quote from a magnificent leader:

Action without vision is only passing time, vision without action is merely day dreaming, but vision with action can change the world.

--Nelson Mandela

Mauri ora,
Philippa Friary



The Angelman Network: The Right to a Voice

WORDS: URSULA CRANMER, CHAIRPERSON, THE ANGELMAN NETWORK

The Angelman Network (TAN) is a charitable trust based in New Zealand that connects and supports those affected by Angelman syndrome (AS). Individuals with AS, a rare neuro-genetic condition, have severe to profound communication impairments, but their receptive language is far more advanced than their expressive language. ‘Always presume competence’ is our key phrase. TAN is working with pro-active parents and communication specialists around the world to track the progress of what is being dubbed as ‘the communication revolution’.

TAN supports the work of Erin Sheldon, author of *Angelman Syndrome for Educators*, and Mary-Louise Bertram, communication specialist. Both experts are relentless trail-blazers, and are held in high regard in the global AS community, sharing their up-to-date expertise and knowledge.

The Angelman Literacy Project (2015) was initiated by Erin Sheldon. “The goal is to help families and professionals access materials, resources, and professional development to improve educational programs for all students with Angelman syndrome.” The project’s mission is “supporting

“A person’s a person, no matter how small.”

--Dr. Seuss (Horton Hears a Who)

educational teams to ensure access to communication and literacy opportunities for all individuals with Angelman syndrome . . . by developing materials and resources; disseminating information through workshops, camps and social media; and developing a network of



parent mentors to provide parent-to-parent support in regional and local areas.”

Resources based on this research and funded by TAN will help to dispel myths, remove barriers, and advocate for more funding and better practice for multi-modal communication systems in the classroom and at home. Because inclusion, independence, and learning begin with communication, children with AS require early access to a robust language system that can be ‘heard’ by everyone. Current barriers faced in New Zealand include:

Children are being denied funded language systems due to archaic, rigid criteria and excessively long waiting lists. It is a fundamental human right to have access to a voice.

Unrealistic time limits restrict how long a child, their parent, or teacher can ‘trial’ a device or language system, even though they are all still learning. It could take anything from one to three years for a non-verbal child to grasp the concept of their first language. There is clear evidence of the need to model, watch, and wait, because we are all learning to

model and to ‘listen’.

A language system should not be limited to a few words. Access to a full language system is needed as early as possible. Children have more to say than yes and no.

A device or language system should not be switched off or removed from the child. It is the voice of the child and must always be accessible—at all times; at home and at school.

Together we have a stronger voice. We will keep speaking up until all voices are heard.

If you or your organisation wishes to assist or collaborate with The Angelman Network, or be part of The Right to a Voice project in New Zealand, please contact Ursula Cranmer, Chairperson of the Angelman Network angelmannetwork@gmail.com. More information on The Angelman Network can be found at <http://www.angelmannetwork.com/>

Left page: Using technology to access literacy. Right page: Summer Camp in Utah with Erin Sheldon (The Angelman Literacy Project).

Making the Most of Life after Stroke

WORDS: JAMES FULLER, COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR, TAURANGA HOSPITAL

“Two different lives and I’m making the most of mine.”

It’s hard to know what to expect when you walk into the home of a man cut down in his prime by stroke.

Colin Weston was a fit and active 53-year-old, he didn’t drink, and wasn’t a smoker. On a holiday with his wife and two sons in Queenstown, he was hurtling down a mountain bike track with his son Andy when he suffered a massive stroke.

That was two-and-a-half years ago and the result of that stroke has been huge—both emotionally and financially. Given that, what you don’t expect is the laughter and overriding sense of positivity which fills the Weston home.

“That was my life then, this is it now,” smiles Colin. “Two different lives and I’m making the most of mine. I’m still Colin Weston, warts and all. I don’t want people to treat me differently.”

Initially the former HR advisor couldn’t feel, sense, taste, or smell on the right side of his body. For the first two months he communicated solely by ‘yes’ or ‘no’. He suffered stroke fatigue and spent long periods resting.

“Of all the things which could have happened, Colin having a stroke wasn’t on the radar,” says his wife Fiona. “It was traumatic for the boys, who were 16 and 18 at the time. They lost their dad for a while and we went from two incomes to no income and five days a week rehab.”

He spent three months in rehabilitation at Kenepuru Hospital before returning to the family’s Wellington home. With Colin unable to work, Fiona gave up her veterinary career to care for him, and their son Andy put his university degree on hold to get a job and help out financially.

The Westons subsequently moved to Tauranga and have nothing but praise for Tauranga Hospital’s Speech Language Therapy Department which now oversees Colin’s recovery. They would like to highlight its work during this year’s Speech-language Therapy Awareness Week.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Colin is ahead of his predicted recovery path. He is loving life. The mountain bike may have gone, but it’s been replaced by a recumbent trike.

“Love it, love it,” beams Colin. “You can go really fast,” he says with a look which suggests his former love of speed is being channelled elsewhere.

The couple has begun a public speaking club, called the Gavel Club, to help aphasia sufferers regain their speaking confidence. The club is similar to Toastmasters.

The group meets at Tauranga Hospital and Colin’s Speech-language therapist, Hazel Gray, drops in to check up on members’ progress. Colin and Fiona write the agendas, mark feedback forms of members’ speeches, and organise everyone each week.

A talented musician, Colin is re-learning to play the piano, as well as to write left-handed. He is also writing a book about his stroke experience in order to help others. This inspirational man’s outlook is simple.

“If I have a bad day, well then tomorrow is another day,” he says before giving words of encouragement to other stroke sufferers: “If I can do it, you can do it.”

Image: Colin Weston on his recumbent trike.



He Kete Whanaungatanga

WORDS: KAREN BREWER

He Kete Whanaungatanga is a group that has been formed to support the Māori and Cultural Development portfolio. The idea for this group came from Adele Siave, who previously held the portfolio. It was further developed in a meeting between Karen Brewer (current Māori and Cultural Development portfolio holder), Waimirangi (Jean) Andrews (Speech-language Therapist) and Isla Emery-Whittington (Occupational Therapist) in November, 2014. In this meeting, we agreed that the task of ensuring The NZSTA is a culturally safe organisation that upholds the Treaty of Waitangi is bigger than one person. It will require generations of people and we need to put in place infrastructure so this can happen without relying on just a few individuals.

At first, we conceptualised *He Kete Whanaungatanga* as a group of Māori Speech-language Therapists, kaumātua, and other Māori stakeholders. By the end of our preliminary discussion, we proposed that the group be founded on biculturalism and on operationalising the Treaty of Waitangi. This entailed that the group would include Māori and tauiwi (non-Māori) NZSTA members working together. We proposed that the group decide on its own name and define its own values, motives, and ways of operating and ensuring cultural safety for all group members. We also concluded that kaumātua should be an integral part of this group, for the wisdom and cultural guidance that they bring.

With that as a guide, we advertised for people to join the group, and a fantastic bunch of people came forward. At present the members are:

- Waimirangi Andrews, Ministry of Education Special Education
- Karen Brewer, The University of Auckland
- Kate Cook, The University of Canterbury

- Sharon Farao, Counties Manukau DHB
- Jessica Hunter-Wilson, TalkLink Lower North Island
- Ruth Pologa, CCS Disability Action
- Adele Siave, Canterbury DHB
- Renée Taylor, Counties Manukau DHB
- Marie Ualesi, Counties Manukau DHB

We meet via Skype every six weeks or so. It was nice to meet kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) while many of us were in Christchurch for the NZSTA Professional Development event and AGM. We've spent a long time discussing the purpose of the group, the name of the group, the Māori and Cultural Development portfolio description, and the projects we will work on.

We recently adopted the name *He Kete Whanaungatanga*. Adele explained that this name shows that the group supports all Executive Council portfolios. We are also a resource for the Executive Council and all NZSTA members to access. We may not know all the answers but we have the resources to find them out. We have also agreed on the Māori and Cultural Development portfolio description (which is available on the NZSTA website). We've had lots of discussions on the purpose and values of the group and projects we will work on. Karen and Waimirangi have prepared a proposal for involving kaumātua, which will be discussed at the Executive Council strategic planning meeting in September.

If you would like to get in touch with *He Kete Whanaungatanga* or learn more about what we do, please email Karen Brewer culturaldevelopment@speechtherapy.org.nz.

Image: Kete woven by Judith Graham. Photo: Gavin Brewer.

Meet Your Expert Advisors

WORDS: PHILIPPA FRIARY

The NZSTA Expert Advisors are your experts. They are available for clinical queries and have all been working together to complete e-learning modules for you all. Please see the NZSTA website for more details on the role of the Expert Advisors to the NZSTA and for the latest e-learning modules.



LYDIA O'CONNOR, HEARING IMPAIRMENT AND COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

Lydia graduated in 2006 from The University of Canterbury with a Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy and began her career as a Speech-language Therapist for Group Special Education in the Wairarapa. She took up the position of Auditory-Verbal Therapist at The Hearing House in August, 2007 and achieved her LSLS Cert. Auditory-Verbal Therapy qualification in November, 2010. Lydia completed her MSc with First Class Honours through The University of Auckland in 2015. Her thesis looked at the early speech development of babies with hearing loss. Lydia is actively involved in research, coordinating The Hearing House's participation in studies with both The University of Melbourne and First Voice centres across Australasia, as well as monitoring and assisting other therapists with assessments. Lydia enjoys working with families of hearing impaired babies and young children, empowering the families to teach their children to listen and speak like their hearing peers.



ANNA MILES, ADULT DYSPHAGIA

Dr. Anna Miles graduated from University College London in the 1990s. She has been working in New Zealand since 2000. Anna has worked with people with swallowing difficulties across the lifespan in hospital, outpatient, and domiciliary settings. Anna completed her PhD in cough reflex testing at The University of Canterbury and now leads a productive dysphagia research programme at The University of Auckland. She has been working at The University of Auckland since 2010, teaching dysphagia in the classroom, as well as in a range of clinical settings. Anna continues to work clinically alongside her teaching and research roles in both the hospital and an otorhinolaryngology outpatient clinic. Anna provides specialist teaching in videofluoroscopic study of swallowing, endoscopic evaluation of swallowing, surface electromyography, and tracheostomy management.

TURID PETERS, PAEDIATRIC FEEDING AND DYSPHAGIA

A bio for Turid Peters will appear in a future issue of Communication Matters.



SELENA DONALDSON, ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

Selena brings over fifteen years of clinical experience of working with adults with ABI and is extremely passionate about Speech-language Therapy for this population. As a Professional Teaching Fellow at The University of Auckland, Selena runs two busy student clinics for adults with ABI. She is also an Associate Director of Allied Health at Counties Manukau Health. Selena has taught nationally and internationally about ABI, and now lectures in cognitive-communication disorders for the Master of Speech Language Therapy Practice programme at The University of Auckland, where she loves to discuss the amazing rewards and challenges of working with clients with ABI.

Selena welcomes any approaches from members with queries about clients. Furthermore, the establishment of the Cognitive Communication Disorders SIG (featured in the Summer 2014 issue of *Communication Matters*) has provided an excellent platform for clinicians working in this area to discuss cases within an interested community.

Please do feel free to contact Selena for further information about the SIG or any other clinical matter at s.donaldson@auckland.ac.nz.



CATHERINE EPPS, LEADERSHIP

Catherine has been a healthcare leader for more than ten years, and currently works in Wellington. As well as having been a practising Speech-language Therapist in both the United Kingdom and New Zealand, she has also held a number of leadership roles in both the public and private health sectors. Many of you may also be familiar with Catherine as the former editor of *Communication Matters*. Her substantive position is at Capital and Coast DHB, where she works as the Executive Director Allied Health, Scientific and Technical.

With our finely honed communication skills, lateral thinking, and ability to consider clients' needs in a holistic manner, Catherine believes that Speech-language Therapists make excellent leaders. She is therefore keen to work alongside NZSTA members to enable them to further develop their leadership skills and experience. Building on the quality of the leadership that we collectively provide will enable us to deliver continually improving care.



SALLY KEDGE, VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Having trained as a Speech-language Therapist in the United Kingdom as a postgraduate, Sally worked within the National Health Service across education and health settings with children with a wide range of needs, taking on increasing responsibility through Team Leader and Specialist positions and being a research representative for her district. Coming to New Zealand in 2002 provided experience as a Ministry of Education Speech-language Therapist, where she took on the Lead Practitioner role for the Manukau District. Sally was invited to work at The University of Auckland as a clinical tutor, which also involved a significant lecturing and curriculum development role. She has continued to develop her professional interest relating to communication difficulties and children and youth with behavioural difficulties, including those with involvement in the legal system. Her doctoral studies focus on examining the nature of the language and communication profiles of children with severe behavioural difficulties.



FIONA HEWERDINE, NEURODEGENERATIVE CONDITIONS AND PALLIATIVE CARE

Fiona is the Team Leader for the Speech-language Therapy service in the Bay of Plenty. She is an Advanced Care Planning practitioner Level 2 and an Executive Board member of the Motor Neurone Disease Association New Zealand. Fiona studied in Edinburgh and then continued her studies to complete a Diploma in Palliative Care and her Masters in Health Science with a focus on Palliative Care.

If you are interested in putting in an application to become an Expert Advisor, or know someone who should, please visit the NZSTA website: <http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz/page/info-for-slts/expert-advisor-info/> (or <http://tx0.org/77>).

Awareness Week at Wairarapa DHB

WORDS: AIMEE BURGESS, SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY TEAM, WAIRARAPA DHB, AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, AND SARAH MARTIN, SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY TEAM, WAIRARAPA DHB



Aimee and Sarah displayed posters, postcards, and NZSTA quotes in the Wairarapa Hospital café and Allied Health reception area.

They held a quiz on the theme of Speech-language Therapy access, with the winner receiving Speech-language Therapy cupcakes made by a local student baker.

Sarah was guest speaker at a Lions Club meeting, talking about Speech-language Therapy access, with particular reference to providing LSVT in a large rural area.

Aimee presented on communication development to the Wellington PORSE team with Chloe Lawrence from MOE Lower Hutt.

Awareness Week at ABI Rehabilitation

WORDS: MAEGAN VANSOLKEMA, SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPIST, ABI REHABILITATION NEW ZEALAND LTD

We frequent cafés in West Auckland for our weekly community coffee group with our clients with traumatic brain injury. During Awareness Week, we thought that we could support our local cafés by creating menus that are more easily accessible to our clients with cognitive and communication difficulties by using larger text, photos, and menus that were not just hanging on the walls.

We created menus for five different cafés, and all the cafés have been keen to keep the copies of the modified menus so that when other people with communication difficulties visit their establishments, they have alternative options. We also spent time with each café manager to educate them about brain injury and the cognitive-communication, speech, behaviour, and language impairments associated with traumatic brain injury.

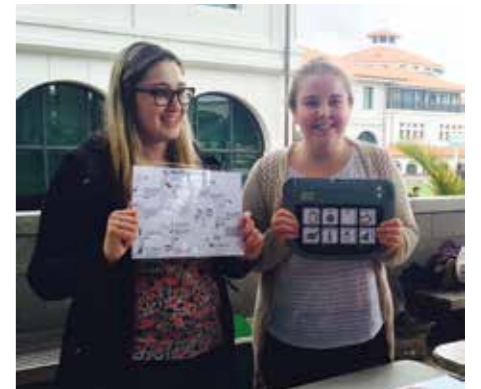
A great week for communication!

Awareness Week at Massey University

WORDS: JENNIFER FLEMING, NZSTA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE, MASSEY UNIVERSITY

Kia ora! Here are some photos of the display which has been set up by the Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy (BSLT) students in the Massey University library at the Albany campus. There are some quick facts about Speech-language Therapy, Speech-language Therapy books from the library, information about the degree and the profession, copies of *Communication Matters* for people to take, and an opportunity for students to leave a sticky note with their thoughts about communication.

We also held a free sausage sizzle. Students were able to 'sign for a sausage' using the Makaton menu or use an AAC device. They also had the opportunity to try out some thickened fluids. At the end of the barbecue we had given out 150 sausages, and the BSLT students had a great time promoting Speech-language Therapy awareness! We had loads of questions from other students, so it was great to see students from all four years of the programme, as well as lecturers, being involved and working together.



Awareness Week at Spectrum Care

WORDS: ANGELA HAUSMAN, SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPIST, SPECTRUM CARE

Speech-language Therapy Awareness Week kicked off at Spectrum Care with the team raising their profile amongst the organisation through daily updates with videos and key messages on supporting people’s communication and swallowing. A key focus was also given to the Communication Bill of Rights, and what our roles and responsibilities are as an organisation around supporting people to live great lives. A highlight of the week a Speech-language Therapy Awareness Week-themed cake at morning tea with a quiz!

This year one of our Speech-language Therapists, Niki, is travelling to Vanuatu with Altus Resource Trust as one of a group of therapists to spend a week working with children with learning and physical disabilities. Niki is fund raising to cover her travel and accommodation costs, as well as raising money for the trust. If you would like to support her you can donate on her Givealittle page: <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/sitvolunteervanuatu> (or <http://tx0.org/73>).



Awareness Week at The Princess Margaret Hospital

WORDS: LOUISE HUGHES

At The Princess Margaret Hospital, Christchurch, we have enjoyed great participation from hospital staff in our Awareness Week activities. Our displays attracted excellent comments and feedback, and were an opportunity for some of our more artistically talented Speech-language Therapists to display their skills. Special mention should go to Katrina, whose interactive brain puzzle proved to be the highlight of our entrance foyer display.

The team were ably assisted by our University of Canterbury students, who produced a range of facts about the diverse populations that Speech-language Therapists work with.

The week culminated with a quiz, and we were pleased to deliver a sumptuous morning tea to the winning ward, as well as a few consolation goodies for the other areas who took part.



Above: Entrance foyer display at The Princess Margaret Hospital.

This has been a great campaign for raising awareness about the varied nature, impacts, and consequences of communication difficulties. We hope everyone enjoyed the week as much as we did.

Awareness Week in Canterbury

WORDS: MEGAN CHINNERY, NZSTA CANTERBURY AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Therapists enjoyed celebrating Awareness Week and raising awareness for Speech-language Therapy in New Zealand. Here are some of the things we got up to:

At Christchurch Public Hospital we put information, including a poster, into a newsletter that goes to all Canterbury DHB employees. Each day, we put a different fact, as well as additional links (e.g., to YouTube clips), into the daily update email which goes out to all Canterbury DHB staff. We placed posters around the hospital. We also made small laminated cards which had information on communication disorders and tips on how to facilitate communication, and targeted the cafés, pharmacy, volunteers’ shop, and reception, as well as volunteers, orderlies, operators, and ward clerks.

At The University of Canterbury, Speech-language Therapy students did an awesome job of celebrating Awareness Week and raising people’s knowledge of Speech-language Therapy on campus. They organised a baking stall where students and staff could request a piece of baking using AAC devices, and also try a sip of thickened fluids. Passers-by were encouraged to write a sticky note about what communication means to them and stick it on a board. Gold coin donations were accepted to raise funds for Aphasia New Zealand.

At the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme in Christchurch and Wellington, we also celebrated Loud Shirt Day during Awareness Week. We dressed up in animal onesies—animals were this year’s theme—and raised awareness of the Speech-language Therapy that children with a hearing loss need so they can learn to listen and talk.



Above left: Awareness Week stall at The University of Canterbury. Above right: Jazmine is five years old and has bilateral cochlear implants. Below: The Southern Cochlear Implant Programme dressed up for Loud Shirt Day.





Area Updates

AUCKLAND AREA

Jessamy Amm

Fern is currently overseas on extended leave and is looking forward to coming back in mid November. It has been a pleasure covering her role during this time.

We have once again had excellent attendance at the area meetings and have struggled to find a space to accommodate everyone who attends. Having discussion topics at each meeting has meant that we have often struggled to stick to time. A discussion around social media and how it relates to our profession promises to generate a lot of dialogue, especially following Speech-language Therapy Awareness Week. Fern plans to set up teleconferencing facilities or similar in 2016 in several locations across the Auckland region in order to ensure that we can reach as many members as possible and make the meetings as accessible as possible. We have also seen an increase in the number of email submissions about agenda items, which is an excellent way of submitting your thoughts if you are not able to make it to the meetings.

There are a number of Special Interest Groups running across the Auckland region (please see the NZSTA website for a comprehensive list). One of our members provided feedback that the AAC for Older Learners SIG has been highly beneficial. The topic for the group had been around older students in school and residential settings, how to transition them from low-tech to high-tech, the pros and cons of this, and practical approaches for staff in residential, day service, and vocational settings.

One of our members highly recommended the following websites with regard to speech and language development and parenting:

- <http://www.kidshealth.org.nz/tags/speech-and-language> (or <http://tx0.org/6z>)
- <http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/speech-language-and-communication-needs/> (or <http://tx0.org/70>)

We have seen an increase in the number of Speech-language Therapists becoming Communication Assistive Technology (CAT) Level 1 accredited across this region. A recent CAT panel discussion during the AAC in Special Education SIG saw just over 40 Speech-language Therapists attend. TalkLink Trust, Assistive Technology Alliance New Zealand, and Accessable are working closely together to ensure that therapists in the region have access to equipment, supervision, and training in order to complete CAT Level 1 assessments in their areas.

KiwiChat Days continue to be run across the region by TalkLink Trust, and we have seen more mainstream school students beginning to attend as well as students from special schools. Discussions have been initiated with Massey University and The University of Auckland around how to include Speech-language Therapy students into these days. TalkLink Trust and the universities would like to ensure that there is maximum exposure, awareness, and collaboration between students, working therapists, and organisations. This is still in the early stages of discussion and the practicalities need to be explored further.

I look forward to being able to report on other areas of our profession in the next area update, as I realise this report is quite AAC heavy. Please email me about any exciting news, awareness campaigns, or other events.

WAIKATO / BAY OF PLENTY AREA

Hazel Gray

- Robin Matthews is starting a pilot study of the suitability of different assessments for patients with Parkinson's disease, as part of his PhD.
- Gwen Lake is starting her Master's project in objective measures in VFSS and changes in recommendations for patients.

CENTRAL AREA

Emma Irvine

- Fabulous meeting held this month with plenty to discuss. Great turnout of both education and health sector Speech-

language Therapists this quarter.

- Hawkes Bay DHB had Maggie-Lee Huckabee visit recently to discuss a collaboration research idea.
- Taranaki DHB now has a way to send some of its VFSS referrals to Waikato Hospital and is in negotiation with Wanganui.
- Gisborne MOE is currently advertising for a new Speech-language Therapist and is getting used to the hospital not having a Paediatric Speech-language Therapist on board at the moment.
- Sarah Martin of Explore reports a large recruitment phase following the National Behaviour Contract being assigned to Explore.
- Palmerston North MOE has a New District Manager, Margaret Carvill.
- Elisa Mynen 'Speechie' moved her recently established private practice into a Palmerston North office.
- Palmerston North Hospital, Wanganui Hospital, and New Plymouth MOE: No current updates.

CANTERBURY / WESTLAND AREA

For reports of events during Awareness Week in Canterbury, see pp. 14-15.

OTAGO / SOUTHLAND AREA

Sharon Collins and Eleanor Jackson

- Margaret Gaudelius has stepped down as area representative and Eleanor Jackson and Sharon Collins have taken on the role together.
- We had good attendance at the winter area meeting, both in person and via teleconference. We are looking at creative options to improve access to area meetings for members outside of the Dunedin area for the future.
- We welcome Hallie Sweet, Silvia Cavallo, and Antonia Haynes to new therapist positions in the area.
- We are looking forward to a social get-together to celebrate Speech-language Therapy Awareness week.
- Overall, we are getting through this cold weather and business is as usual.

The Sydney Paediatric Feeding and Dysphagia Conference

WORDS: EMMA IRVINE AND TURID PETERS

Recently, six Speech-language Therapists from across New Zealand attended the two-day Sydney Paediatric Feeding and Dysphagia conference held at Liverpool Hospital. This event attracted a large number of delegates from New Zealand and Australia. The event was tightly packed with high-calibre speakers renowned for their contribution to our profession. Each day opened with a keynote address followed by a choice of one of two breakout sessions—thankfully with the number of New Zealand delegates present we were able to cover both breakout sessions! We would highly recommend this conference to any Speech-language Therapists looking at attending in future years.

Day one opened with a keynote address given by Dr. Suzanne Evans Morris, who is internationally known for her work in identifying and treating young children with feeding and pre-speech disorders. Dr. Evans Morris addressed *The Journey to Wholeness in Paediatric Feeding*. Her presentation encompassed the role played by paradigms that describe two world views underlying scientific research and intervention—Newtonian Physics and Quantum Physics—and how our beliefs guide the choices we make when we provide an assessment or treatment programme for children with feeding difficulties. Finally, she guided us to consider a journey toward wholeness in our profession and future directions in paediatric feeding.

Dr. Pamela Dodrill addressed *Feeding Difficulties in Preterm Infants: NICU and post Discharge*. Dr. Dodrill focused a lot on suck-swallow-breathe (S-S-B) coordination often being the underlying cause of many preterm neonate feeding difficulties and many ways to help preterm neonates develop better S-S-B coordination, e.g., modified utensils, modified positioning, modified feeding strategy, reduced volume and/or duration, or supplemental or total tube feeding. Dr. Dodrill also addressed interventions aimed

at assisting respiratory support for feeding, and trends in feeding patterns in preterm infants. The take-home message was that the NICU population has changed dramatically, but our training and management techniques have not. More high-risk children are surviving and family lifestyles have changed—we need to adapt our practice to this change in population.

Donna Geddes presented material on *Sucking Dynamics of Breastfed Infants*, preterm breast and bottle fed infants, and objective measurement of suck-swallow patterns of the breastfeeding infants. She touched on some of her work on nipple shields and ankyloglossia, as well as inspiring us to think about how we could use ultrasound in clinical practice.

There was such a number of presentations over the two-day conference that we cannot discuss each one individually in this article, however we have included the conference programme, and if any of these topics are of particular interest to you, please do not hesitate to contact one of us:

- Alexandra Cave – ACave@adhb.govt.nz
- Melody De Burgh – Melody.DeBurgh@hawkesbaydhb.govt.nz
- Lisa Randel – Lisa.Randel@southerndhb.govt.nz
- Emma Irvine – emma.irvine151@gmail.com
- Loraine Hamm – Loraine.Hamm@northlanddhdhb.org.nz
- Turid Peters – turidpeters@gmail.com

PROGRAMME

Dr. Pamela Dodrill

Feeding difficulties in preterm infants: NICU and post discharge

Dr. Suzanne Evans Morris

Strategies for working toward greater mealtime comfort when children have reflux and other gastrointestinal difficulties

Dr. Julie Cichero

Dysphagia and disability: Practical methods for getting the ‘best’ swallow not the ‘perfect’ swallow: brain maps, mirror neurones, shaping and more

Dr. Donna Geddes

Sucking dynamics of breastfeeding infants: What happens when it goes right and when it goes wrong

Dr. Julie Cichero

Paediatric feeding and dysphagia: Setting the sails, where are we and where should we be heading?

Lara Ferris

Pressure Flow Analysis: An assessment tool for use in the paediatric population.

Dr. Suzanne Evans Morris

Using music and sound in the feeding

program to reduce stress, enhance sensory comfort at meals and enhance learning in feeding programs

Dr. Donna Geddes

Objective measurement of suck swallow breath patterns of the breast feeding infant

Dr. Kelly Weir

Videofluoroscopy [sic] Swallow Study, Cervical Auscultationand [sic] FEES.

Dr. Julie Cichero

Essential toolkit for managing fussy eaters

Dr. Donna Geddes

Sucking Dynamics of preterm infants during breast and bottle feeding

Susie Burrell

Dietary considerations of fussy eaters

Professional Development Opportunity in December, 2015

WORDS: SALLY KEDGE, SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPIST

Dr. Judy Clegg from The University of Sheffield will be visiting Talking Trouble Aotearoa NZ in December, 2015. Dr. Clegg has considerable research and clinical experience relating to vulnerable populations of children and young people, including within education, mental health, youth offending, behaviour, and social deprivation contexts. She has also been a court intermediary in the United Kingdom, providing specialised communication support in justice settings.

There will be two events held at the Tāmaki campus, The University of Auckland:

- Seminar for a general audience, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Wednesday 9th December
- Morning workshop for Speech-language Therapists, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Friday 11th December

Details about the workshop and seminar, including how to register to attend, will be sent out via our mailing list, which can be joined by following this link: <http://eepurl.com/bk90Gz>

Please contact talkingtroublenz@gmail.com with any queries.



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Stroke Education Day to Highlight Speech-language Therapists' Role

WORDS: ANNA DORSEY, SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR, SOUTH ISLAND ALLIANCE

Speech-language Therapists from across the South Island are being encouraged to improve their practice and delivery-of-care for stroke patients by attending a dedicated Stroke Education Training Day on Thursday, 26th November.

The Christchurch-based event is being delivered by the Stroke Foundation of New Zealand in conjunction with the Stroke Services work stream of the South Island Alliance.

Delegates will receive five hours of stroke-specific education on the day, featuring topics such as intensity of rehabilitation, visual and speech impairment, stroke guidelines in practice, cardiovascular activity after stroke, and much more.

On the organising team for the day is Dr. Carl Hanger, Geriatrician at The Princess Margaret Hospital, and a member of the South Island Stroke Services work stream. We asked Dr. Hanger why Speech-language Therapists should attend this event: "We are confident that Speech-language Therapists will get a lot of practical information from the day that they can take back into their daily practice. They will be challenged about whether they are all delivering a sufficient intensity of rehabilitation and they will hear first-hand a patient's perspective of their stroke journey. This patient has had a severe [aphasia] and will share her insights, as will her husband."

Therapists attending the day will also gain an overall perspective of managing non-language stroke deficits, such as vision and perceptual difficulties, and will be encouraged to look at how their own DHB's stroke service should be organised.

There will also be a presentation from Speech-language Therapist Annette Rotherham from Christchurch Hospital, who will be discussing aphasia after stroke. She will also cover the broader topic of effective communication. "It is important that Speech-language Therapists working with stroke patients are increasingly aware of how to not only manage patients with language issues, but also how to effectively communicate with

staff and families as to how those same difficulties can be managed," explains Dr. Hanger.

The event will provide an important opportunity for Speech-language Therapists to network with colleagues and others involved in stroke care from around the South Island. "We have worked hard to ensure the day provides maximum learning outcomes for professionals to help providers achieve best practice delivery of care."

For more information, see [http://www.sialliance.health.nz/UserFiles/SouthIslandAlliance/File/Stroke%20Education%20Day%20Flyer%20final\(1\).pdf](http://www.sialliance.health.nz/UserFiles/SouthIslandAlliance/File/Stroke%20Education%20Day%20Flyer%20final(1).pdf) (or <http://tx0.org/76>) or email the Stroke Foundation of New Zealand at southern@stroke.org.nz.



Dr. Carl Hanger.

Massey University Annual Student Report 2014-2015

Student representative outgoing 2014: Chloe Lawrence

Student representatives 2015: Sophie Harding (Year 3), Jennifer Fleming (Year 2), and Jacqui Morgan (Year 1)

Current number of student members: 29

HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2014 Speech-language Therapy Awareness Week, the Massey Speech-language Therapy students held a free barbecue on the main campus. To raise awareness about Speech-language Therapy, the clients we work with, and the role of Speech-language Therapists, students had to use Makaton signs to request a free sausage. The students appeared to enjoy having to sign to get their sausage, and it was a great talking point to start the conversation about what Speech-language Therapy is and what we do. We also had a dysphagia station run by Year 4 students, consisting of thickened fluids to try and a model larynx and head/neck. People were very interested in the models and fluids and asked interesting questions. As part of the International Communication Project, we had Speech-language Therapy students walking around with whiteboards and we got other students to write what communication means to them on the board, and took a lot of photos. The amount of interest this event generated was great and allowed all Speech-language Therapy students involved to provide education to our university community about Speech-language Therapy. We will be holding a similar event for this year's Speech-language Therapy Awareness Week.

DEVELOPMENTS

Due to all of the students having busy lives both in and out of university, we saw the need for an easier way to keep connected without having to organise meetings. We created a private Facebook page for the first through fourth year Massey Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy (BSLT) students to share questions, ideas, and resources. This page is excellent in terms of ease of use and spreads the word of any news very quickly. It has especially helped this year with keeping everyone in the loop about Speech-language Therapy Awareness Week.

The Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy programme will be becoming an Honours programme in 2016. We are extremely excited about this change, how it will provide our students with the opportunity to develop their research skills, and how marketable this will make our graduates in the future.

For more information about changes to programmes at Massey University, see p. 23.

CHANGES

At the beginning of this academic year we promoted the NZSTA and the benefits of being a member to all Massey University BSLT students. We held an election for the Year 1 NZSTA representative at the beginning of Semester 2. Jacqui Morgan was voted into this position by her class, and we are thrilled to have her as part of our team.

Programme Update from Massey University

WORDS: SALLY CLENDON, PHD, SENIOR LECTURER, COORDINATOR OF POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

We are excited to announce some changes to our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at Massey University.

BACHELOR OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY WITH HONOURS

We now have a Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy with Honours degree. A key component of the Honours programme will be the completion of a research project. The undergraduate programme already has a strong emphasis on evidence-based practice and critical appraisal of research, but this will provide students with the opportunity to carry out their own project. Our Year 3 students are currently busy writing their proposals for next year. Their projects will cover a range of practice areas including augmentative and alternative communication, literacy, dysphagia, fluency, cultural competence, models of practice, and neurogenic communication disorders.

MASTER OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

The entry requirements for our Master of Speech and Language Therapy degree have changed. Students are no longer required to complete one year of clinical practice before entering the Masters. Also, graduates with a Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy (Honours) degree or equivalent who have achieved at least a B grade average advance directly into the thesis component of the degree. Undertaking coursework prior to enrolling in the thesis is no longer required, providing a shorter completion time.

We currently have students studying across a range of practice areas. We work with our postgraduate students to tailor their assignments and thesis topics to meet their interests and desired or current work contexts. Each student is paired with an academic mentor who has expertise in those areas. This mentor supports and guides the student through the coursework and thesis completion.

Our programme is very flexible with options for studying full-time or part-time. It is also possible to complete the programme

through distance learning. We have a number of students who are in different parts of New Zealand and have students studying from overseas.

To contact Sally Clendon, Coordinator of Postgraduate Programmes, you may email her at s.clendon@massey.ac.nz.

MEET ONE OF OUR GRADUATES: JULIA WRIGHT



I completed my Master of Speech and Language Therapy degree in 2014. The title of my thesis was *Emergent Literacy Practices for Preschool Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*.

After working as a Speech-language Therapist in the United Kingdom across a variety of specialised settings, I returned

to New Zealand in 2008. I was keen to find a new challenge to complement my clinical role at the Ministry of Education. As an undergraduate student, I often thought I would like to revisit academic study with the lens of experience that comes with years of clinical practice. Returning to study for my Master of Speech Language Therapy degree at Massey made this possible.

Postgraduate study enabled me to explore areas of practice that were both of interest to me and relevant to my clinical work. It encouraged me to reflect on my practice and to consider different contexts and possibilities.

The best part about studying at Massey has been access to supervisors and mentors who are hugely passionate and knowledgeable, and were incredibly generous with their time and support. Initially I enrolled in the programme part-time while still being employed full-time as a Speech-language Therapist. I was attracted to the programme by its flexible nature, in terms of both the direction and pace of study. I was able to take time off from studying to have children and had the flexibility to fit study in around changing work and family commitments. Although balancing work, life, and study commitments was at times challenging, it was hugely rewarding and satisfying.



Annette Rotherham – Communications

communications@speechtherapy.org.nz

Welcome to spring! One of my favourite times of the year. I always feel a new surge of energy for getting my life in order. By now we have completed our NZSTA Awareness Week for 2015 and I wish to thank all of you who made an effort to raise awareness of the wide variety of skills that Speech-language Therapists can bring to a service and to changing lives of New Zealanders. Our campaign echoed awareness campaigns internationally, such as the International Communication Project and Speech Pathology Australia's Senate Inquiry 2014, which highlights that approximately 1 in 20 people have a communication or swallowing disorder in Australia. This is around the same as the incidence of diabetes and three times the incidence of dementia.

The Senate Committee made 10 detailed recommendations, which can be summarised as follows:

- Work be undertaken to improve the availability of national data about current and future needs for speech pathology services.
- The current service delivery model for speech pathology services in aged care residential homes be reconsidered as part of the federal government's ongoing aged care reforms.
- Mapping be undertaken of language support services across Australia against the Australian Early Development Index information about vulnerable children.
- An immediate audit of the current speech pathology services for children in Australia be conducted.
- The impact of the National Disability Insurance Scheme on the supply and demand of speech pathology services be investigated.
- A strategy be developed to broaden the opportunities for speech pathology students to undertake clinical placements that satisfy the competency-based occupational standards.
- The geographical and demographic clustering of speech pathology services in Australia be investigated, with a focus

on new graduate positions and opportunities.

- The most effective models of speech pathology services be described for early childhood intervention services, the educational system, the justice system, the health system, and the residential aged care environment.
- A study of the costs and benefits of public funding of speech pathology positions and various service delivery models for individuals, the speech pathology profession, and the Australian community be conducted.
- Work be undertaken at all government levels to develop policies that recognise and acknowledge the need to increase access to speech pathology services for people with speech and language disorders.

Many of these recommendations are relevant to New Zealand, despite our political structure having some differences. The inquiry certainly looks like a large piece of work and we will be watching closely to see how Speech Pathology Australia work with the Australian Government to achieve these recommendations.

The New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association (NZSTA) calls for greater utilization of the specialist help that Speech-language Therapists provide, particularly in sectors which have received very few services in the past.

The NZSTA highlights the benefits that inclusion of Speech-language Therapy services can bring to individuals and those around them in schools, workplaces, the mental healthcare system, and the justice system. These New Zealanders have the right to effective communication and to have their voices heard. Thank you for your participation in Awareness Week 2015. Keep it up; awareness-raising never sleeps!

Ngā mihi mahana,
Annette



Karen Brewer – Maori and Cultural Development

culturaldevelopment@speechtherapy.org.nz

TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ,

A lot has been happening in the Māori and Cultural Development portfolio over the past few months. He Kete Whanaungatanga (the name recently adopted by the group set up to support the portfolio) has been busy discussing its role and purpose. We've written an article for this edition of *Communication Matters* to tell you more about what we're up to (p. 8). Waimirangi (Jean) Andrews provided a beautiful description of her interpretation of the meaning of He Kete Whanaungatanga. It was too long to include in our article, and a shortened version wouldn't do it justice, so I've included it here with Waimirangi's permission:

A kete is a traditional Māori woven basket made of flax. The kete is traditionally used to gather and store items, for decoration or to carry objects of importance. It is an artefact that displays the skills of the weaver from a particular area and is a receptacle that in and of itself is representative of the skills passed on from one generation to another. Kete are multi-functional tools that link with traditional aspects of the Māori culture.

Whanaungatanga is:

Whānau – family, the broader extension of you and me – us and we

Ngā – the (meaning many or collectively)

Tāngā – to do (meaning an active context) – to work together
“Whanaungatanga - working together to foster good outcomes”

He kete whanaungatanga is a symbol of a multi-functional rōpū [group] who look to link with those traditional aspects

of the Māori culture that may foster positive outcomes for clients, SLT students and SLT clinicians. Kia ora Waimirangi.

In July I was fortunate to attend The Treaty on the Ground conference at Auckland Museum. Over two days we learnt about te Tiriti o Waitangi from the 1970s through the present day and beyond. It was different from the conferences I am used to going to and it made me realise how broad Treaty issues are. We Speech-language Therapists talk about 'the three Ps'— partnership, participation, and protection—and how breaches of te Tiriti impact on health and education. I think we tend to forget that much of the discussion around te Tiriti is about land and the settlement of Waitangi Tribunal claims, as was the focus of this conference.

Hopefully you all will have seen the pānui about the cultural competence survey that I am undertaking with Dr. Clare McCann. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far. Our aim for this study is to find out what we as a profession perceive cultural competence to be. We deliberately left this open to individual interpretation, which is why all the questions required written answers rather than tick boxes or Likert scales (sorry, I know it meant more work for you!). The survey will wind up at about the time this issue of *Communication Matters* goes to press. Clare and I are looking forward to analysing all the contributions and sharing the findings with all NZSTA members.

Ngā mihi nui,
Karen Brewer



Jodi White – Member Networks

membernetworks@speechtherapy.org.nz

KIA ORA EVERYONE,

I hope the winter months haven't been too cold for you all and that you have been able to find something inspiring in your work to keep you going. We have been fairly stable with member representation this quarter, and there are just three changes to announce: Sharon Collins is standing down from the joint Otago / Southland representative role, Elyse Andrews has stood down from the fourth-year representative position at The University of Canterbury, and we welcome Olivia Rozbicki into the second-year representative role. Many thanks to Elyse for her work in the student representative role over the past couple of years. We wish you all the best for the future. Luckily, we already have Eleanor Jackson in the Otago / Southland role, and she will continue to represent this region. We are still looking for someone to take on the Northland Area Representative role. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please get in touch.

Please see the inside back cover for contact details for all Executive Council members and Area Representatives. This information can also be found on the NZSTA website.

As previously announced, we launched the New Graduate Framework and Return to Practice Framework at the AGM in June. So far we have received very positive feedback from the area meetings, with just a few queries that are hopefully in the

process of being satisfactorily resolved. Please continue to let us know your thoughts and send any further queries you may have. We will likely be reviewing any further questions again during the next round of area meetings.

I was very pleased to be a part of the recent strategic planning meeting on September 12th, during which we reviewed all the suggestions provided by the membership. Thank you so much for your active engagement in this process. As there were so many suggestions, we need to ensure we take a broad enough approach to meet the needs of the profession and the membership. I look forward to seeing the end result and then working to achieve the outcomes.

Please keep up the questions that you bring to area meetings. We take all questions seriously and attempt to respond to each one. The responses will be found on the NZSTA website under the heading Area Meetings once we have had a chance to formulate our responses and have these uploaded to the website. The responses to the recent area meetings questions should be available on the website shortly.

All the best and let's bring on the longer days,
Jodi



Claire Winward – Professional Development

professionaldevelopment@speechtherapy.org.nz

TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ,

He mihi nui, he mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa.

Ko Muswell Hill tōku maunga, ko Lea tōku awa. Nō Rānana ahau, kei Maranui tōku kāinga.

He kaiarataki ahau. Ko Claire Winward tōku ingoa.

Tēnā koutou katoa.

Hello everyone, and welcome to my inaugural NZSTA Professional Development report. For those of you who don't already know me, I work for the Ministry of Education as a Practice Advisor, and am based in Wellington. I took over this role in the NZSTA in August so am still finding my feet—many thanks to the other members of the Executive Council for their support and guidance!

Here's what's been keeping me busy so far:

NZSTA CONFERENCE, AUCKLAND, SEPTEMBER 2016

Planning is under-way for this conference. Many thanks to our planning committee—Selena Donaldson, Becca Hammond, Annabel Grant, and Emily Jones—for taking on this mahi. The conference planning committee will be meeting monthly by teleconference, and we will endeavour to keep you informed as we go. I'm also pleased to announce that we will be joined by Anna Miles, who has agreed to take on the role of Scientific Chair.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LOG AUDIT

Thanks to those of you who have submitted your 2014 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) logs for auditing. For everyone else, now is a great time to look over your CPD log and make sure it's up to date. You never know, you could be part of the audit next year—so it's a good idea to keep on top of it!

EXPERT ADVISORS

We are currently building up our bank of expert advisors. It would be great to have more expert advisors, especially in the field of child speech and language—if this sounds like you, please see the website for details of how to apply. If it sounds like a role for someone you know, please encourage them to apply! If you're not sure, I am happy to attempt to answer any questions you might have!

If you have any queries relating to Professional Development, do get in touch, and I will endeavour to support you!

That's all from me—now I'm off to update my CPD log...

Hei konei rā,
Claire



Anna Miles – Professional Standards

professionalstandards@speechtherapy.org.nz

This is my first *Communication Matters* update since I was elected into the Executive Council to hold the Professional Standards portfolio at the AGM in Christchurch. Thank you for considering me for this position. I am very much looking forward to working with the members and Executive Council of the NZSTA in this challenging role.

I have been an NZSTA member for 15 years since I arrived in New Zealand from the United Kingdom. I have joined the Council at a time of great change and feel proud of the NZSTA that we have today and excited about the NZSTA that we have ahead of us.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The newest NZSTA professional standards are documents that will support and guide our practice in New Zealand:

- NZSTA Principles and Rules of Ethics
- New Graduate Framework
- Return to Practice Framework

At the Executive Annual Meeting, we endorsed the newly developed NZSTA tracheostomy management position paper, which will soon be available for members. Thank you to Lucy Greig for leading this working group.

My hope, while in this position, is to support members to develop a range of position papers across the scope of Speech-language Therapy. The position papers that we currently have are used frequently and have been well-received. Position papers provide guidance as we develop Speech-language Therapy services and our own clinical skills. Please contact me

if you are interested in being involved in a working group looking at a specific area of practice.

QUALIFICATION APPROVAL

Another role for my portfolio is to monitor New Zealand Qualification Approvals and work with international associations in the Mutual Recognition Agreement. I look forward to learning more about these processes in coming months.

PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

I look forward to working with Anne van Bysterveldt, Chair of the Programme Accreditation Committee (PAC), and the PAC team as we work with universities to ensure excellence in our Speech-language Therapy students.

PARLIAMENTARY SUBMISSIONS

We are currently developing a submission to Parliament regarding *Identification and support for students with significant challenges of dyslexia, dyspraxia, and autism spectrum disorders in primary and secondary schools*. Thanks to the NZSTA Expert Advisors—Sally Kedge and Turid Peters—and the support of NZSTA members through the recent survey, we will provide Parliament with a comprehensive report of the identification and support for these school-aged students from a Speech-language Therapist's point of view.

I look forward to working with you all over the next three years.
Anna Miles, PhD
Professional Standards portfolio

Contact Details

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR COMMUNICATION MATTERS

Summer Issue 2015 – November 20th, 2015
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ISSN 2324-2302 (Print) ISSN 2324-2310 (Online)