

communication

AUTUMN 2013

matters

WORLD VOICE DAY

APPS FOR PEOPLE WITH TBI

**ALLIED HEALTH ASSISTANTS
QUALIFICATION**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
EVENT, HAMILTON**



New Zealand
Speech-language
Therapists' Association

Te Kāhui Kaiwhakatikatika Reo Kōwhiri o Aotearoa

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Editorial – Catherine Epps

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KIA ORA

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Communication Matters.

With the New Year well under way, as well as many events and activities planned for Speech-language Therapists, 2013 promises to be another busy year. It is always a pleasure to share the wealth of innovative practice and changes that Speech-language Therapists are making to the way they work with clients in New Zealand, and this issue is no different. The articles range from new technology to new events, such as World Voice Day.

This issue also contains the last of the profiles for the life members of the NZSTA. This has been a fascinating series showcasing the significant achievements of many of our predecessors in New Zealand. Thank you to Lucy Greig, Portfolio Holder for Member Networks for co-ordinating these articles.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the upcoming 2 day 2013 Professional Development Seminar and AGM in Hamilton. More details are within this issue of Communication Matters and on the NZSTA website www.speechtherapy.org.nz.

Catherine



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



Helen McLauchlan President

president@speechtherapy.org.nz

We are well into 2013 already and seem to be enjoying a record breaking summer. I hope that you all managed to enjoy some time for a break and refresh during the summer months. Already the New Year has brought with it some changes for the NZSTA. We sadly farewell Adele Siave, Maori and Cultural Development portfolio holder, from the Executive Council. Adele has worked hard to continue to develop this relatively new portfolio for the NZSTA and we thank her for her work with this role. We would also like to congratulate her and Aaron on the arrival of their beautiful baby girl in February.

The Executive Council are looking forward to our Professional Development event in Hamilton on 23rd & 24th May. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there and enjoying a fantastic programme of speakers. We will also meet together in our Annual General Meeting while in Hamilton and invite you all to come along and participate.

As you will have seen in the regular Exec updates and from attendance at your local area meetings we will be looking for members to take on roles within the Executive Council this year. As I have already mentioned we have a vacancy in the Maori and Cultural development portfolio and looking forward to our AGM, Clare McCann will be stepping down from her role as Professional Standards portfolio holder. Being a part of the Executive Council is an exciting opportunity to be a part of the 'inner workings' of the NZSTA. I recently asked the current Executive Council members their motivations for being on the Council, the results, as you might expect, were varied and

interesting. The two primary themes which emerged were for personal development and a desire to develop or enhance our profession. If you are interested in these roles or perhaps in a less formal support role with the NZSTA please get in touch with myself or any other of the Executive Council members. There is also more information about what is involved with being on the Executive Council within this issue of Communication Matters.

The activity of the NZSTA continues at a fairly hectic pace! We have just completed our membership renewal period, planning is in full swing for Hamilton, and also for Wellington 2014. We have several working parties being formed or progressing with the essential work of the association. I would like to thank all those members who offer their time, expertise and skill to these groups. Without the support of members willing to contribute in this way we would be unable to achieve so much. Sara Moore, Dean Sutherland and I continue to be involved planning for the "International Communication Project" (previously called global year of communication) planned to be launched in 2014. The official journal of the NZSTA is now "Speech Language and Hearing" and is an exciting new era for the association, I am looking forward to receiving the first edition! We also have a number of awards or grants that are available for therapists to apply for, have a look at the website for further information.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Hamilton in May.

Helen



New Zealand
Speech-language
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Te Kāhui Kaiwhakatikatika Reo Kōrero o Aotearoa

Interview with Exec Council Member

SARA MOORE INTERVIEWED DR. CLARE MCCANN,
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PORTFOLIO HOLDER, NZSTA

What roles are available on the Executive Council (EC)?

There are currently two vacancies on the EC; Maori and Cultural Development portfolio, and Professional Standards portfolio. We are also keen to recruit someone with knowledge and skills in financial management to take on the role of Treasurer.

What does your role involve day-to-day?

The Professional Standards role is responsive to any day-to-day requests from members about issues of clinical standards, ethics, or suitability for the profession. In real terms this includes being on the Ethics Committee, the Qualifications Approval Committee (both MRA and non-MRA applications from overseas trained therapists), and the Programme Accreditation Committee, as well as being responsible for position papers/statements, submissions to government (or relevant non-governmental organisations), and relationships with overseas SLT Associations and similar NZ-based professional associations. Then there are the five all-day EC meetings each year (at the National Office in Auckland). EC meetings used to be run over two days, but since we have increased the hours of the office staff, it has been possible to reduce the meetings down to one full day.

How much time each week is required to commit?

This is really difficult to answer as each week varies so much. Some weeks it is as much as 7-8 hours a week, but other weeks it is around 2-3 hours. On average it is probably 4-6 hours, but the more people we have in working parties, the lighter the workload becomes for the Professional Standards portfolio.

Does it cost anything to be on the EC?

No and Yes. All EC-related expenses are reimbursed so no-one is "out of pocket" by being on the EC. However, if you are in private practice then the time spent attending a full day EC meeting is likely to come at a cost (i.e. a day not working is a day not earning).

Do I need to check with my employer?

Yes, definitely. Some employers are very happy to support their staff to become a member of the EC (and in fact they actively encourage this), but other employers are not so supportive (for example, you may be required to take Annual Leave to attend an EC meeting).

What experience is gained on the EC?

Each EC role varies and the skills/experience gained reflect the portfolio. Overall experience centres on team work, strategic decision making, formal and informal meeting structure, and the importance of open communication. In the Professional Standards portfolio, I have gained particular experience in strategic representation of the SLT profession and my written communication skills have really improved.

Have you enjoyed your time on the EC?

I have absolutely loved being on the EC. My knowledge of the profession, the NZ workforce and the role of Speech-language Therapy in an international context has improved enormously. I am so proud of all that we have achieved in the past few years; developing a strong focus on the professionalism of the Association.

What has been your greatest lesson?

My greatest lesson has been the importance of communicating with members. Prior to joining the EC I didn't have any idea of what the EC did with my membership fee. Now that I've been on the EC I am amazed at how much we manage to achieve with such a small budget. Every dollar spent is in line with the overall strategic direction of achieving a higher profile for Speech-language Therapists in the wider community, managing the profession, and the needs of members. It is very important for the EC to let members know that.



World Voice Day on 16th April - "Voice Matters"

JOIN THE WORLD AND PROMOTE WORLD VOICE DAY IN NEW ZEALAND!

PHOTOS: ARIE HOEFLAK (Morag Atchison photo top left)

WORDS:

Sylvia Leão

Speech Language Therapist, PhD student and Research Assistant, Speech Science - School of Psychology & Centre for Brain Research, The University of Auckland / s.leao@auckland.ac.nz

Suzanne Purdy

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World Voice Day (WVD) is a worldwide annual event that aims to demonstrate the significance of the voice in our daily life and raise awareness regarding the importance of having a healthy voice. We hope that WVD will encourage people to assess their vocal health and take action to improve or maintain good voice habits and highlight voice problems so that everyone becomes aware of factors that can have a negative impact on the voice.

This year, an international ad-hoc group was formed in Erlangen, Germany, with the goal of a global celebration of the WVD 2013. "The hope of this group is that a multitude of events, calling attention to the importance of the voice, will happen on WVD in as many countries as possible, from New Zealand all the way to the Americas" (Johan Sundberg).

WVD started in Brazil in 1999 and it is well established in many other countries, however, it has never been celebrated in NZ before. Research has shown that a third of NZ school teachers report frequent voice problems during their teaching career (Leão et al, 2012). Voice problems are an important issue for NZ teachers. Teachers (and other groups) need to be more aware about their voice health and education, and access to specialized health support including voice therapy.

Some well-known New Zealanders are supporting WVD 2013 in NZ and have given us their opinion about "Why Voice Matters."

"It's one of those things that you take for granted but for me it would be impossible to make a living without my voice. I had a scare about 5 years ago, when I developed vocal nodules but in the end, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise! I was putting too much pressure on my voice and now, I respect the importance of keeping healthy and looking after it and now will do for the rest of my life" – Dominic Bowden, is a NZ TV personality, host, radio and voice actor. He is the host of The X Factor NZ 2013.

"If it wasn't for the spoken word many traditions would be lost, many jobs would never be created and I would never have found love. World Voice Day NZ, let yours be heard." – Brett McGregor, is a former school teacher and deputy principal, winner of Masterchef NZ and current chef.

"Singing is a beautiful art form and an extension of the emotions. It can be personal or very public. When performing I feel sense of freedom and exhilaration, and all singers can experience this, whether professional or amateur." – Morag Atchison, teaches voice at University of Auckland, is vocal tutor and winner of many singing competitions.

Several events have been organised across the globe such as choral and solo concerts, opera performances, interviews, TV-shows, radio programmes, public symposia (e.g. voice care and/or vocal training seminars), and booths in public areas, where anyone can enter and get a piece of paper showing her/his voice analysis in terms of e.g. a voice range profile.

WVD 16TH APRIL EVENTS ORGANIZED SO FAR IN NEW ZEALAND:

Recital and "Singing Voice" Talk - An event has been organized by Sylvia Leão and Prof Suzanne Purdy at University of Auckland. The soprano Morag Atchison will perform a short recital followed by a public lecture on "Singing Voice". The talk will look at the technical and physical demands required by singers in a variety of styles. This lecture will be addressed to SLTs and other health professionals, students, musicians and the general public. "Bring your vocal folds; there will be some audience participation!" Morag Atchison

Local: Tamaki Innovation Campus, University of Auckland – Room 732.201

Time: 7.15pm to 8.30pm - Free entrance

Bookmarks and water bottles distribution! The bookmarks will have tips on voice health and water bottles with WVD logo

NZSTA Teleconference. Dr Anne Vertigan will be giving a teleconference on Paradoxical Vocal Cord Movement and Chronic Cough during the NZSTA Clinical Issue series on Voice. Date, time and registration details to follow

Centre for Brain Research CeleBRation choir presentation; venue to be confirmed

Free voice screening – to be confirmed

Join us and organise any event to promote the WVD in NZ; don't miss the opportunity to bring "more voice" to the public or to show that "voice matters"!! Please report your event to Sylvia Leão, NZ WVD National Coordinator (s.leao@auckland.ac.nz) so that she can add it to the WVD website – all NZ events will be advertised on the WVD webpage. Further information is available on the WVD website: <http://www.world-voice-day.org/>.

**This year a Global Choral Concert has been organized by the WVD international committee. It will start in NZ to Hawaii (at 19:30 local time). If you know any choir that is able to perform a concert or have an 'open rehearsal' on 16th April at 19:30, please contact Sylvia. We need you!

Reference

1. Leão S., Oates J, Purdy SC, Scott D, Morton R. Epidemiological findings from a national survey of voice problems in New Zealand teachers. (2012, Oct). Oral presentation at the 5th International Congress of the World Voice Consortium, Luxor, Egypt, 27-31 Oct 2012.



Apps for Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation

WORDS: MAEGAN VANSOLKEMA, SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPIST, ABI REHABILITATION

THE TIDES OF CHANGE ARE UPON US AND WE ARE FACED WITH THE DILEMMA, TO GET ON OR OFF THE TECHNOLOGY BANDWAGON. I HAVE SUCCEDED TO THE TECHNOLOGY WORLD AND CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY IT DOES HAVE A LOT TO OFFER US AND OUR CLIENTS.

Using the iPad technology to provide Speech-language Therapy can link a clinician with more tools at his/her finger tips, bridge the generational gap with clients, and provide greater opportunities for an increase in intensity and autonomy for our clients in improving their communication and cognitive abilities. Delivering Speech-language Therapy at the correct intensity can be challenging due to resources and understanding how much is enough. Topher states that “Speech and Language Pathologists need to consider using innovative service delivery models which deliver treatment of sufficient intensity to be effective....and the target of the treatment relates to the person’s everyday life” (3).

We have been embracing this new technology of the iPad at our rehabilitation centre for clients with moderate to severe brain injury. We have found that this new medium has not only offered greater variety in treatment options, and without having to lug around lots of resources, but also a way to increase intensity and independence with the clients own self-practice (4). This article will describe the apps we currently are using at ABI Rehabilitation and how we feel they can support our clients with acquired brain injury.

When choosing an app to use with a client a clinician must always think outside the square, and look at the potential real life applications the software may have as well as the

therapeutic benefits. There are thousands of apps for purchase and our hunt began with the articles by Megan Sutton (1,2). We are always on the prowl for more and continue to trial different apps for our clients. The apps below can all be found by searching iTunes using their names. Prices vary from free to \$70 with the average being around \$5.00.

The target areas of treatment that we have been able to treat with iPad apps include cognitive communication, discourse, social communication, aphasia, motor speech, voice, and swallowing. Individuals with traumatic brain injuries have complex presentations that require multiple ways of treating cognition so it is salient and functional for the client. The iPad apps have bridged this gap and proved to be a successful alternative to paper and pen tasks.

Cognitive Communication

PROBLEM SOLVING

These apps offer practice in the skills of problem solving and implementing the most appropriate strategies to generate the solutions as well as speed of processing. Each app offers an immediate feedback through success or failure sound. Most also can track high scores that provide incentive to continue achieving goals.

- iMazing
- Matrix Game
- Brain Challenge
- Skill Game
- Speed Brain

ATTENTION

These apps have been used for our clients that are emerging from consciousness or in post traumatic amnesia that are trying to improve sustained attention as well as beginning to use cause and effect responses through touch and auditory responses. It must be mentioned that all applications discussed can be used to improve sustained attention to tasks.

- Visual Attention Therapy
- Garage Band

MEMORY

These memory apps include the traditional memory games that encourage immediate recall. More specific memory apps such as the Spaced Retrieval TherAppy have also been used with success. This has a visual clock that prompts the therapist to provide the verbal cue and the specific question in various intervals. Evernote has also been an app used as a virtual diary that has the capability to include voice recordings, pictures, and text. iCalendar also has this capability as a virtual diary but includes alarms for any appointment or time to take medication, it can be adapted for the client.

- Awesome memory
- Evernote
- Cognizin Memory
- Colours and numbers memory game
- Spaced Retrieval TherAppy – Tactus Solutions
- iCalendar

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION AND DISCOURSE

These apps have been used within group sessions and conversations as alternative augmentative devices that speak for the clients, but also as tools to build their social repertoire of phrases. Clients have practiced and role played key social phrases following their auditory playback, so their confidence with introductions or speaking up in groups improves. We have also used the Small Talk apps to cue word retrieval within conversations and for topic maintenance. Some of these apps are not directly related to discourse at first glance but we have adapted them and are very useful in generating and organizing narrative structure, word retrieval, and using alternatives such as painting pictures to express key words or topics.

- Conversation Cards
- Small Talk – Conversational Phrases – Lingraphica
- Small Talk – Days, months, dates – Lingraphica
- Talk Assist
- Wasabi Paint
- 50 Best Photos – National Geographic
- Random Questions



APHASIA

The below apps are all used for aphasia or language therapy. The Tactus apps have been reviewed in this edition of Communication Matters and are very useful therapy tools. The other language modality apps offer the same benefits with auditory feedback, key prompts for word retrieval, and ability for the clients to practise these skills outside of therapy sessions. The Small Talk apps offer more independence for clients and can be used as a high tech communication book. There are also multiple grammar apps that offer English as Second Language user opportunities to continue their development.

- Comprehension Therapy – Tactus
- Naming Therapy – Tactus
- Reading Therapy – Tactus
- Writing Therapy – Tactus
- Small Talk – Conversational Phrases – Lingraphica
- Small Talk – Days, months, dates – Lingraphica
- Lingraphica – Speaking
- Lingraphica – Listening
- Lingraphica – Writing
- Lingraphica – Reading
- Grammar Up

MOTOR SPEECH

The below apps are great therapy drills that focus on apraxia of speech with the hierarchy of sound to sentence structures with visual and auditory models. The iBeat app is a metronome that allows for easy pacing of speech to assist in increasing or slowing the rate of speech with ongoing prompts. These apps also include breathing exercises with prompts around timing and coordination. Finally all the speech to text apps assists the clients with severe motor speech disorders that impact their overall intelligibility.

- VASTKeywords – Speak in motion
- Talk Assist
- Breath2Relax
- iBeat

VOICE

The apps below continue to support the production of voice by giving immediate and accurate feedback following the client's attempts at raising volume, modifying their pitch, and monitoring change and progress through recording and storing their voice samples.

- Bla Bla Bla
- Voice Analyzer
- Pitch analyzer
- Evernote
- Decibel 10

SWALLOWING

We also use apps for Dysphagia: These are mainly around providing clients information around swallowing studies, diet modifications, and overall anatomy of the swallow. iSwallow includes clear descriptions of rehabilitation techniques such as the Masako with video and audio descriptions. These have been less helpful as we are able to provide all this information the “old fashion” way, but still offers an alternative option if required.

- iSwallow
- SmallTalk Dysphagia – Lingraphica

References

1. Sutton, M. (2012) Apps for brain injury rehab. *The ASHA Leader*, 17(8):21.
2. Sutton, M. (2012) Apps for an adult speech and language therapy toolbox. *The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists Bulletin*, February, pp. 18-19.
3. Topher, L. (2012) Challenges inherent in optimizing speech-language pathology outcomes: It's not just about counting the hours. *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 14(5): 438-442.
4. VanSolkema, M., Barnes, S. (2013) Using iPad technology as an adjunct to aphasia therapy: A single case study in increasing intensity for speech language therapy. Poster for the New Zealand Rehabilitation Conference, Nelson.

New material for treating child language

WORDS: ONDENE VAN DULM, UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

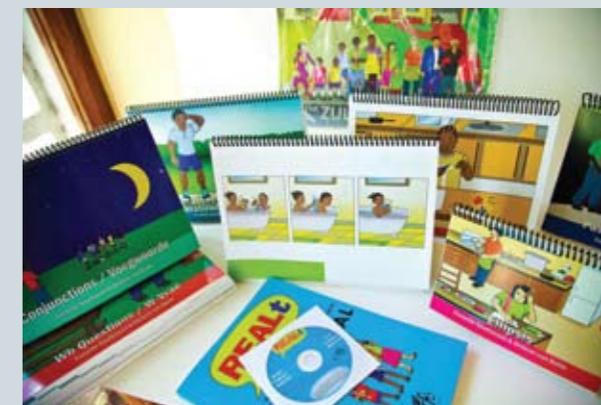
PHOTO: THE PIXEL REVELATION

Researchers at the University of Canterbury (Ondene van Dulm) and Stellenbosch University, South Africa (Frenette Southwood), have developed an exciting new tool for child language therapy. *The Receptive and Expressive Activities for Language Therapy (REALt)* comprises picture-based therapy material that can be used by speech-language therapists, teachers, or interested parents to foster the development of complex, later-developing language skills in preschool and school-aged children.

In determining which structures and skills to include as targets in the REALt, the authors were led by research which applies current linguistic theory to the clinical manifestation of language impairment, believing that what researchers are discovering about language (and also about its typical and atypical development) can be usefully applied during language remediation. The creation of therapy items and selection of language expansion techniques were guided by the principles of evidence based practice.

In developing the REALt, the authors aimed to fill a perceived gap in resources for child language therapy. There is a wide range of material commercially available for very young children (e.g. for vocabulary building and basic sentence structure), albeit USA- or UK-based, but there is little appropriate material for remediating later-developing language skills (syntax and pragmatics) among young school-going children. Therapy material of this kind is sorely needed for language-impaired and otherwise language-challenged children, who may benefit from focused language stimulation in order to develop those language skills which contribute toward the acquisition of literacy skills, and those which enable adequate functioning in the classroom context.

The REALt material is specifically designed for and ideally suited to the fostering of receptive and expressive language skills among older pre-school and school-going children with language delay or specific language impairment, foundation phase children who struggle with “school language”, and children who are second or foreign language speakers of English. The pictures are also suitable for use with adults with



aphasia. The REALt material can also be used in informal language assessment.

The REALt kit consists of:

- 361 picture-based items centred around events in the lives of two neighbouring families; items are presented in nine easel-backed books (Articles, Binding, Conjunctions, Ellipsis, Narratives and role-taking, Passive sentences, Quantifiers, simple Wh questions, complex Wh questions), and elicit a range of responses from the child (e.g. pointing to pictures, asking and answering questions, completing sentences, retelling stories)
- An orientation poster to introduce and aid memory of the characters occurring in the pictures
- A CD containing 140 reproducible A4 story sheets to be printed and folded into mini-books (intended as homework, targeting the same areas as the picture-based therapy activities)
- A user manual

As the kit was originally developed for use in both New Zealand and South Africa, the current edition presents the script in English and Afrikaans; English users can simply ignore the Afrikaans. The publisher is exploring the possibility of an English-only version, which will depend on demand. For more information on the REALt, please contact Ondene van Dulm at ondene.vandulm@canterbury.ac.nz, or visit the publisher's website at <http://www.jvrcatalogue.com/?p=2551>



Allied Health Assistant Development Programme, South Island Regional Training Hub

WORDS: CATHERINE COUPS, PROJECT LEAD AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPIST

THE SOUTH ISLAND REGIONAL TRAINING HUB (SIRTH) IS ONE OF FOUR NATIONAL TRAINING HUBS ESTABLISHED THROUGH A HEALTH WORKFORCE NZ INITIATIVE. SIRTH SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING NETWORKS BOTH WITHIN THE SOUTH ISLAND AND NATIONALLY WITH A FOCUS ON ENHANCING INNOVATIVE AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO HEALTHCARE DELIVERY.

The Allied Health Assistant Development Project is an initiative of the SIRTH Allied Health Workstream. The aim of the project is to develop a regional framework for Allied Health Assistant training, by implementing the Careerforce NZQA Level 3 National Certificate in Health, Disability, and Aged Support (Health Assistants) qualification into the 5 South Island DHB's. The qualification has four strands, dental, dietetics, healthcare and rehabilitation assistance. This project will support the training and development of an Allied Health Assistant workforce with more generic skills, who are able to work with other health professionals to provide services in more flexible and integrated ways across hospital, community and home.

Training and developing the unregulated health workforce is a key aspect of the workforce development required to support health professionals to work in new and emerging models of care. For Speech-Language Therapists this project and similar ones happening across the North Island DHB's, provide an opportunity for us to be involved in developing the skill of the existing Allied Health Assistant workforce. These projects also

enable us to play a part in shaping the use of Assistant roles for our profession in the future. The qualification supports the development of more generic/shared Assistants roles between Allied Health Professions e.g. Dietetics and SLT, or Therapy Assistants with roles across OT/Physio/SLT. It therefore ultimately supports better integration of services, better access to services, and a more holistic approach for clients and their families.

If you would like to find out more about the project please contact Catherine by email on: catherine.coups@siapo.health.nz

For further information about Careerforce and the Health Assistant qualification: <http://www.careerforce.org.nz/Workplace-Health-and-Disability-Training-qualifications.html>

For more information on Health Workforce NZ and the Regional Training Hubs: <http://www.healthworkforce.govt.nz/our-work/regional-training-hubs>

For information about new and innovative workforce developments in Allied Health: <http://www.hwainventory.net.au/topic/reform>



2013 Professional Development Seminar and AGM

WORDS: PHILIPPA WILLIAMS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO, NZSTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MARYBETH WILLIAMS AND I ARE VERY PLEASED TO BRING YOU THE PROGRAMME FOR THE 2013 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR AND AGM WHICH WILL BE HELD IN HAMILTON ON THURSDAY 23RD AND FRIDAY 24TH MAY.

The Programme for the Seminar offers a wide variety of topics across the age span, covering both clinical and professional areas of practice.

We are pleased to announce that both Felicity Bright and Cheryl Palmer have accepted our invitations to present keynote addresses. Felicity is currently completing her PhD and has a particular interest in engagement in rehabilitation. Cheryl is working in the Ministry of Education and has a lot of clinical experience working with clients with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. Please refer to their biographies and abstracts for further details on the NZSTA website, www.speechtherapy.org.nz.

This year we will be running a series of 25 minute oral presentations on a similar clinical or professional theme followed by a Q&A session for the presenters. This programme will give you the opportunity to update your knowledge in your practice areas, while also giving you exposure to initiatives and research in other areas of practice. It will also provide you with an opportunity to meet with other Speech-language Therapists from around New Zealand.

The NZSTA AGM will be held on Thursday 23rd May at 5.45pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

The Executive Council looks forward to seeing many of you in Hamilton for these events.



Area Updates from Summer 2013

NORTHLAND/TAI TOKERAU

Sharon Collier, Area Rep

We would like to acknowledge Bev van Zyl's resignation and 16 years of service to Whangarei Hospital. She is currently enjoying a well earned holiday in South Africa.

AUCKLAND AREA

Carolien Clements, Area Rep

Thirteen SLTs participated in a recent Field Educator 2 day workshop.

Philippa Williams will be presenting at Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD) Annual Conference in April in Phoenix, Arizona. Her topic is Interprofessional Practice Experiences (IPE).

EC members will be jointing student reps at The University of Auckland in February and Massey University in March to promote student membership of the NZSTA.

Auckland members decided it is now too late to start organising Round The Bays for 2013 however the event was a great success last year with EC happy to support therefore a planning committee will be organised for 2014.

WAIKATO/ BAY OF PLENTY

Biddy Robb, Area Rep

At the end of 2012, Waikato DHB sadly accepted the resignation of Barbara Murphy who will be greatly missed.

During our Area Meetings we have opened up the floor for people to contribute useful websites or information that will be of benefit to others. We have also encouraged 'sole' therapists

to join up with a group e.g. Tauranga often have extra SLT's who are able to join in to the teleconference.

Waikato Hospital: The department has acquired 2 iPads which will be in use soon – currently exploring appropriate apps.

Tauranga Hospital: 2 bedded acute stroke unit opened recently – going well. FEES to start soon – scopes coming.

Kaka Street Special School: a new high school unit is to move to Papamoa College, plus an extra classroom in Brookfield. A new part-time SLT, Kathryn Arbuckle, has been employed. iPads are available for all the classrooms.

Rotorua Hospital: CDC now has its own SLT to take over feeding for 0-3 years.

Whakatane: New hospital building underway.

Talklink: 2 new SLTs have been employed – Polly and Rebecca. Paula Shennan has taken over Julie Tan's position in BOP.

CENTRAL AREA

Jodi White, Area Rep

Hawke's Bay SLT's have now purchased their own FEES stack that will be used in conjunction with their ENT colleagues. The Waitemata DHB SLT team have been generous with their training resources and competency packages so these are being adapted for use at HBDHB.

Dorothy Harris at Gisborne Hospital is still lobbying for an increase in FTE as it is not possible to run the caseload as sole charge so full service is not able to be maintained.

A number of groups are farewelling and welcoming staff – Amy Crepin is leaving HBDHB and Jo Dephoff will commence shortly, Whanganui DHB welcomes Katie Ward to the team. Anna Jerebine will be working part-time for Explore services.

WELLINGTON/ NELSON AREA

Libby French, Area Rep

A number of members are involved in NZSTA working parties as well as national and regional guideline groups. Nelson therapists have appreciated the support of colleagues regionally as both are currently in sole charge positions.

Therapists have been feeling the pinch that comes with this end of the financial year, with therapists in Health struggling to gain funding for PD and/or recruitment, and the Wellington office of Special Education relocating to the Hutt and Porirua offices.

We are, however, excited to be hosting both the Aphasia Conference in November 2013, and the NZSTA Conference in 2014. Watch this space for updates!

CANTERBURY AREA

Shannon Emmerson & Stephanie Dunkin, Area Reps

Michelle Bourgeois is a visiting Erskine who will be teaching into the University of Canterbury Bachelor of Speech-Language Pathology programme in Semester One. More details regarding Michelle's areas of expertise can be found with the following link <http://sphs.osu.edu/people/bourgeois>

The University of Canterbury Department of Communication Disorders is setting up Professional Development seminars.

The Southern Cochlear Implant Programme are now employing 4 SLTs and operating out of St George's Hospital having moved from Van Asch College.

OTAGO/ SOUTHLAND AREA UPDATE

Margaret Gaudelius, Area Rep

It has been a lovely summer in the Deep South and members seemed relaxed at our most recent meeting.

There have been a number of staff changes at the Dunedin Hospital, and private practitioner Meryl Jones is now working several days at the Isis Centre.

The Ministry of Education; Special Education Otago office has welcomed Frances Olgier, a recent graduate from the University of Canterbury, to the team. Another member of the

This year, a team from Special Education has entered the Cancer Society Relay for Life. A number of fundraising events

are being held at the office including a MOE Hottest home baker competition, Valentine's Day raffle and a silent auction for the District Manager's car park! The SLTs are bringing their creativity, energy and enthusiasm to all aspects of this endeavour.

Jane Carroll has recently had her research about educator's phonological awareness knowledge published in the Asia Pacific Journal of Speech Language and Hearing. She will be attending the International Workshop on Reading and Developmental Dyslexia in Spain later this year.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST OR LINKS TO RESOURCES:

Special Friends – www.specialfriends.com

This is a website for children, young people and adults with disability. It includes forums, chatrooms and resources.

Talking Trouble – <http://talkingtroublenz.org.nz>

Brand new website set up by Sally Kedge, Linda Hand, Clare McCann from The University of Auckland.

Research reviews – <http://www.researchreview.co.nz>

Latest research on health topics all reviewed by an expert in the specific field. To access search and register for the reviews you would like to receive.

Talking Mat assessment –

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/activities/talking-mats>

Visual representations of conversations. Can then take photos to keep record of the discussion. Can be used with non-verbal or also verbal children.

SUBMISSION DATES FOR COMMUNICATION MATTERS 2013

Issue	Final date for submissions
Winter	11th June
Spring	4th September
Summer	1st December

Makaton in NZ / Aotearoa

**WORDS: LIZA BROWN, SECRETARY/TREASURER,
MAKATON NZ/AOTEAROA**

In the Summer edition of Communication Matters there was an article about Makaton. Although Makaton NZ/Aotearoa (MNZ/A) appreciate the enthusiasm expressed in the article, not all the information was accurate, for example, referring to “Makaton Sign Language”. At the NZSTA Conference last year, some information shared regarding Makaton was also not accurate. For clarity, below is a summary of key points regarding Makaton in the New Zealand context:

Makaton is not a sign language. New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) is the sign language of NZ. Makaton is a language programme that uses signs and/or symbols with speech to support communication.

Makaton signs do come from NZSL. In 1998, MNZ/A worked closely with the NZ Sign Language Tutors Association to ascertain which signs to use in the Sign Illustrations for Makaton Core Vocabulary, New Zealand version 1998/99. Selection criteria; highly known and used within the Deaf Community, ease of production (due to the physical challenges of some Makaton users) and if signs were too similar, then another highly used sign was selected.

Makaton is used with speech. Speech should always be used, and the key words are signed at the time of saying that particular word/concept.

Makaton is often a bridge to verbal communication. Using Makaton slows down the interaction both visually and verbally, making interaction more reliable. Once children are able to express themselves verbally, they may continue with the signs as support for a short time, then drop the signs and communicate with speech alone. Then Makaton has done its job!

Makaton can be used in multilingual environments. As Makaton uses the word order of the speech being produced, ie English or Te Reo Maori, the signs are placed where the word is spoken.

Makaton has a Core Vocabulary. This vocabulary is arranged in stages, based on highly functional words/concepts and typical development.



Makaton is designed to be personalised. We stress at workshops that the team carefully selects the vocabulary based on the child or adults needs. Only vocabulary relevant to the child or adult is taught.

Makaton Core Vocabulary is expanded by the Resource Vocabulary. This involves any further signs/concepts not included in the Core Vocabulary. These signs are sourced from NZSL.

Makaton Signing for Babies (MSB) involves six sessions with parents and babies. The signs are grouped by everyday activities in the home and play. It is designed to be functional and promote parent-child interactions.

Makaton in NZ operates under a Licence Agreement from The Makaton Charity in the UK with conditions such as:

- only Makaton Tutors can deliver workshops
- Tutors must complete the five day course
- MSB Tutors must complete a one day course

To support families to use Makaton, MNZ/A strongly recommend you attend one of the Makaton workshops.

Should you have further questions, please contact the MNZ/A be email: makaton@clear.net.nz or visit www.makaton.org.nz



Life Member Profile:

INTERVIEW WITH EVELYN TERRIS

WORDS: LUCY GREIG, MEMBER NETWORKS, NZSTA & SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPIST

I started my career as an SLT...

in 1958 at the Cranmer Clinic relieving for Joslyn Ward. A wonderful introduction as a practicing therapist as I had five experienced therapists to support me. I also had students who kept me on my toes as we learnt from each other, and that continued throughout my professional career.

What attracted me to the profession was...

an active interest in speech and drama and how young people showed frustration when not being understood; and the opportunity to work with children either individually or in small groups.

I have been a member of NZSTA for... 47 years, since starting in the profession.

A great experience was attending the IALP Conference in London in 1959 along with Grace Gane and Joslyn Ward. The knowledge and research presented made a lasting impression on the promises of things to come.

My best day in the job was...

when a parent who had strongly disagreed with my assessment of her daughter's speech and language development, had after much discussion agreed to trial my programme. This proved to be very successful, and later, the parent returned to tell me

that when speaking to groups about Down Syndrome she would relate her experience and quote me. (The girl had Down Syndrome)

My worst day in the job was...

being unable to continue working with the pre-school stuttering programme which had been adapted from the Lena Rustin model. The programme catered for children aged from 3 – 5 years and we worked in small groups. It also relied on the commitment from parents and others to carry-out their programme at home. Although the success rate was very high the programme was stopped as SES (now MoE) transferred us to work with school-aged children only.

The contribution I have made to the profession that I am most proud of is...

instigating the setting up of the accreditation of the Speech & Language Therapy University degree and gaining reciprocity with other countries.

I would like to acknowledge the many therapists over the years that made a great contribution towards achieving this goal.

The contribution I have made to the Association is...

as a committee member, Area representative, vice president, and President (for 2 terms). I was also on a

number of sub-committees; a member of the Accreditation Team for the first successful accreditation of the University of Canterbury; and I was involved in rewriting The Constitution. I was also on various Conference Committees over the years.

The pearls of wisdom I have for other members/SLTs are...

neither speech nor language is an end in itself. It is simply the means by which we achieve effective communication of our thoughts and feelings.

To all the Speech-language Therapists, the challenge is up to you to help continue and expand this legacy.

I was awarded Life Membership in...

2007. What an honour to be awarded Life Membership' as the profession is very important to me.

Final thoughts...

'Richness lies in the heart. For what we are within declares our wealth, not what we have but what we give.'

Sub-script: This is the final profile in the series of our Life Members. I hope you have enjoyed reading about the seven Life Members of the NZSTA and have been inspired. These Speech-language Therapists and many others over the years have made what the profession in New Zealand and the Association is today. I would like to thank you all.



Are voice problems an issue for New Zealand teachers?

WORDS: SYLVIA H S LEÃO^a, SUZANNE C PURDY^b, JENNIFER M OATES^c

THE LITERATURE FROM OVERSEAS SHOWS THAT TEACHERS PRESENT WITH SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER RATES OF VOICE-USE PROBLEMS COMPARED WITH NON-TEACHERS^(1, 2).

Because the voice is the main communication tool for teaching and that it therefore needs to be effective in any setting, voice problems have a major impact on teachers' work. Hazards for teachers' voices include prolonged speaking time without enough time for vocal rest and recovery, increased vocal effort to speak loudly enough to be heard by the students, lack of voice care education and vocal training, teaching in unfavourable environmental conditions (such as poor room acoustics, noisy classrooms, poor air quality) and inadequate treatment of early voice symptoms^(3, 4).

Voice problems in teachers have been the focus of Sylvia Leão's PhD research, supervised by Suzanne Purdy and Jennifer Oates (La Trobe University, Melbourne) and advised by the Professor David Scott (statistician) and Professor Randall Morton (ENT). This research consists of three studies. The first two are epidemiological studies and the third one is a field study involving teachers.

Early results from the study have been receiving some media attention (NZ Herald Sunday and Freeview TV9 channel interview). Part of this research was presented at the NZSTA Congress (Auckland, May 2012) and at the 5th World Voice Congress (Egypt, October 2012); this research has received very good feedback from the international scientific community. Full results from the first study are in preparation for submission to an international journal.

The first study estimated the prevalence and nature of voice problems in New Zealand (NZ) primary and secondary teachers, using a national survey. Out of around 2400 teachers who answered the survey, 1888 primary and secondary teachers who met the inclusion criteria and who had complete data were included in the study. The sample is statistically representative of NZ teachers in terms of age, gender and city/

“Less than a quarter of teachers with any type of vocal problem sought health support.”

rural balance. We acknowledge the important support for this research from the PPTA and NZEI unions who sent the survey to their teacher members (these unions represent around 90% of NZ teachers). Our results suggest that voice problems are an important issue for NZ teachers, as has been reported in other countries. Approximately one third of teachers reported a voice problem during their teaching career. On the day of the survey (point prevalence) 13% of teachers reported a problem. These NZ rates are higher than a South Australian study with identical survey questions (5) and the rates are quite similar to an American study (Iowa and Utah)(1) and a Brazilian study (11%/11.6%)(6). The survey showed that older (51-60 years), female and primary teachers are more likely to have a voice problem. The most frequent symptoms reported by NZ teachers were throat discomfort (e.g. throat pain, dryness, tightness, cough/throat clearing), voice quality alterations (e.g. hoarseness, roughness, huskiness, strained voice, weak voice), vocal fatigue (i.e. tired voice) and singing difficulties. Most teachers reported that their voice took less than one week to recover, but about a third took more than a week to recover. Close to two thirds of teachers continued working when they had a voice problem. Less than a quarter of teachers with any type of vocal problem sought health support. When we analysed the teachers with chronic voice problems (more than 4 weeks), only 12% visited an ENT specialist and 4% an SLT. These results are of concern and raise several issues; teachers may not be aware about the nature of their vocal problem, or specialized health services for voice problems, or GPs may not have referred teachers to a specialist. The data suggest that Speech-language Therapists need to raise their profile as experts in the management of voice problems. Very few teachers had attended voice training or a vocal care program during teaching training or since qualifying as a teacher. These findings highlight a potential area for SLTs in the voice field in NZ – the development and delivery of

preventive vocal care and communication training programs at school to teachers or during teaching training is clearly needed. *“Just answering the survey, teachers became more aware about their voice and potential harmful vocal habits that can lead to a voice problem. So I imagine that specialized communication training, advice on environment modifications and specialized health assistance, could reduce these rates”* (Sylvia Leão)

A second survey, looking in detail at factors associated with voice problems has shown that poor classroom acoustics and poor air quality in the teaching environment are significant risk factors. A third study is currently underway analyzing individual teachers' voice during their teaching work, using an ambulatory phonation monitor to measure voice use and a dosimeter to measure classroom noise. This study will allow more specific conclusions about the effects of vocal demands on teachers at work.

The research provides novel NZ data and will form the basis for future studies of preventive voice programmes for teachers in the NZ context.

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Language TherAppy, Tactus Solutions

WORDS: MAEGAN VANSOLKEMA, AND SHEILA STEELE, SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPISTS, ABI REHABILITATION

This iPad app has been used extensively at our intensive acquired brain injury rehabilitation facility. We treat adults with moderate to severe TBI which can experience a multitude of language and cognitive impairments. We highly recommend it due to the range of skills that can be learnt and developed in a very accessible manner. The package includes 4 apps, each of which can be bought separately: 2 expressive and 2 receptive apps.



Comprehension TherAppy: This includes 3 activities: spoken word to picture matching, written word to picture matching, and spoken word to written word matching. Nouns, adjectives and verbs are included, alongside use of 3 languages: English, Spanish and French. Hints and number of foils add to the graded complexity of the tasks.



Naming TheAppy: This includes confrontation naming and describing activities to support both the impairment level and compensatory strategies. Over 400 targets are included, in 10 categories: you can select a category, or a random selection from all. A 30 target test activity is also included, which clients often choose to complete on their own as a measure of progress.



Reading TherAppy: This includes 4 activities: phrase to picture matching; phrase completion; sentence to picture matching; and sentence completion. There are over 450 items in each activity, and you can select from a wide range of categories or have a mix from them all. Able to work on abstract reading such as idioms or basic verb phrases.



Writing TherAppy: This includes 4 activities: copying, fill-the-blanks, written confrontation naming, and writing to dictation. Each activity has three levels of difficulty, which range from provision of only target letters, to inclusion of distracter letters, to inclusion of the full alphabet.

All of the 4 apps have the option to add in your own pictures and stimuli, but this has not been explored as of yet mainly because there has not been a real need as the targets included have all been culturally and linguistically appropriate for our clients with traumatic brain injury.



ADVANTAGES:

- Depending on the impairment and the client's individual goals, one or all of the apps can be used, allowing them to work on discrete and appropriate skills.
- Able to have easy, medium, or difficult settings appropriate for skills sets of the client.
- The apps can be bought as a package or separately, again allowing specificity to the client especially if recommending purchase at home.
- Easy to use: clear, logical, and aphasia friendly format that clients of all levels are able to use independently.
- Clear feedback and prompts both visually and auditory.
- Provides clear cues for word retrieval tasks that the client can build on generalizing these cues into conversations (description, phonemic cues, phrase completion etc.).
- Supports increase of intensity of language therapy and massed practice.
- Able to record performance and email results to therapist and clients if required.
- Price of the entire package is comparable or less expensive than most aphasia resources. \$14.99 - \$24.99NZD per app, \$59.99NZD for the package. A free "lite" version is available for trial.

DISADVANTAGES:

- Comprehension TherAppy is aimed at single word comprehension only, which is ideal for clients with significant impairments but becomes too simple for those that progress rapidly.
- Languages and accents offered may not be the most relevant for Australasia. The accent used for the naming app is a North American male which does provide the obvious differences in some word productions. However the Writing and Comprehension apps offer a UK English accent and shift of vocabulary.



Dr Clare McCann – Professional Standards

professionalstandards@speechtherapy.org.nz

KIA ORA KOUTOU

It feels a little strange to say “Happy New Year” in March, but as this is the first magazine for the year it is appropriate. I hope you all had a restful summer break and that 2013 will be prosperous and rewarding.

PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE (PAC)

It is a pleasure to announce that both the University of Canterbury and The University of Auckland have successfully been reaccredited for a further seven-year period. A lot of hard work, dedication and commitment goes into the education of Speech-language Therapy students and as an Association we can be very proud of these two university programmes for continuing to maintain high academic and clinical standards. A successful meeting was held in December for the Heads of the three programmes, the Clinical Directors and the PAC. This is a forum for open and frank dialogue about the (re) accreditation process and any other issues that may arise throughout the academic year.

2013 will be another busy year for the PAC as Massey University has applied for reaccreditation. The Site Visit is

scheduled for later in the year. The Annual Report form is being revised (in conjunction with the three universities) and the PAC is also developing a cultural competency framework (led by Kerrie Gallagher).

ETHICS COMMITTEE

A call for volunteers for a working party to review our ethics processes has resulted in a number of people expressing an interest. It is pleasing to see so many people committed to the profession and eager to volunteer their time for this important review. It is hoped that the review of Ethics procedures will be completed by September 2013.

As many of you know, I will be stepping down from the role of Professional Standards at the AGM in Hamilton, having served two terms on the Executive Council. If you are interested in taking on this role, I am more than happy to answer any questions and can be contacted at: professionalstandards@speechtherapy.org.nz

Clare



Philippa Williams – Professional Development

professionaldevelopment@speechtherapy.org.nz

NGA MIHI MAHANA,

I was talking with a group of students in class this week about lifelong learning. I told them that we do not teach them everything they will ever need to know at university. Despite their initial shock, we progressed to discuss how we learn and seeking learning opportunities. One of the students then said, ‘Thank goodness we don’t learn everything here, because that would make our working life pretty boring wouldn’t it!’ On that note, let’s talk about some learning opportunities we have coming up.

NZSTA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR 23 & 24 MAY 2013

Well, despite the wonderful summer weather inviting us all outside over the summer months, you have all been busy thinking and writing. I received an abundance of submissions for our professional development event in May and, with the help of, MaryBeth Williams, Gretchen and Claire, have been able to put together an impressive programme. Please refer to our website for details on how to register.

2014 NZSTA CONFERENCE 9, 10, 11 APRIL, TE PAPA, WELLINGTON

I have also been impressed with the number of people willing to volunteer their time and energy to our conference planning committee. A big thank you to the following people:

- Conference Conveyor: *Helen Rigby*
- Scientific Programme Chair: *Claire McCann*
- Social Programme: *Claire Winward*
- Exhibition and Sponsorship: *Sally Kedge*

- Helper: *Sam Scott*
- NZSTA Administration: *Gretchen and Claire*
- Conference Manager: *Pam Richards PR Consulting*

We have had our first two meetings and are well underway with planning this fantastic event. Please keep an eye out for the Call For Abstracts through the Exec Update. Please contact Helen Rigby if you have any suggestions re themes, streams or speakers as soon as possible.

NZSTA AWARDS AND GRANTS

Remember to check the website for the awards and grants criteria and application process. The due dates have been extended to 14th April 2013.

PD OPPORTUNITIES IN 2013

My aim for 2013, together with the support of the Exec, is to provide ongoing opportunities for accessible and affordable professional development. I plan to do this by; communicating events that are happening in your area through the PD Calendar on the website, coordinating clinical issues on topics you have requested and linking you all in with international speakers visiting our shores.

Already this year we have, Dr Anne Hill from University of Queensland and Dr Anne Vertigan from New South Wales joining us. Watch this space for details and the announcement of other well renowned speakers.

Mauri ora
Philippa



Sara Moore – Communications

communications@speechtherapy.org.nz

Welcome to the first edition of Communication Matters for 2013. The year is rolling on already and the university programs are back in action, dishing up the latest evidence base to groups of future Speech-language Therapists.

I know we are continuously striving to offer excellent service to our clients and patients. We always endeavour to provide and assist with clear and useful communication about what we do, and who we work with. One way we're hoping to get the word out both to the wider public, and between association members, is via our new website. We had a hugely productive executive council meeting recently, and the website working party has been formed to push this project forward. So, if you've got some bright ideas on how our website could best work for us, and you want to get hands on in a virtual sense, please drop me a line: communications@speechtherapy.org.nz

The same goes for this magazine. Our editor Catherine Epps does a great job of pulling Communication Matters together, but we're always on the look out for interesting articles, events or story leads about Speech-language Therapy in New Zealand. Don't hold out on us! Share your research, case studies, innovative ideas and stories with us: editor@speechtherapy.org.nz. There are some guidelines on the NZSTA website, if you would like further tips on writing an article.

We've also set the date for our annual SLT awareness week for the 16th-20th September. This week is all about you and your colleagues coming up with creative ways to get what we do as Speechies out there in the public eye, advocating for our profession and raising awareness of swallowing and communication difficulties. One person (whose name shall remain nameless) has already told me of their plans to build a giant mouth and tongue out of paper mache, fill it with lollies, and then attach it to the entrance of their workplace in the dead of night, before inviting the local school down to smash open the giant piñata with wooden sticks! I'm not sure of the legal implications of such a prank, but keep those creative juices flowing. Remember, we take no legal responsibility for any mishaps!

Remember to leave this edition of Communication Matters out and about to help us spread the word about Speech-language Therapy.

I'm looking forward to catching up with as many of you as possible in Hamilton this coming May at the AGM and professional development event.

Sara



Lucy Greig – Member Networks

membernetworks@speechtherapy.org.nz

By the beginning of March, approximately 450 renewals and new membership applications had been submitted and processed. Thank you to those members for being on time with your renewals. It makes the administrators' job that much easier. Gretchen and Claire have worked tirelessly, before the renewals period commenced to streamline the system, and during the renewal period to ensure members got their receipts and certificates quickly. I would like to thank them both on behalf of the membership.

Congratulations to the Waikato/BOP area who had the most number of members attending the Summer Area Meeting, in person or via teleconferencing. This demonstrates that a wide geographical divide does not need to be a barrier to networking and being part of the Association. If you wish to be a part of your local Area Meeting but are unable to attend in person, please do contact your area representative to ask about our teleconferencing facilities.

Members are becoming a much more active part of the Association. This means more improvements and initiatives can occur within the Association. An example of this is the many working parties that are currently running. The working party for the Provisional Membership New Graduate Framework, lead by Cheryl Palmer, MoE, is well underway. Many of you will have seen and/or completed the surveys that the group has recently circulated. Please check the NZSTA website if you have

not. The Private Practitioner Membership Benefits/Services benchmarking and scoping working party has also got off the ground. This group, lead by Meryl Jones (Otago/Southland), have wasted no time in getting started. A summary of some of the outcomes of this project should be available in the next edition of Communication Matters.

Finally, over the last few months we had several e-mails from SLTs wishing to return to practice. Currently requirements are done on a case-by-case basis but we would like to have more specific guidelines and support around this. Please look out for a request for expressions of interest to be part of a working party on this soon.

I would like to highlight that the last of the Life Member Profiles is included in this edition of Communication Matters. I have enjoyed bringing this series to you, and hope that you now know who our Life Members are and have an appreciation for why we hold these Members in such high esteem.

As always, if you would like to discuss any member issues or would like to play a more active role in the Association, please do email me (membernetworks@speechtherapy.org.nz) or Claire Linthwaite, Member Affairs Administrator (ma.nzsta@xtra.co.nz).

I look forward to seeing many of you in May at the PD event and AGM in Hamilton.

Lucy



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SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR COMMUNICATION MATTERS

Winter 2013 – 11 June 2013



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ISSN 2324-2302 (Print) ISSN 2324-2310 (Online)