

communication

SPRING 2016

matters



NZSTA CONFERENCE 2016

INTERVIEW: SALLY SCHOON

DUNEDIN APHASIA GROUP

GRACE GANE
MEMORIAL LECTURE



Anniversary
Edition



New Zealand
Speech-language
Therapists' Association

Te Kāhui Kaiwhakatikatika Reo Kōrero o Aotearoa



Anniversary
Edition

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Cover photo: Geneva Tino speaking at the NZSTA conference. Photo by R. Lucas van Ryn / Freestyle Event Photography.



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



Editorial –
R. Lucas van Ryn
editor@speechtherapy.org.nz

The year is going quickly! Welcome to the Anniversary Edition of Communication Matters, celebrating the NZSTA's 65th Anniversary. The most exciting event this season was of course the NZSTA conference Enhancing Lives through Partnership (pp. 13-15). Although the conference lasts only three days, it's a showcase of the great work that goes on all the time and in so many settings: hospitals, schools, private clinics, universities, and everywhere else there's a Speech-language Therapist around. The NZSTA awards and grants (pp. 8-9) are a celebration of some of these achievements, and reflect the high standard of the profession here in New Zealand.

A well-attended workshop for the Giving Voice advocacy campaign took place at the conference. Check out this issue for a collection of photos from the workshop (p. 3) and stay tuned for a campaign update. This year at the conference, the NZSTA invested a new life member, Sally Schoon. Find out more about Sally on p. 5.

The Dunedin Aphasia Support Group has now been running for two years. Set up by three Speech-language Therapists in the area to fill a gap in support for people with aphasia, the group now meets twice a month with over a dozen active members (p. 4).

Ann Smail of the TalkLink Trust was the recipient of the

Grace Gane Memorial Award for her contributions to AAC. She shares with us the TalkLink story and tells us why she's now an AAC Activist (p. 6-7).

The fun and motivating KiwiChat camp for AAC users was held again this year at Totara Springs (p. 17). Extra-large core boards, a parents' workshop looking at the bright spots of AAC, and the KiwiChat ambassadors were among the camp's highlights.

We continue to have a great student presence within Communication Matters; this time Alicia Posthuma and Kate Prosser tell us about their placement at Spectrum Care (p. 16). They worked with clients on dysphagia management and helped develop a dysphagia screening tool, as well as empowering Community Support Workers to use AAC with their clients.

I would like to close with a big thank-you to everyone who has contributed to Communication Matters over the past year. It's fantastic to be able to say this is a magazine not just for, but by you, our members.

Notice

Chris Justin, NZSTA President from 1975 to 1976, passed away earlier this year. An obituary for Chris will appear in the next issue of Communication Matters.



President's Report –

Philippa Friary

president@speechtherapy.org.nz

KIA ORA KOUTOU,

What a fabulous few months we have had! This issue of Communication Matters is a 'keeper' and a celebration of our profession, so enjoy the read.

I wish to start by congratulating all of those involved in the NZSTA conference Enhancing Lives through Partnership. Those who were able to join us will agree that this conference was truly outstanding. I wish to extend a huge thanks to the Conference Planning Committee: Annabel Grant, Becca Hammond, Selena Donaldson, Emily Jones, Anna Miles, and Claire Winward; and to Pam Richards from PR Conference Consultants, for bringing us a stimulating and top class event. The conference featured over 84 presentations which involved over 200 clinicians, clients, and researchers. Our two keynote presenters, Professor Sharynne McLeod and Professor Lindy McAllister gave world-class presentations that got us all talking, and Ann Smaill, the recipient of the prestigious Grace Gane Memorial Award, gave a lecture that is embedded in our memories. My highlights reel for this event was seeing our guest Arlene Pietranton, CEO of ASHA, being hosted at the celebration dinner by some of our wonderful students and new graduates, Sharynne reminding us to listen to the voices of our children, and Lindy saying, 'the time is now for Allied Health.'

We have reached a milestone this year, as we celebrated our golden 65th Annual General Meeting on September 8. Please read through our annual report to update yourselves on what our Association has achieved this year. This can be found on our website. This year, our report is in a different format, and reports against our strategic objectives. I look forward to your feedback on this new-look report.

This year, we awarded Life Membership to an active NZSTA member. This is a prestigious award that acknowledges the great work that an individual has done for the Association and the profession. The new NZSTA member to join our Life Members is Sally Schoon. Congratulations Sally! During our AGM celebration, we took time to thank all our NZSTA Presidents for their work; it is these people whose shoulders we stand on today. This leads me to mention our first great NZSTA President, Chris Justin, who passed away in Dunedin this year. It's her vision and tenacity that has led us to today.

We have now launched our national awareness and advocacy campaign – Giving Voice Aotearoa. Thank you to everyone who participated in workshops to help create our key messages. Special thank-yous need to go out to our working group leader Amy Oughton, to Helen McLauchlan and Dean Sutherland for facilitating our conference workshop, and to Annette Rotherham for leading this project. Our next step is to engage with our service users regarding these messages. Visit our website and make contact with the Giving Voice Ambassador in your area to see how you can get involved.

We will all be spreading the word about Aotearoa and the NZSTA and our partner association, the New Zealand Audiological Society, when we bring the world to New Zealand for the 2022 International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics conference. We presented our bid in Dublin in August this year and were successful. Thank you to those who have already expressed an interest in helping facilitate this prestigious event. Karen Puller (NZAS) and I will be making contact soon and letting you all know how you can be involved.

Mauri ora,
Philippa

Giving Voice Campaign Workshop

PHOTOS: R. LUCAS VAN RYN / FREESTYLE EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

A successful Giving Voice campaign workshop was held at the recent NZSTA conference to brainstorm campaign messages for the year, working to 'give voice' to people with communication and swallowing needs. Thanks to everyone who contributed their ideas and experiences!



The Dunedin Aphasia Support Group's Two-Year Anniversary

WORDS: ALISON ZANI AND ELEANOR JACKSON

On Friday, August 5 (a cold and snowy day) the Dunedin Aphasia Support Group celebrated its two-year anniversary.

The group was established by three Dunedin Speech-language Therapists—Alison Zani, Meryl Jones, and Jessica Batty—who felt there was a gap in the community for people with aphasia after they were discharged from formal therapy. The aims of the group were to reduce social isolation for people with aphasia and to provide a safe, supportive environment for communication.

It was initially challenging to establish and maintain the group, as it relied solely on the local therapists' own time and resources. The first hurdle to establishing the group was finding an appropriate venue, which was harder than we expected in hilly Dunedin! After looking at several potential venues, the Mornington Community Centre finally ticked all the boxes: convenient car parking, easy access into the building and toilet facilities, a quiet, warm environment with kitchen facilities, a whiteboard, and a projector. Best of all, it was affordable, which meant the group could be free for members to attend—this was one of the main criteria. The group has since received fundraising support from AphasiaNZ, which has been hugely beneficial.

Initially, the group started off with small numbers (three people with aphasia and their partners) but has gradually



increased in size over the last two years, and now has up to 15 regular members. The group meets every second Friday from 10.30am to 12pm, and is currently led by the Speech-language Therapists

(primarily Alison Zani, along with help from Warren Cossou), rather than being peer-led due to the current make-up of the group members.

The meetings start with a 'check-in' time where members update the group on their activities over the last fortnight. A theme for the meeting—set the fortnight before—is then introduced, and members bring along related objects and photos to share with the rest of the group. The themes have included: hobbies, holidays, pets, families, historical events, and favourite music. Then comes morning tea (the members' favourite part!), and the group finishes with everybody deciding on the theme for next time.

Seeing the group members interact spontaneously with each other when sharing stories about themselves has been great. This natural conversation in a safe environment serves to increase their communicative confidence. It has also been amazing to watch how the group members and their family members have come to care for and support each other with all issues surrounding stroke, not only aphasia.

We are looking forward to seeing the group evolve to host guest speakers and plan outings and more activities (including singing and arts) over the coming months!

If you'd like to be kept up to date, please join the Facebook group "Dunedin Aphasia Support Group".



NZSTA Life Member:

Sally Schoon

WORDS: SALLY SCHOON WITH R. LUCAS VAN RYN

INVESTED AT THE NZSTA AGM THIS YEAR, SALLY SCHOON IS OUR NEWEST LIFE MEMBER.

Before I began my training, I wasn't sure what career path to take. A teacher suggested I study Speech-language Therapy, and I went for it. When I trained, you first did your teacher training, which I completed at Dunedin Teachers College. I then went to Christchurch for the Speech-language Therapy training. From day one of the lectures I was hooked.

With teacher's conditions, the lifestyle was great, and school holidays made for a great work-life balance. I always loved working with clients in low-decile areas; there were some great interactions there.

Later, having students on placement was something I looked forward to—that two-way flow of knowledge and information. Being awarded a UNESCO fellowship based at Bangkok's Srinakharinwirot University to write up the Speech-language Therapy service in Thailand was a wonderful experience. I was later invited back there to speak at a conference, and then invited again to teach faculty—that was the icing on the cake.

I moved from teacher's conditions and school clinic-based practice to office sites, then later to the Ministry of Education. This has increasingly meant we were less isolated and more demonstrably part of a team. Where previously we visited schools once a year to survey for need, we are now working in schools every day.

I'm still motivated by making a difference for individual

clients, and the challenge of implementing a programme that will work for them. I've worked in the education sector for the past 40 years, and currently have a caseload for the .6 position at the MOE that I moved to last year. I'm surrounded by excellent colleagues, and the management is great.

On top of my caseload, I'm a worksite rep for the New Zealand Educational Institute, and a member of the institute's Special Education National Reference Group. These roles are rewarding, and a further opportunity to work for supporting colleagues with local and national issues.

I'm inspired by my older colleagues, who have been so active in the NZSTA, organising the biennial conferences and hosting overseas guests, and drawing up the Code of Ethics and the Constitution. I'm also inspired by all the stunningly capable, confident young graduates who are such terrific communicators and so open to learning; they show us where the profession is heading. In the past, Speech-language Therapists have tended to resist self-promotion but this is changing now.

In the future, I'd like to see increased Speech-language Therapy staffing. Whenever the community is consulted, this is a constant issue. There's always research to be done too; for example, how can we compare incidence rates in New Zealand with those of other countries and cultures, and what are the relevant demographics?

Grace Gane Memorial Lecture 2016: Augmentative and Alternative Communication in New Zealand

WORDS: ANN SMAILL, GENERAL MANAGER, THE TALKLINK TRUST

PHOTOS: R. LUCAS VAN RYN / FREESTYLE EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

Thank you NZSTA! It was a great honour to have been asked to present the Grace Gane Memorial lecture at the recent NZSTA conference, especially with the introduction from Anna Miles, who suggested that the conference's theme of Enhancing Lives through Partnership is reflected in the work we do at the TalkLink Trust, Wahanga Tū Kōrero. We certainly aim to work in partnership, as it would be impossible to do the job we do without a team approach.

The timing of this award is very fitting, as it is 25 years since the signing of the TalkLink Trust deed. Looking back, the foresight of the people involved in establishing the TalkLink Trust was extraordinary. From the outset, the vision was for governance which included board members with a lived experience of disability, as well as consultation with the people who use TalkLink's services.

When TalkLink was established, we were given the Māori name Wahanga Tū Kōrero, which reflects our purpose of working with people to ensure that their thoughts and ideas can be effectively conveyed through the use of different



Ann Smail (right) receives the Grace Gane award from Anna Miles.

forms of communication. The fantastic team of people at TalkLink strives to do this every day. It is not without challenges, as, like everyone, we do not have enough resources, and waiting times are often longer than we would like. However, TalkLink can be more effective if AAC principles are better

incorporated into all aspects of Speech-language Therapy. This is not just the prerogative of specialist services; rather, it is one of partnership and a shared understanding of how augmentative communication tools and strategies can enhance the lives of people with complex communication needs.

As TalkLink services have developed, the importance of training and support in the use of AAC tools and strategies has been recognised and acknowledged as essential if people are going to gain communicative competence. This is one reason why we have been so proactive in having competent AAC users as mentors and ambassadors. I was very humbled to have Lusi Faiva and Geneva Tino present with me at the conference to share their experiences. Lusi's story inspires us to work hard to ensure a literacy focus, which is a very important aspect of becoming an independent communicator. Her story, as told through the Touch Compass Dance video can be found on the TalkLink website at <http://www.talklink.org.nz/index.php/2015/02/10/lusis-story/> (or <http://tx0.org/an>) and was



Lusi Faiva speaking at the NZSTA conference.

a very moving part of the lecture.

Geneva shared her involvement in KiwiChat Camp as a mentor. (For more about KiwiChat Camp, see p. 17). As a university student passionate about helping people, I am sure we will see more of Geneva in the future. I didn't realise until the emails after the lecture

*"E hara taku toa, I te toa takitahi ēngari he toa taku tini.
My strength is not from myself alone, but from the strength of the group."
--Draft New Zealand Disability Strategy, 2016 – 2026*

how much both Lusi and Geneva gained from presenting together, and how inspired they were by each other's achievements.

The advances in technology over the past few years, as well as new projects, mean that AAC will become even more accessible to our clients. A kiwi voice, te reo Māori speech synthesis, and 'mind-control' (see <http://www.thought-wired.com/>) were some of the advances in technology discussed in the lecture.

This year, the TalkLink Trust Board, as part of our Strategic Plan, has been looking at ways to build capacity and heighten awareness of AAC, and has prompted me to start referring to myself as an AAC Activist. I hope you will too. The Giving Voice Aotearoa campaign is an initiative that will help build this awareness, and is off to a great start. Thank you to the University of Canterbury students who entered two videos that feature TalkLink into the NZSTA Community Education Project: What Communication Means to Me. The videos are available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aY0iLKSMqdA>



Geneva Tino speaking at the NZSTA conference.

(or <http://tx0.org/ao>) and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3k_FJyNezFQ (or <http://tx0.org/ap>). They are proving to be very useful in our campaign!

Thank you again for the opportunity to share the TalkLink story.

NZSTA Awards and Grants

PHOTOS: R. LUCAS VAN RYN / FREESTYLE EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

Congratulations to all the recipients of the NZSTA awards and grants!

GRACE GANE AWARD

Ann Smaill

Ann was the Conference Planning Committee's unanimous choice for the Grace Gane award, due to her professional contribution to and passion for the field of AAC.

For more on Ann's contribution to AAC, see pp. 6-7.



Ann Smaill (right) with Philippa Friary

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Elyse Andrews

- The University of Canterbury

Elyse was nominated for this award due to her results and her service to the NZSTA.

Imogen McLeod

- The University of Auckland

Imogen was nominated for this award due to her growth into a great clinician, her compassion as a therapist, and for being a hard-working team member and ambassador to our profession.



Imogen McLeod

Simone Eaton - Massey University

Simone was nominated for achieving excellence in all areas of clinical practice in her final year of study, as well as her excellent workload organisation, ability to plan novel and enjoyable sessions, and her skills in communicating with families.



Simone Eaton

FIELD SUPERVISOR SERVICE AWARD

Jess Clews and Anthony Ting

The Clinical Directors of the three programmes chose Jess and Anthony for their sustained commitment to student education, support in developing the supervision skills of other staff members, and for having a student-centric teaching philosophy.



Jess Clews, Elyse Andrews, and Anthony Ting

FUNDING GRANT

Beth Rees

Beth was awarded a funding grant to support her in presenting her research findings on pragmatic development of pre-school children with Down syndrome at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities World Congress in 2016.

Anna Miles

Anna was awarded a funding grant to support her team with their research proposal *Communication, Swallowing and Airway Outcomes after Laryngectomy in New Zealand*.



Anna Miles (left) with Sharynne Mcleod

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Research Excellence Award is sponsored by Stella Ward.

Ellen Faithfull

Ellen was awarded the Research Excellence Award for her project *The Experiences of Whānau and Kaiako with Speech-language Therapy in Kaupapa Māori Education*.



Ellen Faithfull (right) with Claire Winward

SIR DON BEAVAN MEMORIAL AWARD

Jessamy Amm

Jessamy was nominated for this award to support her Master's study and research on KiwiChat Camp. For more about KiwiChat Camp, see p. 17.



Jessamy Amm

NZSTA AMBASSADOR AWARD

Bridget McArthur

Bridget was nominated for this award for her excellent work within, and ongoing advocacy and awareness-raising for the profession.



Area Updates

NORTHLAND AREA

Lucy Schumacher

19 members

The Northland Area extends from Kaiwaka to Cape Reinga, with most of our members based in Whangarei. We had a period of about eight months without an Area Representative. During this time, meetings were run by Brooklyn Davis who was up in the Mid North while on maternity leave. At the end of last year, I became Area Rep.

We have been holding our meetings at Whangarei Hospital, which means we can video conference with Kaitaia Hospital, allowing some Far North members to take part. Members prefer video conferencing to teleconferencing.

This year, attendance at meetings ranged from seven to twelve members. After our last meeting we had dinner out, with around ten members present. This was a great opportunity to network and socialise, and to spend time with a relatively big

group of Speech-language Therapists, as most of us are part of small teams. We plan to have dinners again in the future.

The major challenge in our area is the lack of funding to provide an equitable service to our population.

Over the next year, we are looking forward to being involved in raising the profile of Speech-language Therapy through the Giving Voice Aotearoa campaign.

AUCKLAND AREA

Fern Maxwell

272 members

This year we have seen fantastic attendance at area meetings, with the help from DHB therapists across the region to facilitate the use of video conferencing. This has been a great success. Contribution towards meetings, particularly around this year's Giving Voice campaign, has been outstanding, and has led to very animated discussions across the region.

We have continued last year's theme of having topics of interest to discuss at each meeting. This continues to be successful and generates good discussions. Sharing professional development topics and problem-solving situations across the region has been a great way to end meetings.

I'd like to finish with a thank you to all Auckland members for their continued contribution to the profession and to the Association. A special thank you to Becca Hammond for facilitating the use of video conferencing with such high success this year.

WAIKATO / BAY OF PLENTY AREA

Annabelle Blue

46 members

It's hard to believe we're already over halfway through 2016. I have settled into my new role as Area Rep after taking over from Hazel Gray at the start of the year. It has been another successful year for our area, with steady attendance and contribution at teleconferenced area meetings. Our members cover a wide region, from Kawerau to Papamoa; Te Kauwhata across to Thames and the Coromandel; down the coast as far as Opotiki, Taupo, and Rotorua, and down to Taumaranui and Te Kuiti. We continue to have attendance from private practitioners as well as MOE and DHB employees, and it has been great to have a variety of perspectives from both education and health clinicians.

With the NZSTA's new Expert Advisors, we as a region have appreciated the learning and development opportunities that have arisen through contact with these individuals. In addition, we have had numerous professional development events, including a routine-based early intervention course, an online course in infant and child VFSS, an aphasia workshop for health professionals, courses from Genesis Hospice, Hanen e-seminars, *webinar* sessions on head and neck cancer, supervision courses, and DHB regional study days.

Keeping members' interest in the area meetings has at times been challenging. The inclusion of professional development time is one way we have continued to maintain attendance. Presenting a case study, article, or similar at

each meeting has encouraged discussion, which can then be included as points in members' CPD logs.

There have been a number of staffing changes across both the MOE and the DHBs in the region over the last year, which has seen us welcoming quite a few new clinicians.

Tauranga Hospital has recently undergone the training required to participate in the VERSE aphasia research therapy programme. Waikato Hospital has successfully been running a full day of adult inpatient cover on Sundays for the last year. The Bay of Plenty MOE team has been among the first to introduce a Communities of Learning model into their practice.

As well as these innovations, we have also had some members undertake post-graduate study over the last year. Robin Matthews is in the midst of a pilot study of suitability of different assessments for patients with Parkinson's disease as part of his PhD. Gwen Lake is working on her Master's project on the clinical implications of objective analysis and interpretation of VFSS in Speech-language Therapists' decision making.

We look forward to building our membership numbers and encouraging member participation in the NZSTA over the coming year.

CENTRAL AREA

Emma Irvine

50 members

It's hard to believe we are over halfway through 2016 already! With the NZSTA conference, the Olympics, and the countdown on 'til Christmas, it really is a fun-filled few months ahead!

There have been a number of staff changes across our region, so I would like to welcome all those who have joined the Central Area over the past year. There have also been a number of new additions to many members' families—so we would like to give a warm welcome to all those babies born in the last year and congratulations to their parents.

Meeting attendance in the Central Area has continued to grow, with many members taking advantage of teleconferencing, and a number keeping me company in Palmerston North. We continue to get a great presence of health, education, and

private practice therapists joining us. It has been great to have so many members attending, which makes for great discussion. Palmerston North has hit 100 FEES since starting in mid-2015. Taranaki DHB is very close to starting the use of cough reflex testing in their service.

Another highlight has been the continued increase in the number of professional development events our members have been able to attend. A wide variety of courses, seminars, conferences, and *webinars* have been attended locally, nationally, internationally, and online. A constant challenge is the wide geographical area that the Central Area covers, making it difficult to get people to the face-to-face meetings in Palmerston North. However, workplaces within the area are joining up for people to call in to the teleconference, which makes for great networking, so I continue to encourage members to take the opportunity to meet up with colleagues in other workplaces in your local area.

WELLINGTON / NELSON

Claire-Elle Roberts

83 members

The Wellington / Nelson region is now home to 83 enthusiastic members. Throughout 2016, there has been a steady growth in attendance at area meetings, with many people joining both face-to-face and by teleconference. It has been great to have such an increase in attendance, which has led to strong discussions around subjects raised by the Executive Council and others. We have also been lucky to have members share knowledge and articles with others; this has been a great addition to the meetings.

Hutt Hospital has begun running Sensory Feeding classes with a parent component that have led to great successes.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Sally Schoon, a member of our Wellington Region who has just been awarded an NZSTA life membership. Her enthusiasm and love for Speech-language Therapy is evident when she attends our meetings, and we are so proud to welcome another life member to our area. *An interview with Sally appears on pp. 6-7.*

2017 looks set to be another exciting year for us Speech-

language Therapists with the recently launched Giving Voice campaign. I look forward to helping develop the Association's presence in our region.

OTAGO / SOUTHLAND AREA

Eleanor Jackson

45 members

Another year has flown by for Otago / Southland area members! We currently have around 45 active members in Invercargill, Central Otago, Dunedin, Oamaru, and everywhere in between. We have been holding our quarterly meetings in Dunedin, where we have anywhere from six to twelve members attending. On top of this, we usually have a handful of members join us via teleconference or Skype from outside the Dunedin area. We have members attending our meetings from a range of workplaces, including private practice, education, and health. We are continuing to problem-solve around how best to connect all the members in such a large geographical area, as the teleconference and Skype facilities are not always ideal.

There have been a number of new graduate therapists commence work in the Otago / Southland Area over the last year and they are settling into their working lives as well as getting accustomed to the wintry weather!

The Dunedin Aphasia Community Support group has just celebrated its two-year anniversary. There is a regular group of people with aphasia and their partners who attend the fortnightly group. It is great to have this support group in the area and I commend Alison Zani on the fabulous work she does to facilitate this group. *For more about the Dunedin Aphasia group, see pp. 4-5.*

Members continue to attend a number of professional development events. There has been a noticeable increase in members attending online conferences and workshops. These tend to be much more accessible, and it is great to see so many people utilising these opportunities. We currently have three local members who are NZSTA Champions for the International Communication Project, and we look forward to being involved with upcoming work on this project.

NZSTA Conference 2016

Enhancing Lives through Partnership

WORDS: R. LUCAS VAN RYN

PHOTOS: R. LUCAS VAN RYN / FREESTLYE EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY



What a fantastic three days! Attending the NZSTA conference Enhancing Lives through Partnership has been one of the most memorable highlights of my year so far. With over 80 presentations, workshops, and posters, the conference has been a wonderful collaborative success. I thought I'd be exhausted by the end of each jam-packed day full of ideas, information, and insights, but I found myself leaving still enthusiastic about all things Speech-language Therapy!

Thank you to everyone who made this conference a success. It was fantastic to spend three days around so many enthusiastic, awesome people, to have so many of you share your work and expertise, and to see the results of the hard work and planning that made this all possible.

Beginning the conference was a pōwhiri with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei as mana whenua. "For these three days, this is our marae; this is your whānau." By the end of the conference I

certainly felt like part of the family. After the pōwhiri (and, of course, sharing some kai), I attended the keynote lecture by Sharynne McLeod. Sharynne underscored the many shapes partnerships can take, from how we can (and should) listen to the children we work with, to how we can make the government listen to us.

Everyone loved the pictures that Sharynne showed us, drawn by children when asked to draw themselves talking to someone. Many of the children had depicted their conversation partners with big ears. I was reminded later of the importance of listening to our clients when I was chatting with Dean Sutherland on the bus to the conference dinner, and everyone else was chatting too: "Us SLTs love to talk, but often one of the best things to do with our clients is to—" Dean zipped his mouth shut.

After lunch, we split into groups to attend talks on a multitude of topics, including group therapy for stuttering,

service delivery on weekends, risk feeding, cultural competence, mindfulness meditation, and keeping up with our Speech-language Therapy graduates. It was hard for me to choose what to go to; someone later commented that the mark of a great conference is that you can't get to everything you want to.

Wednesday ended with a workshop for the Giving Voice advocacy campaign. Run by Helen McLauchlan and Dean Sutherland, this session encouraged us to all think about successes in our practice and our workplaces, and generated some very successful discussion leading into campaign messages for the year. *Photos from the workshop may be found on p. 3.*

Thursday morning began with a keynote address from Ann Smail, recipient of the prestigious Grace Gane memorial award. Ann is now general manager of the TalkLink Trust, and she talked about developments in AAC in the 25 years since TalkLink's founding (*for more, see pp. 8-9*). Although AAC is so often all about technology, its true successes aren't always technological—they are people stories.

Ann was joined by Geneva Tino and Lusi Faiva, two AAC users. Geneva talked about being a mentor at KiwiChat camp, a camp held for children and young people who use AAC devices, and their families. This is one of those true success stories—inspiring for both young people who use AAC and for their Speech-language Therapists. *For more about KiwiChat Camp, see p. 17.*

Lusi has used a variety of



Practicing fricatives with Sharynne McLeod.



Lindy McAllister.

communication devices, beginning with simple communicators with no speech output. She spoke on stage using an iPad. But what has changed her life wasn't just the technology. When Lusi was two, she didn't know she had a disability and had no way to communicate with others. It was her teachers Mr. and Mrs. Jones, taking her under their wing and teaching her to read and write that changed her world completely. Lusi told us this story through a video she made with Touch Compass Dance Company. This was one of the most moving parts of the conference, and brought tears to the eyes of many of us—including me.

The NZSTA's AGM was right after lunch and was fantastically well-attended, culminating in a special 65 years' celebration and the investment of a new NZSTA life member, Sally Schoon. *An interview with Sally appears on pp. 6-7.*

I later attended Lindy's workshop on peer group mentoring. Many workshops on peer groups encourage you to think about what you'd do when (and if) you set up a peer group when you get back to your workplace, but Lindy got us into groups then and there, of therapists who work in the same region and sector, to discuss the structure and format we'd like for a peer group, and I'm confident that these groups will continue well past the end of the conference.

These peer groups underscored for me the many ways in which partnership was a true theme of the conference—it extends beyond the presentations on how we can create and grow

partnerships, to the partnerships made between individuals at the conference who talked with each other about their practice and grew ideas for future work together.

In the evening, we headed down to the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron for the conference dinner. Everyone was looking fabulous, and it was a great chance to keep socialising without having to run off to catch that talk you didn't want to miss. Between courses at dinner, the recipients of the NZSTA awards and grants were acknowledged and presented with their awards. Congratulations to everyone! If being in a room full of Speech-language Therapists wasn't inspiring enough, the high calibre of clinical practice, education, research, and student achievement from our award recipients is something to inspire us all. *A list of award and grant recipients appears on pp. 8-9.*

By the end of the night, only a few of us had made it to the dance floor. It seems like it's hard to get Speech-language Therapists dancing because everyone enjoys talking so much!

Friday morning, still feeling the conference buzz (or was it the caffeine buzz?), I attended Lindy McAllister's keynote presentation. Lindy spoke of many kinds of partnerships, including partnerships between universities and healthcare providers to provide student-led service delivery, and international partnerships leading to the establishment of a Speech-language Therapy programme and clinics in Vietnam. Lindy reminded us of the diverse forms



Linda Hand, Sharynne McLeod, Lindy McAllister, Dean Sutherland, and Ann Smail.



partnerships can take and the range of benefits they can bring us all: "In a true partnership, benefits flow in both directions."

Sharynne ran a very practical workshop after lunch on how to assess the speech of multilingual children. What do you do when you have a client arriving in two hours who speaks a language you don't really know anything about? Sharynne has the answer! And now, so do we. There is a wealth of resources available, including 'cheat sheets' to help you get familiar with the sounds used in many different languages. These can be found on the Multilingual Children's Speech website at <http://www.csu.edu.au/research/multilingual-speech> (or <http://tx0.org/aw>).

Sharynne later had us getting into groups and practising fricatives, and showed us that the IPA isn't as scary as it seems. (As a linguist, I feel qualified to say that, actually, I think it is!) But I agree with Sharynne that having a client who speaks a language you've barely heard of due to arrive shortly needn't be scary.

It's hard for me to decide what stands out about the conference—I found everything outstanding! While the calibre of our speakers was fantastic, conferences aren't just about listening to presentations. They're about partnerships in a very real way: re-igniting old friendships, making new connections, and thinking about future collaborations.

Our Placement at Spectrum Care

WORDS: KATE PROSSER AND ALICIA POSTHUMA, SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY STUDENTS, MASSEY UNIVERSITY

What is Spectrum Care? What do they do? These were our initial questions to each other after finding out we would be starting a 12-week placement at Spectrum Care in Onehunga. A quick Google search revealed that the organisation runs residential care homes for adults with disabilities across Auckland and Hamilton with a vision of supporting “people with disabilities living great lives.” We read inspiring real-life stories about the people who are supported by Spectrum Care. Although we were still unsure about what we would do as Speech-language Therapy students, this placement looked like an exciting opportunity in a field which is relatively new to Speech-language Therapists.

During our placement, we worked closely with Community Support Workers (CSWs), empowering them to use AAC to support their clients who have communication difficulties. For many of the CSWs, AAC was a foreign concept. However, it was great to hear them express relief when they developed skills to communicate more effectively with their clients. It was a rewarding



Alicia Posthuma and Kate Prosser.

experience to see adult clients initiate requests on core boards for the first time, and to see other clients gain greater independence by having more frequent opportunities to make choices throughout their day. This reinforced the importance of always assuming competence in our clients, and the essential job that we have as Speech-language Therapists in providing people with ways to communicate.

We also had the opportunity to participate in dysphagia management for

our clients. We were able to support the Speech-language Therapy team with their development of an organisation-wide dysphagia screening tool, and a new dysphagia training program for CSWs. Dysphagia is often under-diagnosed in the populations Spectrum Care works with, but this is being addressed by the introduction of organisation-wide dysphagia screening, and by training CSWs to recognise common signs of dysphagia and to use safe feeding strategies. This was a great opportunity to work alongside other health professionals and staff within Spectrum Care to target complex swallowing and feeding concerns with a holistic and practical approach.

Our time at Spectrum Care was a valuable experience not only for the development of our clinical skills, but also for developing our understanding of the successes and struggles in the lives of adults with disabilities. We would like to thank our supervisor, Angela Hausman (Speech-language Therapy Team Manager at Spectrum Care), and the rest of the Speech-language Therapy team for the wonderful support we received.

KiwiChat Camp 2016

WORDS: PAULA SHENNAN AND MAGNUS HAMMARSAL, THE TALKLINK TRUST

The fourth KiwiChat Camp was held over ANZAC weekend, 2016. Twenty families from around the country descended on Totara Springs Camp in Matamata for five days of therapy activities, parent workshops, and the vast selection of activities Totara Springs has on offer.

Participation was the focus throughout the five days of camp. The theme this year, Superheroes, proved to be very fun and motivating! The TalkLink therapists were ably supported by Speech-language Therapy volunteers, Speech-language Therapy students from The University of Auckland and Massey University, and Occupational Therapy students from Otago University. They were all innovative and imaginative in providing communication opportunities throughout the day. Modelling communication using the very large core boards was a great success, as evidenced by an increase in communication exchanges. It was great to see the confidence of the Speech-language Therapy and Occupational Therapy students in using AAC grow throughout the camp.

Dean Sutherland from The University of Canterbury met with parents and facilitated a discussion on parents' perspectives and experiences, which included looking at the 'bright spots' and recognising that parents are the

real experts. Parents then heard about real-life journeys from our KiwiChat Camp Ambassadors: Gabby, Geneva, Mackenzie, and Nathan. Very inspiring!

A very moving ANZAC service was held on ANZAC day, recognising some of the superheroes who defended our country in the wars. Campers and their families took part in the ceremony, including reading poems, reciting prayers, playing the last post, and joining in for the national anthem. Poppies for the ceremony had been made during an activity the day before.

We all had such fun: during therapy sessions, planning skits for the show, at meal times, and taking part in the many adventurous activities organised by our hosts at Totara Springs—these included a Flying Kiwi, hot pool, hydro slide, and Human Foosball. Totara Springs is an amazing venue; some families commented that the camp had been the first opportunity they have had to participate in the outdoor activities on offer and that nobody stared! A highlight of the camp for TalkLink staff was seeing families connecting with each other and lifelong friendships being made.

The next KiwiChat Camp is planned for 2018. In the mean time, the TalkLink Trust also runs KiwiChat Days. These are single-morning events, often organised in conjunction with local schools.



Communication happening throughout the day.



Jessamy modelling communication on a wearable core board.

They started in Auckland many years ago, but have now spread across the country. Students who use AAC and their caregivers are invited once a term for a morning of fun activities focusing on communication. We have recently had Speech-language Therapy students helping us with these events, providing support for TalkLink and learning opportunities for the students.

HiSpeak: Assistive Communication Technology for CPAP and BPAP Mask Users

The HiSpeak is a voice amplifier designed for people who use respiratory masks, such as for CPAP and BPAP systems. Respiratory masks, being made of thick plastic, muffle the user's voice. The HiSpeak can amplify even weak or whispered speech, the volume of which can be controlled. This means that patients are less isolated; the HiSpeak enhances, and, in some



The HiSpeak.

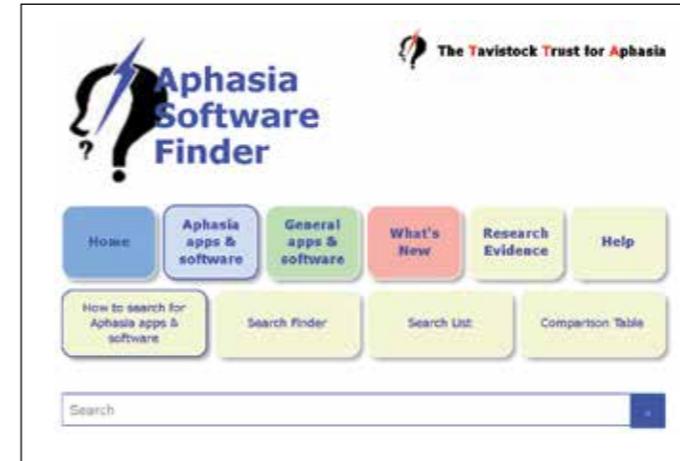
cases, makes possible communication between patients and caregivers, families, and friends.

Developed in New Zealand, the HiSpeak has been tested in trials at hospitals and hospices, and now has clinical product approval in a number of New Zealand hospitals. It can offer patients a more humane, non-invasive option.

The HiSpeak consists of a microphone which attaches to a respiratory mask, a compact battery-powered amplifier, and a set of headphones. It can also be used with a loudspeaker. The equipment is comparatively cheap and is reusable. It is suitable for such applications as respiratory care, emergency centres, respiratory wards, hospices, intensive care, respiratory research, and teaching. It is easy to use and it does not interfere with patient care or monitoring.

Jennifer Angelo, a Kowhai Coordinator at the Otago Community Hospice, says about the HiSpeak, "I used the HiSpeak system with a patient here at the Otago community Hospice who has Duchene's Muscular Dystrophy and uses a bi-pap full face mask. The HiSpeak was helpful for the nurses to begin to understand this patient. Further, the counsellor, who met with the patient two times found it to be extremely helpful. She felt she could be respectful of distances (not intruding into his personal space) and with the help of the earphones hear his concerns. After our trial period, we purchased the HiSpeak so we have it available whenever the need arises."

To find out more about the HiSpeak, see <http://hispeak.co.nz/>.



The Aphasia Software Finder

The Aphasia Software Finder is an online resource which aims to help people with aphasia and professionals working with these people find software to assist with aphasia therapy. It is a free resource funded by the Tavistock Trust.

The Aphasia Software Finder was launched seven years ago. Since then, there have been many changes in both software development and aphasia therapy, and the Aphasia Software Finder continues to be updated. Based on feedback from users, the website (<http://aphasiassoftwarefinder.org/>) has recently been redesigned to be more user-friendly.

The searchable database includes software for aphasia therapy, as well as programs that can assist people with aphasia, including:

- To-do lists and daily planners
- Word prediction
- Screen readers and text-to-speech
- Symbol-based AAC

The website has been designed to be clear and easy to use. Aphasia-friendly descriptions of each program are provided, along with summaries for Speech-language Therapists. The site has recently been redesigned to be accessible not only on desktop computers and laptops, but also on tablet computers and smartphones.

The listings include a growing number of programs for mobile platforms, including iPhones/iPads. Search results give information about which platforms are supported, as well as the cost of programs—both freeware and commercial software are included. The What's New page shows which software has been updated recently. In addition to software listings, the project also maintains a list of research papers on computer therapy for people with aphasia.

If you work in the area of therapy for people with aphasia, I encourage you to check out the range of tools available.



Annette Rotherham – Communications

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September has seen some big leaps for the NZSTA. Firstly, the NZSTA conference Enhancing Lives through Partnership was fantastic and well-attended. Attendees enjoyed positive energy and inspiration to feed upon. New Zealand is in good hands with all these amazing therapists moving and shaking to the SLT swing in the worlds of health, education, private practice, and our Speech-language Therapy training institutions.

The Giving Voice Aotearoa awareness campaign has started off with a bang. We are currently in phase one, “Finding our Voice.” An informative workshop held on September 7 at the conference was very well attended. *Photos from the workshop appear on p. 3.* Thanks to the facilitation of Helen McLauchlan and Dean Sutherland (past presidents of the NZSTA) we gained some valuable insights into the breadth and depth of work that our profession is contributing to the society of Aotearoa in so many settings. Recognition is growing of how often Speech-language Therapists take the lead in new initiatives and of the specialist skill-set we have for working with people

with communication and swallowing disorders—these attributes set us apart from other allied health professions.

Participants came up with many examples of how they train others and enhance their communication environments to enable increased participation. Further information on the campaign will be spread via the NZSTA website. NZSTA will also launch their new website in early October, so keep an eye on cyberspace!

Another project that will keep the NZSTA and The New Zealand Audiological Association focused and productive for the coming six years is winning the bid for New Zealand to host the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics (IALP) conference in 2022.

Anna Miles and myself, sponsored by Tourism New Zealand, waved the flag, talked the talk, and presented the plan at the IALP conference in Dublin this August. We were thrilled to be successful, and enjoyed the celebrations at the conference dinner. I was so privileged to attend this conference



Anna Miles and Annette Rotheram at the IALP Conference in Dublin.

and to represent the NZSTA on the International Communication Project meetings. Many productive meetings were had with the six organisations on the Mutual Recognition Agreement—you can’t beat meeting face to face! We gave two successful presentations which created much discussion and enthusiasm internationally. Communication Access will be a key project for the ICP. Another outcome of the face-to-face meetings was to support the development of resources and guidelines and of international communication symbols via the platform of the ICP.

With so many goals ahead, I am feeling very inspired by the colleagues I have met and talked with about the important work we all do. We need you all to jump on board the awareness and advocacy bus to Give Voice to those affected by communication and swallowing disorders. Ann Smail, in her Grace Gane Award presentation declared she was now a *Communication Activist*. I’m going to be one too. I hope you’ll join us.
Annette



Karen Brewer – Māori and Cultural Development

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KIA ORA KOUTOU,

I am writing this a little early because I will go on parental leave before the NZSTA conference. I hope that by the time you read this, we will be celebrating a successful conference. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the arrangements and smooth running of the pōwhiri and poroporoaki. In planning the conference we approached Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, as mana whenua in the area, and asked them to open and close the proceedings. The resulting pōwhiri and poroporoaki were the way they chose to do this. We are grateful to Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei for their manaakitanga. I hope that at future NZSTA conferences and professional development events around the country we will be able to engage with mana whenua in a similar way.

Preparations for the pōwhiri highlighted the many obstacles we face as an organisation in our quest to be responsive to te Tiriti o Waitangi and an international leader in cultural responsiveness. We did not have a kaumātua to guide us and represent us when meeting with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. We were fortunate to find someone to speak for us at the pōwhiri, and grateful for his support, but this was a struggle since we don’t have our own kaumātua or men who speak te reo Māori within our association. It is wonderful that Waimirirangi Andrews, a Speech-language Therapist, is prepared to karanga for us. The magnitude of this responsibility and Waimirirangi’s generosity in doing this must not be underestimated.

In other news, He Kete Whanaungatanga continues to meet quarterly in support of the Māori and Cultural Development portfolio. We presented a poster at the NZSTA conference—a complicated exercise that turned into a labour of love for Tracy Karanui and Ruth Pologa. If you didn’t see the poster at conference, a PDF copy will be available on the NZSTA website in the near future.

We have now had two successful meetings of a tuakana teina group for Māori Speech-language Therapists and Speech-language Therapy students. If any Māori Speech-language Therapists or students are keen to connect with our group please let me know. We are also keen to meet and support Māori men and women who are thinking about beginning Speech-language Therapy study. If any NZSTA members would like to set up a similar group for Speech-language Therapists of their culture, ethnicity, or language I am happy to support you in getting up and running.

I’ll be busy caring for a new baby over the next few months, but life goes on in the Executive Council so your emails will receive a response from our admin team or a member of He Kete Whanaungatanga.

Noho ora mai,
Karen Brewer



Jodi White – Member Networks

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HI EVERYONE,

I hope you are all enjoying the longer hours of sunshine. As introduced in the last issue of Communication Matters, we have new email addresses for all correspondence. Please update your address books to reflect these. The new emails will prevent loss of data/information when portfolios are changed between representatives. This should ensure that there is now a trail of information, which had previously been lost at times when roles had transitioned.

Area Representatives have email addresses *ar.northland@speechtherapy.org.nz* and so on, depending on which area you reside in.

Student Representatives have email addresses *sr.massey@speechtherapy.org.nz* and so on, depending on which university you attend.

We are still looking for information about the history of the NZSTA, and would appreciate copies of any photos or documents members may have in their archives.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the area meetings. We have had some wonderful contributions during recent meetings. In particular, there was a huge response to the questions asked around the Giving Voice campaign. Your responses, combined with those from the Giving Voice workshop held at the NZSTA conference, will guide the campaign for the coming year. The Executive Council is happy to receive all queries, and we try to provide full responses to

include as part of the national collated meeting minutes. The minutes, with responses from the Executive Council included, are now available on the NZSTA website at <http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz/pages-after-login/exec-documents/exec-minutes> (login required, or <http://tx0.org/ax>).

This issue's advice about CPD points is to think about low-cost/no-cost options. Reading journal articles is an excellent way to gain points for free. You can access a number of journals via the website, including Speech, Language and Hearing; Canadian Journal of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (CJSLPA); American Speech-Language Hearing Association Journals (ASHA) (abstracts available to view); Folia Phoniatica et Logopaedica – International Journal of Phoniatrics, Speech Therapy and Communication Pathology; Speech & Language Therapy in Practice (abstracts available to search and view). Copies of articles can be ordered through the Resource Room. For further details of how to access journals, check out the web page at <http://www.speechtherapy.org.nz/pages-after-login/resources/journals/> (login required, or <http://tx0.org/ay>).

Please continue to engage with your Area Representatives and area meetings; it is a great help to the whole association.

Ngā mihi,
Jodi



Claire Winward – Professional Development

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KIA ORA KOUTOU,

A short report this time round as I'm all conferenced out—many thanks to everyone who presented and attended for making this such a success! I've made many new connections thanks to conference conversations. I'm already busy thinking about our Symposium in Rotorua in 2017 and am keen to hear from anyone who has any ideas or who might like to support with planning.

Congratulations to all our award winners, who have been profiled elsewhere in this issue (pp. 8-9). We look forward to hearing from some of our funding grant winners in Rotorua!

The next task on my agenda is to follow up on bringing the Resource Room into the 21st century. In 2017, we will be looking at which resources and assessments are most used in order to purchase duplicate copies, as well as redistributing anything not used regularly or out of date. There may be opportunities for members to re-home some of these resources at a later date, so watch this space.

And finally, for anyone wondering how many desserts two Speech-language Therapists can eat between them at a conference dinner, the answer is at least seven—at which point we gave up counting.

Hei konā mai i roto i ngā mihi,
Claire





Anna Miles – Professional Standards

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NZSTA Conference 2016 - 'Enhancing Lives through Partnership' – wow – what a success! Thank you very much for all the high quality presentations from our members.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Thank you to those who contributed to the 'Captioning in New Zealand' Parliamentary Submission. It is great to now see NZSTA members advocating for our community so frequently.

We are making gains with a number of new guidelines: Supervision, Risk Feeding, and Paediatric Feeding.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT

This edition, I thought I'd remind everyone of this special agreement. This is an important agreement between the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC), the Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists (IASLT), the New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association (NZSTA), the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), and the Speech Pathology Association of Australia (SPA).

Signatory associations agree to a number of benefits for all members: negotiated principles of standards and education, exchange of knowledge, mobility of members between countries, and promotion of international understanding of the role of Speech-language Therapists. This agreement improves Speech-language Therapy standards internationally. Without this special relationship between countries, working overseas would be considerably more complex. The Mutual Recognition Agreement signatory associations meet regularly to review and revise processes and assess applications from other international associations.

Enjoy the last quarter of the year!
Anna Miles

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR COMMUNICATION MATTERS

Summer Issue 2016/17 – November 28, 2016
editor@speechtherapy.org.nz



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