

GOLF DAY



Nudgee Golf Professional John Downs with Heather Lawton of Deaf Services Queensland and Vern Smerdon, Nudgee Golf Club President

The 2009 Nudgee Golf Club opening day is an annual event where club members, families and friends gather to celebrate the spirit of Nudgee Golf Club. Proceeds of the day assisted deaf people to improve their lives through the services provided by Deaf Services Queensland. A big thank you to the Downs family, golfers, management and staff at Nudgee with over \$4,000 raised to support our services.

DEAF MAN WALKING



Rob Roy is a Deaf comedian who has managed to take his exciting and unique show *Deaf Man Walking* to audiences all over the world. Rob Roys brand of visual theatre, signed songs, storytelling and jokes was enjoyed at the Gold Coast in April. Proceeds from the event support the work of Deaf Services Queensland.

COME & TRY PROGRAM



Cassandra Stephens with the Come and Try Hip Hop instructor

The Come and Try program provided young Deaf and hard of hearing people the opportunity to try something new through a variety of art forms to help build confidence and self esteem. The program was conducted during the Easter school holidays with workshops including sculpture, Hip Hop dancing, photography and visual arts. The Come & Try program was funded by the Tennyson Ward through the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund.

BEHIND THE SUN



When Sue Nielsen's grandson was born deaf in 2003, the family were keen to develop communication skills and commenced learning sign language. At the time Sue was also writing the sci-fi novel *Behind the Sun*. She has woven the use of Auslan within the novel.

As a further commitment to the world of Auslan communication Sue is donating 10% from the sales of the book to Deaf Services Queensland to support Deaf children and their families. If you love a good sci-fi then *Behind the Sun* is available on amazon.com and suenielsen.com.

Facebook

Deaf Services Queensland is now on Facebook! Our organisation is committed to using new technologies to keep in touch with the community and Facebook helps us do this. Facebook is a free social networking website and will keep you up to date with upcoming events and service information. Feel free to add Deaf Services Queensland as your friend. You can join Facebook at www.facebook.com. It is free to join.

Deaf friendly smoke detectors

People who can not hear a standard smoke alarm may be eligible for financial assistance to help buy special smoke detectors. The Queensland Government now offers a subsidy of up to \$400 for eligible Deaf and hard of hearing people to ensure appropriate smoke detectors are fitted in the home. For more information regarding the smoke alert subsidy refer to the Department of Emergency Services website: www.emergency.qld.gov.au/smokealarms/Internet_text_for_interim_rebate.html—then open the application process summary.

Become a member

Deaf Services Queensland members have a voice. They vote on important issues, help change policy and legislation, assist in developing new models of service delivery and can contribute to building community awareness.

If you would like to become a member and help improve the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people then contact Deaf Services Queensland.

OUR SERVICES

- AUSLAN Interpreting Service
- Sign On Employment Service
- Community Services
- Life Style Support (LSS)
- Community Education
- Family Programs
- National Relay Service

REGIONAL OFFICES

Cairns, Toowoomba and Maryborough
For further information:
Phone: (07) 3892 8500
TTY: (07) 3892 8501
Fax: (07) 3392 8511

Deaf Services
QUEENSLAND



deaf views

AUTUMN 2009

MENTAL HEALTH & DEAFNESS WORKSHOPS



Deaf and hard of hearing people experience obstacles in life due to the fact that deaf and hearing people are unable to communicate with each other.

This can lead to isolation from the world in which they live and result in relationship difficulties, self esteem and identity issues, depression and anxiety. As part of Deaf Services Queensland's commitment to the 4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness happening in October at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, our Community Services team are meeting with members of the deaf community to discuss issues surrounding mental health and its relationship to deafness. This is to create a greater awareness about mental health and how to recognise and support people with mental health issues. These workshops so far have received fantastic feedback with more workshops being planned.

For more information about the Mental Health and Deafness Workshops or the Congress please refer to the 4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness 2009 website:

www.mhd2009.org

Receiving support for 30 odd years ... Sharryn's Story



Sharryn Gilshenan, Lifestyle Support Worker Brian Feldman with Jeffrey Gilshenan

I cannot say how much I appreciate the assistance Deaf Services Queensland has given me and my son Jeffrey over the past 30 odd years. Their programs have given me the support I needed to raise Jeffrey so that he can live as an individual in the community. Without Deaf Services Queensland's help, Jeffrey would not be the person he is today.

In June 1964 I contracted rubella and I was very concerned about the potential effects of this disease on my unborn child. Unfortunately, my fears were confirmed when my baby was born. My son was not only born profoundly deaf in both ears; he was also born with a hole in his heart; eye malformations, and a cerebral palsied right leg.

The doctors did what they could to help me understand

Jeffrey's disabilities and provided support but the future seemed very grim. At six months of age Jeffrey was wearing hearing aids in both ears which were of little benefit. I was given mixed messages as to what to do to help develop Jeffrey's communication skills. In addition to being busy with Jeffrey, I gave birth to two other children so my life was very busy juggling the needs of all my children as well as trying to maintain a balanced family life.

As Jeffrey grew a little older, he attended the Dutton Park School for the Deaf, but his extra health concerns meant that he was frequently in and out of hospital and his participation in school was sporadic.

I felt really awful about Jeffrey's position. He was so isolated from the rest of the Deaf community

and simple tasks were really difficult for him to perform. He had very little comprehension of the English language, used limited sign language and had difficulty socialising amongst his Deaf peers.

I learnt about the Queensland Deaf Society (as it was then known) while Jeffrey was in school. At this point I was really happy to find an organisation that was able to help me take care of Jeffrey and also provide him with a support network. A high point in his life was when he lived at the Society's residential hostel in Newmarket. He loved it there and I knew he was being looked after by caring staff who best knew how to communicate with him and help him develop life skills.

Every day he would go work at the sheltered workshops run by the Society. This was a place where



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AUSLAN Alphabet



Receiving support for 30 odd years ... Sharryn's Story

he could work according to his capacity. This was wonderful as it gave him purpose. Unfortunately the Residential facilities were closed down in the early 80's so Jeffrey rented his own accommodation. This life change was tough but Deaf Services Queensland was still a big part of our lives and continued to support Jeffrey with his day to day living needs.

I became a single parent around this time and needed to work full time to support my family. This was a particularly tough time for me so I couldn't imagine how I would have dealt with it all without the support of Deaf Services Queensland.

Jeffrey is now 45 years of age, has his own unit and receives one-on-one support from Deaf Services Queensland. The wonderful staff members at Deaf Services Queensland continue to help him with his shopping and living needs and continue to teach him lifestyle skills.

Help us continue this much needed family support work in Queensland

Since 1903, Deaf Services Queensland has been supporting the quality of life issues for Deaf people in Queensland through the provision of a range of services including; family education and social support, employment assistance, counselling services, communication facilitation, and life skills training.

Our Lifestyle Support team help many families like Sharryn's. This service helps Deaf adults with other disabilities to live a quality independent lifestyle through one on one support. To get involved and help us provide this valuable service to the Deaf community, please complete the donation slip.

Deaf Services Queensland is on the move

Deaf Services Queensland has travelled a long and celebrated journey over 106 years of serving the Deaf and hard of hearing community in Queensland. Launching as the Queensland Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission to the well known Queensland Deaf Society in 1972, our current operations as Deaf Services Queensland is now taking the next step.

Deaf Services Queensland has purchased a property at 915 Ipswich Road, Moorooka. This property will continue to service the Deaf and hard of hearing community and provide a secure premises for our operations. We look forward to the beginning of this new chapter in our history at a time when we also celebrate 150 years of the establishment of the state of Queensland.

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Although having worked in this field for over 30 years, I find it difficult to describe the pride I feel on behalf of our wonderful staff, when they receive the kind of acknowledgement given in Sharryn's story. Jeffrey is an achiever and so are the staff who help make his life more independent and fulfilling.

It is stories like Sharryn's that bring to life and give concrete meaning to the vision and purpose of our organisation. Our vision is of deaf people empowered connected and achieving. The reason we exist is to support liveability within the community and the lifeabilities of those we serve.

These stories also highlight the importance of financial support from the community. So many of the services we provide rely on funding and donations from the community. Their sustainability over the long haul, as in the 30 plus years for Jeffrey, is only possible with the generous support of our donors.

After 106 years of service, the last eight have been in rented premises, we are pleased to advise that we have recently purchased new offices in

Ipswich Road Moorooka. This purchase will save \$50,000 in the first year—money that will directly enable greater levels of community services now and into the future.

The 4th World Congress on Mental Health and Deafness, Brisbane 28-30 October, 2009 is fast approaching. As co-hosts with our partner organisation Deaf Children Australia, we look forward to this major opportunity to highlight the issues of well-being and mental health within the deaf and hard of hearing populations.

On many scales 2009 will be challenging for our community. For us it will also be a year of significant milestones and major achievement. On behalf of everyone here at Deaf Services Queensland, we thank you for your past generosity and look forward to your ongoing support as we embrace these challenging times.

Damian Lacey,
CEO, Deaf Services Queensland



New Program for Queensland

Deaf Services Queensland were successful in tendering to the Queensland Government to provide a new Interpreting and Translating Service.

The newly formed SWITC (Support With Interpreting, Translating and Communication) will address the diverse communication needs of people accessing disability services and will allow equitable access to information and support.

People from a non English speaking background with a disability will now be able to access services provided through Disability Services Queensland funded Non-Government Organisations (NGO's). The SWITC program will assist people who are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People;
- Deaf or hard of hearing people who use sign language;

- People from a culturally and linguistically diverse background including Australian South Sea Islanders, and
- Blind or visually impaired people who use Braille.

Non-government organisations would usually have to spend financial resources for interpreting and translating services; which is often not possible—SWITC will fill that funding gap.

Winning this tender reinforces and builds on our organisations' strength in providing quality interpreting and translating services across the state and represents our willingness and dedication to embrace other non-English languages.



Brett Casey, Simon Finn MP, CR Nicole Johnston, Paul Larcombe, David Gibson MP at the Switc launch



Deaf Services Queensland's Peter Bonser interpreting for Simon Finn MP at the launch



2009 marks the 150th year of the state of Queensland. To join in the celebrations, Deaf Services Queensland is capturing a visual history of our journey from the humble days of the Queensland Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission in 1903 to who we are today—a vibrant organisation providing support for Deaf and hard of hearing people to become empowered, connected and achieving. The history will be exhibited on a large foldaway display banner and is funded through the Queensland Governments Q150 Community Funding Program.



Q150 display banner funded by the Q150 Community Funding program

Yes, I would like to help



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You can request to have your details removed at any time.

My tax-deductible gift: \$30 \$50 \$100 \$250 other \$

My cheque payable to: **Deaf Services Queensland** is enclosed

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard Amex Expiry Date ___ / ___

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