With 2012 almost at an end it has been a busy year with a number of changes announced for NSW schools in all sectors.

For the state schools, we have a new integrated strategy called Every Student Every School (ESES). It is a strategy for building the capability of all NSW public schools to improve outcomes for students with disability and additional learning and support needs. It provides a structure, or framework, for improving and enhancing learning and support in our schools.

Every Student, Every School: Learning and Support is not a single program. More than 20 separate projects will operate throughout the NSW public school system in 2012 and 2013 through this strategy supported by an additional $47.9 million provided under the national partnership: More support for students with disabilities. The projects will help to build a strong and robust framework for learning and support in all of our schools, now and into the future.

With the announcement came several questions especially regarding our area of hearing loss.

“Will the allocation of learning and support teachers to regular schools mean that there will no longer be specialist positions available to support students in need?"

Through this initiative, every NSW public school will have direct access to a specialist teacher allocated directly to the school. These teachers are Learning and Support Teachers. Itinerant Hearing Support Teachers are in addition to these positions and will continue to operate in the same way as we have in the past.

From the workshops I have had involvement in regarding the ESES, I am looking forward to seeing positive change for our students’ class teachers, who will have opportunities to further their learning regarding disabilities with online learning. The course for hearing impairment will be available to them next year. Also too, every teacher with students in their class will be asked to complete a compulsory census. I’m hoping teachers see this as a positive step that leads them to learn more about their individual students. This in itself will also help guide us as TODs to further support the teachers and schools. We will hopefully learn about individual the teachers’ professional learning needs as they acquire greater skill in making relevant adjustments etc.

In the private sector there have also been some changes, with some Diocese now realigning the Itinerant positions into other areas. Parramatta Diocese has downgraded the Itinerant Teacher role as of December 31 this year. All Itinerants were informed that they would need to reapply for an Itinerant position of which there were few to be filled. The situation is still unclear at this stage however the Itinerants will no longer be known as Teachers of the Deaf, and will come under the umbrella of Diverse Learning Needs.

In regard to programs to train specialist teachers in Teacher of the Deaf courses, we continue to have the Masters program through Renwick College. Several cadet programs are available as well. So with the changing of the guard with retirement, we are lucky to have graduates coming from this quality program.

I am looking forward to the ANZCED conference next year in sunny Brisbane. An exciting and busy year ahead with this and the Deaflympics in Bulgaria. Have a great break.
Donna Rees
2012 EDSA President
An interview with Josh

Kin Beedie - IST(H) North Coast - Central Network

I met Joshua Chapman when he was three. He was a bright, blonde haired boy who had a terrific smile and a quick mind. We started with Signed English, Joshua had a disposition for gestures, not vocalisation, so learning to sign was to relieve the frustration and speech came soon after. By the end of Kindergarten Joshua was an oral child who no longer signed to communicate.

Today, Joshua is an elite athlete; he has represented his school, his state and his country at various times. I believe his passion for sport helped him participate more in his community. Sport allowed him to meet good, supportive mates and develop a firm sense of who he was and who he wants to be. Joshua is currently undergoing his trial HSC.

Question: Joshua Chapman, how do you see yourself, and your identity.

Joshua: I see myself as a Deaf teenager who can mix in both worlds, Hearing and Deaf.

Question: What do you think your greatest achievement in soccer has been?

Joshua: Going to the World Cup qualifiers in Korea in 2011.

Question: And in swimming?

Joshua: Going to the World Championships in Portugal for the Deaf in 2011.

Question: How old were you when you started representing in Sport?

Joshua: I was in Year 3 so about 9 years old.

Question: Do you think sport has helped your education or has it hindered you, stopped you doing things.

Joshua: It has affected it (education) definitely but it has also helped me in my knowledge of other cultures and experiences.

Question: Do you think you are well accepted by your peers here at school?

Joshua: Yes

Question: Do you think they care you wear hearing aids?

Joshua: No they get used to it.

Question: You stopped your ISTH support in Year 10 for a year, why did you do that?

Joshua: I just needed a break and wanted to try to be independent and see how I went. But I needed it back for support in the HSC.

Question: When you finish school what would you like to do?

Joshua: I’ve been thinking about going to University, either Griffith or Southern Cross Uni for something like a Bachelor of Health Science or a Nursing degree.

Question: Are you excited to be finishing school?

Joshua: Yes but I think I will miss it.

Question: What do you think you will miss the most?

Joshua: I won’t miss being told what to do but (ISTH is wildly pointing at herself) I will miss Mrs Beedie.

Question: You bought waterproof Hearing Aids recently to help with your competition swimming and Surf Lifesaving and north coast lifestyle?

Joshua: Yes: Aquaris

Question: How expensive were they?

Joshua: Almost $2,500

Question: How did you pay for that?

Joshua: It was a Christmas present from my parents, they paid for half and I paid for the other half.

Question: Do you work, do you have a part-time job?

Joshua: Yes I work at Woolworths, on the check out, normally about three times a week.

Question: Back to the Hearing Aids, why did you choose to buy them in the first place?

Joshua: I was thinking about going to Sydney for a Surf Lifesaving traineeship so I thought they would help me communicate with people in the water.

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News from around the state

North Coast Region 25th Annual Camp for Students with Deafness & Hearing Impairment

During late August the NSW DEC North Coast Region’s 25th Annual Camp for Students with Deafness & Hearing Impairment took place at Coffs Coast Beach School.

The aim of the camp is to bring together Hearing Impaired students aged 9 to 18yrs from NSW DEC public schools as far apart as Bulahdelah in the south to Tweed Heads in the north and out west to Inverell, to renew friendships, share experiences and participate in a variety of environmental and recreational activities. This leads to improved communication, social skills and growth in the areas of responsibility, self-reliance, confidence and cooperation.

During the camp the students participated in a variety of activities, some of which challenged their fears and some which were just plain fun.

These included: Rope climbing & rope swing, Canoeing, Sword Fencing, Archery, Circus Skills, visiting the Big Banana Water Park and other team building activities.

These camps are made possible through financial support of local Quota Clubs, various Lions Clubs, CDSE committees in the larger towns, many Community and Service Clubs and local businesses.

An interview with Josh - continued from page2

Kin Beedie - IST(H) North Coast - Central Network

Question: How are the Hearing Aids?
Joshua: Haven’t used them yet waiting for Summer and Surf lifesaving to start again. Haven’t worn them much at all but I’m pleased I got them.

Question: Is there anything else you think people would like to know about you?
Joshua: No, not that I know of.

A Deaf young man who has stayed at school to achieve his HSC, participated and represented in sport, has had a part time job and has good mates that support him. A supportive family and school have contributed to Joshua’s good sense of self and have certainly had a positive influence. But when I remember back to him when he was three years old, I think of the spark in his eye, the quick mind and that grin. I think Joshua Chapman can certainly congratulate himself as well. I wish him lots of luck, love and laughter in his future.
All abstracts for concurrent presentations will be reviewed by members of the Organizing Committee. Submission of an abstract implies permission to publish that abstract.

Concurrent Presentations
Forty-five-minute sessions (comprising 30 minute presentation, 15 minutes for questions, discussion and transition to the next speaker).

Interpreters
Auslan interpreters will be provided for concurrent session papers.

Key Dates
December 2012 Launch of website - Call for Abstracts
February 28, 2013 Abstract Submission Deadline
March 1, 2013 Commencement of Abstract Review by Organizing Committee
March 15, 2013 Author Notifications sent

Suggested Topics
Papers are sought on a variety of topics relevant to the education of Deaf and Hearing Impaired students. Suggested areas include:
- Mental Health/Resilience/Social Emotional Wellbeing
- Using technology in the classroom
- Language and literacy
- Early intervention
- Post school options
- Audiological management issues
- Working with deaf/hearing impaired students in mainstream settings
- Developing independence

Format for abstract
The following information must be provided

1. Proposed title of concurrent paper
2. Presenter(s) Details
   - Main Presenter Name, Address, Work telephone, Home telephone, Email address
   - Co-Presenters Names, Addresses, Work telephone, Home telephone, Email address
3. Audiovisual requirements
4. Please indicate if presentation is in Auslan and voice over interpretation is required
5. Note any additional questions you may have
6. Abstract: approximately 250 words submitted by email as a Word document to anzced2013@gmail.com
News from around the state
Illawarra & South East Region Primary Deaf Camp 2012

During November, 28 students from our region and an additional 6 students from the Campbelltown area came together at the Berry Sport & Recreation Centre for our annual Deaf Camp.

We spent 5 days at Berry from November 5-9. Berry has amazing facilities and is located in an absolutely beautiful rural setting. As an added bonus this year, we had great weather throughout the week!

This is the 5th year we have run this camp and though the organisation is time-consuming and somewhat stressful, the overwhelmingly positive outcomes for students clearly justify holding these camps each year.

The Lions’ Clubs across the N2 district have been generous once again. Without their support these camps would simply not happen. Special thanks goes to Syd Hyett from Narellan Lions’ Club who worked hard on a submission to get clubs to make an annual commitment to our primary deaf camps.

As always, the children enjoyed the usual camp activities: canoeing, swimming, bushwalking, cookouts, rockclimbing, craftwork, the giant swing and raft building. It was the first year we had been offered raft building as an activity and it was a real hit with the kids. It encouraged team spirit, and had the children working together industriously from day one, even though many of them had never met each other before.

Leadership Awards for outstanding participation and peer support were presented to a number of students: Brandon Scholze, Kira Connolly, Grace Posthuma and Zaidyn Melrose. Shania Aldridge from Eden High came to camp as a teenage mentor to the younger students. Her contribution was apparent and she was highly commended by the supervising teachers for her work with the children.

The staff at Berry Sport & Recreation Centre are always fantastic and this year was no different. Matt and Nick were great fun and the kids loved them! We couldn’t run these camps without the dedication and commitment of the itinerant staff who volunteer to stay and supervise the students. This year, the ‘stayers’ showed amazing stamina, but after 5 days were all happy to head for home and the comfort of their own beds!
Final Notes

On behalf of the EDSA Committee I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and a well-deserved break.

Congratulations to those elected to the Committee in 2013 at the recent AGM.

Just a reminder that this newsletter relies on contributions from around the state. These may be anything that may be relevant to others in the field.

Please send contributions to Michael Harrison before the deadline for the next issue.

Comments and suggestions for future editions are also welcome!

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Submissions for EDSA Newsletter are very welcome and can be sent to Michael Harrison via email Michael.Harrison7@det.nsw.edu.au