

# WASLI Newsletter 2008 - 04



*WASLI is committed to the development of the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide*

- WASLI has a New Vice President
- WASLI attends ASLI Conference – 21 Years
- WASLI Secretary in Singapore
- SLIANZ 2008 “Best Practice: The Bridge to Professionalism” 12-13 July 2008 New Zealand

## **WASLI NEW VICE PRESIDENT – Juan Carlos Druetta**



WASLI would like to introduce its new Vice President.

“Hello. My name is Juan Carlos Druetta. I am Deaf. I was raised in a Deaf family my parents, my 2 brothers and sister are Deaf.

I currently work not only as an interpreter and Feedback Interpreter of International and Argentinean sign language but also as an Interpreter Trainer in the Sign Language of Argentina.

I am developing a career as a Sign Language Teacher, and I am also very committed to Research both in Sign Language and Socio Linguistic-Anthropology of the Argentina Deaf Community.

I work closely with National and Local Associations of the Deaf People in Argentina and also the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD). All of those are partners.

I was born in Córdoba, the second largest city of Argentina, where I developed most of my career in all kind of organisations related to the Deaf Community. I also spent one year in Nicaragua where I helped develop a database of Nicaragua's Sign Language that resulted in the creation the first Nicaraguan Dictionary of Sign Language.

I worked as International Sign interpreter in the WFD Congress in Montreal, Canada (2003); Madrid, Spain (2007); and WASLI Congress in Worcester, South Africa (2005) and Segovia, Spain (2007).



*(Above: WASLI Secretary Zane Hema, WASLI President Liz Scott Gibson and WASLI Vice President Juan Druetta - Photo taken during the ASLI 2008 Conference)*

I am really honoured to be the WASLI Vice President and, as a Deaf Person, to represent and work closely with Deaf and Hearing Interpreters and any other hearing and deaf persons in the world but particularly in Latin America, where there is still much work to be done, in terms of letting people know about WASLI and what it is doing.

I believe that my work with WASLI will be a change for all people who work as Interpreters for the different Deaf Associations and for Deaf People. I will work to increase the understanding between the Deaf and Hearing communities their culture and language. I will also work to develop the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide."

*Thank you to all of you who sent in Message of Congratulations.*



## **ASLI – Celebrates 21 Years**

The Association of Sign Language Interpreters (for England, Wales and Northern Ireland) celebrated 21 Years 5-6 April 2008 during its Conference "Looking Back – Going Forward". The Conference attracted a record number of participants (over 300) and this included a number of overseas delegates from Argentina, Ireland, Cyprus, Sweden, Denmark, US and Canada. There was also a delegation of colleagues from Scotland.



*(Above: The WASLI President giving a message of greetings to the ASLI 2008 Conference on behalf of WASLI in International Sign)*

The WASLI President attended and offered congratulations to ASLI thanking them for their support to the work of WASLI and for their work in setting up a "GIVING UP A DAYS PAY" fund. This allows members to give up a days pay or part of a day into the Fund and the monies are used to support interpreters overseas. Already the fund has been used to sponsor a colleague in Madagascar to attend WASLI 2005 and 2007. Funds were used this year to sponsor a delegate from Argentina to attend the ASLI event.

For more information about ASLI visit [www.asli.org.uk](http://www.asli.org.uk)

## SINGAPORE – WASLI SECRETARY VISITS

Area: 646 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 4,131,000

Capital: Singapore

Language: Malay, Chinese, Mandarin, Tamil, English

Currency: Singapore Dollar (US\$1=1.71 Dollar)

GDP: USD \$88,300

(Source: Readers Digest World Atlas 2006)



The WASLI Secretary made a visit to Singapore to run 2 workshops for the Singapore Association of the Deaf (SAD). The Association was set up in 1955 and its mission is 'to assist the Deaf to achieve a better quality of life and to enable them to integrate and contribute to society'.

There were 2 workshops one about how 'discourse mapping' can be a very effective way in preparing for and interpreting at an assignment. The second one looked working from sign language into English. Half of the participants were hearing interpreters and the rest was made up of Deaf people who were interested in attending and participating. This worked out to be quite valuable as the Deaf participants were able to learn a little more about what interpreters do and the interpreters were able to have the input of Deaf people signing live during the practical exercises.



*(Above: Members of the Singapore Interpreting Community and the Deaf Community)*





**Best Practice – The Bridge to Professionalism  
12-13 July 2008, Takapuna, Auckland**

New Zealand is an island country in the southwest Pacific Ocean. It lies about 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) southeast of Australia. New Zealand consists of 2 main islands, called the North Island and the South Island, plus a number of smaller islands. The country belongs to a large island group called Polynesia. Wellington is the capital city and Auckland is the largest city.

The Deaf Association of New Zealand (DANZ) is the National Association of the Deaf [www.danz.org.nz](http://www.danz.org.nz)

“SLIANZ is the Sign Language Interpreter Association of New Zealand and was incorporated in 1997. The first training course for interpreters was offered in 1985 under the NZ Association of the Deaf, but no further training was held until 1992, when a two-year diploma course at Auckland University of Technology (formerly Auckland Institute of Technology) was established.”

The current SLIANZ President is Alan Wendt and more information about SLIANZ can be found by visiting [www.slianz.org.nz](http://www.slianz.org.nz)

*WASLI wishes SLIANZ all the best for the 2008 Conference.*

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