



NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, number 2
Autumn 2008

ITSNT celebrates 20th anniversary

AUSIT biennial conference

Court interpreter briefing

NC mid-year meeting



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National Council Autumn 2008

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TREASURER	John Crone (Vic)
IMMED. PAST PRES (stand in)	Malcolm Leader (ACT)
PD COORDINATOR	Wilya Waldburger (NSW)

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ACT	Malcolm Leader
NSW	Somsak Patradoon
QLD	Ita Szymanska
SA/NT	Claudia Ait-Touati
VIC/TAS	Eva Hussain
WA	Yutaka Kawasaki

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From the editor

I would like to remind members that the deadline for the winter issue is **10 August**.

Special thanks go, as usual, to all contributors, and anyone else who helped.

Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome, as are any images (including author photos).

Please send any letters, articles or images for forthcoming editions to me at my new address:

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The editor reserves the right to edit or not to publish any item submitted for publication. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editor or those of AUSIT and its executive.

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Hearty congratulations to Louis vorstermans who has been granted Senior Practitioner status.

Since publication of the last newsletter, the following people have been admitted to the Institute as members or associate subscribers:

Pinar Aydogan, Barbara Bitzer, Sumati Chakravarti, Lisandra De Carvalho, Thuy Do, David Gosling, Teresa Grabek, Zoya Jammal, Mayumi Komeda, Wenyan Liu, Allyson Luo, Françoise Matthews, Ghoti Rafiqi, Olena Shevchuk, Tineke Van Beukering, Alanna Wilson-Duff.

Congratulations and welcome all!

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

AUSIT members Yveline Piller (nearest camera) and Odile Blandeau working at the UNIMA AGM conference held at the Perth Town Hall in April.

Dear colleagues,
 Welcome to the autumn edition of our *National Newsletter*. This most comprehensive President's report reflects the range of activities pursued by National Council and, I hope, will allow members a brief overview of the goings-on behind the scenes. I am very proud of this NC to date and it is my intention to make it the most hardworking and effective one ever.

National Council mid-year meeting

NC met in Melbourne on 19-20th April for a weekend of planning facilitated by John Peacock from NFP Analysts (a specialist consultancy and service provider to the not-for-profit sector). With Mr Peacock's assistance NC members worked on developing a new mission statement and goals, then ways of achieving these goals. All this has been formulated in a working document that will guide AUSIT NC for the next two years.

AUSIT's new mission statement

The mission of AUSIT is to advance the translation and interpreting profession and be the voice of its members.

AUSIT's goals

- Promote the members specifically and the profession broadly
- Provide education and events
- Inform and facilitate forums
- Provide relevant services
- Lobby and advocate
- Foster research
- Set and monitor professional standards
- Aim for best practice in association management

As you are well aware, many new AUSIT projects have been started, working groups have been established and volunteers have put up their hands to help AUSIT achieve these goals. The current NC acknowledges this and will continue with some of these projects, at the same time working on new strategies to help us achieve these goals sooner. I shall report on each of them below.

The appointment of PAMS as AUSIT's new Secretariat

As a result of AUSIT's administrative review and the tendering process, Professional Association Management Services, or PAMS, has been appointed by NC as AUSIT's new Secretariat

President's Report

Sarina Phan keeps members up to date with current AUSIT issues and events

commencing from 1 July 2008. This is a one-year contract with an understanding the arrangement will continue long term. PAMS is a Melbourne-based company providing management and secretarial services to professional associations. Members are invited to find out more information on PAMS at <www.pams.org.au>.

Both John Crone and I have met with Richard Gerner, Director of PAMS. We discussed some preliminary matters and AUSIT will be allocated an Accounts or Association Manager who will oversee day-to-day operations. AUSIT does not envisage any major problems with PAMS taking over its administrative operations.

Georges Mayes, our current administrator, has been notified of these developments and deserves due recognition for the contribution he has made as AUSIT's Northern Administrator, as well as over the last year as its sole Administrator. Georges' present duties will end on 31 July, allowing him to stay on for a month to assist with the transition.

NC is very excited by this move and look forward to introducing PAMS to the rest of the membership.

AUSIT National PD Program

To assist Willya Waldburger in her role as AUSIT National PD Coordinator, NC recently invited her to attend the mid-year meeting. Willya has reconfirmed her commitment as National PD Coordinator and in the next few months will:

- set up a PD team consisting of PD coordinators from each branch;
- gather and reorganise resources (programs and training materials) developed by each branch over the years;
- review all programs and allocate PD points for each of them;
- store and organise these materials to allow easy access for all PD coordinators;
- develop a national PD program



based on the branch annual calendar of events;

- support PD coordinators from smaller branches in seeking funding for their PD activities (including funding from NC);
- assist PD coordinators in implementing their PD programs.

Professional Development is considered AUSIT's greatest strength. Willya's role is supported by NC, branch PD Coordinators and PAMS (from 1 July), and will help AUSIT nationalise our PD program and improve the content and delivery of our PD workshops. This will also help create consistency in these workshops in terms of price and points allocation. At a branch level, her work will provide smaller branches with more support, financial or otherwise, in the delivery of PD events in their states.

This is a huge task and I believe we have exactly the right person for the job. I would like to ask branch PD coordinators to support and co-operate with Willya.

AUSIT Biennial Conference – 'Get Connected' 14–15 November, Brisbane

Our Queensland branch is hosting our next Biennial Conference – 'Translating and Interpreting: Get Connected!' A team of highly motivated members are working extremely hard behind the scenes to deliver the best AUSIT conference yet. Pencil 14–15 November into your diary, or better still, consider presenting a paper and start booking

(continued on page 4)



AUSIT's National Committee Back row L-R John Crone (Treasurer), Eva Hussain (VIC/TAS), John Peacock (facilitator from NFP Analysts), Malcolm Leader (ACT). Front row L-R Patricia Avila (Secretary), Annamaria Arnall (Vice-President), Sarina Phan (President), Ella Davies (WA), Willya Waldburger (PD Coordinator) and Somsak Patradoon (NSW).

your flights early! See the back page of this newsletter for more details.

Translators and interpreters steering committee meeting on competencies

In 2005 Service Skills Australia funded and managed a project called 'Career Paths and Training for Interpreters and Translators'. The purpose of the project was to investigate the skill needs of translators and interpreters and to determine the need or otherwise for national qualifications. A full report was produced and is available on the AUSIT website in the members' section. Following this report a forum was held in Canberra to discuss and decide on an approach for the development of units of competency and a qualifications framework for T/Is. AUSIT's position was established and forwarded to DEST (Department of Education, Science and Training). AUSIT wants a single Industry Skills Council to be the leading agency working in consultation with stakeholders. AUSIT also suggested that an advisory/reference group be established and a project manager appointed to oversee the development process of T&I competencies. The advisory group would comprise representatives from the T&I industry and from all relevant ISCs. Another group would also be set up to assist with the content of any training package. This group would comprise people in the T&I training area and from professional bodies such as AUSIT, ASLIA, WAITI and PAIT (Professional Association of Interpreters and Translators of New South

Wales).

We recently received news from Government Skills Australia that the project has recommenced and is now called the 'Translators, Interpreters and Bilingual Workers Training Package Project'. The project is being funded by The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and is sponsored by the same department and Government Skills Australia. The purpose of the project is to develop units of competency for translators, interpreters and bilingual workers to gain qualifications within a training package. Government Skills Australia has formulated a project team who will undertake the consultation and writing processes. Two consultants have been engaged to work on this project. They are Ms Heather Glass (former President of WAITI) and Ms Jana Scamorzin from Victoria. Ms Glass will assist this project in consultation with stakeholders. Ms Scamorzin has an extensive background in technical writing for the development of units of competency. Ms Tamara Shinner from GSA is the assistant assigned to work on this project.

AUSIT has been invited to be part of the project Steering Committee. The Committee is made up of 16 people, is broadly representative of the T&I community and consists of industry representatives, employers, employees and providers of training, as well as key stakeholders. In addition, representatives from three other Industry

Skills Councils with an interest in this work have also been invited to be members of the Steering Committee. The first Committee meeting was scheduled for 15 May in Adelaide. I represented AUSIT on this Committee and shall report on it to you all in due course.

AUSIT's membership with Associations Forum

Membership of Associations Forum allows NC members to attend member meetings free of charge. At these meetings AUSIT representatives have the opportunity to learn and network with members from other associations. It is also a fantastic way for AUSIT to promote its members to other industries.

On behalf of NC, this year I have attended three such AF member meetings. Topics were 'How to Increase Your Membership by 1000' and 'The Role of the President vs The Role of The CEO'. I have found the sessions extremely useful for my role as President.

Eva Hussain and I attended the most recent member meeting in Melbourne where we learned from Philip Dalidakis, CEO of the Victorian Association of Forest Industries, ways to maximise our relationship with government. This is an area where I feel AUSIT still lacks expertise, but at this event I also learned that AUSIT is not alone and many other associations still lack the know-how when it comes to working with governments, be they state or federal. The discussions also gave me some ideas on how to support local branches in establishing working relationships with local and state governments.

Meeting the Hon. Chris Evans, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

The meeting above was quite timely as AUSIT's request to meet with the minister has been accepted. A meeting has been scheduled for 18 June; Malcolm Leader (NE Member, ACT) and I will attend on behalf of AUSIT NC.

Code of Ethics review

At NC's recent mid-year session, Mary Vasilakakos and Sedat Mulayim gave a brief talk on the Code of Ethics review. On behalf of RMIT, Mary and Sedat expressed interest in providing AUSIT with their expertise for a review of the Code of Ethics. They are both NAATI-accredited practitioners and educators in NAATI-approved T&I programs.

Mary has over 25 years' experience in the design and implementation of T&I curricula, including whole modules on

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ethics and professional practice issues. Sedat has 15 years' industry teaching and training experience. An initial AUSIT team, made up of Patricia Avila, Barbara McGilvray and myself, has been liaising with Mary and Sedat on this project.

Following this presentation, NC believes that AUSIT needs to put together a project plan and perhaps should seek funding to engage a project officer before proceeding further with the review.

NAATI Regional Advisory Committees – RACs

NAATI's Regional Advisory Committees are committees set up by NAATI; AUSIT has a representative on each of these committees. The success of AUSIT's representation on RACs has varied from state to state over the years. This could be because RAC aims and objectives are a little unclear; AUSIT NC was given no guidelines for its representatives, and AUSIT representatives have been appointed by the NAATI RACs themselves. This matter was discussed at the recent NC meeting and it was resolved that:

- AUSIT NC will appoint its representatives to RACs based on branch recommendations;
- AUSIT representatives on RACs will report directly to NC;
- a policy on RAC involvement is to be developed.

AUSIT has also communicated these matters to Lindsay Heywood, CEO of NAATI.

The following members have been appointed as AUSIT's RAC representatives in each state for the period 2008 to 2010:

Malcolm Leader – ACT,
Somsak Patradoon – NSW,
Sam Berner – QLD
Claudia Ait-Touait – SA/NT,
Andre Bevez – VIC/TAS,
Jean Deklerk – WA.

Collaboration with other T&I associations

Following two initial summits via Skype, AUSIT, ASLIA and WAITI have agreed in principle that an Industry Reference Group be set up to serve as an advisory body to the public, including the government, on T&I issues. Other matters discussed included inviting other T&I associations to join, and further development of membership criteria. I have also proposed that the IRG

consider the adoption of AUSIT's Board of Professional Conduct.

For the next few months the group will work together to put in place protocols and a formal mechanism for collaboration, and aim to agree upon initial collaborative projects with timetables and milestones.

President of ASLIA Jemina Napier has recently had a baby and therefore Vice-President Marcel Leneham has taken over the role. Heather Glass has also stepped down from the Presidency at WAITI due to her role as a consultant for the Translators, Interpreters and Bilingual Workers Training Package Project. WAITI Vice-President Khin Myo Myint has stepped into the President's role.

Changes to PD logbook

The AUSIT PD logbook received further changes relating to language skills maintenance for AUSLAN interpreters.

Website redevelopment

Our website is also being redeveloped and our Vice-President Annamaria Arnall will soon reveal AUSIT's new look. Apart from making it more attractive, the redevelopment will also help members and the public navigate more easily when visiting the AUSIT site.

OTHER BUSINESS

NZSTI Annual Conference — 31 May–2 June 2008 Auckland

I am attending the NZSTI Annual Conference in Auckland this year. In addition to participating as a practitioner, I will also be meeting with the President of NZSTI Henry Liu and his committee to discuss collaboration between our two associations. I hope to see some of our AUSIT members there!

Annamaria Arnall to represent AUSIT at XVIII FIT World Congress

I am delighted to inform you that Annamaria Arnall will represent AUSIT at the XVII FIT World Congress in Shanghai. I am sure she will do us proud.

Moreno Giovannoni retires from NC

After many years of hard work Moreno has officially resigned from the NC. On behalf of AUSIT, I would like to acknowledge the remarkable role Moreno has played as a leader, a mentor, and as a ready and generous contributor of ideas and hands-on advice on a diverse range of matters, including those relating to his broad

experience as an internationally known translator.

I would also like to inform you that Malcolm Leader has been made an Executive Member and thank him for taking on this additional role.

Current National Council Members

Executive Members:

Sarina Phan – President,
Annamaria Arnall – Vice-President,
Patricia Avila – Secretary,
John Crone – Treasurer,
Malcolm Leader – filling in for Immediate Past President.

Principal Delegates:

Malcolm Leader – ACT,
Somsak Patradoon – NSW,
Michela Schirru – SA/NT,
Ita Szymanska – QLD,
Eva Hussain – VIC/TAS,
Ella Davies – WA.

It's been a very busy few months and I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the *National Newsletter*. I thank my team for all the hard work they have put in and thank you, our members, for your support.

AUSIT stands for unity — united effort, a united front, unity of purpose!

Court interpreting briefing and performance

Claudia Koch-McQuillan

It has long been acknowledged in conference interpreting research and practice, as well as in international courts of law, that interpreter briefing and preparation is crucial for successful performance. Yet such briefing and preparation has not been the practice in Australian courts. All too often, interpreters receive only scant information about the assignment they are asked to undertake. Occasionally they might know nothing more than the name of the non-English speaking client, the charge, if they are dealing with a criminal case, and the name of the contact solicitor.

Despite efforts by the T&I community to educate lawyers and the judiciary about the role of interpreters, and despite efforts from members of the legal profession (such as during the last Critical Link conference held in Sydney in April 2007), misconceptions still persist about issues such as confidentiality and how best to work with interpreters. Furthermore, the use of interpreters is frequently seen as an element which not only causes delays in proceedings, but which will invariably involve loss of meaning in the communication between lawyers or judges and non-English speaking clients.

These misconceptions fail to take into account the experience and abilities of well-trained, qualified interpreters, as well as what lawyers can do to make the experience of working with interpreters as productive as possible.

In my experience as an interpreter, it is standard practice for interpreters working at conference, business or political negotiation level to be provided with wide-ranging background material. This allows the interpreter to gain an understanding of the subject matter, the terminology involved, and any cross-cultural and linguistic issues which may be relevant; ie they may be dealing with a non-English speaking client from a region where a particular dialect is spoken or where particular sensitivities apply.

On the basis of this background information the interpreter will then conduct extensive research into the subject matter in general, obtain monolingual and bilingual reference materials and frequently prepare a glossary of terminology. It cannot be stressed too much how crucial the understanding of the subject matter is for interpreter performance.

This was also confirmed in a thesis published by Fritz in 2006:

*'... Passages which did not make sense to the test subjects because they did not have available background and/or contextual information were consistently interpreted incorrectly or not at all. In case of such passages knowledge of isolated technical terminology was of no use either. This confirmed the presumption that source passage comprehension is the essential factor for correct interpretation.'*¹ [Author's translation]

Even though Fritz was referring here to simultaneous interpreting performance, the results can be applied to consecutive interpreting as well.

An interpreter with a good understanding of the subject matter can make appropriate decisions about terminology and register. An interpreter who flounders with technical understanding of the matters involved will invariably flounder with linguistic transfer.

Unfortunately, the experience of most interpreters working in the Australian legal system can be very different. I was, however, fortunate enough to work with a legal firm recently which

¹ Fritz, Silke: *Die Bedeutung von Fachwissen für das Simultandolmetschen. Eine empirische Untersuchung [The significance of technical knowledge for simultaneous interpreting – an empirical investigation]*, BDÜ, 2006.

ensured that the court interpreting experience was a very positive one for the members of the legal system, the expert witnesses concerned and the interpreters. This experience showed clearly what a difference it makes to have proper professional cooperation between interpreters and their clients.

I would like to relate this experience.

The Melbourne office of law firm Baker and McKenzie initially contacted another German interpreter and me well before the proceedings in order to confirm our interest, availability and rates. The fact that two interpreters were retained is in itself quite a radical step forward for an Australian case. It recognises that interpreting is a very demanding task which cannot be performed for extended periods without a loss of quality. It should also be mentioned that the rates negotiated reflected the high level of skill required for this assignment and were in line with conference interpreting rates.

Proceeding from this good start, the following elements made sure the entire interpreting experience was successful for all parties involved:

- an initial telephone briefing;
- a glossary of technical terms;
- a face-to-face briefing with legal counsel;
- access to witness briefings;
- technical support in court.

Initial telephone briefing

Once preliminary dates had been set for the first hearings, the interpreters received a telephone call from Philippa Murphy, the Senior Associate responsible for the conduct of the proceedings. During the call we were given a good overview of the case, including historical information on the sequence of events giving rise to the dispute, a summary of technical issues involved and an outline of the matter before the court. We were informed that we were to interpret for German experts and witnesses during their examination and cross-examination before the court.

Glossary of technical terms

Next Baker and McKenzie provided the interpreters with a draft glossary of technical terms. The dispute concerned mining equipment and involved highly technical terminology, some of which was crucial to the evidence given as, for instance, a fine and clear distinction needed to be made between various types of welding seams.

This allowed us to make our own enquiries and to research critical terms to ensure key terminology was used consistently throughout the proceedings; the glossary also provided us with a sound basis for additional terminological work. Also, we were able to resolve for ourselves any terminology issues in advance rather than risk inconsistency or imprecision during the hearings.

The opposing side retained a different set of interpreters who did not enjoy similar preparation and briefing, nor did they have the same access to terminology. They were given detailed information about the case, technical explanation of the machinery involved and bilingual reports translated by an engineer, from which they prepared their own glossary. They had five days solid preparation time — rare or even unknown in Australia, although common in European organisations — and the opportunity to ask questions at any time. However, they did not participate in any witness briefings and were not informed of the line of argument.

This different approach to interpreter briefing caused some delay in the proceedings because there was a need for questions to be repeated, clarified or rephrased in order to verify whether differences in evidence were due to a different choice of terminology by the interpreter or due to the witnesses actually relating objectively different evidence.

Face-to-face briefing

The third step was a face-to-face briefing with the legal team involved in the case. We were shown photos and a model of the machine concerned and were able to ask questions about technical terminology while having the model in front of us. This allowed us to gain more than just a theoretical understanding of the rather complex issues at hand — we developed a sound grasp of the matter.

The Baker and McKenzie lawyers also explained to us various aspects of their argument and that of the opposing side based on the current pleadings as filed by each party. Again this was very useful knowledge. In the context of court proceedings it is crucial that interpreters remain independent at all times; a balanced explanation of the respective parties' positions is important. At the same time, interpreters should be exposed as little as possible to a party's privileged matters or strategic issues.

Some may suggest 'interpreters only need to repeat in the other language what has been said in the source language', but being familiar with the drift of questions asked, especially in a legal context, helps an interpreter deal correctly with the highly complex questions frequently asked, particularly during cross-examination. It also helps an interpreter make subtle, yet important, linguistic decisions.

We also know from memory research that it is easier to retain input we can link with pre-existing information. Providing background information lessens the strain on the interpreter's memory.

As Fritz states: '...knowledge of isolated technical terminology' is not very useful on its own. We need to be able to link it to concepts and facts.

Participation in witness briefings

It is widely recognised that courtroom situations present much more difficult linguistic challenges to non-English speaking clients than work or everyday situations; interpreters may be required even where clients speak and understand English quite well. Some of the experts and witnesses in this matter had a reasonable command of English and were able to follow questions during out-of-court briefings with 'friendly' lawyers without interpretation.

We participated in (and interpreted during) the briefings in order to familiarise witnesses with interpreting procedure, to familiarise ourselves with the matter more thoroughly, and once again to clarify any terminology issues arising from the evidence. Within a few days we had expanded the draft glossary provided by Baker and McKenzie from four to about nine pages (in a small font).

These briefings also allowed us to gain an even deeper insight into the line of questioning to be expected during examination and cross-examination, which again supported our interpreting performance in court.

Technical support in court

Australian courts do not usually provide equipment for simultaneous interpretation. Yet the questions asked, particularly during cross-examination, can be extremely long and involved, with double, triple or even quadruple negatives, where missing one minor detail in the question may render the witness' answer obscure or even misleading.

In this case simultaneous interpretation was not possible, so we were grateful seating arrangements at the court were made so we could see the court stenographer's screen and 'sight interpret' the more complex questions from there. While this was still a demanding task, it allowed us to concentrate solely on our interpreting performance rather than on the triple tasks of note-taking, retention of information and interpretation. This arrangement also ensured that delays were kept to a minimum. We did not need to ask for questions or numbers to be clarified or repeated, and were able to focus our note-taking on the witness' answers.

I would like to suggest the above as a model for interpreter briefings and preparation in the Australian legal system. It is in the interest of lawyers and courts, as well as interpreters, to make sure that the process of interpretation is as efficient as possible and provides optimum results.

Thank you to Baker and McKenzie for their excellent support and to my colleagues, Uli Priester, Felicity Mueller and Anke Coxall for their input.

Since completing her degree in 1984 Claudia Koch-McQuillan (AICC, ITI) has been working as a freelance translator, and as a freelance interpreter since obtaining accreditation in 1992. Over the past 24 years she has gained extensive experience in the fields of legal, technical and medical translation and interpreting. She is currently accredited as an Advanced Translator and Senior Interpreter.

Three NT interpreters awarded for commitment

Maya Cifali attended the ITSNT 20th anniversary



Left to right: Carmel Batson (Auslan), Maya Cifali (French/Italian) and Keiko

On 11 April 2008, the Interpreting and Translating Service of the Northern Territory (ITSNT) celebrated its official 20th anniversary. The Minister for Local Government, Rob Knight MLA, invited five T/Is from Alice Springs to attend the celebrations in Darwin. They were Leony Bowey (interpreter in Tagalog Filipino), Carmel Batson (Auslan), Keiko Nishimura (Japanese), Anke Nagel (German) and

myself, Maya Cifali (French/Italian).

At the reception, the Minister gave the audience of more than 100 people an address congratulating the efficiency of the Service over 20 years, and lauded the contribution of the 120 T/Is registered with the service in facilitating the integration of persons of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) into Australian

life. This diversity makes the Northern Territory a particularly interesting multicultural community always in need of professional T/Is.

Also attending the celebrations were the Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Jim Laouris, the Head of the Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport, Ms Trish Angus, and Mrs Aurora Quinn, Manager of Language Services.

After the appropriate speeches and beautiful exotic dancing performed by a Pacific Islander group, the Minister announced and handed out various awards to some outstanding achievers.

Carmel Batson, Leony Bowey and I received an award for our high level of commitment to the profession. This was a pleasant surprise. Of course other T/Is from Darwin were also nominated and recognised for their special achievements, particularly with new/emerging languages. AUSIT's Aurora Quin was acclaimed and honoured as Manager of the service for 20 years.

The award, a piece of beautiful cut glass looks like a 'Logie' and reads:

ITSNT, Professional Commitment Award, presented to MAYA CIFALI for high level commitment to the interpreting and translating profession. 2008.

Afterwards we ate sandwiches, quiche and cake... and drank orange juice, but no alcohol out of respect to the many Muslims in our multicultural society.

Interpreters and puppeteers

A team of French, Spanish and Japanese interpreters from Perth and Sydney organised by Translators International had the good fortune to work at the UNIMA AGM conference held at the Perth Town Hall in April.

UNIMA, or Union Internationale de

la Marionnette, is the international association of puppeteers; numerous side-shows were held around the city, allowing some of the interpreters to reconnect with this amazing form of entertainment which transcends all language and age barriers.

This simultaneous-interpreting event

was considered special enough for the Perth Convention Bureau to organise professional photographers to take pictures for advertising purposes.

Yveline Piller

Clockwise from left: Yveline Piller, Simon (Congress Rental), Megan Shimoji, Rika Nishimura (Translators International), Masako Ogawa, Jerzy Brodzki (Translators International), Lidia Elicegui, Odile Blandeau. Absent from picture: Diane Rodriguez-Losada.



'I always thought that [building] bridges is the best job there is because roads go over bridges, and without roads we'd still be like savages. In short, bridges are like the opposite of borders, and borders are where wars start.' — Primo Levi, *La chiave a stella* (The Wrench).

Building bridges

Sam Berner interviews Mirna Cicioni

I had heard her described as 'militant', but the modest, bespectacled academic with a refreshing sense of humour who sat across from me nibbling at the kifte and baba ghanouj was anything but that. It was just as well though, because the disappointment was mutual — she had thought I would be a 70-year-old Yiddish-speaking male and former Bund member!

The dinner, which was supposed to be a quick 'Lets meet, I am in Sydney' affair, ended up being a five-hour talkfest, with the happy restaurateur heaping additions on the table. The result is yet another interview, which I hope readers will enjoy!

Sam Berner: I know you used to teach Italian Literature at Monash for quite some time, so this is where we are going to start our free association with the word literature. What comes to mind?

Dr Mirna Cicioni: I come from a family where nobody read anything other than the daily paper. As a child, I read adventure books and identified with either the male heroes or with those female heroes who were fearless warriors. As a teenager, I read John Steinbeck and William Faulkner.

I did a degree in English and German without really discovering that literary criticism was a serious discipline. This discovery came later, when I started working as a language assistant in a British university.

Literature remained mainly a pleasure until I was in my late thirties. I did a M. Phil. and a PhD in sociolinguistics and mainly taught subjects connected with Italian linguistics and Italian women. Since the department of Italian where I was working did not have a Renaissance expert, for a couple of years I taught Ludovico Ariosto's 16th-century epic poem *Orlando Furioso*. From a scholarly point of view I did it extremely badly, but I did pass on my view of the poem as great fun to two lots of unsuspecting students, who never



AUSIT member Dr Mirna Cicioni

found out much about Renaissance culture but really enjoyed themselves.

SB: You mentioned you had to add a second storey to house your books — I also had to move to a larger house as we were running out of space, so I fully empathise with this. What role do books play in your life, and how have they influenced you from a linguistic point of view? Which writer most affected your choice of career?

Dr Cicioni: It is very difficult to tease out specific answers when it comes to books in my life. I do read all the time — on the tram going to interpreting jobs, or in the parked car when I am waiting for a health professional during a home visit. But my reading is usually limited to two kinds of books. The first kind is connected with my research — right now I am working on an article about the Italian writer Clara Sereni and on a paper about possible queer readings of Italian Westerns. The second lot is light reading — thrillers, science fiction, fantasy. So as to read texts which are neither Italian nor escapist, I have joined

an Australian women's book club, which reads one serious work of fiction a month.

From a linguistic point of view, the first book I read in English, at age 15 or 16, was a POW story which was fairly well-known in the 1960s, Eric Williams' *The Wooden Horse*. I thought expressions like 'browned off' and 'goons' were the bee's knees. The first book I read in German (it took me absolutely ages and I don't think I ever actually finished it) was a Western by an early 20th-century writer called Karl May. Books I love leave linguistic traces in the way I articulate myself — I tend to sound a little like whoever it is I have read last, or like the characters of whichever television program I am interested in at the time. I am sure this is not at all uncommon, especially in the case of second-language use.

Other authors? There are Brecht's poems. How I'd love it if on my grave they wrote the Italian equivalent of 'She made suggestions, we carried them out.' The poem *In Praise of Doubt* has been stuck on my fridge for twenty years; every time it becomes too greasy and illegible I make another photocopy and replace it. There are also the science-fiction writer Ursula Le Guin, Heinrich Böll, Clara Sereni, and Colette — just to mention a few.

Writers who affected my choice of career? There's no easy cause-and-effect there. In the late 1960s I was deeply struck by the history of post-unification Italian language, which is one point I have been relentlessly stressing to my students when I teach; Italians never actually spoke Italian until the 20th century. This was partly for political reasons (Italy became a unified country only in 1860) and partly for a variety of cultural reasons (the language of the Catholic liturgy was Latin until Vatican II in the early 1960s). 'Italian' was a written language, modelled on written literary Tuscan, and used for literary and cultural communication. At the time of unification nearly 80% of the Italian population was illiterate. This initial understanding of the links between language, history and politics instantly drew me towards sociolinguistics, which covers correlations between language use and age / gender / geography / education etc.

The works of Primo Levi were similarly eye-opening from a literary and human point of view. I don't mean just his

(continued on page 7)



works of Holocaust testimony, with their passionate humanism and the scientist's effort not just to bear witness, but to analyse, be able to make general statements and find what could be learned from the death camps. I was affected also by his masterpiece, *The Periodic Table*, where you find observations about the language spoken in the Jewish communities in Piedmont, literary quotes, the passion (that word again) for laboratory research, the testing of hypotheses, and the lessons learned from one's mistakes. 'That's why we're in the world for,' he writes, 'to make mistakes and learn from them.' I hope that's what I do in my own life as well. And also his essays about insects and chess players and children's nursery rhymes and learning how to use an Apple Mac — the need to be curious about everything.

SB: So Primo Levi plays a very important part in your life?

Dr Cicioni: At nineteen I read *If This Is a Man* and it changed my life, because I started seeing 'literature' as something which informs more directly and more effectively than history books.

While working on my PhD thesis, I decided that when I grew up I wanted to be a person who mediated between Italian-Jewish writers and English-speaking readers. So one week after submitting my thesis I started writing my book: a straightforward, quite readable introduction to Primo Levi for

English-speaking readers¹. I am working on another book, a study of autobiography and humour in the works of four post-WWII Italian-Jewish writers. Primo Levi as a humorist? Yes, without a doubt.

SB: *I can understand a young heart falling in love with literature; a kind of 'been there, done that'. But you actually moved out of your comfort zone of native Italian, and went on to do English and German at University.*

Dr Cicioni: My parents, who

had to pay the university fees (which weren't that high in Italy, but still had to be paid), thought that law or political science (the areas I was more interested in) would not lead to a 'real' (ie remunerated) job. They also thought that languages would be easy for me because I already spoke fluent English, having been an exchange student in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA for a year. I started German from scratch at university. I have had a one-sided love affair with the German language for almost four decades: I love it, but have never managed to make the qualitative leap from *Mittelstufe* Zwei (making oneself understood on a variety of topics, reasonably intelligently, with several syntactic mistakes and lexical inaccuracies) to *Oberstufe* (being actually fluent).

I also did one year of French and one year of Norwegian — the latter because there were only nine students enrolled and the Norwegian Government had offered two two-month scholarships to Oslo. I won one scholarship, had a great time in Oslo, learned to make myself understood in Norwegian, and within a year promptly forgot every word I ever knew.

My life's dream is to be able to speak four or five languages badly but comprehensibly. I get an almost physical thrill when I can put together a sentence which a

¹ Cicioni, M. (1995) *Primo Levi: Bridges of Knowledge*, Oxford. Berg Publishers.

speaker of the relevant language actually understands.

SB: *Is that what led you to take up interpreting?*

Dr Cicioni: Not quite. My first full-time job after my initial degree was at the University of Salford (UK), where since the mid-60s they had run courses in what they called Liaison Interpreting. As a language assistant I helped write and act out dialogues, and picked up a few tips. In the mid-to-late 70s I was still in the UK, earning my keep with a variety of jobs and, although totally unqualified, I was signed up by a Manchester T&I agency. I did some interpreting jobs and enjoyed them. Then I migrated to Australia, where I held a demanding full-time academic job from 1979 to 2006. When I started considering retirement, I thought part-time interpreting, if I could get into it, would be socially useful as well as being linguistically and socially interesting. I was right. I wish the work was better paid and better organised, but that's another story.

SB: *What do you find most difficult about it? And most exhilarating?*

Dr. Cicioni: Most difficult from a performance point of view is work in courtrooms where barristers mutter with their backs to the interpreters and judges mutter away, quoting laws and decisions, without stopping to take a breath (or to let the interpreters do their job).

From a personal point of view, most difficult is the devastating boredom of interpreting in exercise classes. Also hard is trying to be both polite and firm with relatives who resent interpreters and cast doubt on their skills.

The most exhilarating part of the job is when you feel stretched yet miraculously find the right expression. Or when you don't find the right expression, but come up with something adequate all the same.

I feel useful if as a professional I have been able to gain a better understanding of the Italian speaker or family's situation. There is instant gratification, as opposed to the long-term perspective of my time as an academic: you leave the interpreting situation knowing you have been useful to at least two people. When you write an article or a book, you can only vaguely hope that someone, some time, somewhere will learn something from it, or will feel strongly enough to argue against it.

I enjoy the variety of people, dialects (I trained as a linguist and can understand Italian dialects) and situations. Occasionally there is a degree of human interaction with the Italian speaker. I wish I could give a few examples — obviously without revealing too much about the Italian speakers in question — but there is the issue of confidentiality.

SB: *You have been quite vocal about working conditions for interpreters. What do you see as the major issues, apart from the pathetic pay?*

Dr Cicioni: The positive aspects are, as I said, using one's language skills; acquiring more knowledge and more skills; constantly learning more about how social services, the legal system and the various branches of the health systems work; and getting to know our communities better. Another positive fact is that AUSIT is doing its best to make us visible and to encourage us to upgrade our skills. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was a repeat of the simultaneous interpreting courses?

However, I am glad my (bilingual) son is not contemplating interpreting as a career, because I would try to discourage him. If any of my former students ask me about interpreting as a life career, I tell them to think very carefully before they consider it. I cannot speak for translators, but as far as interpreters are concerned, I believe that we are caught in a cleft stick. On the one hand we are contractors, and as our colleague John Gare pointed out, there has been no legal challenge to our status as

contractors for ten years. Some of us — maybe most of us — see ourselves as independent businesspeople or, as someone wittily said during an online discussion on unions, as trade unions with one member each. On the other hand, unlike other skilled freelance workers, such as architects, dentists, or plumbers and carpenters, we do not set our own fees based on experience, competence, or client satisfaction. We have little alternative to accepting contracts from agencies which are in competition with and undercutting one another. The result is that, like plumbers, we do not have any superannuation, holiday pay, sick or maternity leave, while *at the same time* we are underpaid and earn far less than plumbers (my plumber charges me between \$120 and \$250 for 90 minutes' work).

So what are the alternatives? Some interpreters set up their own agencies in (potentially cut-throat) competition with other agencies. Other interpreters try to earn a decent living by picking, choosing and juggling a lot of underpaid agency jobs. National institutions such as Centrelink are notoriously poor employers. Ideally, I would like to see free-enterprise agencies coexisting with decently-paid part-time government contracts in various sectors. I don't know whether there has been any lobbying in this direction in the past, and would love to get involved in more lobbying, under the guidance of experienced people who have done it in the past. I fear that as long as each interpreter sees himself/herself as a *monad* in

competition with other monads, few individuals will thrive, and the rest will struggle to keep their heads above water. Any hope for change for everybody depends on collective action.

Levi wrote a book that had very little to do with the death camps. *The Wrench* is a series of stories about human work. He says: 'To exalt labour, in official ceremonies an insidious rhetoric is displayed, based on the consideration that a eulogy or a medal costs much less than a pay raise [. . .] We can and must fight to see that the fruits of labour remain in the hands of those who work, and that work does not turn into punishment.' But he also talks about 'the pleasure of seeing your creature grow, beam after beam, bolt after bolt, solid, necessary, symmetrical, suited to its purpose; and when it's finished you look at it and you think that perhaps it will live longer than you, and perhaps it will be of use to someone you don't know, who doesn't know you.' Every line of these statements represents what I believe about work — including my own work, past and present.

SB: *So the question is...*

Dr Cicioni: *Se non ora, quando?*²

² The title of Primo Levi's classic story *If not now, when?* which follows a number of Jewish partisans and resistance fighters during World War II as they struggle to survive and sabotage the German war machine behind Nazi lines, starting in eastern Russia and ending in Milan.

Multilingual winners

The winners of the two free subscriptions to *Multilingual* magazine for best submissions to this issue of the newsletter are **Claudia Koch-McQuillan** for her article 'Court interpreter briefing and performance' (see page 6), and **Ana Gioino** for her short story 'Ling and the American languages cylinder' (concludes in this issue overleaf).

Both receive an annual subscription (eight issues plus an annual resource directory) to the online and hardcopy editions of *Multilingual* magazine, courtesy of member Vivian Stevenson and *Multilingual* Editor Laurel Wagers.

Interesting & useful links

AUSIT member Jerzy Brodzki wrote to recommend us the magazine *The Linguist*.

The publication may be viewed on line from www.iol.org.uk.

AUSIT Biennial Conference
www.ausitconference.org

Guidelines for checking back translations

www.mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au/mhcs/subpages/material/GuidelinesforCheckingofHealthMedicalTranslations.pdf

Important dates

26 June

AUSIT NSW PD Workshop - Terminology management

30 June

Deadline for submission of papers for AUSIT Biennial Conference.

4-7 August

FIT XVIII World Congress in Shanghai.

14-15 November

AUSIT Biennial Conference (see back page and AUSIT website).

Archaeologists have finally made public the following dialogues and accounts, found in the year 1999 on digital disks in a platinum chest at the time of the City Link tunnel excavations in Melbourne, Australia. Parts of the disks have been translated from Cantonese into English so Australians may access them now, in 2008. Dates found on the disks cannot be explained by today's science.

Ling and the American languages cylinder

(A translator at the end of the century - Part Two)

Ana Gioino

11.35 am

'Mr Yuan, here's your tandoori chicken.'

'You are keeping good time, but remember deadline is still 1pm. Any luck, Ling?'

'No, Sir. Could we delete the bloody word?'

'It is against our code of ethics. You should know that. Some nerd would always discover we had deleted it.'

'Then what?'

'Blasted Americans! What region of the Americas is the freaking text from, anyway?'

'The southern part; I think it is from Argentina.'

'Ah! One place intact after the Devastation...'

'That is right...would you like me to go there?'

'You do like traveling Ling, don't you?'

'I have checked the fast shuttle schedules and all in all I could be back by afternoon tea time.'

'What will you do there, Ling?'

'I will go to the *Escuela de Lenguas* of the Universidad de Córdoba. I have learned that it is a leading authority in those surviving languages.'

'Can you not send a request by broadband email?'

'Those people are understaffed, Mr Yuan. You can't expect a reply today. You will miss the deadline. I will do it quicker and bring back the truth with some real fresh *alfajores*, and *caña Legui*, which has survived whisky and is dirt cheap over there.'

'Very well, Ling, we will charge the expenses to the Washington people. But do not mention the alcohol content of this trip to anyone.'

'No, sir.'

'And remember to take some Spanish-Cantonese ear chip decoders, with the

far-reaching tongue effect. Remember you looked quite dumb on your trip to France.'

'The batteries were faulty, Sir. I had kept them plugged in to my windmill for two hours! I will get moonlight powered ones this time. It is the cleanest source of energy. Did you know that?'

'Go, Ling, you are late! Deadline extended to 4pm.'

1.30pm

Ling entered the white building of the *Escuela de Lenguas* de la Ciudad Universitaria de Córdoba. The interview had already been arranged via his communicator decoder whilst he was flying, so he promptly met the Dean, señora Cresti de Gonzalez.

Using his ear microchip and wrist communicator, Ling and the Dean sorted out the matter in a few minutes.

'Pleased to meet you, Ling. So what is the word in question?'

'Thank you, señora Cresti de Gonzalez. The word is *rrope*.'

'Well Ling, *prima facie* it can mean that there is a misspelling, as *arropo* is grape syrup... Maybe I could have a look at your digital plate to investigate the context? I promise confidentiality...Ah, it refers to an extinct linguistic context... It occurs to me that you could go and talk to the linguist herself, the treatise's author. She has retired recently and lives in Ischilin, not far from here, Ling.'

'That would be lovely; it is just that I am pressed for time. How long would it take me to get to señora Scorzeli?'

'I will get our errand boy to ride you there on his fast motorcycle. There is a super-fast path along the river. No more than 20 minutes.'

2pm

Ling was finally about to meet señora Eulalia Scorzeli, the writer of the

monumental linguistic treatise on extinguished languages.

To his great surprise, he found her in the patio of her house by the river going over her *t'ai chi* routine.

'Hi Ling. They let me know you were coming. Welcome!'

Ling entered the patio to be greeted also by a few cats and dogs, a family of rabbits, a goat, a donkey and a few doves.

'Thank you, señora Scorzelli! You know why I am here then.'

'Yes, we will talk about it, but first have some lunch.'

Señora Scorzeli brought a tray with bread, wine, cheese and salami and they started eating.

'The word I am after is *rrope*. Why can I not find the translation anywhere?'

'Well it is really simple. I am talking about a time in the past when children had created a special jargon. They would change the order of the syllables in order to disguise the meaning of what they were talking about from adults.'

'*Rope* is really *perro* which in Spanish means "dog". Couldn't your computer figure that out?'

'Well, no...and are children no longer using this jargon?'

'Well, you see it is well known that the Devastation left us intact. But it is not so well known that we suffered an epizootic ulcerative syndrome, which killed all our dogs. Hence the word has not been used by children in their *jeringozo* (jargon) for the last fifty years at least.'

'But I saw two dogs in your garden!'

'Yes, thankfully the Marquisas Zoo was completely isolated from destructive bacteria and radiation; they sent us five invitro specimens a few years ago. The University, as a great honour, gave me two when I retired, and we are waiting to see if the species can be reintroduced. I have a male, Tabi, and a female, Tinka; she is expecting her first puppy.'

'So the word *rrope* in children's *jeringozo*, will be reintroduced then...'

'Maybe Ling, maybe. But this is many years away.'

'Señora Scorzelli, this is really fascinating! Why did you not put this in a footnote in your treatise? This trip was

unnecessary!

'Oh, Ling! I so wanted to test Johnny...! We have read so much about your Corporation; we thought you could translate everything!'

'And we can! Although I do not know what my boss will say about me being late! Our deadline was 4pm, and it is almost 4pm now!'

'I will give you some *alfajores* to take back to your boss, and some *caña Legui*. But before you go, we will play some local music for you at the cathedral.'

6pm

By the time Ling had finished his tour of the inner historical City of Córdoba, listened to music and songs, done his shopping and received some gifts, it was sunset. The *Dragon Fly lovers' Concerto* had started to play loudly on his wrist communicator, and a few

messages were already flashing there as well — from Mr Yuan naturally.

'Ling, what is happening? You are late! Did you get the word sorted out?'

Ling messaged back.

'Things got complicated, Mr Yuan. Do not worry; I will work through the night to complete the translation. I found the meaning of the word.'

'Do you think we can deliver by 3 am?'

'Yes, Sir. What about overtime payment? How many PD points will I get for this?'

'Ling, you are hallucinating. Those are old-fashioned concepts from prehistoric times. That is the effect of spending too much time in the Archives. Calm down. You cannot complain about your job with the Global Corporation.'

'Yes, Mr Yuan.'

Whilst the shuttle was taking Ling back to China at all speed, he was able to

rest his head on a small pillow. Dozing off sweetly after having accomplished his mission, he thought:

'Mr Yuan is right, even if he is a boss. I am only 23 and have been around the world already 27 times, counting this one. Like the hundreds of other translators at the Corporation, I will receive hefty honoraria for the rest of my life, no matter my age, and the payment will go to my children if I die, until they start work. The Corporation pays for all of my medical and legal insurances, my house and my food. I am respected and valued and... more than anything I love going to work as I can devote myself to my skill of translating without wasting precious time with the minutiae of money and bureaucratic matters. It is wonderful to be a translator at the end of the 21st century!'

Rural Auslan interpreting

Marleen Blake finds plenty of work in country NSW

I am an Auslan Interpreter in the Riverina area of NSW and would like to share some of my experiences since moving from Sydney to Wagga Wagga.

I had this preconceived idea that country life would be sedate and more relaxed for me as an interpreter. However, the extreme opposite is true. I started work last year and began commuting from Sydney to Wagga Wagga to support a Deaf client; the work has continued on into 2008. Since the travel was too tiring I decided to move, so since January this year we have lived here in a smaller community with a slower pace. However, since I am the only NAATI-qualified interpreter in the whole Riverina area and word has got out that Marleen is in town, my life has been booked solid.

Some weeks I travel three hours to a job and then three hours back after a two-hour job. I get to see a lot of our country and appreciate the extreme hardship of those who live on the land. I see many Deaf service and other service providers who are trying to meet the needs of their clients, but due to the lack of interpreter support in the country the service providers find this most difficult. I have been involved with

many areas of interpreting, including in the areas of health, education, working for the Deafblind, and even interpreting in operating theatres where clients need to be awake during procedures and have to be able to respond frequently using facial expressions only as their hands are tied to their sides to prevent them moving. I've worked in high level meetings and in situations requiring a lot of flexibility in language delivery suitable for clients. I am now learning that country NSW and Victoria have their own unique Deaf communities which, while spread far and wide, are integrally connected.

Due to a lack of Deaf awareness in these country areas I am one of three people involved in the establishment of a social and support group for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (HI) and Auslan students in the Riverina area. Two Deaf people and myself are interim board members and are making contacts within the community to provide interpreting support to Deaf and HI service providers. So far the response has been encouraging and we look forward to a fruitful year ahead in the Riverina area.

I am currently working for TAFE, NABS, the Deaf Society of NSW and Vicdeaf,

as well as performing freelance work. One reason I am writing for the newsletter is to ask whether there are any other Auslan interpreters willing to move to the country. There is plenty of work here for more than one accredited interpreter. I have been booked by a university for the next three years starting next year, meaning my time will be extremely limited for meeting the needs of the community, so if anyone is interested in moving to the Riverina area you will be made most welcome by myself and the Deaf community. Daily I say that I need a helicopter to get around to the various locations quickly as distances are so great, but I love my job and I wouldn't have it any other way. In my time off I am currently studying for a full-time BA of Social Sciences in order to become a bilingual service provider in my retirement.

Cheerio and please contact me if you are interested in moving to the Riverina area. Email: psblake1@blue1000.com. au or tel: 0416035955.

Maria H Blake (also known as Marleen) JP, BTh, has a Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training TAA401, and BSocSc (pending).

Languages at the University of Queensland

The School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies (LCCS) at the University of Queensland is going through a phase of growing enrolments and improved morale. In the last few months, there have been some positive developments in the languages sector at both federal and state level, which have contributed to a more positive outlook. The Rudd administration's enhanced stance on Asian languages is one of these factors. The University of Queensland's recent decision to join Group-of-Eight partners in the introduction of an entry bonus for students who complete a LOTE to Year 12 has been another. The LCCS has a busy schedule of initiatives and activities aimed at promoting languages at all levels. What follows is just a list of some of the most salient events in 2008.

Rhizomes IV: Power, Violence,

Language. This is the annual conference for postgraduates and early-career researchers (14–15 February 2008). The aim of *Rhizomes* is to provide an opportunity for scholars working within the Humanities and Social Sciences to engage in an interdisciplinary dialogue. This conference encourages the elaboration of varied perspectives on a theme (this year Power, Violence, Language) from a range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, and offers an opportunity for the in-depth collective discussion of issues, questions and outlooks.

Celebration of Year of Languages.

This year has been declared the International Year of Languages by the United Nations, with the aim of fostering and celebrating linguistic diversity around the world while warning about the risks of monolingualism and the rapid disappearance of minority languages. In addition, 21 May was declared the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. A half-day symposium was held on Tuesday, 13 May with the aim of celebrating the linguistic diversity of the UQ community, raising awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity,

promoting the role of the University in contributing to social cohesion and community understanding of language matters, and discussing the importance of foreign language literacy, the role of indigenous and minority languages, and the key role of languages in the globalised economy. The symposium included a public lecture by Professor Joseph Lo Bianco 'Are We Entitled to be Optimistic about Language Education in Australia?' and a discussion on the same topic with representatives from all language areas taught at the University and the school sector.

Public Lectures. The LCCS public lecture program for 2008 includes the above-mentioned contribution by Professor Lo Bianco plus two others later in the year: one from Professor Adolfo Gentile on Translation and Interpreting and another from Mr Ren Gongping, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China and Honorary Professor at LCCS, on Chinese diplomacy and the Olympic Games. Please refer to the LCCS webpage <www.uq.edu.au/slccs> for details.

Ambassadors Meeting. Ambassadors from Latin American countries will meet at the University of Queensland on 24 July to discuss relations between Queensland and the region. This meeting comes after the Group of Ambassadors meetings at the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne in 2007. For the first time, languages have been included as a major theme on the agenda. It is expected that ambassadors, senior university officers, Queensland Government representatives and the private sector will discuss initiatives to boost Queensland language capabilities, particularly in relation to Spanish and Portuguese.

Women in Asia Conference: 'Transition and Interchange' (29 September-1 October 2008). The WIA Conferences have been held regularly since 1981 and are supported by the Women's Forum of the Asian Studies Association of Australia. These are international conferences, with attendees from

throughout Australia and the Asian regions, including those who are working on or in the region. The theme for the 2008 conference is 'Transition and Interchange', which we hope will stimulate discussion on temporal and geo-cultural changes and interactions which may be understood in different ways and contexts. Immediate enquiries can be addressed to <wia@uq.edu.au>. The conference is supported by the University of Queensland and the Asian Studies Association of Australia.

AUSIT Biennial National Conference.

Readers of this newsletter will no doubt be aware that the UQ School of LCCS is the main sponsor of this year's AUSIT Conference. Translation and interpreting have been core areas of LCCS since its inception, with a number of undergraduate translation courses run in a wide range of languages as well as the award-winning Master of Arts in Japanese Translation and Interpreting (MAJIT). More recently LCCS has introduced a highly successful Master of Arts in Chinese Translation and Interpreting (MACTI). LCCS is currently considering professional degrees in other languages as well. The school enjoys a high reputation in the T&I professional sector and maintains excellent relations with key players such as Red Hat, NAATI, and, of course, AUSIT.

If you are interested in what's going on in Applied Linguistics, Asian Studies, Comparative Literature, or individual languages (Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish), just check the LCCS webpage <www.uq.edu.au/slccs> or call 07 3365 2013.

Associate Professor
Alfredo Martinez-Exposito FAHA
Head of School of Languages and
Comparative Cultural Studies

Apartment for Rent in Buenos Aires

Bright, with 3 bedrooms, bathroom + extra toilet for rent on a daily/weekly/monthly basis in Recoleta, fashionable heart of Buenos Aires (Argentina). Minimal noise in a quiet street still close to major shopping and public transport. Newly fully furnished, accommodates up to 6 people. Air con/heating and includes internet and unlimited local calls. Photos and plan available on request. Already taking bookings as tango season heats up! Contact Diana Rodriguez-Losada on 0429 019 375.

International Japanese English Translation Conference IJET-20 日英・英日翻訳国際会議(IJET) Organised by the Japan Association of Translators (日本翻訳者協会)

Date: 14-15 February 2009

Venue: North Sydney Harbourview Hotel
(next to North Sydney railway station)

Website: <http://ijet.jat.org/en/ijet-20>

Theme: Striving and Thriving

The next international conference of the Japan Association of Translators (JAT) will be held in Sydney on 14-15 February 2009, presenting a wide variety of content for translators and interpreters. IJET conferences attract T&I practitioners from around the world, so if you thrive on networking, don't miss this opportunity to make new friends on Valentine's Day 2009.

第20回日英・英日翻訳国際会議 (IJET-20)は2009年2月14日～15日にシドニー、オーストラリアのNorth Sydney Harbourview Hotel で開催されます。IJET-20のテーマは「努力と繁栄」です。IJET20のホームページ <http://ijet.jat.org/jp/ijet-20> をどうぞご覧ください。

For further enquiries, contact:

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Meg Shimoji meg@interpretaus.com.au

Co-chairs, IJET-20 Organising Committee

Who will be there to interpret the costs of protecting your professionalism?

Aon has again managed to negotiate, with our Australian authorised insurer, highly competitive premiums.

Keeping that in mind we have now improved our professional indemnity and public liability insurance designed specifically for translators and interpreters.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA



BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

WHEN:

14 - 15 November 2008

WHERE:

School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies
University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus, Brisbane

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