

**Translation memories — to share or not?  
Conference keynote speaker coup  
AUSIT membership policy update  
Court interpreter training**



# **AUSIT** in TOUCH

Quarterly Newsletter of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc

Volume 18, number 2 — Autumn 2010



Member organisation  
Federation Internationale  
des Traducteurs  
International Federation of  
Translators

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Front cover photos: Main picture — Linguist and creator of the Na'vi language Prof. Emeritus Paul Frommer (see interviews with him on pages 6-7) on the set of the film *Avatar* with director James Cameron. Inset — The crowd at AUSIT Qld Orientation Day.

## From the editor

The deadline for the autumn issue is **5 August 2010**. Thanks to all contributors, Tea Dieterich, my spy in the NC, and Mona and Adriana, for their suggestions. Please send any letters, articles or images for forthcoming editions to:

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## Important dates in local and international T&I

10-11 July 2010

**NZSTI Conference**

Christchurch, NZ

26-30 July 2010

**Critical Link 6**

Aston University, Birmingham, UK

30 September 2010

**International Translators Day**

November 2010

**AUSIT National Annual General Meeting**

5-6 November 2010

**'Synergise' AUSIT Biennial Conference**

Fremantle, WA

11-13 December 2010

**International Conference on Literary Translation**

Wellington, NZ

30 July 2011

**Next FIT Statutory Congress**

San Francisco, USA



- Stimulate the mind
- Enjoy the profession
- Interact with like-minded people
- Discover your colleagues
- Solve common problems
- Learn and teach
- Have fun along the way!

**AUSIT** Australian Institute of Interpreters & Translators Inc

**Synergise!**  
2010 Biennial National Conference  
Fremantle, Western Australia  
5-6 November

For registration and further information [www.ausitconference.org](http://www.ausitconference.org) or call 0430 650 494



# From the helm



## President Sam Berner discusses the new AUSIT website, membership renewal and changes to the migration on demand list

### Website issues

I have been accused, perhaps a bit unfairly, of losing my 'touchy-feely' approach to communication following the incident in which our AUSIT website became dysfunctional for God-only-knows how long. My rather official approach, which saw the National Council write an official letter to SIMB — the business responsible for the current website — requesting the immediate transfer of ownership and an explanation of why the website was not doing what it should, at least saw a prompt response from the SIMB business director, Andrew Chapman. The website has been fixed and Andrew has promised to transfer ownership. We also obtained the FTP login details, which allow us to back the site up independently of him and to obtain external help if we ever need it. I am still pushing for the automatic renewals to be fixed, and will continue with this approach until NC is satisfied the work needed has been done. 'The squeaky wheel gets oiled', as the saying goes.

The good news is that the static part of our new website can now be previewed at <http://ausit.admin.sitesuite.net.au/>. It does not as yet have any content and the member pages are not ready, but we are getting there. We have already five capable editors ready to start migrating content to the new site; all that is needed is for SiteSuite (our new provider) to give us the training in how to use the site. The first session fell through because the trainer got very sick, but we are hoping to get another one in the next few days.

Once the database is ready, it will offer members much more flexibility in marketing themselves. The migration is not going to be easy, as the old database is in Excel powered by PHP, while the new database is SQL — a better and more stable technology. The plan is to have both sites run side by side for about six months, giving all our members time to tailor their pages and migrate comfortably. Then we will upload the new site to the current URL address.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following AUSIT members for offering to help with this humungous task: Bradley Dawson, Wendy Wright, Catherine Pfammatter, John Benson, Silvana Pavlovska, Melissa McMahon, Marina del Greco, Maurite Fober and Alex Peterson.

We have also registered another domain name, [www.ausit.org.au](http://www.ausit.org.au), which will in the future mirror the new site in the event either one stops working or needs maintenance. It is always good to have more than one option.

### PAMS Review and New Membership Renewal Procedures

The fact that our current database has not functioned properly since September 2009 has led to a large number of memberships lapsing without members being aware. The NC and our administration at PAMS have been working very hard over the past few months, manually weeding the database and contacting lapsed members. I am very pleased to be able to say that the majority renewed their membership promptly. Last month AUSIT National and PAMS conducted a performance review, which ended up being a very fertile brainstorming session. As a result, we now have a new set of renewal procedures in place. Our National Secretary, Ilke Brueckner-Klein, has written an extensive report of the review (see page 5), and I hope this will encourage more lapsed members to come back to the fold and not miss out on all the exciting things happening at AUSIT. I will be personally sending letters to each one of them, reminding them and enticing them to come back, because every one of them is valuable to AUSIT in many ways. AUSIT is also becoming a much more appealing entity to outsiders, as was evidenced by the long line of applicants queuing for our references at the Brisbane AUSIT Orientation Day in March 2010 (see page 15). We need to keep up this effort and also engage in active outreach to non-members. I would ideally love to see each one of you being an ambassador for AUSIT among your colleagues.

### Competencies

The translation and interpreting competency-based training project has been dragging on for years, so it is with great satisfaction I can say we are almost there. Thanks to the concerted efforts of the new working group, Government Skills Australia has taken on board all our suggestions for improvement; major edits are happening to the text to better reflect what we really do and make the training relevant to coming generations of professionals. Many thanks to all my colleagues who helped me re-write the manual: Dr Berry McDonald, Magdalena Rowan, Helen Slatyer, Heather Glass and Dagmar Dixon. Many thanks also to the representatives of the Victorian and Western Australian VET sectors, who used their influence to have the edits implemented. Last, but not least, thanks go to Lindsay Heywood for his support of the edit and for persistently supporting AUSIT at the meetings by pointing out to GSA that no useful training material could be based on a technically faulty base. Synergy works best.

### Fremantle Biennial National Conference

Speaking of synergising, I am extremely pleased with how things are going in the 'sand-groping' state, where the Biennial National Conference Organising Committee, assisted by our very capable Vice-Chair Tea Dietherich, is working hard on what promises to equal — if not outshine — the last conference. We have been successful in securing sponsorships from NAATI, TIS, the Office of Multicultural Affairs (WA), Monash University, ASLIA, WAITI, and PCB. More potential sponsors are being approached.

The highlight of the event, of course, will be the presence as keynote speaker of Prof. Emeritus Paul Frommer, the linguist who created the Na'vi language for the film *Avatar*. Professor Frommer is an engaging and extremely versatile speaker — a taste of what is to come can be obtained by reading the first part of his interview with me on page 6.

Again, I strongly suggest that AUSIT members book their tickets and register for the conference well ahead of time — don't let Queensland beat you to it, as they have already ordered a table at the fantastic dinner venue! Not to mention that the Conference coincides with a major cultural event and that, if nothing else, Fremantle is the place to be in November.

This is also a great opportunity for you to highlight your own expertise and present a workshop or a paper at the conference. AUSIT is so rich in amazingly gifted and

*(continued over page)*

talented people; I strongly encourage you to come and shine.

### Skilled Migration Lists

As you all probably know by now, the Department of Immigration has removed most of the professions it had on its Critical Skills List and completely scrapped the Migration Occupations In Demand List. One of the casualties is our profession.

I know I am not making myself popular by going contrary to the public opinion that T&I should have been taken off long time ago. Some of the reasons for that line of view are valid, some are not. But I feel I need to explain why it is actually not good for AUSIT and the profession in Australia to have T/Is removed from the skills list.

Firstly, let me say my reasoning has nothing to do with NAATI. If we are happy that the profession was removed solely because this is going to go straight to NAATI's bottom line, then I think we are throwing the baby out with the bath water. My reasoning has to do with the profession and with AUSIT.

I need to emphasise that this new development will affect interpreters differently from translators. Translators work globally — unless they are not serious about what they are doing — so their place of residence does not affect their work in the way it affects interpreters. In fact, successful translators who migrate to Australia bring their overseas clients with them, and thus benefit the Australian economy by becoming exporters of services. Those

translators also open the door for their clients to consider Australian businesses as alternatives to overseas ones, potentially opening up our profession to the world. Interpreters, on the other hand, have to work on location. It could be said that removing the interpreting profession from the skilled migration list might enhance the chances of local T/Is getting more work. However, as a TIS representative told me recently, there are languages where we don't have enough professional interpreters to meet demand. He thought the best solution would be to improve wages, therefore making the profession worth the effort. So note that removing interpreters from the list is: (a) not going to improve wages, because the government is cutting expenditure for the same reason it is paring down the skills migration, and (b) not going to provide enough interpreters locally because the shrivelled list will not translate into expanded funding for training.

Which brings me to the second point — that of a home-grown workforce. Ideally, we would train our own. In reality, we train a small percentage on the backs of the international students, who are doing it for the 60 points. If there are any indications that the Australian VET and tertiary sectors will get any additional funding to run their programs once the international students dry up, I haven't heard of them. The government could always cry lack of funding, with two excuses: that there is no demand for courses and that we have enough interpreters already, since we

just took them off the list. True, there is no demand in certain languages, but even that is relative and changes with time. There is a shortage of Greek interpreters in Brisbane (we have one who is elderly, serving the elderly community) because apparently all Greeks in Brisbane speak English (the young do, for sure!). In Hobart, attempts to book Polish interpreters were so unsuccessful that the community stopped asking, yet a candidate was told by TIS they don't get enough requests to justify employing additional interpreters. Perceptions can be deadly.

The third reason why this development is bad for us is our AUSIT membership. Not our current membership, but our future one. AUSIT is vibrant because it has such a diverse membership. As a colleague of mine who is also the member of another unrelated association once told me: you can never be bored at an AUSIT event. Some of our best AUSIT members — those who win awards and give years of their life to AUSIT — are trained overseas and have gained permanent residence in Australia on the basis of their translating or interpreting skills. Once this stream of young, capable people dries up, AUSIT will fall into a stupor from which it will be hard to wake. Yes, we could try and get in those who are still not members, but remember we have been trying for years to drag horses to water, with varying success. We simply do not have a viable population to ensure AUSIT's sustainability. That is my major reason for concern.

## AUSIT membership policy and procedures

As some of you might be aware, there have been glitches in the system regarding automatic membership renewal notices. We apologise for the inconvenience this may have caused. To ensure a smooth automatic renewal reminder process, all renewals are currently being processed 'manually' for the time being until the new website and database are up and running.

As NC was working through these issues, we took the opportunity to review AUSIT's membership policy and procedures to make them clearer and easier for members to adhere to when renewing membership. We invite you to acquaint yourself with the changes.

### Limited Opportunity Penalty Waiver

To encourage lapsed members to return, a short 'penalty waiver' will be declared. If your membership lapsed between 1 January 2009 and 30 June 2010 and you renew before 15 August, you will not have to pay the late fee. Instead, you will pay a full year as per the current membership fees

and be reinstated as of the date of your renewal. The 'penalty waiver' will cease as of 16 August. Late renewals following that date, regardless of how late or recent, will be processed under the conditions described below.

### New Standard Membership Renewal Policy (in force from 15 August 2010)

One month after publication in the *AUSIT — In Touch* Newsletter of this **New Standard Membership Renewal Policy**, the following updated rules will apply to membership renewals:

- Your membership renewal is due no later than on the anniversary date of you joining AUSIT.
- If you fail to renew within **four weeks** of the due date stipulated on your annual renewal notice, you will be immediately and automatically suspended from AUSIT, thus missing all the benefits of membership, such as the AUSIT newsletter, the eBulletin and other forums, members' discounted prices

at events and the right to be called a member of AUSIT.

- If we receive your late renewal form and fee four weeks or more after the due date, you will be liable for a **penalty fee of \$50**, in addition to the appropriate membership fee. Members who do not pay the penalty fee will have their membership curtailed by three months.
- If your membership lapses and you would like to rejoin within a year of lapsing, you will pay a \$50 administrative fee (instead of \$20 for genuine new members). Your new renewal date will be the anniversary date of rejoining.
- An annual renewal notice and one reminder will be sent to assist members, but ultimately the onus is on you to renew in a timely manner. Please make a note of your due date to avoid any unnecessary suspension. You can also contact our administrator by email at [admin@ausit.org](mailto:admin@ausit.org) to check on your renewal date.

# Administration review



**National Secretary Ilke Brueckner-Klein reports on how AUSIT is improving administrative and other processes**

Since the National Council's meeting in Brisbane in February, which I reported on in the previous *AUSIT — In Touch*, your NC has been busy, mostly behind the scenes. Apart from ongoing business such as processing membership applications, NC has been looking into streamlining administrative processes. We engaged PAMS as our professional administrators about one and a half years ago, so it was time for a review of their performance. As AUSIT continues to move forward, it is important that our processes match our evolution.

We wanted to discuss with PAMS (i.e. Richard Gerner and Shweta Desai) what works well and what needs to be changed for the benefit of both PAMS and AUSIT. A virtual meeting was held via Skype one afternoon in mid-April. The attendees were Sam Berner (National President), Diana

Rodriguez (National Treasurer), Yveline Pillier (Acting National Treasurer), Richard Gerner (PAMS Director), Shweta Desai (PAMS Administrator), and myself, (National Secretary).

Whilst NC and AUSIT at large recognise the contribution of PAMS to the running of AUSIT, there is a general consensus that we could work together even better and more expeditiously. However, our main concerns were related to the handling of lapsed memberships and PAMS' slow response time with regard to financial matters.

Due to communication problems with the current host of the AUSIT website, the database is basically dysfunctional. This has caused a lot of confusion regarding membership renewal notices and, understandably, has resulted in unhappy and frustrated members. PAMS has now

decided to manually process renewals until the new website is up and running and the automatic renewal function becomes operational again. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and appreciate PAMS's manual handling of membership renewals. Rest assured that the problem will be fixed eventually.

With regard to the slow response time on financial matters, we were able to identify a certain communication breakdown. In future, any delays will be brought to the attention of Shweta immediately, who will ensure that matters are addressed swiftly.

The basic structure of our new website is now coded and we can move forward on adding the content (store products, texts, events, news, etc.). We saw a great response from quite a few members to our eFlash in mid-April asking for volunteers keen to contribute their skills as editors. Sam Berner, who is managing this project, will contact volunteers as their services are needed. Thanks to all who put up their hands. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated!

On a closing note, I would like to remind you of our 2010 Biennial National Conference to be held on 5-6 November in Fremantle, Western Australia. Check out the details at [www.ausitconference.org](http://www.ausitconference.org) and be inspired!

Should you wish to contact your National Council, please send an email to [admin@ausit.org](mailto:admin@ausit.org).

## 2010 Biennial National Conference Update

We are proud to announce another fabulous plenary speaker for the 'Synergise!' Conference: **Frank Palmos**, co-translator/editor of Bao Ninh's novel *The Sorrow of War*, which was recognised by the Society of Authors as one of the top 50 translated books of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The conference website: [www.ausitconference.org](http://www.ausitconference.org) has new images of Professor Frommer teaching the Na'vi language, complete with projected overhead shots of some vital expressions in that language.

Registrations are coming in now. Remember, the financial year ends soon! We look forward to receiving your registration.

*AUSIT Conference Organising Committee*

• Please note that DVDs of the 2008 AUSIT National Biennial Conference held in Brisbane are now available for sale from AUSIT.

## FIT ID card

Now is the time to send off your application for an FIT card. The cost to AUSIT members is AUD\$37.

To download the application form go to <http://www.ausit.org/pics/FITCARDAPPLICATION.pdf>.

To download an image of the card and holder go to <http://www.ausit.org/pics/fitidphoto.pdf>.

Applications are to be sent to:

**PO Box 193  
Surrey Hills  
Vic 3127**

along with the payment.

Payment options:

1) Call 1800 284 181 with your credit card handy.

2) Your cheque or money order should be made payable to AUSIT National and sent to: PO Box 193, Surrey Hills, Vic 3127.

Interpreters and translators can apply for the FIT ID card.

## MyLanguage National Conference

Watch out for this major event, exploring the use of new media technologies to assist CALD communities in achieving greater social inclusion and maintaining cultural and linguistic identity. The conference will be presented by the State and Territory Libraries of the ACT, Northern Territory, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia. These libraries host the MyLanguage web portal, which provides links to information in over 60 languages at [www.mylanguage.gov.au](http://www.mylanguage.gov.au).

Representatives from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, peak bodies, government, service providers and public libraries are all invited to attend.

**When:** 9-11 August

**Where:** State Library of New South Wales, Sydney

**Email:** [conference@mylanguage.gov.au](mailto:conference@mylanguage.gov.au)

**Website:** <http://www.mylanguage.gov.au/cgi-bin/conference/index.cgi>



# AUSIT Vice-President meets *Na'vi* language creator in LA

**A**USIT Vice-President Tea Dietterich travelled to Los Angeles in mid-March to meet Professor Emeritus Paul Frommer, creator of the *Na'vi* language for James Cameron's film *Avatar*. Tea confirmed Professor Frommer's engagement as keynote speaker for the **2010 Biennial National Conference in Fremantle on 5-6 Nov 2010** and spent several days in LA learning more about the linguist and Professor of Clinical Management Communication at the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business. Tea also finalised details of Prof. Frommer's forthcoming trip to Australia and organised a Skype hook up with AUSIT President Sam Berner, the edited text of which appears below and overleaf.

In 2005 Prof. Frommer was hired by James Cameron to develop an entirely new language for the *Na'vi*, the indigenous race of humanoids living on the moon Pandora in Cameron's groundbreaking film *Avatar*. In addition to determining the sound system and grammar of the language, Professor Frommer constructed vocabulary and translated the *Na'vi* dialog not only for *Avatar* itself but also for the related video games. He also worked closely with the actors in the film to help them deliver their

*Na'vi* lines convincingly. Since the release of *Avatar*, *Na'vi* has attracted a worldwide community of enthusiasts, who are assisting Frommer in expanding the language further. He is now working on the Martian language for Disney's upcoming film, *John Carter of Mars*.

AUSIT is very excited to have Professor Frommer as guest speaker at this year's AUSIT National Conference in November. AUSIT members and conference delegates will also be able to meet Professor Frommer in person, learn more about his projects and pick his brain on how to branch out into the film industry and other sectors. AUSIT is extremely fortunate to have him at the conference. This is a unique networking opportunity and we recommend you secure your place at the conference by registering ASAP at [www.ausitconference.org](http://www.ausitconference.org).

*Professor Paul Frommer's career has taken him from teaching secondary school mathematics and English as a second language with the US Peace Corps in Malaysia, to helping upgrade the English*



*Professor Emeritus Paul Frommer and Tea Dietterich.*

*skills of employees of National Iranian Radio and Television in Tehran, to a PhD in linguistics at USC, where he completed a dissertation on an aspect of Persian grammar. He followed this with a ten-year sojourn in the business world as a Vice-President and strategic planner for a Los Angeles corporation. Returning to USC in the mid-1990s, he joined the faculty of what is now Marshall's Center for Management Communication, serving as director of the centre from 2005 to 2008. He currently teaches Advanced Writing for Business and Cross-cultural Business Communication for Non-native Speakers.*

*Professor Frommer is principal co-author, with Edward Finegan, of **Looking at Languages: A Workbook in Elementary Linguistics**, the fifth edition of which is scheduled to be published within the year.*

## The Pandora's box of xenolinguistics

Part one of **Sam Berner's** exclusive interview with **Professor Emeritus Paul Frommer**

*Sam Berner: Thank you Prof. Frommer, for making the time and allowing us to interview you. Let's start with a question about yourself: Linguistics is not a very cool area for a young man to pursue. What got you into it?*

Paul Frommer: Well, it actually has something to do with my two years in Malaysia. I used to work with the US Peace Corps. I had graduated from the University of Rochester with a degree in Mathematics, and wasn't very sure what to do in life. I was encouraged by one of my teachers to join the Peace Corps, so I got an assignment to teach for two years in Malaysia. I was on the east coast in a little town, teaching mostly maths and also some English. I ended up teaching in the local Bahasa, Malaysia's national language. It was a wonderful experience,

and I realised that I have a sort of a talent for languages. It didn't start there, as my first foreign language is actually Hebrew; I was sent to a Hebrew school as a young boy, for the preparation for my Bar Mitzvah. I also learned Latin in high school, and French and some German in college. I knew I liked languages, but I really discovered my passion for languages when I was in the Peace Corps, so when I returned to the States, thinking what I wanted to do, I decided to investigate linguistics. I became a graduate student at the University of Southern California — that was in 1971...

*SB: Considering you know that many languages, how does this affect the way you see the world?*

PF: ... Partly I think it is a question of the various languages themselves, but mostly

it is the fact that language is people's window onto culture, and so learning a language — if you learn it in the context of a culture — opens your eyes to a different way of looking at the world. I had two experiences of that: one, as I already mentioned, was in Malaysia. The second one was in Iran. In the mid-1970s, when the Shah was still in power, I went for a year to Iran. I taught English as a second language in a program run by the USPC and really wanted to learn as much Persian as I could. Because of that, my experience was very, very different from the experiences of most of my colleagues, who did not want to learn the language, could not push themselves to acquire it. Because I was interested in the language and wanted to associate with the people, I met a whole new group of people who made my experiences, I think, so much richer...

SB: Can you, for the benefit of our readers, explain what alien languages are?

PF: Well, an 'alien language' is a language spoken by aliens. They pretty much exist at the behest of people like James Cameron, who has created an alien world...

Now prior to, I don't know, maybe 20-25 years ago, aliens very often spoke gibberish, and it didn't seem to bother anyone. I am not that much of a science fiction fan, but I believe that in the earlier versions of the *Star Trek* movies people were speaking just any old alien-sounding stuff which didn't have any structure to it. That all changed with *Klingon*. Klingon was a language developed from the *Star Trek* series of course, and was developed by a genuine linguist, someone called Marc Okrand, with a background in the native American languages, and he developed a very complex, very well-constructed language, with consistent phonology, morphology, syntax. So much so that right now there is a translation of *Hamlet* in Klingon, which I don't think anyone ever anticipated...

So, that was pretty much the task, or the charge, I was given — develop a language for this culture, an alien culture on the moon Pandora, four-point-something light years away. That would be a real language, with all the real elements of a language, and it would be incomprehensible to the audience. One difference I think between Na'vi and Klingon is that Klingon was deliberately designed to be somewhat harsh, in keeping with the people talking. We went the opposite direction with Na'vi, which was from the start supposed to be an appealing language...

SB: There are already YouTube videos teaching Na'vi, so it is taking off, and I think there will be more vocabulary to it, because what you have created was sort of limited.

PF: Yes. To me the most interesting part of the whole adventure has been in the last few months, after the movie came out. The movie came out on 18 December in the United States. In three months a genuine community has developed, and I think I really can use that word. Mainly, people all over the world are getting together, and one reason they can do that is because of the Internet. They are getting together, they are helping each other learn the language. I have nothing to do with this in terms of organising the community; that was something that came entirely from the fan base. They started a website called **learnnavi.org**. At this point — last time I checked — it had something like 148,000 posts to the forum, in, I think, 17 or 18 different languages. People discussing

Na'vi language, helping each other with it. There are some people who are getting so proficient in this that I am actually getting long emails written entirely in Na'vi, and this is something that I never anticipated.

... I encountered a young fellow with whom I spoke on Google, a language enthusiast who has seen the movie 23 times. I realise this is a bit obsessive, but that is the sort of thing that happens to the people who want to maintain a relationship with this world and one way to do this is to learn and use the language. There is also — and this has really surprised and delighted me — there is a small group of people who are linguistically very sophisticated ... And some people are sending me very sophisticated coding questions about Na'vi. Some of these questions are making me realise that I need to clarify certain enquiries, that certain things could be clearer, and certain things need to be elaborated. They help me understand the language that I created myself, probably to an extent that I would not be able to do as quickly on my own... One thing that is coming out of the communities now, as you mentioned, is that we need to expand the vocabularies. We have maybe a little bit over a thousand words right now, and that is not enough. I received, just within the past week, a 79-page document, that about 30 or 40 people have worked on. Remarkably well organised, it is a document in which people are asking for additional vocabularies and have organised it in some various semantic classes: words about the physical world, words about the spirituality of the Na'vi and so on. It is an ongoing process, and it is very exciting.

SB: You have become the Bard of Pandora, haven't you?

PF: Well, to a certain extent I think I have. They are giving me various titles; again this is nothing that I sought, but it is something that has been sort-of given to me. One of my titles is *Sempul Li'fyayä*, which means 'Father of the language'; there is also *Karyu Pawl*, which means 'teacher Paul', and it seems to be the way people are happy to go, so it is remarkable...

SB: Did you model Na'vi on any of the languages you know?

... Yes, [I took] different things from different languages, but the combination as far as I know is unique, and there are things that I think I have invented very much on my own, that I haven't seen in any other languages. It has an interesting case system, a tripartite case system ... It treats the subject of an intransitive verb, the subject of a transitive verb, and the object of a transitive verb each in different ways. These three elements will have different markings. By the way, as far as I know the

only language that has this complex system is in fact a native language of Australia, which I think is called *Wankumara*. So when you do something like this, I think it is very difficult to come up with something that you can claim is absolutely unique, that no language on the face of the earth has done this before. If you come up with something like that, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, for humans to learn it, while the premise of the movie is that human beings have in fact learned that language. So it has to have elements that humans can adapt to...

SB: As you just said, humans in the film were able to master Na'vi. What is very much missing in that film are interpreters. There are two instances where Neytiri is interpreting for Jack, and she teaches him the language. But it kind of reflects the same kind of power imbalance that we have in the real world, where the aliens learn English first and the aliens very often become interpreters and the cultural brokers. We see this in Australia, we see this in the United States, we see this in all English-speaking countries. From the business point of view, where do you see this global linguistic imbalance going?

Gee. That is a difficult question. Linguistically, I guess, the global imbalance is due to the fact that English is so powerful, isn't it? And that it, more than anything else right now, certainly has become the international language. Whether it remains so... you know, some people say that a hundred years from now Mandarin might take over. What you say is certainly true, — there definitely is an imbalance. In terms of the movie, the structure, how the interaction of the two languages on Pandora worked out — that came from James Cameron. Originally, there was going to be more about how the Na'vi learned English. Apparently Grace had developed a school, and that is where Neytiri and Tsu'Tey and Moat speak some English.

By the way, in terms of interpretation, if you recall that almost towards the end of the movie there was a consecutive, almost simultaneous interpreting, when Jake would be talking to the clans in English, and Tsu'Tey would be interpreting into Na'vi. So the assumption was they had a pretty good grasp of English. Whether that is realistic or not, well, is hard to say.

*The concluding part of this interview will be published in the winter issue of AUSIT — In Touch in August/September.*

# The translation dilemma — to share or not to share



**Rahzeb Choudhury**  
Operations Director, TAUS Data Association

As this newsletter goes to print, the TAUS Data Association Strategic Roadmap Consultation will be closing. This consultation has sought to obtain the industry's collective wisdom in prioritising a long wish list to get the most out of shared translation memories. The aim being to turn an open, legal and secure system from a supercloud (giant web-based database) into an operating platform benefitting everyone involved with translation.

## The whole is greater than sum of its parts

The information age has led to an insatiable demand for multilingual content that simply cannot be met by existing proprietary business models or by the current capacity of around 300,000 professional translators worldwide.

Early in 2007, TAUS (Translation Automation User Society), a global community of 65 organisations, began to look into what industry-wide tools would be needed to meet the ever-increasing commercial and societal demand for translation. The TAUS community soon concluded that a shared industry database of translation memories was a fundamental building block for supporting future growth and innovation to help bridge the divide between demand and supply.

TAUS Data Association was founded in 2008 by 40 international organisations, and the system went live in the summer of 2009. TAUS is a non-profit, member-driven organisation providing an open, neutral, legal and secure framework for sharing the world's translation memories. It's a platform for making translation easier, faster and better.

The idea is that sharing ever-larger sets of translation memories helps to improve consistency of term use and translator productivity, and improves machine translation quality.

The evolution is irreversible: from closed to open standards, from translation memories on desktops to enterprise servers to industry-shared platforms. Sharing language data accelerates automation and innovation in the translation industry. That's why some of the biggest companies are doing it.

## Okay, but how is this legal?

You are probably thinking: yes, okay, but what about ownership of content and copyright? TAUS Data Association works with a data-sharing agreement which explicitly deals with copyright and intellectual property rights. You should also know that legal ownership of individual translation units (segments) is hard to defend. If the original translated document cannot be recreated, the words and phrases are free (like entries in dictionaries) and may be used to support translators and automate translation. Also, everyone can choose to share for the TAUS Search only (i.e. stipulate that their translation memories cannot be downloaded).

## The Roadmap

We've learned during the last year that most users want more intelligent access to the data as well as access to features from their own translation tools/environment. After all, the database already contains 2.6 billion words in 314 language pairs. Some language pairs contain close to 100 million words. It's obvious that people want help to find the most relevant language data.

Below are just some of the new features that will be made available in the coming months:

Late May	Free open API (Application Programming Interface) for TAUS Search, meaning that anyone can integrate this powerful terminology improvement tool into their own environment;
June	TAUS Data Association blog to help report more use, give guidance on good practices when dealing with shared data, and more; MultiCorpora's MultiTrans — fully integrated for seamless upload and download;
July	Lionbridge's Translator Workspace — fully integrated;
October	Translation matching live with open API — to enable people to download tailor-made translation memories with full and fuzzy matches only; and GlobalSight — fully integrated.

One other feature in the pipeline is the ability to create private vaults, which will allow users to share and leverage with a defined group of people or organisations only, rather than with everyone. We encourage people to share as widely as legally possible, but recognise that in some cases private vaults enable you to get your work done more efficiently.

Sharing language data is a natural evolution for the industry. The difference with TAUS Data Association is that our association is member driven and industry sanctioned. Sixty-five organisations and many more translators have already joined, and are combining investments (that is, member fees) to create an environment which helps everybody involved with translation. It's not about shareholder return: it's about creating an open and level playing field where our collective investments, translations are brought together and put to the best use possible — to help the world communicate better.

Visit [www.tausdata.org](http://www.tausdata.org) to learn more.

**The evolution is irreversible: from closed to open standards, from translation memories on desktops to enterprise servers to industry-shared platforms. Sharing language data accelerates automation and innovation in the translation industry. That's why some of the biggest companies are doing it.**



# Letters

## IPIA campaign benefits all interpreters

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to you while wearing all my professional hats at once. Here in WA my AUSIT colleagues know me as a long-serving active interpreter. In fact, I have been interpreting in Australia for 25 years.

After I had been working for a few years I realised that I was being treated like a mushroom (as in, kept in the dark and fed BS)... I was told I was a professional yet I never received professional treatment from employers, was never paid for the work I was doing, and I felt I was subsidising a service the government was supposed to provide.

When the appropriate moment came I thought it time to act, so a handful of us formed the Independent Practising Interpreters Association (IPIA). That was 2003; back then we never believed we would achieve as much as we have in six years. The work we have done for our colleagues here in WA spans many pages.

Our most important achievement though has been in making over 140 interpreters casual employees of the Health Department of WA. This means they earn \$120 per job, plus superannuation, insurance of all sorts, free professional

development, and many other benefits, such as casual loading, which can go up to 50% of pay at night.

Many of us think we can stop now, but I think that there is a lot more to be achieved in WA, as well as in the other states. If we were to be more organised and spoke more about how we are exploited by our employers, both federal and state, we would elevate the consciousness of those of us who think the status quo is written in stone.

If we were to create the same situation we have created in WA in every state, soon we would be taken more seriously and would be able to negotiate a better deal for ourselves. In the last few weeks we have started a campaign at the federal level, trying to get a better deal out of DIAC, TIS and Centrelink. This is going to benefit all interpreters in Australia.

Should you require any information please do not hesitate to ask — we are here to help each other.

Kind regards,

Sergio Cooper  
President of IPIA

## T/Is off migration list

A new list of skilled occupations — issued by the Department of Migration and Citizenship and used for migration purposes — has been released. Good to see that translators and interpreters are no longer on it. AUSIT made several submissions over the years in this respect.

The 60 points so generously given for migration, regardless of demand in the LOTE, misled potential migrants into believing they could make a decent living here in this field. They would come here with their costly NAATI accreditation (into their LOTE only, as advised on the NAATI website) only to find, in the words of one of them, that in their country, they were a respected professional, with a steady job, earning more than an above average income, and enjoying a low cost of living. In Australia they earned little, the cost of living was high and the consideration low.

I mentored several of them, who all had to deal with this disappointment. Two of my mentees went back. This new list is good news, I say.

<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/pdf/new-list-of-occupations.pdf>

Yveline Piller

# Justice lost in translation

**N**on-English speakers, Indigenous people and those who are speech or hearing impaired are being disadvantaged in the Victorian civil justice system due to an inability to access interpreters.

According to a report released today by the Law Institute of Victoria and produced by the Interpreting Fund Scoping Project, people who have difficulties communicating in English face substantial obstacles which jeopardise their access to justice in the civil system.

'They may not be able to participate or speak on an equal basis with others, access legal services, or even be aware that a legal issue has arisen,' said Access to Justice Committee Chairman Mark Woods.

'It's hard to win your dispute if you can't understand what is being said.'

The report found that in comparison to the Commonwealth, Tasmania, South

Australia and Western Australia, Victoria is lacking the capacity to provide access to interpreters.

The report estimated that at least 30,000 Victorians may require the assistance of an interpreter for the approximately 80,000 civil disputes which arise each year.

While access to interpreters is available during all stages of the criminal justice system, it is extremely limited in the civil justice system.

According to the report's findings, one of the primary difficulties in accessing interpreters is the prevalence of unmet demand for civil interpreting services. This is where people or organisations seek, but do not receive, interpreting services, either because an interpreter is unavailable, or because the person in need is unable to afford or access funded interpreting services.

The report also found that unmet demand

is often hidden due to the fact that not everyone who requires interpreting services will be aware of their own interpreting needs, or will not necessarily come forward and seek such services.

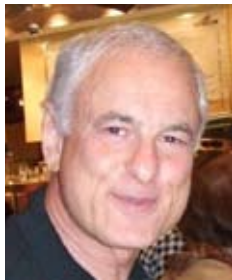
The report recommended the creation of a fund to provide interpreters for those involved in Victorian civil proceedings, and urged the Victorian Government to back a pilot project examining the demand for interpreting services at Community Legal Centres, for lawyers who provide pro bono services, and for those within the Magistrates Court system.

This article was first published on 14 April 2010 at:

[http://www.lawyersweekly.com.au/blogs/top\\_stories/archive/2010/04/14/justice-lost-in-translation.aspx](http://www.lawyersweekly.com.au/blogs/top_stories/archive/2010/04/14/justice-lost-in-translation.aspx)

and is reprinted here with the kind permission of Lawyers Weekly.

# Need for court interpreting training



NSW Senior Practitioner **Bob Desiatnik** attended Assoc. Prof. **Sandra Hale's** presentation

**A**USIT is fortunate to have as a member Assoc. Prof. Sandra Hale, an internationally recognised scholar with an outstanding record of achievement in the fields of teaching and interdisciplinary research, as well as in hands-on translation and interpretation. On 24 April close to 50 members (a great turnout for a long weekend) were treated to a feast of information on the need for specialised court interpreting training. The session reflected the full measure of Sandra's accomplishments and experience, her passion as an advocate for such training, and her pioneering research in this area.

Sandra's presentation, which was well tailored to members' needs and interests and supported by meticulously prepared PowerPoint slides, ranged over such areas as:

- why specialised skills are needed in a court setting;
- what language abilities individuals must possess before the development of those skills can be contemplated;
- aspects of 'discoursal competence' and the various strategic speech modes used by lawyers to achieve particular effects (e.g. 'You see, Mrs Smith, I put it to you that you didn't, as you say, forget that you'd placed the items in your bag, that in fact you put them there to conceal them and to steal them, didn't you?' — try decoding then interpreting the messages being directed to the judge and/or jury as well as the witness!);
- the impact of testimony presented through interpreters and the ways in which interpreters can influence that impact (for better or for worse);
- the challenges of cross-linguistic and cross-cultural 'disconnects' between source and target languages, and the strategies that can be used to bridge them;
- the usefulness of formal training (as perceived by interpreters and legal practitioners);

- the consequences of inadequate interpretation (up to and including mistrials or successful appeals);
- issues related to the status, or lack thereof, of court interpreters, and to their working conditions and remuneration; and
- the need to sensitise the judiciary and the legal profession generally to the role and importance of interpreters in the delivery of social justice to all comers, regardless of their linguistic/cultural backgrounds.

The presentation included numerous textual examples illustrating the difficulties faced in the court setting and how they have been handled — or mishandled — by individual interpreters. There were also a few 'dummy runs' for participants to try in their own LOTEs.

Sandra's polished, flowing (and at times wickedly humorous) presentation aroused excited interest among those attending. The questions and comments came thick

and fast; many of those present would have been happy to stay on well beyond the scheduled end of the session. It was gratifying to see many new faces, and one could scarcely imagine a more vivid demonstration for new members of the value of AUSIT membership.

I'm sure many of those attending were left pondering one of the great dilemmas to emerge from Sandra's thought-provoking address: improved status and subsequent increased remuneration for court interpreters will only come about as a result of providing improved, more uniformly professional interpreting services to the courts. But those improved services must, to a great extent, be the result of greatly expanded, specialised pre-service training, the high cost of which must be met by individuals already earning — oh yes — adequate remuneration. Hmmm.

I could not help but be reminded of the closing remarks of Barry Jones' 2004 Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture:

*I understand that as our world becomes increasingly fractured and complex, with the development of expertise and technical vocabularies that require translation and/or interpretation even within the same language family, let alone another one, the challenge for professionals will become even greater — **and the rewards even less adequate.***  
[Emphasis added.]

Whether it was intended to be understood as a gloomy prediction or merely as an expression of concern about what might lie ahead, I'm sure Dr Jones would be delighted to be proven wrong on the last point.

With people like Sandra Hale patiently but resolutely pursuing the task of altering current perceptions, and achieving both higher standards and increased recognition for court interpreters (and, indeed, the T&I profession at large), there are grounds for optimism.

At the time of preparation of this article arrangements were in hand for Sandra's PowerPoint notes and the video recording of the entire session to be made available via the AUSIT website.



Assoc. Prof. Sandra Hale.

**F**ifteen AUSIT members and associates attended an entertaining and lively workshop on ethical challenges for professional translators and interpreters at International House in Parkville on Saturday 13 March.

The workshop explored the theme 'Behaving ethically according to the role negotiated with the customer' and was a learning experience for all. Those attending had a huge range of backgrounds and experience and willingly shared their discoveries as they faced challenges in their work. This was indeed a fascinating insight into how customers viewed T/Is and into the wide variation of trust the public demonstrates towards us as a profession. These experiences highlighted the theoretical concepts I presented in the workshop.

I suggested that professionals need to clearly separate professional ethics from personal morality in order to provide objective customer-focused service. Indeed, to behave according to a professional persona is not only important to enhancing customer service, it also facilitates psychological self-control among practitioners and builds emotional resilience — an ability in high demand in today's exhausting consumer society where 'the customer is always right'.

A particular customer's concept of the T/I's role impacts on how we apply ethical principles; furthermore, more experienced professional T/Is are able

# Personal challenge of professional ethics



Workshop presented on 13 March in Melbourne by **Brad Paez (Vic)**

to tailor communication services in line with customer expectations, even when those expectations are highly challenging. Underlying any translator's effective management of communication is the appropriate application of professional judgement to proactively intervene, solving problems quickly as they arise. This judgment, based on the ethical imperative of professional behavior, presupposes that T/Is will exercise duty of care by attempting to ascertain customer expectations before commencing an assignment. The fear of inaccurate interpreting is therefore able to be conquered. If anything goes unexpectedly wrong, the preparation mentioned above will help ensure T/Is do not assume responsibility for the failure of other people to communicate clearly! Moreover, awareness of expectations

will empower the T/I to find adequate resources for facilitating successful service delivery. I explained that practitioners will ultimately enjoy more respect and benefit from increased status in society. Customer expectations can continue to be met because high demand jobs combined with high levels of resourcing will, through negotiation, often result in higher incomes for T/Is. Customers who clearly appreciate the value of professional services are prepared to pay higher — just ask any specialist lawyer or medical practitioner!

The workshop will be presented again in the future, with the aim of reaching more members in regional and country areas where AUSIT members practise. More details will be released in coming months.

## SA/NT Branch Connect IT

**O**n Saturday 6 March SA/NT Interpreters and Translators networked and connected during Writers Week during a well-attended CONNECT IT meeting at Caos Café in Adelaide.

We were privileged to be addressed by Dr Wendy Ella Wright. Wendy lived in Japan for sixteen of her formative years, where she received her BA in Comparative Culture from the Sophia University, Tokyo. She later graduated as Doctor of Philosophy, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, from the University of Adelaide. Her expertise and interests are far ranging and include interpreting and translating, comparative culture of the visual and performing arts, Asian studies and art, Japanese studies, contemporary Australian literature and contemporary theatre, contemporary poets of Tokyo and the world, and creative writing. She also generously donated some copies of her first published novel, *The Air of Tokyo*, to her listeners. The book is a creative reflection on

the experiences of a traveller between two very different worlds, Asian and Western. Or, to put it another way, a foreigner, a woman, immerses herself in Japanese culture and language and builds bridges of love as she does do.

Wendy led us, almost imperceptibly, into her world, which includes the field of specialised translation. She renders Japanese poetry into English poetry. Forget what we know about *Traduttore traditore*. As Johann Wolfgang von Goethe put it:

*When translating you must approach that which is untranslatable. Only then will one perceive the other culture and the other language.*

There may be those who agree that it takes a poet to translate poetry — this certainly applies to Dr Wendy Wright. While living in Japan she had her translations and poetry published in major poetry magazines.

As part of an international writing panel Wendy contributed a paper, 'Lost — and

Found — in Translation', in which she related an experience illustrating the constant yearning of a bilingual, bicultural person for the world s/he happens to be exiled from at any given moment. Many an immigrant to this country of Australia would readily empathise and concur with her.

During our meeting one could not help but be impressed by Wendy's very specialised knowledge of ancient and contemporary Japanese creative literature, her approach to its translation, and her creativity. Her passion quickly resonated with her listeners; they asked many questions which she answered willingly. By encouraging participation she held the audience's attention and created a friendly and interactive atmosphere.

Many thanks to Dr Wendy Wright for being guest speaker, and to Claudia Ait-Touati for arranging this special meeting.

Susanne Blaschka  
AUSIT SA/NT



# New prize for young translators

**H**arvill Secker, part of The Random House Group, is celebrating 100 years of publishing quality international writing with the launch of a prestigious new prize for young translators.

Launched on Monday 19 April in conjunction with Waterstone's, the annual Young Translators Prize will be presented to a translator at the start of their career and will focus on a different language each year. In 2010 — the inaugural year — the chosen language is Spanish and entrants will be asked to translate *El Hachazo*, a short story by the Argentine writer Matías Néspolo.

The short story and details on how to enter can be found at [www.harvillseckeryoungtranslatorsprize.com](http://www.harvillseckeryoungtranslatorsprize.com). The prize is open to anyone between the ages of 16 and 34,

with no restriction on country of residence.

The winner's name will be announced in September 2010 and the winning translator will receive £1000, a selection of Harvill Secker titles and Waterstone's book vouchers.

The judges are Margaret Jull Costa (translator), Nicholas Shakespeare (author) and Briony Everroad (editor). Prize founder Briony Everroad comments, 'I think translation is terribly important, and excellence in the field can often pass unnoticed. The aim of this prize is to encourage a new generation of talent, and I hope that it will provide a much-needed opportunity for young translators to gain wider recognition for their work.'

*Press release sourced by Barbara McGilvray*

## Congratulations Helen!

**H**elen Murphy, member of AUSIT and WAITI, former Treasurer of AUSIT WA, current member of WA NAATI RAC and the TAFE Industry Advisory Committee, this year celebrates thirty uninterrupted years as a provider of outstanding T&I services to users while maintaining an outstanding work relationship with practitioners through her own business. What an achievement for a small business practitioner!

Helen always uses experienced and qualified practitioners, applies stringent quality practices, and negotiates fair rates and deadlines while still making a handsome living out of her business.

When congratulated on this milestone, Helen responded that she believed her business had survived and grown because of the professionalism and talents of the wonderful group of translators and interpreters who work with her.

*Helen Murphy has a Degree in Modern Languages and Commerce and is a NAATI-accredited Professional German>English and French>English Translator.*

*By Diana Rodriguez-Losada*

### Grammar — the importance of punctuation

A man and a woman were asked to add punctuation to the following sentence:

**A woman without her man is nothing.**

The man wrote — A woman, without her man, is nothing.

The woman wrote — A woman: without her, man is nothing.

*Sourced by Mona Jabbour*

School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics

**LCL**

## Monash PD program to begin second round



The first round of the Monash University Professional Development and Internship Program (Translation & Interpreting) was successfully held in January-February with an attendance of 50 participants, including both new and experienced interpreters and translators. Round one of the program, which receives funding and support from the Victorian Multicultural Commission, comprised two entry-level modules in community interpreting and two specialisation-level modules in legal interpreting and translation. Feedback was very positive, with the participants appreciating the opportunity to engage users of interpreting services from government agencies and the legal profession in discussions about the ethical, linguistic and cultural issues in the interpreting process. They also commented on the usefulness of the sessions led by highly-experienced interpreters and interpreter-trainers, as well as the benefits gained from networking opportunities.

Round two of the program will begin in mid-June and participants will be able to choose from four modules: an entry-level module in Community Interpreting and Translation, and three specialisation-level modules (Health Interpreting 1, Legal Interpreting 2, Translation Technology).

For more information, including fees and application forms, please access the Monash University Translation and Interpreting Studies website:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/translation-interpreting/prof-development.php>

Enquiries: [Translation.Studies.Enquiries@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Translation.Studies.Enquiries@arts.monash.edu.au)

# National Guide of Expert Witnesses

In July 2010 the Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) will launch the first edition of the *National Guide of Expert Witnesses*.

Containing an extensive listing of experts across many specialist areas, this publication will be an invaluable resource for lawyers. Expert witnesses are frequently required by our members and the greater legal profession when preparing cases and for court appearances.

The Guide will be distributed free to practising lawyers in July via the *Law Institute Journal* (LIJ), *New South Wales Law Society Journal* and Queensland's *Proctor* journal. It will also be distributed to the national media. This means that over 46,000 copies will be distributed to lawyers in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

In recognition of the expertise and professionalism of members of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc, LIV would like to offer our members a discount of 15% for any listing they require in the 2010/2011 *National Guide of Expert Witnesses*.

Members can take up a standard listing

or choose from a range of advertising sizes. Advertisements may be supplied or created here to meet your requirements.

Go to [http://www.liv.asn.au/PDF/News/ExpertWitnessGuide\\_RatesAssociations](http://www.liv.asn.au/PDF/News/ExpertWitnessGuide_RatesAssociations) for the media kit containing further information.

We're very excited about this guide and think it will be a fantastic resource for

lawyers. Many of our members have been asking for such a publication for some time, so I know it will be very well received.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me on 03 9607 9496, or Marese on 03 9607 9337.

Jackie Nemy  
Law Institute of Victoria

## Are you LinkedIn?



The AUSIT group on LinkedIn is the perfect starting point for online networking. It also enables you to make contact with individuals outside AUSIT who are connected to your fellow AUSIT members. Joining the AUSIT group on LinkedIn is a fast track to building your e-network. Take advantage of your AUSIT membership. Joining LinkedIn gives you an instant community to grow your network quickly. Why wait? Get your online networking underway. To join just visit:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groupRegistration?gid=1933378>

Sometimes it's  
a small world,  
and that's  
what LinkedIn  
is about

University of  
Western Sydney

INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION RESEARCH GROUP PRESENTS

3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

## TECHNOLOGY AND THE FUTURE OF TRANSLATION: RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES

16-17 JULY 2010

Bankstown Campus, University of Western Sydney

International guest speaker: **Professor Anthony Pym**

Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain

The theme chosen for this year seems of particular importance, as the web changes the environment in which professional translators work.

Machine translation is already used in some settings jointly with translation memory to fill those target segments for which no match is found in the memories. Is post-editing machine output the future of professional translation?

Web technology allows for hundreds of unpaid volunteers to complete tasks that before required tightly managed projects involving only professionals. What would distinguish professionals from non-professionals in the coming decade?

Attendance is free of charge, and registration now open at  
[http://www.uws.edu.au/itrg/interpreting\\_and\\_translation/itrg\\_research\\_symposium](http://www.uws.edu.au/itrg/interpreting_and_translation/itrg_research_symposium).

Papers and workshops will be based on the results of **original research** or **practice** on any aspect of language technology and the future of translation. Some of the suggested topics for the symposium are (list not exhaustive):

- Translation Memory Tools
- Machine Translation
- Audiovisual Translation
- E-Learning and T&I Training
- Localisation and Internationalisation
- Web-based Collaboration
- Speech and audio processing
- Research Analytical Tools

The symposium will be of interest to T&I researchers, educators (TAFE and universities), language service providers and practitioners.

We look forward to seeing you at the symposium.

Assoc. Professor Sandra Hale  
Dr Ignacio Garcia, Senior Lecturer

# 2010 NZSTI conference news

**Peter Tuffley**  
for the 2010 Conference Planning Team

This is the first of a series of information bulletins that will be issued as conference details are finalised.

## LOCATION

As in 2007, this year's conference will be held at the main campus of Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT). The campus is located in the south-eastern corner of the Christchurch CBD, within the area bounded by Moorhouse Avenue, Madras Street, St Asaph Street, Ferry Road and Barbadoes Street (you can expect it to take you up to an hour to get there from Christchurch Airport, depending on your means of travel).

## TIMETABLE — WHEN YOU NEED TO ARRIVE

The conference will be held over the weekend of 10-11 July. The Society's AGM will follow on from Sunday's conference proceedings, with the conclusion likely to be around 4.30pm (depending on how long it takes to get through the business of the AGM).

While the program and timetable details have not yet been finalised, you may find the following details helpful in planning your trip.

## Registration

Evening of Friday 9 July (during pre-conference social event), also Saturday 10



July from 8.15am

## Formal Opening — Keynote Address

9-9.30pm approx

## Conference Dinner

Saturday 10 July 6.30pm

Further information, including information about accommodation in Christchurch, will be issued in the near future at

[www.nzsti.org](http://www.nzsti.org).

# Writing past each other? Literary translation and community



**Patrick Geddes**  
Editor of *Word for Word*, NZSTI's journal

## International Conference on Literary Translation

**Te Tumu Whakawhiti Tuhinga o Aotearoa / The New Zealand Centre for Literary Translation**

**Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 11-13 December 2010**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Lawrence Venuti and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak

Metge and Kinloch (*Talking Past Each Other: Problems in Cross-Cultural Communication*, 1978), explore the ways in which those from diverse backgrounds misread important cultural differences in everyday life. At this conference we hope to explore how literary translation promotes awareness and appreciation of such differences, while simultaneously creating

a sense of community across local and international boundaries. How can a lack of such exchange contribute to the isolation of literary cultures? How is globalisation affecting international literary exchanges? How might translation contribute more to literary communities?

While papers on how these issues are articulated in the Asia-Pacific region are a special feature, we have also welcomed proposals on a wide range of topics related to practical and theoretical aspects of literary translation and covering cross-cultural linguistic interaction from across the globe.

There will be over 80 presentations relating to the following languages: Brazilian Portuguese; Classical and Modern Chinese; Croatian; Dutch; Australian, New Zealand

and Samoan English; New Caledonian and Tahitian French; French; German; Greek; Italian; Japanese; Korean; Malay; Malayalam; Māori; Persian; Polish; Russian; Ecuadorian, Mexican and Venezuelan Spanish; Spanish; Tahitian; Tongan; Yoruba; and Xhosa.

Papers have been offered by literary translation scholars and practitioners from a wide range of countries: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, France, French Polynesia, Greece, India, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Caledonia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, and USA.

As a special feature of the conference, we are organising translation workshop sessions with noted New Zealand poets. There will also be an evening reading session. We plan to publish selected papers from the conference in a refereed volume.

For further information and registration go to

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/victoria-conferences/default.aspx>



# Branch Reports



## NSW

**Yveline Piller**  
AUSIT NSW Principal Delegate

The NSW committee continues to move forward on a wide range of AUSIT issues. We sadly wished 'bon voyage' to Nathalie Ramière, who assisted the committee efficiently as Secretary until February, but welcomed Willya Waldburger, who kindly volunteered to take the position for the rest of the year.

The PD committee has been busy organising professional and networking opportunities to suit both translators and interpreters. Recent PD events included a workshop on legal interpreting presented on Saturday 24 April by UWS Associate Professor Sandra Hale, which received enthusiastic feedback from participants.

A month earlier, 24 members met in an

interactive workshop on useful tips and tricks for translators. I gave a demonstration of keyboard shortcuts, function keys, auto-correct functions and many other little-known MS Word features. Participants offered their own tips for improved accuracy or efficiency. This sharing of ideas gives translators the ability to be more productive or to take on unusual jobs. Uli Priester presented the advanced methods he applies to sensitive jobs which are delivered electronically.

At the time of writing, an editing workshop was planned for 13 May. Presented by Meryl Potter, it promised to be well attended.

The NSW committee has also been working with the Qualifications Committee to

achieve agreement on the finer points of new members' admission requirements, which should be finalised very soon. The NSW treasurer has taken steps to ensure our small bank balance earns interest when not in use.

In addition to my Principal Delegate responsibilities, I am also a member of the NAATI RAC. I was able to help an AUSIT member obtain much needed NAATI stamps for recognition languages, without which the member was losing jobs. At the National level, I am also the Acting Treasurer in the absence of the General Treasurer, and took part in a review of PAMS services to ensure better processing of new applications, lapsed memberships and renewals - the core of AUSIT's income. New rules have been proposed to the National Executive to ensure a fairer process for all. In line with this, I worked together with Yahoo Groups Coordinator David Connor to ensure subscribers to this valuable service are financial members.

Do visit the NSW branch website at

<http://sites.google.com/site/ausitnsw/home>

for on-going information on local events. Members are also welcome to attend as observers the monthly committee meetings held in the Sydney CBD.



## Qld

**Rona Zhang** AUSIT Qld  
Branch Chair & **Veronique**  
**Maes** Qld Branch PR Officer

The beginning of 2010 witnessed a very active and eventful period for the Qld branch. Our PD Coordinator Alanna Wilson-Duff has put together a PD calendar with a great variety of workshops to cater for different subgroups in our membership. Though experiencing some challenges, the majority of our events have been successful, including two chat breakfasts, several workshops and the Orientation Day. Yet we still have many exciting PD workshops and events planned for you. We welcome and value your continued participation and support!

### Orientation Day Success

The AUSIT Orientation Day held at the University of Qld on 27 March was a great success. The event attracted over 120 participants, including many UQ T&I students. At the end of the eventful day of high-profile presentations, inspiring

speeches and interactive participation, we had welcomed over 20 new AUSIT members. It will be great to see some new faces at future AUSIT events.

### Notice of Qld Chair's Leave

I wish to inform you of my absence in order to attend the World Expo Project in Shanghai from April to October this year. The Qld Committee has decided on the following arrangements during my leave:

1) Vice-Chair Ita Szymanska will be Acting Qld Chair from 30 March to 14 May and from 11 August to 30 September;

2) Former Qld Chair Tea Dietterich will be Acting Qld Chair from 15 May to 10 August.

The above arrangements will be valid until the next Qld AGM on 30 Sep 2010.

Thank you for your understanding.

Rona Zhang, Chair, AUSIT Qld

### Business Skills Workshop

In March, AUSIT dynamo Sam Berner presented a workshop on business skills for translators. Many came to the Brisbane Square Library to participate in the workshop and feedback was enthusiastically positive, with most commenting on how much of what they learned could be immediately implemented. The workshop covered marketing, dealing with clients, management and contracts.

### April-June 2010 Calendar

28 Apr to 2 May — German Film Festival

26 May — Finance for Freelancers

21 to 31 May — Spanish Film Festival

20 Jun — Mid-year family picnic

24 Jun — Online Presence Workshop

30 Sep — Qld Branch AGM

*Please note: This calendar is provisional and dates for these events may change.*

**Welcome to new members** Lian Hua Ng, Melinda Hollingsworth, Daniele Heinen, Che-Yi Yang, Yingying Zhang.

**Congratulations to Senior Practitioner** Rona Zhang

*[Editor's note: This branch report is a selection of material taken from AUSIT Qld Talkabout, the Qld branch's e-newsletter.]*



# ASLIA

Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## *Interpreters and...:*

*Exploring settings, interactions and best practice in interpreting*

## **Brisbane - 27th to 29th August**

The ASLIA National Conference 2010 will be a fantastic professional development opportunity for spoken and signed language interpreters.

Interpreter trainers, educators & mentors  
are also welcome to attend the

### **Interpreter Trainers' Workshop**

30th to 31st Aug

email: [info@asliaconference.org.au](mailto:info@asliaconference.org.au)

[www.asliaconference.org.au](http://www.asliaconference.org.au)



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