



Above: Olivia Beasley provides a quick summary in Auslan of this edition of Communicate.



Report from the CEO

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Communicate.

The year has already been filled with exciting events and achievements including the 2018 Australian Deaf Games held in Albury/Wodonga in January. I was fortunate to attend the opening ceremony and catch up with

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many people from across Australia. It was wonderful to see such a huge event take place with so much support from the local community and Albury and Wodonga City Councils which provided a platform for the promotion and education of Auslan in the months leading up to the games. The Victorian team put up a great effort, but congratulations goes to New South Wales for winning overall. Congratulations also to the organising committee, all of the staff and volunteers, referees and athletes – it was a huge success.

Vicdeaf's Access team continues to support community members as the NDIS rolls out across Victoria and Tasmania. Please get in touch with our team to see how we can assist you: info@vicdeaf.com.au.

[Click to continue reading.](#)



From the Editor

Welcome to the first ever Digital Edition of Communicate!

As we have now gone digital we will be saving thousands pages of paper so that we can do what we can to sustain our environment.

Easter has just finished and I hope you all had the opportunity to spend time with your family and friends. 2018 has started so quickly and you know what that means? Football is back! Go the Swans! (Please don't judge me!)

Coming up quickly this year is the annual Deaf Football game between Victoria and the Rebels to be held in June at Yarraville Oval. I am sure that it will be a fiercely competitive game as always and it will be up to Victoria to defend their title on their home ground!

Enjoy the content in this edition and don't forget to click the links to read more of the News Stories or to find out more information for the upcoming Deaf and Hard of hearing accessible events.

- Sam Cartledge



Meet the Vicdeaf Team - Moon Feris

Welcome to the first edition of our 'Meet the Vicdeaf Team'. This segment is a new feature in our Communicate e-Newsletter that is sent out quarterly and contains news from Vicdeaf, the local and international Deaf

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community. The first Vicdeaf staff member we are featuring is our new Language Services Manager, Moon Feris!

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Malaysia. My Mum is Australian and my Dad is Chinese. They met in Australia but relocated to live in Malaysia where I was born. We all relocated to Melbourne when I was two and half years old. I grew up in Melbourne.

Do you have a nickname?

My nickname is Moonie.

What is your favourite hobby and what do you do in your spare time?

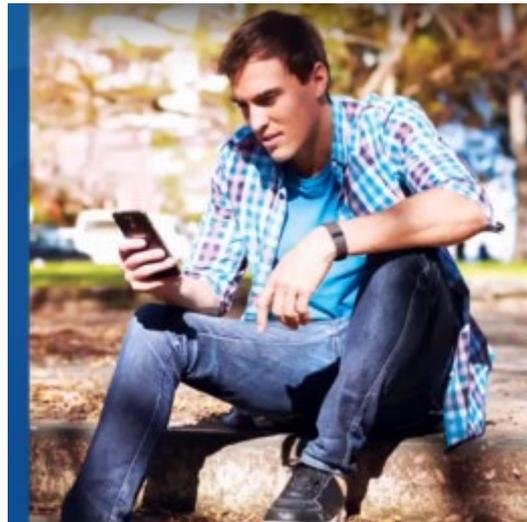
I love the outdoors so I enjoy swimming, camping, hiking, and skiing. I love to read as well, so if anyone wants recommendations for books to read – ask away. Creative pursuits are great for the soul, so I try to do these as well.

What is your role at Vicdeaf?

I am the Language Services Manager for Auslan Connections under Vicdeaf. I manage the booking office, staff interpreters, and freelance interpreters.

If you have any feedback, positive or negative – please feel free to share that with me. Auslan Connections wants to work with you to ensure that your interpreting needs are met and that you receive the best possible service.

[Click to continue reading.](#)



Participate in the Australian Digital Inclusion Index Survey

Digital inclusion is about how much we are using technology – to learn new skills and broaden our education, to enhance our quality of life and promote social and economic wellbeing.

At the end of the survey you will receive your own personal digital inclusion score, so you can see how you are tracking in the digital age. Click keep reading to watch the captioned Auslan video to learn and to start the survey. [Keep Reading](#)

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Vicdeaf Board Update

The Vicdeaf board would like to announce some exciting changes and congratulate Mac Adam on being awarded Life Membership of the Victorian Deaf Society as he steps down as President.

Vicdeaf is delighted to announce that Hilary Fisher has been appointed to the role of President of the Victorian Deaf Society. Hilary has been on the Vicdeaf Board for a number of years and brings a wealth of experience into her new role.

Gavin Balharrie was also elected as Vice President of the Victorian Deaf Society. [Keep Reading](#)



Communicate Subscriber Tab 2 Draw Winner!

Recently we drew from over 1000 names of new digital Communicate subscribers to find out who would win the Lenovo Tab 2. Congratulations to Maddy Fisher, whose name was drawn out of the hat.

If you know of someone who would like to subscribe to Communicate, all they need to do is email their full name to communicate@vicdeaf.com.au.



Deaf Share Workshops

Vicdeaf will be providing exciting new workshops at Preston Hub in March and April! The workshop series called “Deaf Share” is aimed at Deaf and Hard of Hearing people who reside in the Darebin area. They are also open to people who live outside of this area so everyone is welcome!

There will be three workshops, the first on April 14, that will be lead by Olivia Beasley about #adulting followed by a social youth event, Barefoot bowling! Make sure you purchase your ticket now! [Keep Reading](#)



SensWide at the Midsumma Festival

Midsumma Festival is Victoria's premier LGBTQIA+ cultural festival, made for and by communities who live with shared experiences around diverse gender and sexuality.

Vicdeaf’s employment department, SensWide Employment has participated in the iconic carnival day since 2013 to promote its unique LGBTQIA+ employment program, WorkingOUT. WorkingOUT provides support to LGBTQIA+ people with disabilities to gain meaningful employment, and since its inception, has supported over 400 people. [Keep Reading](#)

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Vale Benjamin Souter

It is with the deepest sadness that we farewell a great colleague and friend in Benjamin (Ben) Souter.

ASLIA Victoria, Vicdeaf (Auslan Connections), Auslan Services and Echo Interpreting wish to collectively express our shock and sadness in Ben's sudden passing.

Many of us were touched by his wit, his humour and his genuine care for us all. We will ensure Ben's passion and spirit lives on in all of us.

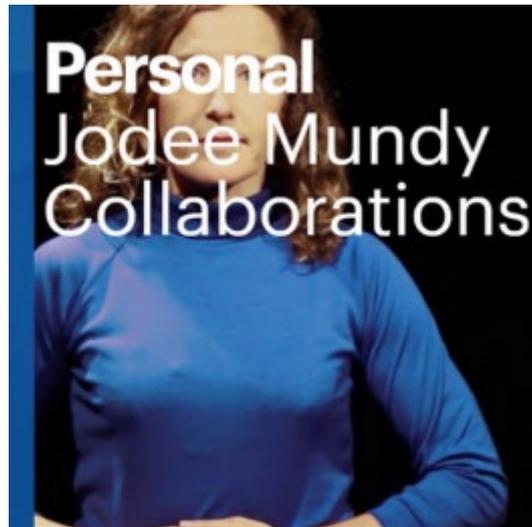
[Keep Reading](#)



Letter from Alex Jones

The 2018 Australian Deaf Games drew to a close in late January at the Closing Ceremony at the Cube in Wodonga where MC's, Marnie Kerridge and Albury Wodonga local, Will Taffe entertained the crowd.

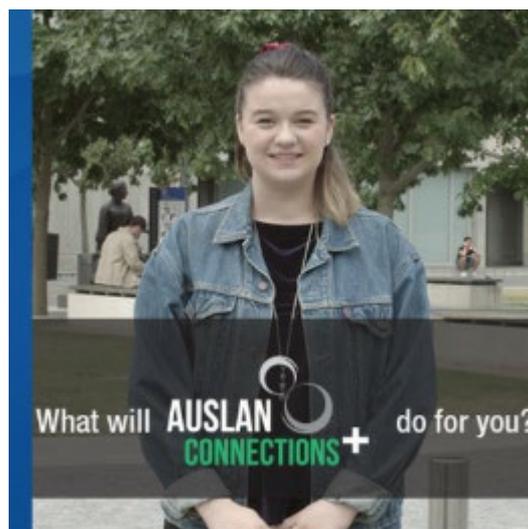
Victoria narrowly lost the JML Cup to NSW who claimed the cup after 15 years. It was announced that the 2022 Australian Deaf Games would again be held in regional NSW with the exact city to be announced at a later date. [Keep Reading](#)



Vicdeaf Delighted to Support Personal by Jodee Mundy Collaborations

Mundy shares her experience as the only hearing person in a Deaf family, through a captivating blend of performance, storytelling, multimedia and animation at the Arts House.

Post event on April 28, Vicdeaf will be hosting discussions facilitated by Brent Phillips, a Deaf parent and Mark Sandon, a hearing CODA. [Keep Reading](#)



Auslan Connections+

Auslan Connections is working hard to ensure that together with you, we can provide the best possible service to our clients and community.

We've listened to how you think booking Auslan interpreters can be improved. In April, we will share with you some exciting news which will change the way you access Auslan interpreters.

Watch our latest update below or follow us on Facebook for our latest announcements www.facebook.com/auslanconnections.

A man with glasses and a light-colored shirt stands in an office environment. He is gesturing with his hands as if speaking. A large white play button icon is centered over his chest. In the background, other office workers are visible at their desks.

What will Auslan Connections+ do for you? Click to find out!

A woman in a black tank top is shown from the chest up, performing hand exercises. Her hands are extended forward, and she appears to be in a focused, athletic state. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

GIVE YOUR HANDS A WORKOUT

LEARN AUSLAN

ENROL FOR TERM 2, 2018

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Give your hands a workout and enrol now for the Term 2 Auslan classes throughout Victoria and Tasmania! Click the above image to see the full schedule of class times, locations and to enrol!



Just **\$70** giving you over **\$20,000** of value!

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