

Australian Deaf Elders Group Messenger

Powered by Expression Australia
in collaboration with ADE Group

ISSUE 1 JULY 2022



Welcome to the first issue of the ADE Group Messenger

This newsletter will be distributed to deaf elders in Australia quarterly with stories, activities, and important information.

Expression Australia collaborated with Australian Deaf Elders Group to develop content and connect deaf elders across Australia.

In this issue, we have:

- A story written by Euan Pescott
- Information about Australian Deaf Elders Group
- Featured recipe
- Information about accessing Auslan interpreters beyond the age of 65

Expression Australia is thrilled to collaborate with the wonderful community Australian Deaf Elders Group to reconnect with you through this newsletter.

We are excited to provide you with personal stories, information that would benefit you, yummy recipes, exciting activities and many more.

ADE Group have advised us of suitable content to add to this newsletter that you would benefit from. However, if you think some content is missing that should be included – please get in touch with us to provide your thoughts. We would love to add all deaf seniors to incoming activities or events. Please email us if you would like to share stories, information or notice of your events on this newsletter.

We would like every issue of this newsletter to reach many deaf seniors across Australia. Please spread the word about this. Your friends or family can subscribe to this newsletter by emailing engagement@expression.com.au.

Thank you,

Olivia Beasley,
Community Engagement Manager



On the 16th of June, Deaf Seniors ran a workshop at Expression with Deaf Chef Ross.

Deaf Chef Ross is an Auslan Food & Cooking Coach, aiming to share the benefits of cooking and eating nutritious whole foods and drinks also introduce mindful eating. You can follow Deaf Chef Ross on Facebook or check out his webpage www.deafchefross.com.

Deaf Seniors is a group for anyone interested in joining to meet new people and socialising, there is no age restriction. If you are interested in learning more or attending a Deaf Seniors please contact

Cheryl cherylrankine@gmail.com
Annette afogarty-57@bigpond.com



Stories

During 1962 I as an Australian profoundly deaf student from Ballarat's primary school called Ewing House School for the Deaf (EHS), sailed across the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans to become one of the first Australian pupils of the UK's Mary Hare Grammar School.

How did I get there? In that year my dear Grandfather passed away leaving behind his Scottish born wife Jean and his adoring families. My grandmother, a trained nurse, found the memories of her happy times with the families and great friends in Melbourne too much. She then uprooted and returned to London. On arriving there, she asked her dearest nursing sisters about education for deaf children with an oral background. They pointed her to Mary Hare Grammar School (MHGS) 4 miles north of Newbury in Berkshire. A flurry of letters between her, my mother and the headmaster of MHGS followed.

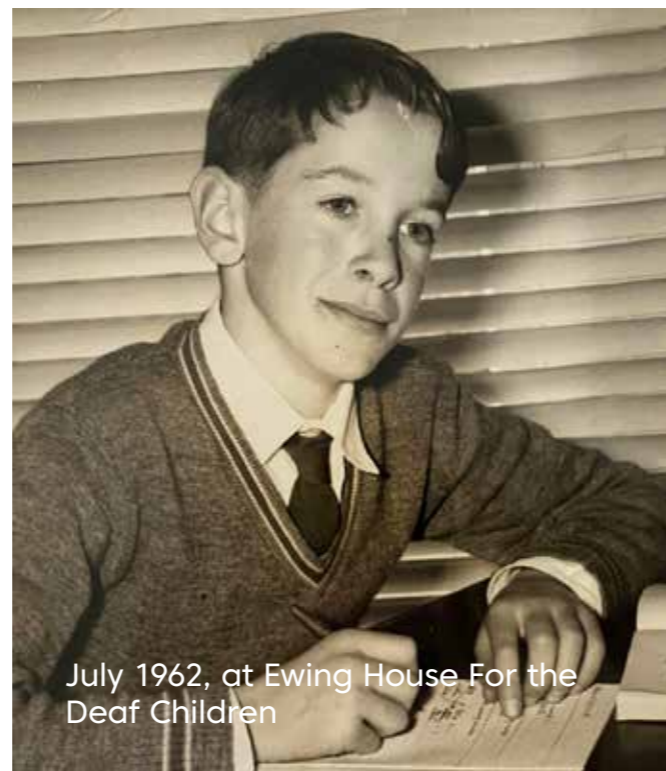
The result of that furious circular flow of letters was that I was quickly called to my dear EHS headmistress's office and told to go to Melbourne and do my extreme best doing a UK entrance exam. *"What for"* I said slowly trying to grasp the meaning of this sudden intrusion into my happy sporty life at Ewing House School. *"Why me"*. I was bundled off to Melbourne's Glendonald School for the deaf to meet its headmaster, a seemly fierce looking Dr Lionel Murphy.

He gave me a business-like look over. *"If you do well at this exam you are going to a very good grammar school in England"* he said but I lipread him. A huge wave of emotions flowed over me, my safe world in Ballarat was about to vaporise before me if I went to England although some teachers at Ewing House

had already come from the UK and I lipread their stories hungrily. I sat and did that UK school entrance exam known as the *"eleven plus exams"* which all pupils wanting to go to Mary Hare Grammar School had to do.

I noted nothing happening for a while. Time went by and went on. One day my mother her face beaming with pride rushed over to me. *"Well done Euan. You have passed that English entrance exam!"* I lipread. *"We are packing our suitcases and boarding the Sitmar Lines Italian Ship called 'Fairsky'!"*

Early August came when my mother and I boarded that big ship so much bigger than my little Sabot yacht I was sailing around Ballarat's Lake Wendouree with its name 'Fairsky' emblazoned at the port and starboard sides of the proud looking ship. Little did I know standing on the front of the rising and falling ship's bow moving across the Pacific Ocean the huge and fast growing episodes of my life were just beginning.



July 1962, at Ewing House For the Deaf Children

After many adventures on that ship I landed at Southampton, train travelled to London, then from Paddington to Newbury station. Then my mother and I were whisked away by taxi to the Mary Hare Grammar School for the Deaf set in an old Arlington Manor with outlying newer additions and surrounded by beautiful gardens, fields and English commons (also known to us as small forests). *"Good afternoon Euan"* I lipread my new headmaster a former English army major. *"Good afternoon Mr Askew"* I exchanged with headmaster Mr Askew in his beautifully timber panelled office next to his PA's room. Thus began my new hectic chapter of life at Mary Hare Grammar School.

My readers will wonder at this point what was special about Mary Hare Grammar School for the deaf. This school is special in that it was an oral grammar school for the deaf with boarding houses and day pupils for locals. All the staff were qualified teachers for the deaf. Subjects taught were both arts and sciences like history, art, English, French, maths, geography, general science, biology, chemistry, physics, domestic science. Sports available were netball, tennis, sailing, athletics, soccer, cricket and hockey. Sport matches were played against universities, grammar schools and colleges all comprised of hearing students. Inter-house athletics championships were done in spring each year.

However, the school's examinations were GCEs O'levels and A-levels set by and supervised by Oxford University at the same age levels as all the secondary schools in Great Britain. This was amazing and credit to the school in rapidly educating the deaf students from deaf primary school to the same level as hearing students from other secondary schools where normally the



Arlington Manor, Mary Hare Grammar School

deaf children would move to trade schools and graduate with trade certificates. At Mary Hare Grammar School one could finish with the right A-level subjects and go onto any University in the UK. They were all oral at school, but they had the opportunity to leave school and re-enter BSL or British sign language. I am grateful for that opportunity to go to that school which in turn gave me an opportunity to enter London University's Imperial Science and Technology situated behind the Royal Albert Hall. What an adventure for this pupil from the small Ballarat primary school called Ewing House School for the deaf.

Thank you,
Euan Pescott

Do you have a story you would like to share? Email your story:
engagement@expression.com.au

Who are the Australian Deaf Elders Group?

Learn more about us and our history in lobbying for greater inclusion and accessibility for deaf and hard of hearing aged over 65 years old.

Australian Deaf Elders Group, a voluntary National Group began in 2016 after many letters sent to the government by Lorraine Mulley of NSW Deaf Person of the Year NSW 2011-2012. Australian Deaf Elders Group was formed and we agreed to continue to lobby for what ADE Group stands for a fair Australia with *"no one left behind"*:

1. Australian Deaf elders who were aged under 65 when the NDIS rolled out in their region, meaning they were eligible by age to receive independence via Auslan interpreter funding for *"community participation"* and *"advanced life planning"*.

2. Fit, healthy, active, working, pensioned or self-funded retiree Deaf elders over

65 unlucky to be over 65 when the NDIS rolled out in their region. They were ineligible for NDIS funding, so do not have independence to access *"community participation"* and daily life *"advanced life planning"* choices.

3. Frail, ill, aged Deaf elders over 65 who are eligible for independence via My Age Care packages to assist with daily life, like home care, shopping, personal care, attendance at medical appointments, home modifications etc.

The second group (2) faced barriers of communication every day from participating in *"community life"* equal to those under 65 who are deaf recipients of independent *"person centered"* NDIS Auslan interpreter funding.

On 23/9/2020 the Hon. Minister for Age Care Richard Colbeck announced *"Australian Deaf Elders Group championed the cause"* for federal government investment of \$20 million into the Australian Deaf community via a *"1 Tender Auslan Contract"* to provide free over 65s seniors Auslan interpreting.

ADE Group went on from October 2020 to April 2021 continuing to lobby alone for the federal government endorsement that many Deaf elders have expressed a desire to learn how to use VRI services around the nation. This was acknowledged to Australian Deaf Elders Group in writing April 2021 by the Federal Department of Health Canberra and further approval to Auslan Connections for face to face VRI workshops around the nation April 2021.

We are so thrilled that Australian Deaf Elders Group idea of National Face to Face VRI workshops was taken up again by the federal government again and workshops around the nation have been offered and finalised. In June 2022 our group continues to lobby to the incoming Labor Government for:

- Access into NDIS equally to under 65s
- No means testing on NDIS over 65s
- Freelance and other interpreter organisations open to bill government for over 65 private interpreter bookings
- No *"Govt 1 Tender contracts"* for Auslan contracts.

In more than 8 years of lobbying together we have not changed our goals as above This is the first Newsletter we hope you enjoy it and feel our passion to ensure *"Equity to NDIS for Deaf Over 65s to Deaf under 65s"* via *"Self-Managed, Plan Managed or Myagecare Managed independent, self-determination and Self-controlled funding packages"*.

Join Australian Deaf Elders Group' on Facebook for more information in Auslan.

Link: www.facebook.com/groups/459425397751537

Well, there's our Australian Deaf Elder man whose fit and healthy waiting at the community event They've been waiting down there, waiting all their lives They are never ever seen by the politicians They get passed around, knocked around Well.... we stand with them get them to their feet again to say

What about me? It isn't fair I've done enough, now I need my share Can't you see, I need Auslan Access to live But you just take more than you give

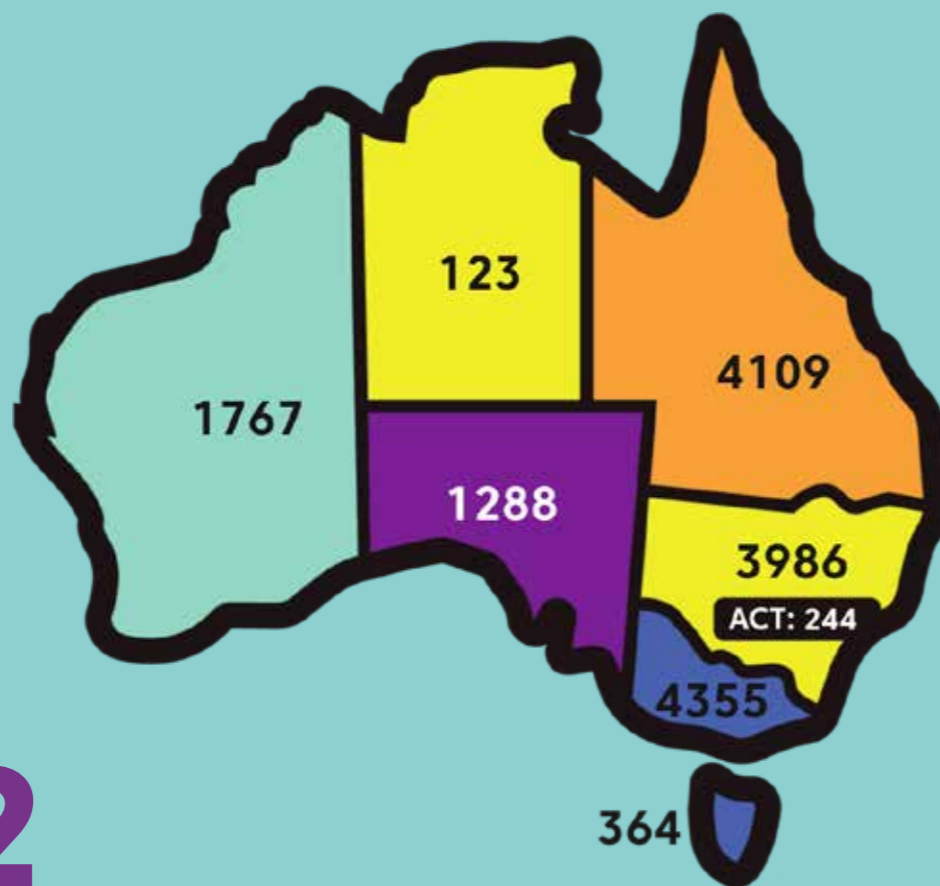
Well, there's an Australian Deaf Elder ladies all fit and healthy for the community event They've been waiting back there, waiting for a dream, Auslan access Their dreams walk in and out, they never stop to sign Well, they're not too proud, to cry out loud They run to the street and sign

What about me? It isn't fair I've worked and paid my taxes, now I need my share Pre Premyagecare supplement Auslan Access Can't you see, I want to live, Auslan Access for Fit, healthy over 65 Deaf But you just take more than you give What about me!

Taken from Shannon Nolls *"What about me"* Famous Australian Song!

Edited by Lorraine Mulley Australian Deaf Elders Group

**Total
auslan
users:
16,242**



ADE Group and other deaf representations lobbied for better inclusivity of Auslan in Census questionnaires.

In 2021, we are finally able to add Auslan as an example on the Census. We have received results from that Census, it has been found that there is increased data of people using Auslan at home.

In 2016, 11,682 people was recorded that they use Auslan at home. 2021, had recorded 16,242 people that use Auslan at home across Australia. That’s an increase of 4,560 people using Auslan! Have a look at how many people are using Auslan in your state.

Recipe

Garlic and Sage Chicken Pie

Source: Total Wellbeing Diet
Serves: 4

Ingredients

- Carrot, 1 medium carrot, chopped into 5mm pieces
- Frozen peas, 1 cup, frozen peas
- Lemon zest, 1 zest from 1 lemon, finely grated
- Lemon juice, 1 juice of 1 lemon
- Filo pastry, uncooked, 4 sheets
- Olive oil spray, 2 sprays

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C.
2. Reheat the chicken mixture in a covered saucepan over low-medium heat. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the chicken to a plate, remove the meat from the bone and chop the meat into small chunks. Mash the potato in the saucepan to a chunky mash, then return the chicken to the pan.
3. Steam or boil the carrots for 3-4 minutes until tender, then drain and add to the chicken mixture, along with the peas, lemon zest and 2 tablespoons of the lemon juice. Season to taste with salt and pepper and mix gently to combine, being careful not to break up the chicken.
4. Spray a 1.5 litre ovenproof dish with cooking oil, then spoon the chicken mixture into the dish. Lay out the filo sheets on a clean work surface and spray with cooking oil. Arrange the filo sheets on top of the chicken, then place the dish in the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes until the pastry is golden and crisp.
5. Serve the pie with braised beans.



TIP: Add 2 tablespoons chopped fresh herbs such as flat-leaf parsley, chives, or sage to the chicken mixture before baking. This recipe is great served with the *Braised Green Beans with Tomato and Oregano* recipe from the *Recipes on a Budget* recipe book. The recipe for the garlic and sage chicken can be found in *The Total Wellbeing Diet Recipes on a Budget* book.

Link: www.totalwellbeingdiet.com/au/recipes/winter-warmer-recipes/garlic-and-sage-chicken-pie/

Activity

I N F O R M A T I O N Q H A Y
E H E N G W Y U E L D E R Z X
C A E G O S Y L X O F R U F U
O R X Z Y G D V M M K M E S H
M D Q Z W Y F W E N M Q N C Z
M O H C H B A B I S D Q J F C
U F B F F D U D I L X F X C O
N H P V X X S C M D U V S B M
I E O A U P T B M H H X T Z M
C A R F J I R Y Z N C S O E U
A R Q N L G A U S L A N R V N
T I N E W S L E T T E R I D I
E N G W X D I H X N M E E E T
R G I S L U A L T I J G S A Y
M E N Q H G A S L I G H T F F

Hard of Hearing	Communicate	Information	Newsletter
Australia	Gaslight	Community	Auslan
Elder	Deaf	Stories	News

Answers will be provided in next issue.

Tell us what you think about ADE Group Messenger! You can provide feedback, ideas or your own news to publish for the next Messenger issue. You can contact us through email or mail.

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East Melbourne 3002

engagement@expression.com.au

Interpreting services for over 65's

From ADE Group's lobbying to get better access for deaf Australians aged over 65. The Australian Government had funded us to provide free Auslan interpreting services for people aged over 65.

You can get free interpreters for:

- Events with family or friends
- Weddings or funerals
- Legal advice
- Finance advice
- Meetings like real estate
- Private hospital appointments

Include this information about your event:

- Date and time
- Location
- Type of appointment (e.g. Wedding)
- For who

If you want to book an interpreter, or have questions please contact one of the groups below. We can communicate on email, SMS or video call.

Expression Australia
interpreting@expression.com.au

Deaf Connect
interpreting@deafconnect.org.au