

National Newsletter

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS INC.

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In this Issue

From the President 1

Who's Who 2

Power to the Profession 3

AGM 3

Focus on Translation 4

Pay & Conditions 5

Technology Bytes 6

e-Bulletin 7

Ethical Quandaries 8

Industry Issues 9

Branch News 10

FIT XVII World Congress 12

National Council 12

Ausit Membership 13

Professional Development 14

From the President



Another three months have gone by and a lot of things have happened within AUSIT. Once again, your

National and State representatives focused their efforts on areas which directly impact the current and future livelihood of our members.

In March and April, AUSIT National and State representatives met the new Director of TIS, one of the major employers of interpreters, and raised a large number of issues. Read about it in this newsletter in the new regular feature on Pay and Conditions.

As agreed at the last NAGM, we addressed the long-standing issue of the 60 points allocated by DIMIA to new migrants who pass the NAATI accreditation test. You can read the AUSIT position paper on our website.

A detailed submission was sent under my signature to the RTA NSW. Members and non-members alike have often told me how restrictive the driver licence translation policy is to their business and how it affects their reputation in their community as well as their other work, as clients decide to take all their business elsewhere.

In March, only days after our membership was confirmed, I attended the first Professions Australia event, a one-day work-

shop on Ethics held in Canberra. This was an opportunity to introduce AUSIT to the other 21 professions represented, to network and to find resources we can access from other associations without re-inventing the wheel. During the same trip, I met ASLIA's National President and we are looking at areas in which we can operate together. Whilst the context is very different for our organisations, we can pool the strength that our respective memberships give us.

In a different direction, AUSIT continued to pursue the issue of strengthening professional development. Continued professional development is the way to ensure that our skills underpin the quality of the work we deliver as interpreters and translators. Simple tools and guidelines will be presented to members in the next few months. PD is also a major element of professional reforms that are under way and for which AUSIT must prepare.

Finally, after more than four years without a change and following extensive discussions, members and branch committees supported an increase of our membership fees. The maximum amount of \$40 will be implemented in two steps, and it is tax-deductible and inclusive of GST. For many of us, working in isolation, AUSIT is a life-line to a closely knit community and our improved finances give us latitude to significantly develop membership services. As an

continued on page 2

From the President

continued from page 1

example, check out our upgraded website, that offers a lot of new material and useful links, as well as a more professional look.

Yveline Piller
National President

Newsletter Contacts and Editorial Policy

National Newsletter Editorial Team:

Anne Richardson, Outgoing Editor
Niki Baras, Design and Production
Louise Dyer, Proofreading

Particular thanks are also due to David Connor for his assistance in liaising with the printers.

Contributions deadline for next issue:

6 August 2004.

Please make every effort to ensure that all contributions reach the editor or newsletter coordinator no later than the due date to avoid delaying publication. At the time of going to press, the appointment of the new editor has yet to be finalised, however all newsletter contributions or inquiries may be sent to the newsletter coordinator:

Sarah Walls
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The AUSIT national newsletter is published four times a year. Letters to the Editor, short articles and items for the calendar of events and other sections are invited. The Editor reserves the right not to publish or to edit any item submitted for publication. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Editor or of AUSIT or its executive.

Who's Who

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The regional administrators, Tineke Millard (Northern Region) and David Connor (Southern Region), will be happy to assist you with membership inquiries / renewals and all other administrative matters.

"POWER TO THE PROFESSION"

**The Australian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (AUSIT),
and**

**The Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association (Victoria) (ASLIA Vic)
have great pleasure in announcing**

THE 2004 COMBINED AUSIT/ASLIA (VIC) BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 22 – 24 OCTOBER PRELIMINARY CALL FOR PAPERS

Translation and interpreting of written, spoken and signed language takes place at every level of business and in every walk of society. It is an essential and integral part of many processes that we take for granted.

Interpreting and translation practitioners nevertheless suffer a variety of frustrations in their working lives. The profession, as such, is relatively new, and unfortunately the high level of skill and ethical propriety required for practice goes largely unacknowledged by society at large. This leaves practitioners without the power to plead their case; the power to generate income that is commensurate with their value; the power to advise clients effectively; the power to develop and maintain skills; and the power to influence policy development that is appropriate for an organised profession.

Paper presentations of 20 ~ 30 minutes in length, and proposals for workshops and panel discussions are sought, that seek to enhance the power of the profession.

Topics of interest include recent developments in the theory and practice of written, spoken and signed translation, and the business, economic and policy imperatives of the industry. Presentations should endow listeners with better knowledge of current research in both theory and practice, better ability to explain themselves to the world outside the industry, and an increased power to represent and promote their professional and commercial interests.

The audience will be practitioners, service providers, educators, academics and policy makers.

Preference will be given to presentations based on research and empirical evidence, although impassioned pleas and gratuitous rants will be considered.

Clarification of deadlines, program and organiser contact details will appear within the coming months.

Contact the PTTP Conference Organising committee at the following

E-mail : victas@ausit.org

Telephone : 1800 284 181

Advance Notice of AUSIT Annual General Meeting

Advance notice is hereby given that the 17th National Annual General Meeting of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc. (AUSIT) will be held in Melbourne to coincide with the joint AUSIT and ASLIA (Vic) conference on the weekend of 22 – 24 October 2004. Further details will be made available shortly. In the meantime, any inquiries may be directed to the Vic/Tas branch at the e-mail address or telephone number indicated above.

From the Editor

As this is the last issue of the newsletter I shall be editing (I'm taking a maternity break), I'd like to take this opportunity to thank a few people.

Those who have given assistance and support are too numerous to name them all here, but I would like to express my particular thanks to Moreno Giovannoni and Silke Gebauer for their vision and creativity in planning the "new" newsletter in early 2003, David Connor for liaising with the printer and mailing company (amongst so many other things David does for AUSIT), the regional administrators (David Connor and Tineke Millard), branch committees and National Council members for keeping me up-to-date with events and issues around the country, all the newsletter contributors, Sarah Walls for assisting me in editing this issue and, last but not least, our fantastic and unflappable typesetter, Niki Baras, and proofreader, Louise Dyer.

I wish the incoming editor every success and am sure I speak for him/her in asking you all to keep the contributions coming.

Anne Richardson, June 2004

Remembering Cortázar

by Alejandra Hayes

JULIO CORTÁZAR (1914-1984) is considered one of the major experimentalist writers of the 20th Century. He was born in Brussels, Belgium, to Argentine parents and the family returned to Argentina when he was four. There he studied to be a teacher at the Escuela Normal de Profesores Mariano Acosta, and then continued his studies at the University of Buenos Aires. In 1944 he moved to Mendoza, where he taught French literature at the University of Cuyo. In 1948 he graduated as a Public Translator in English and in French, taking just 9 months to complete a three-year curriculum. His intellectual intensity found a natural outlet in writing and his first book of short stories, *Bestiary*, was published in 1951. That same year he received a grant from the French government, and moved to Paris where he lived until his death on 12 February 1984.

Complex and eclectic, Cortázar's works reflect the influence of French surrealism, psychoanalysis, and his love for both photography and jazz, as well as a strong commitment to revolutionary Latin American politics. Among his works available in English translation are *The Winners* (1960; tr. 1965), *Hopscotch* (1963; tr. 1966), *All Fires the Fire and Other Stories* (1966; tr. 1973), *A Manual for Manuel* (1973; tr. 1978), *We Love Glenda So Much and Other Tales* (tr. 1983), *Around the Day in Eighty Worlds* (1967; tr. 1986), and *End of the Game and Other Stories* (tr. 1967), which includes 'Las babas del diablo' (literally, 'Devil's Drool'), the story that became the basis for the film *Blow-Up*, directed by Michelangelo Antonioni.

English Translations

I have often wondered why Cortázar – a master of short fiction and one of the central authors of the Latin American literary boom of the early 60s – is not as widely-known as a short story writer in the Anglo-American culture as Jorge Luis Borges or Gabriel García Márquez, for example. Is this related to flaws and inadequacies in some of the published versions in English, the strategies used by his translators, or is it more to do with Cortázar's own positioning with respect to the literary canons? One important contributing factor, as suggested by McLean (1998), may be that less than half of his books

And yet, Cortázar was rather pessimistic about the efficacy of literary translation.

have been translated into English, and these translations have been the work of more than a dozen different authors. Gabriel García Márquez's work, for instance, has consistently been translated into English by Gregory Rabassa and more recently by Edith Grossman. And while only three of Julio Cortázar's short stories have been translated more than once many of Jorge Luis Borges's have been translated several times – some have been published in thirteen different English versions.

Among the dozen or so translators who have rendered Cortázar into English we find names such as

Claribel Alegría, Nick Caistor, Thomas Christensen, Margaret Jull Costa, Paul Blackburn, Darwin Flakoll, Jean Franco, Suzanne Jill Levine, Alfred MacAdam, Anne McLean, Alberto Manguel, Elaine Kerrigan, Stephen Kessler, Gregory and Clementine Rabassa.¹ The English translations did not gain him much recognition, however, as was the case with other authors of the Latin American boom. Only fourteen of his more than thirty books have been translated into English, and only two of the short story collections have contained the same stories as the Spanish originals².

Cortázar the Translator

Julio Cortázar worked as a translator himself, in Buenos Aires and in Europe for UNESCO. His translations include titles by G. K. Chesterton, Daniel Defoe, Louisa May Alcott, André Gide, Jean Giono, Marguerite Yourcenar, Lord Houghton's *Life and Letters of John Keats*, and the complete works of Edgar Allan Poe. Not surprisingly, we find translators as characters and/or narrators in many of his stories. And yet, Cortázar was rather pessimistic about the efficacy of literary translation. He once stated that 'he knew too well the craft of the truchman not to know that language withdraws to a function above all informative ... when literature is translated the euphonic, rhythmic, chromatic, sculptural, structural stimuli are deadened or withered' (cited in McLean 1998: 9). And he writes:

Every time I've had to revise a translation of one of my stories (or attempt that of another author, as once with

Poe) I have been struck by the degree to which the efficacy and the meaning of the story depended on those values that give poetry, like jazz, its specific character: tension, rhythm, internal pulse, the unexpected within foreseen parameters, that fatal liberty that cannot be altered without unstaunchable loss.

(Cortázar 1969: 42, Translation by McLean 1998: 9)

On the 20th anniversary of Cortázar's death, I would like to invite all those translators who are not familiar with his short fiction to discover these fantastic stories. I sincerely hope that this brief biography will inspire creative minds to produce the first published Australian translations of Julio Cortázar's work.

Notes

¹ In her M.A. Dissertation, Mc Lean (1998) points out that Cortázar has been translated into English almost exclusively by North Americans, and that only one of them has translated books from more than one stage of the writer's career.

² Cortázar's books of short stories have been translated into English by P. Blackburn, A. Manguel, S. J. Levine, and G. Rabassa.

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Alejandra Hayes is a practising translator and interpreter and has recently completed her M.A. dissertation on Julio Cortázar's short fiction in English. She is also a tutor in Introduction to Translation at the University of Western Sydney.

This article was first submitted for publication in the newsletter in February 2004, the 20th anniversary of Cortázar's death, but had to be held over until this issue due to lack of space. Apologies to Alejandra Hayes for the late publication of this item. (Editor)

End of Year

Dear colleagues,

To ensure we can distribute the Annual Report on time (24 September 2004), may I ask that:

- the branch treasurers send their payment/receipts report together with a June statement to Louis (louis@doubledutch.com.au) by 15 July 2004;
- the branch sets a date for its AGM as soon as possible;

Pay and Conditions

AUSIT Meets with New TIS Director

New TIS director, Con Pagonis, has agreed to forward to the Department of Immigration and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) AUSIT's concerns regarding the 60 points allocated to migrants who pass the NAATI translating/interpreting tests, after meeting with AUSIT President and Chair of the Pay and Conditions Committee, Yveline Piller, and long-term AUSIT member, Bob Desiatnik, in March.

Following the meeting, Yveline sent Mr Pagonis AUSIT's position paper pointing out that the present immigration policy encourages people with no qualifications to sit for the NAATI test, and results in a flood of newly accredited T&Is entering a saturated market in the major languages, while failing to meet needs in emerging community languages.

The "60-points" issue was just one of several pay and conditions issues that Yveline and Bob were able to raise, after the new director of Australia's national interpreting service asked to meet AUSIT representatives.

Bob pointed out to Mr Pagonis and TIS business manager Ron Trudgen that while fees charged to clients had doubled over the last 10 years, fees paid to interpreters had changed little, and interpreters were also now expected to absorb numerous costs including petrol, fares, tolls and police clearances.

Mr Pagonis has offered to circulate an AUSIT flyer on training and development opportunities to TIS contractors in the next TIS newsletter, and to meet AUSIT representatives in several states and territories over the coming months. TIS has already had discussions in Melbourne with Sarina Phan and Eva Hussain for the Vic/Tas branch, focusing in particular on AUSIT's role in supporting professional development, and in Perth with Younghi Newman and Annamaria Arnall. TIS and AUSIT representatives agreed that closer communication would have benefits for both organisations.

Bob Desiatnik and Yveline Piller

-
- the branch holds its AGM before 31 August;
 - the branch chair sends a Branch Chair Report to Tineke (tinekemillard@optusnet.com.au) by 15 September 2004 at the latest, so it can be included in the Annual Report.

Thank you,
Tineke Millard
National Secretary
national@ausit.org

Document Formats

by Ian McAllister

Machine Translation

There is one, and only one, way in which computers excel at translation. This is when there is one and only one way to translate from one form into another. Computers can only understand ones and zeroes, so everything else has to be translated into ones and zeroes, and your computer does it in a flash.

Looked at another way, everything that we see on our computer is in code, and computers translate reliably between codes.

Why does this matter to translators?

Have you ever had an e-mail bounced with the message “inbox full”? This happens a lot with Hotmail addresses, because I think they accept only a total of 2 million bytes per day. One byte used to be the size of one letter or number (and still is for e-mails without attachments) but an attachment can be much bigger than 2MB.

Translation between codes matters because some codes (or “formats”) are very much bigger than others. ASCII code was the original, representing each character with only seven bits. (Each bit can be thought of as a switch or a choice between 1 and 0, and a byte is 8 bits.)

Two Layouts

If we want our documents to look better than straight ASCII code, we have two common ways of describing the layout of a document. Bitmap code divides your page up into a grid of dots, then says “the top left hand dot is white, the next dot is...” and so on for all of the picture. That amounts to over 7 000 000 dots in a normal page.

If the picture is black and white only, that means over seven million ones and zeroes. However, if there are 10 million colours, there must be 10 million different numbers, with one representing each colour. You can see how rapidly the size of a file can grow.

The other common alternative to Bitmap is Vector. If I say “start a line where the cursor is and draw it 3.142 cm at 42 degrees”, I can leave the computer to decide how to translate the instructions into Bitmap for printing or displaying on the screen.

Another advantage of Vector drawings is that if I decide to enlarge the picture by 123.456 times, I simply

have to multiply the length of the line, and the angle remains unchanged. To magnify a bitmap picture, the computer would replace every dot with a square of 123 and a bit dots per side, and the bit left over would cause real problems. Besides, you know how ugly a picture becomes when large squares replace dots.

Word Processors

Most modern word processors, including MS Word, work with vector fonts, which are usually either Adobe fonts or MS True Type fonts. Professional desktop publishers and printers dislike True Type fonts, and may refuse to work with them. This means that all the text takes up very little room. Unfortunately, it only works if the end user can decode the word processor code. You may have to send a copy of the font to the end user, which can cause copyright problems.

Final display must always be in bitmap format. Your computer translates the word processor code into bitmap code to display it on a printer or monitor.

Pictures

There are many codes for graphics, which can be converted from one to another, sometimes losing quality in the conversion. It is best (if you have graphics software) to work in the original format, and convert at the very end.

Jpeg or jpg

This is a compressed format, that loses quality. If you have a line of 1700 dots that are all black except one, you can say something like “start white, change to black at dot 1534, change to white at dot 1435”. That is one kind of compression. Jpeg files are very good for colour photographs with tiny shadings from one part of the picture to another.

Gif

GIF files are excellent for sudden changes, such as line drawings or text. They are not very good for gently shaded photographs.

So the worst way you can send black and white text as an attachment is as a jpeg file.

Scanners

Unfortunately your client may not know that. He may scan a black and white document, with the contrast set

Continued on page 15

The AUSIT e-Bulletin is a restricted group for financial members of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc. (AUSIT) for the exchanging of information and ideas relating to the translating and interpreting professions. The views expressed in this group are those of individual AUSIT members and do not represent the views of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc. which does not accept any liability for the views expressed.

Conditions Of Use of the AUSIT e-Bulletin

As a user of the AUSIT e-Bulletin it is understood that you agree to the following conditions of use:

You agree not to use the e-Bulletin to:

- a) Upload, post, e-mail, transmit or otherwise make available any content that is unlawful, harmful, threatening, abusive, harassing, tortious, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, libellous, invasive of another's privacy, hateful, or racially, ethnically or otherwise objectionable
- b) Harm minors in any way
- c) Impersonate any person or entity, or falsely state or otherwise misrepresent your affiliation with a person or entity
- d) Forge headers or otherwise manipulate identifiers in order to disguise the origin of any content transmitted through the

service

- e) Upload, post, e-mail, transmit or otherwise make available any content that you do not have a right to make available under any law or under contractual or fiduciary relationships (such as inside information, proprietary and confidential information learned or disclosed as part of employment relationships or under non-disclosure agreements)
- f) Upload, post, e-mail, transmit or otherwise make available any content that infringes any patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright or other proprietary rights of any party
- g) Upload, post, e-mail, transmit or otherwise make available any unsolicited or unauthorised advertising, promotional materials, "junk mail," "spam," "chain letters," "pyramid schemes," or any other form of solicitation
- h) Upload, post, e-mail, transmit or otherwise make available any material that contains software viruses or any other computer code, files or programs designed to interrupt, destroy or limit the functionality of any computer software or hardware or telecommunications equipment
- i) Disrupt the normal flow of dialogue, cause a screen to "scroll" faster than other users of the service are able to type, or otherwise act in a manner that negatively affects other users'

ability to engage in real-time exchanges

- j) Interfere with or disrupt the service or servers or networks connected to the service, or disobey any requirements, procedures, policies or regulations of networks connected to the service
- k) "Stalk" or otherwise harass another
- l) Collect or store personal data about other users
- m) Collect and analyse e-Bulletin content for personal profit or gain, including for academic or commercial purposes, without the permission of the AUSIT National Council

Failure to observe these conditions may lead to removal of your access to the e-Bulletin.

Procedure for Enforcing Conditions of Use of AUSIT e-Bulletin

Procedure:

A sub-committee of 3 NC members may immediately suspend a member's access – the committee will be appointed from time to time by the National Executive.

The subcommittee will then notify the member of the suspension and the reasons for it.

The suspension will remain confidential as will all communications with the offending member.

New Members

The following colleagues have recently been admitted to AUSIT membership or associate membership:

Davis Nam, Haruka Nomura, Scott Grant, Wenying Li, Naoto Takeuchi, Sao Teng Wong, Susan Li-Shan Chen, Kanae Yamane, Sanja Coso, Victoria Kristoffersen, Geoffrey Bromfield, Makiko Kato, Ernest Ho, Patricia M. Nilon, Jiajun Shen, Vanna S. Walsh, Rhiannyn Geeson, Michelle Pomella, Marcel Leneham, Dung Hoang, Soran Mawlood, J. Angelo Berbotto, Jay Lloyd-Southwell, Inba Pizzorno, Calli Patisteas, Dogan Sahin, Naty Santa Juliana, Helen Kyriacou, Chris Sardelis, Tanya Avramenko, Patricia Will and Rhonda Morgan-Rivera

Congratulations and a warm welcome to all our new members.

Application of AUSIT Code of Ethics/Practice to Questions of Impartiality and Conflict of Interest

by Harry Blackmore

SITUATION: Occasionally interpreters have to decide if a conflict of interests is present, and impartiality threatened, when offered an assignment. How to act?

All NAATI-accredited interpreters are required to comply with the AUSIT Code of Ethics.

The relevant general principles of the Code in this instance are as follows:

1) Professional Conduct in Practice

"Interpreters shall not allow personal or other interests to prejudice or influence their work" (1.b.i)

Interpretation: Circumstances may be such that an interpreter has different opinions and interests from those raised during an assignment - the Code directs the interpreter to contain all personal views. If confident, proceed - if not, withdraw.

"Interpreters shall not exercise power or influence over their clients" (1.b.iii)

Interpretation: Some clients may feel indebted to or dependent on the interpreter. In such and similar circumstances the interpreter must avoid actual, or appearance of, directing or speaking on behalf of clients. If objectivity undoubted, proceed - if not, withdraw.

"Interpreters shall maintain their integrity and independence at all times" (1.b.iv)

Interpretation: Interpreters may have a close familiarity with clients and/or close association with organisations for whom they are to

interpret. The Code expects interpreters to maintain a professional distance from, and show no partiality towards, any party of the assignment. If independence not at risk, proceed - if doubtful, withdraw.

"Interpreters shall frankly disclose any possible conflict of interest" (1.b.v)

Interpretation: There may be times when, for example, the interpreter is the only one available or suitable for an assignment and has certain interests in one or both parties of the assignment, these interests must be declared at the outset, in order to allow one or both parties to either object to or permit (under certain mutually acceptable conditions) the interpreter to proceed. If interests not in conflict, proceed - if doubtful, withdraw.

4) Impartiality in Practice

"Interpreters shall frankly disclose all conflicts of interest, including assignments for relatives or friends, and those affecting their employer" (4.a.ii)

Interpretation: See interpretation for clause (1.b.v) above. If doubt persists, withdraw.

"Interpreters shall not accept, or shall withdraw from, assignments in which impartiality may be difficult to maintain because of personal beliefs or circumstances" (4.a.iii)

Interpretation: See interpretation for clause (1.b.i) above. While only the interpreter really knows his or her own mind, and must act in accordance with the tenor of the Code, it is prudent to withdraw if one or both of the clients remains doubtful or uneasy.

"A professional detachment is required for interpreting assignments in all situations" (4.b.i)

Interpretation: There may be times when the subject matter for discussion in an assignment is of special interest to the interpreter.

Nevertheless, the interpreter must be scrupulously careful to avoid offering any personal view (even if invited) or moderating the conversation by slanting the interpretation in any way. If unsure, withdraw.

"If objectivity is threatened, interpreters shall withdraw from the assignment" (4.b.ii)

Interpretation: See interpretation for clause (1.b.iii). If uncertainty remains, withdraw.

Membership Renewals

A number of members are in the habit of renewing their membership at the door on the day of their State AGM.

It might be worth bearing in mind that, in many cases, this will result in an extra \$20 this time, because of our new fee structure and the due date of membership renewal. We don't want too many grumpy members, so if we can "help" you ...

AUSIT NSW Jacks up RTA Effort

by Michael Grunwald

After seeking legal advice, the AUSIT NSW branch recently sent a letter signed by AUSIT's National President to the CEO of NSW Roads and Traffic Authority, asking him to investigate the apparent ongoing anti-competitive business practice of RTA NSW, which imposes restrictions on translations of overseas driver licences.

The main thrust of the letter sent by AUSIT focused on the facts that:

- overseas licence holders are prevented in NSW from making a free choice when selecting an accredited translation service provider
- RTA NSW customers are being prevented from making significant savings in both time and money
- most providers of accredited translation services are being unfairly excluded from competing in an open market, especially as the RTA has been referring clients exclusively to the CRC for translation of other personal documents
- other governmental departments, such as DIMIA and the RTA in other states, are able to discharge their responsibilities without resorting to restrictive practices.

The NSW branch of AUSIT Inc. also indicated that it is willing and able to provide specialised DL translation training, as many of its highly experienced members are actually on the CRC translation panel.

At present, holders of overseas driver licences are generally advised that, according to RTA policy, the translation must be undertaken by the Community

Relations Commission (CRC) in Sydney, which charges \$51.15 and \$63.80 for 14-day and 7-day turn-arounds respectively.

The RTA policy was introduced in NSW in the late 1980s as part of a wider attempt to combat fraudulent activities. At that time:

- Australian driver licences did not include a photograph and so could be used by virtually anyone for identification purposes;
- most European driver licences were only issued in each country's national language/s (unlike the current EU model);
- standardised testing of translators by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) was in its infancy;
- there was a shortage of appropriately accredited translators;
- AUSIT had yet to implement its binding Code of Ethics.

Measures adopted by the RTA included using a limited number of government-operated translation services as suppliers, e.g. the now disbanded TIS NSW and the CRC (formerly EAC) and organising specialised training for the NAATI-accredited translators employed by such suppliers to help them deal with the idiosyncrasies of foreign driver licences.

At the time of going to press, a response had been received from the RTA, justifying its position in regard to the above matter. Members will be advised of any further developments (Editor).

JOB VACANCIES

AUSIT would like to thank all who applied for the positions of Administrator, Newsletter Editor and Professional Development Coordinator which were advertised earlier this year. An encouraging number of applications was received and the selection process is now underway. Thank you to all applicants for your patience: you will be hearing from us shortly.

To enable AUSIT to achieve its key objectives of becoming the driving force in our industry and enhancing the status of T&I practitioners by increasing our association's presence and standing in the industry and pooling and harnessing our resources, we will continue to rely on the dedicated services of volunteers for many tasks, at least in the short- to medium-term. A number of voluntary positions have been identified and remain vacant, including:

Grant Application Writers
Advertising Officer
PR Liaison
Website Upgrade Coordinator
Annual Report Editor
Industrial Relations Expert
Bookkeepers
Legal Adviser

Please give serious consideration to how you may be able to help AUSIT further the interests of all T&I practitioners. If you are interested in any of the above positions, know anyone who might be, or would like to offer your services in another area which may benefit our association and its members, please send your details to Tineke Millard, Northern Region Administrator, who will act as the first point of contact : nsw@ausit.org or PO Box 376, Ramsgate NSW 2217.

Branch News

Australian Capital Territory

The ACT branch held its first professional development (PD) activity for 2004, with a presentation by Dr George Klim on "Legal and other issues for translators and interpreters" on 27 March.

For its next PD event, the committee is trying to arrange a demonstration of various computer assisted translation (CAT) packages. We hope to program the event some time in July. Branch members will be advised as soon as arrangements are finalised. Details will also be on the AUSIT e-Bulletin.

Mike Ovington, Chair
13.05.2004

New South Wales

The NSW branch produced two letters recently, one to the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA) regarding their policy of referring translation requests exclusively to the Community Relations Commission (CRC), another state government authority. The letter was extensively vetted by a lawyer member of AUSIT (many thanks for your help, Lawson). Depending on the RTA's response, we may contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission as the next step.

The other letter was in relation to the extra migration points awarded to translators and interpreters across the board for passing the NAATI test. Our president made it known to the Department of Immigration & Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs that there is a problem with that approach. The letter is available on the AUSIT website.

We held two very successful PD sessions, one about intercultural communication in T&I, presented by Michael Grunwald, and one about the "Déjà Vu" CAT software, presented by Ignacio Garcia.

Andrew Bean has produced an Australian version of the British "Getting it right" translation brochure, which will be used to promote AUSIT among T&I practitioners and to raise our profile among end users.

The branch discussed (once again) inconsistent membership admission procedures across the nation and would like the membership category reform to be put back on the agenda.

We plan to participate in a research project by the University of Technology Sydney on interpreting in NSW courts. The UTS project will involve a survey which may be of interest to AUSIT nationally.

The branch suffers from relying 100% on voluntary contributions and is considering employing a part-time office worker for project work. This will be advertised on the bulletin board once a decision has been made.

Uli Priester, Chair
17.05.2004

Queensland

Professional Development

Activities made available to AUSIT colleagues included:

22 March: "Cultural diversity and the Family Court of Australia", an evening seminar and networking session (discussion on court processes including use of interpreters).

27 April: "An Iranian perspective on mental health and mental illness", the first in a series of seminars covering mental health issues and attitudes to mental health in nine language groups.

15 May: "Intercultural skills: providing interpreting and translation services", a four-hour seminar.

24 May: "Raising children bilingually in Australia: myths, challenges and opportunities", an evening lecture and discussion with Prof. Anne Pauwels of the University of Western Australia.

The vastness of the state and the small numbers of AUSIT members in regional areas call for new solutions regarding provision of professional development and training. Consequently, the committee is working to develop contacts and a working relationship with government organisations to create PD and networking opportunities. One such opportunity is the existing Local Area Multicultural Partnerships program, a partnership between the state and local governments, which, among other activities, facilitates cross-cultural and working-with-interpreters training in regional areas. The committee approached the program and training was made available to our member in Gladstone (March 2004). We are now looking at a more formal relationship through which other colleagues in regional Queensland could access cross-cultural training.

Through development and training activities that have already taken place, we are looking at increasing training opportunities for members through a reciprocal arrangement with an agency with high interpreting needs (to follow the line of "we will learn about the agency needs in regards to interpreting/translation and they will learn from us, who the interpreters/translators are, what and how they do it"). Another idea being explored is developing a mentoring program for interpreting students at the Southbank Institute of TAFE in Brisbane.

The committee is also looking at bringing interstate trainers to Queensland. Our PD coordinator will examine the possibility of using recorded sessions for small group and/or individual use.

Promotional Activities

Our Chair is a member of the NAATI Regional Advisory Committee (Qld) and participated in RAC meetings in April and May. We also plan to work more closely with local private interpreting and translating agencies, learn who they are, promote AUSIT and encourage their contractors to join AUSIT. On 22 May Ita spoke about the benefits of AUSIT membership to contractors employed through Brisbane branch of the On-Call Interpreters and Translators Agency.

Ita Szymanska, Chair
14.05.2004

South Australia / Northern Territory Seminar

Our seminar "Know your market - marketing strategy for T&I practitioners" was held on 25 March 2004. It covered various aspects of marketing such as market, client and competitor analysis. Twenty-two T&Is and 22 students attended the seminar and the response was positive. Finger food and soft drinks were served afterwards and everyone had an opportunity to chat with colleagues.

Upcoming Event

Where are we going? What are we doing? We would like to chat with members about AUSIT and the profession. Maybe an event called "Have your say" in June? An informal setting, good atmosphere, food and drinks and a good powwow. You have the opportunity to ask, grumble, praise, suggest, comment or just meet up and have a jolly good time. We will send out invitations when details are confirmed. Hope to see you all there!

AGM

Soon it will be time to hold the annual general meeting. We encourage our members to think about joining the committee. This is your opportunity to get involved, learn what is going on and have your say. We have a great team working hard to make things happen. We would like to welcome more members. More members, more ideas, more events! Don't be shy - join in.

Andrea Hoffmann, Chair
10.05.2004

Victoria / Tasmania

They say if you want a job done, get a busy person to do it. That's how we feel in Victoria: the work keeps coming. Having said that, I can say on behalf of all the volunteers, we are very proud to be part of AUSIT Vic/Tas, the fastest growing branch.

Some of the new and exciting initiatives in Victoria include: AUSIT inaugural awards, hosting a "Joint Conference - AUSIT/ASLIA", engaging in funding and sponsorship exercises, and actively promoting AUSIT to industry stakeholders and the profession in general.

Some of the upcoming events in Victoria include: "Ethics for interpreters and translators - a panel discussion" (Networking session) May 28, "Advanced note-taking workshop" (2nd half of the year), interpreters group in July, "Small business management" workshop (August), CAT tools for translators and a whole lot more.

Working for your profession not only gives you a strong sense of belonging but contributing your ideas and commitment to bring the profession forward makes you a true professional. If you wish to be part of the driving engine of AUSIT, contact your local branch.

Happy Ausiteering!

Sarina Phan, Chair
19.05.2004

Western Australia

Since the last newsletter deadline, we have staged two outstanding PD sessions in the West. The first was the "Legal terminology in focus" workshop in conjunction with a networking session on 21 February, presented by Michelle Gonsalves, a solicitor from Legal Aid WA who is an excellent speaker. The workshop was very entertaining and useful to any practitioner.

The second workshop was on 3 April, the very special "Steel yourself" presented by Clare Wilson, a clinical psychologist from Edith Cowan University. Clare enlightened us all by showing how important it is to debrief after a traumatic work experience. As well, relaxation is a skill and, like any

skill, can be learned with practice. We will have to persuade Michelle and Clare to return next year as they both proved excellent presenters.

Two of our committee members, Barbara Delevoy and Michela Clavenzani-Wilkins, had to resign due to family circumstances. Both made valuable contributions to the branch and I would like to thank them on behalf of the committee.

On 16 February, the WA committee had its first meeting of the year and welcomed Diana Rodriguez-Losada as treasurer after the formal transfer of treasurer's duties from Barbara Delevoy. We also welcomed new committee member Michele Dreyfus who was elected at our last meeting on 19 March.

Annamaria Arnall and Francine Giguere met the visiting NAATI Board members and the industry stakeholders at a gathering presided by WA's Office of Multicultural Interests on 2 March and I attended a meeting with NAATI Board members on 4 March. Reports on both meetings were sent to national council members before being put on the AUSIT website.

Annamaria and I attended a meeting initiated by the visiting TIS Manager Con Pagonis and Ron Trudgen on 22 April. It was a brief informal occasion to maintain contact so that we can work closely together. We asked whether TIS was interested in developing a reference group including AUSIT to consult on various language service issues. TIS will inform us of any developments on the matter.

Thanks everyone, and hope to see you all at our next event.

Younghi Newman, Chair
10.05.2004

FIT XVII WORLD CONGRESS: RIGHTS ON!

Tampere, Finland 4 - 7 August 2005 First Announcement and Call for Presentations

Rights On! reminds us of translators' and interpreters' right to be seen and recognized as key players in the multilingual communication environment of today's globally converging world. The FIT XVII World Congress, to be held in Tampere, Finland on 4 – 7 August 2005, will bring together professionals from all over the world and from different fields of translating and interpreting to discuss topical issues.

The XVII FIT World Congress is hosted by the Finnish Association of Translators and Interpreters (SKTL), in co-operation with the International Federation of Translators (FIT). In 2005, the SKTL will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The anniversary festivities will take place in connection with the Congress.

Come and take part in this exciting Congress, which will be held in the safe and beautiful city of Tampere. Enjoy the professional and social programmes in splendid settings, as well as Finland's pristine nature and the lightness of the Northern summer. Please visit the Congress web site, at www.fit2005.org to learn more about the Congress, the venue, the City of Tampere and much more.

The Congress topics will include:

- Rights in Translation and Interpreting: Present Needs and Future Challenges
- Legal Translation and Court Interpreting

- Ethics, Status and Future of the Profession
- Translation of Literature
- Translation for the Media
- Scientific, Technical and Medical Translation
- Terminology and Localization
- Conference, Court and Community Interpreting
- Special Aspects of Translation and Interpreting

The Congress languages are English and French. Session formats:

A round table (max. 3 hours) has a chairperson who co-ordinates the session and several participants who make brief presentations about a given topic, which is then discussed.

A workshop (90 mins) is a practically-oriented session organized by a chairperson and involving audience participation.

A presentation (15 mins) is a talk that doesn't call for audience participation.

A poster is a short description of a specific topic displayed on a poster board. At an appointed time, authors are present to discuss their posters.

Proposals for participation in any of the above sessions are to be submitted by 31 October 2004. For details of how to submit a proposal, please refer to the Congress Web site at: www.fit2005.org

The above is an edited extract of the FIT Congress announcement received by AUSIT, which is a member association of FIT. Please refer to the Congress website for further details. (Editor)

National Council

AUSIT's stationery will now include the following logo:

PROTECT YOUR LOGO



which confirms to third parties our acceptance as a profession.

On this occasion, members are reminded that the AUSIT logo may only be used with prior permission, in writing, from the institute's Executive Committee.

In general, the AUSIT logo is to be used by express agreement for promotional material associated with AUSIT initiatives or collaborations - such as professional development seminars, conferences, and other non-profit activities directed towards the advancement of the Translating and Interpreting Profession in Australia.

This protects the reputation of your professional organisation, by ensuring that the logo is used appropriately. Conditions may apply when authorisation is granted.

All members are therefore wholeheartedly encouraged to indicate their AUSIT membership on their business cards and stationery. If you would like to use the AUSIT logo, on your website or in some other way, please contact your Administrator on nsw@ausit.org or victas@ausit.org.

AUSIT: Working for the Advancement of Australian Translators and Interpreters

Apart from our eBulletin in English, AUSIT also runs 15 specific language discussion groups called eForums (or eFora, if you prefer!). You can discuss terminology and write in your own language. Simply contact your Administrator for more details on how to join them.

AUSIT Membership: New Fee Structure and a Few Good Reasons to Belong

Dear AUSIT members,

You might have followed recent discussions on the e-Bulletin regarding our membership fees, which have remained unchanged for more than four years. AUSIT's National Council has just approved the increases detailed below.

As in the past, members of the National Council continue to strive to provide a wide range of services to our members. We will focus on:

- **promoting** the profession through leaflets, booklets and advertising
- offering more and better professional development opportunities, and employing a part-time coordinator to develop consistency and quality nationally
- adding **internet** resources accessible by subscription only
- developing our **newsletter**, by securing professional services

The increase also ensures we can maintain the services our members are already enjoying.

- Have you visited our **new** website? Its new look and feel have been praised by many members and it contains a bounty of useful information.
- Look at the **newsletter** and consider all the work that occurs behind the scenes for the benefit of our members:
 - ✦ writing, editing, typesetting, despatching the newsletter,
 - ✦ securing advertising revenue to reduce the costs to members,
 - ✦ **8 pages of Pay and Conditions** initiatives in the March 2004 issue: talks with the major stakeholders, new options to represent our interests, market study, legal advice
- See the events that your **state branch** has been organising and delivering for your benefit
- Access **some 20 e-Forums**, where members can voice their views or find information, peer support, advice and even jobs
- Strategic initiatives in PD credit points and membership categories, developed to ensure AUSIT is in the **driving seat** of the profession
- and many other projects in progress.

As always, feel free to talk to your branch committee or to anyone on the Executive Committee. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yveline Piller
National President

NEW MEMBERSHIP FEES:

The first step applies to renewals due on or after June 1, 2004 and before January 1, 2005. As usual, the renewed membership will remain valid for one year.

The second step applies to all renewals due on or after January 1, 2005. It includes GST, which AUSIT will have to pass on to the ATO. Your membership fee is tax deductible.

Step one : applies as from June 1, 2004 to

- \$105 ordinary members in NSW and Victoria, \$90 ordinary members in other states
- \$70 associate members in NSW and Victoria, \$60 associate members in other states
- \$55 associate affiliates in NSW and Victoria, \$50 associate affiliates in other states
- \$40 students in all states

- An additional \$20 fee applies to all new and rejoining members and to renewal fees received more than 6 weeks after their due date.

Step two: applies as from January 1, 2005, tax deductible and inclusive of GST:

- \$110 ordinary members in all states,
- \$80 associate members in all states,
- \$65 associate affiliates in all states,
- \$45 students in all states.
- An additional \$20 fee applies to all new and rejoining members and to renewal fees received more than 6 weeks after their due date.

WHY RENEW?

"What's in it for me?" you may ask. National President Yveline Piller lists the following as only some of the benefits she derived from her membership in a period of just three months. Imagine what a whole year of AUSIT benefits would look like and try making your own list.

1. A 12-page translation job, referred to me by an interstate member
2. A new client referred to me by another member
3. A colleague's referral to books on linguistics, which, apart from upgrading my skills, allowed me to answer a client's queries
4. Representation with major players such as Centrelink, TIS, NAATI, DIMIA, RTA NSW
5. Information and advice on voice recognition software I was considering buying
6. Several tips on translating and presenting translations of official documents
7. Information on industry developments that will affect me
8. Information on rates paid and charged in Australia and overseas
9. Information on working conditions for governmental T&I users provided by interstate colleagues
10. An interesting workshop on cultural differences
11. Pride in being recognised as a professional by other professions
12. Help with diacritics
13. Information on interpreting techniques and note-taking
14. Information on glossary software
15. Rare English words
16. Links to on-line English dictionaries
17. A range of tips and information on interpreting during psychiatric assessments
18. Specialists' views on legal interpreting and the problems to be prepared for
19. Many suggestions to help transfer Outlook files to my new computer

What I contributed:

1. An opinion on an agency I work for
2. Information on how to prevent payment problems
3. Information on favourite bilingual dictionaries
4. Deciphered an obscure acronym for a colleague
5. Decrypted illegible hand-written notes on a document for another colleague
6. Described how I saved \$300 p.a. with my ISP

Professional Development Survey Results and Implications

by Annamaria Arnall, Vice-President and PD Coordinator

As previously discussed (AUSIT Newsletter March 2004 edition), the past couple of months were spent on collecting information about the professional development requirements of our membership. Informal interviews were topped up with a formal questionnaire which was sent out by e-mail to 50 members.

Practitioners working in big and small demand, Western and Eastern languages were all targeted and the male-female ratio was 40:60. As this was a very small sample and only colleagues with e-mails qualified, the results were doomed to be skewed and random - but still indicative enough for our purposes at this stage.

Response rate was a healthy 30%, which proves our members' dedication to their organisation. Surveys are so plentiful these days that most get only 10% returns.

What kind of activities were reported?

1. Language maintenance in LOTE:

- a. Most respondents subscribe to magazines and websites.
- b. Many had travelled overseas and had the opportunity to update vocabulary and learn about recent social and cultural developments in the country of their language.
- c. AUSIT language forum membership was also reported as a useful avenue of maintaining and developing knowledge in the language other than English.

2. English language skills enhancement

- a. Teaching English was the only activity reported in respect to learning and developing new skills as teachers must constantly update their skills. Several respondents suggested that because they live and work in an English-language environment, they need no formal avenues.

3. Professional Ethics

- a. 50% of respondents attended an ethics workshop run by AUSIT
- b. 25% of respondents attended agency-run ethics events

4. Techniques and technology of T&I

- a. 35% of respondents have attended an AUSIT workshop on terminology
- b. 25% of respondents learned a CAT tool either at a workshop or through self-directed learning
- c. 25% of respondents improved their computer skills at home or in the workplace

- d. Around 20% of respondents attended AUSIT-run workshops concerned with aspects of translating other than terminology

- e. Also about 20% reported participating in events organised by someone other than AUSIT where they learned about interpreting techniques

5. Being a sole trader

- a. 30% of respondents attended workshops or courses organised by AUSIT about various aspects of running a business
- b. Several individuals attended other events about small business development

6. Advances in the profession

One or two individuals reported participation in the following activities: AUSIT PD events concerned with T&I theory, active participation in the AUSIT e-Bulletin, attendance of AUSIT AGM, attendance of a conference or seminar on T&I theory and reading specialist T&I literature.

We also learned about the average monthly workload of these colleagues:

Most respondents had more than 10 but less than 80 hours interpreting in an "average" month and translated more than 2,000 but less than 20,000 words.

What next?

As previously mentioned, this mini-survey served to verify some hypotheses we arrived at identifying priorities, trends and demands. It helped us to plan future AUSIT workshops and also to compile a simple and straightforward list of activities that can earn credit points for an AUSIT member.

Membership reform has been under consideration for quite a few years now: many members feel they need an avenue to progress and reach higher status, thus gaining more prestige and financial rewards. The title of Certified Practising Translator or Interpreter is bound to be dependent - among other requirements - on demonstrated excellence in professional development.

No decision has been made on the introduction of a points system yet. The team currently taking care of the organisation of workshops and seminars appreciates any feedback. We actively seek opinions and suggestions whenever an opportunity arises. Please do not hesitate to contact me or one of us with your thoughts or questions.

Technology Bytes

continued from page 6

very badly, as a colour document. The resulting document will be many times the size that it should be, and may be in a tasteful assortment of cloudy tints of purple and blue, and not really legible.

Then he will send it as a jpeg attachment, because that is what the scanner offers as the default option.

If you have graphic software you should increase the contrast, adjust the levels, convert to greyscale, adjust the contrast, and convert to bitmap. If you are lucky the result will be at least legible, and may be good enough to read using Optical Character Conversion.

What you can do

You can educate the client, but you should probably read up a bit more on the subject, so that you can answer all questions with authority. If the client is helpful, ask for the text to be scanned as a black and white only image, and sent as a .bmp file. Explain that it will be a much smaller file, taking a lot less

time to transmit.

When you return your translation, you are partly in control. You will never make the mistake of sending text as a colourful jpeg file. All computers can translate from a GIF file to bitmap. I think all computers can also read a BMP file.

Now you come to the problems of machine translation

If you send me a Windows Word file and I have a Macintosh Word file, my computer can almost certainly translate between them. The only problem is that it won't translate the fonts accurately. What happens if I have a Linux machine?

What happens if I use a word processor that doesn't recognise Word documents?

Well, you could convert to a bitmap file (very big) or you could convert to an Acrobat (pdf) document which is very small. Adobe Acrobat is expensive, but you can get free converters to pdf documents.

Of course, if the client refuses to use the free Acrobat reader, you have negotiation problems. If the client lives in Europe, and is paying

for timed local calls, it should be easy to explain that sending 180 000 bytes instead of 37 000 000 bytes will take several hours less. Also the Internet service provider will be less likely to refuse the message.

Really big documents

You have shrunk your translation by replacing pictures with a rectangle (after all the client has the original pictures) and converted the result into a pdf file. Unfortunately the book that you translated still comes to 37 million bytes. Very few Internet Service Providers will allow a file of this size.

Tell your ISP what you want to do and ask for his help. Transfer your file to a web page that is password-protected. (Most ISPs give you a free web page with your account.) Give your client the URL and password for the page, and he can download the book. Don't forget to remove the file from your web page once your client has downloaded it. You only use e-mail for your instructions to your client, and these are in ASCII code, which doesn't take up much space at all.

Ausit Website Update

by Annamaria Arnall and Yveline Piller

Have you visited the revamped AUSIT website yet? It's a work in constant progress and new information is being added almost every week.

Statistics for the first two weeks in May:

- Site received 4,500 hits
- Most visited pages:
 - Find a Translator (1,727)
 - Training (235)
 - Benefits of belonging to AUSIT (186)
 - About AUSIT (171).

The following is just an example of what you will find there. You can see for yourself at:

www.ausit.org

Links & Resources

Under **Resources** you will find **Translators Tools**: examples of forms commonly used for presenting data in

extract translations, and a sample affidavit - and a collection of recent **Professional Development** articles.

The links below will take you to websites concerned with our profession. All the links below were in perfect working order on the 12th of March, 2004. If you find one that is no longer functional, could you please report it to the Administration by clicking here.

Information structure:

1. Study (I & T Education, Conferences, Media).
2. Work (Words, Expressions, Job Market, Technology).
3. Recreation (Bookshops, Omnibus websites).
4. Community (Newsgroups, mailing lists, etc).

Study

I & T education

- Notes on note-taking
- Centre for Interpretation and Translation Studies (CITS)

Court interpreting course

Court interpreter training programs

- Guide to translation training around the world
 - Institute for Translationwissenschaft at Innsbruck
- Listing of courses by countries
- Online translation courses at LOGOS MA in bilingual legal interpreting

MA courses

The Boston Language Institute
University of Western Sydney
Localisation, globalisation training

Conferences

The Linguist's list
Linguists, T & I and teachers conference schedules
Stockholm University's list

Media

A comprehensive list of electronic journals
Translation Journal

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