



Member organisation  
Federation Internationale  
des Traducteurs  
International Federation of  
Translators

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Interpreters and Translators Inc

# AUSIT in TOUCH

Volume 19, number 2 – Winter 2011



**2011 AUSIT National  
Excellence Awards news**

**Farewell to AUSIT's new Fellow**

**Japanese T&I after the tsunami**

**NZSTI Conference**

**Meet AUSIT's admin**

## EVENT PROGRAM

- AUSIT EXCELLENCE AWARDS
- D-DAY Expo for Translators & Interpreters
- Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture
- AUSIT National AGM

## ARE YOU AN INTERPRETER OR TRANSLATOR?

**THIS IS ONE EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!**

The Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc. (AUSIT) cordially invites all interpreters and translators to participate in the 2011 AUSIT National Excellence Awards.

The Awards celebrate outstanding performance in six categories. Winners will be announced during a Gala Dinner presentation.

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# AUSIT

## 2011 NATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS & D-DAY EXPO & CANBERRA

### 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2011

The Hall, University House,

The AUSIT Excellence Awards recognise initiatives and activities by individuals, teams, and organisations operating in all sectors of the translating and interpreting industry.

### EVENT SPONSORS

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND ENTRIES

# From the helm



**AUSIT President Daniel Muller on the Institute's progress thus far in 2011, and how much more there is to do**

Dear Members,

The National Council held its mid-term meeting in Melbourne on 2 and 3 April. There is much to do. Too much, actually, so we need to carefully prioritise our activities. At present, we are blessed with having a National Council with very competent members who have a wide range of skills, interests and experience. We must make use of those for the benefit of AUSIT as a whole.

## Skills of our members

There are a great deal more skills out there amongst our members, many of whom appear willing to contribute some of their specific skills, but without sitting on a committee or committing for an extended period of time. Don't be surprised if the call goes out to the membership at large seeking assistance on particular activities or projects. In the meantime, if you have skills and interests which you think may be of use to your branch or to AUSIT, let it be known. A prime example of such proactive behaviour was the offer of a Vic/Tas branch committee member to arrange a barbeque and promote AUSIT to fellow interpreters at the Curtin Immigration Detention Centre in the Kimberleys where he was working.

## Administration

The struggle to get our new website going continues, but we are hopeful that the data interface with our administrators will not only make up for the shortfalls in the back-engine of the website, but will also improve the efficiency of our administration. Concerns have been raised about letting PAMS control too much data; however, auditing, contractual and technical measures (e.g. the interface) can be taken to ensure we always

have an updated dataset under our control. PAMS has an integrated system which is at its most effective if used fully. The system was designed for that purpose; using only selected parts creates inefficiencies and duplicates work. It's a bit like moving to a country without income tax (yes, they do exist) in order to save tax, but still running your business through an Australian ABN.

We, in particular our General Treasurer, have also made good progress in our attempt to streamline our bookkeeping and year-end financial processing in a way that does not affect the needs of the individual branches.

## Contractor or employee?

In a very recent ruling, the High Court found that, for superannuation purposes, the community interpreters engaged through one of the main agencies in Victoria are employees, and hence eligible for employers' super contributions. Choose your super fund wisely and consider all aspects, including expected returns and fees.

## Webinars

Thanks to technologies becoming more affordable, our Professional Development Subcommittee finally realised an old dream and started offering PD seminars online (called webinars). The response was very pleasing, confirming what member satisfaction surveys had indicated, that offering learning opportunities is one of AUSIT's most important roles. In addition to running the webinars on a given day, we also make access to the recording of the session available. Details can be found on the 'Training' page of [www.ausit.org](http://www.ausit.org).

*(continued overleaf)*

## Contents

From the helm.....	1
AUSIT News.....	3
Meet AUSIT's administrators — PAMS.....	4
Branch office bearers.....	4
Recognition for you and the T&I industry.....	5
Overseas drivers licence translations.....	6
The tsunami and the Japanese T&I Industry.....	7
NZSTI Conference.....	8
Uli Priester awarded AUSIT Fellowship.....	9
A farewell to AUSIT.....	11
Cobra Songs.....	11
The translator as the writer's psychoanalyst.....	12
Branch news.....	13
AUSIT information session at Curtin.....	14
Degrees of freedom.....	15
My favourite dictionary.....	16

## From the editor

The deadline for the Spring 2011 issue is **10 August 2011**. Thanks to all contributors for their contributions. Please send any letters, articles or images for forthcoming editions to:

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The editor reserves the right to edit or not to publish any item submitted for publication. Opinions expressed are those of the authors only and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editor or those of AUSIT and its executive. AUSIT does not necessarily endorse products or services appearing in any advertising contained herein.

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*Front cover: (main pic) Dima Rashid demonstrating software use at the SA/NT Branch workshop in Adelaide in May; (inset) Yveline Piller and Uli Priester at the April farewell party for Uli in Sydney.*

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**[ausityahoo@optusnet.com.au](http://ausityahoo@optusnet.com.au)**

## Important T&D Dates

4-5 June 2011

### **NZSTI Conference**

Auckland, NZ

30-31 July 2011

### **FIT Statutory Congress**

San Francisco, USA

1-4 August 2011

### **FIT XIX Congress**

San Francisco, USA

13-15 August 2011

### **7th IMTT Language & Technology Conference**

Cordoba, Argentina

20-21 August 2011

### **8th International Workshop on Natural Language Processing and Cognitive Science — NLPCS 2011**

Special theme: Human-Machine Interaction in Translation  
Copenhagen, Denmark

September 2011

### **Nominations for the AUSIT 2011 Excellence Awards close**

26-29 October 2011

### **American Translators Association 52nd Annual Conference**

Boston, USA

11 November 2011

### **2011 AUSIT National Excellence Awards & D-Day Expo**

Canberra

12 November 2011

### **AUSIT NAGM & Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture**

Canberra

1-2 December 2011

### **International Conference on Translation and Cross-Cultural Communication**

Brisbane

## Welcome new AUSIT members

Congratulations and welcome to the following new members of AUSIT:

Nadesan Sundaresan, Vic;

Denise Maree Formica, Vic;

Yingzhi Gu, Vic;

Yung Thi Huynh Lee, Qld;

Agnieszka Marfa Ocwieja, NSW;

Simon Sen Tao, NSW;

Linda Erica Karssies, ACT.

### **Departure of Dr Lindsay Heywood from NAATI**

We were sorry to see the departure of Dr Lindsay Heywood as CEO of NAATI. AUSIT has had a good relationship with Lindsay and he has always been accessible to the National Executive and individual members alike. He also made substantial changes and improvements to NAATI. We wish him well and look forward to a continuing positive working relationship with the new CEO when he/she is appointed.

### **Full Professorship for Sandra Hale**

We are very excited at the news of Sandra Hale's appointment as Professor of Interpreting and Translating at the University of New South Wales. Sandra is our second 'home-grown' full Professor (Victorian member Adolfo Gentile was Professor and Head of T&I at Deakin University). An early graduate of the T&I course at the University of Western Sydney, Sandra is internationally renowned as a scholar, in particular for her work on interpreting in legal settings (including her 2007 book *Community Interpreting*). Sandra has always been a generous supporter of AUSIT; we congratulate her and wish her well in her new job.

### **2011 National Excellence Awards**

Preparations for the biggest night of the T&I Industry and the preceding D-Day Expo are well under way. Attendees at the 2011 AUSIT National Excellence Awards will be treated to a magical gala dinner with top entertainment in the splendid surroundings of University Hall, ANU, Canberra. The day-long Expo promises to be the place to be seen. Workshops and lectures will be held, with fascinating new soft and hardware displayed for try out, but attendees will also be able to set aside plenty of time for catching up with colleagues and networking to their heart's content.

### **Beyond our shores and time**

On 22 February 2011, our friends and colleagues in Christchurch were hit by a devastating earthquake. Some NZSTI members described the effect it had on them as a 'liquefaction of the brain'. Whilst we were not able to act on the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the NZSTI in Fremantle, our friendship continues and we are honoured to have Henry Liu's (Immediate Past President of the NZSTI) active support in our preparation for a

bid to host the 2017 FIT World Congress in Brisbane (see next page).

### **Exchange with SFT**

An opportunity for international networking has arisen for AUSIT. Our organisation was recently contacted by its French counterpart, the Société Française des Traducteurs (SFT). Their proposal is that SFT and AUSIT members working with the English and French languages set up a common forum or Yahoo list to foster mutual help and exchange. Such a list could be open to other translators' organisations across the world, such as OTTIAQ in Quebec. This is a great opportunity for us to extend our networking and share knowledge and information with fellow translators abroad. This would be a first step in our collaboration with SFT and we are confident that such exchanges could be extended to other language pairs in the future.

### **Branch Committee and National Council members for 2012**

The next national AGM will be held on 12 November 2011 in Canberra, and whilst continuity is important, the National Council (as well as your local branch committee) is always in need of new members. If you are interested in finding out what it is like to be a part of the NC, feel free to have a chat with the principal delegate of your branch or any other current National Council member. We want to hear from you!

### **Last words**

I would like to take this opportunity to draw everybody's attention to our Constitution and Code of Ethics, both of which we all agree to observe when we apply for membership in AUSIT. The Code of Ethics is AUSIT's biggest asset. If we AUSIT members, of all professionals, don't follow its provisions, then it will quickly lose credibility. AUSIT cannot afford to let that happen.

# AUSIT news

## AUSIT Bid for 2017 FIT World Congress



AUSIT is in the process of preparing a bid to hold the XXI World Congress of the International Federation of Translators in Brisbane in 2017.

With support from AUSIT Qld committee members Barbara McGilvray and Adolfo Gentile, I have formed a team with Mary Ann Russell from the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) and Kimberley Sharpe from MCI International (formerly Events Planners) to assess the viability of holding the FIT World Congress in Brisbane. Currently a viability document in the form of a draft budget is being prepared and, pending approval by the NC, Adolfo Gentile and Henry Liu (NZ) will spread the word at the August FIT World Congress in San Francisco that Brisbane is intending to present a bid at the next Congress (in 2014) in order to host the FIT Congress in 2017.

The proposed location, Brisbane, is Australia's new world city and a youthful and modern location with excellent accessibility, world-class

infrastructure, a unique convention precinct, a sub-tropical climate and an enviable lifestyle.

'Team Brisbane' will be formed from the AUSIT National Events Committee, BCEC, Brisbane Marketing, Brisbane City Council and MCI International (Event Planner), who will provide bidding support and expertise.

BCEC also offers the following:

- International bid development, design, production and distribution, meeting all costs
- Personal support for Team Brisbane (from BCEC and Brisbane Marketing)
- Researching of avenues of monetary support
- Development of an effective bid argument
- Assistance in the development of innovative lobbying strategies
- Post-win assistance and ongoing support
- Use of international representatives and Queensland Government and DFAT overseas offices
- No obligation, free-of-charge

assistance with budget development

- Accessibility

We have appointed Henry Liu (FIT Committee member and Oceania representative) to represent AUSIT at the FIT Statutory Congress, as our own Adolfo Gentile cannot attend. We are very pleased to have Henry Liu representing AUSIT and spreading the exciting news of an impending AUSIT bid for 2017. Henry is highly respected and well known in FIT circles and will be the perfect representative to get the message across.

If any other AUSIT members are heading to San Francisco, please let us know. Adolfo Gentile will be attending the Open Congress, to be held right after the Statutory Congress.

If you are interested in joining the 2017 FIT World Congress Bid Committee please contact Tea Dietterich at [tea.dietterich@2m.com.au](mailto:tea.dietterich@2m.com.au).

*Tea Dietterich*  
AUSIT National Marketing

### Free webinar: everyone welcome!

Webinar company eCPD Ltd is running a free webinar on 14 June and would like to invite all AUSIT members to attend. Other attendees will include fellow translators and interpreters from all over the world.

The speaker, Rannheid Sharma, is a trustee of the UK's Chartered Institute of Linguists' Educational Trust, and will talk about career opportunities for linguists. If you've never attended a webinar before, this could be a good chance to try it at no risk and no cost.

Register early via the link below as there are a limited number of places available. We hope to see you there!

For more information and registration — <http://bit.ly/kNgnTC>.

Check what time the webinar commences where you live — <http://bit.ly/mnfrW8>.

### AUSIT induction package for new members

ACT NC delegate Karmenu Attard has been busy drafting an AUSIT induction document, which, together with a DVD copy of the Constitution and Code of Ethics, will form an induction package to encourage new applicants to make an informed decision when opting to join AUSIT, and help them become fully fledged, active AUSIT members.

A similar package, including the AUSIT Policy and Procedure Manual, is being prepared for members willing (or hesitant) to become AUSIT office bearers at the branch or national level.

### Synergise!

A set of four DVDs with 12 lectures from the last AUSIT Synergise! Conference is available for purchase.

Themes include: 'Language, Invention and Creativity', 'Cross-Cultural Issues in Translating', 'Training, Surviving and Thriving in the T&I Industry', and 'Interpreting in Legal Settings'.

There is a lecture for everyone! For more details and to place an order, please visit

<http://artfilms.com.au/Detail.aspx?ItemID=4200>

## Meet AUSIT's administrators — PAMS

AUSIT's administration used to be run by two employees of AUSIT, one administering the southern states, and the other — the northern states. Since June 2008 our administration has been completely outsourced to a private company, Professional Association Management Services, or PAMS as it is known in the association industry (see <http://www.pams.org.au/> home).



Shweta Desai, PAMS Association Manager for AUSIT

PAMS specialises in the provision of a wide range of services to non-profit associations, institutes and societies. Located in Surrey Hills, 20

minutes by train to the east of the Melbourne CBD, PAMS employs 16 people who provide services to more than 20 different organisations similar to AUSIT.

PAMS staff offer skills such as accounting, account/project management, graphic design and communications, information technology, web and email hosting/building, database and transactions management, event management, and strategy and business development. PAMS has invested in some of the world's best systems, and makes these available to its clients.

Each client of PAMS is allocated an Association Manager who forms the link between the leadership of the client association and PAMS staff. In AUSIT's case, this is Shweta Desai. Shweta has been liaising with AUSIT leaders and providing them with the services they need since the arrangement commenced.

Many of you will have met Shweta at AUSIT activities, such as the Queensland Conference and the Adelaide Awards. When you ring the AUSIT number (1800 284 181), it is usually Shweta who answers the phone. She is available Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm EST.

## AUSIT Branch Office Bearers

### ACT

#### Branch Committee

Chair	Malcolm Leader	malcolm.leader@bigpond.com
Princ. Delegate	Karmenu Attard	karatt@ozemail.com.au
Secretary	Angie Hoffmann	andrea@hoffmanns-translations.com
Treasurer	Anne Roppola	tellervo1@bigpond.com
PD Coordinator & NAATI RAC		Malcolm Leader

#### Committee Members

Daniel and Mecia Freire, Patricia Alvarez de Ellis, Sylvia Jamieson, Tarja Karjalainen.

### NSW

#### Branch Committee

Chair	Helen Slatyer	helen.slatyer@mq.edu.au
Vice-Chair	Melissa McMahon	melissamcmahon@inet.net.au
Secretary	Willya Waldburger	wwaldburger@gmail.com
Treasurer	Hania Geras	geras@idx.com.au
Princ. Delegate	Barbara McGilvray	mcgilvray.barbara@gmail.com

#### Committee Members

Amale Hourani, Patricia Cruise, Charlotte Brasler, Silvia Martinez.

#### Conseil des Sages

Terry Chesher, Uli Preister, Felicity Mueller.

### Qld

#### Branch Committee

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Treasurer	Max de Montaigne	french@antipode.com.au
Princ. Delegate	Tea Dietterich	
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#### Committee Members

Ita Szymanska, Ilke Brueckner-Klein, Vicky Zeng, Jadranka Brown, Rona Zhang, Maria Corbett, Dima Rashid, Sunny Qi.

### SA/NT

#### Office Bearers

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PR Officer	Jie Sally Qiu	jie.sally.qiu@gmail.com

#### Committee Members

Ludmila Berkis, Maria Jose Harty, Maurite Fober, Nicole Adams

### Vic/Tas

#### Office Bearers

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Secretary	Sarina Phan	sarinaphan@yahoo.com.au
Treasurer	John Gare	johngare@westnet.com.au

#### Committee Members

Alice Jaworski, Bi Yi Fang, Denise Formica (pending), Dong Mei Chen, Marina Del Greco, May Hu, Meredith Bartlett and Nadesan Sanderson (pending).

### WA

#### Office Bearers

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Vice-Chair	Annamaria Arnall	arnall@git.com.au
Secretary	Jean Deklerk	j.t.s@digisurf.net.au
Treasurer	Michèle Dreyfus	mdrtranslations@arach.net.au
Princ. Delegate	Jean Deklerk	

#### Committee Members

Ella Davies, Valerie Dear, Diana Rodriguez, Trish Will.

# Recognition for you and the T&I industry



Winning the AUSIT 2009 National Excellence Award winner for translation brought many benefits to **Suzan Piper**



*'I stand before you as someone who works in turn in pyjamas, a business suit, and batik. Yes, I am an Indonesian translator (and interpreter). I employ key skills as a linguist, writer, editor, researcher, performer, businesswoman, teacher — and, above all, communicator.*

*As a schoolgirl in England I studied French and German. At the University of Sydney in the 1970s I took up Indonesian. Every year I visit Indonesia — one of our closest neighbours — and I lived and worked in Jakarta for 10 years. So I have strong Indonesian ties.*

*Every different translator and interpreter has unique experiences that reflect the history and development of that country and its engagement with Australia. This award reflects my own diverse interests, careers and assignments. It is also the result of the support of friends and colleagues at AUSIT who encouraged me to apply.'*

This extract came from my acceptance speech for the AUSIT 2009 National Excellence Award for Translating, awarded on the basis of my translating and subtitling of the eco-thriller *The Burning Season* ([www.theburningseasonmovie.com](http://www.theburningseasonmovie.com)). I was thrilled to win for my work on this worthy project — one that thoroughly tested my skills in translating narratives and speeches from major world leaders to palm-oil leaders to environmental activists, all in the right register and condensed as subtitles.

The awards made for a glamorous gala night of socialising and celebration in Adelaide in 2009. I received a certificate and a trophy for the office. I also gained the AUSIT Award logo and winner tag for my email signature, website and CV/resume. My photo as winner has subsequently appeared



AUSIT 2009 Excellence Award Winners: Mona (front row far left), Sue (front far right), Annette and Dee (middle and back rows far right).

in the NAATI and AUSIT bulletins, and on publicity material promoting the awards. This has helped bring recognition, not just to me, but also to the industry, via print and electronic media coverage.

My colleague, 2009 AUSIT Excellence in Interpreting winner Mona Jabbour, is a professional Arabic<->English interpreter who won for her interpreting work with counsellors and traumatised asylum seekers and refugees. The judges commented that as a professional she consoled, reassured and built trust, and was a role model through her employment of a variety of skills, including punctuality, language experience and meticulousness. Mona spoke at last year's AUSIT conference in Perth on the diversity of her interpreting experiences, mentioning the other end of her interpreting spectrum: interpreting for high-ranking delegates from Arab countries who

are undertaking training in Australia. Telephone Interpreting Services (TIS) nominated Mona for her award and also profiled her in their bulletin.

I asked Mona recently on the impact of the award on her career, and she replied:

*'I think the Award has helped me because people get more encouraged to recommend me for their friends and colleagues when they see the AUSIT Award logo. It also introduced me to many people who were present at the Awards, but did not know me before, so by word of mouth I feel that more people have got to know me. Also, through the AUSIT website many colleagues found out about the Award. Overall, it was a great experience.'*

In 2009 the Kimberley Interpreting  
(continued overleaf)

Service (KIS) won the 2009 Outstanding Contribution to Indigenous Interpreting award, which has this year been expanded to include translation. KIS won for the development and implementation of a multi-faceted professional development plan and interpreters' handbook. Annette Kogolo and Deane Lightfoot from KIS spoke at the 2010 AUSIT conference, explaining how the organisation delivers interpreting services in over 26 Kimberley Aboriginal languages. Dee commented, *'This award is a real achievement for us, given the difficulties of working in remote areas, and the large number of languages that need to be catered for.'*

One impressive feature of their service is the systematic monitoring and evaluation feedback system they have in place for every assignment to ensure that quality standards are met and that the reputations of the interpreter, the service and the industry are protected. This thorough initiative could be adopted by other service providers to great advantage.

The three other equally important awards this year are the new Excellence in Telephone Interpreting award, the organisation-focused award for Outstanding Contribution to the Translating and Interpreting Industry, and the Paul Sinclair Award, given to an AUSIT member for their contribution towards AUSIT.

### Am I good enough?

The awards were first introduced by AUSIT in 2004 to encourage best practice, professionalism, dedication to quality, innovation, and outstanding contributions in the field of translation and interpreting in Australia. Translators and interpreters often work by themselves, and this is why AUSIT plays such an important role in gathering us together in one community. Now is the time to make a date with yourself or better still, with a colleague, and review the strengths of your translating and interpreting history. At the very least this allows you to review your resume and improve on it; ideally you will remind yourself of some of your best work — where you really made a difference. You can nominate yourself or someone else. Maybe there is someone from your language group or your AUSIT branch whose contributions you have always admired. Encourage them to submit, or nominate them yourself. You don't have to be an AUSIT member to win.

### How do I apply?

For all general categories there is a single nomination form to fill out. Once nominated, the nominee will be contacted by the Excellence Awards Committee and asked to provide additional material. The nominator can also provide supporting material such as references, information about the project (if authorised), video footage,

etc. Self-nomination is possible and actually encouraged. Professionals or organisations wishing to self-nominate should also use the nomination form and provide as much support material as possible. Please visit [www.ausitawards.org](http://www.ausitawards.org) or write to [info@ausitawards.org](mailto:info@ausitawards.org) for more information. The deadline for the submission of forms and support material is **9 September**.

### What's in it for me?

At AUSIT Conferences and in the business component of the new translating training package I am teaching, I emphasise that as translators and interpreters we are also small business owners. The AUSIT award provides a practitioner with a unique selling point. I cannot quantify an increase in clients for myself due to the award, but I am certain it helped. All other things being equal, in an increasingly globalised world the AUSIT award helps distinguish you from your competitors, whilst helping to promote the industry itself.

I encourage you to apply, nominate a colleague or someone who works for your agency/organisation so that you or they can attend the dinner with a few rough speech notes in the bag — just in case your or their name is called.

[suzanpiper@gmail.com](mailto:suzanpiper@gmail.com)

## Overseas drivers licence translations: WA Government's response to our concerns

Last October, I attended a meeting held at the WA Government's Department of Transport to discuss overseas drivers licence translations.

At the meeting I raised the issue that translations by NAATI-recognised translators are not accepted under current department policy: a situation that may cause undue inconvenience to holders of overseas licences in languages other than those in which NAATI sets examinations. I also emphasised that State Language Services Policy (drawn up by the Office of Multicultural Interest with input from AUSIT) includes NAATI-recognised translators in its definition of competent translators 'in languages where

there is neither training nor NAATI accreditation'. Following the meeting, I wrote a letter on behalf of the AUSIT WA Branch to the Department, reiterating these points.

In April of this year I received a letter from the Department's Licensing Policy Manager advising us that, despite the State policy, they would continue to refuse translations by recognised translators while accepting 'translations undertaken by the relevant Consulate/Embassy or by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship'.

In our view, the policy of the Department of Transport is neither reasonable nor well informed. We will continue to make representations to the Department to bring them in line

with the State Language Policy.

Incidentally, the Office of Multicultural Interests of the WA Government is about to commence a process to review the implementation of the 2008 Language Services Policy across Government, and AUSIT is again being consulted in the process. The issue of drivers licence translation will certainly be raised during such process. Whilst doing that, we will strive to represent the interests of our members, as well as keeping you informed about the matter through various communication channels. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

*Yutaka Kawasaki*  
Chair, AUSIT WA Branch

# The Tsunami and the Japanese T&I industry



AUSIT WA's **Geraldine Oudin** writes that work for colleagues in Japan since the March earthquake depends more on specialisation

Over two months have passed since Japan was struck by a particularly devastating tsunami. In some areas of the Tohoku region, the wave was as high as 14 meters when it hit the shore, destroying lives, cities and industries. Many small and medium companies all over Japan are struggling; how did the situation impact on translation and interpreting professionals based in Japan, or working with Japan?

As a French to Japanese translator with strong personal and professional ties with the land of the rising sun, the first thing I did upon hearing the news was get in touch not only with family and friends, but also with customers and colleagues based in Japan. I crafted several versions of a short, warm, yet professional, message which I posted to clients and colleagues based on where they lived. People in the south of Japan might not have even felt the earthquake, yet they were all worried about the economic consequences and appreciated the gesture. Many of them have written at length about their personal experiences, something they would never have done if they hadn't been under such pressure.

The news from colleagues is alarming. On 11 April, interpreters based in the Kanto area saw most, if not all, of their scheduled missions for the next few months immediately cancelled. The only prospective clients to contact them were the embassies of their countries of origin, which were looking for volunteers to help the foreign relief forces, and foreign journalists heading for Fukushima. As far as I know, there hasn't been any improvement in the situation.

The nuclear threat, or rather the sensationalism of the foreign media combined with the pressure to leave from their families abroad, has led many foreigners to flee Japan. I know many people who have left and equally as many people who have stayed. I believe all of them have made the right decision for themselves, but I do not know what I would have done in their place.

The Japanese themselves do not criticise people who leave. It seems the word *flyjin*<sup>1</sup> was designed by, and is mostly used by, the foreign community. What the Japanese are critical of is the way in which some people have left, literally vanishing without a word. Colleagues working in-house for large corporations have told me how exhausted they were after working non-stop for several weeks in a row. Have they been forced to do so partly because many of their in-house and freelance colleagues have left, or is this because companies are becoming afraid to book foreign interpreters. What if *they* didn't turn up?

Against all odds, the same seems to be true, although to a lesser extent, in the world of translation. Colleagues working for translation agencies and clients alike have told me that companies are starting to entrust translations from Japanese into LOTJ<sup>2</sup> to Japanese native translators, who might not be able to deliver the same quality as native target language speakers, but whom they deem more

1 From the English verb 'to fly' and the Japanese word *gaijin*, meaning 'foreigner'.

2 Language other than Japanese.

reliable. I have heard horror stories of translators fleeing the country and 'forgetting' scheduled projects without notifying clients, which seems inconceivable. Didn't they take their computers with them when they left the country?

While such stories remain rare — or at least I hope so — news travels fast, and these stories are potentially damaging for any non-Japanese T&I professionals working in Japan or with Japan. Because I am based outside of Japan and constantly work on building and maintaining a relationship of trust with my clients, work is still coming my way.

However, I can't just talk about translation in general. In fact, the availability of work depends a lot on specialisation. At the moment, there is a strong demand for translators with expertise in the nuclear and construction fields, while highly qualified colleagues with successful careers in the arts and cultural property have seen a 90% drop in activity and have no idea when and if things will return to normal.

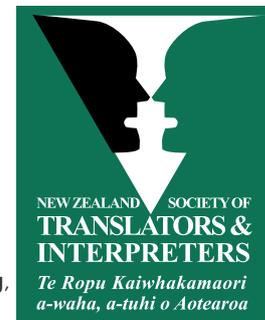
Do you have to turn yourself into a nuclear technology expert overnight to get work? I don't see this as realistic. If you really want to do this, I would suggest investing in good liability insurance first, as the result is unlikely to be perfect. More seriously, if you believe there is the potential for work in a particular field in the long term, it may be worth putting effort and time into acquire a new specialisation. Take some time to identify potentially attractive (and lucrative) long-term areas of demand in your language combination(s), and decide which one(s) you feel comfortable with.

Whatever field of specialisation you decide to invest time in, bear in mind that the world changes constantly: what is attractive now might not be as attractive ten years from now. While translators who claim to be able to translate just about anything don't have much credibility in my eyes, it might be helpful to have specialist knowledge in more than one field. In short, don't put all your eggs in the one basket. Be careful and develop strong client bases in several countries, so that if something terrible happens and brings the economy down, jeopardising your income in one place, you can still get enough work from

(continued overleaf)

# NZSTI Conference

## 4-5 June, Auckland



[www.nzsti.org](http://www.nzsti.org),  
please email  
[info@nzsti.org](mailto:info@nzsti.org)  
(subject: NZSTI Conference).

### NAATI preparation courses for T/Is

These courses are predominantly for Conference attendees — others may apply by emailing [info@nzsti.org](mailto:info@nzsti.org) (subject: NAATI Prep Course) — but places are limited and preference will be given to those who have registered for the Conference, followed by NZSTI members, and lastly non-members.

**Venue:** Auckland University. Applicants will be advised of the room assigned for their course upon confirmation of acceptance.

**Interpreters course:** Friday 3 June, 12-4pm  
Cost: NZSTI members \$60.00; non-members \$100.00.

The provisional program for the 2011 Annual Conference of NZSTI is now available at <http://www.nzsti.org/news/article/NZSTI-CONFERENCE-UPDATE/>.

A most interesting conference program has been compiled, with prominent speakers from New Zealand, Indonesia and Austria. Our featured speakers are Ass. Prof. Frank Austermuehl from the Centre of Translation Studies of the University of Auckland, Prof. Roger T. Bell from the University of North Sumatra, and Dr Gabriele Sauberer from TermNet, whose headquarters are in Vienna, Austria. In addition, we have a number of prominent speakers from AUT, Auckland, from the University of North Sumatra (Indonesia) and from the professional scene in New Zealand.

Either side of the conference program we are offering NAATI preparation

workshops for Interpreters (Friday afternoon) and for Translators (Monday morning, Queen's Birthday public holiday) considering sitting NAATI exams to extend their qualifications. Details are below.

The conference weekend starts with a pre-conference gathering on Friday evening, hosted by AUT and free of charge to registered conference attendees. Details to be announced.

Conference registrations are now open. To register, please visit <https://www.etouches.com/nzsti2011>.

Registration fees are as follows: Members (all categories) \$160; Non-members \$190; Students \$90; One-day, members \$80; One-day, non members \$100.

For special requests or requirements, or additional information not supplied at

## Featured speakers at the 2011 NZSTI Conference

**Frank Austermuehl** is an Associate Professor with the University of Auckland, New Zealand, where he is the director of the Centre for Translation Studies and Interpreting. His main research interests include the link between translation, localisation, and globalisation, as well as translation technology (especially terminology management). He is also interested in political discourse analysis and political linguistics.

Frank has an MA in translation (English and Spanish) and a PhD in Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies from the University of Heidelberg, and has taught at the Universities of Heidelberg and Mainz in Germany.

**Roger Bell** was Professor of Linguistics in the Faculty of Languages in the University of Westminster, where he was responsible for linguistics, translation and interpreting courses, and for research and staff development. In addition to the UK, he has taught in South Asia, South East Asia, Brazil and Korea.

His 1991 book *Translation and Translating: theory and practice*

(Longman) has been translated into Romanian, Chinese, Korean and Romanian, with Malay and Russian versions in the press.

He is an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Linguists and is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of North Sumatra (USU) in Indonesia, where he teaches Translation Studies.

He now lives in Malaysia and is Managing Director of RZ Language-Link Sdn. Bhd, a language services company which provides translation and interpreting services, communication skills training, and an academic editing service.

**Gabriele Sauberer**, Director of TermNet, the International Network for Terminology, is an experienced manager and an expert in standardisation committees for terminology, translation, diversity and knowledge management. Gabriele is lead auditor for the European Standard EN 15038 Translation Services — Service Requirements, and co-founder of the international platform LICs, Language Industry Certification System, [www.lics-certification.org](http://www.lics-certification.org).

(from previous page)

## The tsunami and the Japanese T&I industry

customers based in other countries.

Getting back to Japan, I have noticed an increased number of silly job inquiries. But we have to stay firm: lowering your rates will not help you or anyone else. Accepting the unacceptable is never an option, and it is very hard to regain terrain that has been lost. The situation will eventually improve. If you want to make a gesture, help a local association to raise funds for the Red Cross or provide your services for free, as many of us already have, to those who really need them.

In the aftermath of a disaster like the one Japan has experienced and is still experiencing, forgetting about ethics is more dangerous than ever. Stay professional at all costs, and show that you care.

Géraldine Oudin  
Japanese and English into French  
Translator, Interpreter  
<http://geraldineoudin.com>

# Uli Priester awarded AUSIT Fellowship



AUSIT NSW's **Barbara McGilvray** compiled this tribute to new AUSIT Fellow and former National President **Uli Priester**

**O**n 8 April, former National President Uli Priester became a Fellow of AUSIT — the fifteenth member to receive this recognition since the inaugural awards in 1995.

The award of Fellow acknowledges outstanding service to AUSIT. It is our highest accolade, and was the first peer recognition award in the Australian translation and interpreting profession.

So what are the qualities we expect to find in an AUSIT Fellow? Leadership, integrity, the highest ethical standards, and consistent commitment are four that spring to mind. Uli Priester has these qualities in spades. He has set the bar high in a number of areas, and is not only an asset to his professional association, but also a model for all translators and interpreters.

After learning and practising his craft at TIS (the Translation and Interpreting Service of the then Immigration Department) under the gentle tuition and keen eye of respected Sydney colleague January Blackburn, Uli set up his own small translation agency in the Sydney CBD in 1994. He has been running it ever since, always maintaining the same high ethical standards and commitment to quality, rejecting compromise even in the lean periods when things have sometimes been very tough indeed. Along the way he has mentored many budding translators and provided work experience opportunities for students from German-speaking countries as well as local T&I graduates.

After becoming a member of AUSIT over two decades ago, Uli served on the NSW Branch Committee, including

several years as Chair. In late 2006 he reluctantly accepted nomination as National President. His tenure was unfortunately cut short due to health



*Uli and Willya Waldburger at his April farewell party, where he was presented with an AUSIT Fellowship award.*

problems, but in his relatively brief time as President Uli managed to transmit focus and vision to those working with him, concentrating firmly on the goals he saw as important and realistically achievable. To borrow the words of Vice-President Annamaria Arnall, in a moment of crisis for the Institute he managed to calm the waters and steady the ship, setting it in the right direction for the immediate future and the medium term. His ultimate aim was to professionalise the management of AUSIT on the way to making it a strong and effective professional association. To that end he began exploring possible fundraising opportunities, well aware that employing paid staff was a necessary first step.

Uli was the major driving force behind the membership category reform implemented in 2006. His work over several years on membership criteria

(including the introduction of the Senior Practitioner category) and the associated rules and guidelines stands as one of his most significant contributions to AUSIT and the wider profession.

His firm views on the respective roles of AUSIT and NAATI and the relationship between them have helped to guide AUSIT's actions in this area. He realised that for its planned revalidation of accreditation, NAATI must be persuaded to fall in with AUSIT's requirements for practice and professional development. Consequently, he was involved with Annamaria Arnall and others in the negotiations leading to the acceptance by NAATI and ASLIA of AUSIT's PD points system and recording mechanism.

Collaboration between AUSIT and the tertiary sector is another area Uli began to explore as President, recognising the importance of keeping training and professional development in the hands of the universities and the professional association respectively.

Here are excerpts from some of the tributes from colleagues who supported Uli's Fellow nomination:

'Uli has been a rock for both the NSW Branch of AUSIT and the national organisation for a long time. He has always been supportive of AUSIT's

aims and has worked steadily and hard to help AUSIT achieve them.

There has been none better to calm the waters and refocus our efforts when this was necessary. He did his stint as President and I was pleased to serve as Treasurer under him, returning the unstinting support he gave me as President. What we have also all known him for in particular are his integrity, fairness and generosity. Uli has been a wise head we could always turn to for advice on AUSIT matters.' (*Moreno Giovannoni, Fellow, former National President*)

'Uli has devoted so many years of his life to building AUSIT up into a functioning professional association. He has great strengths as a thinker and strategist. He has also been an extremely generous mentor to young

*(continued overleaf)*

translators from German-speaking countries, and has given them sound work experience ... the time and effort Uli has spent on this training and mentoring could well have been at some cost in terms of time and possibly money, although he was positive about the benefits. This generosity of spirit, which actually involves training future competitors in some cases, is rare. It also applies to Uli's regular contributions to the German e-Bulletin and to Uli's overall commitment to AUSIT, particularly as NSW [Chair].

I have also worked for and with Uli and have always found him to be a highly competent, skilled and professional translator and interpreter whose ethical principles and adherence to them are probably higher than those of anyone I know.' (*Felicity Mueller, Conseil des Sages and former committee member*)

'[Uli's] contribution to AUSIT over many years has been immense, often behind the scenes, drawing on his vast professional experience and commitment to the future of T&I in Australia. Although he is not one to seek credit, he would rightly be able to claim that what he has done for AUSIT and for the translating and interpreting profession at large has made a great difference. As he built his own business he gave a lot of his time to support AUSIT activities, both at the state and national levels, and he was always innovative and well respected by his colleagues in the T&I profession.

... Uli was one of a small group of members in the 1990s, the AUSIT NSW PD group, which put together a 12-month program of PD events based on topics that members had identified as being of high priority; he attended them all. I wish him all good health and good fortune in the future.' (*Terry Chesher, Fellow, former National Vice-President, Conseil des Sages*)

'[Uli] has made an untiring, outstanding contribution to AUSIT over many years, sometimes even at the expense of his own health. His commitment to high quality in translation and interpreting is exemplary, and he has consistently extended himself to support members and mentor the next generation of translators and interpreters. I couldn't imagine a more deserving AUSIT Fellow.' (*Claudia McQuillan, Senior Practitioner*)

'All of Uli's activities — his own work as a translator and interpreter, his dealings

with clients, staff and the freelancers he employs, his contributions to the development of policy within AUSIT, his 'legwork' in connection with individual AUSIT events, and the advice he dispenses in the German language e-forum — are characterised by the generosity, integrity, modesty and concern with quality for which he enjoys a reputation matched by few and exceeded by none.' (*Bob Desiatnik, Senior Practitioner, Conseil des Sages*)

'I have come to know Uli over the years of my membership since the early 1990s. Initially, in the context of our NSW Branch PD events, when he was Branch Chair and I was serving on the PD Committee, and later as National President when he supported the Kaleidoscope project, participating in project meetings and promptly responding to requests for information from the team.

I have been particularly impressed by Uli's comprehensive understanding of the issues relating to membership. Apart from his well-founded views on the appropriate criteria, Uli has spent considerable time on refining the procedure for processing applications for membership. The documentation he and his team produced to facilitate this procedure demonstrates his commitment to AUSIT and the clarity and logical thinking which I have come to associate with his work.' (*Helen Slatyer, NSW Branch Chair*)

'For at least two decades Uli has contributed consistently and positively to his professional association. He was an exemplary Chair of the NSW Branch, his focus and energy inspiring others to contribute in accordance with their particular skills and interests. He accepted nomination as National President because he had a clear vision of where AUSIT should go and what it might achieve, but the sacrifice required of those who take on this job came at a cost not only to his business and to his family life, but ultimately to his health. This is something his colleagues deeply regret, while appreciating the considerable contribution he made during his brief term as President and has made since, as a member and as one of the NSW 'elders' on the *Conseil des Sages* instituted by the current Chair.

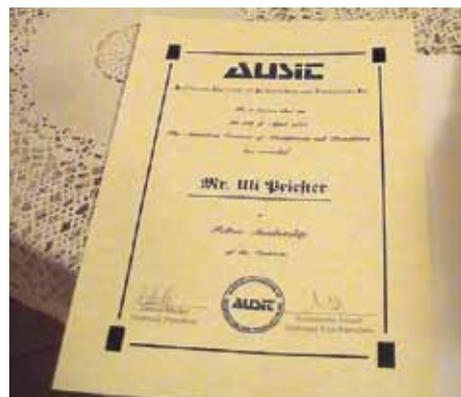
In addition to the wisdom and intelligence, clarity of thought, and care and concern others have

mentioned, Uli is very good at cutting through the flimflam, ignoring side issues and getting straight to the core of the matter at hand. This has been a great help to me personally, as we worked together for AUSIT, both nationally and at state branch level. He also has great strength of character and a very strong will. When we needed him to speak in public he did not complain, but overcame his natural tendency to avoid the limelight; now he not only appears comfortable with the speech-making, but also does valuable work in presenting workshops for AUSIT members and potential members as part of the branch's PD activities.

I value Uli's friendship and his ever-ready advice and support, and last, but not least, his great sense of humour.' (*Barbara McGilvray, Fellow, NSW Principal Delegate to the NC, former National Secretary.*)

Uli's nomination by the NSW Branch was unanimously approved by the National Council, and the award was presented at a farewell party organised by Amale Hourani and the Branch Committee at Amale's home on 8 April. Uli is returning to Germany indefinitely after 25 years in Australia. We wish him well for the future and look forward to his continuing participation in AUSIT activities, for the time being from afar, but eventually, we hope, once more as a local member.

*In addition to the those quoted, Uli's nomination received written support from the other members of the NSW Branch Committee — Amale Hourani, Willya Waldburger, Melissa McMahon, Hania Geras, Charlotte Brasler — and fellow members Bianca Maclean, Sarah Walls, Andrew Bean, Yveline Piller (former National President), Vince Danilo (former General Treasurer), Tineke Millard, President Daniel Muller and Immediate Past President Sam Berner.*



# A farewell note to AUSIT

Dear AUSIT colleagues and friends,

I am departing for Germany on 15 May; this is my farewell note to all of you.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the nice words and compliments that were written and said about me in the context of the AUSIT Fellowship I was awarded recently. I didn't see this one coming and am immensely proud of it.

We should remember that my work for AUSIT was always based on the contributions of so many other colleagues that I could not possibly name them all. Naturally, the majority were from the NSW Branch, but they were also from Qld, WA, Vic/Tas and SA/NT.

In parting, I want to comment briefly on the overall picture of my involvement as it emerges from the Fellowship citation. Dealing with AUSIT issues was often a drag and a pain in the neck, but when a guy sticks with it so long there have to be some very gratifying aspects as well. Here they are:

- AUSIT gave me the instant positive feedback I was craving as a relative newcomer to the country
- I'd like to think I have a talent for building bridges, and there was ample opportunity in AUSIT for doing that
- I strongly believe in self-representation as a means to improve income and working conditions
- Communicating with colleagues frequently made me a better and more confident translator and interpreter

There were several causes for the problems with my mental health, and the portion of these which could be attributed to AUSIT was far from the largest.

I encourage new members to get involved, do their part in strengthening the profession, get to know your colleagues and enjoy the exchanges with them.

I will continue as a translator/interpreter while I am overseas and will remain a

member of AUSIT — membership which has meant so much to me for so many years.

Thanks, and all the best to you all.

Kind regards,  
Uli Priester

## PD session: Working with T&I Agencies

On 23 March, AUSIT NSW held its first Professional Development session for 2011 on the subject of 'Working with T&I Agencies'. Our presenter was Uli Priester, well known to members as a past Chair of AUSIT NSW, as well as a former national President of AUSIT.

Uli is also the founder and proprietor of Anglo-German Communications, which has provided language services since 1984. Uli offered to share his knowledge and experience with AUSIT members as a parting gesture before he returned to Germany.

The session covered a range of topics, including how to establish a client base, the different types of agencies

(government-owned, private and online), setting rates, price differentials, and negotiating with clients. He spoke of the three fundamentals for working successfully as a freelance interpreter/translator: high-level language skills, a professional approach to all aspects of the business, and business and marketing skills.

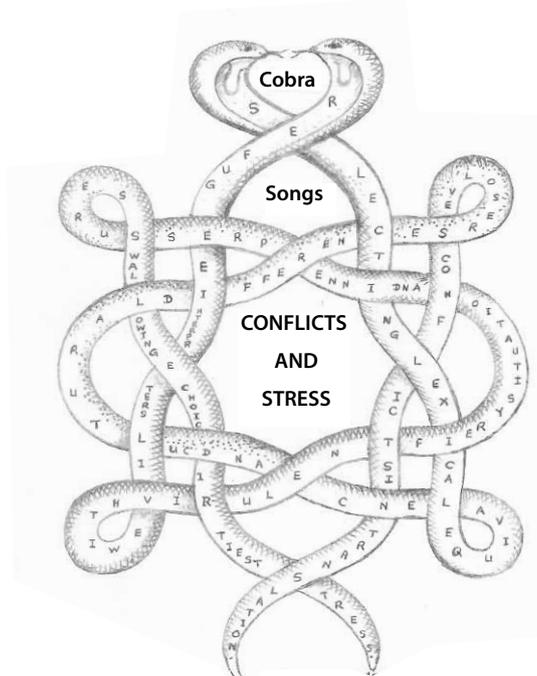
Uli related the benefits of becoming a member of the Australian-German Chamber of Commerce and evoked amusement when he described attending functions sporting a pony tail amongst the other conservative, besuited members of the Chamber.

Participants engaged enthusiastically at the session and shared much valuable information. There were discussions about domestic versus international clients, and how currency fluctuations affect demand and pricing.

We were pleased to be able to host this session with such an esteemed T&I practitioner and contributor to AUSIT for over many years.

Vielen Dank und Aufwiedersehen Uli!

Patricia Cruise  
PD Coordinator AUSIT NSW Branch



Selecting lexical equivalence and cultural differences resolves conflicts in translation. Refugee interpreters live with virulent fiery situation and inner pressures swallowing echoic dirtiest stress.

By Kandiah Kumarasamy  
Tamil Interpreter Vic/Tas Branch  
Artist — Gnanam

# The translator as the writer's psychoanalyst

**A**t the annual literary translation conference held at the University of Urbino, Italy in late 2010, the French writer Daniel Pennac received a special award in recognition of his consideration and respect for translators. In their rationale for the award, the judges referred to his 'unfailing readiness to work alongside his translators at the various stages of interpretation and linguistic rendering', his generous attention to their working conditions, and his public advocacy of the value of literary translation. This is a translation of his acceptance speech.

'Dear translators, allow me to thank you and tell you about my surprise: to thank you for the honour you do me in giving me this award and express my surprise that you have chosen me for this honour.

You say you are grateful for my general attitude towards translators. Grateful? What would the man that I am be without you translators? A man who neither speaks nor writes any language other than his own, not even English. Indeed, I think I'm the last remaining European in this sad situation. Not even Italian, despite the thirty years of friendship that connect us. This man has vital need of translators: you are my life, my lives. Thanks to you my books are reborn and cross borders. I say reborn because the translation of a literary text is tantamount to a new birth, and the role translators play in this birth is to be considered as a creation. The idea of translation is inseparable from that of creation; pure and simple linguistic transposition is not an act of translation, but rather an act of duplication, producing some kind of incomprehensible double Dutch. Reading the instruction booklet for my German washing machine, designed in Italy, with Japanese electronics, and manufactured in Korea, is enough

to drive anyone to commit suicide, linguistically.

For a novel to live in another language someone has to give it life again in this new language, and that someone is you. What constitutes the new life of a well-translated novel? A text that takes form in a language other than its original one (in your case in Italian) in a way that makes the reader think 'this seems to have been written in Italian' — something that cannot be said of your washing machine instructions. But what does this illusion in the reader demonstrate? The mysterious form of an excellent translation — in the present case the ability to transpose into another language the foreign author's classic working-class lexicon, the rhythm of his writing, its musicality, its subtleties, its allusions, and the writer's varying intentions. Basically what is not written, what we might call the spirit of the text. This ability makes the translator a sort of psychoanalyst of the writer. But talking about the spirit of the text also means talking about the spirit of the language in which the text is written, which makes you conscientious ethnologists and meticulous linguists as well. This ability to convey the spirit of a foreign language in your own can only come out of a

fusion with the text and with the source language, combined with perfect mastery of the target language. Such dual expertise presupposes a linguistic and literary ubiquity, or to put it more precisely, an analogical instinct, and this analogical instinct imposes on the translator a degree of obsession — which, incidentally, is the same as the obsession of the novelist at work. In exercising this obsession, my Italian translator Yasmina Melaouah, my German translator Eveline Passet, my Croatian translator Vlatka Valentic, my Japanese translator Akira Mitsubayashi, my English translator Sarah Adams, and my Spanish translator Manuel Serrat Crespo, to mention just a few, often reach me in the very heart of my texts. But, dear friends, you know as well as I do that obsession requires time. It requires endurance. And this time must be remunerated.

A few years ago, at a conference where I was asked what I thought about the translator being the author's psychoanalyst (since the idea is not mine, and at that conference everyone unanimously agreed with it), I said, 'Yes, yes' and applauded, and then I suggested bringing translators' rates into line with those paid to psychoanalysts. End of unanimity, alas. Nobody agreed with me except the translators present, who were greatly amused at the idea. Professionally, you are slaves to obsession, without the remuneration it calls for. And yet you translate. Very well, many of you. When I come across a foreign novel that has been badly translated, before blaming the translator I always wonder how much time they were allowed to get to know the text intimately and delve deeply into both the languages involved. And when I come across a fine translation, my first reaction is absolute gratitude to the translator who has found the time for this obsession and dedicated himself or herself to this literary Utopia, despite a market logic that is interested in letters only when they become numbers — large numbers — and doesn't distinguish between literature and the instruction booklet for our washing machines.

For all this then, for your ubiquity, your obsessiveness, and your commitment to having every single novel become part of world literature, I thank you.'

*Translation by Barbara McGilvray*

## Advertise and stay 'In-Touch' with T&I practitioners

AUSIT's quarterly newsletter reaches a wide range of stakeholders in the T&I industry. Why not advertise your product here or online with the national association for the translating and interpreting profession? Advertising rates are very reasonable, and you double your outlay as this newsletter is also published every quarter online.

Contact the Editor, Bradley Dawson, for more details.

e — [bradley@smithandbrown.com.au](mailto:bradley@smithandbrown.com.au) | tel — 03 5472 5315

# Branch News

## AUSIT Qld

There's a cool change in the air as AUSIT Qld committee member Ilke Brueckner-Klein arrives back from down south. That means winter is coming. So the Qld Committee has been actively preparing a great winter program for local and interstate T/Is.

First, to warm up our minds and keep our skills red-hot, on Saturday 28 May at the University of Qld the AUSIT Qld Mini Conference hosted practical presentations by interesting speakers covering a wide range of topics, followed by an exciting panel discussion on trends in our industry. This was a great opportunity for professional development, networking with peers and meeting some of the budding talent we are growing in Qld.

AUSIT Qld also ran a stall on Sunday 22 May at the Ipswich Multicultural Festival, an important ethnic event in South East Qld. A busy team of AUSIT Qld volunteers led by Elizabeth Kissel and Sam Berner ensured nobody got lost in translation!

As Branch Chair I attended local RAC meetings, as well as a breakfast held by Queensland University Technology School of Justice. Guest speaker was Hal Wootten AC QC, a former Supreme Court Judge, former Royal Commissioner into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1988-91) and Foundation Dean of Law at the University of New South Wales. As former Director of the Kimberley Aboriginal Interpreter Service, I am still actively involved in Indigenous Interpreting issues, and consult with the Qld Ministry of Justice as well as Federal Government agencies on this subject.

I also represent AUSIT on the Qld Health Interpreter Service Advisory Group and advocate for accessible and high-quality interpreting and translating services in our state with Qld Accessing Working Group (QAIWG). I have been attending industry fora organised by the Qld Council of Social Service (QCOSS) to represent AUSIT whenever possible.

We also know it's winter when the annual Lord Mayor's Multicultural Business Dinner comes around.

AUSIT Qld takes out a corporate table with the Brisbane International Business Women's Group to ensure an AUSIT presence at the night of the nights in multicultural Brisbane. At this year's Masquerade Ball in Victoria Park, overlooking Brisbane, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor Councillor Graham Quirk, members of the Lord Mayor's Multicultural Round Table and a masked band from AUSIT Qld will let their hair down to support continuing development of multicultural projects in Brisbane.

Thanks to all AUSIT Qld committee members for your dedication, passion and support, and for donating your time so generously.

*Tea Dietterich  
Qld Branch Chair*

## PD Report

The AUSIT Qld Branch has been abuzz with preparations for its 3<sup>rd</sup> Mini-Conference, which was hosted very recently by the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies from the University of Queensland. The conference, held on 28 May, was an all-day event full of practical presentations, networking opportunities and panel discussions.

On 26 March our own post-editing guru Tineke Von Beukering presented a comprehensive and informative workshop on her subject. The workshop was attended by freelancers keen on exploring additional avenues for their work, and was held at the Brisbane City Library Lecture Theatre.

On 26 April Qld member and PD Coordinator Sam Berner presented AUSIT's second webinar this year. The talk, which lasted for an hour, dealt with success in freelancing, and was aimed at established practitioners interested in expanding beyond their current markets. The webinar was attended by over 40 people from all over Australia, as well as overseas. AUSIT Qld looks forward to further cooperate with the National PD Team in utilising this technology and providing access to PD events not limited by space and time.

Marketing AUSIT has also been on our minds in Qld. AUSIT Qld staffed a stall at the Ipswich City Multicultural Festival on 22 May to raise awareness of our profession. This is the second major festival that AUSIT participates in, with the first being the annual Qld Multicultural Festival in October.

Members of the AUSIT Qld Management Committee also attended the Lord Mayor's Multicultural Dinner on 27 May.

*Alison Rodriguez  
AUSIT Qld Secretary*



2011 *Mini-Conference  
and  
Orientation Day*



**School of Languages and  
Comparative Cultural Studies**

**AUSIT QLD**  
proudly presents

**3rd MINI-CONFERENCE AND ORIENTATION DAY**  
a full day of workshops and lectures

**WHEN:**  
Saturday, May 28th 2011  
8:30 AM to 5:50PM

**WHERE:**  
Abel Smith Theatre, University of Queensland, St. Lucia Campus, Brisbane

**PROGRAM:**

8:30	Registration
9:00	Welcoming Address and Introducing AUSIT by Tea Dietterich
9:45	On The Joy of Cash Flow by Heather Smith
10:45	Coffee break
11:15	Being Professional Means Being Effective - Sam Berner
12:15	Lunch break
1:15	Post-Editing - Tineke Von Beukering
1:45	Interpreting for PTSD Patients - Maria Corbett
2:15	Interpreting at the World Expo - the Endless Battle for Excellence - Rona Zhang
2:45	Software Tools for Translators - Sam Berner
3:30	Afternoon tea
4:00	Future Trends in the Profession - Panel Discussion (Tea Dietterich, Rona Zhang, Sam Berner, Maria Corbett)
5:00	Close and networking opportunity for audience

**RSVP:**  
Sam Berner, sberner@arabic.com.au by 23rd May 2011

# AUSIT information session at Curtin Immigration Detention Centre

At any given time in Curtin Immigration Detention Centre a large number of interpreters are performing important linguistic and vital interpreting duties for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) — duties which are an integral part of the essential services provided to about 1400 refugees seeking asylum in Australia. This situation presented a unique opportunity for AUSIT to organise an **'AUSIT membership information session'** on Friday 6 May to showcase the purpose and objectives of the Institute, with the aim of attracting new members, as the majority of the interpreters on site were not members of AUSIT.

The information session was a grand success, with 32 interpreters in attendance as a result of a joint effort by AUSIT and the DIAC. As a Tamil

Interpreter from Melbourne and AUSIT Vic/Tas committee member, I took the initiative of commencing some PD activities and also approached the AUSIT National Office for assistance through the Vic/Tas Branch. The National Office supported the idea and provided me with material and financial support for showcasing AUSIT.

The proceedings commenced around midday, with Greg Else of DIAC welcoming the gathering and introducing me as a speaker representing AUSIT. I delivered a presentation on membership information and the benefits of such membership. The three colour brochures *An Introduction to AUSIT*, *Interpreting: Getting it Right*, and *Translation: Getting it Right* were distributed and briefly explained. Handouts on topics 'About AUSIT', the 'AUSIT Code of Ethics' and the

'Membership Information/ Application Form' were also introduced and distributed. A brief Q & A session followed, raising many interesting questions. I made a request to DIAC to provide a regular timeslot for ongoing PD activities at Curtin.

The presentation lasted for about 30 minutes and then everyone enjoyed some fellowship and a delicious carrot cake with hot quiche courtesy of AUSIT. All attendees who registered and expressed interest in joining AUSIT were rewarded with either an AUSIT promotional cap or a carry bag.

Earlier, all the interpreters were treated to a barbeque with a variety of *Halal* meats. This broke the ice and ensured all the interpreters remained for the entire event.

Sundar Nadesan  
AUSIT Vic/Tas Committee

## AUSIT SA/NT Branch News

The AUSIT SA/NT Branch has had a busy schedule recently, running two rather fine workshops, a couple of networking sessions and, of course, the usual branch committee and NAATI/RAC meetings.

### Bookkeeping basics for T/Is

One of our members, interpreter Tony Latt, generously consented to share his knowledge with us. Tony is also a qualified accountant and did his best to make the discipline of keeping financial records accessible to a roomful of numeracy-challenged word nerds. His workshop was fully practical, with participants learning basic principles and making calculations within the framework of a realistic financial scenario.



This was a great example of a win-win situation for AUSIT members. Tony said he himself gained from the experience of giving his first ever presentation, AUSIT's pool of general knowledge through member contributions was boosted, and attending members were able to expand their skill sets.

### Software gadgets for translators

Sam Berner and Dima Rashid gave an overview of a fistful of software applications: OmniPage, PractiCount, AlignFactory, and GoToMeeting.

For GoToMeeting, Dima left the room with her laptop, while Sam remained in the main room to demonstrate some of the tricks to interacting on-screen with remote team members or clients. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss varying client requirements.

Both workshops were held at TAFE with the active support and assistance of Magdalena Rowan. For each event she ensured we had excellent signage, a reserved balcony area for refreshments and an ideal room complete with projection gear.

Thank you very much Magdalena, Tony, Sam and Dima!

Maurite Fober  
AUSIT SA/NT Branch Committee

## Items of interest from the NAATI RAC meeting

### Current status of revalidation program

Practitioners participating in the revalidation process should note that the NAATI board advises it has failed to secure extra funding to implement the revalidation process. This means the process is to be shelved until such funding becomes available; when this might happen is unclear. People possessing NAATI products, such as Accreditation Certificates which are due to expire, should approach their local NAATI office for automatic extensions.

### T/Is who receive Centrelink benefits

Danielle Kelly, Language Services Coordinator for Centrelink in SA, pointed out that interpreters and translators receiving Centrelink benefits who enrol in various interpreting and translating courses and sit NAATI exams are eligible for Centrelink assistance with these expenses. These practitioners should approach Centrelink for further assistance. Furthermore, it appears financial assistance for the exam is not dependent upon whether the candidate passes the exam.

Ludmila Berkis  
SA/NT Branch RAC Representative

# Degrees of freedom



On the other side of burnout, AUSIT Qld's Sam Berner found her vision was clearer

About a year ago, an unusually quiet workload gave me the opportunity to face my burnout. The feeling had been creeping up on me slowly for a few years, and I had almost given up on my resolution to keep doing what I was doing: translating texts that bored me stiff, did no service to my intellect and for which I should have been getting some disability compensation instead of the normal fee I charge.

I took it on myself to find a solution to the angst and the boredom. After all, I love what I do when it is meaningful, when I have a choice as to what it is I am working on. Deep inside, I also know I am good at other things: communicating, teaching, consulting. Yet the past ten years of commercial work had left me drained of creativity and I was slowly sliding into stagnation. Something had to change.

The initial step was to decide what I really wanted. It sounds simple, but it wasn't in practice. Years of highly structured work environment meant I had lost the ability to see beyond the everyday grind. For me, the motivation was to regain my freedom of choice. So it boiled down to the fact that I wanted, a priori, to be able to choose what work I did, and by extension to be able to choose the clients I wanted to work with (not for!).

Crazy? You bet. I got queasy just thinking about it. But as I forced myself to remember how, a few decades ago, I used to feel lightheaded with excitement at landing yet another book, or trip somewhere into an unknown nook of Africa to work for an international agency delivering aid, or chattering off the top of my head in some minister's office during a delegation visit, I begun to remember 'this used to be fun!' What I needed to

do was regain the internal momentum that used to drive me. After all, we choose our meals, choose what we wear to the movies, choose the movie! Why shouldn't we choose our clients?

I can't remember if it was in an online forum, or through an email, that I found out about Harriet Rubin. She was the founder of Doubleday Currency and has published dozens of bestsellers. But she left, at the height of her career, to become a self-employed consultant. Her book, *Soloing: Realizing Your Life's Ambition*, really changed my life around. It made me look at what I could do from the other end of the spectrum: not by making myself visible to all and waiting for clients to knock on my door, but by choosing the clients I want to work with, then approaching them with an offer to make their life easier. Not as a service provider. As a partner in their success.

It took another six months for my vision to clear. After all, approaching total strangers for a conversation isn't something I do everyday. I started by writing down all these crazy ideas, clearly articulating for myself what I was about. I was very lucky to have the support of my team, who trusted in my vision (or my madness) and in my ability to pull this through. By January, with waters blocking the exit from our property, the revolution in the Middle East making our dream seem even more improbable, and internal fears gnawing at us, we redeveloped our website. This was a major step towards branding our business as something different to what we had been.

We moved away from being freelancers. We became soloists. Not part of an orchestra, but in charge of it. Not working in our business, but working the business so it grew according to our plans and wishes.

You may well ask what is the difference, seeing that we are still, well, translating? The first and most important difference is in our attitude to our work. We refuse to work to pay the bills. Instead, we work to improve our craft (money will come, don't worry about it!) We have become more daring in our approach, risking new fields of work we hadn't tried before. It is like going on an adventure, and we would rather get frostbite than miss out on the action. Our ideal? Leonardo Da Vinci. This isn't about profession, stature, perfecting what we already know well — this is about art, about performance. The art of doing real business.

What we traded in was the rush for large projects, for power within the market, for control over resources and clients, and the comfort of the day in, day out routine. We traded this for control over our destiny, intimacy with clients that matter, for freedom and independence. We retained teamwork, but it is of the kind that does not suffocate any team members. On the contrary, since we took off, one of us has joined the UN, another went off to present workshops on democracy in Cairo, the third is subtitled Noam Chomsky's video clips for free, and two are hopping around the country shaking hands with people we have always wanted to know. We have gained a new sense of direction, a new invigorating passion for our work and a new ability to grow and diversify whilst enjoying the journey of discovery. It is amazing what we have learned, how we have been transformed by the surprises, and strengthened by the transformation.

We have created a vision, and we will rise or fall on our vision. It is giddy, sometimes scary (especially when the dream project seems to elude us), but we are prepared for it. We don't waste time worrying about negative feelings, fear and lack of confidence. Instead, we measure our success by how good we feel about ourselves, by our internal growth, by taking ourselves to new levels of quality.

Has our income dropped? Not at all. Work is hectic, but exhilarating. We maintain our contacts with the local market not because we have to, but because many of our past clients have become good friends. We hope to convince them to join the party and have as much fun as we do.

# My favourite dictionary



**Francine Giguere treasures a long partnership with her knowledgeable friend**

It's been around for over half a century — a baby boomer, like me. We are both beginning to show signs of wear and tear. Even when I bought it in 1974, the cover was already split along each side of the spine, exposing the cloth of the binding, yet it still hangs on despite long journeys from Bulgaria to Canada and then on to Australia and several house shifts in-between. Lines, now beige with age, score the hard navy blue cover like hash signs. At the top of the cover, the title and author appear in bold black letters on a dirty beige label: *PROF. BLAGOÏ MAVROV, DICTIONNAIRE BULGARE-FRANÇAIS*.

I open it carefully to prevent the title page from flying out. This loose leaf bears the original owner's signature in the right hand corner. The date of acquisition, 1949, written in the same hand, is also the year of publication of this second edition. Throughout the volume, the yellowed paper darkens to a pale shade of cognac around the edges. The pages release the sweet smoky smell of a fine Cuban cigar — the venerable smell of decades. These pages, brittle now, have started cracking. You could not fold in the corner of a page, heaven forbid, as it would break off as surely as if you were to cut it with scissors.

I bought the Bulgarian-French dictionary in the full knowledge it would have no contemporary vocabulary. It was the only thing I could get while waiting for a new edition of the *Bulgarian-English Dictionary*. Another edition was expected but, like all things during the seventies at the height of the cold war in Bulgaria, there was a shortage, and you never knew when it would appear on the shelves. I was educated in both English and French, so it didn't matter to me whether it was Bulgarian-French or Bulgarian-English. I would make do.

I found the dictionary after haunting the book stalls and antiquarian

bookstores around Ploshtad Slaveikov. Located in downtown Sofia, this famous square (named after father and son writers, Petko and Pencho Slaveikov) was and still is 'book central' for Sofia's students and booklovers. Two rows of outdoor book stalls traversed the square. The book sellers at their tables laden with cardboard boxes of books were well read and knowledgeable. Here you found everything from high school and university textbooks to phrasebooks, dictionaries, political tracts and novels, old and new. After 1989 cookbooks made their appearance along with more picture books, maps and bilingual guide books to Sofia and Bulgaria, as well as a much wider range of contemporary fiction and specialised bilingual dictionaries. Business and trade dictionaries at last!

During my student days, there were also several antiquarian bookstores on the streets around the square. The second-hand books became more valuable because, at that time, imports were difficult to obtain and publishing in Bulgaria was limited to socialist realism and political tracts. They were rare, but a life-saver in my case, as this is where I found my dictionary.

*I love it, but not just for sentimental reasons.* What I look for in a good Bulgarian-French or Bulgarian-English dictionary, is an indication of the part of speech, noun gender, word stress, verbal aspect and irregular forms of conjugation. Thoroughly compiled by Professor Mavrov, this little dictionary has it all. What is more, he offers a bonus by indicating the etymology of words borrowed and transliterated from other languages. This pre-Internet dictionary may lack computer terminology or the vocabulary of the World Wide Web — but it gives me the information I need for non-specialised everyday language.

More recently published dictionaries do not compare favourably. I

like Blagovesta Balkandzhieva's *Bulgarian-English Dictionary of Law, Finance and Trade Terms* (2007) for its specialised terms, list of abbreviations and acronyms with their expansion in Bulgarian and English translations, list of titles of organisations, laws and Bulgarian institutions. However, I question the lexicographer's omission of parts of speech, gender and word stress, not to mention the practice of giving only the imperfective aspect of verbs and only present-tense forms.

You might wonder why it is important to give gender since, unlike languages such as French and German, the gender of nouns in Bulgarian is highly predictable from their endings. Most feminine nouns end in 'a' or 'ya', but some, like masculine nouns, end in a consonant. The word *uyazvimost* is a feminine noun meaning 'exposure' (as in, 'exposure to risk'). The dictionary entry is a single word, without an adjective and, therefore, it could erroneously be taken for a masculine noun. In some entries, the gender can only be deduced from the adjectives used with the noun, since adjectives must agree in gender with the nouns they qualify. But what if there is no adjective in the dictionary entry for that word?

Verbal aspect is an even greater problem in the newer dictionary. In Bulgarian there are two forms of most verbs: the imperfective and perfective. The imperfective aspect is used for continuous or repeated actions, while the perfective aspect is used for actions seen as complete. If readers come across the perfective form *pregovorya*, 'to negotiate' and look it up in this dictionary, they will not find it. They need to look up the imperfective form '*pregovaryam*'.

Word stress is free in Bulgarian, which means it can be on any syllable and is not indicated in writing, except in dictionaries. Some dictionaries published even in the last decade, like Balkandzhieva's, do not indicate stress, making it difficult for the language learner to pronounce a new word.

My little dictionary doesn't take the user for granted. That's why it is still the first dictionary I reach for when I need to check on the spelling of a word or look up its French equivalent. Besides these advantages, it is small enough to hold in one hand. It's easy to grab from my bed-side table when I'm reading a Bulgarian novel I may want to translate some day. It is irreplaceable.

Encouraging best practice, professionalism, dedication to quality, innovation and outstanding contributions to the industry.

## AUSIT NATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

When: Friday, 11 November 2011

Where: The Hall, University House, ANU, Canberra  
7.00 pm

Cost: Members — \$110 / Non-members — \$130  
Corporate tables — \$1100

The AUSIT National Excellence Awards 2011 will once again celebrate outstanding performance in the translating and interpreting profession.

The Awards celebrate organisations and individuals/teams in six categories:

- Outstanding Contribution to the Translating & Interpreting Industry
- Excellence in Translating
- Excellence in Interpreting
- Outstanding Contribution to AUSIT (Paul Sinclair Award)
- Outstanding Contribution to Indigenous Interpreting and Translation
- Excellence in Telephone Interpreting

### AWARDS PRESENTATION

The AUSIT Excellence Awards Presentation Gala Dinner will be held at the University House of the Australian National University in Canberra on 11 November 2011.

To book your tickets, download the registration form from the AUSIT website [www.ausitawards.org](http://www.ausitawards.org).



## D-DAY EXPO FOR TRANSLATORS & INTERPRETERS

When: 11 November 2011

Where: University House, ANU, Canberra,

9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Cost: Members — \$90.00 / Non-members — \$120  
Students — \$ 45

After the success of the first expo for translators and interpreters, AUSIT once again invites all professionals to be part of this informative platform in which practitioners have the opportunity to learn about the latest developments within our profession.

Apart from a variety of demonstrations, D-Day will provide plenty of opportunities to network and purchase the latest products, self-study materials, books, etc. at special D-Day rates. Networking is vital for successful translators and interpreters, so don't miss this opportunity to share the knowledge!

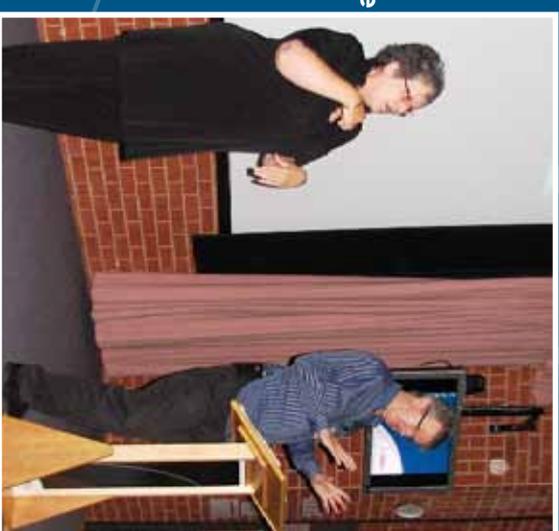
## JILL BLEWETT MEMORIAL LECTURE

When: 12 November, 2011,

Where: University House, ANU, Canberra, 11.00 am

Cost: Free

Since 1992 the Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture has seen a wide range of respected speakers delivering this prestigious lecture which reflects on the state of translating and interpreting in Australia.



### HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

As a user of T&I services, you can nominate the practitioner or organisation of any performance or initiative that merits recognition. Please download a nomination form from the AUSIT website, [www.ausitawards.org](http://www.ausitawards.org) in order to nominate someone.

As a practitioner, you can nominate your own work or that of colleagues. If you think you have worked on a project that warrants recognition, you don't need to wait to be nominated. All you need to do is download the nomination form and prepare your submission. The merits of each submission will be assessed by the AUSIT awards jury, except for the 'Paul Sinclair Award', which will be judged by the National Council.

# AUSIT

## 2011 NATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS & D-DAY EXPO

### CANBERRA

### 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2011

The Hall, University House, ANU

The AUSIT Excellence Awards recognise initiatives and activities by individuals, teams, and organisations operating in all sectors of the translating and interpreting industry.

Encouraging best practice, professionalism, dedication to quality, innovation and outstanding contributions to the industry.

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

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