

National Newsletter

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS INC.

Volume 11, Number 2, June 2003.

In this Issue

From the President	1
From the Editor	2
National Council's Corner	3
From Our Forum	3
Book Reviews	4
International Focus	5
Focus on Interpreting	6
Membership Reform Proposal	7
Technology Bytes	8
Ethical Quandaries	9
Branch News	10
Professional Development	12
Industry Wrap	12
Calendar of Events	14
Unsafe Text	16

From the President

As you all know, membership reform has been on the AUSIT agenda for some time.

In discussions with branch representatives in recent weeks I have found a good deal of support for three core principles, i.e.:

- that practitioners should Practice
- that practitioners who are AUSIT members should undertake on-going Professional Development
- that beginners who are AUSIT members enter the profession subject to a period of guidance, called Mentoring

Elsewhere in this newsletter is the document which summarises the discussions I had with all branches and which has also been shown to NAATI and to the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs (VOMA), both of which have asked for some preliminary information about our plans.

As I have made clear to both NAATI and VOMA, it is very much a preliminary document which is for discussion only and does not commit us to any particular course of action.

It is not a perfect document because we have not perfected our thinking on these matters.

What Next?

Each branch committee will meet to discuss the issues and to provide feedback to the preliminary working group comprising Uli Priester, Barbara McGilvray, Chris Poole and me. Of course



the National Council and the entire AUSIT membership forms the larger working group.

Each set of branch comments and questions will be forwarded to the working group which will try to answer them. We will also publish a set of frequently asked questions with appropriate answers.

We want branches to hold meetings to discuss the following questions and to send us their views and suggestions:

1 Practice: Is it reasonable to expect AUSIT members to actually be doing some work? Accreditation alone is not enough anymore. How much work is necessary for you to maintain your skills? Is continuing practice necessary to maintain and improve competence? How much continuing practice is enough? Do you think it should be different for each language and according to location?

2 Professional Development: Is it reasonable to expect practising members of AUSIT to undertake ongoing professional development?

Continued on page 15

From the Editor

Welcome to the second national newsletter for 2003. Where's the new name? Well, it seems that none of the suggestions arising from the 'Name the Newsletter' competition really inspired members and of the small number who voted, by far the majority were in favour of retaining the status quo. It may not be witty or catchy, but the name does say exactly what we're about and it's here to stay.

As with the previous issue, one of the hardest tasks for me as editor has been deciding what to include in these pages to achieve a balance between news and articles and between items relating to interpreting and to translating. Do you have any ideas on how the newsletter could be improved? What are your views on some of the issues raised in the following pages? Share your thoughts by sending a Letter to the Editor, or consider submitting an article. All members are warmly invited to contribute: you don't need to be a Committee member or have 20 years' T&I experience under your belt! I'd be particularly interested to receive items for the International Focus, Focus on Translating and Focus on Interpreting sections. Do you have knowledge or experience of the T&I industry overseas? Would you like to tell us about an interesting / difficult / amusing assignment you've done? How did you solve the challenges / difficulties you encountered? Have you gained expertise in a particular field of T&I? How about sharing your experiences? Have you done any research which may be of interest to members? What about writing a T&I diary: a typical (or perhaps not so typical) day/week in your life as a T/I, with all its joys and frustrations? Please consider taking up the challenge and in the meantime, happy reading.

Anne Richardson
Editor

Who's Who

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS 2002-2003

PRESIDENT:	Moreno GIOVANNONI morgio@bigpond.net.au
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:	Skender BREGU skender.bregu.sydney@ice.it
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Chris POOLE cptandrw@ozemail.com.au
SECRETARY:	Ilke BRUECKNER-KLEIN ilke.bk@labyrinth.net.au
TREASURER:	Vince DANILO vjd@ishtek.com
PRINCIPAL DELEGATE NSW :	Barbara McGILVRAY bmcg@bigpond.net.au
PRINCIPAL DELEGATE VIC/TAS:	Sarina PHAN sarinaphan@yahoo.com.au
WA PRINCIPAL DELEGATE:	Younghi NEWMAN korealink@another.com
QLD PRINCIPAL DELEGATE:	Mira CHAPMAN mira.chapman@bigpond.com.au
SA/NT PRINCIPAL DELEGATE:	John HALLETT hallett@senet.com.au
ACT PRINCIPAL DELEGATE:	Anatolij ONISHKO oniwko7@cyberone.com.au
NORTHERN NATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR:	Tineke MILLARD nsw@ausit.org
SOUTHERN NATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR:	David CONNOR europatrans@optusnet.com.au victas@ausit.org

How to contact AUSIT

National Telephone Number: **1800 284 181**

Website: **www.ausit.org**

Northern Region (ACT, NSW, QLD)

PO Box 5108

Turrumurra South NSW 2074

E-mail: nsw@ausit.org

Southern Region (NT, SA, Tas., Vic., WA):

PO Box 1070

Blackburn North VIC 3130

E-mail: victas@ausit.org

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.

National Council

The members of the National Council are holding “virtual” meetings, rather than costly, infrequent teleconferences. Prior to resolutions, propositions are discussed via e-mail. This way, the Council members can read propositions by other Council members in their own time, and give their input after consideration.

Here is a summary of the most significant electronic resolutions (“e-resolutions”) made since the last National Newsletter.

- That AUSIT provide partial funding for the three Vic/Tas branch members working on developing AUSIT’s Legal Interpreting Course to attend the UNSW conference and workshop on “Interpreters and Legal Professionals Working Together

in Courts & Tribunals”.

- That AUSIT and ASLIA (Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association) agree to share information of mutual interest such as newsletters, advertise each other’s events and allow each other’s members discounted / free admission rates to activities.

- That the following be admitted to AUSIT membership or associate membership:

Natasha Arens, Rosana Di Giorgio, Megumi Hatori-Hayes, Chaofeng Guan, Sojung Yoon, Mikako Yokoyama, Alex Brodsky, Maria Amore, Lorenzo Balbinot, Charles Bibawi, Amber Earles, Marcela Farru-Hill, Bob Pelekanakis, Susanne Blaschka, Marina Morgan,

Yuji Otaki, Pennie Allsopp, Bosiljka Vujaklija, Amy (oi-Ying) Wong, Glenda Solarte Winkler, Axelle Chazal, Zhan Xu, Sarah Walls, Fergus Grieve, Yen Hoang Nguyen, Eftychia Antoniou, Yvonne Armstrong, Maria Ceballos-Wallis, Monireh Leedham, Semka Basic, Chenxia Shi, Emanuela Pasini, Francoise Thornton-Smith, Jun Li Yang, Bradley Sawson, Quentin Frayne, Stella Motta, Xin Su, Jemina Napier, Yanmin Harry Qu, Abigail Pita, Anna Biezen, Ita Szymanska, Craig Jensen, Oleg Parenta, Jadranka Brown, Ataya Aoki, Marc Peake, Seung Cheon Kim, Keiichi Oe, Anna Aleksy, Claudia Ait-Touati, Eugenia Smout, Qihui Wu, Souad Halcrow.

Congratulations and a warm welcome to all our new members.

From Our Forum

A summary of discussions on the AUSIT e-Bulletin prepared by Ian McAllister

There has been little excitement on the forum recently.

Idiolalia

So we descended to discussion of idiolalia as it applied to Jabberwocky. No, the “idio” root has nothing to do with “idiot” though that may be a matter of opinion!

Klingon

A job advert (genuine) for a Klingon interpreter to work with mental patients in the USA was discussed.

NAATI

Some dissatisfaction was expressed with the accreditation procedure, but the general feeling seemed to be that in an imperfect world there will always be dissatisfaction, and the present system is better than nothing.

Client Education

There were several threads deploring the lack of understanding of our profession. We are, of course, preaching to the converted so no controversy was generated.

Cries for Help

There were some requests for information about the payment practices of various agencies. Other requests were for information about the requirements in this country for translators and interpreters. There were also some requests for help with a word or phrase.

The Plight of Interpreters

I cringe at the thought of the working conditions of our interpreters. They have just a split second to decide on the ethics of a situation, and from what I can

make out, the legal profession and our code of ethics cannot agree on the need for preparation before the job. It reminds me of the statement that “A woman’s place is in the wrong”.

The e-Bulletin is an e-mail discussion group open to all AUSIT members. To join, simply send a blank e-mail message to: AUSIT-eBulletin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

As well as the general English language bulletin, there are 15 specific language e-groups which are an excellent way of sharing news of particular interest to speakers of your language(s) and consulting colleagues about terminology, cultural issues and more. For more information, contact Southern Region Administrator, David Connor.

Book Reviews

Crossing Barriers and Bridging Cultures: The Challenges of Multilingual Translation for the European Union

Edited by Arturo Tosi

Multilingual Matters, 2002

RRP: \$54.95

As I began reading this compilation of papers, presented at a one-day conference for translators working for the EU Parliament, I could not help but wonder just what kind of reader compiler and editor of those papers, Professor Arturo Tosi, might have had in mind, when he decided to publish them in the form of this rather modest booklet.

Possibly he was thinking about students or aspiring translators and interpreters, being employed in increasing numbers by the European Union, as it struggles to expand its language services from 15 countries, 11 languages and 110 possible language combinations, to 21 countries with 16 languages, some 240 combinations, and a somewhat daunting future prospect of 22 languages and no less than 462 language combinations.

The contributors to Arturo Tosi's publication did not tell me anything particularly new, although I found it somewhat surprising to read that several of his speakers appeared to be advocating the view that a translator "might consider improving on a text by an author whose work is less than transparent, non-grammatical or of which the meaning is not entirely clear".

This compilation of papers having been delivered in 1998, the sections on IT-related subjects, such as word processors, machine translation and computer-aided translation have already become somewhat dated, bearing in mind that – in the IT field – anything more than five years old tends to hark back to the Jurassic period.

I also thought that at a RRP of \$54.95, which translates into some \$0.45 per page, it was somewhat on the expensive side for a booklet of this size (135 pages).

Dick W. Speekman

Translation Today: Trends and Perspectives

**Edited by Gunilla Anderman
and Margaret Rogers**

Multilingual Matters, 2003

RRP: \$105.00

This is a collection of papers written by scholars reflecting on the teaching of translation today in translation and interpreting courses. It is also a reflection on the practice of translation and interpreting and trends in the new millennium. Some of the contributors attended a symposium held in 1999 in Guildford in honour of Peter Newmark who gave the keynote paper which was discussed in the ensuing round-table (included in the edition).

The volume contains some challenging reading and does tackle translation / interpreting aspects other than linguistic ones. Is there a decline of the native speaker replaced by machine translation? It is certainly reassuring to read that human translators are still needed, depending on the type of texts to be translated. For interpreters, there is an opportunity to discover the Ecole de Paris where a theory of interpreting based on "deverbalisation" was coined. The theory is explained briefly and criticised, but it is still a well-balanced assessment of what constitutes a theory based on fleeting meaning, since it is verbal. Practitioners will be interested to find out what the trends are in audiovisual translation for the new millennium and how growth is noticeable in countries where English is not spoken. Material transferred to other cultures, such as documentaries, needs to be translated into other languages, with problems of adaptation arising and issues of dubbing or subtitling to respond to local preferences.

Readers will not only appreciate the complexity of translating and interpreting activities revealed by prominent scholars in their papers; they will also gain insight into the divergence of views expressed among scholars as highlighted in the round-table discussions.

Annick Bourveau

The above two volumes are available from all good booksellers or can be purchased direct from Footprint Books: info@footprint.com.au

International Focus

In this issue, International Focus takes a look at the role of FIT (the International Federation of Translators) and brings you the latest FIT news, contributed by Terry Chesher. Terry is not only an active member of the AUSIT NSW Branch Committee but also chairs the FIT Committee on Community Based Interpreting.

FIT – International Federation of Translators

FIT is an international federation of associations of interpreters and translators and is made up of more than 100 associations, including AUSIT, in over 50 countries around the world.

FIT's primary purpose is to promote professionalism and ethics in the T&I profession. It achieves this by providing support and advice to its members and newly formed associations, promoting cooperation and interaction between associations, promoting training and research and upholding the interests of translators and interpreters throughout the world by striving to defend their rights and enhance the status of their profession.

FIT produces a number of publications, including a quarterly newsletter, *Translatio*, which can be received by e-mail or downloaded from the FIT website at: www.fit-ift.org The website also provides a wealth of other information on FIT activities, publications, member associations, etc.

50th Anniversary

Later this year, FIT will celebrate its 50th anniversary and FIT and the Société Française des Traducteurs (SFT) are organising three days of celebrations to commemorate the occasion. The conferences and discussions will take place at UNESCO in Paris on 20, 21 and 22 November 2003. The main themes will be copyright, the translation of Harry Potter, the European standard for translation and the

translation of patents. A section will be devoted to translators' rights and a book on FIT's history will be launched.

The program for this important event, which will bring together representatives from translators' and interpreters' associations throughout the world, is being put together with help from UNESCO, the FIT Committees and SFT, the host association. It is intended not only for literary and technical translators, but for all translators and interpreters interested in defending their rights, and for anyone using translation services. More details, including a provisional program, are available from the FIT website.

In choosing Translators' Rights as the theme for International Translation Day 2003, FIT wanted to revisit one of the reasons it was established 50 years ago

International Translators' Day, 30 September 2003

In choosing Translators' Rights as the theme for International Translation Day 2003, FIT wanted to revisit one of the reasons it was established 50 years ago. Details of the Translator's Charter (1963/amended 1994) and the Recommendation on the Legal Protection of Translators and Translations and the practical means to improve the Status of

Translators, adopted by UNESCO in Nairobi in 1976 (Nairobi Recommendation) can be found on the FIT website. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of FIT and its member associations over the years, the translator's professional status is still far from being accepted universally. Although globalisation has heightened awareness of the need for translation, it has not led to the recognition of the professional nature of the activity and the rights of its practitioners.

Manifesto on behalf of Cultural Diversity

The manifesto, prepared by the international community of translators, is being promoted by FIT as its contribution to the work of UNESCO. It aims to encourage all those professionally engaged in the field of literary translation to commit themselves to an output that is culturally diverse. Those wishing to sign up to the manifesto are requested to indicate how in practice they will contribute to the fulfilment of its aims. The manifesto is a call to individual action and each signature must be given in an individual capacity. Full details of the manifesto can be found on the FIT website.

FIT Committees

Much of FIT's work is done by specialised Committees. FIT currently has Committees focusing on the following areas:

Continued on page 13

Community Interpreting in Australia: History and Decline

by Vivian Stevenson

Over the last several months, there has been a lot of comment on the AUSIT e-Bulletin expressing frustration with interpreter rates and conditions. General rumblings eventually came to a head with a group of interpreters - independently of AUSIT - making their point by withdrawing services.

Not everybody believes such action to be correct, but while people might differ about the best means to effect change, we can be fairly united on the desired end: interpreter pay and conditions need to reflect the status of the modern practitioner as an educated professional.

With no real pay rises for years, freelance interpreters now get considerably less than a self-employed tradesman. The situation is eroding the profession from without and within, since it both produces a high attrition rate amongst experienced practitioners and discourages capable people from entering.

Rather than getting angry about things, we need to figure out how we got into this mess in the first place.

Setting it up...

In many parts of the world, multilingualism is the norm. In border populations, speaking two or three languages is not uncommon, while for most professions English proficiency is an imperative. Australia has no terrestrial borders, and our sole official language just happens to be the modern age's lingua franca: there has never been a need to develop advanced foreign language skills.

Yet when the post-war stream of immigration became a flood in the

1970s, capable people needed to be found. There was equal opportunity legislation to implement, and the answer was seen to lie in the resource of what were then termed 'ethnic communities'. The NAATI accreditation system would be the means for sifting through them.

In retrospect the original recipe is a heady one: linguistic naivety equating 'ethnic' with 'bilingual', and 'bilingual' with 'interpreter'; instrumentalities obliged to provide non-English communication whilst finding it inconvenient or threatening; and interpreters with little or no experience or formal training who would often end up out of their depth.

The situation is eroding the profession from without and within, since it both produces a high attrition rate amongst experienced practitioners and discourages capable people from entering

...to knock it down

Interpreting was created with the ideal initial conditions for fostering negativity, even resentment. Over the years, it was cast as a necessary evil whose practitioners were to be assumed incompetent until proved otherwise. Interpreting became an obligatory, generic service deserving only minimal remuneration. Instrumentalities have to use interpreters, but don't want to have to deal with them.

Such attitudes, and the job's immediate, on-site nature and

fluctuating demand over large areas have fostered a clearing-house approach embodied by large agencies - whether governmental or private - tapping a pool of casuals.

In this fashion, intermediaries and end-users have grown a relationship that has excluded consultation with the very practitioners they call upon. Firmly out of the loop, interpreters have had no choice but to look on as their profession has been marginalised.

And stay down

On this analysis, we can take a closer look at pay and conditions. With interpreters 'successfully' established as interchangeable and expendable, they became a simple business cost that could be squeezed to stay competitive without sacrificing profitability. By not using permanent employees, there is no additional burden of insurance, sick or holiday pay, superannuation, or long-service leave. The emphasis remains on availability over ability, so experience and professional development are occasionally applauded, but never rewarded.

The presence of government subsidised services also exerts downward pressure: potential users will avoid engaging interpreters if they know that at some stage of a bureaucratic process they will get one for free. Contrast this with the stringently means-tested conditions for accessing legal aid!

Rates have therefore settled at the limit of what the practitioner population can bear: insufficient to sustain long-termers, but attractive enough to ensure a supply of casuals (who in most instances use family resources - car, telephone,

computer - that their 'business' could never afford to provide). Suppliers can win interpreting service contracts and simply go calling on freelancers, who have no choice but to accept conditions or lose a significant block of work. (Where are the anti-trust watchdogs, by the way?)

For historical reasons, the system has positioned itself on cheapness and availability. Now people are beginning to see how untenable the situation is, but like any market where price is the prime determining factor, the individual who attempts to break the deadlock risks committing business suicide.

Can things be fixed?

In our present Mexican stand-off, nobody can move unless everybody moves together. The entire system has to be nudged back into valuing experience and training: interpreters will need to get them, and users will have to pay for them.

Consultation and communication are therefore vital: perhaps when others see how far history and inertia have carried us from reality, we can take the collective steps to get back there. An award would be a great start, and enable agencies to build in conditions that, one suspects, many would already like to provide.

Vivian Stevenson is a Spanish Translator, Interpreter and Linguistic Consultant who would like to see community interpreting raised above the status of lawn-mowing and mobile car-detailing and dog-grooming services.

Membership Reform Proposal

A Brief Outline

For Discussion Only

AUSIT is planning to reform its membership categories.

Thus far broad agreement has been reached among branches on the following three core principles:

There should be:

- an on-going professional development requirement for Ordinary Membership
- an on-going practising requirement for Ordinary Membership
- an initial period of Mentorship

Appropriate "sunset" clauses will be included in the necessary constitutional amendments and allowances may need to be made for varying workloads between languages and the different branches.

Categories

Three main categories of membership are proposed, and will be subject to approval by the current membership at a general meeting.

The introduction of these new categories will be advantageous in a number of ways:

- 1 Anyone with an interest can be involved with AUSIT. AUSIT will also cater for students and other groups with special interests.
- 2 Among the bulk of the membership, standards will be improved by initial mentoring, on-going practice and professional development.
- 3 A Certified Practitioner level of membership will cater for the needs of those who practise to a greater degree while being prepared to submit to a higher level of scrutiny by their peers.
- 4 Only accredited practitioners who undertake PD and continue practising will enjoy special privileges such as voting rights,

joint marketing activities, and the right to claim membership.

- 5 The new set of membership categories opens up a career structure for T/Is which has not been available before, representing a significant step forward in the professionalisation of the industry.

Associate

The Associate category will generally speaking be open to anyone.

Criteria

Interest in the T/I industry. Includes those with NAATI accreditation who do not practise (as defined by AUSIT).

Privileges

- Attends AUSIT events at member prices
- Participates in Bulletin board discussions
- Receives AUSIT information
- Receives newsletter
- Other ancillary benefits that may exist from time to time

Restrictions

- No voting rights. May not claim membership of AUSIT. May not stand for office.

Ordinary Member – Interpreter and/or Translator

The bulk of AUSIT membership is expected to fall under this category. This will be "AUSIT membership" as we understand it in a general sense and it will mean:

- Passing a NAATI Test at the professional level.
- Passing through the AUSIT mentorship system.
- Undertaking on-going professional development and staying in practice

Continued on page 15

Its probably fair to say that technology has revolutionised the T&I industry. How many of us could now survive professionally without our computer, fax, internet access and mobile phone? Technology Bytes will look at some of the ways of making technology work for you.

Making Good Use of E-mail

by Ian McAllister



Your client's first contact with you is likely to be through e-mail, so it is important to give a good impression.

E-mail is an obsolete system that has been dragged kicking and screaming into modern times. Computers use the binary system, which you can think of as a row of on/off electronic switches. A row of seven switches can be in 128 positions, and a row of eight switches can represent 256 alternatives. Each switch position is called a "bit".

When e-mail was invented, it was decided that 128 codes would be more than enough to represent all the characters on an English keyboard, so although they sent eight-bit code, they ignored the most significant bit.

So when you wanted to send 8-bit code (e.g. Word documents or pictures) you had to convert the eight-bit code into a seven-bit code. Modern software does the conversion for you automatically when you add an attachment.

This article is about the body of e-mails. Most servers will now accept eight-bit code, so if you know the extended code (between 128 and 257) you can hold down the ALT key while you enter the number. E.g. the é in résumé can be entered using the number 130.

E-mail is an obsolete system that has been dragged kicking and screaming into modern times.

You will run into "netiquette" problems as a beginner. E.g. typing ALL IN CAPITALS is the equivalent of shouting at your readers and is frowned upon.

The worst offence is probably including the e-mail addresses of everyone on your mailing list at the top of your e-mail. That will lose you your client immediately. I don't use Outlook but I think that you can put all the e-mail addresses into the BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) field to keep them invisible.

I advise you not to use Outlook for your e-mails because it is vulnerable to viruses, and there are more powerful programs available.

Virus designers really like Outlook because

- 1 "Everyone" uses it, so only one version needs to be designed. It comes free with Windows.
- 2 They find it particularly easy to attack.

If you use Windows, I recommend either Pegasus or Eudora. Pegasus is freeware and Eudora is shareware. You can get both on the disks included with computer magazines, but you are supposed to pay for Eudora if you continue to use it. I use the freeware Pegasus, so most of what I say refers to it. Eudora can probably do all that Pegasus can do.

Line-wrap

You are accustomed to modern text editors that wrap long lines round to multiple lines. E-mail is more primitive. Each line finishes with a "new paragraph" symbol. You should show a new paragraph by hitting the Enter key twice.

Your software line-wraps by placing a paragraph sign each time that it thinks that the line is long enough. That is where a major problem arises. Nobody has agreed on the perfect line length.

If I send you e-mail with a maximum line length of 80 characters and your software thinks that a line length of 64 is correct, you will get alternating line lengths of 64 and 16 characters, which is very distracting.

So I send messages with 50 characters max. Using Pegasus I go to options and select my outgoing line-length as 50 and my incoming line length as 70 so I don't often get a nasty line-wrap.

Continued on page 13

Ethical Quandaries

A thorough understanding of the practical application of the ethics of the T&I profession is an essential requirement for all practitioners and the AUSIT Code of Ethics is now widely endorsed by service providers and other industry stakeholders as the rules by which all practitioners should abide. In each issue, Ethical Quandaries will examine a situation encountered by T&I practitioners and the possible courses of ethical action.

Interpreting Police Interviews

by Harry Blackmore

There are still too many important occasions when untrained and unaccredited interpreters are used in interviews with non-English-speaking people. Medical, legal, business and other serious transactions should require properly accredited and accountable interpreters to assist, rather than family members and others who may be bilingual. Unfortunately it is common practice for untrained people to offer or be recruited to interpret at such times. Consider the following actual situation and the ethical issues involved:

What ethical issues are involved and what positive action may be taken?

An interpreter consulted a colleague about a police/migrant interview at a police station. An officer present claimed knowledge of the migrant's language and 'interpreted' during the interview. A copy of the interview video was given to the migrant and shown later to the interpreter who noted that the police officer had made some crucial errors in interpretation. The interpreter asked what might be done to redress this apparent injustice to the migrant. What ethical issues are involved and what positive action may be taken?

1 If the police officer concerned was also an accredited inter-

preter, should the interpreter refrain from making corrective comments on his performance? [AUSIT Code 8a(ii)]

2 Since there is cause to be concerned with his performance, should the officer be approached by the interpreter to (a) suggest desirable amendments [Code 3d], (b) try to resolve the matter in a cooperative, constructive and professional manner [Code 1e(i)], and (c) express variant views with candour and respect, rather than by denigration [Code 8b(ii)]?

3 If the officer was an accredited interpreter in the language, should he have offered to interpret in the circumstances? What ethical principle may be breached? [Code 4a(iii), 4b(ii)]

4 Does the fact that a copy of the interview video was given to the migrant mean it is within his rights to show it to others, including another interpreter? Is it confidential material the interpreter should decline to view? [Code 2a (ii) (vi)]

5 Having decided to view the video, and having noted the errors in the police interpreting, can the interpreter discuss this with another interpreter for advice on what may be done? [Code 3d]

6 If the officer concerned is not an accredited interpreter, is there

any requirement to consult with him directly? Or would it be appropriate for the interpreter to take alternative action, such as lodging a complaint with the police administration? [See para 7]

7 Would it be more appropriate and circumspect to advise the migrant to consult his lawyer and express his concerns about the quality of the police interpreting?

8 The lawyer may seek a review of the video by an impartial accredited interpreter and/or obtain an order to quash the original police interview and institute another with an independent accredited interpreter present. However, there may be a problem if "common law does not confer the right of a non-English-speaking person to have an interpreter present either in an interview with police or in court." Robinson, L. Handbook for Legal Interpreters (Law Book Company, 1994)

9 "Most State legislatures are in the process of reviewing police powers of interrogation and detention...The Commonwealth Crimes Act 1914 already provides clear directions that questioning cannot begin until an interpreter is present..."

Branch News

New South Wales

NETWORKING SESSION, April

A Networking session organised by Riham Youssef and Christian Houlemmare attracted current and new members to discuss the results of the questionnaire handed out at the previous meeting in Sydney. Discussion centred around the theme: Community Interpreters and Means to Improve their Status: Improving Conditions, Raising the Profile, Standards and Lobbying for Change. A full report was posted on the e-Bulletin.

TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS, YOUR PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION, May

AUSIT NSW collaborated with the NAATI Regional Advisory Committee of NSW, in the first Translating and Interpreting Awareness Day to be held in Sydney. Its aim was to inform and assist all those in the business, legal and medical environments who work with interpreters or translators.

AUSIT Committee members Barbara McGilvray, Yveline Piller, Christian Houlemmare and Terry Chesher were involved with preparation, promotion and support on the day. AUSIT President Moreno Giovannoni flew up from Melbourne and with Bob Desiatnik contributed the session entitled: "Cross cultural communication: how Translators and Interpreters can help your business". Other AUSIT members involved with presentations were Dr. Jemina Napier on Sign Language Interpreting, Claudia Koch-McQuillan on computer-aided translation and Katarzyna Stack (with Maria Stephanou) from NSW Health Care Interpreter Service.

The two-hour afternoon session entitled "Can or should interpreters be accurate and impartial at all

times?" was AUSIT's contribution to the day, and was co-ordinated by Terry Chesher. It highlighted potential dilemmas in court and other interpreting situations and a panel of experts from the legal and interpreting professions discussed issues raised in an educational video from the University of British Columbia.

Chair of the panel was Justice Marcus Einfeld and the other panel members were Mr Bret Walker, President, NSW Bar Association, AUSIT members Dr Ludmila Stern, Head, Department of German and Russian Studies, UNSW and professional interpreter, Mr Philip Gould, Interpreter in German and Indonesian, and Ms Sue Zelinka, Member of the Refugee Review Tribunal.

After the first hour the session was thrown open to the audience of 100 or so and at least eight interpreters contributed their own views and asked questions of the panel. Quite a few controversial issues arose, and were warmly debated. In conclusion, the President of the Bar Association proposed that interpreters should be invited annually to attend conferences of lawyers, to improve their knowledge of the interpreting process and its significance in legal settings. He said that interpreters and lawyers need to exchange more information on the science and art of their respective disciplines. Justice Einfeld endorsed this saying that judges needed educating on many aspects.

Notes on TIAD will be posted shortly on the AUSIT website.

Other activities of the Branch Committee include Uli Priester's contribution to the Membership Category Review, and Yveline Piller has developed a Promotional Plan for AUSIT to be pursued later in the year.

The PD Committee has two forthcoming events which are Advanced Notetaking (Felicity Mueller) (June 7) and Dr Sandra Hale on Interpreter Interruptions in Court (July 7). Other events are in the pipeline.

Terry Chesher

South Australia and Northern Territory

The AUSIT SA/NT seminar "Police, Interpreters and the Law" on 15 May 2003 during Law Week 2003 was very well attended. We would like to thank SAPOL, ITC and TAFE for making this event such a success. Participants were impressed with the presentation and found it very informative.

Our next event will be an "Informal Networking Session" on 12 June 2003. This is a great opportunity to meet your colleagues, chat with the AUSIT SA/NT committee members, learn what we are up to, voice your opinion, or just relax and have fun. We plan to hold the AGM in August. Invitations with the details will be sent to all our members soon. Please make a point of attending the meeting. At the same time we would like to encourage you to consider becoming a member of the Committee. We have a great team and would like to expand it so that we can be even more active in the coming year. Thanks for all your support!

*Andrea Hoffmann
SA/NT Chairperson*

Victoria and Tasmania

Just an update on what has been happening in Victoria in the last few months. We recently held another Small Business Skills course attracting some of our interstate members. The feedback we received was positive. I thank Eva Hussain for the extra time she has put in

this time in working with the trainer to make the course more relevant to interpreters and translators. Eva's next project is an introductory workshop on note taking for interpreters in July, so look out for the details.

Issues of rates and working conditions for interpreters have resurfaced in the last few months. Our new Interpreters Group Session co-ordinator Zdenka Karakas is organising a discussion forum in July to provide members the opportunity to voice their concerns with industry stakeholders and to establish stakeholders' positions on these burning issues. Current and prospective AUSIT members are welcome to attend.

Planning of the Legal Interpreting Course is in its final stage, where the course planners will be working on developing materials. I thank you for your patience and will have an announcement regarding its commencement as soon as possible.

As Chairperson for the last two tenures, time has gone by very quickly for me. Our next AGM is almost here already and I call upon Victorian members to consider joining the Committee. It is a lot of hard work but what I can assure you is that you will be working with a dynamic group of very passionate practitioners, who are committed to making a few small differences at a time to this wonderful profession!

*Sarina Phan
Vic/Tas Chairperson*

Western Australia

Since the last newsletter, we have staged two outstanding PD sessions in the West. The first one was the 'Medical Terminology in Focus' workshop in conjunction with a networking session on 12 April run by our own Tony Atkinson, one time WA AUSIT Chairman and Advanced Japanese Translator specialising in the medical and pharmaceutical field.

Tony proved to be an accomplished presenter by presenting the bookish topic very enjoyably with his hands-on approach. It was simply fascinating to learn, for example, the process of how the term Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) was born and, along the way, the medical meanings of 'severe' and 'acute'.

We will have to persuade Tony again next year to provide a sequel as I am confident that everyone who attended the workshop will be back for more. It was a great turn-out, too, and we even had to bring more chairs in. Videos of the presentation are available for sale as it was recorded on advance interstate request (Please contact WA Branch.)

The second session was on 10 May: the very successful 'AUSIT Forum for State-Based Language Service', a consultation on the proposed WA State Language Services in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) and the consultants undertaking the Needs Analysis. WA Branch invited a wide cross section of interested stakeholders as well as practitioners including non-members to obtain qualitative information for the above analysis.

Once again, it was a sold-out performance attended by well over 80. Everyone was impressed by the overwhelming attendance and the enthusiasm shown by the participants.

The forum had three parts: the presentation by OMI and the consultant, group working sessions, and reporting to plenary session. The report of the forum has been drafted and is under review by WA Committee members at the moment before being put on the AUSIT website.

*Youngbi Newman,
WA Chairperson*

*Our heartfelt condolences to
Terry Chesher on the death of
her son, Tony.*

*The thoughts of the AUSIT
community are with Terry and her
family at this very sad time.*

More exposure for translators?

by Barbara McGilvray

Maybe in the future we'll reach heights like the Spanish translators who take part in International Book Day on 23 April each year. It started out as a book-and-rose day, a local celebration in Catalonia on the anniversary of the death of Cervantes, when men gave their female partners a rose and the women gave the men a book. Then the idea was taken up by UNESCO and promoted world-wide. In Barcelona for example, bookstalls are set up lining the streets. Authors are on hand to sign copies of their books, and people stroll along browsing and exchanging gifts of books and roses. For the past couple of years the authors have been joined by translators who, collaborating with friendly bookshops, sign copies of their translations as they are bought.

Don't forget:

**Share your thoughts by
sending a
Letter to the Editor,
or
consider submitting an
article.**

**Closing date for
contributions is
22nd August, 2003**

Professional Development

Opportunity to Train as an Interpreter and Translator

RMIT University, located in the centre of Melbourne, Victoria, offers two programs for Local and International students interested in training as interpreters and translators:

Diploma of Interpreting

Languages offered in 2004

Amharic; Assyrian; Auslan; Dari; Hakka (Timorese); Japanese; Korean; Mandarin; Oromo; Pushto and Tetum

Advanced Diploma of Interpreting and Translating

Languages offered in 2004

Arabic; Auslan; Dari; Bosnian; Cantonese; Greek; Japanese; Khmer; Korean; Mandarin; Somali and Vietnamese

Our professional training programs are accredited by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters Ltd (NAATI). NAATI is the national body for accrediting interpreters and translators in Australia and RMIT University is the only institution in Melbourne whose programs have NAATI approval. The Diploma of Interpreting trains students in dialogue interpreting to Paraprofessional Level. The Advanced Diploma of Interpreting and Translating trains students in dialogue and consecutive interpreting, translating from English into LOTE and translating from LOTE into English to Professional Level.

Applications for Semester 1, 2004 can be lodged between 11 August 2003 and 31 October 2003.

For further information, contact the Department of Language and International Studies on 9925 2328 or visit the RMIT University website at: www.rmit.edu.au and click on 'Prospective Students'.

Industry Wrap

NSW

Interpreters and Legal Practitioners Working Together in Courts and Tribunals was the title of the 21 March one-day conference convened at UNSW by AUSIT members Ludmila Stern and Suzan Piper, and their academic colleague at UNSW School of Modern Languages, Robyn Fallick. The other speakers at the conference were Sandra Hale and Tony Foley. Nearly 100 delegates attended including interpreting students and professionals, and roughly 25% of delegates came from the legal, law enforcement and related professions and agencies. Feedback indicated the day was deemed very worthwhile and interest was expressed in another legal interpreting conference next year.

Two months later we were delighted when Suzan was asked to join a panel of four fellow senior interpreters at the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) in a three-hour Q and A session with members on the trials (spot the pun) and challenges of interpreting at the RRT. The opportunity for interpreters to air their opinions and discuss their experiences frankly and openly was much appreciated and will hopefully also result in some positive changes enhancing the interpreting work at the Tribunal. It just shows what working together in a cooperative manner can achieve.

Sue Piper

SA

AUSIT SA/NT Branch Secretary, Dick Speekman, writes to draw attention to the ITC Enterprise Bargaining due to commence in September or October this year.

ITC (Interpreting & Translating Centre) is an agency of the Attorney-General's Department. T&Is currently working for ITC are regarded as fully-fledged SA Public Servants, being paid at ASO3 rates and getting all the entitlements that all SA Public Servants receive. In August the Department is due to serve notice on staff that a round of Enterprise Bargaining is about to commence and to call for staff representatives to be elected. The previous round of Enterprise Bargaining provided for an across-the-board wage increase for all employees, 4% of which is due to be paid as from October 2003. This will raise the current rate of \$42-odd to some \$43 for a minimum of 2 hours' interpreting. The next round of Enterprise Bargaining will cover the next two-year agreement.

AUSIT member Nella Schulz is making herself available to be elected AUSIT representative and as such to participate in the forthcoming round of Enterprise Bargaining negotiations. The AUSIT SA/NT Committee urges members to support Nella in her endeavours to achieve a better award for T&Is.

International Federation of Translators

Continued from page 5

Media Translators, Technology, Terminology and Documentation, Bibliography, Court Translators, Community Based Interpreting, Training, Languages of Limited Diffusion and Copyright. Another Committee is responsible for the journal Babel.

FIT is now calling for member associations to submit nominations for candidates to serve on two new FIT Committees: Human Rights and Information on Translator Status. Any nominations for these

positions should be sent to AUSIT National Council for approval.

The FIT Committees have now been allocated their own space on the FIT server and are in the process of preparing their own subsites. Watch the FIT website for more developments.

FIT believes that if it wants to play a part in the evolution of the T&I profession and help its member associations cope with the big issues related to translation, it has to voice an opinion and make it known. The Executive Council has therefore called on the Committees to think about issues in their particular fields

and to propose a position paper. The first position paper will be on translators' copyright on translation memories.

One FIT Committee with plenty of Australian representation is the Community Based Interpreting Committee. AUSIT members of this Committee are Terry Chesher (Chair), Vadim Doubine who will be handling website inquiries, Helen Slatyer and Rosy Lazzari. The originally all-Australian Committee has now been joined by Anne-Merie Beukes (South Africa) and Jorgen Nielsen (Denmark).

Jorgen Nielsen, Danish member of the FIT Community Based Interpreting Committee, writes to draw attention to a current Green Paper on **Procedural Safeguards for Suspects and Defendants in Criminal Proceedings** throughout the European Union and in particular its Section 5:

"The right to a competent, qualified (or certified) interpreter and/or translator so that the accused knows the charges against him and understands the procedure", which can be downloaded from:

http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexplus!prod!CELEXnumdoc&numdoc=503DC0075&lg=EN
http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexplus!prod!CELEXnumdoc&numdoc=503DC0075&lg=EN

Making Good Use of E-mail

Continued from page 8

Tables

Ooh nasty! A line-wrapped table is not a table! It's best to attach a table, but you can make a table that is less than 50 characters wide that will usually get through.

E-mail was invented using fixed-width characters, so you should use Courier (typewriter) font.

Clients with their font set to Times will just see a jumble. End each line by pressing Enter. Start each new line by pressing the spacebar once. That tells the e-mail handler not to join that line to the rest of the paragraph.

Quoting Mail-Received

You should set your software to add > to the start of each line quoted which will result in > > at the start of returned quotes – if you do it right!

Our old line-wrap enemy strikes

again! You should always separate your paragraphs with double-“enters”. This will be converted by your software into a > at the start of the line followed by nothing. If you intend to return the quote, just remove the > from the start of each blank line to keep paragraphs apart. In Pegasus use Ctrl+J to re-justify the lines to your shorter line length.

It is bad netiquette to quote the entire message. Just highlight the bits you don't want to answer and delete them.

Insert your answers to each bit just after the quote. After your deletions, the quotes will usually be badly set out – perhaps with only one word in the first line, so use Ctrl+J to re-justify each line in the paragraph.

I hit Enter three times at the end of each quote, then the up arrow once to position the cursor for my reply.

Use the help section to discover

how to mail to a list, displaying your own e-mail as the “to” address and an invented title such as “Turkish group” as the “from” address. That way nobody will see any other e-mail addresses.

Also read the help section to find how to give yourself multiple identities (each with a different return address) and much more.

Oh! You can get round all the problems of primitive e-mail except one by using HTML. What is the one intransigent problem? If your client's software doesn't display HTML properly, a confusing mess of HTML code will be displayed, and you will lose your client.

Ian McAllister is a member of AUSIT's W.A. Branch and is well-known to readers of the e-Bulletin for his ability to solve software and other technical problems. In fact, Ian has more interests than you can keep up with: precentor, barbershop singer, volunteer bus driver, organic gardener, alternative medicine and that's just today!

Ausit 2003 Calendar of Events - All Branches

BRANCH	EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	CONTACT
ACT	PD activities TBA	TBA	TBA	Mike Ovington travtext@webone.com.au
	AGM	July 2003	TBA	
NSW	Regular Networking Sessions for current & prospective members	TBA	TBA	Riham Youssef Ryoussef@ozemail.com.au Or Christian Houlemare Houlemarec@primus.com.au
	PD activity: Interpreter Interruptions in Court (Dr. Sandra Hale)	07/07/2003	TBA	
QLD	Branch AGM	26/07/2003	ACE Communication Building	Mira Chapman (07) 3271 4471 or Derek Dixon (07) 3398 1783 for all events
SA	Branch AGM	August	TBA	Andrea Hoffman 0417 850 380
VIC	Interpreters' Group	1 st Friday of the month July 2003	RMIT Bldg 37	Zdenka Karakas 0412 764 074
	Introductory Workshop: Note Taking for Interpreters	July 2003	TBA	Eva Hussain 0412 221 031
	Social Event: Spanish restaurant night	02/08/2003	Robert Burns Hotel, 376 Smith St. Collingwood	Nelida Gambetta nelidagambetta@yahoo.com
	Networking Session & AGM (Vic & Tas Branches)	22/08/2003	TBA	David Connor
	AUSIT Legal Interpreting Course	June-Aug 2003	TBA	Sarina Phan 0403 080 888 & Chris Poole 0412 287 487
	Small Business Skills for T&Is	August/TBA	Holmesglen TAFE	Eva Hussain 0412 221 031
	Networking session (Xmas, end-of-year)	28/11/2003	TBA	David Connor
WA	'HypoEthicals' Ethics Workshop including role-play and panel discussion	21/06/2003	North Perth Town Hall, 24 View St. North Perth	Younghi Newman (08) 9385 5385
	PD Session: Legal & Tax implications of working in the T&I industry	02/08/03	TBA	

Something humorous!

by Sarina Phan

A suspect was being interviewed by police regarding an assault. The suspect had a squint in his eyes. When the suspect denied he had anything to do with the incident, the officer put it to him that one of the witnesses had told the police that one of the men had a squint. The suspect replied that he didn't know what a squint was and that in any case he didn't have a squint. The officer then crossed his eyes to make a squint and asked the suspect to look at him, saying: "This is what a squint is". As the interpreter, I switched to third person speech and asked the suspect to look at the officer when I thought he was not. The suspect replied: "I am looking at him and no I do not have a squint".

Membership Reform

Continued from page 7

Criteria

- NAATI professional accreditation or equivalent
- Declaration of adherence to the AUSIT Code of Ethics
- Will be required to practise for an initial period under the guidance of an experienced AUSIT Member (i.e. a Mentor – a Trainee or Intern category will therefore be created which leads to Membership).
- Demonstrated level of practice to an extent determined by AUSIT
- Ongoing attendance at AUSIT PD sessions (points system)

Privileges

- as for Associate

plus

- Details displayed in AUSIT online directory
- Joint marketing
- Voting rights
- May stand for office

Restrictions

- None

Certified Practising Translator and /or Interpreter

All as for Ordinary Members.

In addition, Certified Practitioners must meet the following criteria:

- Compliance with the AUSIT Ethics and Quality Review procedure
- Provision of statistical data to AUSIT, e.g. type and amount of work completed within a specific time frame (details to be determined by National Council)
- Participation in AUSIT PD programs as mentors

An Ordinary Member may apply to become a CPT/I after a period of Ordinary Membership.

Honorary Members and Fellows, Students, Subscribers etc

No change.

Movement between Categories

Certified Practitioners who fail to satisfy the criteria for their category may become Ordinary Members or Associates.

Ordinary Members who fail to satisfy the criteria for their category may become Associates.

From the President

Continued from page 1

Tell us how many hours per annum are enough and what kinds of PD sessions you think are important.

3 Mentoring: Is it reasonable to expect Ordinary Members to be guided by an experienced AUSIT member as they start to practise? Tell us what you think an experienced practitioner can do for a new starter.

Meanwhile, the working party will be working on a draft document outlining the principles and methodology we think we could follow to put these ideas into practice.

Remember, in the end these changes will need to be approved by a majority of members at a general meeting. They can only happen with your support. So get involved.

I look forward to working with all of you on this big, exciting issue.

Moreno Giovannoni
President

Interpreting Police Interviews

Continued from page 9

Victoria and South Australia are the only States to have enacted legislation providing a right to an interpreter during police questioning.” Laster, K. and Taylor, V. L. *Interpreters and the Legal System* (Federation Press, 1994)

10 In 1997 the Western Australian Police Service produced a Language Services Policy stating its responsibility “to ensure that an independent, professionally trained and, if possible, National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) accredited interpreter/translator, will be engaged in circumstances involving police interaction with members of the community who are unable to adequately communicate in English...”

11 Since 1994 legislation requiring accredited and trained interpreters be employed to facilitate legal and police interviews with non-English-speaking persons may have been introduced in various States. Check on the present situation in your State.

12 A helpful publication is *The Law Society of New South Wales 1996 Guide to Best Practice for Lawyers Working with Interpreters and Translators in a Legal Environment* endorsed by AUSIT.

Dr. Harry Blackmore is a senior consultant psychiatrist, lecturer in Deaf Studies and NAATI examiner in Auslan. He was national convener of the 1995 revision of the AUSIT Code of Ethics.

Unsafe Text

An Occasional Piece about Language Mysteries

GOG - Or The God of Gotz

by R. Pasqualini

Courtroom dramas and detective stories are often about texts, full of powerful, risky words: evidence, questions, sentences. The following is a detective story about a courtroom drama, and it questions evidence about a sentence.

In 1988, 'the injustices of denial of full translation' were illustrated at a conference on 'Interpreting and the law', with reference to several cases. One of them required further sleuth work about the expression 'the God of Gotz' or 'god of gotz', allegedly used by a defendant in a court case. As there are different written versions of these words, the acronym GOG is used below. GOG is also used as a general label for this 'case', which I have summarised here.

When the magistrate asked the defendant how he felt, the latter used an expression which was literally translated as 'I am GOG' (i.e. God of Gotz). As a result the magistrate committed him to a psychiatric institution for observation. The magistrate's decision was 'not surprising', but later became the object of criticism, with some people saying an injustice had been committed.

What went wrong? Who was wrong/ed?

Two speakers at the conference presented versions differing in a key detail, requiring further examination. Was the defendant Polish, as one speaker claimed? The other speaker hinted at another Slavic language in the Latin alphabet and said: "Perhaps if, in Croatia, that expression, 'I am on top of the world', were translated directly into the native language, the view may be taken

that an English speaker was suffering from delusions."

A Polish polyglot told me that GOG was not a saying in that language, but a Croatian interpreter remembered using 'bog bogova', or 'god of gods', as a phrase meaning 'very good', popular among youth in the 1940s.

As later confirmed by a more recent arrival, this expression was restricted to a specific time and generation. (An English parallel could be 'divine', used as an adjective in secular, everyday situations.)

Back-translation, done by an expert informant, would have been safer in court than simply acting on the literal English version given by a "language professional". How qualified was the latter? Was there any chance to intervene at any point, to redress the outcome of a mistake? If so, who could or should have spoken or acted, and on whose behalf?

Your views and responses to the above questions would be welcomed by the author.

R. Pasqualini is an accredited translator and interpreter and has just completed a Ph.D. thesis titled "Searching for safe text: transfers on to the Infobahn". R.P. has lived in every part of the world and thus experienced a range of interaction difficulties associated with linguacultural differences, but transcultural computer-mediated communication can make it harder to recognise where people (and their texts) come from.

Newsletter Contacts and Editorial Policy

National Newsletter Editorial Team:

Anne Richardson, 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: 22 August 2003

Please send all contributions to the Editor

E-mail: amric@ozemail.com.au

Tel./fax: (03) 9886 5282

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.