



Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc.

THE 23rd

**JILL BLEWETT MEMORIAL
LECTURE**

**14 November, 2015, Macquarie University
Y3A Theatre 1**

***NAATI
Where to from here?***

Presented by

**Mark Painting
NAATI Chief Executive Officer**



THE 23rd JILL BLEWETT MEMORIAL LECTURE

The National Council of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT) welcomes you to the Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture for 2015. The Lecture, presented each year by a distinguished speaker, honours the memory of Jill Blewett and recognises the role she played in the formative years of the translating and interpreting profession in Australia, including the creation of NAATI and of AUSIT.

JILL BLEWETT



The late Jill Blewett played an important role in the early development of the interpreting and translating profession in Australia.

From 1976 to 1982 she was Senior Lecturer with the Community Language Programme at the Department of Tertiary and Further Education in Adelaide, subsequently becoming Coordinator of the Level 3 Interpreting and Translating course at the SA College of

Advanced Education. In 1979 she was appointed to the SA State Accreditation Panel for Translators.

With this background Jill was well suited for her appointment to the Board of Directors of the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) in July in 1983, for a three-year term. In July 1986 this was extended for a further term.

Her initial appointment to the Board was to represent the education and training aspects of the interpreting and translating profession. In addition, she was a member of the NAATI Steering Committee responsible for establishing the criteria and format of Level 4 (Advanced) accreditation and its associated tests, and for the development of NAATI guidelines for tertiary and post-secondary interpreting and translating courses in Australia. She also served as Chairperson of the NAATI Qualifications Assessment and Advisory Committee, which monitors NAATI-approved interpreting and translating courses in Australia and assesses the overseas interpreting and translating qualifications of candidates applying for accreditation here.

Jill was an interpreting and translating practitioner and fought to establish high standards and to regulate the profession. It is largely through her efforts that Australia is recognised internationally as a leader in the field of community interpreting. She was admired by all who knew her for the concern she showed and the encouragement she gave to individuals.

As a tribute to Jill Blewett, AUSIT organises the Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture each year in conjunction with its National Annual General Meeting.

This year, the lecture will be delivered by Mr Mark Painting, new NAATI CEO.

Mark Painting joined NAATI as Chief Executive Officer in August 2015. Prior to this appointment, he held a number of corporate, commercial and operational roles at senior executive levels in the Australian and NSW Public Sectors, most recently in the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP). Prior to joining the Australian Public Service, Mark worked in the NSW public service in a number of corporate and operational roles within the water industry.

In addition to his public sector career, Mark also has experience as a Director on a commercial board and a number of governance and audit committees. In addition, he has experience as a part time lecturer/tutor at TAFE and university. Mark holds a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Sydney (Graduate School of Government), a Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management and a Bachelor of Business Degree. Mark is a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and is a member of the alumni of the ANZSOG Executive Fellows.

NAATI

Where to from here?

More than three decades ago Jill Blewett joined NAATI and commenced work on improving standards for certifications for translators and interpreters in Australia. More recently, stakeholders have raised concerns about the reliability and suitability of our current system of accreditation and contemporary standards. In response to this, in 2011, NAATI initiated a review into the current system to determine whether it was fit for purpose, particularly into the future. The review evolved into the Improvements to NAATI Testing (INT) Project, which aims to improve the validity, reliability and practicality of the Interpreter and Translator certification scheme in Australia. It seems timely now to progress this conversation and report on progress of this important initiative. Amidst these discussions, there has been some confusion throughout the industry about NAATI's purpose and directions for the future credentialing system. In this lecture, the new CEO of NAATI will report on the status of the planned changes and how this will affect practitioners, as well as share some initial insights from someone new to the industry.

Previous Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture

Guest Presenters:

1992: A/Prof. Adolfo Gentile, Head of Interpreting and Translating, Deakin University. Inaugural lecture. Presented in conjunction with the National Language Expo in Melbourne.

1993: Hon Lynn Arnold, Premier of South Australia. Presented at the AUSIT National AGM in Adelaide.

1994: Mr Max Bourke, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet: "Creativity and Interpretation." Presented in conjunction with the National Language Expo, Sydney.

1995: Mr Chris Puplick, Head of the Anti-Discrimination Board: "E pluribus unum. Language, translators, equity and access in Australia." Presented at the AUSIT National AGM in Sydney.

1996: Dr Judy Wakabayashi, Lecturer, Japanese Interpreting and Translating, University of Queensland: "The translator's voice." Presented in conjunction with Brisbane National Language Expo.

1997: His Excellency Aneurin Hughes, Head of the European Commission delegation in Australia: "The importance of language services in international relations." Presented as part of the AUSIT National Conference and AGM in Canberra.

1998: Dr Mary Kalantzis, Dean of the Faculty of Education, RMIT University: "The social status of translation and interpreting." Presented at the AUSIT National AGM in Melbourne.

1999: Mr Laurie Robson, Barrister-at-Law: "The significance of proposed changes in the legal system for

interpreters." Presented as part of the AUSIT National Conference and AGM in Sydney.

2000: Ms Karen Clare, AUSLAN interpreter:
"Recognising our humanness. Minimising the impact of interpreting on our professional and personal selves."
Presented at the AUSIT National AGM in Brisbane.

2001: Mr David Page, PSM, former Assistant Secretary, Settlement Branch, DIMA: "Translating and interpreting in Australia: a profession, a craft, an industry or a service?" Presented at the NAATI "Translator and Interpreter Awareness Day" (an event supported by AUSIT, which preceded the National AGM in Melbourne).

2002: Mr Kim Collard, Coordinator of ICMDP at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University of Technology. Presented at the AUSIT Conference Strength in Diversity in conjunction with the AUSIT National AGM in Perth.

2003: Dr George Quinn, Head of the Southeast Asia Centre, Faculty of Asian Studies, ANU: "On translating Indonesia."
Presented in conjunction with the AUSIT National AGM in Canberra.

2004: Hon. Dr Barry Jones, AO, former politician, writer and broadcaster. Lecture presented in conjunction with the AUSIT Power to the Profession conference and National AGM in Melbourne.

2006: Mr Arnold Zable, writer and lecturer. Lecture presented during an AUSIT Gala Dinner in Melbourne.

2007: Dr Lindsay Heywood, CEO of NAATI:
"Translation of a Profession – An Interpretation".
Presented at the AUSIT National AGM in Sydney.

2008: A/Prof. Adolfo Gentile: “Interpreters, Translators and Human Rights.” Presented at the AUSIT Biennial conference in Brisbane.

2009: Mr Peter Goldsworthy, award-winning writer and medical practitioner: "Lost or Found in Translation." Presented at AUSIT's D-Day in Adelaide.

2010: Ms Maria Osman, Executive Director of the WA Government’s Office of Multicultural Interests: “The Language of Empowerment.” Presented at the AUSIT Conference Synergise! in Fremantle.

2011: Senator The Hon. Kate Lundy, Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister: “The Translating and Interpreting Industry: a Pillar of Multiculturalism.” Presented on the occasion of the AUSIT National AGM and 2011 Excellence Awards in Canberra.

2012: Professor Sandra Hale, School of International Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of New South Wales: "Are we there yet? Taking stock of where we are up to and where we are heading.” Presented during the AUSIT Silver Jubilee conference JubilaTion 25 and National AGM weekend in Sydney.

2013: Ms Cynthia Cave, Auslan interpreter: " A Day in the Life of an Interpreter working with the European Union Institutions (Parliament and Commission)." Presented on the occasion of the AUSIT National AGM and 2013 Excellence Awards in Melbourne.

2014: Mr Henry Liu, FIT President. “From global to local and back again. A biased view on the global translation and interpreting scene and how is this relevant to Australia and Australians? Presented at the AUSIT National AGM, in Brisbane.

*Most of the lectures are available at www.ausit.org,
among Publications.*



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