

CELEBRATING **40** YEARS

2019 - What a wonderful year!!

In this our last newsletter for 2019, we thank you for yet another wonderful year at the Ephpheta Centre.

We have had a brilliant 40th year with many special celebrations - catching up with old friends and making new ones. We had our special Ephpheta Sunday 40 years Mass and lunch including our special photo display, 40 year Mass and morning tea with Archbishop Anthony Fisher, our night for International Week of Sign Language, Deaf Café's, Men's and Women's Day's Out, our community retreat - all amongst the normal busy work of the Ephpheta Centre.

We thank you for celebrating with us and making this year so special. Thank you to all of our volunteers who give so generously of your time to serve and support our deaf community.

We hope that you have enjoyed the year. Sit back with a cuppa and enjoy the newsletter!



A Message from Liz & Dave...

Liz's report

"Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing" - St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

I am writing this report thinking back over the year- and the main memory that I have is of laughter and smiles in our Ephpheta deaf community. What a wonderful year it has been!

This – our 40th year of Ephpheta – has been a very special year for the Ephpheta team and community. We have had many wonderful events – Ephpheta Sunday, Mass with Archbishop Anthony, Deaf Cafés, special Masses, International Day of Sign Language celebrations – to name just a few. All of this amongst our normal busy routine at the Centre at Punchbowl. The Ephpheta staff have all worked extra hard this year to make these events successful – but it has been our pleasure again to serve the community.

Of course, there have been hard times – sickness, deaths of people we love, things not working out – but the strongest thought which I have when I look back over the last year is of joy, laughter, love, smiles and celebration. One of the many gifts which the deaf community shares is a sense of joy and celebration and this has shone through so strongly at all our events this year. So many photos of laughing happy people! And just to let you know – behind the scenes when we have been working until 10pm at night (or later) or on the weekends to get things done – there are always smiles and laughter. Yes – really!!

Once again, I give thanks to all the wonderful people in our community and to our staff and volunteers who give so much to me and to each other. I truly feel blessed to be working at Ephpheta.

As we come to the end of the year, it is my prayer that each of you have God's peace and love in your life. Have a blessed and safe Christmas. See you in 2020.

Until next time,
Liz



Dave's report

The year of 2019 is coming to an end. What a year for Ephpheta! We have organised many successful events for the 40th. Ephpheta celebrated its special milestone in a big way. 40 years of serving the deaf community. With the wonderful support of the staff and volunteers, all these events were fantastic. We are very grateful for your support. Thank you to all of you who helped make things happen! We have published bigger newsletters this year. We have interviewed deaf people who have seen Ephpheta grow from strength to strength since 1979.

The Deaf Festival at Parramatta in October was a successful day with many different stalls by different deaf friendly organisations. Ephpheta was well represented with two stalls. Many people came to visit the Ephpheta stall and we, (including the craft ladies) shared many stories and news. Please find more news and photos in this newsletter.

Australia has a bad run of drought lately. Many farmers are struggling to support their families and to keep their farms running. Many sheep and cows have died due to lack of food to eat and water to drink. Community support goes a long way in helping the farmers. It is not easy. We all have gifts and these community workers have gifts that involve caring and supporting people in the community. We need to be aware of how we can support a person, a group or a community. It is our responsibility to be aware. Every little bit of support helps!

Please do not hesitate to contact one of the staff members of Ephpheta for stories, news, photos, new event ideas and questions.

All the best for a blessed and safe Christmas. Have a wonderful break and see you feeling refreshed and full of energy ready for 2020!

Over and out,
David.



Fr Michael's Reflection...

Congratulations to the Deaf community for making the Ephpheta Centre such a success these 40 years! We have had a big year of celebrations. Thanks again for making each of them such great occasions.



Now that we near the end of the year, we prepare for another, bigger celebration. Christians have rejoiced at the birth of Jesus for nearly 2000 years. Christmas Day is the moment that people began to realize that God had come to live with us. Not only did He live with us, but He would lead us to a new life with Him in the Kingdom of God. He united us with Himself in the Church. Jesus made sure that we were strengthened with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He showed us how to become holy through faith in Him.

So, we are spiritually born, healed, nourished, and raised towards Him through the Sacraments. We cooperate with Him with all our hearts and minds through faithful prayer and good works. We know that just as Jesus died and rose again, we can follow Him, through death, to resurrection and new life with God.

We celebrate also all the wonderful gifts that God has given in this life. Creation reflects the new Creation that we look forward to in the kingdom. We cannot help but recognise the wonderful gifts of God in our lives, and even in the humble beginnings of our Lord's life. He was born in a stable, and quickly forced into exile, but Christians celebrate and give gifts, rejoicing in the blessings of new life and family, which the Holy Family experienced too. Looking back, all these gifts, beautiful themselves, are full of promise.

Mother Mary and St Joseph, thank you for your profound love and faith. Help us to recognise the infinite love and joy of God to be found in the Child Jesus of Bethlehem. Lord Jesus, all praise and thanks to you forever!

Father Michael.



It is our pleasure to interview

Robert and Nerida Beath!

Robert and Nerida are two well-known and well-loved members of our Ephpheta community. Robert received a special award in 2017 from the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney for his work in supporting the Catholic Deaf Community of Sydney.

Thank you to Robert and Nerida for your many years of service to the Deaf Catholic Community!



When and how did you first learn about the Ephpheta Centre?

Robert. I was involved in the Catholic Deaf Association. I was the president from about 1972 until about 1979 when I heard that the Ephpheta Centre was going to be established. I went to Canberra to get involved in a Catholic Conference and that is how I learnt that the Ephpheta Centre would be launched in the latter part of



1979. We never had a office for the Deaf Catholics in NSW. So, we thought it was a good thing! We remember going to the Ephpheta Centre in Paddington.

Nerida: I remember when I was going out with Robert, we both went to the launch of the Ephpheta Centre at Paddington.



What was the first time that you came to the Ephpheta Centre?

Nerida: We went to the launch of the Ephpheta Centre in Paddington. I also remember after Ephpheta moved to Lewisham. I remember at Lewisham that the mass services weren't ideal because of the poles in the way! I remember lots of laughter and also sharing some sad stories. Ephpheta has always been our second home.



What changes have you seen at the Ephpheta Centre over the years?

Robert: Deaf Café has been a really great thing, it never happened in the past. As a lot of the deaf clubs have closed,



Deaf Café is very important. I also enjoy the interpreted Masses which we have now.

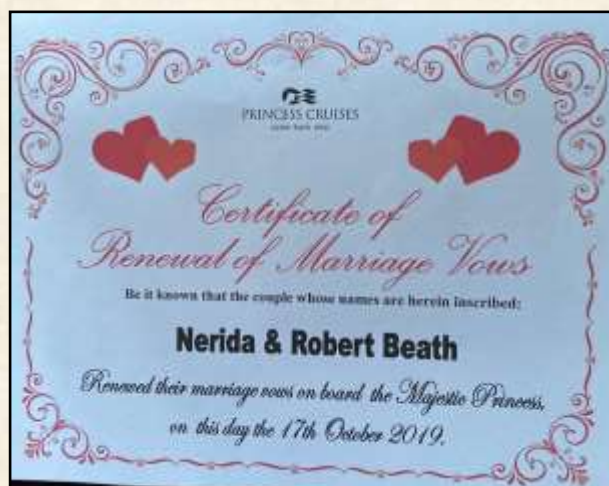
What are your hopes for the Ephpheta Centre for the future?

We would love to have a deaf priest and hope this will happen one day. Otherwise we want Ephpheta to continue just the way it is!



Special congratulations

to Robert and Nerida who recently renewed their wedding vows when on a cruise to Tasmania this year – they have been married for 39 years!



It is our pleasure to introduce

Michael and Bernice Cronin.

Michael and Bernice are two very special people in our Ephpheta community and have been involved in the Sydney Catholic Deaf community for many years. Michael went to school at St Gabriel's and Bernice went to school at Waratah and they have given so much to the Ephpheta Centre and the community over the years.

Thank you to Michael and Bernice for your wonderful support and your years of serving our community.



When and how did you first learn about the Ephpheta Centre?

Bernice: I remember attending Stanmore Deaf Society in the early 1970s for the Mass services. At that time, there were a number of priests including Fr Malone and Fr Pickering from Queensland. I heard about the Ephpheta Centre through the deaf grape vine! I remember Sister Helen Gaffey and Sr Anne Walsh very well.

What was the first time that you came to the Ephpheta Centre?

Bernice: I remember coming to Paddington with a group of deaf people. It was hard for us to go regularly as we had little children and the parking was terrible. We didn't go there much in the early days. Things improved after the move to Lewisham with better car parking and better space in the building. I remember Fr Peter Fitzgerald who was a good signer.

I remember that we went to a number of events for example Sr Ann Walsh's birthday functions. I remember going to a 3 day Leura retreat with Fr Cyril in the 1980's. It was one of the biggest retreats I have ever been to - there were about 70 people came.



What role has the Ephpheta Centre had in your life?

Bernice: We have always been involved. We both volunteered for CADHIPA. I was a committee member and Michael was the president of the Broken Bay and Sydney Dioceses for two years. There was the Parramatta Diocese section too. During that time we both went to

Melbourne twice and Hobart, Tasmania and Rockhampton, North Queensland. I have many happy memories of special events such as Sr Ann Walsh celebrating her 80th birthday.



What activities and events have you enjoyed with the Ephpheta Centre over the years?

Michael: We really enjoy going to Ephpheta because of our friends! Our deaf brothers and sisters! Great chats. Comfortable and fun zone. It is like a big family. When we go to hearing Mass services, we always felt a bit lonely. We love going to signed Mass services by Ephpheta. It is wonderful to see my language being used in Mass.

What are your favourite things about the Ephpheta Centre?

Michael: We love going to signed Mass services. We normally go on the first and fourth Sundays of the month at the Ephpheta Centre at Punchbowl. We love going there for services and for lunch.

What changes have you seen at the Ephpheta Centre over the years?

Bernice: Sadly the attendance rates are slowly declining. I have noticed more and more deaf seniors have passed away. There are not a lot of younger people coming to Church these days. We went to St Gabriel's and Waratah schools for example, so when we left school, we continued our Catholic faith at the Ephpheta Centre. Now young deaf people go to hearing schools so it is very different.

When I was young, I didn't have interpreted/signed Mass services to go to regularly. Only once a year special Mass on Ephpheta day at St Marys Cathedral. I was excited to see Fr Malone sign during this annual Mass. Things are so much better these days. We have signed Masses every Sunday. We really need signed Mass services. When we go to a hearing Mass, we always felt empty after these Masses. With Deaf friendly Masses, I always have the opportunity to think and reflect afterwards. We really enjoyed the recent pilgrimage to Italy which was accessible with interpreters. That was great - thank you Ephpheta!



What are your hopes for the Ephpheta Centre for the future?

Bernice: I would love Ephpheta to continue with its good work - keep doing what it has been doing! I am very happy with the Ephpheta Centre and its services. Keep it up, you are doing wonderful work. Interpreters are very important.

It is our pleasure to introduce **Edith and Ernie Gartner**, two very valued and loved members of our Ephpheta Community. As well as volunteering and making a wonderful contribution to our Ephpheta community. Edith and Ernie have been important volunteers at their local parish at Seven Hills for many many years. Both Edith and Ernie are always happy smiling faces at our community events. Thank you for your many many years of love and service.



When and how did you first learn about the Ephpheta Centre?

Edith: I first came to know about the Catholic deaf community in Sydney through Fr William Malone. I was born in Hungary and came to Australia in 1941. I remember I wasn't that happy with the Elizabeth St deaf group as I was interested in a deaf Catholic group. I remember reading that there was a deaf Catholic group in Castlereagh St in the City, and I called them to ask about it. I remember meeting Fr Malone and he was very welcoming to me. I met new friends and felt very comfortable there. I went there every Friday night. I remember Fr Malone telling me about a young deaf man who was also from Hungary and this was Ernie! I lived in Auburn and Ernie lived in Granville and we would get the train home together from Town Hall station.

Ernie: I remember going every month on Saturdays to Adoration at St Benedict's Catholic Church with Fr Malone (he used one handed signing). There would be over 100 deaf people who would come to Adoration although this number would vary. On big celebration days the Church would be full.



What was the first time that you came to the Ephpheta Centre?

Ernie: I remember when the Ephpheta Centre first opened in Paddington. Edith and I would go together. We met in 1963, engaged in 1964 and we were married in 1965. We were married by the time that the Ephpheta Centre had opened.

I remember that we were involved with CADHIPA for the Parramatta diocese for many years.

What role has the Ephpheta Centre had in your life?

Edith: In the early years of the Ephpheta Centre Ernie and I were very busy raising our family – life was busy when the children were young. After the children had grown up, we were more involved in Ephpheta and started to volunteer and help at Ephpheta.

What activities and events have you enjoyed with the Ephpheta Centre over the years?

Ernie: I have always enjoyed meeting with the new priests and talking with the priests. I remember spending many hours talking with Fr Peter Woodward, who has now sadly passed away.



What are your favourite things about the Ephpheta Centre?

Edith: I really love the Ephpheta Centre. I love talking with people and sharing our day to day stories. I love the Centre – when I am there I always feel very comfortable. I feel very close to many of the Ephpheta staff who are always friendly to me. I really love them.

I really love coming to Mass. Seeing and hearing the Mass in Auslan is really important to me. I love coming to Friday morning Mass.

Ernie: I really love getting together with the deaf community especially on the Men's Day out and different activities which Ephpheta organised. I used to be more involved with a lot of activities. It is always lots of fun.

What changes have you seen at the Ephpheta Centre over the years?

Edith: I like the old-fashioned ways, I have seen a lot of changes especially changes in the Mass. But these days access for the deaf community has really improved.

Ernie: I also like seeing different priests saying the Mass with interpreters. This has changed things a lot for the deaf community. It is lovely when priests sign the Mass.

What are your hopes for the Ephpheta Centre for the future?

Edith: I love the Ephpheta Centre, I hope it will never change. I don't want it to move – but if it did move, I would love it to be somewhere more centrally located. I really hope that the work of the Ephpheta Centre continues.

Ernie: I hope that the Ephpheta Centre never changes, I would love it to continue as is.



A look back on 2019
What a wonderful year!





First Combined Day Out for 2019 - Taronga Zoo!

40 years of
Community Spirit





Thank you for making our 40th year so wonderful!

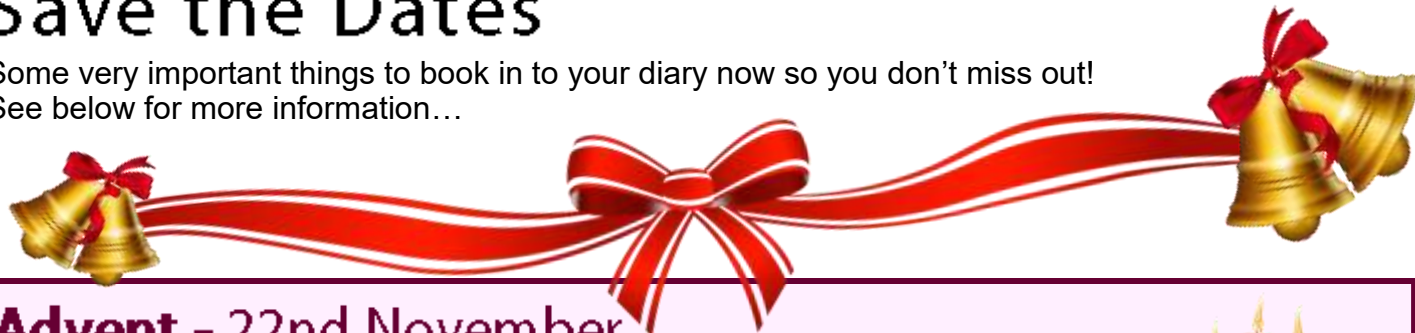
Love, the Ephpheta Team xo



Community Retreat - March 2019

Save the Dates

Some very important things to book in to your diary now so you don't miss out!
See below for more information...



Advent - 22nd November

Advent is the time when we prepare for Christmas, for the arrival of the baby Jesus. Come and join us with Fr Michael, who will lead this activity. Ephpheta will provide all materials to use.



We will start the project on **Friday 22 November**. It is a big project and will be available for people to work on at the Ephpheta Centre through Advent. Everyone is welcome to join!

When: Friday 22 November after our 10.30am Mass

Where: Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl

You are also welcome to join us for lunch after the Advent activity. So we have an idea of numbers please RSVP to Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au.

Deaf Men's Day Out - 28th November

Join us for a day out visiting the Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering!

We will have a guided tour of the museum which collects, preserves and exhibits the history of the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police. The museum is home to a rich and proud history, which is displayed across two open galleries where we will see equipment, artefacts and read the stories of Australia's Military Police and their achievements at home and overseas.



After the tour we will have lunch nearby together at your own cost. BYO lunch welcome.

When and Where: Thursday 28 November. Meet at 10am for a 10.30am start.

Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering. Holdsworthy Barracks - Holsworthy

Cost: Free for the tour. Lunch at your own cost.

RSVP: Donovan 0408 697 773 (SMS) or email donovan@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 22 November. *You must RSVP and let us know if you are coming - this is important for the Museum.*

The museum has STRICT rules:

- If you are **driving** to the museum, you will need to give Donovan your driver's licence number and car registration number.
- If you are coming by **train**, you will need to give Donovan your identification number.

You will need to let Donovan know your plans when you RSVP.

If you are not on the list for the day you will not be admitted - you need to be on the list.

Giving Mass - 1st December

Ephpheta Centre is supporting children in need this Christmas. We have set up a Christmas tree in our chapel with gift tags. Each tag has a different age for children. You can take a tag from our giving tree during November in the chapel and buy a present for the child you have picked. We will have our traditional Giving Mass at our December Punchbowl Mass.



When: Bring all gifts on Sunday 1 December at Mass. Ephpheta Centre, Punchbowl at 11am.

Bring: EITHER a gift for a child (choose a tag from the giving tree at Ephpheta during November) OR a gift, like food such as a purchased Christmas cake, bags of lollies, purchased food with a Christmas theme. You are welcome to donate any other food and bathroom things like body wash to support the poor or disadvantaged to be blessed around Christmas time.

PLEASE REMEMBER - you cannot donate old or "already used" things. All items must be in their original packaging. Only **NEW** and **NOT OPENED** things. Food cannot be old or past use-by date.

Thank you.

Ephpheta Christmas Party 1st December

Please join us for our traditional Community Christmas Party after the Punchbowl Mass in December. This is always a popular event!

All are welcome to join us for lunch.

It will be provided for \$15 per person or \$30 per family with children under 16 years old (under 2 years old free). Tickets will also be on sale for a Christmas raffle.

When: Sunday 1 December after our 11am Punchbowl Mass

Where: St Jerome's School Hall. Entry on Rossmore Ave, Punchbowl
Around the corner from the Ephpheta Centre

After Mass: Lunch - \$15 each or \$30 per family

Beer and wine available for a small donation

RSVP: Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email
christiane@ephpheta.org.au

before Wednesday 27th November
so we know how many for lunch and
any dietary requirements.

CDC - NSW Christmas Lunch - 15th December

CDC - NSW will have their annual club lunch at the end of the year. You are welcome to come join the community and celebrate!

When: Sunday 15 December about 12.30pm (after Blacktown Mass finishes)

Where: Blacktown Workers Club - 55 Campbell St, Blacktown

After Mass: Buy your own lunch at Blacktown Workers Club, chat with friends and CDC - NSW!



Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - 24th December

We welcome you all to our Christmas Mass. Many people come who don't regularly come to other Masses through the year and are very welcome. We love to see everyone at our Christmas service - from any religious background. Our Mass and supper is a great time to catch up with old friends, and wish people well for the Christmas break. We encourage you all to bring your families, bring your friends and of course bring a plate of food to share for supper!



When: Tuesday 24 December, 5pm – 8pm. **Mass starts at 5pm.**

Where: Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl

After Mass: Please bring a plate of food to share for supper after Mass
Please do not bring food that needs to be warmed up - no hot food.

Christmas Day Mass - 25th December

Ephpheta will be having Mass on Christmas morning again this year.

When and Where: Wednesday 25 December - 10am Mass.

Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl

After Mass: Join the community for morning tea at the Ephpheta Centre after Mass.



Combined Men's & Women's Day Out - 20th February

Join us for our first combined day out for 2020! The Ephpheta Centre has organised an Auslan interpreted tour of Old Government House - the oldest surviving public building in Australia.

Old Government House sits within Parramatta Park. It was built by convicts and became the decision-making centre of the colony and served as the 'country residence' for the first ten Governors of Australia. Today, this elegant Georgian house stands in 200 acres of parkland, overlooking the Parramatta River.



Come along and join us on what will be a beautiful day out.

After the tour we will have lunch together at your own cost. BYO lunch welcome.

When and Where: Thursday 20 February. Meet at 10am for a 10.30am start.

Old Government House. Parramatta Park, Pitt Street Entrance, Parramatta 2150.

Cost: \$10. Please bring money for your lunch after the tour.

RSVP: Chrisso 0405 749 488 (SMS) or email christiane@ephpheta.org.au before Friday 14 February.



Deaf Café – Introducing CatholicCare Home Care Services

Staying independent in your own home is very important for many Australian seniors. CatholicCare's Home Care Specialists can guide you through the complicated government systems.

We would like to invite you to attend Ephpheta Deaf Café to introduce you to the CatholicCare team who provide Deaf friendly home care services to deaf and hard of hearing people. Join us and find out how to access in-home support and caring services.

We are excited to support CatholicCare in their work to assist seniors in the Ephpheta community.

When: Friday 14th February 11:30am (after mass)

Where: The Ephpheta Centre, 4 Turner Street
Punchbowl NSW 2196



Project supported by the Ephpheta Centre



Ash Wednesday – 26th February

There will be two Ash Wednesday Masses next year.

Punchbowl - Ash Wednesday morning

When: Wednesday 26th February, 11.00am

Where: Ephpheta Centre,
4 Turner Street, Punchbowl

Penrith - Ash Wednesday night

When: Wednesday 26th February, 7.00pm

Where: St Nicholas' Catholic Church,
326 High Street, Penrith



Lenten Groups 2020

Next year we will be having Lenten groups, which will be held in the weeks from Ash Wednesday to Easter. A Lent group is a great opportunity to read and reflect on the Gospels through Lent.

The Lent Groups will happen at the Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl.

Please save the following dates:

- Friday 28 February
- Friday 6 March
- Friday 20 March
- Friday 27 March

If you would like more information or to join a Lent Group please contact Brett Beath 0407 064 872 or email brettb@ephpheta.org.au.





NOTICEBOARD



Deaf Café

for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people!



Deaf Café is for anybody, no need to book, just turn up. We will have the coffee hot and the cake and biscuits waiting!

You can meet and chat with new people or catch up with old friends over a cuppa.

Tea & coffee available all day! Gold coin donation. Bring your own lunch or you can buy your lunch for \$5. The next dates are:

**13th December 2019,
14th February 2020, 13th March 2020**

(always on the 2nd Friday of the month)

Time: **10am to 2pm**



At: The Ephpheta Centre,
4 Turner St, Punchbowl.

See you there! 😊

Deaf Youth Sydney Raging Waters!



Who? Young deaf, hard of hearing people between 12 and 17 years old

Where? **Raging Waters Sydney**
427 Reservoir Road
Prospect NSW 2148

Time? 10am - 5pm

When? Saturday, 7 December 2019

Cost? \$30 includes:

- Entry to Raging Waters
- Lunch and drink

RSVP: before Monday, 2 December 2019

Contact: **Chrisso Quartararo**

christiane@ephpheta.org.au

SMS: 0405 749 488



Central Coast Deaf Cuppa

for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people! For everybody, just turn up! There are a few coffee shops around the food court at Erina Fair shopping mall. Bring your money if you want to buy morning tea. CC Deaf Cuppa is a great place to meet and chat with new people or catch up with old friends over a cuppa. Meet at middle of food court.

Always on the **4th Friday** (not last) of every **SECOND** month. The next date is:

28th February 2020

Meet at middle of food court of Erina Fair shopping mall.

Time: starts **10am to 2pm**

Contact: **Donovan** SMS: **0408 697 773**

Email: donovan@ephpheta.org.au

See you there! 😊



Penrith Deaf Cuppa

for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people! For everybody, just turn up! This is great for people who live in the Penrith area and can't make it to our regular Deaf Café. Penrith Deaf Cuppa is a great place to meet and chat with new people or catch up with old friends over a cuppa. Bring your money if you want to buy morning tea. Meet at middle of food court. Penrith Plaza is next to Penrith train station - only 100m walk across. Always on the **3rd Friday** of every **SECOND** month. The next dates are:

15th November 2019, 20th March 2020

Meet at middle of food court, upstairs in Penrith Plaza shopping mall.

Time: starts **10am to 2pm**

Contact: **Donovan** SMS: **0408 697 773**

Email: donovan@ephpheta.org.au

See you there! 😊



Deaf Café and Lunch Price Increase

Unfortunately due to price rises in food, we need to increase the price which we charge to the deaf community for lunch at our Deaf Café and when we have a lunch provided by the Ephpheta Centre from \$3 to **\$5**.

This will start from the start of December 2019.

If you have any problems with paying \$5 for lunch, please chat with Liz or David.



Auslan Bible - Launched by the Bible Society

Recently some of the Ephpheta team attended the Bible Society's launch of their Auslan Bible. A fantastic resource, this project has been taking place over the last 23 years. Access is free.

<https://auslan.bible/catalog> - take some time and have a look at their great work.



NSW Seniors Festival - Christmas Concerts

The NSW Government presents free concerts for NSW seniors to thank them for their ongoing contribution to their families and communities. These concerts are free to attend and will be Auslan interpreted this year. They will be held in Wagga Wagga (**20 November**), Dubbo (**26 November**) and Tamworth (**5 December**).

If you are interested, please contact Chevoy Sweeney, and she will organise seats: email - chevoysweeneyinterpreting@gmail.com or 0412 744 785 (SMS).

Note this is not an Ephpheta event but it is supported by the Ephpheta Centre.



Ephpheta Centre Closed

The Ephpheta Centre office will be closed for Christmas from **11.30am Friday 20th December 2019** until **Monday 20th January 2020**.

The Ephpheta Centre will re-open from **Tuesday 21st January 2020**.

In an emergency that cannot wait until 21 January, please email Liz on liz@ephpheta.org.au or SMS David on 0408 669 672. If it is not an emergency, please try and limit your contact with staff during the closing dates. We will always try and get back to you as soon as we can once the Ephpheta Centre re-opens.

The Ephpheta Centre team would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2020.

Our team would like to thank our wonderful community for all the support throughout 2019. Your continual support helps keep our Ephpheta deaf community alive and strong.



Out and About in the Deaf Community

Mass with Archbishop Anthony Fisher

The anniversary Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 8 September was a wonderful celebration of faith, community and love. Over 60 deaf people came to this Mass and had travelled from the Central Coast, Penrith and the Blue Mountains to be there. Archbishop Anthony used some Auslan throughout the Mass which was wonderful for all to see. David Parker signed one of the readings and our very dear Michael and Bernice Cronin made the offertory presentation to Archbishop Anthony. ke.

After the Mass we had a lovely morning tea with his Grace at Cathedral House. His Grace was very generous with his time and went out of his way to greet and talk with (with an Auslan interpreter) everyone from our community. The Ephpheta Centre and the Catholic deaf community feel very blessed to have the support of Archbishop Anthony and the Archdiocese of Sydney.



Wine and Cheese Night – International Day of Sign Languages

On Friday 27 September Ephpheta hosted a Wine and Cheese Night to celebrate International Day of Sign Languages. We had so many people come to the night that we had to relocate to the school hall next door at the last minute!

We had 4 wonderful presenters talk about the impact of sign language in their lives – Todd Wright, Rosemary Lipman, Breda Carty and Sam Martin – we all enjoyed their interesting presentations. A most enjoyable night filled with the spirit of our community spirit!



Deaf Festival

On Saturday 19th October the annual Deaf Festival was held at Parramatta River.

The Ephpheta Stall was visited regularly by many people all day and we met lots of people! The craft ladies had a stall next to us - the craft ladies had been preparing and getting ready for the day for months! They worked tirelessly all day!

There were many interesting deaf based organisations and a variety of stalls on the day. There was plenty of things to see and do - it was a full day of theatre, presentations, and a great jumping castle for the kids.

Thank you to the Deaf Society, the participating stallholders, and of course our deaf community for making the day for Ephpheta Centre a fun filled and successful day!



Our November Deaf Café

On Friday 8 November, we had a very special type of deaf café!

We transformed the Ephpheta Centre to an old school picnic. People said that the food reminded them of the old days - nibbles such as Sao biscuits with Vegemite, cheese and tomatoes, Jatz biscuits and dip, cabanossi, sweet onions and cheese on a toothpick, cheese and olives, and of course biscuits with hundreds and thousands! Followed by an old school lunch box with mixed sandwiches, a juice popper, and of course some cake! Followed by some fruit platters - perfect for a hot spring day!

We had plenty of games that everyone got involved in and enjoyed the fun! Classic games such as Chinese whispers (which is always more fun in Auslan!), potato spoon races, picking up M&Ms with chopsticks (harder than it sounds!), beanbag throws and guessing different items by feeling and not looking. Congratulations to the winners of the games!



It was such a fun filled day. We are so thankful for all the volunteers who supported the staff. We couldn't have done it without you! Our next fun deaf café event will be in December - Christmas themed! See you there!

Enjoy some photos of the wonderful day!



Picnic lunch boxes and old school snacks for our community! Yum!!





Combined Men and Women's Day Out

On Thursday 24 October we had a very interesting Combined Day Out to Bare Island at La Perouse.

About 30 deaf people enjoyed a fascinating guided tour of Bare Island which was one of Australia's historical army site. It was set up to defend Australia against invasion. We learnt about the history of the big canons and the stories connected with the island over many years. We also learned that the island was used as a location to film the movie Mission Impossible!

After the tour, we had a lovely seafood lunch beside the water at La Perouse. Thank you all for a great day! Thank you to those who joined us! Details for our first outing for 2020 can be found on page 16. We look forward to organising more wonderful outings for our community in 2020.



Craft Corner

What have the craft ladies been up to?

The Deaf Craft Group is always open to any interested ladies. It meets **every Wednesday** (except when there's something on) from **10am until 2pm** at the Ephpheta Centre. Bring your craft to work on. Lunch is provided for \$5. More information? Contact the Ephpheta Centre!



Holiday ready!

A little group of craft ladies (and one man!) had a lovely relaxing week at sea on a cruise holiday recently!



Our lovely craft ladies spent the last few months working hard and preparing for the Deaf Festival, which happened on the 19th of October. It was a lovely community day for all. Their stall was shared with the Ephpheta Centre, and they had many beautiful handmade items for sale. They'd also begun making Christmas decorations! How incredibly organised!! Well done ladies - you all worked so hard on at the Deaf Festival and with the lead up.

Note that the Craft Group will finish for the year on 4 December 2019 and restarts on 5 February 2020.



Fix

a quarrel.

Get in contact

with an old friend.

Get rid of suspicion

and replace it with trust.

Write a love letter. Share

some treasure. Give a soft

answer. Support youth. Show

you are loyal in word and deed. Keep

a promise. Forget a grudge. Forgive an

enemy. Listen. Say sorry if you were wrong.

Try to understand. Don't envy. Look at your

demands on others. Think first of someone else.

Appreciate. Be kind. Be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh

a little more. Deserve confidence. Do not be self-satisfied.

Do not hurt others. Express your gratitude. Go to church.

Welcome a stranger. Make a child happy at heart. Take pleasure

in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it

again. Speak it still once again. Christmas is a celebration, and there is

no celebration that is better than knowing the true meaning of Christmas.

Then, only then, is it possible to grasp the importance of that first Christmas.

Christmas Blessings to all!



History Corner

By Brian Johnston

Richard Winchester

In 1883 the fifth boy student to be enrolled at the Catholic Deaf School in Newcastle NSW was a six years old Protestant boy named Richard Winchester.

Richard Blundell Winchester was born at Newcastle NSW on 14 September 1876, one of eleven children of Herbert Killick Winchester, gold miner/grocer/clerk and Emma, nee Hobson who themselves were married near Hartley NSW in 1868. Herbert and Emma emigrated to NSW from England in 1857 and 1852 respectively. Richard's second name Blundell came from his paternal great grandmother, Sarah Blundell.

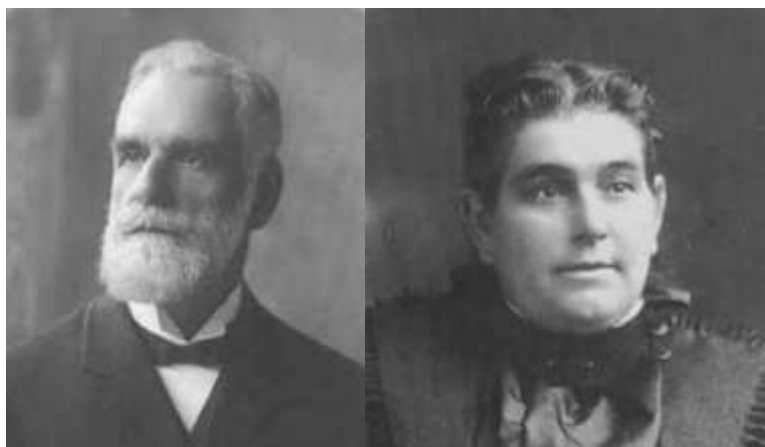
At 6 years old, Richard went to Catholic Deaf School within the grounds of the Dominican Convent, Newcastle (and relocated later to nearby Waratah) as No. 5 boy student in 1883 the same year that Maud Bruyn entered school as No. 9 girl student. It is not known if Richard boarded at the school as his parents lived nearby in Newcastle. It is possible that Richard's father supported the school and the Dominican Sisters financially. One of Richard's devoted teachers was Sister Mary Gabriel, a Deaf nun.

In 1899 Richard left Waratah school when he would be 23 years old. He probably stayed on at the school to train and work as a tailor after completing his school years.

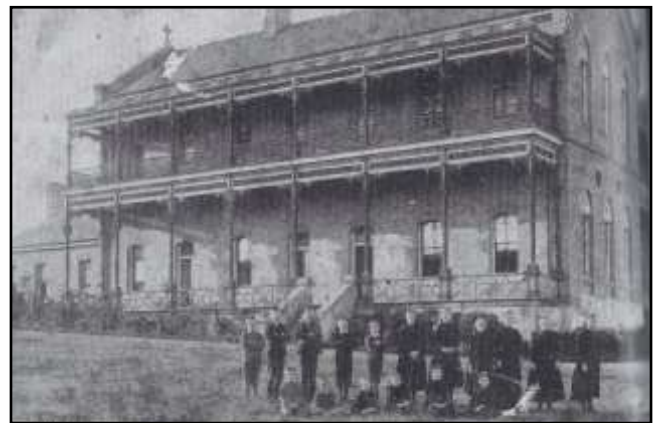
The Winchester family was of Anglican faith. Although dedicated to the Catholic faith, the Newcastle school did accept non-Catholic deaf children.

It appears from school records that of all boys enrolled at Newcastle/Waratah Deaf School Richard had the longest stay at the school – a total of 17 years from 1883 to 1899.

In the early 1900s some older boys moved to Westmead Orphanage in Sydney for school education and also trades training. Waratah School became School for Deaf Girls when St Gabriel's School for Deaf Boys at Castle Hill, Sydney was opened in 1922.



*Herbert and Emma Winchester
Parents of Richard Blundell Winchester*



Waratah Catholic Deaf School about the 1890s

Richard followed the occupation of tailor most of his working life. He did not marry. He lived in Church Street, Newcastle City in 1903 and in Islington Street, Islington, Newcastle in 1932.

Richard Blundell Winchester died in Mayfield, Newcastle on 7 May 1944 at the age of 67. He was cremated at Newcastle Memorial Park crematorium.

Sources: Annual Waratah Reports, Book 'Memories of St Gabriel's' 75th Anniversary Commemorative 1922 – 1997 by Brian Johnston (2000), and Ancestry.com – Winchester Family Tree and photos.

Mass Times

NOVEMBER

17th	Sunday BLACKTOWN	10.00am
24th	Sunday PUNCHBOWL	11.00am

DECEMBER

1st	Sunday PUNCHBOWL <i>Community Christmas Party See page 15 for more information</i>	11.00am
8th	Sunday MANLY	10.30am
15th	Sunday BLACKTOWN <i>CDC NSW Christmas Party See page 15 for more information</i>	10.00am
22nd	Sunday PUNCHBOWL	11.00am

FEBRUARY

2nd	Sunday PUNCHBOWL	11.00am
9th	Sunday MANLY	10.30am
16th	Sunday BLACKTOWN	10.00am
23rd	Sunday PUNCHBOWL	11.00am
26th	Wednesday PUNCHBOWL <i>Ash Wednesday See page 17 for more information</i>	11.00am
26th	Wednesday PENRITH <i>Ash Wednesday See page 17 for more information</i>	7.00pm

MARCH

1st	Sunday PUNCHBOWL	11.00am
7th	Saturday NORTH GOSFORD	6.00pm
15th	Sunday BLACKTOWN	10.00am
22nd	Sunday PUNCHBOWL	11.00am



Church Addresses



Chapel of St Francis de Sales
4 Turner St Punchbowl



Our Lady of the Rosary
92 Glennie St North Gosford
Integrated Mass



St Patrick's
51-59 Allawah St Blacktown
Integrated Mass



St Mary's
6 Raglan St Manly
Integrated Mass

Friday morning Mass

Where: Ephpheta Centre - 4 Turner St, Punchbowl
When: Every Friday
Time: 10.30am

Our last Friday morning Mass will be on
20 December 2019.

Mass will start again on Friday **7 February 2020.**

Diocese of Wollongong

If you would like an Auslan Interpreter for Mass, anointing of the sick or a Parish event - please contact Rebecca Miller, Chaplain to the Deaf Community.

Mobile: 0448 930 287

Email: Rebecca.Miller@catholiccare.dow.org.au

We pray...

For those who have died

22 July - Scott Joad

5 October - Carol Simpson

22 October - Michael Cottrell (ex St Gabriel's)

22 October - John Ryan
(Siobhan Kelly's grandfather)





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Join us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/thecentrefordeaf>

*The Ephpheta Centre is supported
by the Charitable Works Fund.*



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EPHPHETA WEBSITE NEWS

Have you seen our website recently?

Our website is now being updated regularly
so it is always full of current information.

Please keep checking it!

If you have any ideas or feedback for our
website please contact David at

david@ephpheta.org.au

www.ephpheta.org.au

Please send your news, stories,
information and requests to Liz or David to
be considered for the next newsletter!



What does "Ephpheta" mean?

The name Ephpheta of our Centre came from the
bible - a story about Jesus meeting a deaf man,
he says "Ephpheta" which means "Be open".

We are always open to you all!