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End of year Update

December 2018

We open our December newsletter with a fantastic announcement that we will be touring the country in 2019. Why? Well, we have been around for five years now and we would love to meet more of the deaf community nationally to help people understand more about access to the arts.
Stay tuned!

In 2018 we have seen a huge increase in interpreter bookings…for musicals, theatres, dramas, kids shows, special guest talks at Gallery tours school performances and much, much more.

So, to interpreters and deaf consultants - keep up the good work!

Interpreters across the country are constantly working hard to provide the highest level of access to the arts for the Deaf community. And, with the expert guidance and support from our team of language consultants we are extremely proud to be able to continue the of the service we provide.

Thanks to all the teams of people we have worked with this year in our amazing industry.

Remember, if you would like access to a show please contact us. Or, if you are an interpreter who is considering work in this field, please keep an eye out for the next Foundations of Theatre Interpreting Workshop. Come and join in the fun!

Follow us:

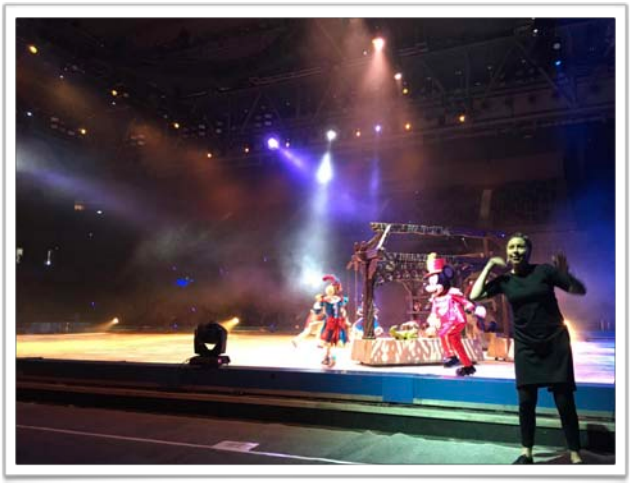
Keep up to date with the Auslan interpreted events near you.

@auslanstageleft

Language Consultant Experience

Julia Murphy - Disney On Ice - Melbourne

Disney On Ice provided Auslan access at 6 shows across the country in June / July this year. Our interpreting team could not have done their wonderful work without the team of consultants to assist. Here, Julia shares her experience as a consultant for the Melbourne event.



Without hesitation, I happily accepted this role as my first job as a language consultant with Auslan Stage Left.

I am a massive Disney fan already and I grew up watching their fairytale stories as a kid. I've also been to a few Disneyland's, it is just the happiest place on Earth!

From the beginning, I felt right at home because I love theatre productions, performing and I really look forward to making their stories come to life on the stage. Michelle Ashley and Nicole McRae were instrumental throughout my experience and I couldn't have asked for a better team to work with!

At our first meeting, we looked at all the different characters and their dialogues. It was great to work with Michelle and Nicole because we all have different experiences and visions which we all brought to the table. Most importantly, all three of us are Disney fans! My experience working with young children was valuable in this process as we looked at some dialogues where we had to simplify signs that needed to be suitable for this type of audience (family friendly, children, Disney fans etc.)

Another part of this job which I really enjoyed was unpacking the classic Disney songs.
I thought it was essential to look at the meanings behind each song and I also feel it was important to keep some familiar phases which really do resonate with many of our childhood memories.
It is really important to tell a story in the beginning, establish a setting rather than repeating the words that may not be meaningful in Auslan.

I felt it was worthwhile to watch a show prior to doing the Auslan interpreted show to have a vision, see the settings in place and to rethink some scenarios. Some scenarios contained many things that were happening at once which we needed to accommodate

so that the audience could absorb what was happening on the stage rather than interpreting the entire time.

We were mindful in some scenarios where we felt it was important for the audience to see the action in a specific location on the stage, and we prompted where we could.

I thank you, Michelle and Nicole for your support - I think we made a great team!

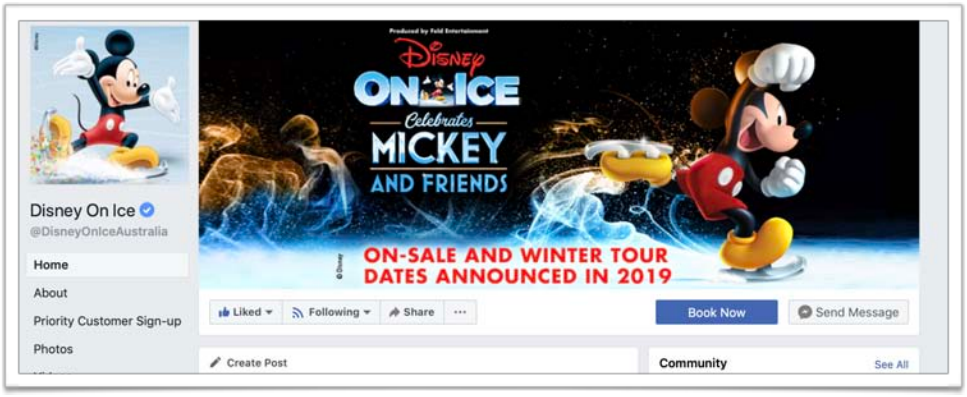
And, my advice for other future language consultants would be to ask questions throughout the process. Your input is extremely important as we all have different perspectives and views.

Thanks Auslan Stage Left for this great opportunity!

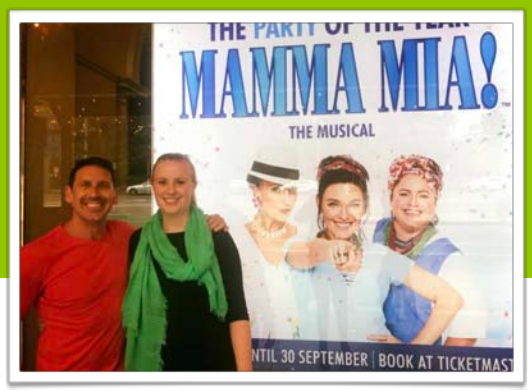
Are you interested in seeing the Disney on Ice show in 2019?
Have you seen the Disney On Ice Facebook page?
Please make sure you contact them (post in their page to send through messenger) and request the access.

We have already been contacted by some Deaf people who are interested, so we have already made contact with Disney on Ice, however, it is important that the community shares their opinion and their requests too.
Let's work together to improve the access in 2019!

https://www.facebook.com/DisneyOnIceAustralia/



Interpreter Experience
Katie Hinton - NSW
Mamma Mia



We had a little Q & A session with Katie and we thank her for sharing her experience!

How did you feel when you first received the booking request for Mamma Mia?

When I was first booked for this show I felt excitement, with a healthy dose of nerves. As I am quite green to the theatre interpreting space, I worked with Auslan Stage Left to ensure the team interpreter selected to work with me was someone who's experience would complement my own.
I was thrilled to have the opportunity to work with a deaf interpreter, Alex Jones, on Mamma Mia!

What were some of the first steps you took in your preparation?

Our first step in preparation was to touch base with each other on Skype and chat about how we would work together. Tackling logistics of other work commitments and the considerable distance between us. We also decided on a loose gendered character split, this would be further refined at our preview of the production.
I then dusted off my copy of Mamma Mia the movie and refamiliarised myself with the story.

How did you start to work through the script and lyrics?

Having recently worked on Muriel's Wedding in Sydney, ABBA was still running supreme on my iPod. I added the Mamma Mia movie soundtrack to this collection and listened to the music on repeat during my regular long distance commutes to work.

On 10th March, Alex and I met at the Capitol Theatre in Sydney to preview the show. We were blown away by the vibrancy of the production. It was such a fun, energetic and visually stimulating show. I came away from the preview excited and motivated to get stuck into my translation work.

Over the next few weeks I started translating my list of songs. Each time, filming it and posting to a private Facebook group for Alex to view. This Facebook group became our

main point of communication and ideas exchange between rehearsals. It was also a good place to "brain dump" almost-there translations to revisit later.

What are the benefits of working with a Language Consultant?

We were fortunate enough to have access to Della Goswell as a language consultant. We had one full day and 2 shorter Skype sessions with her where she reviewed our work and offered suggestions for refinement. This support was vital and we would not have had the same end product without her input. I find I always learn so much about myself as an interpreter every time I engage in the consultancy process. I always come away with new skillls/insight that are applicable to my everyday work.

Theatre interpreting is a big time commitment, but having the opportunity to work so intensively as part of a team has been very valuable to my growth as an interpreter. This incidental professional development is just one of the many unseen benefits of engaging in this work.

How were your dealings with the cast and production company?

The production company were very accommodating in allowing us space at the theater to do some live rehearsals. This was a better option for our team as the live sound/visual quality was more accessible than the archival. The cast and crew were always very welcoming. They did everything they could to make sure we had what we needed to do the best job we could.

What has been your most rewarding part of the whole Mamma Mia experience?

Working with a deaf interpreter was a great experience. I got to feed off the depth of emotion and characterisation that Alex so expertly portrays is his interpreting work. Timing of delivery was always our biggest challenge but we strategised ways to overcome this as part of our preparation for the show.

The best part of this show has been the audience response. Seeing deaf patrons so fully engaged in theatre and enjoying the show will always be the best part of the job!

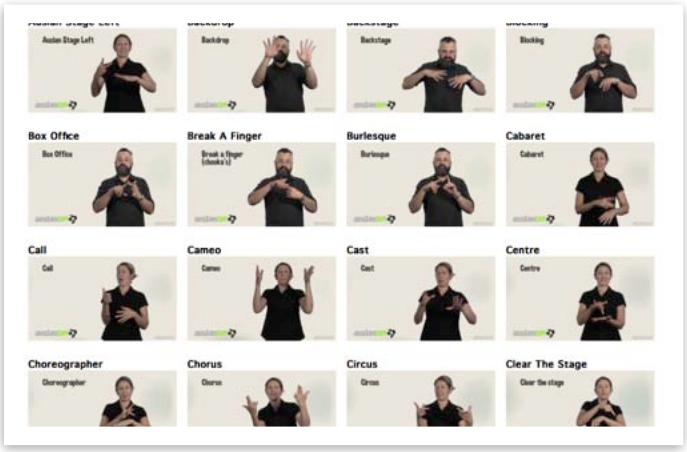
101 Theatre Signs:
Check it out...It's FREE!

Remember our online resource is free to use.

It is suitable for Deaf people, interpreters, Auslan students, actors and all people who are involved in production and entertainment.

It has a clear layout which is easy to follow and presented by native signers.

If you have a particular word that you believe we should add to this vocabulary, please get in touch.



VISIT: **http://www.auslanstageleft.com.au/media/101-auslan-theatre-signs/**

Sydney Deaf Festival

Saturday 20th October 2018

In October we had the pleasure of attending the Sydney Deaf Festival on Parramatta River. Even though it was an extremely hot and humid day, we really enjoyed the opportunity to meet new and old faces again.

We were pleasantly surprised when we met people who didn't know much about us and we got a chance to explain what we do.

We loved hearing from the Sydneysiders about the events that they want to have access to, and we will continue to try and approach these production companies to make these events accessible.

Thanks to everyone who visited our stand and chatted with us. Even when you were camera shy!

Our green phone holders were popular and we hope that those people who were lucky to get one, have now joined our Facebook page and are following our news!

We thank the Deaf Society of New South Wales for running the event.

We witnessed an energetic, positive community in huge numbers, despite the hot weather, and we were honoured to be a part of it!

Auslan Stage Left thanks Kate Parremore (VIC) who kindly volunteered to help manage our stand on the day. Thank you Kate! We value your support!

Deaf Expo Victoria

Saturday 10th November 2018

We really enjoyed our day at the Deaf Expo in Victoria in November. It was so much fun!

In the beautiful setting of the Melbourne Town Hall, we met new and old faces and had a little bit of fun with our fancy dress items and our camera. Anybody loves to get in front of the camera!

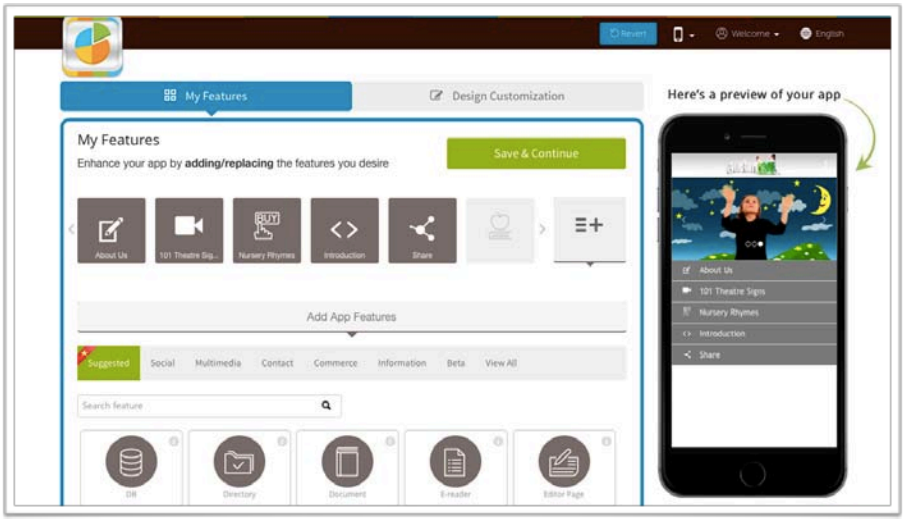
Thanks to everyone for sharing their experiences with Auslan access.

We also enjoyed chatting with new people and getting the chance to tell them more about what we do. We hope you are now following our social pages and website to keep up to date.

Thank you to our wonderful supporters and your ongoing feedback for improving better access to theatre !

And thanks to Expression Australia for hosting the event.

Nursery Rhymes in Auslan - UPDATE



In early 2018 we mentioned that the nursery rhymes in Auslan resource was coming……well, we had to take a little more time to finesse the online resource and we will have a release date for you in the coming weeks.

We recognise this is a very important resource for many people on many different levels so we wanted to take the time to make it right and to investigate the most cost effective way for you to access the videos.

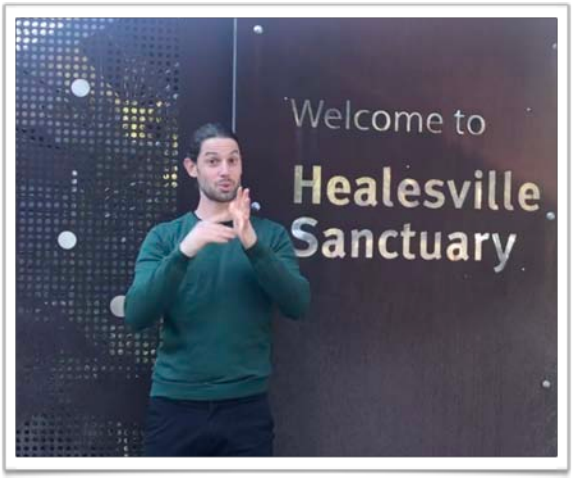
We have a library of 15 nursery rhymes and we can't wait to show you…… Stay tuned!

the Deaf Society

Equity for deaf people

Interpreter Experience

Daniel Hately - Melbourne



We thank Melbourne Zoo for providing Auslan access at Healesville Sanctuary in the NWDP! Daniel was part of the week long interpreting team and he shares his experience with us.

My recent experience interpreting at the Healesville Sanctuary during the National Week of Deaf People (NWDP) was an absolute career highlight.

During the week of 23rd September to 29th September the Healesville Sanctuary committed to providing interpreters to celebrate this important week and have Auslan access daily at key shows and keeper talks. For those who are unfamiliar with the Sanctuary it is a bushland haven for Australian wildlife where the public come to see learn and consider how they can play a part in protecting these important animals and their habitats.

The interpreting varied from keeper talks at the wombat, kangaroo, and koala exhibits and interactive shows with the Tales from Platypus Creek and Spirits of the Sky birds.

In preparing for this job we were fortunate that the Sanctuary were open to filming the shows and providing video footage to us to view and rehearse with.
A key part of our preparation involved consulting with many Auslan users about various signs for Australian wildlife, and researching and understanding more about the anatomy and reproductive systems of the various wildlife.

For most of the talks and shows, we were positioned within the enclosure or performance space. This presented its own unique set of demand. Whilst feeling challenged with the density and richness of the information being presented in English

there were absolutely competing demands present.

These demands certainly being something me and my wonderful interpreting colleagues had not necessarily dealt with before.
Like how to maintain a straight face whilst a curious kangaroo edges closer and closer sniffing your legs all while you are attempting to articulately describe how a kangaroo gives birth (Personally all I could think of was the YouTube video I'd watched where a kangaroo was on it's hind legs boxing some bogan in the outback! Was I going to be the next viral Youtube video? "Sign language interpreter gets brutally bashed by an Aussie kangaroo!")

Or by far the most challenging demand interpreting in front of 200 people at the Spirits of the Sky show where the finale is the majestic Wedgetail Eagle openly flying in the arena space. I was conscious that the Eagle is not used to having interpreters standing near her flight path as she dives down to grab meat nearby, so, what do you do when she is literally flying straight towards you? Control: Throw yourself to the ground? I'm ashamed to say this in fact is what I and separately, another interpreter did! Much to the amusement of the keepers and half the audience! We both learnt the hard way; the lower to the ground you go, the lower to the ground the Eagle will fly.
Future control then implemented: shut your eyes and stand still. Success!

All the keepers and staff at the Sanctuary were warm and open to working with the interpreting team and genuinely wanted to make their information accessible to the Deaf community. We felt included and fully part of their talks and shows. It's hopeful this initiative can be extended in the future and be available at more times of the year and for more of their talks and shows.

The most enjoyable part of this job was seeing families being actively engaged with their children and creating their own wonderful memories. I feel an absolute sense of honour in being an interpreter and playing witness to this. We truly are a lucky profession.

Thanks Auslan Stage Left for providing me this opportunity and to the supportive Interpreting team I worked with.

We would like to thank the interpreting team for their fantastic efforts on this project! Also a huge thanks goes to Melbourne Zoo & Healesville Sanctuary for accommodating Deaf people in this special week! We look forward to working more with the zoos in 2019.

Deaf Audience Member - Feedback

JERSEY BOYS - SYDNEY

When I won the tickets to see Jersey Boys, I was so thrilled and it meant we could go and see a show that was Auslan interpreted.

My husband Colin and I had a great seat down the front left side with other deaf patrons and there were 2 lovely Auslan Interpreters ladies in black clothing on the left side of the stage as not to stand out.

Jersey Boys....Wow! What an entrance!

So much colour! So much energy!

Amazing music!!

Loved the costumes, the scenery and the props!

The cast performers simply Wow! They were fantastic and very professional.

The Interpreters did an incredible and very talented job of interpreting every word and every song line!

Loved everything about their interpreting, even down to the naughty bits!

We were so absorbed into the whole performance and the Interpreters were simply brilliant in making us feel very included.

The after Q and A session with some cast members was so illuminating and informative and we all could not have done it without the tireless interpreters!

We bow to you'

Thanks Jillian Thompson for sharing your feedback! And thanks to Daina Caruana, Sarah Bennett and Alex Jones for a great effort interpreting Jersey Boys.

Audience Feedback - various

VIC: Feedback from mother of Deaf child (JUN 2018 - via Twitter)

VIC: Feedback from Teacher and student at "Blood on the Southern Cross/Sovereign Hill" (FEB 2018)

"The interpeters from Auslan Stage Left were very well prepared and professional. They arrived early to meet a Sovereign Hill Education Officer and find out where they would be located around the grounds of Sovereign Hill for the presentation. They had organised spotlights/uplights for the outdoor locations, which were well thought out to ensure they were in a good position to be seen clearly.

At the beginning of the event, the interpreters introduced themselves to their client, a year 5 student and myself. They were friendly and skilful. They made sure that the student was able to find the best place to stand as we moved from one area to another.

Their Auslan skills were well matched for a first language Auslan user and they handled the tasks of interpreting for different characters with appropriate role switching and expression. The interpreters also interpreted all the information presented during the ride in the vehicle as we moved around the various locations.

The client and myself were very satisfied with the interpreting and appreciated their level of skill and preparedness. Thank you for an excellent interpretation of Blood on the Southern Cross"

Kerry La Vale (MLC Teacher of the Deaf)

We were pleasantly surprised by the developments in Auslan access through 2018 and we recognise that production companies, event organisers and venue management have a huge part to play in making it happen.

We would like to thank these groups for their dedication and provision of access and we look forward to seeing what events they support in 2019!

Active TV
Arts Centre Melbourne
Antix Management
AFL
Black Swan State Theatre Company
CDP Productions
Centenary Theatre
Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre
Cricket Australia
Councils who supported Auslan access in Christmas carols and Australia Day ceremonies etc.
Disney On Ice
Gordon Frost Organization
LaBoite Theatre
Malthouse Theatre
Melbourne Fringe Festival
Melbourne International Comedy Festival
Melbourne Theatre Company
Midsumma Festival
Queensland Theatre Company
QPAC
Sydney Opera House
Sydney Theatre Company
Sydney Festival
St Martins Youth Arts Centre
The Deakin Edge
The Growth Faculty
The School of Life Australia
The Wheeler Centre
Writers Victoria

Many Thanks to Our Partners

We have partnered with these organisations around Australia and we value their continued support of what we do.

the Deaf Society

Equity for deaf people

ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA

Deaf Can:Do

AUSLAN CONNECTIONS

Expression Australia

Upcoming Shows

Melbourne

- Music Play Children's Festival - WED 16 JAN
- The Legend of Queen Kong - WED 16 JAN to SUN 20 JAN
- MIDSUMMA program - starts from SUN 20 JAN to early FEB
- Queerstories - WED 23rd JAN , and WED 20 FEB and, WED 27 MARCH
- Whitehorse Australia Day Concert - SAT 26 JAN
- Old Stock - A Refugee Love Story - WED 30 JAN
- Underground Railroad Game - FRI 1 FEB
- An Evening with Nigella Lawson - SAT 9 FEB
- Picasso And His Dog - SUN 24 MARCH

…and more on our website!

Special Events in VIC:

- Malthouse Theatre 2019 Launch
- Tuesday 15 January

Come and take a peak at the Auslan shows coming up in 2019 at Malthouse. Please email us if you would like to attend.

and….

- Melbourne International Comedy Festival is coming in April. With Tommy Little, Tom Ballard, Cal Wilson and Will Andersson. See full list on our website.

Sydney

- Shoreshocked - SAT 13 April
- Possum Magic - SAT 27 April
- Revolting Rhymes and Dirty Beasts - THURS 18 JUL
- Muriel's Wedding - SUN 11 AUG

Adelaide

- Sarah and Duck - SAT 19 JAN
- Aladdin - SAT 18 MAY

Perth

- Keep an eye on our Facebook and website

Tasmania

- Keep an eye on our Facebook and website

Brisbane

- Death of a Salesman - MON 18 FEB
- Hydra - MON 18 MARCH
- Barbara and the Camp Dogs - MON 6 MAY
- City of Gold - MON 8 JUL
- Storm Boy - MON 5 AUG

auslan STAGE LEFT

Auslan seats are available to deaf community members, families, friends, Auslan students and interpreters. Come along and enjoy a show together!

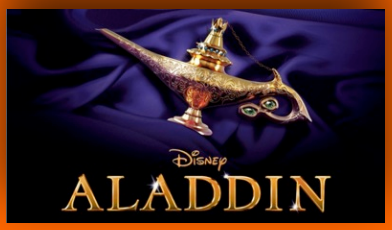
www.auslanstageleft.com.au

Major Events Coming soon!

MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL
MELBOURNE

VARIOUS SHOWS
MELBOURNE

MALTHOUSE THEATRE



Aladdin.
ADELAIDE

SPECIAL FEATURE EVENTS
MELBOURNE

QUEENSLAND THEATRE

GREAT SELECTION IN 2019
QUEENSLAND

MURIEL'S WEDDING
SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE

MICF
MELBOURNE

GREAT SELECTION IN 2019
SYDNEY

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

More Info: www.auslanstageleft.com.au

DEAF COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT QLD THEATRE LAUNCH 2018

ALEX JONES AND KATIE HINTON AT THE CRICKET AT SCG , SYDNEY

KAREN CLARE, MARNIE KERRIDGE, LINDA DORNAY - VIC

GERRY SHEARIM, MIKE WEBB & ANDREW WILTSHIRE - PRISCILLA

MICHELLE ASHLEY & JAMES BLYTH - CHILDREN THEATRE INTERPRETING WORKSHOP

CHER AND ALEX JONES - MARDI GRAS SYDNEY

TOMMY LITTLE & KIRRI DANGERFILED - VIC

SMITH STREET DREAMING - BENJI HOOPMANN - VIC

KATE PARREMORE VOLUNTEER - SYDNEY DEAF FESTIVAL

ABILITY FEST WITH DYLAN ALCOTT, DEAF COMMUNITY & INTERPRETERS, VIC

SUSAN EMERSON & JAMES BLYTH - AFL GRAND FINAL - MCG

MELINDA BUSCH & SARAH BENNETT - NEON TIGER - QLD

BROOKE BUISE, THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR , WA

KATRINA LANCASTER-MAGGS, JADE CLEASBY, AND CHRISTABEL CRESDEE - DISNEY ON ICE - SA

FAMIILIES WATCHING PAW PATROL - VIC

GLENDA JUDD AND PAUL HEUSTON , CIRCUS OZ -VIC

ROSEMARY PROFILIO & ADAM HILLS - SYD

GRACE BUSING AND LINDA BEALES - PAW PATROL, WA

Keep up to date on all the shows by visiting our website and social pages.

@auslanstageleft

If you would like to receive information about upcoming events right in your INBOX, please email us and we will include you in our email updates.

E: info@auslanstageleft.com.au

Best Wishes for a fantastic New Year!

From Susan, Medina, & Melissa

auslan STAGE LEFT