

## AUSTRALIA DEAF GAMES: EMPOWERING!



**THE NZ AND QLD NETBALL TEAMS POSE AFTER THEIR EXCITING GAME.**



**ALEX STRAUB (GERMANY) AND TOMAS ANDERSON (SWEDEN) FIGHT HARD FOR THE BRONZE IN BEACH VOLLEYBALL.**

For the past three months, we have jumped from one city to the next within a few days' time. So spending a full week at the Gold Coast for the XV Australian Deaf Games was a lovely transition. We were with the same group of 1200 people *all* day, every day, shacked up in bunk bed-style athletic dorms, and enjoying improv comedy stories and political debates at night socials. Lifelong buddies were made, and Christy got egged by a random passing car...the whole week felt a lot like summer camp!

We can only say one thing about the Australian Deaf Games: WOWOWOWOW! Massive gatherings of deaf people are always inspiring and empowering. The games are a rare opportunity for deaf people to be immersed in sign language and equal accessibility, a much needed relief from the everyday challenges of living in a hearing world. It is also a time to catch up with old friends and meet new friends. And most of all, it is a safe place to build confidence and share pride in being deaf.

The games' participants represent a wide spectrum of deafness, from 'stone' deaf to hard of hearing to oral deaf. To qualify for the games, one must be deaf or hard of hearing and live in Australia or New Zealand (which

was invited for the first time to participate). There were 11 events at this year's games, with 700 athletes competing in squash, lawn bowling, netball, golf, beach volleyball, and more. Records were broken, medals were won, and the media was everywhere to be seen.

The eight-day celebration of athletics ended with a bang at Dreamworld Amusement Park. The park was closed to the public and reserved for the 1,000-strong crowd of smiling faces set loose to feel like kids again, riding the Tower of Terror and Cyclone roller coasters.

The XVI Australian Deaf Games will be held in Victoria in 2012.

For more information, visit the Australian Deaf Games website at [www.austdeafgames.org.au](http://www.austdeafgames.org.au).



**BRAD SCHOFIELD JUMPS FOR ONE OF HIS SIX GOLD MEDALS.**

## BECOME A FRIEND OF DEAF CHILDREN AUSTRALIA



**CHRISTY PRESENTS AT DCA WITH CARLA HARPER TRANSLATING FROM ASL TO AUSLAN.**

For over 140 years Deaf Children Australia (DCA) has been enriching the lives of deaf and hard of hearing children and young adults. DCA invited Christy and Dave to present about their experiences in traveling the world, as well as Christy's experiences as a contestant on the television show, *Survivor*.

After the presentation, we were given the opportunity to meet with students and hang out with them to learn about each other. That was by far the highlight of the day, because the students were so energetic.

According to DCA's website, DCA provides information, advocacy, support services and educational resources that respond to the needs of these children and their fam-

ilies. DCA also believes in the right of choice and equality of opportunity.

DCA's difference is the willingness to respond to the needs of all deaf and hard of hearing children. These young people are firstly unique individuals, with interests and needs that vary enormously, and DCA's response is tailored to achieving the best solution for the individual regardless of the degree of hearing loss, communication method, educational setting, personal circumstance or location.

For more information, visit [www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au](http://www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au).

## SHOUT-OUTS! SHOUT-OUTS!



**THE BARNARD FAMILY**

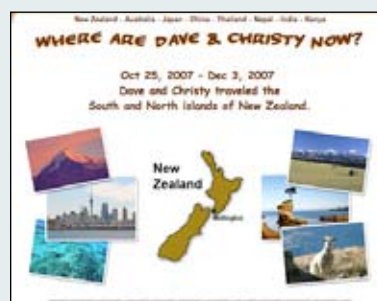
Mel, Tony, Jaap and Jedda, you have opened our eyes to the wonderful world of WWOOF. We learned such incredible amounts from our visits, with

such valuable time spent...and because of you, we have grown to love snakes!

DCA! You put on the most fancy-shmancy welcome for us to date. We appreciate your enthusiasm for what we are doing. This enthusiasm is what keeps us going on this long journey.

Congratulations to Trudy Suggs of T.S. Writing Services, and her husband, Randy Shank! They had a baby girl, Eavan Idell, on December 19, 2007.

## NZ PHOTOS NOW ONLINE!



We now have photos from New Zealand posted at the DDW website! To view the photos, read our blog or look at a bunch of other goodies, visit (or click on the following link):

[www.discoveringdeafworlds.com/archives.php](http://www.discoveringdeafworlds.com/archives.php)

## ***ENTERING A NEW WORLD: JAPAN***

By the time you read this, we will be in Japan and have left the comfort zone of English as a common language. While researching deaf schools and associations, we also seek help translating websites and e-mails. How will we communicate these next six weeks!? In part, through interpreters and learning basic Japanese signs, but mostly through gestures, patience and a shared motivation to learn from each other.

As we follow up on leads to meet the Japanese deaf community, we are learning a large cultural difference in formality. We must present ourselves more professionally, which means drastically changing the wardrobe in our backpacks – no easy feat!

Working through translators, we are learning

the need to justify our intentions and prove a good standing reputation before our contacts in Japan will respond. This has been difficult since we do not have direct communication without understanding the Japanese language, and online translation websites have proven unsatisfactory.

Even so, we remain optimistic that once we meet the Japanese deaf community in person, they will lead us in the right direction. We hope that, as the Japanese community learns about DDW, they will become interested in our project. The day after our arrival, we will visit a deaf school in Osaka.

Please check out our blog for an update on how our adventure was. We hope to have good news on our adventures in Japan!

*From January 17 until February 26, Dave and Christy will continue their around-the-world adventures in Japan.*

## ***INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIDBITS OF THE MONTH***



***MICE ARE A REGULAR STAPLE OF MOST SNAKES' DIETS.***

### ***WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET BITTEN BY A SNAKE***

The number one rule: STAY CALM! Running and screaming rampantly only causes your blood (and potential venom) to circulate faster. Wrap it up, DON'T MOVE, and let someone get help. You will live this way. Christy came within inches of stepping on a six-foot carpet snake!

### ***HOW TO REMOVE A TICK FROM YOUR SKIN***

OUCH! A tick bite feels more like a bee sting than a mosquito bite! Ticks can cause infections (including Lyme disease), and must be removed appropriately. With fine tweezers, grip the tick as close to your skin as possible. Do not jerk or twist; rather, pull out the tick from your skin firmly. Fluids from the tick are what cause infections. If a red rash expands around the bite within a week, consult a doctor. We know this because Dave got bitten by a tick... ewwww!

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Ralph P.  
DeStephano

### JAPANESE SIGN LANGUAGE

*In each issue, DDW will print  
the fingerspelled alphabet  
of a visited country.*

We were unable to find a chart of the Japanese signed alphabet. Hopefully we will come across something to post in our next issue. However, to learn basic Japanese Sign Language (JSL), take a look at the dictionary we'll use for the next six weeks: [www.excite.co.jp/world/english/web/?wb\\_url=http://syuwajuku.net/page0003.HTM&wb\\_lp=JAEN](http://www.excite.co.jp/world/english/web/?wb_url=http://syuwajuku.net/page0003.HTM&wb_lp=JAEN).

JSL fingerspelling is a signary of 45 signs and 4 diacritics representing the phonetic syllables of the Japanese language. To view a sample of Japanese manual syllabary (currently under construction), visit: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese\\_Sign\\_Language\\_syllabary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Sign_Language_syllabary).

### AUSSIE SLANG

G'day Mate: Hello friend

Onya: Well done (short for "good on you")

Ta: Thank You

Heaps: lots, mucho

Your shout: You buy the next round

Fair Dinkum: Of course I'm telling the truth

Bloody Oath!: I totally agree!

Rack Off: Go away

Quid: Money

Nappies: Diapers

Dad n' Dave: A shave

Drongo: Embarrassing or awkward person

Walkabout: Go for a long walk

*For more Aussie slang, visit  
[www.aussieslang.com](http://www.aussieslang.com).*



## 2008: STEPPING INTO THE NEW YEAR!

*Are you enjoying the DDW newsletter, website, and blog?! We sure hope so, because we love bringing you news and stories from our journey around the world!*

It's a new year and we are still seeking financial support to continue our project. We greatly appreciate any contribution - and even better: it will bring you good karma! If you'd like to donate to DDW, please send your donations to:

Christy Smith and David Justice  
Discovering Deaf Worlds  
2220 Ridgeway Ave  
Rochester, NY 14626

Please make checks payable to Christy Smith or David Justice. Or you can even donate online! It's easy - just go to [www.discoveringdeafworlds.com/donations.php](http://www.discoveringdeafworlds.com/donations.php) and donate using PayPal! Your donations will help cover the costs of equipment, travel expenses, interpreting services, the newsletter you're reading now, and much more.

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for more information, options, and pricing.*

## WHAT IS DDW?

Dave Justice and Christy Smith are traveling the world to learn and share stories of empowerment, inspiration, and connection between international Deaf communities.

Discovering Deaf Worlds (DDW) is an opportunity to give deaf people worldwide a voice. For more information, photos, video logs, and newsletter stories, visit [www.discoveringdeafworlds.com](http://www.discoveringdeafworlds.com).



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