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# ASCA NEWS

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*PO BOX 4570 North Rocks NSW 2151*  
*www.australianspeechcommunication.com*

*Welcome to the ASCA newsletter – keeping you in touch.*  
*December 2008*

*Keeping you up to date with ASCA.*  
*We welcome your ideas.*

*Our Director, Gina Pioro and all the Committee wish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, to all our members and friends in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and the ACT.*

*Welcome to all our new members.*

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**PLEASE REMEMBER:**

The Annual General Meeting of ASCA will be held at the Kuring-gai Campus of UTS on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009.

It is planned to hold the Awards Ceremony at the same venue on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2009.

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**TEACHERS:**

All forms are available to be downloaded from the ASCA web site –  
[www.australianspeechcommunication.com](http://www.australianspeechcommunication.com)

This includes the Request for Examination form, and the Blue Examination form.

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**SOME WISE THOUGHTS:**

*A happy life consists not in the absence, but in the mastery of hardships*  
*Helen Keller.*

*Circumstances are the rulers of the weak; but they are the instruments of the wise*  
*Samuel Lover-Irish song writer.*

## VALE Jean Ringland

Jean Ringland joined ASCA in its very early days, and was one of the first to submit students for examination at Lindfield. She later became a very valued ASCA examiner, before retiring to the beautiful north coast of NSW.

It was with much sadness that we learnt of Jean's fight with cancer and her subsequent death earlier this year.

Jean was a wonderful asset to the speech teaching fraternity and will be very sadly missed.

Last April, when asked, Jean sent us information about her teaching. This is an excerpt from a letter she provided, written by one of her ex-students.

'I started going to the Bangalow Pre-school in 1985 and Jean worked there as a teacher. She also ran drama classes out of the pre-school for primary school-aged children after school.

I always remember having lots of fun at drama. Jean would read us novels and poetry, and taught us how to read prose and poetry out loud to an audience in a way that is interesting and engages the audience. We also spent a lot of time learning how to speak properly. She was passionate about communication and helping children to develop the skills to communicate clearly and with confidence. We used to enter into the Lismore Eisteddfod each year. We started just doing prose and poetry readings and as we got older extended into speeches, monologues and duologues,

Jean also started sending us to do ASCA exams.

I also remember doing the CWA Speaking Competition every year. Jean would always pick the most interesting and controversial topic, and had a very strong interest in the environment. She believed that the opening of a speech was the most important part.

She was fastidious about details and we would go over scenes for my Yr 12 drama monologue to nail the exact phrasing, inflection etc.

She was brilliant, and I was brilliant because of her.

I would not be where I am today if it had not been for the profound and enduring impact that Jean has had on my life. I am just one of many kids that Jean touched. There are many others from the Bangalow Drama Studio. And there are probably many more from the other interesting chapters of Jean's life – including her time on Manus Island in PNG.'

Eloise Schnierer

**This article was included in a newsletter some years ago, and may be of interest to our newer teachers.**

**It was written by Diane Sparks, our Queensland co-ordinator.**

### ***The Advantages of ASCA for STUDENTS***

1. A real audience shares their presentation, interpretation and reading skills.
2. They learn to monitor the feedback from the audience.
3. They learn to listen to questions from the audience and respond in extended answers.
4. They learn to answer questions they may have not thought of themselves.
5. They learn to cope with the unexpected.
6. They learn to think on their feet.
7. They learn how to gain the support of their fellow students, and the audience to focus on them and direct their responses to them.
8. Each level of ASCA covers a different aspect of Public Speaking, giving the student great opportunities for individual choices.
9. At every level, the art of sight reading, whether from literature, poetry or the media is a requirement.
10. They become competent at presenting Social Speeches at every level in the Senior Syllabus.

**THEY LEARN THAT TO BECOME A GOOD SPEAKER THEY MUST BECOME A GOOD LISTENER.**

### ***The Advantages of ASCA for TEACHERS***

1. We see our students under pressure – how they respond, focus, and remain in control.
2. We learn to adjust our teaching to each student.
3. We see them supporting each other, not only in the setting up of their visual aids, but in their questions, responses, interactions.
4. The input of the audience makes the candidate rise to the occasion, and then think before they speak.
5. The audience, through their participation, support, encouragement can influence the results.
6. Sometimes it can be scary for the teacher – but it is not about the teacher it is about the student.
7. The teacher can see the examiner at work – searching, encouraging, and working to draw the responses which will give the student the best result.

**ASCA wants every candidate to do their best!**

**REMEMBER** – if you have any queries about ASCA, the syllabus, or about the conduct of examinations, please email, or write, and they will be handed to the committee for an answer.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** - to the Newsletter will be gratefully received by the editor.

***All newsletter correspondence please to  
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***HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A RESTFUL HOLIDAY TO ALL***

