



TFA News

Personal achievements supporting TFA's goals

Farewell to Jan

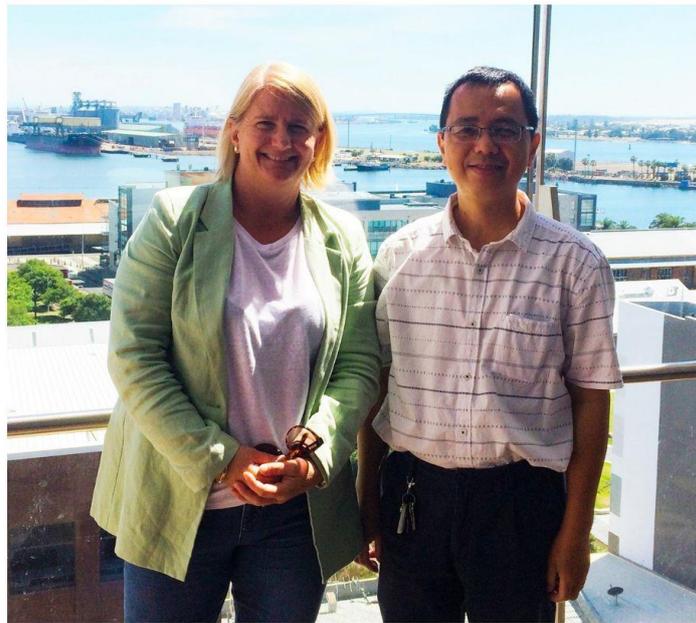


The TFA Board of Directors is saddened to say farewell to our administrator Jan Tochowicz and wishes to acknowledge her hard work and dedication over the past 11 years. The many volunteers, partners and friends of TFA who have worked with Jan over this time would attest to her reliability, efficiency, flexibility and overall willingness to assist with a multitude of tasks to ensure the smooth running of our organisation.

Jan first undertook the role in 2010 in our then fledgeling organisation because of her motivation to assist families in Vietnam to easily access speech therapy services, as she had done in Australia over many years, for her own son. It is for this reason Jan has given so much of her time freely to TFA, willingly assisting with wide ranging activities including fund raising events, organising promotional material for conferences, managing social media, supporting the TFA Board as well as financial administration duties across countries and currencies.

The foundation of TFA's continuing achievements lies in the long-term commitment of a family of volunteers who share a common goal of effecting long term change in Vietnam for those who experience communication and swallowing difficulties. Jan's amazing contribution is a great example of this. We thank her for all her hard work and commitment and wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement. She will be greatly missed!

Congratulations Associate Professor Sally Hewat



Congratulations to fellow TFA board member Associate Professor Sally Hewat as this year's recipient of the prestigious Elizabeth Usher Memorial Award from Speech Pathology Australia. As well as being a hardworking member of the TFA Board of Directors since 2013, Sally has made a major contribution to the development of speech therapy services across south-east Asia, in addition to her role as Assistant Dean, International at the University of Newcastle Faculty of Education and Arts and leadership roles in a range of professional organisations.

The team would also like to acknowledge her exceptional support of Dr Dien during his four years in Australia studying at the University of Newcastle.



[Please follow this link](#) to read a recent article in the International Communication Project Newsletter featuring the outcomes of long term capacity building associated with Speech Language Therapy in Vietnam.

Breaking News

A Vietnamese person's achievements for the development of Speech and Language Therapy in Vietnam

Sue Woodward, a Founding Director of TFA recently interviewed Dr Dien Khanh Le following receiving his Doctorate Testamur from the University of Newcastle, Australia. Dr Dien's thesis, titled *Development of a new Aphasia Test for Vietnamese People*, reports the development of a linguistically and culturally relevant aphasia test specifically designed for Vietnamese speakers. It is one of a small number of non-English language aphasia tests worldwide.



Sue: *Dr Dien, you must be extremely excited to finally receive formal acknowledgement of your Doctorate after 4 years of hard work and commitment in Australia.*

Dr Dien: I am happy, but this is only the start for a long journey in the development of Speech and Language Therapy in Vietnam.

Sue: *Other than your important teaching role in government approved Speech and Language Therapy courses across Vietnam, what are your future plans?*

Dr Dien: My first objective is to continue completing the Vietnamese Aphasia Test for Vietnamese people with aphasia. I also hope to initiate a project for professional resources, focusing on either adaptation of existing formal assessments, interventions, and outcome

measures or development of new ones, to be used in hospitals, rehabilitation centres, and communities.

At a clinical level, at my hospital, An Binh General Hospital and with the great support from my directors and colleagues, we have plans to provide an optimal clinical service for our clients and patients, and training courses.

Sue: It seems that you are already taking full advantage of the opportunity you were given to study in Australia to benefit the developing Speech and Language Therapy Profession in Vietnam.

Dr Dien: Yes, but there is still so much to do. My plans also include contributing to the development of professional standards for Speech and Language Therapy in Vietnam. I hope the Vietnamese Speech and Language Association will be soon established in Vietnam.

Sue: On behalf of the TFA board members congratulations once again Dr Dien. No doubt your wife, children, and extended family, as well as all your work colleagues, are rightly proud of your achievement and very pleased to have you home again. We wish you well in your future endeavours.

Watch out for our Special Graduation Edition Newsletter later in the year profiling our first Masters Program graduates from Ho Chi Minh Medical University and their plans for the future.



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Trinh Foundation Australia is proud to be a partner for Project J594 Vietnam Speech-Language Program with Global Development Group. GDG (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian DFAT approved Non-Government Organisation [NGO] carrying out quality humanitarian projects with approved Partners

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