

Newsletter

April 2004



Featured in this issue:

- ***Client Interview** – Exclusive interview with Hannah Sperber
- ***Feature Article** – How you can benefit from learning a second language
- ***Special Event** – “Euro Night” – Start-of-Term party at Chicane, Ponsonby
- ***Exclusive Offer** – 10% off all products at Design Emporium, Ponsonby, exclusive to ELA.

WHEN IN GERMANY DO AS THE GERMANS DO. SPEAK GERMAN. - - SAYS JOURNALIST HANNAH SPERBER.

25 year-old journalist Hannah Sperber is a fifth-generation Pakeha New Zealander originally from coastal Taranaki, where her parents still live. As a Staff Writer at North & South magazine for the last two years, she won the Qantas media award for junior magazine writer of the year.



She came to ELA to prepare for a stint in Germany. So this time around we got to interview her:

What triggered your interest in German?

No one in my family speaks a second language, so it felt rather exotic marrying into a German, Italian and Hebrew speaking family in 2003.

Since then, I have also gained a beautiful Chinese sister-in-law, so the dinnertime conversation has become even more international. I guess it was my new family that inspired me to learn another language, and German was an obvious choice because my husband is a fluent speaker. We also felt an attraction to Berlin as an exciting place to visit, and potential future home.

You are a successful journalist here in NZ. It must take quite a bit of courage to pack your bags and move to Germany. Are you daunted by the fact that you have to start over?

It's true we don't have jobs to go to, but that's part of the adventure. I have a good feeling about it. Berlin is the centre of Europe - at least we'll never be bored!

Why should someone learn German?

Well, it exercises the brain, and it's a great big challenge. The grammar is a mindbender, but strangely satisfying. Plus I think it's a beautiful language.

How did you find your learning experience at ELA?

I discovered ELA through a recommendation and it's been a really solid year of learning — particularly in the grammar department. My tutor Leigh has been great - I have no idea how I'm going to replace her in Berlin.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

At the moment I'm really enjoying the new book by the late German writer W.G. Sebald. It's been translated into English unfortunately - my German's not quite that good yet! I'm also watching as many German films as I can - Leigh recommended some good ones - Goodbye Lenin a recent favourite.

What would your advice be to someone starting out with learning a language?

Well, I'm just starting myself - I'm the one who needs advice!

What would be the first thing you do when you get to Berlin?

Order up large at a proper Germany bakery.

REMINDER: Term 2 begins 26 April. Enrol now.

Please email us at info@eurolang.co.nz if you have not confirmed with us.

How you can benefit from learning a second language

Most of us at some point or another have wanted to learn a second language. Some of us have learnt French or Japanese at high school. But most of us are still surprisingly monolingual (around 80% of Kiwis according to the last census).

Some New Zealanders still think English is the lingua franca of the global village, only to be surprised when they visit faraway towns in Europe, South America or Asia.

Learning a foreign language also helps give us an understanding of and appreciation for people that are different from us. Your understanding of the world will be enriched by gaining access to resources not available in English.

Parents concerned about their kids being confused with more than one language need not worry. One of the benefits of knowing a second language is that it will enhance your understanding and appreciation of the complexities of the English language.

And as far as careers go, you don't have to be an aspiring United Nations diplomat to learn a second language. In our global village today there is almost no career that you could enter where second language skills wouldn't come in handy at some time. Even the big metropolitan cities - New York, London, Paris, Sydney etc. - which were once homogenous - now have sizeable populations of people who speak English as a second language.

As a result of New Zealand's cultural heritage, Kiwis interested in learning a second language will still go for French, German, Spanish or Italian. Before you book your air ticket for that winter getaway in Europe this year, consider learning the local language to enrich your holiday experience.

The European Language Academy offers programmes for adults and children in French, German, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

The team at European Language Academy is committed to bringing you special events and promotions exclusive to you as a valued client. For Term 2, we have lined up a few events which will allow you to understand why we say language learning should never be boring! In the meantime, mark your calendars for the Euro Night coming up next month. We're sure Euro Night will be the coolest party in town!

Those of you who have been thinking about getting some Euro-style decorations for your home can now head along to Design Emporium at College Hill and check out their collection of NZ manufactured furniture as well as interesting homeware imported from Europe. ELA clients get a special discount.

HONORARY EUROPEAN CITIZENS (LIKE YOURSELF) TO GATHER AT CHICANE ON MAY 14TH.

Europe is getting bigger and better in May with 10 more countries joining the Union. That's a good excuse for Europhiles like you to party. All the more so if you are invited by the European Language Academy to celebrate.

Join us for the start-of-term party with the theme "Euro Night", where you can meet other interesting people who have decided to take up the challenge of learning a foreign language.

On the agenda:

9-11pm sophisticated multilingual conversation
11-till late impeccable international dancing
First drink free upon presentation of invitation card.

Date: Friday, 14 May 2004

Venue: Chicane, 198 Ponsonby Road, Ponsonby.

Please RSVP by emailing info@eurolang.co.nz your postal address so that we can send you an exclusive invitation card.



Euro-furniture and homeware at exclusive Ponsonby designer boutique

Design Emporium stocks simple and functional quality furniture pieces designed by Andrew Meiring and Katrina Carr. At Design Emporium you're not just talking to salespeople – you're talking to designers. If you can't find exactly what you're looking for, they can work with you to create a piece that is uniquely yours and fits your practical needs.

Their extensive homeware range includes glassware by iittala of Finland, bathroom and kitchenware by zack of Germany, outdoor living accessories by menu of Denmark and classic pieces such as the Norm 69 by Holger Stom.

Design Emporium is at 100 college hill road ponsonby. (Tel: 3763393) **ELA clients get 10% off.**

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