



## Spectrum Bulletin

**From the CEO**

**October 2015**

Welcome to the first Spectrum Bulletin designed to keep you up to date with the happenings at Autism Tasmania as well as other events and activities that may be of interest.

The start to this financial year has been hectic with moves to new premises in both Hobart and Launceston, the development of a New Constitution and holding a Special General Meeting, conducting state wide forums around the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and numerous training engagements. Due to some staff illness and absences the normal Spring Edition of Spectrum News has been missed and we are providing this Bulletin as way of keeping in touch with our members. The Summer edition of Spectrum News will be distributed prior to the Christmas break.

I am pleased to advise that the New Constitution was adopted unanimously at the Special General Meeting on Monday. The Notice of our Annual General Meeting is below and for the first time members that cannot attend in person will be able to participate by proxy voting who would otherwise be unable to have a say.

I encourage as many of you that can to participate in our NDIS survey (see details below) so that the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) can better cater for the needs of people with autism.

The survey also provides you with the opportunity to feedback information on your experiences with Autism Tasmania and what your aspirations are for the association in the future.

Terry Burke

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## Spectrum Bulletin

### 1. Notice of Annual General Meeting

## Annual General Meeting

6.00pm, Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Via video conference in Hobart Launceston,  
Latrobe and Burnie. See attached for location  
information.

All members of Autism Tasmania Inc are invited to attend in person or **under our new Constitution participate by proxy.**

The business of the meeting is to confirm previous general meeting minutes, receive reports on the Association's activities, elect Members of the Board, set membership fees and appoint the auditor for the coming year.

**Should you wish to vote by proxy please contact us (see below) so that voting papers can be forwarded to you to allow for completion and return at least 7 days before the meeting.**

You may request voting papers by proxy, confirm attendance or apology by contacting Allison Lapham on 6231 2745 or email [autism@autismtas.org.au](mailto:autism@autismtas.org.au) by the close of business on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

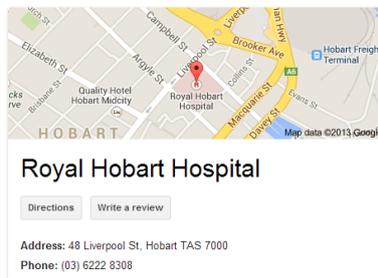
Terry Burke  
Public Officer  
29 October 2015

# Spectrum Bulletin

## 1. Notice of Annual General Meeting (cont.)

### Locations:

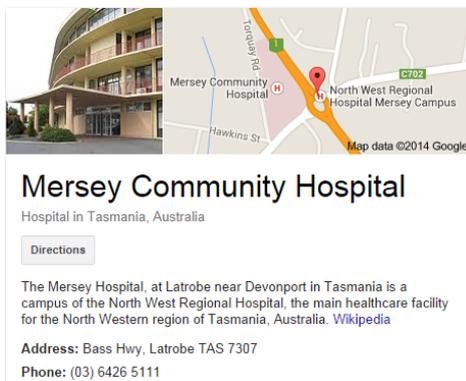
#### Royal Hobart Hospital Pathology 1D



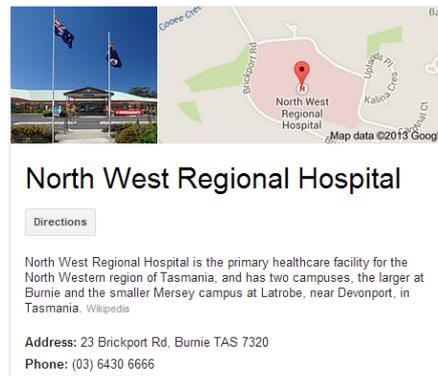
#### Launceston General Hospital Level 2, Library Meeting Room



#### Mersey Community Hospital Studio – Level 2



#### North West Regional Hospital Admin Meeting Room



## 2. Hobart Premises Open Day and Official Opening

Members and friends of Autism Tasmania are cordially invited to the official opening of 21 Goulburn Street, Hobart on the 3rd December 2015. You are welcome to drop in anytime from 10.00am that day for a cuppa and a tour. The Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP Minister for Human Services and Minister for Women will be conducting the official opening at 3.00pm.

If you are unable to attend on the day you are welcome to drop in any time Mondays to Fridays between 10.00am and 2.00pm to check out the premises and our ever increasing resource library.



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### 3. NDIS and Autism Tasmania Survey

We are inviting all people with a lived experience of autism and their families to participate in an [online survey](#) designed to better understand how the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) can work most effectively with the autism community when accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

#### **What is this about?**

You will recall that during August there were a series of focus groups held around the State. Many thanks to all those people who came, your contributions have been invaluable!

The online survey has been developed by independent consultants based on the discussions that were had during the focus groups.

While most of the questions are about communication and communication styles from the perspective of accessing the NDIS, you will also get the opportunity to provide feedback about Autism Tasmania.

You should set aside approximately forty five minutes to complete the survey. It may not take that long to complete, it will depend on how much feedback you would like to provide.

#### **Who can take part?**

The online survey has been designed for individuals with autism aged over 15 years, and parents with children with autism.

The survey questions are slightly different depending on which category you fit into. If you are an individual on the spectrum and also have a family member/child on the spectrum, you will have an opportunity to complete the survey from both perspectives if you would like to. If you have more than one child and would like to share different experiences for each, you will need to log into the survey for a second time.

If you have a partner with autism, and you would like to complete the survey based on your experiences, please contact Autism Tasmania directly. A survey can be posted or emailed to you to complete.

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### 3. NDIS and Autism Tasmania Survey (cont.)

#### What happens with my answers?

Your participation is completely anonymous as no identifying information will be collected. This means you can be as honest as you would like! The data from the online survey will be downloaded and analysed by the independent consultants to inform a report that will be prepared for the NDIA. You will be provided with a copy of this report, once it has been published.

Survey closes Friday 4th December 2015

The link to the survey is here -  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9YMJRSV>

A hard copy version is available upon request.

### 4. International Day of People with Disability

**A FREE event full of fun activities to celebrate  
2015 International Day of People with Disability**





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### 5. Rose Clark - Asia Pacific Autism Award

The 3rd Asia Pacific Autism Awards were presented on the 10th September 2015 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre as part of the Asia Pacific Autism Conference 2015 (APAC15).

They are recognised at each biennial conference to recognise outstanding service to the field of autism.

Rose Clark, Autism Tasmania (pictured here receiving the award from APAC15 Chair Mr Rod Cameron) was awarded in recognition for her work in supporting Tasmanian families living with autism.



Rose was a founding member of Autism Tasmania in 1992 and has held the role of Information Team Member/Family Support for North West Coast Tasmania since 2003. She was also the founding member of Giant Steps - Deloraine in 1993.

Congratulations Rose!

### 6. Your Guide to Better School Transitions—Parent Workshop

#### Parent/Carer Information Session

When: Saturday 5 December 2015

Where: Southern Support School  
223 Clarence Street, Howrah

Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm

Cost: Free

Who can attend: Parents and carers of school children on the autism spectrum

To Register: 1300 288 476 or email [autism@autismtas.org.au](mailto:autism@autismtas.org.au) stating your name, phone number and/or email address



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### 7. Campbell Town Information Session - Challenges, Strategies and Support

#### **Autism: Challenges, Strategies and Support**

Date: Wednesday 4 November 2015

Time: 10am - 12 noon

Venue: Campbell Town Health and Community Service  
70 High Street, Campbell Town

This will be an opportunity to discuss the challenges often faced by care givers of children with autism, to pick up tips from other parents and learn about support options.

This information session is suitable for any interested and caring person.

For more information please contact Robyn Thomas 0458 375 604 or [robynt@autismtas.org.au](mailto:robynt@autismtas.org.au)

### 8. Autism Expo

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

When: Saturday 2nd April 2016 (World Autism Awareness Day)

Where: Princes Wharf 1 (PW1), Hobart

Full program and day of activities culminating in lighting up Parliament House blue.