



**17th Annual Report
and
2008-09 Annual General Meeting**



Sunday, 27th September 2009

National Disability Services

**221 Macquarie Street
Hobart**

Agenda

17th Annual General Meeting

12.30pm, Sunday, 27th September 2009
National Disability Services, Hobart

1. **Opening**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Notice of Meeting**
4. **Minutes of Previous General Meetings**
 - 4.1 Previous Annual General Meeting
 - 4.2 Recent Special General Meeting
5. **Reports**
 - 5.1 President's Report
 - 5.2 Financial Report
6. **Election of Office Bearers**
 - 6.1 Vice President (1 position)
 - 6.2 Secretary
 - 6.3 Ordinary Committee Member (3 positions)
7. **Membership Fees**
8. **Appointment of Auditor**
9. **Close**

Autism Tasmania Inc Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: 28 September 2008

Location: Hotel Grand Chancellor, 29 Cameron Street, Launceston

Present: 102 financial members & 1 guest, as per the signed attendance list attached to original minutes

1 Welcome & Opening:

Acting President, Dr Andrew Davies welcomed members and guests and explained that as a candidate in the election of officers, it is inappropriate that he chair the meeting and that given the climate in which the meeting is being held, it is appropriate to have an independent chairman. He introduced Dr Frank Madill, a former Speaker of the House of Assembly in the Tasmanian Parliament, who has agreed to chair the meeting.

Moved that Dr Frank Madill be appointed as the independent chairman of this AGM

Andrew Davies/Mark Ward - Carried

2 Apologies:

Dr Madill took the chair and called for apologies from the floor – there were none but the previously notified apologies are Des Fitzgerald [Asperger Syndrome Support Group], Kerry Buckby-Jones, Marilyn Crack, Alistair & Tina Crisp, Charles Crowden, Brett & Rachel Cuthbertson, Steve Daley [Devonfield Enterprises], Rowena Wilkinson [ECIS], Kay Edwards, Jodie Fuller, Nigel & Carolyn Geard, Adele Jones, Sally Kay, Cheryl & Nigel Pedley, Jeffrey & Meredith Phillips, Carolyn Rennie, Mike & Barbara Stewart, Anna Strochnetter, Carolyn Stubbs, Lisa Trenham & Connie Woolnough.

3 Notice of Meeting:

The Secretary read the Notice of Meeting sent to members on Tuesday, 9 September 2008 and the notice that appeared in the Advocate, Examiner & Mercury newspapers on Saturday, 13 September 2008.

The Chairman introduced Joseph Brewin, a retired electoral officer with 30 years of experience in the conduct of elections, primarily in Australia but who has also had overseas electoral experience in Cambodia, South Africa and Afghanistan. He has no prior connection to this organisation and has offered his services for today's election of officers out of a sense of civic duty.

Moved that Joseph Brewin be granted the powers of returning officer for today only, for the purpose of conducting the count of votes in the election of officers.

Frank Madill/Mark Ward - Carried

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting were tabled.

Moved that the minutes of the 2007 AGM be adopted as the true and correct record of the meeting.

Andrew Davies/Neil Gardner - Carried

5 Reports:

5.1 President's Report:

Acting President, Dr Andrew Davies presented his report, which is included in the Association's Annual Report distributed to members. He paid particular tribute to Family Support Co-ordinator, Rose Clark, for her continuing voluntary work over and above the two days each week for which she is paid and during times earlier this year when funds were scarce. The meeting gave Rose Clark an overwhelming round of applause of endorsement. There were no questions from the floor.

Moved that the President's Report be accepted.

Andrew Davies/Mark Ward – Carried

5.2 Financial Report:

Treasurer, Neil Gardner, presented the audited financial reports and summarised the financial activities for the 12 months to 30 June 2008. He thanked Mick Clark and Carolyn Moore for their fundraising work, which had enabled the Association's services to continue running and for Rose Clark's generosity in continuing to work when funds were scarce. He responded to questions from the floor by explaining the net amount of funds raised and the past and current contractual arrangements with Anglicare Tasmania.

Moved that the Financial Report be adopted.

Neil Gardner/Andrew Davies - Carried

6 Election of Officer Bearers:

The Chairman introduced the returning officer for today's election, Joseph Brewin, who explained the election process to be followed for today's election of the three members of the Committee. Each voting member will have their name checked against the membership list before receiving a different coloured ballot paper for each position. The names of the candidates on each ballot paper have been rotated to ensure that each name appears first on half the ballot papers distributed. He explained the method of marking a valid ballot paper, the booths for privacy and the ballot boxes for depositing completed ballot papers. Each candidate may appoint a scrutineer to observe the count of ballot papers. After counting has been completed, the results will be passed to the Chairman who will declare them to the meeting.

The Chairman then explained that each candidate will have three minutes to speak to their candidacy. He then took each position, with the two candidates speaking in alphabetical order.

The secret ballot was then conducted. After the counting of votes, the Chairman declared the ballot result – Mark Ward was elected as President; Andrew Davies as Vice President; and Samone Hooper as Ordinary Committee Member, all by a significant margin.

7 Membership Fees:

Moved that the membership fees for 2009 be set at the existing rates of \$27.50 including GST [full] and \$11.00 including GST [concessional].

Neil Gardner/Carolyn Moore - Carried

8 Appointment of Auditor:

Moved that James S Gibson of Launceston be re-appointed as the Association's Auditor for 2009.

Neil Gardner/Ron Barnes - Carried

9 Destruction of Ballot Papers

Motion that the ballot papers and other records used for the election of officers be destroyed.

Mark Ward/Muriel Clark - Carried

10 Close:

The Chairman thanked the Executive for making the arrangements for the meeting, the members who attended and demonstrated such strong interest in the affairs of the Association, the candidates and Joseph Brewin for acting as the returning officer for today's election only. The meeting closed at 3.06pm.

Signed as a true and correct record: _____

Autism Tasmania Inc Special General Meeting Minutes

Date: 5 September 2009
Location: Northern Children's Network Training Room, 59D Amy Road, Launceston
Present: Mark Ward [Pres], Mick Clark [Sec], Paula & Ron Barnes, Tanya Broad, Sue Brown, Malcolm Bywaters, John Christie, Nicole Ciantar-Jones, Mick Clark, Sharon Davidson, Andrew & Louise Davies, Kristen Desmond, Stephen Ferris, Julie & Peter Hatters, Karen Jenkinson, Cheryl Scott, Jamie & Petra Sheehan, Daniel Thomas.

1 Opening: Meeting commenced at 12.33pm

2 Apologies:

Leanne Alexander, Lucille Breward, Muriel Clark, Merrilyn Crack, Judy & Phillip Cornwell, Leonie & Phil Crowden, Bill & Penny Cromarty, John Dent, Alison Flakemore, Colleen Harper, Kathryn Harth, Catherine Joyce, Robyn Lake, Roger Law, Neil & Roseanne Lay, Lisa Minchin, Dulcie Montgomerie, Carolyn Moore, Fiona Taylor, Ros Ward.

3 Special Business:

The President [Mark Ward] explained the change being unanimously recommended by the Committee, the legal advice taken, the circumstances leading to the need to resolve inconsistencies in the Association's Rules and the result of these changes on elections at the forthcoming AGM on 27 September 2009. An explanation of the Draft Special Resolution prepared by Page Seager had previously been circulated to all financial members of the Association and further copies were available at the meeting. A copy of this is attached to the original minutes.

After some discussion about the grammatical correctness of the wording of the Draft Special Resolution, the following amended wording was incorporated in the motion put to Members:

"That in accordance with Rule 27 of the Constitution, the Members of Autism Inc are in favour of amending Rule 15.8 [Appointment to Casual Vacancy] to state:

When a casual vacancy occurs on the Committee, the Committee may appoint another member of the Association to the vacant position until the next annual general meeting when the term of the Committee Member previously elected to that position would have expired."

Andrew Davies/Paula Barnes - Carried

4 Close: Meeting closed at 1.08pm

Signed as a true and correct record: _____

Listing of Office Bearers, Committee Members & Membership

Name	Position	Address	Occupation	Resigned	Meetings Attended
Mr Mark Jonathan WARD	President	122 Carella Street HOWRAH 7018	Project Engineer		10 of 10
Dr Andrew Neil DAVIES	Vice President	10 Kenyon Street NEWSTEAD 7250	University Lecturer		9 of 10
Mrs Roslyn Rae WARD	Vice President	122 Carella Street HOWRAH 7018	Teacher	Resigned 11 Feb 2009	0 of 3
Mr Michael Richard CLARK	Secretary	4 Hiller Street DEVONPORT 7310	Consultant		10 of 10
Mr Neil Herbert GARDNER	Treasurer	6 Howley Court HOWRAH 7018	Retired	Resigned 11 Feb 2009	0 of 3
Mrs Alison FLAKEMORE	Treasurer	4 Crofton Court HUONVILLE 7109	Auditor	Appointed 11 Feb 2009	7 of 7
Mrs Louise Reid DAVIES	Committee Member	10 Kenyon Street NEWSTEAD 7250	Curator		8 of 10
Mrs Colleen HARPER	Committee Member	13 William Street LONGFORD 7000	Lecturer	Appointed 9 April 2008	2 of 5
Mr Peter HATTERS	Committee Member	81 Franklin Street WESTBURY 7303	Employment Consultant		10 of 10
Ms Sam HOOPER	Committee Member	103 Balook Street LAUDERDALE 7021	Administrator	Resigned 20 Jan 2009	1 of 3
Mr Roger James LAW	Committee Member	932 Black Hills Road Gretna 7303	Advocate		6 of 10
Ms Carolyn Joy MOORE	Committee Member	3 Ford Street STANLEY 7331	Parent & student		7 of 10

The List of Financial Members of Autism Tasmania Inc. shows 152 financial members for the year ended 30 June 2009.

Dated this 26th day of September 2009

Signed:

Mick Clark

Secretary and Public Officer

President's Report

For all those involved with Autism Tasmania over the last 12 months the time has been characterised by changing circumstances, and significant change at that, mixed with some missed opportunities.

For me the year started at the Annual General Meeting in September 2008 when more than 100 members attended our meeting. The lead up to the meeting was a difficult time for all concerned and had what was a significant impact on all committee members for a couple of months afterwards. That aside, it was fantastic that so many members turned out for the meeting.

The year only got busier with continued operation of the Family Support Coordinator service and preparations for the implementation of our part of the Government's *Helping Children with Autism* initiative the Autism Advisor Service which commenced initially in late October 2008 with an entirely voluntary effort from the committee. Mick took the lead role to get the Advisor Service underway when he was dealing with new clients, the committee, the funding provider FaHCSIA, and other associations starting up similar services in other states while doing most of the other tasks associated with getting a service up and running in two new offices and employing new staff. Staff interviews commenced late in 2008 and by early 2009 offers had been made to three new staff and we were away. Every one did a great job getting up and running in a year that has been dominated by the *Helping Children with Autism* initiative.

A highlight for the year was National Autism Awareness Month when an eminent international speaker, Carol Gray, was in Tasmania for a one day presentation about Social Stories. Our staff were able to attend the session and worked together to make the day a success and memorable for all who attended. Carol had been to Tasmania before but it was some time ago. Her presentation was really well received and I'm sure all of the attendees went away with many strategies and actions to put in place.

Rose continues in the very valuable role of Family Support Coordinator travelling to many parts of Tasmania from Huonville to George Town to Smithton to Queenstown and even to King Island. In addition to the many parent groups that Rose coordinates, she continues to develop two groups supporting people on the Autism Spectrum, one in Hobart and one in Launceston. By all accounts these groups are well received, well attended and very valuable for all who attend.

Autism Tasmania were also the recipient of a grant from Anglicare and Rose was the designated person to be preparing material and presenting it to a couple of seminars.

We had previously been approached by the AAETC consortium, another component of the *Helping Children with Autism* initiative, which was involved in presenting two distinct series of seminars across Australia aimed at parents of children with an ASD and school teachers and support staff who work with children with an ASD. The seminars were presented in Hobart, Launceston and on the NW Coast as the Tasmanian part of the series. Rose was our representative involved in the preparation and presentation of both these series of seminars. They were all well received and Rose along with the other Tasmanian presenters and organisers put in a fantastic effort to achieve the success they did.

The National Autism conference was in Sydney in August 2009 and we were able to send two staff to the conference to meet presenters, delegates and the people from other states who work in the autism field. Such gatherings can be a great source of knowledge and inspiration for staff with the contacts they are able to establish and the information they are presented with. Unfortunately the next conference is not until 2011.

Autism Tasmania has been very fortunate in deed to received one substantial bequest and one significant donation over the past year which has significantly boosted our reserves. In addition smaller but no less significant donations continue to arrive in the post, many right out of the blue. It is always great to receive the mail in anticipation of something important arriving.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have been involved with Autism Tasmania for the past year.

A thank you must go to the staff of Autism Tasmania. During the last year the staff numbers have grown fantastically. I want to thank them for all the great and positive things they have been able to do for Autism Tasmania so that we continue to be held in high regard by many people outside the organisation and by those of our members who have dealings with our staff. All the staff work only part time and that in itself has made their work somewhat more difficult.

Rose, our Family Support Coordinator, continues to travel the whole state and puts in many extra hours to support the autism community. Karen, Anita and Sam, our Autism Advisors, did a fantastic job from mid January in getting the Autism Advisor Service up and running in both Hobart and Launceston and they worked really well as a team for all our clients. Sadly Anita has decided the position was not for her and she resigned just a few weeks ago. Sara has been helping Sam on a temporary basis in Hobart for only a couple of weeks and this is working out well and Allison has been with Karen in Launceston for a good few months now which is great. Louise started working with book keeping in January and she has been a great help to Alison, our Treasurer, and to me.

A thank you must also go to the committee of Autism Tasmania and specifically to Mick who continues to invest huge amounts of time and effort into our organisation even though his time has to be rationed more now that his personal employment circumstances have changed. Every member of the committee committed themselves during the year to the degree they were able and a thank you to them all. Some senior people on the committee were affected by their personal circumstances and felt that they were no longer able to participate and contribute to the level they had in the past and both Neil and Ros chose to reduce their time late last year and resign early in 2009. Their contributions were very much appreciated and both have contributed significantly to the development of Autism Tasmania over a long period of time not just the last 12 months. The newer committee people filling casual vacancies also contributed significantly in the time they were with us. However, a couple have experienced significant changes to their personal circumstances which means they will not be able to continue as committee members into the coming year. Both have indicated they will continue to be involved with Autism Tasmania to a level they can manage and I'm sure both will continue to make valuable contributions to Autism Tasmania. Another committee person resigned to take up a paid position with Autism Tasmania and as I have said has made a significant contribution to Autism Tasmania.

I must also thank all those people from outside Autism Tasmania who worked with us and assisted us during the year. Without their valuable endeavours we would not have been able to function in the way that we have and achieve the things that we have over the past 12 months. Their contributions certainly are appreciated and I hope that we can continue to work together for the coming year.

And finally a thank you to all our members who have been able to come to the functions we have made available and to come to the meetings we have needed you to participate in.

Thank you to everyone.

My hope for the coming year and the future is that Autism Tasmania can re-establish the great endeavours from our recent past like our newsletter, improve contact with our members, be in a position to take up more of the opportunities that present themselves, be more involved with the wider autism community and for Autism Tasmania to employ an Executive Officer which will help to make it a more professional and mature organisation.

As you can see the theme of change needs to continue strongly within our organisation at all levels.

Mark Ward
President