



**AUTISM TASMANIA Inc.**

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*Offering life long support to people with  
Autism and related disorders.*

Patron:

Post: 3 Grand View Place,  
Norwood,  
Tasmania, 7250.

Phone and Fax: 003 432308

Phone: 002 492422

Phone: 004 423594

**ANNUAL REPORT 1993/'94**

**2nd Annual Report**

13th August 1994



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## **AGENDA**

### **2ND. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Saturday 13th August 1993, Walker House, Walker Avenue, Mowbray**

1. Opening - 11.00 am.
2. Apologies.
3. Correspondence.
  - 3.1 Inwards.
  - 3.2 Outwards.
4. Minutes.
  - 4.1 Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.
  - 4.2 Confirmation of minutes.
5. Special business.
  - 5.1 Amendment to Constitution - Number of Committee members
6. Annual Report.
  - 6.1 Reading of the Annual Report.
  - 6.2 Motion for adoption of the Annual Report.
7. Treasurer's Report.
  - 7.1 Statement and Balance Sheet.
  - 7.2 Motion for adoption of the Treasurer's Report.
  - 7.3 Motion to appoint the Auditor.
8. Election of Office Bearers.
  - 8.1 President.
  - 8.2 Vice President.
  - 8.3 Vice President.
  - 8.4 Secretary.
  - 8.5 Treasurer.
  - 8.6 Committee persons (3).
9. Vote of thanks to outgoing executive.
10. Other business.
11. Close.

Signed:  
R. Ward  
SECRETARY.

PUBLIC OFFICER'S REPORT

I, Mark Jonathan Ward being the Public Officer of Autism Tasmania Inc. do solemnly and sincerely declare that the accompanying Statements of Assets and Liabilities (Balance Sheet) and Income and Expenditure as at 30 June 1994 exhibit a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation as at that date and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information therein is correct.

Signed:  
M. Ward,  
PUBLIC OFFICER.



Signed before me at ..... LAUNCESTON.....

on ..... 3RD AUGUST 1994.....

*V. J. Leeson*

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.



REPORT TO MEMBERS

We hereby certify that the accompanying Statement of Income and Expenditure and Statements of Assets and Liabilities (Balance Sheet) of Autism Tasmania Inc. for the year ended 30 June, 1994 shows the true financial position of Autism Tasmania Inc. as at the date and reflects the true results of the financial operations of Autism Tasmania Inc. for that period.

DATED this 1st day of August 1994.

Signed:  
M. Ward,  
PRESIDENT.



Signed:  
R. Ward,  
SECRETARY.



Signed:  
M. Rutledge,  
TREASURER.



**Autism Tasmania Incorporated**  
**Balance Sheet as at 30th June 1994**

**Accumulated Income:**

Balance brought forward 1st July 1993	3,775.87
Profit for year ended 30th June 1994	785.40
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	<u>4,561.27</u>

**Represented by:**

Credit Union Account (51)	3,271.84
Credit Union Account (57)	1,289.43
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	<u>\$ 4,561.27</u>



**AUTISM TASMANIA INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE**  
**1/07/93 TO 30/6/94**

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
Memberships 93/94	1,025.00	Photocopier purchase share	1,000.00
Memberships 94/95	160.00	Auditing	315.00
Projects / Seminars:		Projects / Seminars:	
- V.Bitska	4,240.00	- V.Bitska	7,034.85
- J.Groden	1,025.00	- J.Groden	1,100.50
- T.Attwood	3,270.00	- T.Attwood	2,395.80
Donations:		Stickers	564.95
Laun. Younger Set	2,000.00	T.Attwood notes & tapes	1,215.88
Salvation Army Burnie	300.00	Phone Reimbursments	300.00
Other	202.00	Order Attwood book (60 copies)	531
Govt. Grant	3,119.00	Booklets for Kits (Mansfield)	326.80
Fundraising	114.09	Filing Cabinet	59.00
T.Attwood notes & tapes	940.00	Stationery, Postage & other	1,046.97
Stickers s'ship, Windmill Ed Sup.	200.00	Gov't Charges	41.53
Other	20.00		
Interest	102.71		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,717.80</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,932.40</b>
Account balance (\$1) 30/6/93	2,855.14	Account balance (\$1) 30/6/94	3,344.89
Account balance (\$7) 30/6/93	1,233.68	Account balance (\$7) 30/6/94	1,289.43
Plus Outstanding deposits 30/6/93	340.00	Cash in hand 30/6/94	0.00
Less unrepresented cheques 30/6/93	652.95	Less unrepresented cheques	70.05
	<b>20,493.67</b>		<b>20,493.67</b>

Signed *M. Rutledge*  
M. Rutledge Treasurer





# GLENNON RYAN PTY LTD

ACN 009 532 790

Public Accountants • Registered Tax Agents • Business Consultants

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the financial records and accounts of Autism Tasmania Incorporated, in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards for the period ended 30th June 1994.

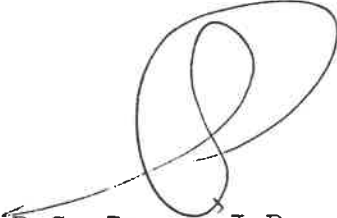
In my opinion:

- a) I have been given all information and explanations required by me.
- b) As shown in the Financial Statements, current assets exceeded its current liabilities by \$4,561.27. In my opinion this factor, along with other matters contained within the Financial Statements, suggests that the Association is in a position to continue as a going concern and be able to meet any of its known financial commitments. The Financial Statements include all necessary adjustments relating to the recoverability and classification of recorded assets amounts or the amounts and classification of liabilities that are required to prove that the Association is able to continue as a going concern.

The Financial Statements are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the financial position of the Association, according to the information at my disposal and the explanations given to me and as shown by the books of the Association; and

- c) The rules relating to the administration of the Association appear to have been observed in most instances, subject to the undermentioned qualifications:-  
That a physical check of the Inventory was not requested or conducted as part of the Audit.

12th August, 1994



P.S. Ryan J.P.  
MAIWO, AFAIM, MNIA.  
Reg. Com. Education Dept. Auditor  
Reg. Assoc. Incorp Act 1964 Auditor.

Ref:Auditrep.Doc





**LISTING OF OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Commencing: 1st Annual Meeting 13th August 1993

Name	Position	Address	Occupation
Mark Jonathan WARD	President	3 Grand View Place, Norwood, 7250	Professional Engineer
Rosemary Jocelyn CLARK	V President	47 Saunders Street, Wynyard, 7325	Teacher
Jenny MITTERBAUER	V President	11 Clare Street, Devonport, 7310	Support Worker
Roslyn Rae WARD	Secretary	3 Grand View Place, Norwood, 7250	Full time mother
Michael John RUTLEDGE	Treasurer	200 Marys Hope Road Rosetta, 7010	Engineering Estimator

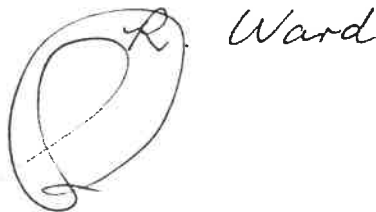
We hereby certify that this list of Office Bearers and Committee of Autism Tasmania Inc. is a true and accurate list of the Office Bearers and Committee members of Autism Tasmania Inc. as at 30 June 1994.

Dated this 1st day of August 1994.

Signed:  
M. Ward,  
PUBLIC OFFICER.



Signed:  
R. Ward,  
SECRETARY.



*Auditor*

9394arpt



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LIST OF MEMBERS

We hereby certify that the accompanying List of Financial Members of Autism Tasmania for the year ended 30 June, 1994 shows the complete list of ~~68~~ financial members of Autism Tasmania Inc. as at the date.

Dated this 1st day of August 1994.

Signed:  
M. Ward,  
PRESIDENT.



Signed:  
R. Ward,  
SECRETARY.



## COMMITTEE REPORT

It has been another extremely busy and productive year for Autism Tasmania which has seen the acknowledgment that people with autism have specific needs that require specialist help. The aims of the association continue to be;

1. to provide information and support to parents and professionals with an interest in autism.
2. to further raise awareness of autism within the community,
3. to achieve an effective assessment and diagnostic process throughout the state
4. to support the establishment of a Giant Steps Therapy and Education Centre as the beginning of autism specific services.

At last years Annual General Meeting, the executive committee was re-elected with the addition of Mrs Jenny Mitterbauer from Burnie as the second Vice-President.

Throughout the year various activities have occurred beginning with National Autism Week in September 1993. The focus of the week was the launch of Autism Tasmania's Parent Information Kit. Mrs Christine Milne, M.H.A., launched the kit at the Botanical Gardens in Hobart and as a mother of two young sons spoke extremely well on the value of such a kit for parents of children newly diagnosed with autism. The launch was well attended by members and friends from all over the state. Initially, twenty information kits were produced and these have been distributed to parents. An additional twenty have been collated, some of which have also been distributed. The kit contains information on autism and on general services available in Tasmania.

During National Autism Week media coverage was obtained of the launch on ABC Radio and newspaper articles featured Elizabeth, Michael and Ryan Rutledge in The Mercury; Sue, Mervyn and Colin Jessup in The Examiner and Jenny, Gus and Robert Mitterbauer in the Advocate. We thank these families for sharing their lives in order to raise awareness of autism.

Car bumper stickers were also produced with support from Windmill Educational Supplies in Launceston. These were distributed to all members and can be seen on vehicles around the state.

In October Dr June Groden, from the Groden Centre, Rhode Island, U.S.A., visited Tasmania and gave a one day presentation at Rutherglen on relaxation techniques and the use of imagery in autism. June spoke of the methods she has developed to assist individuals with autism identify and manage their own stress. Through careful observation of situations and with an understanding of autism, "stressors" in the environment can be identified and managed.

With a grant obtained through the Commonwealth Early Special Education Program 93/94, Ms Vicki Bitsika spent a week Tasmania in November 1993. Vicki is a clinical psychologist from Melbourne with a great deal of experience in autism. Vicki addressed evening seminars attended by both professionals and parents in Hobart, Burnie and Launceston. It was pleasing to see several doctors attend these seminars. She also led

seminars at the Children's Assessment Centres in Hobart and Launceston concentrating on more specific aspects of diagnosis and assessment. In Burnie, Vicki spent time at several schools (Havenview, West Park, Mirrambeena and Early Special Ed.) to assist with planning programs for children with autism. Vicki was also extremely co-operative in speaking with the media and conducted interviews with all major newspapers, a television interview with Southern Cross News and a radio interview with Jan Brown on 7NT. Vicki has returned to the state on several occasions at the request of individual schools and parents, to be of further assistance.

Perhaps the most significant event of the year was the Autism Forum held in Hobart in March. The forum, held over two days, was convened by the Minister for Education and the Arts, John Beswick as a result of the Giant Steps Proposal being submitted to the Minister in July 1993. Upon receipt of the proposal, representatives of the Health and Education Departments evaluated it and while the evaluation did not support the establishment of such a centre, it did recommend that the state could do better in terms of the services that were provided for children with autism. The report suggested that the Minister convene a forum of interested people to discuss ideal service provision. The forum brought together representatives from Education and Health departments, the University and interest groups - Autism Tasmania, Giant Steps, ADDSUP and the Epilepsy Association. The Giant Steps model was to be a focus of the forum. Representatives from mainland associations were also in attendance - Dr Tony Attwood, Ms Val Spence, Ms Verity Botroff and Mr Anthony Warren.

As a result of the forum, which reached a high level of agreement on the principles that should underlie ideal service provision for children with autism, a task force was formed to draw together the conclusions of the forum and to report to the Minister. The task force have met on four occasions and had one tele-conference, the last two meetings being chaired by Ms Ruth Radford, who was also chairperson at the forum. The task force have prepared an interim report for the Minister requesting a commitment for funding for a centre based and outreach service. If this commitment is obtained, further discussions will be held with Ms Darlene Berringer with regard to the possible adoption of the Giant Steps program in the centre. However, there are still many issues to be resolved before this can occur. It is hoped that funding will be allocated in the 94/95 budget to begin establishing autism specific services in February 1995.

While in Tasmania for the forum, Dr Tony Attwood gave a one day seminar in Launceston at The University of Tasmania. Approximately one hundred people took the opportunity to hear Tony speak, many being parents of newly diagnosed children. Tony's presentation was similar to that given in Hobart in 1993, but for those hearing him for the second time, reinforced many points.

Verity Botroff, Senior Lecturer in Special Education at Flinders University, also gave a presentation while in Hobart for the forum. Organised by the University of Tasmania, Special Education Program Unit, Verity gave a presentation on *Recent research in teaching for individuals with autism*. This evening was also well attended.

Throughout the year Autism Tasmania has received invitations to speak to various groups about autism. Michael Rutledge spoke at a regular lunch time meeting of the Royal

College of General Practitioners in the South recently, which was a great opportunity to reach a number of doctors and provide them with information on autism and the role of Autism Tasmania. Feedback indicated that Michael's talk was well received.

On the North West Coast many groups have requested and received a speaker on autism including: The Ace Club in Burnie: The Salvation Army in Burnie: TAFE Disabilities Course in Burnie: Burnie Ladies Probus Club: a group of General Practitioners in Smithton: the Burnie Rotary Club: the Wynyard Rotary Club and in Hobart the Rosetta Rotary club. These groups have been receptive to the presentations which cover general features of autism and information on the Giant Steps program.

Parent support activities are slowly gaining momentum throughout the state and a goal in 1994/95 is to build and develop on what has begun, especially over the last six months. On the coast a growing, enthusiastic group of parents are keen to meet with one another regularly. A positive response to evening outings has been a highlight with twelve parents attending in February and nineteen enjoying a night out in Ulverstone in May. A family afternoon tea held in Devonport in July was also well supported. North West parents are also requesting that bi-monthly meetings be held, perhaps inviting guest speakers.

In Launceston seventeen parents got together in July and spent a very pleasant evening discussing all aspects of life with a child with autism. For some it was the first opportunity to meet with other parents and the evening raised many issues which are important. It was a positive starting point for parent support in the north and the group agreed to meet bi-monthly with the next get together to be held during National Autism Week.

In Hobart a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by a small group who attended an evening out at The Cafe on Newdegate in North Hobart earlier this year. The combination of parents, grandparents and professionals provided different perspectives and this in turn led to some very interesting conversation. Autism Tasmania will be working to develop support activities in the south during 1994/95.

Over the last twelve months we have seen the organisation gradually become more regionalised (a fact of life in Tasmania!), coming together for major events such as Tony Attwood's seminar. Fundraising has been particularly difficult on a statewide basis and it is envisaged that as strong groups are developed in each region fundraising will become more localised. While many people shudder at the thought of yet another raffle etc. fundraising has a two fold purpose in that not only does it raise valuable funds it is also a public relations exercise. The Launceston Younger Set have spent the past twelve months raising money for Autism Tasmania and recently presented a generous cheque of \$2,000 to the association. This money will be used mainly to develop a library of resources on autism in each region and to continue producing the parent information kits.

1994/95 looks as though it will be an exciting year. Autism Tasmania was awarded a grant for \$5,000 under the National Equity Program for Schools (NEPS) which will be supplemented with an additional \$5,000 from the Department of Education and the Arts to further the work in assessment and diagnosis of autism. At the end of October a team of professionals from Melbourne will be in Tasmania to particularly work with those

professionals involved in assessment procedures. Planning also includes time with teachers who currently have children with autism in their classes.

We were also recently informed that a submission under the Commonwealth Respite for Carers Program was successful. A grant of \$8,480 has been made to Autism Tasmania to conduct a Carers Workshop. The aim of the workshop is to provide a service where carers (predominantly parents in Tasmania) can gather with other carers for a single day workshop twice a year while the person/child with autism is looked after by a respite worker. The workshop will provide peer support and will be based in a central location so as to allow access to all. Details of the first of these workshops, hopefully to be held at the end of National Autism Week, are currently being finalised and information will be distributed as soon as possible.

National Autism Week 1994 is to be held from the 11th -18th September. Negotiations are currently under way to have an announcement about autism on both commercial television stations throughout the week. Both stations will assist in producing the "commercial" and on Tas TV, Ray Martin has kindly agreed to do a "voice over".

The committee of Autism Tasmania - Mark Ward, Rose Clark, Jenny Mitterbauer, Ros Ward and Michael Rutledge have met regularly every six weeks or so in Launceston with communication happening in between on the telephone. Again we thank those many people and organisations that have supported us. We looking forward to another interesting and stimulating year with an expanded committee.

Mark Ward  
PRESIDENT



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## CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

At the 1993 AGM there was a discussion to amend the constitution to allow for an increased number of participants on the committee. The resolution from the AGM was that the committee should discuss the issue and propose amendments to be considered and the 1994 AGM. The committee presently consists of the officers of the association and these are a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer and no additional committee members. During the year the committee discussed the issue and recommended increasing the numbers by three to give a total of eight.

In relation to the officers of the association the committee suggested that the three regions should be represented by the President and two Vice Presidents. In relation to the committee as a whole it was suggested that the committee of eight should comprise at least two members from each region. It was suggested that a committee meeting quorum should be increased to five.

The present constitution **Section 23 - Constitution of the Committee** and **Section 26 - Meetings of the Committee** are appropriate to this discussion.

### **Present Situation:**

- 23.- (1) *The committee shall consist of-*  
(a) *the officers of the Association; and*  
(b) *no other members,*  
*all of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Association in each year.*
- 26.- (4) *Any four members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the committee.*

### **Recommendation:**

- 23.- (1) *The committee shall consist of-*  
(a) *the officers of the Association; and*  
(b) *three other members,*  
*with atleast two committee members from each of the three regions of Tasmania all of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Association in each year.*
- 26.- (4) *Any five members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the committee.*

### **Motion:**

" That the Constitution be amended as shown above. "

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

President	Mark Ward
Vice President	Rose Clark
Vice President	<i>Elizabeth Rutledge</i>
Secretary	Ros Ward
Treasurer	Michael Rutledge
Committee	1. Elizabeth Marshall
	2.
	3.

# AUTISM TASMANIA

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## Minutes/Action List

minagml.wpf

Annual General Meeting, Saturday 14th August, 1993,  
Frederick Street Kindergarten, Frederick Street  
Launceston, 11am.

### 1. Present:

Mark Ward (Chairman), Ros Ward (Secretary), Rose Clark (Vice President), Michael Rutledge (Treasurer), Elizabeth Rutledge, Mick Clark, Wendy Webster, Ruth Armstrong, Rachel Evans, Trish Bourke, Deidre Triffitt, Kim Triffitt, Jenny Mitterbauer, Sue Jessup, Sophie Vandenberg, Penny Cromarty, Bill Cromarty, Anne Briggs.

### 2. Apologies:

Di Hollier, Carolyn Rennie, Sue Richers, David & Carol Ollington, Anne Ellings, Alison Faber, Ray & Jo Jones, Gail Davis, Christina Murphy, Anne Osborne, Mr & Mrs Rutledge, Margaret Dixon, Rachel Roper.

### 3. Correspondence:

Verbal thank you to mark from Anne Ellings in appreciation of work being done by the association. Elizabeth reported that Pat Turner at CATs is receiving referrals for Aspergers Syndrome.

### 4. Minutes:

Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting not available as this is first annual general meeting.

### 5. Annual Report:

Annual report was read by Rose, Mark asked for a motion to adopt the annual report. Moved Mick Clark, seconded Jenny Mitterbauer. Carried. -

### 6. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report was read by Michael Rutledge. Mark asked for a motion to accept Treasurer's report. Elizabeth moved that it be adopted, seconded Deidre.

### 7. Election of Office Bearers:

7.1 President: Kim Triffitt nominated Mark Ward, seconded Rose Clark. No other nominations. Mark accepted the nomination. Carried.

7.2 Vice President: Trish nominated Rose Clark, seconded Penny Cromarty. No other nominations. Rose accepted the nomination. Carried.

7.3 Vice President: Penny nominated Jenny Mitterbauer, seconded Deidre, no other nominations. Jenny accepted the nomination. Carried.

7.4 Secretary: Deidre nominated Ros Ward, seconded Trish. No other nominations. Ros accepted the nomination. Carried.

- 7.5 Treasurer: Rose nominated Michael Rutledge, seconded Deidre. No other nominations. Michael accepted the nomination. Carried.

A general discussion followed on various aspects of the association and the direction it should take over the next twelve months.

- a. Members generally felt the size of the committee should be enlarged. Mark pointed out that in the model rules the size of the committee is stated at 5. Discussion centred on committee size and possible positions that could be established eg, assistant secretary and treasurer. Mark outlined details of constitution, processes involved to alter committee size. In the interim, members to be co-opted for special projects. Was generally felt we need equal representation from each region.
- b. Felt we should continue to target health and education professionals particularly, doctors, child health sisters, teachers. With increased awareness situation will improve. Suggestions on how to achieve this include sending information package to doctors, copy of "What is autism" to go to each surgery, bringing back Tony Attwood to work with smaller groups on assessment and diagnosis.
- c. Use National Autism Week to saturate media and raise community awareness of autism. Television commercial, community announcements, newspaper focus etc. It was generally felt we need to show that autism is a disability and needs to be taken seriously and treated as any other disability.
- d. Assessment and diagnosis is also of major importance - Mark reported on submission to NEPS for 1994, to aim at improving diagnostic skills amongst professionals in Tasmania.

9. Special Business:

- 9.1 Michael Rutledge reported that the auditing account is \$415.00 - \$315.00 if paid promptly. Michael moved that we pay the account and appoint Glennon Ryan as auditor for period 93/94, seconded Anne Briggs, Carried.

- 9.2 Patron - a discussion followed on the choice of a patron. As yet no decision has been made.

10. Close:

Meeting closed at 1.05pm

Next Autism Tasmania committee meeting to be arranged.