



AUTISM TASMANIA Inc.

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

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Launceston,
Tasmania, 7250.

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ANNUAL REPORT

and

ANNUAL MEETING 1996/'97

5th Annual Report

16th August 1997

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AGENDA

5th. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
Saturday 16th August 1997,
Timsbury Road School, Timsbury Road, Glenorchy

1. **Opening.**
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. **Annual Report.**
 - 5.1 Summary of the Annual Report.
 - 5.2 Motion for adoption of the Annual Report.
6. **Treasurer's Report.**
 - 6.1 Statement and Balance Sheet.
 - 6.2 Motion for adoption of the Treasurer's Report.
7. **Election of Office Bearers.**
 - 7.1 Nominations.
 - President.
 - Vice President (2 Positions).
 - Secretary.
 - Treasurer.
 - Committee persons (5 Positions).
 - 7.2 Vote of thanks to outgoing executive.
8. **Appointment of an Auditor.**
 - 8.1 Nominations / recommendations.
 - 8.2 Motion to appoint the Auditor.
9. **General Business.**
 - 9.1 First Committee meeting
 - 9.2 Other Business
10. **Close.**

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, 1997 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 29th day of July 1997.

Signed: *R. Clark*
R. Clark,
PRESIDENT.

Signed: *M. Ward*
M. Ward,
SECRETARY

Signed:
TREASURER.

LIST OF MEMBERS

We hereby certify that the accompanying List of Financial Members of Autism Tasmania for the year ended 30 June, 1997 shows the complete list of 105 financial members of Autism Tasmania Inc. as at the date.

Dated this 29th day of July 1997.

Signed: *R. Clark*
R. Clark,
PRESIDENT.

Signed: *M. Ward*
M. Ward,
SECRETARY.

LISTING OF OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Name	Position	Address	Occupation
From 4th Annual Meeting 17th August 1996			
Rosemary Jocelyn CLARK	President	4 Hiller St, Devonport, 7310	Teacher
Jenny Lynn VINCE	V President	162 Goulbourn St, Hobart, 7000	Teacher
Rachel Louise EVANS	V President	C/- PO Box 28, Wendouree, 3355	Speech and Language Pathologist
Mark Jonathan WARD	Secretary	3 Grand View Pl, Norwood, 7250	Professional Engineer
Michael Alexander WALLEY (Resigned 1st February 1997)	Treasurer	127 Blackstone Rd, Prospect, 7250	Teacher
Rosanne Louise LAY	Committee	54 Waverley St, Bellerive, 7018	Teacher
Julie Anne CHAMBERLAIN	Committee	41 Corinna St, Lindisfarne, 7015	Mother
(Co-opted 31st May 1997)			
Lisa Louise MINCHIN	Committee	4 Lasswade Ave, Sandy Bay, 7005	Mother

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 1997.

Dated this 29th day of July 1997.

Signed:
M. Ward,
PUBLIC OFFICER.



Signed:
R. Clark,
PRESIDENT



JAMES S. GIBSON

6/8/97

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

5th AGM.

Since its inception in 1992, Autism Tasmania has operated as a purely voluntary organisation. We receive no direct funding to operate premises or to employ staff. As our membership expands and the demand for our services grows, this need becomes more urgent. Currently we are working towards this end by lobbying local politicians and have at this time, one Federal member working on our behalf.

The past year has been a busy one. We have had a reduced Committee with resignations due to family commitments and people moving because of work changes.

Unusually, we have had two National Autism Weeks; the first being September 8-15 1996. This week was filled with media coverage, newspaper articles and interviews on two radio stations. We also incorporated two family outings and a button day. A wonderful thankyou to all those people who braved the cold weather.

We also ran a poster competition within some tertiary institutions. The winning design was chosen by a young adult with autism and will be adopted and used by our association in the future.

The National Association met in Canberra in September and changed National Autism Awareness Week from September to May. With this second opportunity, our Committee created a varied program of activities, culminating in a seminar in Hobart, entitled "Autism From A Personal Perspective", featuring guest speakers from South Australia. Mark page and Margaret Kyrkou both spoke about their experiences; Mark about his life with autism and Margaret as the mother of a daughter with autism and epilepsy.

In November 1996, we hosted a seminar with three guest speakers. Dr Jenny Curran, a clinical psychiatrist from Melbourne spoke about dealing with difficult behaviours. Ms Wendy Lawson, the mother of a teenager with Asperger Syndrome, as well as having this diagnosis herself, spoke from the heart about her personal experiences, as did Mr Lindsay Weekes, another adult with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The feedback from this seminar was very positive. Both seminars were run with grants from the Commonwealth Respite for Carers Program. Many parents attended, taking the opportunity to use carers to look after their children.

The seminars put the spotlight on another area of continuing interest and concern – assessment, diagnosis and the services available for children adolescents and adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Our Committee continues to work at making all professionals aware of Autism Spectrum Disorder and the importance of early diagnosis. This is especially important with regard to accessing early intervention services.

Tasmania has only one specific program for children with autism. The Giant Steps Tasmania Educational and Therapeutic Centre operates in Deloraine. The program's main aim is inclusion into mainstream school; this is done gradually with full-time support from

the child's therapy assistant, consultation with the family and thorough preparation and support from the host school.

Autism Tasmania has two nominee directors on the Board of Giant Steps Tasmania, in keeping with the State Government's initial requirement of the company formed to provide autism services to students in Tasmania. As a result of various personal circumstances, these nominees have changed twice in eighteen months. This has led to the Committee recommending changes to the Giant Steps Tasmania Articles of Association, so that in future the nominee directors do not have to be members of the Committee but can simply be members of Autism Tasmania Inc. or its successors. This gives a greater range of people less onerous commitments and a better level of continuity for both organisations. We expect the members of Giant Steps Tasmania to vote on these recommendations at a forthcoming special general meeting.

Special schools, early intervention centres and regular schools all cater for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder as much as they are able within the limits of their resources. This situation has been aided greatly by the involvement of the Autism Consultant who works within the regular school system. Unfortunately, at this time a single position services the entire State.

In late January, Dr Sue Bettison visited Tasmania for ten days to run Auditory Integration Training for seven families. For all who participated it was a very worthwhile experience.

In the south of the State, particularly, a very active group of parents are involved in Applied Behaviour Analysis with their children. This group meets regularly, contributes to the newsletter and has recently organised a seminar in Hobart with a specialist guest speaker from Western Australia.

In the area of fundraising, we have run several successful activities and are currently planning our strategies for the coming year. We continue to rely heavily on our parent base and volunteer support.

We provide support and information for both parents and professionals and appreciate the involvement of health and education specialists with Autism Tasmania.

Dr Alfhild Larson, Paediatric Medical Director of Rehabilitation Tasmania, has continued as Tasmania's representative on the Professional Advisory Committee to the National Association for Autism.

Providing direct parental and family support through our parent network, raising awareness, informing and educating parents and professionals must remain a fundamental part of Autism Tasmania's role.

In February, three members of the Committee attended the Biennial National Conference in Leura and the National Association Meeting. The great news for Tasmania is that we were successful in our bid to host the next biennial national conference, in 1999. This was the culmination of considerable research and hard work by many people.

We have a wonderful opportunity in 1999 to showcase our part in the national scene of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The work will continue with Conference Design, who have been engaged to make this a memorable function and milestone in the progress of autism support in Tasmania.

In closing, I want to thank all members of the Committee, who have worked tirelessly but with tremendous purpose, while reduced in numbers, to provide the same excellent level of service to those in the community who call upon it.

Our aim is to work towards recognition of Autism Spectrum Disorder and the recognition of the support needs of people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Rose Clark
President

13th August 1997

AUTISM TASMANIA INCORPORATED
AUDITOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1997

I have examined the Financial and other records of Autism Tasmania Incorporated for the year ended 30th June 1997.


Included in income are proceeds from fundraising activities. It was not practicable for me to extend my Audit procedures to verify these amounts beyond an examination of the initial receipting and banking records.

Subject to the foregoing:-

I have obtained the information required by me and my audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

The attached statement, in my opinion, represents a true and fair view of the state of the organisation as at 30th June 1997 and of the results for the year ended on that date, according to the information at my disposal and the explanations given to me, and as shown by the books of the organisation.

The rules relating to the administration of the organisation appear to have been observed in most instances, subject to the undermentioned qualification - that a physical check of the inventory was not requested or conducted as part of the audit.


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JAMES S GIBSON - F.N.I.A.

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AUTISM TASMANIA INCORPORATED
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 1997

Accumulated Income:

Balance Brought forward 1st July, 1996	9219.67
Plus Net Surplus for year	<u>8118.90</u>
	<u>\$17338.57</u>

Represented by:

Island State credit Union S1	(2.11)
Island State Credit Union S12	<u>17340.68</u>
	<u>\$17338.57</u>

AUTISM TASMANIA INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 1997

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Memberships 96/97	1240.00	Auditing	280.00
Memberships 97/98	170.00	Fundraising	
Fundraising		Raffles	402.00
Raffles	1099.20	Sock Drive	1430.90
Sock Drive	1587.45	Button Day Badges Etc.	1944.00
Button Day Sept. 96	2200.60		
Button Day May 97	1398.45	Dominant	117.40
Dominant	174.02		
Government Grants		Seminar Expenses	12361.91
C'wealth Respite for Carers 1996/97	4304.00	Photocopier Expenses	378.00
C'wealth Respite for Carers 1996/97	3216.00	Government Charges	82.50
Seminar Registrations	3200.00	Telephone Post &	
Donations		Stationery	1758.06
International Music Society	1000.00	Autism Day Expenses	349.90
A.G. & D.S. Downie (Library)	150.00	Forum Expenses	347.50
Pelverata Fund Raisers	100.00	Subscriptions	149.74
Sundry Donations	432.70	National Conference Deposit	500.00
Sale of Share in Photocopier	700.00	Sundry Expenses	212.40
Interest	806.09	Library Books	778.15
Donations for Office		Library Expenses	67.15
The Sydney Myer Foundation	2000.00	Net Surplus for Year	<u>8118.90</u>
The Ian Potter Foundation	2000.00		
Sunshine Foundation	<u>3500.00</u>		
	<u>\$29278.51</u>		<u>\$29278.51</u>

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

No.	Position	Nomination
1.	President	Rose Clark NW
2.	Vice President	Jenny Vince S
3.	Vice President	
4.	Secretary	Mark Ward SN
5.	Treasurer	Rosanne Lay S
6.	Committee	A. Lisa Minchin S
7.	Committee	B. Liz Maddern NW
8.	Committee	C.
9.	Committee	D.
10.	Committee	E.

2 South
2 North
2 NW.