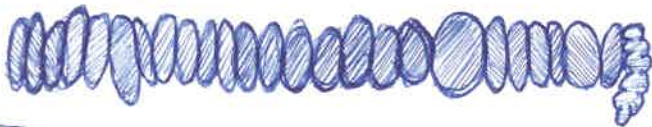




AUTISM TASMANIA Inc.

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



6th Annual Report

and

1997/98 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 15th August 1998



Agenda

6th Annual General Meeting

Saturday 16 August 1998
Kings Meadows Community Health Centre, Launceston

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Guest Speaker – Kathy Gill, Autism Consultant, DETCCD**
- 4. Correspondence**
 - 4.1 Inwards
 - 4.2 Outwards
- 5. Minutes**
 - 5.1 Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
 - 5.2 Motion for adoption of Minutes
- 6. Annual Report**
 - 6.1 Summary of Annual report
 - 6.2 Motion for adoption of Annual Report
- 7. Treasurer's Report**
 - 7.1 Income & Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet
 - 7.2 Motion for adoption of Treasurer's Report
- 8. Election of Office Bearers**
 - 8.1 President
 - 8.2 Vice Presidents (2 positions)
 - 8.3 Secretary
 - 8.4 Treasurer
 - 8.5 Committee persons (5 positions)
 - 8.6 Vote of thanks to the outgoing Committee
 - 8.7 First Committee meeting date
- 9. Appointment of Auditor**
 - 9.1 Nominations/recommendations
 - 9.2 Motion to appoint the Auditor
- 10. Close**

Please join us for lunch after the meeting and an informal chat about matters of interest, future activities and the direction of Autism Tasmania.

Report to Members

We hereby certify that the accompanying Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenditure of Autism Tasmania Inc. for the year ended 30 June 1998 shows the true financial position and reflects the true results of the financial operations of Autism Tasmania Inc. for that period.

Dated this 13th day of August 1998.

Signed:
R. Clark *R. Clark*
President

Signed: *R. Lay*
R. Lay
Treasurer

List of Members

We hereby certify that the accompanying List of Financial Members of Autism Tasmania Inc. for the year ended 30 June 1998 shows the complete list of 91 financial members of Autism Tasmania as at that date.



Dated this 13th day of August 1998

Signed:
R. Clark *R. Clark*
President

Signed: *R. Lay*
R. Lay
Public Officer

Listing of Office Bearers & Committee Members

From 5th Annual General Meeting – 16 August

Name	Position	Address	Occupation
Rosemary Jocelyn CLARK	President	4 Hiller Street Devonport 7310	Teacher
Jenny Lynn VINCE	Vice President	162 Goulbourn Street Hobart 7000	Teacher
Mark Jonathon WARD (resigned 20 May 1998)	Secretary	3 Grand View Place Norwood 7250	Professional Engineer
Rosanne Louise LAY	Treasurer	54 Waverley Street Bellerive 7018	Teacher
Lisa Louise MINCHIN	Committee	4 Lassawade Avenue Sandy Bay 7005	Mother
Lis MADDERN	Committee		Teacher
Julie FYFE	Committee	136 Emu Bay Road Deloraine 7304	Mother
(casual vacancy 14 May '98) Kathy GILL	Committee		Autism Consultant
(casual vacancy 20 June '98) Rachel Louise EVANS	Committee	120 Joyce Street Hawley Beach 7307	Speech & Language Pathologist

We hereby certify that this list of Office Bearers and Committee Members of Autism Tasmania Inc. is a true and accurate list of the Office Bearers and Committee Members of Autism Tasmania Inc. as at the 30 June 1998.

Dated this 13th day of August 1998

Signed:
R. Lay
Public Officer

R. Lay

Signed:
R. Clark
President

R. Clark

President's Report

What struck me as I started to write this report and reflect on the year that has passed, was the dramatic increase in inquiries from parents of newly diagnosed children. This increase is not an accident nor is it an overnight phenomenon. In large measure it is due to the voluntary efforts of Autism Tasmania members over the last five years in raising awareness and educating parents, professionals and the community about Autism Spectrum Disorder.

It also marks an important shift in the needs of members and prospective members. Providing direct parental and family support, raising awareness, informing and educating will always remain a fundamental part of Autism Tasmania's role. However, I believe that we are at a time in our development as an organisation when we have to take stock of the contemporary needs of the autism community that we serve.

Service and support groups meeting specific aspects of Autism Spectrum Disorder have grown steadily, though their existence is often fragile. Giant Steps is well into its third year of operation, Young Autism Support is building a network of ABA families in the north and south and Asperger Support Groups are underway in Hobart and Launceston, all providing a specific focus for many people. It is easy to forget that three years ago none of these services existed.

We have achieved things in the last twelve months that we can be proud of!

- National Autism Awareness Week was a success, with good media coverage across the State and a number of new families at the events. Special thanks to Lisa and David Minchin who developed the new public services announcement, on behalf of the Committee, which was shown statewide – the feedback has been excellent.
- The high standard of seminars and workshops was maintained with both Dr Tony Attwood and Louise Ulliana presenting wonderful, well attended sessions on, respectively, Asperger's Syndrome and Visual Communication.
- The revised Parent Information Kit is in its final stages before printing. This folder is an invaluable source of information, especially to parents of newly diagnosed children. It contains easy to follow, colour-coded sections that include helpful hints, early intervention and child services, sibling rights and needs and family stories.
- Organisation for next year's national conference in Hobart is well underway, with Conference Design engaged to help us organise the two-day event. One keynote speaker has been secured and negotiations are continuing with several others. The theme and logo are being refined. The call for papers, nationally and internationally, will go out in November.

The current Committee has several new members; some elected for the first time at our last AGM, others filling casual vacancies until they face election this year. Two very experienced and long-standing members of the Committee are moving on; Jenny Vince will not be restanding for election after leaving the Autism Consultant role at the end of 1997 to become Principal of Maydena Primary School. Mark Ward resigned as Secretary in May after a continuous association with Autism Tasmania since inception. Both of them have made a significant contribution to Autism Tasmania and deserve our thanks.

We remain, after all, a voluntary organisation – we all have families, jobs, mostly children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and a need to retain some balance in our lives. At the same time as demands for information, support and services are increasing, it remains a struggle to ensure representation on the Committee and a sharing of the workload. These issues are not new but they provide a stark reminder that we are an interdependent group – providing opportunities for people to have their say and become involved is half the task; people responding and actually helping share the load, even in a small way, is the other half.

In many senses, Autism Tasmania is at the crossroads. We have built a foundation and developed some simple support networks and become a recognised source of good, accurate information and help. We now have several more complex questions facing us.

- How do we meet the needs of the many families with newly diagnosed children who are looking for help with the next steps of their autism journey?
- How do we reinforce our commonality of interest across the specific service and support groups as members of the same autism community in a very small State?
- How do we help those families whose children are approaching adolescence?

The questions and issues facing us don't stop there. The appropriateness of our logo will certainly arise, given that it is being considered by the National Autism Association. The need for and ability to fund a "shop front" remains an issue. In August 1996, a small but enthusiastic group spent one sunny Saturday assessing the outcomes of a survey of Autism Tasmania members to identify and develop the themes and issues facing us over the next few years. Many of the outcomes identified remain relevant and provide a roadmap for planning our progress over the next twelve months.

The process has started. Discussions have been held with YAST (Young Autism Support Tasmania) and more recently, with the Chairman of Giant Steps Tasmania. These talks, small steps though they are, will lead to a joint meeting in the very near future to discuss the coming year and the seminars, workshops and functions we hope to present. Your Committee recently decided to open their meeting to all members, to encourage interest and dispel any myths of secrecy. We meet regularly in Hobart and Launceston, so contact one of the Committee through their number in the newsletter and make the effort to come along.

Our hosting of the 1999 Biennial National Autism Conference, next August, in Hobart is a landmark event. While it is simply one event in our already crowded calendars, I believe it

serves a purpose far beyond bringing specialist expertise and knowledge to Tasmania or providing a forum for learning and exchange. It can be a focal point for demonstrating to other States and the international community how a small, regionalised State at the bottom of the world can bring together differing views, perspectives and elements to build a true community of interest, support and services for Autism Spectrum Disorder.

I believe that we can achieve this but only if we work together and each makes a contribution. Out of it will evolve a clearer role and purpose for Autism Tasmania.

The year has been a challenging one; the work at times tedious and thankless. To Committee members and other members of Autism Tasmania who have helped with activities, thank you for all that you have done. The results have been worth it.



Rose Clark
President

AUTISM TASMANIA INCORPORATED
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 1998

Accumulated Income:

Balance Brought forward 1st July, 1998	17338.57
Plus Net Surplus for year	<u>4542.50</u>
	<u>\$21881.07</u>

Represented by:

Island State Credit Union S12	<u>\$21881.07</u>
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AUTISM TASMANIA INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 1998

INCOME

Memberships 97/98	1520.00
Memberships 98/99	140.00
Fundraising	
Fudge	1169.00
Button Day	575.05
Bulbs	37.65
Government Grants	
C'wealth Respite for Carers	4381.00
C'wealth Respite for Carers	4539.00
Seminar Registrations	10455.00
Seminar Registrations	3381.00
Donations (Sundry)	870.00
Sale of Books	12.00
Interest	521.96

\$27601.66

EXPENDITURE

Auditing	280.00
Fundraising	
Fudge	725.90
Seminar Expenses	15203.47
Photocopy Expenses	90.00
Government Charges	72.12
Telephone, Postate &	
Stationery	1114.07
Subscriptions	38.11
National Conference	
Expenses	98.00
Library Books	1228.14
Public Liability Insurance	940.00
Donation to Giant Steps	3000.00
Secretarial Levy	200.00
Advertising	42.50
Sundry	26.85
Net Surplus	<u>4542.50</u>

\$27601.66

AUTISM TASMANIA INCORPORATED
AUDITOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1998

I have examined the Financial and other records of Autism Tasmania Incorporated for the year ended 30th June 1998.

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 1998 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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