



AUTISM TASMANIA Inc.

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

8th Annual Report
and
1999/00 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 9th September 2000

Agenda

8th Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 9 September 2000
Hobart Vista Hotel,
156 Bathurst Street, Hobart

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes**
 - 3.1 Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
 - 3.2 Motion for adoption of Minutes
- 4. Special Business**
 - 4.1 Discussion of Logo
 - 4.2 Recommendation to alter Clause 29.3 of the Constitution
- 5. President's Report**
 - 5.1 Summary of President's Report
 - 5.2 Motion for adoption of President's Report
- 6. Treasurer's Report**
 - 6.1 Audited Income & Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet
 - 6.2 Motion for adoption of Treasurer's Report
- 7. Election of Office Bearers**
 - 7.1 President
 - 7.2 Vice Presidents (2 positions)
 - 7.3 Secretary
 - 7.4 Treasurer
 - 7.5 Committee persons (5 positions)
 - 7.6 Vote of thanks to the outgoing Committee
 - 7.7 First Committee meeting date
- 8. Appointment of Auditor**
 - 8.1 Nominations/recommendations
 - 8.2 Motion to appoint the Auditor
- 9. Close**

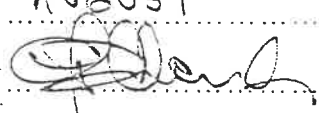
Please join us for lunch after the meeting and an informal chat about matters of interest, future activities and the direction of Autism Tasmania.

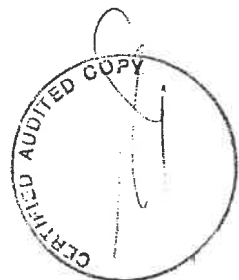
Public Officer's Report

I, Eileen Prunster 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 2000, 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:
E.Prunster.
Public Officer

Eileen Prunster

Signed before me at DEVONPORT
on 17 AUGUST 2000

Justice of the Peace



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 2000 shows the true financial position and reflects the true results of the financial operations of Autism Tasmania Inc. for that period.

Dated this 12th day of August 2000.

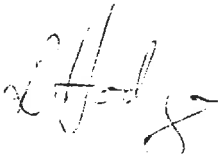
Signed:
R. Clark
President



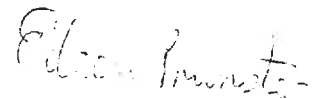
Signed:
A. Bishop
A/Treasurer



Signed:
R. Hodge
Secretary



Signed:
E. Prunster
Public Officer



AUTISM TASMANIA INCORPORATED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2000

Accumulated Income

Balance brought forward 1 st July, 1999	58787.96
Loss for Year	20723.06
	<u>38064.90</u>

Represented By:

Island State Credit Union S12	35630.98
Add receipts not banked	(+) 2670.00
Less unrepresented cheques	(-) 236.00
	<u>38064.98</u>



AUTISM TASMANIA INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 2000

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Membership 99/00	2460.00	Auditing	255.00
Fundraising	61.00	Seminar Expenses	
<u>Government Grants</u>		(Bettison)	531.85
Commonwealth Respite for Carers	754.00	(4/12/00)	993.70
Commonwealth Respite for Carers	3018.00	(Grandin)	3884.46
Commonwealth Respite for Carers	4663.00	(Com.Behv.)	1846.00
Seminar Registrations (Grandin)	962.50	Conference	33227.12
Seminar Registrations (4/12/99)	410.00	Gov. Charges	41.70
Seminar Registrations (Com/Behav)	360.00	Telephone/Postage	1897.88
Professional Training	3150.00	Books/Video	212.30
Autism Week	1218.00	Advertising	263.35
Donations	6199.00	Public Liability Insurance	1295.00
Sundries (Insurance Reimbursement)	76.25	Room hire for meetings	326.50
Sale of Books/Cards	63.00	Sundries (gifts, repairs)	152.00
Interest	1374.83	Parent Info. Kit (Typing)	300.00
		Autism Council of Australia	194.00
		(annual subscription)	
		Autism Research Institute	71.78
		Loss	(-) 20723.06
	<u>24769.58</u>		<u>24769.58</u>

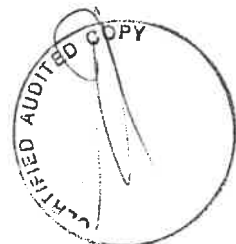


AUTISM TASMANIA INCORPORATED

BANK RECONCILIATION

1999/2000

Receipts		\$24,769.58
Payments		\$45,492.64
	(-)	<u>\$20,723.06</u>
Balance as at 30 th June, 1999		\$58,787.96
		<u>\$38,064.90</u>
Balance (as per Bank Statement 30 th June, 2000)		\$35,630.98
Add Receipts not yet banked	(+)	\$ 2670.00
Less outstanding cheques: 210992		\$ 102.00
211000		\$ 10.00
827269		\$ 124.00
		<u>\$38,064.98</u>



AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the financial records and accounts of Autism Tasmania Incorporated, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards for the period ended 30th June 2000.

In my opinion:

- a) I have been given all information and explanations required by me.

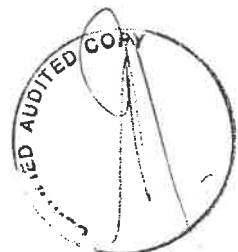
- b) As shown in the Financial Statements, current assets exceeded its current liabilities by \$38,064.98. In my opinion this factor, along with other matters contained within the Financial Statements, suggests that Association is in a position to continue as a going concern and be able to meet any of 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:-
 - 1. That a physical check of the Inventory was not requested; therefore not performed.

5th September, 2000

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



Listing of Office Bearers & Committee Members

Name	Position	Address	Occupation
Rosemary Jocelyn CLARK	President	4 Hiller Street Devonport 7310	Teacher
Kathy Dawn GILL	Vice President	35 Mellafont Street West Hobart 7000	Autism Consultant
Rachel HODGE	Secretary	5 Corinea Court Hadspen 7250	Teacher
Rosanne Louise LAY	Committee	54 Waverley Street Bellerive 7018	Teacher
Cheryl SCOTT	Committee	25 Essendon Street Launceston 7250	Speech & Language Pathologist
Amelia BISHOP	Committee	8/213 Tolosa Street Glenorchy 7010	Masters Student
Eileen PRUNSTER	Committee	27 Jackson Street Wynyard 7325	Mother/Student

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 2000.

Dated this 12th day of August 2000.

Signed:

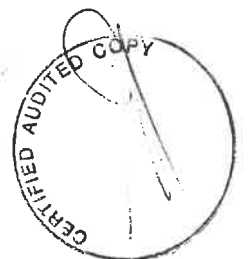
Signed:

Eileen Prunster
Public Officer

Eileen Prunster

Rose Clark
President

Rose Clark



List of Members

We hereby certify that the List of Financial Members of Autism Tasmania Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2000 shows the complete list of financial members of Autism Tasmania Inc. as at that date.

Dated this 12th day of August 2000.

Signed: *R. J. Clark*
R. Clark
President

Signed:
R. Hodge
Secretary

President's Report

Rewards and Challenges: Inclusion in Practice is the title of the final document just released by the Education Department after almost 18 months of investigation. Rewards and Challenges could also be the title of the past 12 months for Autism Tasmania.

Our last AGM came after the very successful National Conference and I believe, made those within the education sector, in particular, take note of just how important Autism Spectrum Disorder is and will continue to be in our State, particularly in the provision of services to our young people.

In November '99 the Autism Forum took place in Launceston. There were 19 presentations from both parents and professionals working in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The focus was Autism and disappointingly, the outcomes of the day have not reached fruition. Although a majority of presenters made very positive comments about the Autism Consultants role, everybody acknowledged the very real difficulty of one person being able to service the entire state. The realistic solution would be to have a consultant in each region. Unfortunately this has not occurred and the role of the current consultant Kathy Gill has been very significantly altered. This means that no individual consultations will occur to allow for an increase in the level of Professional Development particularly in regard to District Support Services.

Autism Tasmania has written to the Education Department expressing our concern and seeking clarification regarding the needs of the children, families and schools and how these needs are to be met. The reply from Kate Shipway, Director Equity Standards did not directly address our concerns but made the point that "recommendations and implementation plans (from the Inclusion Review) will be finalised soon and clarification of these roles will begin as soon as possible."

As mentioned, we have been involved over the past 18 months with the Inclusion in Practice Review as part of the Reference Group. Autism Spectrum Disorder was well represented with 2 delegates from Autism Tasmania and 2 from the YAST group. The impact of Autism Spectrum Disorder experienced by all parties involved in the inclusion process - children, parents, teachers and teacher-aides - was well documented by all those with an interest in this area. Working together with YAST meant a very positive outcome for Autism, evident in the release of the final document which makes direct reference to Autism Spectrum Disorder in two of the recommendations. All parents with children involved in regular or special school settings should take time to read the recommendations made. Another positive outcome from this process is that university students will have Autism Spectrum Disorder included in their studies, with the hope that this will have a positive impact on the education system in 4/5 years time.

Our partnership with Giant Steps continues as a very positive and reciprocal one. The Centre celebrated its 5th birthday this year in a much more secure position than it was last year and a very strong sense that its future is assured. With registration extended to cover secondary students, many of the children can continue on at the Centre well into their teenage years. Giant Steps is currently considering the specific needs of adolescent students to extend its programs, as well as looking at post-school options. Each of the older group of students is involved in inclusion in regular schools as well as activities at the Centre. The Centre also recognises a need for more effective early intervention and flexibility in how these services can best be provided. The recently launched consultancy service provides therapists, on a fee basis, to help parents and teachers with specific programs or problems. Giant Steps is also looking more flexible enrolment options.

Regular, ongoing contact between YAST and Autism Tasmania has continued during the last year. This can only be seen as a positive step forward in our endeavours to educate people regarding Autism Spectrum Disorder. Both groups being involved in the Autism Forum and the Inclusion Review has meant constant contact with each other, ensuring that all areas of the disorder were covered in our written submissions. YAST also has a representative on our current committee and have done so for the past 4 years. We look forward to this relationship continuing.

The services we provide to our parent members are of great importance when planning activities for our calendar. However, despite taking into account comments from past seminars (what would you like to see presented?) attendance at seminars presented this year has not been as strong as previous years. The attendance by professionals however has been excellent. The current newsletter asks all members to comment on this and let the committee know. As one parent commented "maybe night-time presentations would be better as they don't interfere with precious family time at weekends." This is an area we may need to explore in 2001.

Historically, parent support is an area where there have been mixed views. Do parents want to get together on a regular basis or do they have enough support elsewhere? Regional functions have been successful in the past and need to be investigated again as there are many new parents joining who need support and information. Recently a new support group was established on the North-West Coast out of a need to talk to others in similar situations and share information.

Both the North-West and North have very successful Asperger Support Groups which meet on a regular basis. A group of parents and young people with Asperger Syndrome met informally in Hobart with Wendy Lawson when she visited recently and this may be the catalyst for a support group in Hobart if those involved see the need.

We continue to advertise our Library (books, videos, articles and audiotapes), however, few people actually take advantage of what we have to offer. This may be because our libraries are located in private homes, making it difficult for some to access. Recently Autism Tasmania took up the offer of office space on the North-West Coast (Burnie). We share

with the Epilepsy Association and the Huntington Disease Support Group, pay minimal rent and staff it with volunteers. This means we can house the library and hold meetings in a central location for our members. It's a 12-month trial and we will watch library usage closely now it is more accessible.

An area of growing need within the Autism community is services for our adolescents and young adults. Few services exist and those that do are not replicated in each region of the State. Recent visits by high-profile people such as Wendy Lawson and Temple Grandin are beginning to change our understandings of the capabilities of people who have previously been viewed very differently. We need to keep this focus going and build on it, providing a basis for the future.

Over the past twelve months we have tried to provide a range of interesting and practical activities,

In December, Peta Kelty and Amelia Bishop took us Beyond Picture Exchange; in May, Margaret Hill and Shirley Roberts from Irabina SDS focused on Communication and Behaviour Management for Children with High Needs and in July, Jenny Butler presented her wonderful Sexuality Workshop.

For many, the highlight was Temple Grandin's visit in April and the opportunity to hear from a person who has High Functioning Autism, is an acknowledged international specialist in their field, a well-published author and is so effectively help us understand Autism from the inside.

"Autism – A World Of Difference" was the phrase adopted by the National Autism Council of Australia for this year's National Autism Awareness Week. Planning began in November last year with special emphasis on encouraging all State and private schools in Tasmania to consider Autism Tasmania as one of the charities to which they donate during 2000. Disappointingly, after our follow-up in early April, only three schools replied. Students at each raised money selling buttons for us and subsequently were issued with an Autism Tasmania Certificate of Appreciation. Although the direct response was disappointing we know that more than those 3 schools displayed the information sent to them.

Southern Cross produced a new community announcement using the theme "Autism – A World Of Difference", however despite much consultation with the producer about what we envisaged we were disappointed with the finished product but thrilled that Robyn Moore agreed to do the voice-over.

Button Day for the week was low-key with few people being able to volunteer during the week. Those who did venture out onto the streets did a wonderful job spreading the word and through badge sales raised almost \$1000.

Parent Information Kits are now being distributed for a minimal cost and we have sold quite a few to both parents and professionals. A database has been prepared regarding the distribution of the kits so that updated sheets can be sent out when necessary.

A combined submission from Autism Tasmania and Giant Steps was prepared for funding from the Apex Trust Fund. If successful this will be used to establish an Autism Register for Tasmania. This will be particularly useful when talking to governments and service providers as we will know the spread of people that need services.

It has been a busy year, especially after an extremely hectic 1999 preparing for the conference. The committee of only 7 (a full committee is 10) have worked extremely hard taking on more than one "portfolio" at a time which is no mean feat when most work full time in paid employment. As meetings fall on weekends there has been the sacrifice of family time and travel to our central point of Ross for a hard day of work. I have greatly appreciated the work the Committee has done over the past 12 months and the support they have given me and to each other; we really have been a happy committee. This year we say goodbye to Rosanne Lay and Kathy Gill who are both stepping down from the committee after several years. The work they have done during their time on the committee has been greatly appreciated, especially so during the time of organising the conference. We wish them all the best and know they will enjoy their newfound time with their families.

Rose Clark
President