

Talkback Association for Aphasia, Inc.
Annual General Meeting – 16 September 2012.

Summary of Chairperson's Report: Bev Dodd

Overall, our main focus this year has been on social activities for members and volunteers and "improving the lives of people with aphasia"

December social event

Our volunteers are extremely important and provide help and support in many ways. In December, we held an event for members to socialise and to thank our volunteers. We were entertained by a string ensemble from Cabra College. Members and volunteers enjoyed the performance and then socialised over afternoon tea.

Art Gallery Visit

A large group of members attended the art gallery visit and lunch in May. Travel for the event and for part of the food was subsidised. Feedback about this event was very positive.

Dinner Group

A new dinner group was trialled as new social opportunity. The group met for four months at Unley.

Talkback and Other Groups

Most Talkback Groups have continued to meet regularly. It is pleasing to see that the country groups have had a joint function.

The computer club celebrated its 10th anniversary in September last year. The Mayor of Burnside and past members attended afternoon tea. The students are now running the club with minimal supervision. The group now has students volunteering from Uni of Adelaide without a health background. This is working well.

Retune Choir

We were again given funds by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield to cover running costs for the Retune choir and to develop a model of self sufficiency. The choir is currently being run by Justin Gummer and members report enjoying his approach as the choir master. The choir continues to grow slowly.

Talkback Newsletter:

The newsletter continues to be a high quality production. Danny, as Editor, and his family and friends continue to do an excellent job on the newsletter. Thank you Danny.

Resources

Committee purchased more resources.

Raising the Profile of Talkback and aphasia

Brochure: We distributed our new brochure to Speech Pathologists working in hospitals resulting in a number of inquiries and some new members.

Talks- Committee members were again active in giving talks about aphasia to student groups.

Wednesday without Words: We sent out a power point presentation to speech pathology departments and encouraged them to celebrate the day.

Government Liaison

We have continued to have some contact with Ministers around issues that affect members. This has included ensuring that documents are provided in an easy to read format, the NDIS and about access to Disability Services.

Fundraising Australian Central Lottery

Tickets sold in the Australian Central Lottery raised \$600.00. Thanks to Margaret for organising this.

Office Management

Sandy and David have continued to man the office and to respond to inquiries. In addition, Sandy has run the office and facilitated our meetings and events. Thank you both for your help.

To support our office functions we made a number of purchases including a new laptop, printer and accounting package.

Other Volunteer Matters

We were successful in getting a grant to support volunteers travel expenses and to buy an oven.

We nominated Danny to attend a function at Parliament House to celebrate the International Day of Disability for his work on the newsletter.

Committee

I would like to thank all the committee members for their work over the last twelve months. Committee members have shown commitment to their portfolios and responsibilities and the addition of CIBO cakes has added to everyone's enthusiasm at meetings.

All committee members work hard, but this year we are saying goodbye to two members who have worked on the executive and been key in some of the behind the scenes work. Thanks to Kate, who is going off committee after many years – Kate was Treasurer for years and more recently was office liaison and helped with office matters. Thanks also to Margaret who has been our Secretary for the last couple of years. You will both be missed.

Thanks to all the other committee members for your individual contributions to the Committee.

Beverley Dodd

Chairperson