

Talkback Association for Aphasia Inc 2016
Annual General Meeting
13 November at 12.00pm

Chairperson's Report

2016 has been a very busy, but fulfilling year for our Association.

One of our aims for a few years has been to develop an aphasia community.

We had two social functions this year, both of which were well attended.

In February we had a movie afternoon at Mitcham and saw Hail Caesar. This was a combined fundraiser and social event. Members met up before the movie to chat over coffee and some delicious pastries. Then in July, we had lunch at the Bombay Bicycle Club. We wanted to get people together to make socialising easier at the conference.

Since we have started having regular social functions, numbers attending have gradually increased and members report enjoying meeting up together. We think we are gradually achieving our goal of developing a supportive aphasia community and this was certainly evident at the conference.

We have had regular contact with Talkback groups during the year. We are very pleased that ECH have employed another therapist and two new Talkback Groups will be starting.

The computer club has continued with sessions being run by speech pathology student volunteers. Having this as a student led program continues to work well for both members and students.

The Retune choir has continued over the current year due to the generous support from James and Rachel Swannell of J D Communications and Wayne and Mary Pettingell from Wayne's World

The newsletter continues to receive very positive feedback. Danny, Mary and Rocky do an excellent job in producing a newsletter that is consistently professional, interesting and informative. This year, the newsletter has a new look with Aphasia being a major heading. Thanks Danny for producing a fantastic newsletter.

The website has been updated on a regular basis with upcoming events being advertised on the website. We recognise that not everyone with Aphasia can use a computer, but are starting to encourage members to ask their families to check the upcoming events page to give them maximum notice of events.

We have had aphasia cards for many years. This year we updated them and we are really pleased with the finished product.

We again sold tickets in the Australian Central Lottery. This continues to be a relatively easy means of fundraising.

Engelina has continued in the role of office volunteer manager and has run the office smoothly. David has also helped with office matters. Thanks to the office volunteers for their work, which is essential to the running of the organization.

And lastly, to the Conference. The main focus of the Committee was organizing and hosting the 2016 National AAA Conference - Aphasia Finding the Words.

At the start of the year, the conference planning committee and the Talkback committee amalgamated. At this stage we were

committed to putting on the conference. We had some ideas about a theme and keynote speakers but specific planning had not gone much beyond that.

Over a 10 month period the Committee has planned and executed all aspects of the conference. It has organized the keynote speakers, the themes, the venue, the catering, the logistics, the accommodation, the audiovisuals, the entertainment, the call for speakers, the program, the sponsorship, the pre and post conference options and the publicity. The list goes on. For those of you who have organized conferences before you will know how much this involved.

During the year, the group organising the conference changed a bit. Stephen and Sharon Pugh and Josie Kemp left and Elle Finos and Lucy Fitzgerald joined us.

This has been an amazing group to work with. Members have worked extremely well together and have really supported each other. When someone was exhausted, others just took on more work to help. Despite the really hard work and the enormity of pulling everything together, Committee remained positive, enthusiastic and committed to putting on an amazing conference. I know many of you attended the conference and I am sure that you will agree that the Committee did an amazing job. I am not going to single people out for their work on the conference, as that is not the way we worked. It was a real team effort and I know we are all proud of what we achieved. Thanks everyone.

This is my last year in this role. I would like to thank everyone for the support I have received as Chair. Your help and support has made the job much easier. I am delighted that I am going to be handing over to Sarah.

Before I finish I have a special thank you to make.

Danny is leaving the Committee after, I think, 14 years on Committee. During that time Danny has held a variety of roles. He been committee member, Vice Chair and more recently he has been the editor of the newsletter. Danny and his family have created a very professional newsletter that members look forward to receiving. Danny has also been a key person in fund raising for our Association. Danny, we would like to acknowledge your outstanding contribution to the Talkback Association for Aphasia by awarding you life membership.

We have a little gift for you, so can you please come up.

Thanks everyone

Bev Dodd
Chair