

Talkback Association for Aphasia Inc
2014 Annual General Meeting

held

6.00pm, November 19 2014
Cumberland Arms Hotel
205 Waymouth Street Adelaide

Chairperson's Report

Social Events

This year we have had a number of social events which have been well attended by our members.

In **December**, we had a Christmas concert at the Mitcham Cultural Village. We were lucky to have three separate groups performing - Cabra College, the Fleurieu Harmony Chorus and the Retune Choir. The concert went very well and members appreciated both the concert and chatting over afternoon tea.

In **February**, 29 members met at Rosey's café in Unley for lunch. Everyone agreed that the outside venue, the food and the company were all excellent.

We were delighted that Dr Miranda Rose agreed to do a presentation for Talkback in early **April** when she was in Adelaide. Miranda spoke about her research about groups and what makes groups work. It was pleasing to note that Talkback was already working in some of the areas identified as important in supporting people with aphasia and their carers. Members enjoyed her presentation which was followed by an enjoyable dinner at the Caledonian Hotel.

In **August**, members enjoyed a tour of the ABC and an informal lunch at the ABC café. The tour included TV and radio studios and a look at their extensive music and sound collection.

Over the last twelve months the Committee has trialled various subsidies for Talkback social events and the AAA Conference. These have allowed some of our members to attend functions which they would not otherwise have been able to attend. Committee will use this experience to refine the subsidy system over the next twelve months and develop a more consistent policy.

Thanks to Sarah, Vic and Josie for their work in planning and organising these social events.

Services for members

We have continued to support groups during the year.

Talkback groups: The Morphett Vale and Hove groups continue to meet regularly. The Acacia Court Group met regularly until July when their Speech Pathologist left, but is continuing to meet socially. The group at Disability Services has not met as they had few members. A new group has started at the Repat Hospital. The biggest changes have been in the country. Due to changes in Country Health policy the Victor Harbor and Murray Mallee groups have ceased. Committee will be following this up with the appropriate Ministers. Thanks to Trevor and Coralie for maintaining contact with the Talkback groups.

Computer club: This has continued to function well. It is run by speech pathology students who prepare and give the lessons and support each other. This year the students have focussed more on functional activities and this has worked well.

Retune Stroke Choir: The choir has continued over the current year. In the second term, the choir moved to HRC as the Kilburn Centre was being renovated. The numbers attending the choir have remained quite low. Some members of the choir are not Talkback members and this has been an issue since the funding for the choir ran out. We have since heard that we have received a grant, but we still need to address the sustainability of the choir into the future. Thanks to Deb and Vic for the ongoing organisation around the choir

Newsletter: The newsletter continues to receive very positive feedback. Danny, Mary and his family and friends do an excellent job in producing a quarterly newsletter that is interesting and informative. This year, we decided that we should send a copy to the Mortlock Library so that it is part of the State's history. Thanks Danny for producing a fantastic newsletter.

Website: The website has continued to be updated on a regular basis and upcoming events are advertised in the "Future Events" section to give members maximum notice of events. Thanks Tom and Anne for co-ordinating the updates.

Raising the Profile of Talkback and increasing membership

Our membership has been around 100 for a few years and we would like to increase this as well as to increase awareness about aphasia and Talkback.

Talkback brochures: As part of our membership drive, we decided that we would like a single page pamphlet for doctor's surgeries. Anne designed and organised this and we are hoping that this will let more people know about our Association. We printed 10,000 copies of the new brochure - the orange one - and they are available in the office if you would like to leave some at your doctor's surgery or in any other suitable location. Feedback from Speech Pathologists who have seen the pamphlet has been positive.

Members of Parliament: Anne and Tom have been working to raise awareness of aphasia in planning for the NDIS. We are also working to raise awareness across Government agencies about aphasia because many people with aphasia do not get adequate services and are often unable to access everyday government services. Tom, Anne and I are meeting with the Minister for Disabilities later this month.

National Stroke Week: As part of raising the profile of the Talkback Association, we endorsed a presentation sent to us by Miranda Rose. Josie e mailed this to local speech pathologists to promote *Wednesday Without Words*.

Other Matters

Lottery tickets: We again sold tickets in the Australian Central Lottery. In addition to the regular ticket sales we also had some on line sales and raised a total of \$640.00. We advertised this to Speech Pathologists and students. Thanks to Josie for organising this.

Links with the AAA: During the year, we had contact with the AAA about how to raise our national profile and achieve closer cooperative relationships. The main item which has not been resolved is the financial relationships between the different state organisations and the national body. We have discussed various models, but have not yet agreed on how a national body would operate.

AAA Conference 2016: During our discussions with the AAA we were asked about hosting the next AAA Conference in 2016. We agreed to host the Conference and a subcommittee has been set up. Stephen, Sharon and Anne have been elected to convene the conference and subgroups have started planning for the Conference.

Office at 302 South Rd: Our volunteers have continued to look after office matters. Thanks to Sandy, David and Kate. Sandy has advised the Committee that she will cease as office volunteer in the near future. I would particularly like to acknowledge her nearly 10 years of service with Talkback. Thanks Sandy.

The Committee has worked well together over the last 12 months and as you can see from this report we have achieved a lot. Four new people joined the Committee - John and Brenda and Sharon and Steve. I would like to thank all the committee members for their work over the last twelve months. Most of the Committee are standing for re-election, but Vic and Deb are leaving the Committee. Thanks to all of you for your contributions to the Committee and support for people with aphasia.

We have three vacancies on Committee which we will be seeking to fill.

Bev Dodd
Chairperson