



Canberra Deaf Children's Association July 2007 Newsletter

President: Luke Halpin (6254 8659 or 0411 051 958)

Treasurer: Kate McKenzie (6259 7194)

Secretary: Alex Turner (6161 8083)

Vice President & Newsletter Editor: Wendy McMullen (6284 8143) or email ws@webone.com.au

What is CDCA?

The Canberra Deaf Children's Association (CDCA) is a non-profit community organisation that endeavors to provide support and information to parents and families on issues affecting deaf and hearing-impaired children. This includes all sorts of hearing loss such as sensorineural, conductive and unilateral.

We also provide information to other interested people in the community, teachers and students.

CDCA acts as a lobby group to relevant Government Departments and other Organizations on behalf of Deaf and Hearing Impaired children, their parents and their families.

Membership is open to parents, relatives and friends of deaf and hearing-impaired children. Membership includes borrowing rights for the Toy and Resource Library and a newsletter issued six times a year.

Inside today.....

- Secretary's profile
- Technology talk 25 July
- CDCA Website & New Logo
- Deaf Children Australia National Parent Council 2007 Report

Toy and Resource Library

The Toy Library is located in the Deafness Resource Centre, and is open by appointment. Please contact Alex Turner on 61618083 if you wish to access the library. Please leave a message for her if she is not immediately available. Most items can be borrowed for a month. We are in the process of reviewing and updating our inventory.



Our library contains:

- ★ captioned videos with a good variety of titles,
- ★ books and games for children of all ages,
- ★ Reference books and other resources for parents and families.

Dates for your Diary!!!!

Hearing Awareness Week runs from 19th to 25th August. The ACT Deafness Resource Centre will run a series of stalls at the Hellenic Club on Wednesday 22nd August. The CDCA plans to be presented and would appreciate your help – please let us know if you are able to attend.

**Office: Level 2A, Grant Cameron Centre
27 Mulley Street
HOLDER ACT 2611**

**Mail: PO Box 2291
TUGGERANONG ACT 2901
Telephone: 6284 8143 or
6254 8659 After hours**

Secretary's Profile

I am Alex Turner. Michael and I have two great kids, Nicholas (7) and Christopher (3 1/2). Chris was diagnosed with a severe-profound bilateral loss two years ago. We have since discovered that he has a genetic condition that means he has been deaf since birth, but it took us a long time to work it out. The first few months were really tough, especially when he became seriously ill from an ear infection. Fortunately, not only did he survive, but his hearing eventually returned to its previous level. Although it was traumatic for our family, it did help us to put his hearing loss into perspective.

We are a military family and were living in Perth when Chris was diagnosed. We were still just getting the hang of hearing aids, therapy, medical appointments, etc when we moved to Canberra and started all over again. It took many months to work it all out, and I wish I had joined CDCA earlier because it would have made life much less stressful. I'm glad that I can now draw on the experience of others in preparing Chris and myself for preschool next year.

I volunteered to be on the board because the previous team needed a rest and I really think it's important to keep the Association going. I hope that we can give parents and their children support and information that will make dealing with deafness easier.

Upcoming Technology Presentation!

Andrew Stewart will be presenting a talk on technology for people with hearing loss on Wednesday 25th July at 7.30pm at the Grant Cameron Community Centre in Weston. For enquiries or to RSVP, please phone Wendy on 62848143 or email ws@webone.com.au. See you there!

New CDCA Website & Logo

Our new website is now up and running. It can be accessed at www.canberradeafkids.org.au We would love you to have a look and give us some feedback. We hope to incorporate photos of CDCA families to enhance the website – please let us know if you are interested. Netspeed who set up the website also assisted in the development of our new logo which will also appear on an updated brochure we are doing.

The Shepherd Centre has moved

to the former Rivett Preschool in Nealie Place, Rivett. Ph. 62885920

Online Information



Online support and information for parents of deaf & hearing impaired children in Australia. Share experiences, ideas and concerns with other parents who really understand how you feel. www.aussiedeafkids.com

Deaf Children Australia

Canberra Deaf Children's Association is a member of Deaf Children Australia (DCA). DCA has been able to expand some of their services and expertise to meet the needs of deaf and Hearing Impaired children and their families in other states.

The Deaf Children Australia Helpline is an information, support and referral service for families of Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children and young Adults. The Helpline number is 1800 645 916. DCA has begun providing advocacy and information services across Australia via the national Helpline. www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au

Parent Council of Deaf Education

PCDE statement: Our mission is to work with parents and families of deaf children and young people, regardless of their background, to promote their rights in all aspects of their lives from birth to the end of tertiary education. More information on PCDE can be found at their website www.pcde.org

The National Deaf Children's Society

This website is based in the United Kingdom www.ndcs.org.uk

Listen Up

It is a website based in the USA. It has a lot of information as well as an online forum <http://listen-up.org>

Parenting Websites

www.raisingchildren.net.au

*** Reminder, membership due now!!**

Deaf Children Australia National Parent Council 26/27th March 2007

Suzi Momi [CDCA Parent Representative] and Margaret Johnston travelled to Melbourne to represent Canberra Deaf Children's Association [CDCA] at the 2nd National Parent Council organised by Deaf Children Australia [DCA].

We met in the 120 year old bluestone building [pictured right] which was built in 1886 to house Victoria's first School for the Deaf and now houses the offices of Deaf Children Australia. You can read its remarkable history on the Deaf Children Australia website

www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au

Delegates from all the States except South Australia and Tasmania attended the conference.

The Conference began with an interesting and challenging presentation by Gene Reardon General Manager of DCA. Gene [not only General Manager of DCA but also the parent of a deaf child] outlined how the parent groups of Victoria had united in a common cause to lobby for change on behalf of their children.



A Campaign Outline-----'How Deaf Children Australia and the Parents of Hearing Impaired Children Victoria [PHICV] went about the 'Transport Campaign' was the theme of her presentation.

All the staff at DCA impressed us with their strong backgrounds from their previous employment to steer DCA with a high level of expertise. Gene shared the strategies that they had employed to mount a very successful campaign. These strategies have now been shared in a workshop for CDCA parents.

One consistent piece of information that kept emerging was the difficulty in each State gaining access to a data base with the names of deaf and hearing impaired children and their families. In this age of a dual parent workforce and with many parents not having time or energy to access the support of a parent group let alone to attend committee meetings or mount lobbying campaigns it was considered vital that information access and sharing by email [and snail mail where necessary] was critical to the strategic planning of DCA and its subsidiary parent groups.

The estimated number of deaf and hearing impaired children in Australia is 16,400.

Each representative agreed to:

- Return home and put all the issues on the table for parent groups to consider
- Help identify local as well as National issues
- Workshop with parents about how to mount a campaign and to lobby successfully
- Continue to liaise with DCA by teleconference on a regular basis
- Promote the profile of DCA [as a strong National voice for deaf and hearing impaired children and their families.
- Demonstrate the value of 'parent to parent' mentoring
- Share information about DCA programs and facilitated workshops, camps etc

Margaret Johnston
CDCA committee member

CDCA Kids page

Hello to all the kids! It's been very cold lately and there has been snow on the hills quite regularly so we are going with a snowman – see how colourful you can make him!! Perhaps you could add some scenery. Ask your parent to post or email your finished picture along with your first name and age and we will include it in a future newsletter.



CDCA Membership 2007/2008

The membership contribution is \$20.00 and is for the financial year ending 30 June 2008. Membership is available to parents, relatives, professionals and friends. Financial members receive a monthly newsletter and are eligible to borrow the Association's video camera, captioned videos, toys, resources, games, books etc. Your contributions enable us to buy new resources for the library and assist in the running of the Association. Please make cheques payable to *Canberra Deaf Children's Association* and mail to:

**The Treasurer
Canberra Deaf Children's Association
PO Box 2291
Tuggeranong ACT 2901**

Please complete the following form and return with your payment so we can maintain up to date details.

Parent's/Carer's Name:			
Address:			
Email:			
Home Phone:		Work Phone:	
Mobile:		Fax:	

Please include all children in the family.

Child's Name	Date of Birth	Hearing Loss