



Canberra Deaf Children's Association

Spring 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)

Email via website: www.canberradeafkids.org.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.....

- Committee member profile
- CDCA Brochure
- CDCA AGM Meeting

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.

CDCA Annual General Meeting

To be held on *Monday 10th December* at 7.30pm at Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley Street, Holder. It would be great to see *all* members attend this meeting to show their support and interest in the CDCA.

CDCA Christmas Get together

Sunday 9th December 11am to 1pm at Nealie Place, Rivett (Shepherd Centre grounds), Phone Alex or Kate to RSVP by 3 December

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

Committee Member Profile

I am Margaret Johnston. I began my teaching career in 1964 at Tharwa Primary School when I was 18 years old. This is when I met the first Deaf children I had ever worked with. I taught at Tharwa and in Canberra Schools until 1967 when I moved to Sydney with my husband. Again in my classes I found I had several Deaf children and became aware of the Itinerant Teacher Service in NSW when I and they were supported in class by Betty Allen [famous in NSW for her work with Deaf children] In 1968 I had decided to take a year off from teaching and complete the training to become a Teacher of the Deaf at Macquarie University however this was when my husband decided to go to the USA to complete his doctorate so I didn't complete that plan.

I began work at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in 1968 and completed my certification at night and in summer schools as well as undertaking many courses in specific learning disabilities in three excellent University programs. The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf at that time had 800 residential students, bussed in from all over Pennsylvania to the school from the age of 3 to 21 years. I learnt some amazing skills there from some very experienced Teachers of the Deaf and also from the students in my care many of whom were from different ethnic backgrounds with degrees deafness ranging from mild to profound.

On my return to Australia in 1972 I worked with many Deaf children at home while my own children were young. When all my own children had begun school, I went back to work for the ACT Department of Education as an Itinerant Teacher in 1983. In 1991 I became the Senior Teacher for Students who were Deaf/Hearing Impaired when there were some 300 students on service. I retired in 2001 and my interest in supporting and advocating for children who are Deaf/Hearing Impaired and their families has continued through my volunteer work with CDCA and also as their representative on the ACT Deafness Resources Centre Committee of Management..

I have a high interest in equitable access to education for all Deaf/Hearing Impaired children in the ACT, in parent to parent mentoring at diagnosis especially after the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, in advocacy for the rights of

young Deaf people and in all aspects of parent support from diagnosis to transition to work or further study. I have developed links with Deaf Children Australia attending the 2nd National Parent Conference in March in Melbourne and am keen to see where the national initiatives will take us.

CDCA Brochure

The updated brochure has been around for a couple of months & is being distributed around. Let us know if you find somewhere they should be.

Online Resources:

CDCA Website

www.canberradeafkids.org.au

Aussie Deaf Kids

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

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.deafchildreinaustralia.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

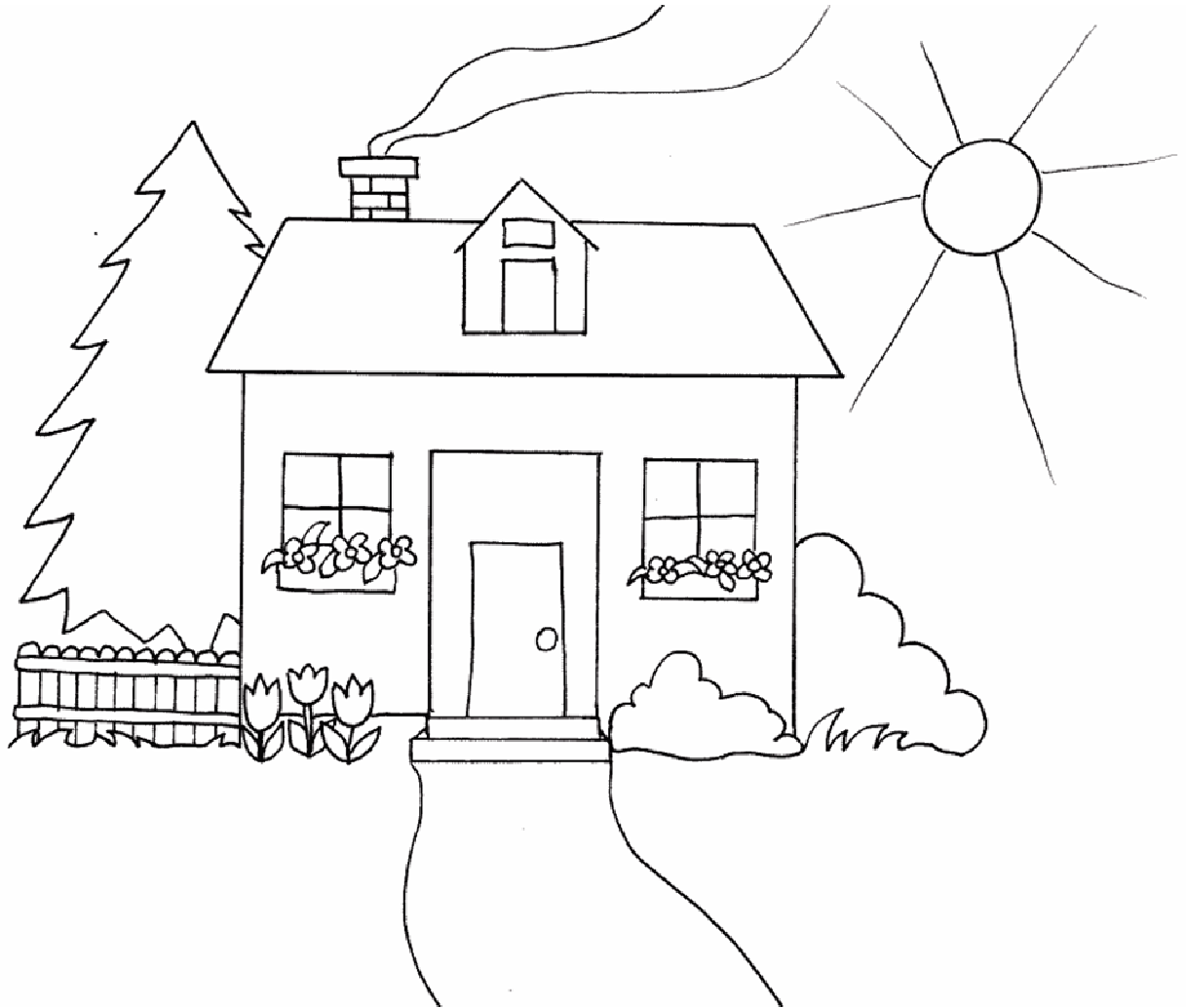
The National Deaf Children's Society

www.ndcs.org.uk

Listen Up

<http://listen-up.org>

CDCA Kids Page



Today, a picture of a house – looks like spring with the flowers growing!!
(Picture from www.eparenting.co.uk)

Joke:

How do you prevent a spring cold??
Catch it in winter!!

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 cheque 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