



Canberra Deaf Children's Association March 2008 Newsletter

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

Treasurer: Kate McKenzie (6259 7194)

Secretary: Alex Turner (6161 8083)

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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.

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.

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.

Inside today.....

- New Committee Member profile
- Auslan Coffee Shop comes to Canberra!
- CIT courses: Skills for carers of children with a disability
- PCDE: what is this organisation and what can they do to support your family?

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6254 8659 After hours

Member Profile:

Hello, my name is Sonia Hay. My partner Jeff and I have two children, Noel 4 and Darcie 3. At Noel's 2 year old birthday party we noticed that Noel wasn't speaking as well as his peers so we started investigating. Noel was diagnosed with a mild to moderate sensorineural hearing loss in both ears and was given his first hearing aids when he was 2 years and 5 months old. Noel is an excellent hearing aid user and uses his hearing aids everyday. Noel now has a pair of yellow hearing aids with 'cool red' moulds which he is very proud of. Darcie, (our normal hearing child) would love a pair of pink and purple hearing aids. Noel starts preschool this year which he is looking forward to and he will use an FM device which he is still getting used to. I attended the CDCA AGM at the end of 2007 and volunteered to be on the committee because I feel it is an important, well worth organisation, and for the support of other families like us who have a hearing impaired child or children. I look forward to meeting a lot of members of the organisation in 2008.

Auslan Coffee Shop 2008 comes to Canberra!

Deaf Children Australia are facilitating an opportunity for parents of deaf and hard of hearing children to get together in a relaxed atmosphere to practice their Auslan skills. It started on 27 February and will be held every Wednesday fortnight from 10am at Muffin Break, Woden Plaza. Facilitated by Anne Madden. For more information contact Neil Ray, National Auslan Program Coordinator
Email: nray@deafchildren.org.au
phone 03 95395341
or Trisha Balharrie Auslan Education Officer Email:
tbalharrie@deafchildren.org.au
TTY 03 95107143.

CIT Skills for Carers

A reminder that the Canberra Institute of Technology runs a variety of courses for Carers. Email: CarerSkills@cit.act.edu.au
Topics for families of children with a disability include 'When caring gets you down' and 'First Aid, caring for Kids', Topics for Kids and Anxiety include 'Supporting your child with Autism/Aspergers' and 'Supporting your Anxious child'. There is also a course on behaviour management in children with disabilities.

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.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

www.ndcs.org.uk

Listen Up

<http://listen-up.org>



Parent Council for Deaf Education (PCDE)

I'd like to begin by introducing the Parent Council for Deaf Education (PCDE), a not-for-profit organisation which provides support and advice to families across NSW & ACT. The organisation focuses on issues such as education and hearing services and lobbies state and federal government on pursuing matters relating to deafness. PCDE has been operational for approximately 40 years and has undergone major changes in the last two years.

PCDE exists primarily for parents of toddlers/ children or young people who are deaf/ hearing impaired, to support, provide information and offer training to members across NSW & ACT. There is no criteria for membership and we welcome all parents, irrespective of what decisions they have made for their children.

In the last year, PCDE has focused on providing parents with the following service:

- Two day parent mentoring program called Cool Kids Cool Parents
- Four editions of their quarterly publication "Sound News"
- Parent facilitation training

Individual support/information on issues relating to education, services, health care and recreation.

PCDE has launched into a very exciting year and will be working closely with the Department of Education to better understand the issues around deaf education and also with NSW Health to improve our access to new parents. This will be a very informative journey !

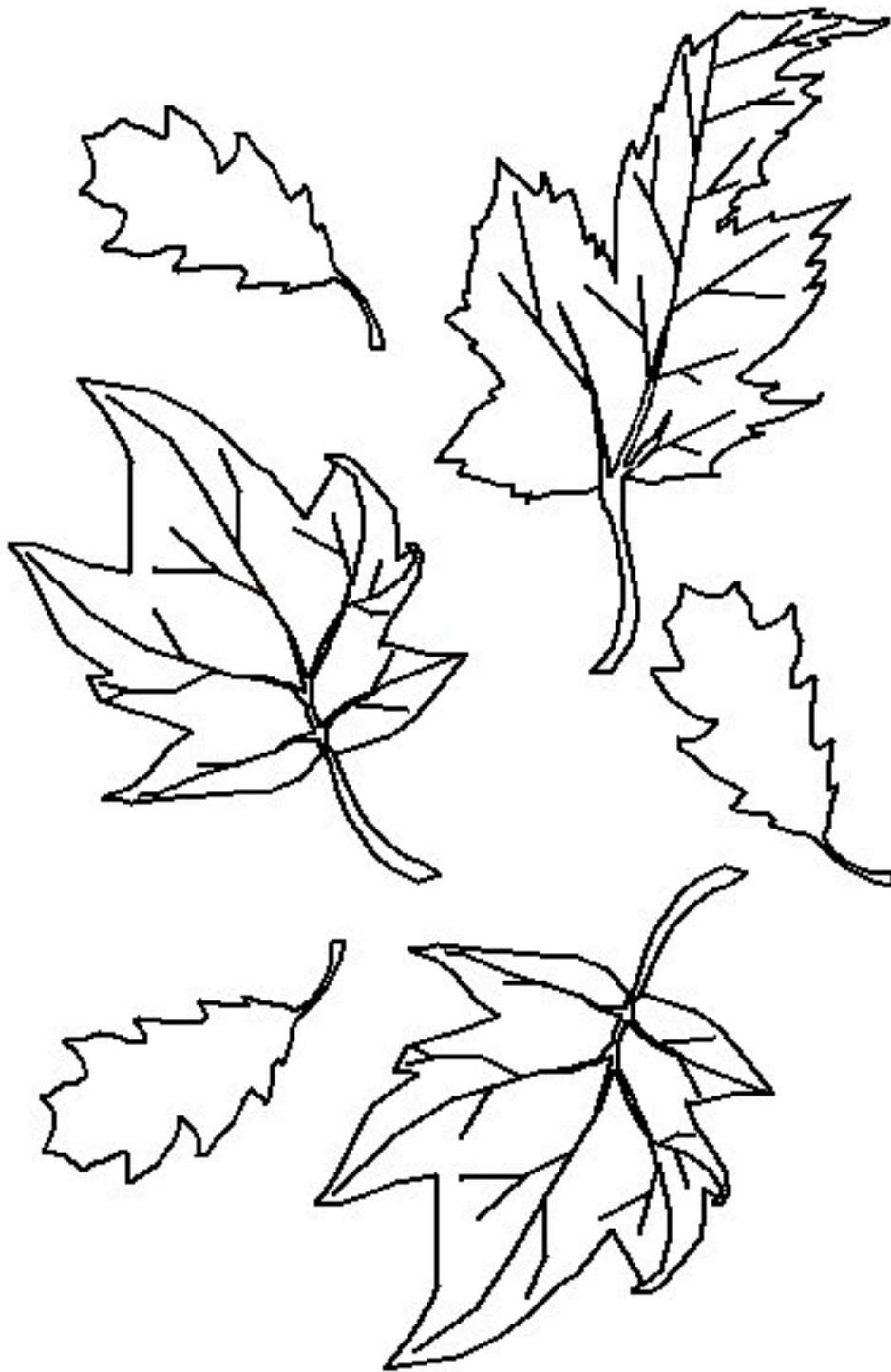
On an even more exciting note, PCDE will be establishing their first support group in Liverpool for parents, families and carers in the Macarthur region. This group will provide parents, families and carers with opportunities to meet others traveling along the same journey, to share experiences and stories. In addition, we hope to offer information nights and social gatherings with no commitments attached.

PCDE is a small organisation with lots of plans and dreams. All parents are welcome and we encourage as many as possible to join from the ACT !

If you have any questions, please contact me Nickie Flambouras on 02 9871 3049 or refer to our website www.pcde.org

CDCA Kids Page

It is Autumn and the leaves will soon be changing into different colours and fall from the trees! See how colourful you can make these leaves!



CDCA Membership 2008/2009

The membership contribution is \$20.00 and is for the financial year ending 30 June 2009. 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