



Canberra Deaf Children's Association June 2008 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.

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.....

- Committee Member profile: Laisarn
- CDCA Mum's night out
- Possum Magic & Emily loves to Bounce!
- Report from 5th National Deafness Sector Summit
- Kid's Page
- Memberships due now!

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

Member Profile:

Laisarn Leong

I was diagnosed as being deaf at the age of 3 years. The advice given to my parents was to send me to a boarding school for deaf children where I was sent for 18 months from 3-5 years of age. My mother had concerns that I wasn't speaking so she managed to establish an OD unit for deaf children in Bathurst. I attended mainstream school from thereon and by Year 4 (4th Grade) I was fully mainstreamed. I completed Year 12 without any support, surviving by reading and my friends' generosity and assistance.

I've always had hearing aids in both ears though I can remember going years without one aid (probably more for cosmetic reasons than anything else!) even though the level of hearing loss in both ears were fairly even. My hearing has always fluctuated due to LVAS and I'd have good and bad days with my hearing. About 3 years ago my hearing went down for longer periods of time than usual, 6 weeks then 3 months. It was during this time that I had a cochlear implant. Since then I've had a bilateral cochlear implant which has more than restored my previous hearing. I use both Auslan and speech to communicate and appreciate and value both languages.

Since completing my teaching qualifications I have worked at the Thomas Pattison School (Sydney) in the bilingual program, Kelston Deaf Education Centre in Auckland and for the Catholic Education Office in Canberra. My job as an Advisory Teacher (Sensory Impairment) covers the Catholic schools in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese working with teachers who have students with sensory impairment.

CDCA Website update:

We are now able to upload previous CDCA newsletters on our website so please check them out if you are a recent member!

CDCA Mums night out:

A great evening was had by the seven ladies who enjoyed a night out on 17 June. We had a lovely meal, followed by a movie at Dendy's in Civic. A Dads night out is planned for June.

Please let us know if your email address changes so we can update you on any events that are happening!

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>

Report from Day One of The 5th National Deafness Sector Summit held in Canberra on 24-25 May 2008

By Luke Halpin

After the official opening by DFA chairman Alex Jones, day one started with an inspirational life story by Prof Jennie Brand-Miller, Glycaemic Index expert, author and cochlear implantee.

Prof Brand-Miller spoke of how she slowly lost her hearing in her mid to late teens and struggled through her university years while being hearing impaired and yet still excelling at her chosen career path. Prof Brand-Miller now proudly states that she is now lecturing at that same university.

Prof Brand-Miller is now waiting to switch on her second implant.

Our second speaker was Carmel Batson, President of Children of Deaf Adults international, or CODA, Carmel explained how difficult it could be for a child of deaf parents as they are stuck in the middle of two communities, the signing deaf community and the speaking community. Carmel went on to say that their use of large gestures intimidates people in the speaking community, and yet not being deaf affects their status in the deaf community. Carmel concluded by saying how important it is for like-minded or like-affected people to stick together, show support for each other but still be active in the wider community.

Our third speaker was Greens member Senator Rachel Siewert who spoke her growing concern with previous and current government policies concerned with the hearing impaired and the wider community as a whole.

Our fourth speaker was Chrissy O'Reilly from Flinders University, discussing the common problem of hearing impairment and depression, being hearing impaired and once suffering from depression, Chrissy helped instigate a research project into these cases and showcased the results of this recent research.

Our fifth speaker was Graeme Innes AM, Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Graeme explained what happened during the UN convention on the rights of people with a disability.

Ruth Forthington of the DFA discussed a political push to change Emergency warning systems nationally.

Brian Rope OAM and member of DFA member discussed his representation on the Australian standards board and their future changes to the communication for deaf and hearing impaired people

Our eighth speaker was the Libby Harricks Memorial Oration Guest, Prof Bob Cowan, CEO of Hearing Cooperative research centre spoke of his life as a cochlear surgeon and research showing that with an aging population, the percentage of hearing impaired Australians will rise from 1/6 to 1/4 in the next ten years.

Andrew Johnson, executive director of ACOSS, then spoke of how important advocacy is in the community and how powerful it can be in changing policies in all levels of government.

Linda Cribbin, Disability Discrimination Commissioner and ACT Human Rights Commission followed Andrew with a demonstration of the best way to approach a formal complaint with any breaches of the ACT discrimination act, and who is best to contact with you issues.

Namely the Discrimination commission office

After the report back and wrap-up of the day, a social dinner was held at Ridges lakeside where seeing deaf and hearing impaired people truly seemed at home, not only in their environment, but with their peers.

In conclusion, it was a hectic and information overloading sort of day, but truly inspirational.

Luke Halpin
CDCA President

Report from Day Two of The 5th National Deafness Sector Summit held in Canberra on 24-25 May 2008

By Alex Turner

The highlight of the second day of the National Deafness Sector Summit was the presentation by Li Cunxin and his daughter, Sophie. Many may have read his bestselling book, Mao's Last Dancer. His stories of overcoming adversity through hard work and determination were really inspiring, as well as funny and moving.

I was particularly interested in his family's journey after they discovered that their oldest child, Sophie, was profoundly deaf. She received her first cochlear implant at age 9, at which time she had the language of a 3 year old. She is now 18 and speaks so well and so confidently that no-one could tell she had a slower start than most. Again, the message was that success can be achieved through hard work and determination.

<http://www.licunxin.com/index.htm>

The other presentations for the day focused on issues specific to age groups. The most interesting - but also worrying - related to the difficulties of making the transition from school to work. Some links for more information on these topics:

- newborn screening <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/healthyhearing/>
- outcomes of children with hearing impairments <http://www.outcomes.nal.gov.au>
- support to families of deaf children <http://aussiedeafkids.com>
- school to work transition <http://www.griffith.edu.au/centre/casd/>
- employment http://www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/html/s02_article/article_view.asp?id=569&nav_cat_id=296&nav_top_id=77&dsb=1701

Alex Turner
CDCA Secretary

Possum Magic:

Four CDCA families attended a performance of Possum Magic– the Musical at the Canberra Theatre on the 31st of May. It was loosely based on the Mem Fox book. The kids loved the show and the grown ups were glad to catch up with each other.

Emily Loves to Bounce:

The next CDCA outing is to see 'Emily Loves to Bounce' at the Canberra Theatre at 10AM on Saturday 16th of August. This is a captioned performance. We have reserved seats in the front row with a good view of the captions.

Tickets cost \$17.50 each. Payment needs to be made to CDCA by 30th of June. This could be done by cheque to the post office box or by cash to Kate, Alex, Luke or Wendy.

If there are any questions email Alex (maturner@grapevine.com.au)
For more info on the show:

<http://www.canberratheatre.org.au/pages/event/performance808.asp>

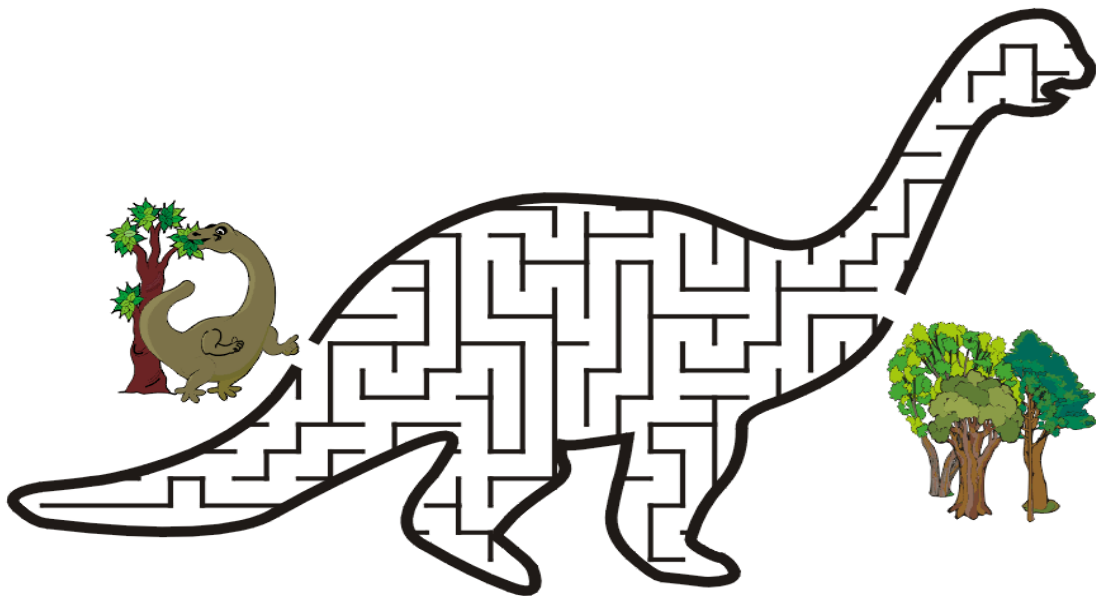


CDCA Kids Page

Winter is here! Let us know what you are doing to keep yourselves warm!



Help the dinosaur through the dinosaur maze to find more trees to eat.



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