



Still Talking

*Dedicated to the welfare of Laryngectomees
and those with similar vocal disorders*



Laryngectomee Association.N.S.W

All Correspondence to: The Secretary, Laryngectomee Association of N.S.W

No 194

February 09

OFFICE BEARERS 2008

PRESIDENT: Brian Gardner

4 Merelyn Road. Belrose 2085
02 9452- 2858

VICE PRESIDENT: Russell Green

17/765 Princes Hwy. Blakehurst 2221 Ph.95473669

VICE PRESIDENT (2) Peter M^cGregor

21/39 Cook Rd, Centennial Park 2021 0419 421324

SECRETARY Colin Bolton, 39/122 Saunders Street. Pyrmont
2009. 02 95719220 .0437 378747

Email admin@stilltalking.org

TREASURER / WELFARE OFFICER:

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Fax & Phone 02 9451 7926. Email lansw@bigpond.com

ASSISTANT WELFARE OFFICER & Hospital packs. Bruce
Hodges 31 Clack Rd Chester Hill 2162 0404 400 842

MINUTE SECRETARY: Mary Halliburton, 94 Carmen Drive Car-
lingford 2118

SPEECH AIDS COORDINATOR: John Chaloner PO Box 31 Sum-
mer Hill 2130. 02 9799-1154

NEWS EDITOR Colin Bolton 39/122 Saunders St
PYRMONT 2009 02 95719220 Mob 0437 378747

Email: admin@stilltalking.org

WHO TO CONTACT

BLOM SINGER SUPPLIES:- David Smith. 27 Bellevue Pde
North Curl Curl 2099. Ph 02 9939-1539 Ask for David
personally

SPEECH AIDS, BATTERIES PARTS, ADVICE ON REPAIRS

John Chaloner PO Box 31 Summer Hill. 2130
Ph 02 9799-1154

SHOWER SHIELDS, STOMA COVER MATERIAL AND WEL-

FARE MATTERS. Carol Gardner, P.O Box 380 Belrose
2085 NSW Fax & Phone 02 9451 7926

ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE WHEN NEEDING OUT

PATIENT TREATMENT AND AWAY FROM HOME:- Can-
cer Council of NSW 153 Dowling St WOOLLOOMOOLOO
2011 (PO BOX 572 KINGS CROSS 1340) Ph 02 9334-
1900 Fax 02 9357-2676 Or contact social worker at the
hospital you will be attending

Association web page www.stilltalking.org

International Association of Laryngectomees..

<http://www.larynxlink.com/>



NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18th February 2009

Uniting Church Hall Carrington Avenue

Strathfield. 11am

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MEDICAL**

MONTHLY MEETINGS

N.S.W Association 3rd Wednesday of month Uniting
Church Hall Carrington Avenue. Strathfield at

NEW ENGLAND: Meets at 2pm 1stWed. Feb. Apr. June.
Aug. Oct. Dec. 2pm Conference Room. Rehab Unit Tam-
worth Base Hosp. 02 67678369

NEWCASTLE: 3rd Tues. Monthly Mayfield Bowling Club.
Ingall St. Mayfield. Contact John Lovett 02 4954 8308

NORTHERN RIVERS: 4 times annually at rotating venues
67678377 Contact Speech Pathology Lismore Base
Hospital

ALBURY: Contact Ph. 02 63232011 ext. 323

CANBERRA: 1st Thu. at 11am. Mar. June. Sep. Dec. Can-
berra Hospital

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS: Last Wed of month. 11am. Tho-
mas Rachael Moore Education Centre. Liverpool Hospital.
Contact Pres. Richard Patman 9607 6708 or John Peden
0422 543 036.

MID NORTH COAST Port Macquarie Community Health
Centre. Feb. May. Aug. Nov Contact Camilla Strain (Speech
Pathologist) 65882732

CENTRAL COAST Meet at Central Coast Leagues Club. Co-
ordinator(s) Vicky Kelly (S.P.) and Ann Moloney (Gosford
Hospital) assisted by Bill Byfield 0402 045048

Laryngectomee Association of NSW
Annual general meeting
18th February 2009

To be held at Uniting Church Hall, Carrington Avenue. Strathfield at 11am

Agenda

1. Minutes of last years meeting (attached)
2. Matters arising (attached)
3. President's report (attached)
4. Secretary's report (attached)
5. Treasurer's report (delayed due to auditors)
6. Welfare officer's report (attached)
7. Speech aids coordinator's report (attached)
8. Declaration by president that all offices be declared vacant
9. Election of officers:-
 - ⇒ President
 - ⇒ Vice President 1
 - ⇒ Vice President 2
 - ⇒ Secretary
 - ⇒ Treasurer
 - ⇒ Welfare Officer
 - ⇒ Assistant Welfare Officer
 - ⇒ Speech aids coordinator
 - ⇒ Editor— newsletter
10. Notices of motion:
 - (a) Brian Gardner/ Ratifying the decision at October meeting and confirming Dawn & John Lovett life members as recommended by Nola Eyres (Newcastle)
 - (b) Colin Bolton/ That Carol Gardner be made a life member of this association,
11. General Business
12. Meeting adjourn for lunch and fellowship

Colin Bolton—Secretary

If attending please bring these papers with you to help make for a smooth and efficient meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 20TH FEBRUARY 2008—STRATHFIELD (AGM)

Present: Brian & Carol Gardner. Lilah Walton. Colin & Wyn Bolton. Noel Gildea. R Chappelow. Russell Green. Ada Barnett. Noel Hannon. Muriel & Stan Imer. Peter McGregor. Alan Masri. John Chaloner. Don Newby. Bruce Hodges. Tony Krasnodebski. Patricia Lamont. Fiona Jefferson. Peter Ewan.

APOLOGIES Alan & Pat Dawson

The minutes of the 2007 AGM were taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Attached

ELECTION OF OFFICERS There being no other nominations other than the currently elected officer they were all elected unopposed and are as follows: President. Brian Gardner. Vice President Russell Green. Peter McGregor. Secretary & Editor Colin Bolton. Treasurer and welfare officer Carol Gardner. Assistant welfare officer Bruce Hodges. Minutes Secretary Mary Halliburton.

TREASURER'S REPORT The new financial advisor Robin Franks was introduced to the meeting along with the retiring adviser Lance Dowle. Who gave all the relevant details of investment and balances—this is a lengthy document and can be viewed on request.

There being no further business the chairman closed the Annual General meeting and opened the general meeting.

The minutes of the November minutes were taken as read and published with no matters arising.

TREASURER'S REPORT Attached. Carol Gardner to make enquiries re insurances from Cancer Council who has offered a blanket cover and to assess if this is less than the present amount being paid.

SECRETARY'S REPORT Correspondence to Minister for Health & Minister for Communications and local member regarding emergency calls for Laryngectomees who at the time of need may be speechless. Replies: Acknowledgements from all parties.

GENERAL BUSINESS Resolved Carol Gardner/ Bruce Hodges that an amount of \$914 be allocated for the creation of web page www.stilltalking.org as outlined by the secretary/editor

50TH ANNIVERSARY It is noted that the association celebrates its 50th Anniversary in September and it was resolved that a function be held to celebrate this milestone. A committee was formed of Carol Gardner. Lilah Walton. & Pat Dawson.

THANKS Lilah Walton express her thanks for the association for the Citation and gift of money in lieu of gifts in that were given in recognition of her services—Lilah advised that the money had been donated to help orphans and other children affected by aids and other diseases in Africa.

Russell Green expressed his thanks to members for their cards, flowers and phone calls on the death of his wife Faith, they were appreciated greatly.

The meeting closed at 12:15 and adjourned for lunch

WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT **New members:** Doug ALLEN of Brombin, Walter BIEG of Hebersham, Milan DMITRASINOVIC of Rosebery, Ray TOMKINS of Salamander Bay.

Vale: Mrs Joyce DUNN of Chester Hill.

Several letters received and cards expressing appreciation for the "Starter Packs" and being able to keep in touch via the newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For those who attended the October monthly meeting, you may remember that I raised the topic of Life Memberships being awarded to Hunter Region Branch stalwarts, President Dawn and Secretary, John Lovett. Nola and Dick Eyres of that Branch attended that meeting and spoke at length about Dawn and John's work and contribution. Immediately, a motion was proposed and seconded and without any further delay it was unanimously voted that this honour be awarded for their 30 years of voluntary work, continued service and support to laryngectomees, their families and friends in the Newcastle/Hunter area – the last 14 years as a President/Secretary team.

With the Hunter Region Christmas Party scheduled for 9th December, I proposed that any announcement of the awards be held over so that an announcement and presentation could be fittingly made at the function in front of their own loyal members, for whom they have worked so hard over the 30 years. In keeping with my request, the full detail of the October meeting minutes regarding the announcement of the awards was not included in the November Newsletter so that the honours could be a surprise.

On the day in question, Carol and I attended the Annual Christmas Party at the Mayfield Bowling Club, strong supporters of the group, armed with suitable framed Life Membership Certificates and a bouquet of flowers for Dawn and a ceremony was carried out in front of nearly 100 members, families, health professionals and friends, who responded enthusiastically. Dawn and John were both surprised and overwhelmed and responded that they had enjoyed their roles, which are continuing. Photographs were taken on the night and I understand that, in the following week, one of the local papers was going to interview and photograph Dawn and John for a covering press article.

On the same night, John and Betty Van Homrigh were presented with their authorized Hospital Visitors' I.D. Badges.

OTHER NEWS – On 12 December 2008 we attended a friendly Christmas lunch at Hawks-Eastwood Club with Pat Dawson, Bruce Hodges and friends of the former Western Districts Branch, all of whom still take an interest as members and supporters of the Association. Having accepted that invitation first, we unfortunately were not able to attend the Christmas Lunch arranged by the St. Vincent's Speech Pathology lunch for their group on the same day.

Brian Gardner

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the time of writing this report all accounts are in the hands of the auditor—a full financial report will be given at the March meeting and reported in this newsletter.

Carol Gardner

Secretary's Report Annual General Meeting 18th February 2009

A busy year in many respects and the summer break has been welcome, we have had the usual number of new members joining which the treasurer who handles all fees I am sure will have reported on during the year. One slightly worrying statistic was that we got 6 female members in a very short period of time that seemed to go a bit against the norm. Let us hope that it is just a glitch in the statistics and not the start of a trend.

During the latter half of the year I was able to organise a visitor training course with the help of Helen Brake and Margaret Patterson (senior speech pathologists) 18 people attended and a very enjoyable and informative day was spent at St Vincent's. Accommodation was provided for two nights for people who had too far to travel. As a result we have more trained visitors in more areas. Several of our speech pathologists assisted on the day

A recurring problem is that of forms and information being sent to the wrong address i.e. Treasurer instead of Secretary and vice versa. I try to be as explicit when I include a form in the newsletter for completion and state where exactly it needs to go. I know that most organisations have a policy that ALL correspondence go to the secretary, however we find it more expedient where money in any shape or form is involved for it to go direct to the TREASURER. Please assist us in this regard by reading the form carefully.

I have on a couple of occasions sent out a questionnaire to try to find out what members are thinking on things such as meeting place, times of meeting, what can we do improve attendance and the lack of response has been disappointing.

The launching of our web page www.stilltalkng.org was a lot of work requiring a lot of time and effort, as a result we are now accessible to the wide world via the internet and it is producing good results on search engines. The ongoing maintenance requires regular work as all of our newsletters past and present are available from there as well as masses of information for new and current Laryngectomees. After the initial outlay the running costs (excluding time and effort of course) are \$115 per year representing good value to members

NEWSLETTER: As I wear two hats at the moment in the association that of secretary and editor it would seem appropriate to comment on the newsletter. It seems in general to be well received and I do try to vary content wherever possible and not get overburdened with medical information and also try to vary the appearance. This last few months we have added a splash of colour to the front page (it gets too expensive to do a full issue this way) This month I have done a slight design change hope you approve

Despite many pleas for readers contributions it seems to fall on deaf ears as I have only had a couple, you might have had a funny experience as a Larry or even an offensive one so why not let us all share it. I have only been a Larry for 2½ years but in that short time have picked up many little hints and tips, I find it hard to believe that no one else has and if they have why they cannot share it with the rest of us.

From time to time I do get the odd joke for publication and many of them I cannot use, I am quite happy and comfortable with the most risqué of stories, however I try to consider the most sensitive of our members in this regard— so please don't be too disappointed if your ripping yarn isn't published.

The newsletter now goes out to around 260 members by post and around 80 by email about 75% of the latter are health professionals.

I take this opportunity of wishing all members a happy, healthy 2009—Take care, go well

Colin Bolton

SPEECH AIDS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

During 2008 your association supplied to its members, at cost price excluding GST, 31 batteries for the Servox speech aid.

It was a fairly quiet year for aids sent out on loan. We lent a Servox 3 times, a Nu-Vois 3 times and a Cooper Rand 2 times. Despite such a small number being lent I have had to chase up members or speech pathologists a few times about when our aid would be returned. Please don't forget that we lend an aid just for a couple of months whilst yours is being repaired, or for you to try out a different type.

. We thank the families of our late members W. Button of Mascot and Kenneth Lee of Coffs Harbour for the donation of their speech aids to the Association.

. Paxton-Barrand in Sydney are now fully up and running as a Servox agent (the agency transferred from Auditory Services in Melbourne). They sell speech aids, batteries & spare parts and do repairs. They are located at 5/283 George Street, just next to the Wynyard train station entry. Phone number 9299-4855.

. In December, with the approval of the Committee, I bought a Servox Eco speech aid. It operates on the same principle as their Inton and Digital aids but is simpler and much cheaper. It uses two AA batteries and the volume, tone & pitch adjustments are slightly different. It has been trialled by members and seems to be an acceptable alternative to the Inton & Digital.

I bought it because 1) since it is a good, cheap alternative to the other Servoxes I expect Speech Pathologists may be offering it to patients in the future and we would need one to then lend out to members who had an Eco, and 2) our stock of serviceable loan Servox aids is diminishing {despite kind donations from the families of late members} so for the future it may be that we have to buy new aids to maintain our loan stock and the Eco would be more economical than the other models.

Something a bit out of the ordinary –

I've lent a Servox speech aid (with charger, batteries, instructions, etc.) to an amateur playwright, Con Nats, for use in a short 8 minute play called "Haircuts". It's about a barber he knew in his youth & for whom he had high regard. On one visit the barber couldn't speak, apart from a very hoarse whisper. He'd had a medical procedure involving a tube going down his throat and they'd damaged his larynx. The young man later heard that the barber's throat had become infected and he'd had to undergo a laryngectomy. When next he met the barber he was speaking with a voice prosthesis [but that's a bit hard to do on stage so he decided to use a speech aid to highlight to the audience the change in speech]. The young man was outraged that this had happened to his friend and pressed him to sue the health system but the barber was more philosophical about it. The young man wrote an article about it for a student newspaper and later decided to make it a short play. I gather the play is really about how people view things differently and how they cope with events.

If anyone's interested it will be on at the Newtown Theatre in Bray Street on Wednesday to Saturday evenings, 4th to 7th of February, with a matinee on Sunday 8th. It's one of 10 short plays (maximum 10 minutes) in the session.

John Chaloner

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2009

All of the current serving officers have been nominated for reelection by:- J Gifford—no seconder is required, it remains for the nominees to accept the nominated positions. Brian Gardner. Carol Gardner. Colin Bolton. John Chaloner & Bruce Hodges have all signified acceptance.

Please note: this does not preclude anyone else from being nominated or nominating themselves.

Your current serving officers



PRESIDENT:
Brian Gardner



VICE PRESIDENT:
Russell Green



VICE PRESIDENT 2:
Peter McGregor



SECRETARY/EDITOR:
Colin Bolton



SPEECH AIDS
COORDINATOR:
John Chaloner



MINUTE SECRETARY:
Mary Halliburton



TREASURER:
WELFARE OFFICER:
Carol Gardner



ASSISTANT WELFARE
OFFICER
Bruce Hodges

IMPORTANT NOTICES

I'm doing some investigation into pre-op laryngectomy videos on behalf of Candice at Liverpool Hospital. I have "Life as a laryngectomee" (produced by Queensland Health) here at RPA. We used to have "Lost for words", but I don't seem to have any here in the department. Would it be possible to investigate through the Association if anyone has seen "lost for words" and aware of who produces it &/or purchasing details?

Katrina Blyth

Senior Speech Pathologist

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Head & Neck/Voice

Ph: 9515 9845

Page: 80701 (switch 9515 6111)

Local community groups in the Central and Southern Sydney region are invited to apply for grants to educate, promote and support cancer control programs in their local areas.

Cancer Council NSW is calling for submissions for the first round of the Regional Cancer Control Grant Program, which provides funding from \$500 to \$3,000 for local groups to meet cancer control needs.

The Cancer Council wants to help local communities to work together to develop solutions to local needs.

Applications will be assessed by the central and Southern Sydney regional advisory committee, made up of volunteers and professional associates from across the region.

Applications for grants are being invited now from Community Organisations to implement projects in their local area that fall into one of the following categories:

- * Research
- * Patient Support & Information
- * Cancer Prevention & Screening
- * Advocacy
- * Working in the Community

Applications close on Friday February **27th 2009**.

The Grant Application and Grant Application Form Guide can be obtained from The Secretary, address on front page of newsletter

This could prove a godsend for some of our support groups so please note the closing date

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Sorry to have burdened you with a business paper but it is necessary. we will get back to our normal selves next month.

Meanwhile try to get to the meeting and support the new committee and see what you can do for **YOUR** organisation

We still have outstanding fees please forward these before the date of the meeting, members not financial from that date will be removed from the newsletter mailing list