



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 199

June 09

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PATIENT TREATMENT AND AWAY FROM HOME:- Can-

cer Council of NSW 153 Dowling St WOOLLOOMOOLOO

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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>

Web Whispers www.webwhispers.org



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 17th June 2009

Sydney Mechanics Institute

280 Pitt Street at 10 am

Sponsors of "Still Talking"

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**Importers of Blom Singer &
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MEDICAL**

MONTHLY MEETINGS

N.S.W Association 3rd Wednesday of month Uniting
Church Hall Carrington Avenue. Strathfield at 11am

NEW ENGLAND: Meets at 2pm 1st Wed.. August Decem-
ber Conference Room. Rehab Unit Tamworth 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: Meets alternate months from Feb. Contact
Norma Teasdale 02 60211749

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 : David Mc.Clymont
President 6559 8383

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

Editor's Corner

Arriving home at 8am on the day of the May meeting from Bali will not allow me to get to the meeting or give me much time to prepare this newsletter, so I am writing this sitting pool side in about 30 degrees of sunshine in a land of smiles.

It has been a relaxing three weeks meeting old friends and making a few new ones along the way, our Balinese friends are still under the impression I will get better—meaning the stoma will magically disappear. They have little or no understanding of cancer and someone dying from cancer is more often than not attributed to black magic.

We are here in the dry season and that means plenty of cremations, when a death occurs the body is buried until it can be cremated either for financial reasons or family reasons. There is a great deal of preparation for these ceremonies with huge pyres being built and these are paraded through the streets to the cremation ground. A cremation can cost up to 9 million rupiahs—or around \$1200 another reason why corpses are buried is to give time to save money or to wait until there are several bodies they can share the cost with. Considering and average wage is around \$60— \$90 per month for a 6 day week you will understand how hard it can be.

When a Balinese girl marries she will go to live with the family of the new husband and a sudden death can cause a few complications regarding the cremation. The husband of a friend of ours here died suddenly at the age of 38, as he had not made any requests for his cremation the family insist on waiting, they wanted a 3 year wait but seem to have compromised and settled for 12 months.

Despite massive traffic congestion in the major cities there is never any road rage just a simple peep of the horn to let another driver know they are there and the vehicle in front always has the right of way. At home I use a mobility scooter being able to walk only short distances— I brought a wheelchair here to help me get around and at times footpaths are not very wheelchair friendly so we take to the roads that are narrow, we never encounter any problems they wait for us and never show signs of impatience.

Food is good and our average cost for dinner at night is \$15— \$20 including a beer, restaurants are plentiful and over the years we have been coming here have improved considerably, getting around is simple with taxis cheap, going to any restaurant in the town we stay in—Sanur cost \$1.50 usually shared between 4 of us . Alternatively there is the local transport for around 50 cents each, these are small vans that should seat around 8 although I have been in one with 14 people, they are not comfortable but can prove interesting as the locals are likely to get in with chooks, vegetables or any thing else they need to carry.

Again we have flown business class and life at the pointy end is a big improvement on cattle class, we enjoyed a nice breakfast in the Qantas lounge before getting a boarding call 30 minutes before take off and then getting priority boarding and luggage. We had already gone through the express immigration facility that is offered. Flight is around 6 hours 30 minutes and it's nice to land in sunshine and heat. The one thing I continue to miss on landing is the smell of Bali— the burning of the rice fields and the spices.

Now a wait in what I expect to be in a cold Sydney until next time, *CB*



Special Notice

The June meeting to be held on Wednesday the 17th will be held at the Sydney Mechanics Institute 280, Pitt Street at 10am.

This venue is easily accessible from Town Hall or Museum station and buses City bound enter the city via Elizabeth or George Street so whatever mode of public transport you use you will only be a five minute walk away.

Take particular notice of the starting time of **10am**.

This is being done on a trial basis after comments about the Chatswood venue being cold in Winter. You will find it much more congenial and whether it is more suitable to our needs is of course left for you to decide.

It is air conditioned with lifts to all floors, in all probability we will be on the first floor but a notice will be displayed in the foyer. It is also wheelchair friendly.

For this meeting the normal procedure of lunch following the meeting will not be adhered to but tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided, hence the earlier start time. This arrangement will also get rid of the need for anyone making sandwiches (*and of course our President Brian being up all night making cakes*)

So please come along so that you can express an opinion and determine if this arrangement is suitable for future meetings and also to give us an indication as to whether we can attract better attendances to our meetings.

PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING



You can say that again!

Most of you if not all of you will no doubt remember that on your diagnosis you were given an information pack that included stoma covers, membership details and the booklet "You can say that again" Hopefully like me you found it very informative and useful .

The booklet is now over 20 years old and very much out of date, it is currently being revised from the medical perspective by Margaret Patterson SSP and I am endeavouring to bring the rest up to date.

One thing that seems lacking is information and pictures of Laryngectomees getting on with life and normal activities and I hope with your help we can improve on that. In that regard if you have a picture of yourself in some activity that is of interest to you .i.e golf, bowls etc and you let me have one we will see if we can reproduce them in this section of the booklet. I can't guarantee that we will reproduce your contribution as space will be somewhat limited, however all pictures sent if not used will be produced in an edition of the newsletter.

The photograph does not need to be digital, a print in reasonable condition will be fine and all contributions will be returned when finished with

Address the envelope with my address as it appears on the front of the newsletter and make sure your name and address is included .

The 40,000 Memorial stone

Jim died, his will provided \$40,000 for an elaborate funeral. As the last guests departed the affair, his wife Sharon turned to her oldest and dearest friend. 'Well, I'm sure Jim would be pleased,' she said.



'I'm sure you're right,' replied Brenda, who lowered her voice and leaned in close 'How much did it really

cost? All of it,' said Sharon. 'Forty thousand?'
No!' Brenda exclaimed... 'I mean, it was very nice, but \$40,000?

'Sharon answered, 'The funeral was \$6,500. I donated \$500 to church. The whiskey, wine and snacks were another \$500. The rest went for the Memorial Stone.'

Brenda computed quickly. '\$32,500 for a Memorial Stone? How big is it?'

I know you will be anxious to see the stone so go to page 5 to see the picture CB

Don't leave your mobile lying around!

Several men are in the locker room of a golf club. When a cell phone on a bench rings, a man engages the hands free speaker-function and begins to talk. MAN: "Hello." WOMAN: "Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?" MAN: "Yes." WOMAN: "I'm at the mall and I've found a beautiful leather coat. It's only £500. Can I buy it?" MAN: "OK, go ahead if you like it that much." WOMAN: "I also stopped by the Mercedes dealership and saw the new models. I saw one I really liked." MAN: "How much is it?" WOMAN: "£35,000" MAN: "For that price I want it with all the options." WOMAN: "Great! One more thing...the house we wanted last year is back on the market. They're only asking £275,000." MAN: "Well, then go ahead and put in an offer for £260,000." WOMAN: "OK. See you later! Love you!" MAN: "Bye, I love you, too." The man hangs up. The other men are looking at him in astonishment. Then he asks MAN: Any idea who this phone belongs to?

Perfume



"I want my husband to pay more attention to me. Got any perfume that smells like a computer?"

Happy As Larry – Colin Bolton

As a child growing up in the North of England I often heard the term "He's/she's as happy as Larry" now of course Larry has a different meaning to us all. There is in fact a Laryngectomee Club in the north of England (I think Liverpool) called "The Happy Larry's"

This got me thinking (an unusual occurrence some might say) and I decided to look up the origins, much to my surprise I found some sources attributed it to Australia and some New Zealand however I remain convinced it must be 'pommy' (English) origin I cannot understand how an Aussie New Zealand expression came into use in the early 1940 which is probably when I first heard it unless of course it was brought back by British soldiers having interaction with Aussies and Kiwis after the 1914/18 war

The phrase *happy as Larry* seems to have originated as either Australian or New Zealand slang sometime before 1875. This date is earlier than that given in most dictionaries, but H W Orsman, editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of New Zealand English*, has traced it to a New Zealand writer named G L Meredith, who wrote in about 1875: "We would be as happy as Larry if it were not for the rats".

Unlike other odd phrases — the Australian *happy as a boxing kangaroo in fog time* and the New Zealand *happy as a sick eel on a sandspit* come to mind — it was meant positively: extremely happy or content.

There's a suggestion that it comes from the name of the nineteenth-century Australian boxer Larry Foley (1847-1917), though why he was especially happy nobody now seems able to say. Perhaps he won a lot of contests? (He was certainly one of those who originated gloved boxing rather than bare-knuckle fighting in Australia and his name is still remembered there.) But this origin is far from certain and the early New Zealand reference renders it less so, without ruling it out altogether.

Dr Orsman's suggestion is that it is more likely to come from an English dialect source, *larrie*, joking, jesting, a practical joke. Another possible link is with the Australian and New Zealand term *larrikin* for a street rowdy or young urban hooligan, recorded from the late 1860s but known especially in both countries from the 1880s onwards in reference to a specific subculture. Like other groups before and since, the larrikins had their own dress style, in their case very neat and rather severe. The word may well have come from English dialect *larrikin* for a mischievous youth, once common in Warwickshire and Worcestershire, which itself is closely related to *larrie*. Either of these sources could afterwards have been reinforced through a supposed connection with Larry

Foley. You'll have to take that up with Larry when you find him. "Happy as Larry" is a British-Australian catch phrase that simply means "extremely happy" or "very pleased with the way things are going." The Rural-American equivalent of "happy as Larry" (although my rendition will be a bit sanitized for family consumption) would be "happy as a pig in mud."

Since "happy as Larry" is a phrase native to the Commonwealth, it's not surprising that you've heard it largely from English friends. And since "Chicken Run" (a currently popular film starring animated clay chickens in a sort of avian parody of "Stalag 17") was directed by the Brits responsible for the "Wallace and Gromit" movies, use of the phrase in its screenplay is no surprise either.

Unfortunately, there is a conspicuous lack of verifiable information about "happy as Larry." But it does seem to have originated in Australia around the end of the 19th century, and first appeared in print (as far as we know so far) in 1905. The leading theory is that "happy as Larry" originally referred to the Australian boxer Larry Foley (1847-1917), but no one seems to know if, when or why boxer Larry would have been happy enough to inspire a popular saying of such remarkable longevity. "As happy as Larry" Meaning: Very happy.

Origin(s)

Larry - certainly the best known character in the world of similes. Most likely to be an Australian or New Zealand expression.

"We are beset with larrikins, who lurk about in the darkness and deliver every sort of attack on the walls and roof with stones and sticks."

<http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/40850.html>

Almost all the other early citations are from Australia or New Zealand. For example, this from Tom Collins (the pen name of the popular Australian writer Joseph Furphy), in *Barrier Truth*, 1903:

"Now that the adventure was drawing to an end, I found a peace of mind that all the old fogies on the river couldn't disturb. I was as happy as Larry."

There are two commonly repeated contenders for the derivation. One is that it refers to the Australian boxer Larry Foley (1847 - 1917). Foley was a successful boxer who never lost a fight. He retired at 32 and collected a purse of £1,000 for his final fight. So, we can expect that he was known to be happy with his lot in the 1870s - just when the phrase is first cited.

/Continued page 5



The alternative explanation is that it relates to the Cornish and later Australian/New Zealand slang term 'larrikin', meaning a rough type or hooligan, i.e. one predisposed to larking about. 'Larrikin' would have been a term that Meredith would have known. The earliest citation of that is also from New Zealand and also around the time of the first citation, in H. W. Harper's Letters from New Zealand, 1868:

And here is the memorial stone!



A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: 'I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses.'

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note

'I've circled this block for 10 years.

If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation.'

Comment:

Not being at the May meeting as I was away on holiday I was unable to say anything regarding the dissent recorded in the minutes re the starting time of the City meeting.

The starting time of the meeting was agreed at 10am as a trial, the prime reason was as I explained at a previous meeting we need time to look at the meeting place, decide if it is suitable and then work from there. Initially it would be difficult to have our usual lunch of sandwiches and cakes etc without prior preparation and thus it was decided we would simply have a break for coffee, tea and biscuits.

It was also suggested that an earlier start time would free the afternoon for other things. It was not envisaged that people would even think of driving to the meeting with public transport (in our case) so cheap and giving easy access to the venue. and if that is the case peak hour hardly enters the equation. CB

A member benefited from John Chaloner's comments last month about private health cover and wrote a nice letter

She'd had problems with HCF because they wouldn't cover her voice prosthesis because it wasn't 'attached' to her body, so she'd changed to Medibank Private.

(Nice to get feed back Editor)



The Two Most Important Days Of The Week

by TexasRose (Jean) There are two days in every week that we should not worry about, Two days that should be kept free from fear and apprehension. One is "YESTERDAY" with its mistakes and cares, Its faults and blunders, Its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All the money in the world can not bring back yesterday. We can not undo a single act we performed nor can we erase a single word we've said. Yesterday is gone.

The other day we shouldn't worry about is "TOMORROW" With its impossible adversaries, its burdens, its hopeful promise and poor performance, tomorrow is beyond our control.

Tomorrow's sun will rise either in splendour or behind a mask of clouds - but it will rise. And until it does we have no stake in tomorrow, for it is yet to be born.

This leaves only one day. That day is "TODAY". Any person can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when we add burdens of yesterday and tomorrow that we break down. It is not the experience of today that drives people mad, it is the remorse or bitterness for something which happened yesterday - and the dread of what tomorrow may bring, Let us therefore live and base our life not on "Yesterday" or "Tomorrow", but on "Today" and all that it has to offer us.

Just one day at a time is all anyone needs.

The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds, and the pessimist fears this is true. - James Cabell

Something you rarely hear at a lary support meeting : "That's easy for you to say!"

(David Blevins)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 20TH MAY 2009

- Chairman** Peter Mc.Gregor in the absence of Brian Gardner
- Present** Peter Mc.Gregor. Druce Hodges. Noel Gildea. John Pyle. John Peden.
Victor Stumbles. Patricia Lamont
- Apologies** Brian & Carol Gardner. Colin & Wyn Bolton. Russel Green. Ray Chappelow. Mary Halliburton. Pat Dawson. John Chaloner
- Minutes** Resolved J Pyle/B Hodges The previous minutes be accepted as a true and correct record and taken as read.
- Secretary's Report** Nil (vacation)
- Finance Report** Presented by Peter Mc.Gregor in the absence of the treasurer Carol Gardner and accepted B Hodges/N Gildea

Adelaide Bank			Commonwealth Bank		Expenditure
Opening Balance	\$91,339.00	Expenditure	Income		Phone/Internet \$100.00
Income	\$192.00	Nil	Opening Balance	\$3,921.00	Printing \$262.00
Redemption (Scandia)	\$5,656.00		Sales	\$294.00	Postage \$286.00
			Membership fees	\$50.00	Patient Suplies \$40.00
			Donations	\$10.00	Hall rental May \$75.00
					Donation Coffs Hbr \$200.00
Totals	\$97,187.00	Total	\$0.00	Total	\$4,275.00
				Total	\$963.00
Balance	\$97,187.00			Balance	\$3,312.00
CSB Fixed deposit(4%)		300,000			
Skandia 13.5.09		38,087			

- Welfare Report** I regret Brian and I will not be at the meeting— a family funeral at Gosford needed precedence. Best wishes to Maraly Ploenges (“scootin” around again) Mary Halliburton. Victor Stumbles (hope all went well at recent op) and to any other members, family and friends not up to par at the moment
- NEW MEMBERS: Kevin Waller of Morisset. Jim Millen of Pennant Hills. Frank Raso of Naraweena. Eric Fing of Moree. John Czadric of Ingleburn and Brian Mc.Conell of Riverwood
- VALE: William Bill Deasy of St.Clair. Ronald William Auswild of 6/11 New South Head Road, Rose Bay died 13th October 2008.
- General Business** Re the meeting to be held in the City next month several members were not happy about the 10 am start time as it puts them into peak hour traffic time! I did assure members the chair would make an attempt and give it a try
- The meeting closed at 11:30am