

Vol 34, Issue 2, June 2013

IDA

Intellectual Disability Australasia



*ASID NSW ACT
invites
you
to
Sydney*

Magazine of the Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability



*John's life story
film review: Scarlet Road
up the hill project
intellectual disability act 2003*

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editorial



Hello to all ASID members.

The year seems to be flying ahead with lots of exciting changes in the disability sector with the rolling out of Disability Care Australia/NDIS. In such a changing political environment, it becomes all the more important for people with disabilities, their friends and allies, practitioners and researchers to remain informed and to ensure that the new system of service provision will best meet the aspirations and needs of people with an intellectual disability.

In this IDA edition, there is much talk about the NDIS in regional updates and in the ASID president report. We are also fortunate to have included in here John Monson's story – a man with learning difficulties who wants to help others by sharing his story of managing alcohol addiction in his life. This story is a culmination of work by John and his worker Heidi Cheng over a significant period of time and I am sure they would appreciate your comments and feedback.

We also have some information about Up the Hill Project at Flinders University, South Australia, the longest standing project in Australia to support people with intellectual disability to study at university. There is also an article by PhD student Amanda Smith on her research on the experiences of the Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003 in New Zealand, a piece of legislation designed to meet the care and rehabilitative needs of offenders with an intellectual disability. We also have a review of the film Scarlet Road which was screened in Wellington last year at the time of ASID's conference which may be of interest.

I want to thank those people who have contacted me about having their articles and stories published. I really enjoy hearing what others are doing and I will do my best to respond to your requests in due course!!

Lastly, I want to encourage you all to attend ASID's conference in Sydney this year. These conferences are vital to our sector, are a great opportunity to network and learn from each other.

***Enjoy this edition and travel well,
Kathy***

John's life story

By **John Monson**

Community Living Program Constituent



Accessible summary:

- Community Living Program (CLP) works with adults with a learning difficulty who live on the north side of Brisbane.
- CLP has been working with one of the constituents, John Monson for over 10 years.
- Two years ago, John came up with the idea of writing his life story about his journey of alcohol addiction. In his story, John will share with us some of his experiences with the help of his social worker, Heidi Cheng.
- John hopes this story will provide insight to human service workers on how to be more responsive to this group of people.
- John would love to know what you think about his story. To contact us, you can either call Heidi on (07) 3266 5633 or email hcheng@communityliving.org.au

My early years

The best way to start is with my parents. I was born in Sydney in the late 70s. Basically both of my parents were alcoholics. They drank a lot and could not look after me so I went into care when I was nine. I was moved from place to place until I turned

eighteen. On my eighteenth birthday, I did not know what to do with myself because there was no plan in place from Child Safety. They did not tell me what I should do next, and I had no one in my life. I pretty much started drinking once I turned eighteen and technically speaking, I have not stopped since.

On pension weeks, I think it was about four days that I was pretty much under the weather. I would buy a couple of cartons of VBs and then go to a hotel to get cheap drinks because I knew the management there. I had nothing to do with my time and so I was seeking people to talk to. I did not think I made a single friend the whole time but I sort of got over that fairly quickly.

A few days after I blew all my money, I started feeling sore and the muscles were aching. I felt sorry for myself for feeling sore. I think that's called a withdrawal syndrome. Then when I sobered up, my body craved for more alcohol and normally it was pension week again.

It was pretty depressing, I was unemployed and I did not know what to do with my time. I have never had suicidal thoughts, as such. Having said that, there had been times when I wanted to kill myself, I would like to die. I was going to drink myself to death.

Becoming a constituent of CLP

I have known Community Living Program (CLP) since I was sixteen. I came to a few functions CLP held, but I did not join up until I was twenty-one.

I was living in Albion by myself and got bored so I started playing this stupid game which I set fire out of the milk cartons in the kitchen sink. It did not actually catch fire because I put it out before the place got burnt down. Then one day my former

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foster father dropped by when I was playing this game. He thought I was not doing so well and so he contacted CLP to see if they would take me on.

Things did not start to change once I joined CLP. I was still drinking really heavily.

It took a couple years after being with CLP that I realized they could actually help me. The thing is, if I was not ready and people kept telling me what to do, I just would not do it! I remembered my first worker, Phil, would not work with me a couple of times because I was drunk. That did not bother me because I was not ready to make any change.

Regain control of my life

The idea of doing something about my drinking started when I was feeling sorry for myself one night when I had a bit too much to drink. I thought, "Hang on, I want to stop drinking so much". I knew for a fact that if I could have all my money, I would spend it all on alcohol. It does not do anything good to my liver in the long term.

It was my decision to go on Public Trustee. Morrie (CLP coordinator) brought up this idea because CLP was very concerned about my drinking. Originally I said no because I did not want to lose control of my money. But then I thought to myself, "I can actually save money if I go to Public Trustee. They can help me to save up for things that I have not been able to." I was in a very bad state and I knew it was either my choice or CLP was going to put me on Public Trustee. Therefore, I decided to jump before I got pushed.

In 2009, I managed to save up enough money to go on a two weeks holiday. I got onto the Indian Pacific train in Sydney and travelled across to Perth. It was an amazing trip and I had a great time.

I have been with Public Trustee for seven years now. Looking back, I think it was a good decision to make.

Team work

When I was desperate for alcohol, I used to pawn my stuff like my TV and stereo system. I remember once I sold my TV for \$80 and I spent it at the pub. I never bought it back. Then I decided to make an agreement with my worker, we went to the pawn broker to ask them not to serve me. I went back myself and tried to cancel once. And they would not do it, it did not feel

good at that time but in retrospect, I was glad they stood their ground.

Having an agreement with CLP does not mean I am bullet proof. I still have my ups and downs. When I get money and I actually want to drink, there is no way I can stop myself from drinking. This is the problem I am going to have for the rest of my life.

Sometimes I'll fight it and fight it and get less money and stuff like that, and then when I hang out with my friends, I'll ask for more money so I can buy more alcohol.

The difficulty about my addiction is, once I start drinking, I cannot stop. The only way I can stop myself from drinking too much is to limit the damage. That is why I ask CLP to be tough on me and stay firm. I want to hold myself accountable so I make agreements with CLP. I ask CLP not to give me any money if I have been drinking. The agreement details how I want to budget my money and the support I want from CLP every fortnight. It is signed by both myself and CLP.

How the agreement works

On pension day, I have this "annoying little person", known as my worker, who goes to Coles with me and says, "Put money on your grocery card, put money on grocery card". It was in fact my idea to ask the worker to go to the shop with me because I know I would not buy any grocery if I was by myself. All the money will be spent on alcohol!

There are a number of gift cards you can get from Coles. However, there is only one card which you can just spend on grocery and nothing else. I tricked my worker one time when I said to her, "This card looks fancy, let's put money on this one." The part I did not tell her was, I could use that card at Liquorland, which I did end up spending most of the money on grog.

When the alcohol talks to me, I will do anything and everything to get alcohol. One of the tactics is to scam my worker. I make up excuses to get hold of my money.

There was one time when I tried to scam my worker by asking her to give me the money that meant to go towards my cleaner's wage. I remembered that day I really wanted to drink. I asked my worker and she said no, and she told my cleaner about my sneaky plan! My cleaner said no, unless I did the cleaning myself! They



knew I would not go too far on this one because I hate chores! I should have thought a bit far ahead!

There was another time when I drank four nights straight and I could not stop so on Friday, I went down to CLP blind drunk, trying to get some money that I had put aside earlier that week. I asked my worker and she said no and so did Sue, the team leader. She said she would not give me any beer or money either. I was stuck. Then I decided to go above Sue to Morrie, the coordinator. He said no and gave me a lift home. I was a bit annoyed at the time but when I sobered up, I thought it was a good idea. The next week, I went down to CLP and spoke to Morrie, asked for CLP's support to tighten up my drinking plan because I was feeling sorry for myself.

Working at the Nundah Co-op

Before I became a constituent of CLP, I worked as a trolley boy for six months. It was an ok job until I got fired. I probably wanted a job, but I drank my wage so I thought to myself, "Why bother getting a job anyway?"

Then one day Dave Langdon, who was the first coordinator of the Nundah Community Enterprise Cooperative (NCEC), wanted to give me a job as a park maintenance worker. He kept on approaching me for two years before I took up his offer. It was perfect timing because I needed a fridge and the Coop happened to have a second hand one so I asked Dave if I could

have it. I was planning to pay the coop back but then I decided to work the debt off because I knew I was going to spend the money on beer anyway. I sort of killed two birds with one stone because I ended up with a fridge and a job!

I remembered one of my first shifts was cleaning the Nundah village. I was really hung over on this particular day. This was long before going under public trustee. I actually stopped working and went to the pub! I left all the gear at the shed and walked up to the pub but I was not allowed in. The manager thought I was too drunk! I nearly got fired from the village shift. I then had a couple of months off before going back to the coop again. I am now doing one shift at the Espresso Train Cafe making sandwiches and two shifts cleaning up Nundah Village. I have been with the coop for nine years and I really enjoy it.

My future

I think I will still need ongoing support from CLP because I know for a fact if I can have access to alcohol, I will just drink them all.

I would also like to keep writing books. I am an author and I go to the Literacy group every Friday to write books. Me and my literacy tutor will work for an hour each week. I tell him my ideas and he helps me write them down. I have published three books. They are "Predicting a War", "Policing Nundah" and "Crime doesn't pay". The fourth one is about aliens invading the

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Experiences of the Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003

by Amanda Smith



Accessible summary

- Many people with an intellectual disability come into contact with the criminal justice system.
- In New Zealand, there is the Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003. This is a law to help people with intellectual disability to stop offending and to have a better life.
- Amanda has done a research study on the Act and how it has helped people with an intellectual disability.

- She found that the Act needed to think more about human rights when helping people with an intellectual disability.

Individuals with an intellectual disability have been overrepresented in the criminal justice system in New Zealand for some time. The Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003 was passed in order to better meet the care and rehabilitative needs of intellectual disabled offenders. The legislation represents a unique departure from leg-

John's life ...

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earth and the fifth one is about modern piracy. I look forward to keep publishing books because I have too many ideas!

I would also like to go on another train trip. I am thinking to get onto the Ghan and travel from Adelaide to Darwin. I want to visit the Northern Territories. I want to see Uluru.

Why do I want to share my story?

I want to tell my story because it may help train better social workers about people who have problems with alcohol abuse.

I reckon people who do have problems with alcohol and substance abuse, part of their problems is they are addicted to it. So they will cheat, scam or steal to get a hand of it.

Being out right tough does not work, like people will just get up and say, "Screw you, I am out of here." But be firm and make them realize if they got a problem, the help is out there. As a worker, do not even try to be a dictator. It is team work like I have got an idea so I am going to bounce that off with my worker and see if that works or not. This is much better than being told what to do because it will not go too far. ●

film review:

Scarlet Road

review by
Sheena Cranwell



<http://www.scarletroad.com.au>

Accessible Summary

- Scarlet Road is a film about sexual services for people with a disability and how they can help people.
- Rachel Wotton is an Australian sex worker who works with people with a disability.

While undergoing field placement as a social work student, I was asked to review the documentary, *Scarlet Road*. Rachel Wotton created the documentary “*Scarlet Road*” broadcasted

in 2011 as a tool to assist in her aim to advocate for recognition of the benefits of sexual services for people living with a disability. As sexual encounters are often overlooked in a needs based case management plan for individuals with a disability, one might forgive me for not anticipating this project.

The non-profit organisation, Touching Base, created by Wotton and Saul Isbister focuses on providing sexual services to people with a disability, by fully trained professionals. These services are delivered in an appropriate and respectful manner. The documentary portrays Touching Base’s purpose of service delivery as more about fulfilling the innate *continued page 8*

islative processes utilised in comparable jurisdictions internationally for this group.

A study has been completed exploring the implementation of the ID(CC&R) Act through the experiences of ‘care recipients’ and those individuals who work with them. The study asked the question, ‘What discourses come into play when participants speak about care recipients under the Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act and how do those discourses construct individuals who are subject to the Act?’

Semi-structured interviews were utilised and data was analysed using a Social Constructionist methodology identifying discourses such as ‘intellectual disability’, ‘criminality’, ‘therapeutic’ and ‘human rights’. Such discourses construct care recipients in specific ways offering them particular subject positions, power relationships and material conditions, all of which have an impact on their social position.

The study had a focus on decisions made regarding release from the Act and the perceived outcomes for care recipients through the care and rehabilitation provided under the framework. The findings of the study indicate that the influence of different discourses

may provide contradictory meanings for rehabilitation. If rehabilitative goals are not met based on the dominance of ‘criminality’ for example then the potential for long term compulsion becomes a possibility. Thus clarity regarding what rehabilitation means and looks like in practice is required to provide the ‘improvements’ required for release. Rehabilitation needs to include both increasing the ability to live in the community and to reduce the risk of reoffending.

Consideration of the outcomes provided for care recipients by the IDCCR must be made in the context of human rights and the development of the United Nation’s Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It will be argued that the promotion of a human rights discourse and the integration of a human rights framework within rehabilitation is necessary to provide real outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities who become subject to the IDCCR.

Amanda Smith is a Doctorate in Health Science student at AUT University. She is a trained social worker and has been working in the intellectual disability and criminal justice system for the last ten years. She currently works as a senior advisor with the Ministry of Health. She can be contacted on grubz@orcon.net.nz ●

Scarlet Road

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human need for intimacy for people with a disability, than the stereotypical connection to monetary gain and explicit sexual acts. Wotton's sexual health knowledge and societal awareness helps provide substance to the argument of the social, physical and mental health benefits of including sexuality and intimacy in a care plan for someone with a disability.

While the role of daily living assistance is often provided by family and carers, a person with a disability's need for personal connection, intimacy and touch is often overlooked. John, a participant in the documentary reflects on a time when he was 'thinking of ending it'. However, a change of focus led to his conscious decision to remain active. John expresses how his 'red and orange wheelchair' is an intrusive addition to his own sexual identity. Now since the introduction of sexual services from Touching Base, John feels he has a more positive outlook on life. This makes the viewer understand the positive impact personal connections and intimacy can have on a person and reminds one of the richness and innate contribution relationships have on us as social beings.

Beneficial tones of the services provided by Touching Base are expressed by several clients. In fact, there really was not anyone against the service in the documentary. Themes of enhancing the femininity and masculinity of people with a disability, the importance of providing an opportunity to experience sexual or intimate connections and the ability to experience life to the fullest, were provided as benefits of such sexual services. Families are also included in the documentary, embracing the concept and providing the funds to ensure the services are attainable for their family member with a disability. The interesting twist that becomes apparent in the documentary is the connection between sex workers and people with a disability and the assumptions and discrimination these groups face due to their societal identities.

I must say that this documentary has provided me with a great conversation piece that is allowing me to highlight the need for intimacy and the creation of personal relationships in the care plan of individuals with a disability amongst the other social work students. While I



Photo credit: Grevel / Foter.com / CC BY-NC-SA

am sure there are some who may not embrace the concept of introducing the services of sex workers to all people with a disability, the documentary provides an insight into the benefits of these intimate connections. It also reminds the viewer that all people require personal connections on varying levels, to live a life in which they feel truly fulfilled and valued.

More information on Scarlet Road can be found at the following website: <http://www.scarletroad.com.au> ●

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- Display advertisement:
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- Pre-printed inserts:
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A Note from ASID's President

Dr Angus Buchanan



Recently when I picked up my local paper I came across an opinion piece written by Akram Azimi, the Young Australian of the Year for 2013. He wrote “...last week a strange thought occurred to me – the world is becoming a better place.” At the same time as Akram was writing his comments, the papers have been full of discussion, commentary and opinion about the NDIS. I am not sure that I have ever seen disability have such a prominent place (generally positive) in the media even if only for a few days.

I sat with Akram's comment and the issues related to the NDIS and became inquisitive; would people with intellectual disabilities and their families agree that world is becoming a better place. I am sure a poll would give us divided opinion. There is little doubt that the promise of the NDIS and what its potential may offer has created a sense of expectation that is both exciting but at the same time creating significant uncertainty as the implementation commences across Australia. It is important that ASID has a strong voice in this fast moving agenda. It is reasonable to expect that NDIS should be part of making the world a better place for people with disabilities and their families.

I think the significant part about Akram's statement is his use of the word *becoming* which clearly highlights to me that change (hopefully for the better). It is a continual work in progress. There is no question, that for many people with intellectual disabilities and their families, while aspects of life have improved there is so much more to do. I often feel one of the greatest challenges is that people with disabilities are always playing catch up. This would be challenging enough if societal expectations were static but as we are all aware that is not the case.

ASID's vision – to improve the quality of life of people with intellectual disability is very much about the

ongoing improvement of the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. This is embodied in our logo *Research to Practice* and seen in action through regional forums and events, the Australasian Conference, the publications and contributions to policy. ASID's strength is in the connection of its membership so please try to be part of the events that take place. I encourage you to think about attending the next ASID conference in Sydney in November with the highly relevant theme of *Our Time*. It is an opportunity to see ASID in action – engage and network with researchers, providers and practitioners, families and people with disabilities. ASID conferences are unique events and participation is always well rewarded by the experiences.

The voice of ASID is as strong as its membership. As an organisation we are continuing to grow. Be part of making ASID stronger by participating in activities including your local regional committees. Importantly our best marketing is you - so let people know about ASID, why it is important and encourage them to join.

register on-line now
Sydney ASID Conference
www.asid.asn.au



Tasmania

by Ben Crothers

Recent months in Tasmania have seen increased activity in preparation for the commencement of DisabilityCare Australia's operations in the state. ASID Tasmania notes positively that much of this activity is the provision of information to, or consultation with, people with a disability and their families or other support networks. The activity includes several projects funded by FaHCSIA's Practical Design Fund: Youth Disability Advocacy Service's project on living options for young people, Speakout Tasmania's project on decision making for young people with an intellectual disability, and Purple Orange's values-based leadership workshop.

STAR Tasmania in partnership with Montagu Community Living have launched a new resource for people with a disability and their families who are considering the move to supported independent living. The "Making A Move" booklet is available from the STAR Tasmania website – startas.org.

The key focus for many services in Tasmania is participation in the bi-annual Gearing-Up: Living Your Potential Expos held across the state in May and June. The expos provide people with the opportunity to speak directly with services about their options for employment, training, independent living, and community participation as well as the support available to ensure quality access to these services. ASID Tasmania will be at both the Hobart and Launceston expos, come and say hi.

Western Australia

by Chris Yates

2013 has seen the beginning of much planning for next year's ASID Australasian conference. A local committee is in place very ably led by Sue Peden and Ron Regan and a number of meetings have already been held. The Committee is now looking forward to linking up with the Board Sub-committee to engage in a strong partnership to bring this conference to fruition. A num-

ber of key decisions will be made at the sub-committee meeting in early May and unfortunately publishing deadlines for IDA may prevent these decisions being communicated at this point.

On a more local level we have kicked off the year with our first event being a breakfast meeting. Our guest speaker was Dr Ron Chalmers, Director General of the Disability Services Commission and ASID member. The topic was: What will an NDIS mean for people with intellectual disability?

We had a very positive response with approximately 40 people in attendance and some lively discussion followed the presentation. It is fair to say that our members and those present are concerned at how people with intellectual disability will fare if the system is a transactional one. Dr Chalmers was keen to point out that the proposal for the NDIS here in Western Australia is for a relationship based system rather than a transactional one and those present were heartened to hear this.

Our next event will be a sundowner looking at issues related to access to the internet by people with intellectual disability in group accommodation settings and then on the drawing board we have a joint intellectual disability and mental health symposium, possible event around the visit of Professor Tamar Heller later in the year and we are also looking to take advantage of speakers who will be presenting at the ASID Australasian conference in Sydney later in the year.

South Australia

by Ian Pearce

The announcement in mid April that SA was the second state to sign up to the full NDIS was exciting news. Even though this will not really come into effect until 2018 it represents a light at the end of the tunnel for many South Australians living with disability and their families. In the meantime, the NDIS Workforce Ready – Practical Design Fund project is under way and ASID SA is co-hosting a focus group event with Developmental

Educators Australia Inc (DEAI). This will be one of hopefully many opportunities that consumers, carers, families and service providers will have to air their views on what sort of training and attributes they want to see in 'the right people' for the job of caring for people with disabilities.

ASID SA will also be supporting the local branch of ADP to launch a new brochure aimed at direct care staff to assist them understand and identify restrictive practices and abuse. This will be available both electronically and in hard copy. Work on upcoming ASID events mentioned in our last IDA report as does our work on linking with our members in the Northern Territory. Along with other regions SA is also working hard on boosting and retaining members.

Victoria

by Patsie Frawley

It has been a busy couple of months for the ASID Vic committee. Trevor Skerry who was elected President in August 2012 resigned due to a generally busy life and other commitments. The committee would like to thank Trevor for his great work in the time he was President, in particular for bringing together the new committee. As Vice President, I was required to take up the Acting President position until the 2013 AGM when we will be looking for nominations for the position, so any budding leaders out there please let the committee know of your interest.

Since our last newsletter the committee has met four times, with one of these meetings being the strategic planning meeting held on a hot Saturday in February. We were ably led in this planning by Sue Jackson who volunteered her time to help us work through the goals for the committee for the next two years and develop some processes to make sure these goals are reached. A copy of the plan will be on the ASID website in coming weeks. As always the committee values input from

the membership on the directions of ASID Vic so if you have any questions, comments or great ideas for the work of ASID Vic please let us know by sending us an email at vicasid@asid.asn.au. We are focussing on being 'membership driven' so expect to hear from us with a survey where we will be asking you, the members about your interests and aims for your ASID membership. In 2013 we plan to run some smaller focussed events making use of National, International and local speakers on topics of interest to you – so please let us know what you think are the issues and ideas we need to be considering.

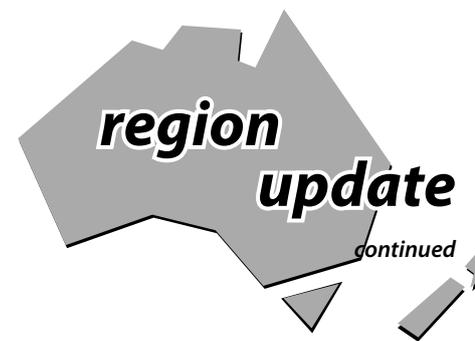
Two members of the committee have also resigned due to work and study commitments in the past month. The committee would like to acknowledge the work of Andrew Beeby and Heather Kennedy who have both been great assets to the Vic ASID committee and we wish them well with those other commitments.

Highlighting some of the important work ASID Vic does, Dr Nick Haglasis will be representing ASID at the upcoming National Round Table on the Mental Health of People with Intellectual Disability. There will be representatives from many government and non-government organisations from around Australia attending. The aim of the round table discussion is to look at what services and supports are currently available and how this can be improved. We look forward to hearing Nicks report after the Round Table.

ASID Vic is also pleased to announce that Angela Novak Amado will be speaking at an ASID event about building friendships and community connections. This will occur on the 11th and 12th of November. This event is being held in conjunction with La Trobe University and promises to be another excellent source of ideas and motivation for us all. Keep an eye on the ASID Vic web site for more details.

We are holding our meetings monthly at the Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria, Fairfield and you are always welcome to attend. Dates and times will be posted on the website. We plan to hold some meetings in conjunction with a dinner and possibly presenters so keep in touch to see when these are occurring. We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully meeting you throughout 2013.

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Queensland

by Cheryl Walker

I joined ASID committee in November 2012 and in the last few months have been inspired and motivated by the commitment of the existing and new committee members and the energy and vision this brought to the annual planning day to set the direction for this year. A small dedicated group of individuals can achieve many things. The ASID committee would like to say thanks to Karen Grogan for her hard work and efforts serving the ASID committee and membership. We wish her all the best for her future endeavours.

Professor Nick Lennox who has trained in general practice and psychiatry and specialized in the mental health of adults with an intellectual disability since 1992 presented our first ASID Twilight Seminar Series in March. This event Working with the Healthcare System – Now and into the Future was well received by members who attended. The presentation covered what is health and healthcare and what are the enablers and barriers to healthcare and outlined current and future research in this area. Issues discussed were the loss of critical health information that occurs when a person with an intellectual disability does not have consistent staff attending each appointment. Using GPs with a nurse practitioner can provide good outcomes by allowing the person with a disability and their carer/family to spend time with someone to talk through issues of concern. This can increase relevant information being provided to the GP. Tools available on the QCIDD website include: Ask – Five Year Diary and Health Diary and CHAP – Comprehensive Health Assessment Program. Future opportunities include E-Health and mobile phone health apps.

The committee is now working on our second Twilight Seminar Series for June where we will bring together Queensland researchers who are engaged with people with intellectual disabilities and their support networks. The researchers will share their research topics and experiences with people with an interest in supporting people with intellectual disabilities.

The committee is also seeking opportunities to co-sponsor events and use small research bursaries as a way

to strengthen our links with research in the area of intellectual disability. Our national board member will obtain examples of the national board bursary process to assist us with this process. The ASID committee has made a commitment to undertake governance training in the first half of this year. We are continuing to find opportunities to form strategic partnerships to further our strategic goals. We met with the President of Community Resource Unit (CRU) in early April to talk about ASID's strategic goals and discuss opportunities to co-sponsor events. CRU supports the development of leadership and authentic change to enhance the possibilities for people with disabilities to belong to and participate in community life. CRU's current focus is on family leadership. ASID will continue to develop this partnership during the coming year. Our Facebook page is getting increased activity and is a tool for discussion and to share information with our members.

New Zealand

by Adrian Higgins

Things have been quiet on the ASID- NZ front following our hosting of the Australasian Conference in 2012. The New Zealand ASID Council has met by teleconference and has committed to hosting regional events to raise the profile of ASID. The reality is we are small and widely geographically dispersed group which poses challenges in how we can get members to meet. We have committed to holding a New Zealand Regional Conference around mid-April 2014 in Hamilton. The theme will be around "Lets Talk Some More" to follow on from the self-advocates, reporting back and challenge at the Plenary Session of the 2012 Australasian Conference.

The structure of ASID continues to provide some minor challenges for the NZ Council including differences in legal requirements as to not-for-profit requirements and what constitutes a charitable organisation. These are all solvable and will be addressed at the face-to-face Australasian Board meeting in Melbourne

NSW & ACT

By Tina Purdon

The NSW / ACT Regional Committee continues on an exciting and busy journey, with the

ASID Conference in November 2013

shaping up to again be the event of the year!

Our international keynote speakers are a Who's Who list, and include;

- from the US,
 - **Angela Amado** (University of Minnesota) and
 - **Michael Wehmeyer** (University of Kansas),
- from the UK,
 - **Sue Read** (Keele University) and
 - **Eric Emerson** (Lancaster University).

Between them they'll cover person-centred planning and inclusion, transition to adulthood, the end of life, and outcomes - all you need to know really!

They will be joined by our home-grown, and also internationally renowned keynotes:

- **Robert Strike & Sarah Butler** (speaking as self-advocates, from Self Advocacy Sydney),
- **Trevor Parmenter** (contextualising intellectual disability, from Sydney University) and
- **Keith McVilly** (positive behaviour support, from Deakin University).

We are honoured that **Andrew Constance, NSW Minister for Disability and Ageing**, will open our conference.

But that's not all! - we have received some great abstracts and the concurrent sessions will be a smorgasbord of choice. With something for everyone from the increase in **individual services** and how this is being embraced by all stakeholders, to the use of **technology**, to **partnerships with people with disabilities in rural and remote settings** and a **raft of topics in between!**

The Sydney conference runs from

Wednesday 6th November through to Friday 8th November.

A great time to check out our lovely harbour city!

Come for the week and take advantage of our **pre-conference workshops**.

Three pre-conference workshops will be held in the beautiful surrounds of the University of Sydney, each promising stimulating learning in an interactive style. Come and learn more about;

1. promoting self-determination with students and adults with Michael Wehmeyer (USA),

2. living with loss and dying with dignity with Sue Read (UK) and Sharon Brandford (NZ), or
3. the assessment of support needs and the new release of I-CAN with Sam Arnold (Aus)".

Details and registration for these workshops are on the ASID website. Check it out when you register for the Conference!

The **conference dinner** will be held at the spectacular **"Star Room" overlooking Darling Harbour**. This will be a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues from across Australasia and enjoy some of the spectacular views and hospitality that Sydney has to offer - again, book your dinner tickets when you book for the Conference registration on the ASID website. Dinner seats are limited to 100, so book early to avoid disappointment.

ASID members may remember that in June 2012, NSW / ACT hosted a Roundtable Event investigating the ethical conduct of research in the disability sector. An outcome of this event was a commitment from attendees to the forming of a working party and the development of draft guidelines for ethical conduct of research in the disability sector.

The draft guidelines are about to be sent to all attendees of the Roundtable event and we aim for a launch at the 2013 ASID conference.

We have some **sponsor / exhibition opportunities still available** for November. The sponsor / exhibition area at ASID Conferences is always well supported by attendees and for suppliers it is a great venue to promote products or services to a broad audience from across Australasia.

We are asking all ASID members to share this opportunity through their networks and with potential sponsors and invite any interested parties to contact Linda Ward to discuss involvement at the 2013 ASID Conference. lindaward@sunshinelgd.org.au

So **your** next steps are:

1. visit the ASID website
2. complete your registration for the 2013 Conference
3. book your dinner tickets
4. check out the pre-conference workshops, make your selection and register
5. highlight the dates in your diary
6. prepare for a fabulous week in Sydney!

SEE YOU IN SYDNEY IN NOVEMBER!

The Up the Hill Project at Flinders University Disability and Community Inclusion

by *Dr Fiona Rillotta*
Director
and *Tova Rozengarten*
Coordinator



Accessible Summary

- The Up the Hill Project helps people with intellectual disabilities go to Flinders University, South Australia.
- People who have been helped by the project to go to uni have made new friends, learnt new skills and have become more confident.
- Research is being done to show that people with intellectual disabilities should be able to go to uni in other parts of Australia if they want to.

The Up the Hill Project (UTHP) facilitates inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities within the social and educational life of Flinders University. It exposes individuals to opportunities that the university environment provides, such as social and emotional development, as well as learning general study skills and developing broader knowledge of a variety of subject areas.

The UTHP commenced in 1999 when it was recognised that people with an intellectual disability do not naturally transition to post-secondary education like their peers without intellectual disabilities. The UTHP is the longest standing project of its kind at any Australian University.

Participants of the UTHP audit university topics of their choice, over three years, with the support of peer mentors. The mentors are university students who undertake the mentor role as part of the work experience component of their degree.

People interested in participating in the Up the Hill Project need to meet the following criteria:

- have an intellectual disability;
- express a desire to attend university;



- facilitate their own transport to and from the university campus; and
- demonstrate their ability to attend lectures without causing disruption to the learning environment.

Participants to date have described their Up the Hill experience as a highly valued activity in their lives. Reported outcomes from participating in the UTHP include:

- enhanced social skills and social networks, through the formation of relationships with peers
- development of self-confidence and self-esteem
- learning skills transferable to the workplace
- heightened independence

In addition, the social interaction with academic staff and fellow students provide mutually enriching, educa-

tional and social opportunities for all persons within the University environment.

Research is currently underway which hopes to further demonstrate the need for this kind of program at more universities in Australia. For further information about the research please contact Dr Fiona Rillotta (UTHP Director), Flinders University, Disability and Community Inclusion, Phone: 82013431 or Email: fiona.rillotta@flinders.edu.au

For further information about the Up the Hill Project, please contact Tova Rozengarten (UTHP Coordinator), Flinders University, Disability and Community Inclusion, Phone: 82013382 or Email: tova.rozengarten@flinders.edu.au ●



Call for expressions of interest: Editor(s) Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability



Susan Balandin & Ian Dempsey

The Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability is the official journal of the Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability (ASID), whose members are interested in social, psychological, educational, and medical aspects of intellectual and developmental disability across the lifespan. Four issues of the Journal are published each year.

The current Editors of JIDD, Professor Susan Balandin and Associate Professor Ian Dempsey, intend to step down in 2014.

ASID is therefore now calling for expressions of interest in the honorary position of Editor or joint Editors, Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability.

The new Editor(s) will be appointed for a period of 3 years and must be a member of ASID throughout their tenure.

To ensure a smooth handover, a period of transition is envisaged during which the new Editor(s) will work alongside the outgoing Editors (subject to negotiation). Most likely, the incoming Editor(s) will take up responsibility for newly submitted manuscripts in the latter part of 2013, with the outgoing Editors retaining responsibility for the remaining issues for 2013, and continuing to deal with manuscripts already under their review.

The Editor's main responsibilities are:

- to ensure that the scholarly standards of the Journal are maintained;
- to appoint an international team of Associate Editors and Editorial Consultants; to ensure the prompt processing of manuscripts submitted to the Journal;

- to make editorial decisions regarding the publication of manuscripts; to consider proposals for special issues;
- to review editorial policy as required; and to promote the overall development of the Journal.

In conjunction with a subcommittee of the ASID Australasian Board, the Editor will from time to time be required to negotiate a publishing contract with commercial publishers.

The Editor also selects the winners of the annual ASID Australasian Research Prize and JIDD Editor's Prize from among the articles published (or to be published) in JIDD during the calendar year for which the prizes are awarded, and presents these prizes at the ASID annual conference.

Other duties of the Editor include preparing a written report to the ASID Australasian Board twice annually, attending the ASID annual conference (and where possible attending a mid-year ASID meeting), and presenting a JIDD Editor's Workshop at the ASID conference.

The Editor's position is supported by a paid Editorial Assistant. The current Editorial Assistant is Genevieve Farrell. The Editor has access to a modest budget for travel and accommodation expenses directly related to JIDD business.

All articles submitted to the Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability are subject to anonymous peer review. The Journal uses a web-based manuscript submission and review system hosted by Manuscript Central at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cjid>. This system affords flexible working arrangements for the Editors and Editorial Assistant, in that the Journal's

call for nominations

ASID AWARDS FOR 2013



ASID Distinguished Service Citation

Nominations should be in writing and, ideally, submitted electronically. There is no specific application form that needs to be completed. The nomination should be accompanied by a brief biography of the person being nominated. This biography should include details that establish the nominee's distinguished contribution to ASID which had enhanced ASID's profile and/or operation. The nomination should be signed by at least two current ASID members. Current members of the Australasian Board are not eligible for nomination.

Honorary Title: Fellow of ASID (FASID)

The title may be conferred on individual ASID members (including all classes of individual membership) in recognition of the member's exceptional and significant contribution to the field of intellectual disability. This contribution will have been in one or more of the following areas:

- Research,
- Service provision (including service development or improvement, administration),
- Advocacy and/or self-advocacy,

- Professional practice, and
- Teaching and staff training.

Nominations need only address one of these areas, but may address more than one if the nominee has made an exceptional contribution in more than one area. Nomination forms, with full details are available from The Secretariat.

Individual members who are awarded the title Fellow of ASID (FASID) will receive a certificate, presented at the Annual Conference, and thereafter will have the right to use the title Fellow of ASID (FASID). However, Fellow of ASID (FASID) is an honorary title, not a class of ASID membership, and the member will need to continue to pay his or her membership dues to maintain current membership.

The decision to award an ASID Fellowship is based on the following criteria:

- Exceptional and significant contribution to the field of intellectual disability,
- Substantial duration. (at least 7 years),
- Broad impact across a province or state, nationally or internationally,
- Current financial member of ASID,
- Nominated and seconded by existing ASID members.

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online manuscript management system can be accessed via the web throughout the world.

Expressions of interest will be evaluated by a subcommittee of the ASID Australasian Board. It is expected that the subcommittee will convene initially in September 2013 to consider the expressions of interest. The subcommittee may choose to interview applicants via teleconference, and an appointment is likely to be made later in 2013.

Applicants should send a statement on their suitability for the position and a copy of their curriculum vitae to the ASID Secretariat (secretariat@asid.asn.au). The application should indicate whether the applicant prefers to act as sole Editor or is willing to share the role with another.

Enquiries can be directed to the current Editors, Susan Balandin (sue.balandin@vuw.ac.nz) and Ian Dempsey (ian.dempsey@newcastle.edu.au).

Expressions of Interest close July 31, 2013. ●

NOTE: Service to ASID is not a criterion for selecting ASID Fellows as the ASID *Distinguished Service Citation* focuses of service to ASID as an organisation.

ASID Research Grants

Consistent with Object 2 of ASID's Constitution ("to promote the research and understanding of intellectual disability") applications are invited from ASID Members for research grants of no more than \$AD5000.

The following guidelines should be taken into account:

- Projects approved for ASID support will add to the knowledge base of intellectual disability,
- Applicants for ASID research grants must be able to provide evidence of approval of their project from a research ethics committee, or provide a commitment to obtain this approval,
- ASID will encourage partnerships for funding of research with other organisations that share the same values as ASID. This will not, however, exclude applications by individuals for research grants,
- Items of equipment will not normally be funded.
- The successful applicant(s) will be required to present the outcomes of their research at an ASID function,
- The decision of the Research Grants Committee, once ratified by the ASID Australasian Board, is final and no further correspondence will be entered into,
- The Research Grants Committee will seek regular progress reports plus a final report on the progress of the sponsored research, and report the same to the Australasian Board.

Applications should include:

1. The name of the researcher and / or organization(s), and reason for their interest in this research subject,
2. The application should describe the beneficiaries of the project and how it will add to the understanding of intellectual disability,
3. An outline of the project for which support of the research grant is sought, including:
 - method to be employed in gathering data,
 - method of analysis,
 - the power of the project,
 - consent procedures,
 - the plans for ethical approval,
 - a time line with critical milestones and an expected date of completion,
 - a budget.

Submission for All Awards

Award nominations must be received at The Secretariat by **Friday 30 August 2013** e-mail secretariat@asid.asn.au and will be reviewed by the Australasian Board with successful nominees announced during the Australasian Conference to be held in Sydney, November 2013. Any enquires should be directed to Denise Wharldall, Vice President, ASID, dwharldall@cara.org.au . ●

ASID membership details

4 membership types:

Organisation / Individual / Student / Associate
to join:

download a form from www.asid.asn.au, or,
contact the registrar at the address below

to current members:

please make sure you don't miss out and keep
your contact details up to date

registrar:

1800 644 741
38 Surrey Road
KESWICK SA 5035 Australia
secretariat@asid.asn.au

upcoming events

23 - 24 Jun 2013	My Choice, My Control, My Future: DisabilityCare Australia Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-launc/launch-locations/disabilitycare-australia-conference
8 - 10 Aug 2013	Asia Pacific Autism Conference APAC 2013 "True Colours" Adelaide, South Australia www.apac13.org.au
14 - 15 Aug 2013	M-Enabling Australasia 2013 Mobile accessible technology Sydney, NSW www.regonline.com.au/m-enabling
22 - 24 Aug 2013	IASSID Asia Pacific Conference "Multiformity and diversity: Combining individual care and community-based supports" Tokyo, Japan www.iassid.org/conference/index.php/AP/AP3RDRC
11 - 12 Sep 2013	Centre for Culutre and Disability Studies "Avoidance and the Academy: The International Conference on Disability, Culture, and Education" Liverpool Hope University, UK www.disabilitystudiesnetwork.gla.ac.uk/2013/01/04/avoidance-and-the-academy-international-conference-on-disability-culture-and-education
16 Sep; 23 Sep; 25 Sep; 2013	Fragile X Workshops Adelaide 16 September, Brisbane 23 September, and Sydney 25 September Event venues TBC www.fragilex.org.au
7 - 9 Oct 2013	The 7th ACSO Conference "Striking the Balance; Justice, Rights and Community Safety" Melbourne, Victoria www.conferenceworks.com.au/acso2013
6 - 8 Nov 2013	48th ASID Annual Conference "Our Time" to celebrate the future of person centred disability services Sheraton on the Park, Sydney, NSW www.asid.asn.au
Aug 2014	IASSID Europe Vienna Austria
10 - 12 June 2015	The Sixth SRV International Conference Providence, Rhode Island, USA.
Aug 2016	IASSID World Congress Melbourne Victoria Australia

If you want to advertise your conference in IDA's upcoming events section,
please e-mail: k.ellem@griffith.edu.au

"Our Time"



48th ASID

Annual Conference 2013

Sydney, Australia

Wednesday 06 November to Friday 08 November

Sheraton on the Park, 161 Elizabeth St

Pre-Conference Workshops - Tuesday 5th at University of Sydney

Welcome Cocktail Party - Wednesday 6th at the Sheraton

Conference Dinner - Thursday 7th at the Star Room in Darling Harbour

ON-LINE REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN www.asid.asn.au

- early birds close 09 August

opening address:

Hon. Andrew Constance MP
NSW Minister for Disability and Ageing

international and internationally renowned keynote speakers:

- Angela Amado PhD
- Eric Emerson PhD
- Sue Read PhD
- Michael Wehmeyer PhD
- Sarah Butler self-advocate
- Keith McVilly PhD
- Trevor Parmenter AM PhD
- Robert Strike self-advocate

Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability

More information: www.asid.asn.au

Inquiries: asid13@cccconferences.com.au

Phone: 1800 644 741 (Australia)

