



Western Region
Disability Network

Network News

Newsletter of the Western Region Disability Network

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DISCLAIMER

The information contained in *Network News* may not reflect the opinion of the WRDN or its auspice, nor does the WRDN guarantee the accuracy of the information.

WOW!

**2006 –
WHAT A YEAR THAT WAS!**

**2007 –
WHAT A YEAR IT’S GOING TO BE!**

2006 started with us all worried about the future of the WRDN. We knew that DHS Disability Programs was not going to continue funding the WRDN. No-one knew how the WRDN could keep going.

But the membership had clearly said that the WRDN is important to people with a disabilities, Carers and family members, service providers and support groups in the West. Members believed that the WRDN was (and is) worth fighting for.

The WRDN decided to be proactive, to do something about the lack of funding and to grow the Network.

A number of exciting projects started. The big ones were the development of the “Model Document” and the “WRDN Strategic Plan 2007-2010”.

The “Model Document” records the WRDNs history and talks about the varied and often complex roles that the WRDN undertakes. It talks about the increasing roles that people with disabilities and carers have in the Network and how the WRDN draws together all members to look at an issue. It gives examples of the things that the Network and WRDN members do to help achieve the vision of the Victorian State Disability Plan 2002-2012 for a community that welcomes and includes people with disabilities and recognises their rights as Victorian citizens.

The Strategic Plan is a 3 year plan to help the WRDN to grow, to be more responsive to the needs of its various membership groups and talks about how the gaps between what the WRDN can/does do and what it would like to do can be met. It also looks at who will do this and how all members can be involved.

These 2 documents are very important for 2 reasons:

1. They have been developed using the feedback from members. Over 100 people were directly involved in the meetings, surveys and feedback. However we know that many other people gave information and views to representatives and in focus groups. The involvement of the membership means that the documents are owned by the WRDN and not just the thoughts of a few people.
2. They show where we are, where we want to be and how we are going to get there. This will help the WRDN to get money to support WRDN projects and to grow the network. It will strengthen any submissions to government and potential sponsors.

Model Document and Strategic Plan Launched

These 2 documents were formally launched on 6th December at the Moonee Valley Council offices. The launch was hosted by the Mayor of Moonee Valley, Councilor Ben Opie. The WRDN thanks Moonee Valley for making us welcome and for a very nice lunch.

Special thanks to our members who took part in the event:

- Luke Toohey – a recipient of a computer
- Meagan Pride – who gave out awards
- Ian Gray – giving his presentation “Life is what happens when you’re making other plans!”
- Deidre Burke and Margaret Hocking who launched the documents.

Copies are available from:

- On line on the WRDN disabilityconnections.org.au website
- In print by contacting Helen or Tina at the WRDN Ph 9687 7066 or email wrdn@annecto.org.au

WHAT OTHER EXCITING THINGS HAPPENED IN 2006?

Speakers Bank

12 members trained in public speaking to raise community awareness about disability issues and to promote the WRDN.

Tony Zhou, one of the students, is working on a project to find groups for Speakers Bank to talk to.

If you know of a group who would like to hear about the WRDN or the interesting stories that people have to tell please ring Tony or Helen at the WRDN.

Computer Giveaway project

33 computers have new homes. Thanks to

- Mission Australia for the hard work of the Able Network team for rebuilding the computers,
- Brendan and Paul for helping people install their computers
- Microsoft for their donation of software
- People who donated the used computers
- Tina who has coordinated the project and delivered them to peoples homes

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR IN 2007?

STAN WILLIS TRUST

In January 2007 the WRDN was told that the Stan Willis Trust has given the Network \$7500 to develop an Orientation Kit and run training sessions for:

- Current members of the Coordinating Group,
- people who might like to be on the Coordinating Group
- members who would like to be part of sub-committees and WRDN reference groups
- members who would like to represent the WRDN in other forums

annecto DONATION

At the WRDN launch the Chair of the annecto Board gave the WRDN \$5000.

This is extra to the financial and moral support that annecto and annecto staff gives the WRDN every day.

MOONEE VALLEY PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

The Moonee valley Council has given the WRDN \$1800 to help the WRDN to develop a parent support group in Moonee Valley.

News about this group will be going out very soon.

If you know of anyone who might like to be part of this group or who is interested in helping get this group going please ring or email Helen at the WRDN office.

SPEAKERS BANK

DHS Disability programs has said that it would like to provide the WRDN with some money to help the Speakers Bank. A formal submission has gone to DHS. More news next newsletter!

THE REGION NORTHERN DISABILITY NETWORK (NRDN)

The WRDN has agreed to “caretake” the NRDN.

This means that NRDN members will be able to:

- Get the e-updates each week
- Receive the WRDN newsletter (which will include items about the North)
- Come to WRDN meetings
- Add their voice to WRDN submissions and papers

Starting from April the WRDN will run meetings and forums in the North as well as in the West. Any member of the WRDN or NRDN can go to any meeting. This means:

- More meetings
- Meetings duplicated in different areas on different days
- More opportunities for people to be involved

Please note:

- The WRDN is still the WESTERN Region Disability Network (we are NOT the North & West DRN)
- The NRDN is being “looked after” by the WRDN.
- In a formal sense the NRDN Reference Group is a sub-committee of the WRDN Coordinating Group. The Reference Group is chaired by Ray

Jordan. The NRDN has a non-voting place on the WRDN Coordinating Group.

- The WRDN will only be able to do things in the North when we have the time and money to do so.
- The NRDN **may** decide to reform independently in the future or **may** decide that the NRDN would like to form part of a North & West Network. But that will never happen without consultation to all members of the WRDN and NRDN.

The NRDN has given the WRDN all their unspent money including \$10,000 Civic Participation Grant. Some of this money will be used to pay for transport, respite, attendant care and anything members need to be involved. The WRDN also received \$10,000 Civic Participation money. The Coordinating Group is looking at how these funds can be used to meet the WRDN goals and support WRDN and NRDN members.

NRDN MEMBERS – WHERE ARE YOU?

Because of the Privacy laws the NRDN cannot just give details of NRDN members to the WRDN. The WRDN needs those details so we can send you information about meetings and link you to the disabilityconnections website.

Please fill in a membership form and return to us as soon as possible.

The criteria for being a member of the NRDN is:

- A person with a disability
- A carer or family member of a person with a disability
- A service provider supporting people with disabilities/carers in the North
- Anyone with an interest in disability issues in the North

If you know of anyone who would benefit from being a member give them a membership form or ask them to contact Tina 9687 7066 (Mon-Wed) or email wrdn@annecto.org.au.

If you would like to support the NRDN Reference Group please contact Bich Thai at Darebin City Council phone 8470 8888 or email: Bich.Thai@darebin.vic.gov.au

WRDN COORDINATING GROUP ELECTION

Its election time again!

All positions on the Coordinating Group are open for election.

- Individuals with a disability 5
- Carers/family members 3
- Service providers 2

These are the only people who can vote on WRDN policy.

Any registered member of the WRDN (including people who are currently on the Coordinating Group) can nominate for a position. If you need support to be a Coordinating Group member that help will be provided (attendant care, respite, transport, interpreter, signing, etc). This is one of the things that the Civic Participation \$ can be used for.

A nomination form is attached.

If you have any questions about the role of a Coordinating Group member please ring Helen at the WRDN office on 9687 7066, Annie Grant 9314 0988, Eilis Hughes 9688 0313 or Christine Williams 9749 6949.

Nominations close Friday 23rd Feb 5p.m.

If there are equal (or less) candidates and vacancies then those people will be declared as successful.

If there are more candidates than positions the WRDN will hold an election. Every member will have the opportunity to vote and choose between the candidates.

- Information about each candidate will be emailed or posted out on Wednesday 28th February.
- Voting will close at 5pm on Thursday 8th March.

The old (outgoing) and the new (incoming) Coordinating Group members will all meet at the Coordinating Group meeting on 27th March 2007 for a handover.

More information is with the attached Nomination form.

INTRODUCING OUR STUDENTS

We are fortunate to have three students on placement at the WRDN – they are Tony, Jo and Brandon.



Tony, Jo and Brandon

TONY

My name is Shoupeng (Tony) Zhou. I came from China to study at the Melbourne International College for a Diploma of Community Welfare Work.

I am currently working on the Speakers' Bank project with the WRDN. This is my last placement and I am hoping that I can find a job working in the area of disability.

JO

My name is Xuejiao Jiang (Jo) and I'm studying Community Welfare Work at Melbourne International College. I am doing my placement at the Western Region Disability Network and will be here until the end of March.

I have been updating the membership forms and will also design new brochures.

BRANDON

Hello. My name is Zhenguy (Brandon) Tang and I have been in Australia for nearly 2 years. Currently, I'm doing a Community Welfare Work course at Melbourne International College. I'm doing my placement at the WRDN and my task is to update the membership database to also include members of the Northern Region Disability Network. When this is complete I will follow up by phone former members to encourage them to rejoin the Network.



**A Fairer West: Partnership of
Networks Forum
14th February 2007**

A forum on community strengthening policy directions in Melbourne's Western region.

Time: 9.00am – 2.00pm
(registration from 8.30am).

**Venue: Sunshine Convention Centre,
Victoria University, Gate 1,
460 Ballarat Road, Sunshine.**

Speakers include:

**The Hon. Joan Kirner
Campbell Rose
Don Nardella.**

To register contact:

Phone Nina Gee on 03 9926 5722 or email
Nina.Gee@centacaremelbourne.org.au

To assist with catering please indicate if you require lunch and specify any dietary requirements when registering.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.ourcommunity.com.au

www.acrod.org.au

www.jobsacc.org.au

www.facsia.gov.au

www.dac.vic.gov.au

**Launch of Australian Disability
and Development Consortium
(ADDC)**

**Parliament House Canberra on the
morning of Monday 26 February 2007**

ADDC is a new national network of disability organisations, researchers, activists and other people committed to improving life for people with disabilities in our neighbouring countries. It has been founded by ACROD, along with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and Christian Blind Mission International.

The launch will also feature a photo exhibition entitled "Access for All: Disability in Development".

In the afternoon of the same day, the inaugural meeting of the ADDC will be held at ACROD House.

More information can be obtained from the ACROD website at:

www.acrod.org.au

NEW SERVICE

**@
LOWE'S AMCAL PHARMACY
17 Watton Street, Werribee**

You can request to use a picture communication board when speaking to the pharmacist at Lowe's. The boards are stored under the counter.

The communication board was developed by the North West Regional Communication Service, the Communication Resource Centre and Lowe's Pharmacy.

For more information, please contact Melanie Spits at the North and West Regional Communication Service on 9449 6900.



It's Australia's newest one day bike ride in Australia's most cycle friendly city. On Sunday 25 February pedal your place into cycling history by joining the first Melbourne Summer Cycle.

Two ways to go the distance - Choose from either a 30km or 40km course.

Both courses start at Alexandra Gardens and Finish at Piazza Italia at Argyle Square in Lygon Street, Carlton with rest stops along the way to keep you going.

Along the way you'll travel over the West Gate Bridge to Williamstown, and back through Flemington to the finish where there'll be live entertainment and the best that bustling Lygon St has to offer.

Register online at www.melbournesummerycycle.org.au

This website is a one-stop shop for registrations, training and nutrition guides, safety advice and useful links. But if you do have a question that you can't find an answer to please email events@mssociety.com.au

Wishing you a fun and safe ride!!

The 7th Annual Mega Swim - Fitzroy Pool

February 23 – 24

The 2007 Mega Swim will be held from 6:00 p.m. on Friday the 23rd of February to 6:00 p.m. Saturday the 24th of February.



A fun team event which raises money for Multiple Sclerosis Limited NSW/VIC "Go For Gold" Scholarship program.

If you are interested in running a 24 Hour Mega Swim please contact Carol Cooke on 0417 360 883 or email her at

www.megaswim.com

Geelong Invasion Festival Charity Gig



Date: 31st march, 2007

Time: 10am - 11 pm

Venue: The Arena, North Geelong

All ages, drug and alcohol free event

The event will raise money for the following charities:

Cystic Fibrosis Research
Beyond Blue/Youth Suicide
Cerebral Palsy
Support Act Limited
– Charity for Oz Musos

Tickets available at:

“The Arena” Box Office
(03) 5278 3092
Leading Edge Melbourne
(03) 9662 4377 and ask for Gary
Leading Edge Geelong (opp.KFC)
(03) 5229 1999

Visit the website for lots more information:

www.myspace.com/maryanne_promotions

Look at Me! A Photographic Exhibition of Young People with Disabilities in Victoria

To Celebrate National Youth Week YDAS will be hosting a photographic exhibition of young people with disabilities between 9 to 22 April 2007. For more information or to get involved contact YDAS on 03 9267 3755

AMILE Advocacy Service Inc.
Support and Information for people affected
by mental illness

New Contact Details

Phone (03) 9742 7193

Fax (03) 9974 2533

AMILE are conducting 2 support groups every Saturday between 11am and 1pm at Iramoo Community Centre, 84 Honour Avenue, Wyndham Vale.

The first group ‘Going the Distance for FAMILIES Support/Activity Group’ is for people affected directly or indirectly by mental illness and their children.

The second group ‘Going the Distance for MEN Support/Activity Group’ is for men who have mental illness or a caring for someone with mental illness.

AMILE anticipate starting a third group before the end of April ‘Going the Distance forTEENAGERS/YOUNG ADULTS Support/Activity Group’ for young people aged 13-25 years affected directly or indirectly by mental illness.

For more information about these groups and other activities and fundraising events, contact Janelle Reeves on the above phone number or on email amileinfo@yahoo.com.au

What's Happening?

Sailability North at Jack Roper Reserve, Camp Road, Broadmeadows on the first Sunday of each month between October 2006 and April 2007. Starts at 11am and runs through till approx. 4pm (bookings required). \$5 per person (carers free). Phone Sarah on 0431 197 064 or email sarahh@hume.vic.gov.au for more information.

Fishing – Caught in Hume held on the last Wednesday of each month between 10am. And 12 noon. Next fishing expedition on Feb.28, then Mar.28, Apr.18, May 30, Jun.27, Jul.25, Aug.29, Sep.26, Oct.31 and Nov.28. No fishing in December. Gold coin donation. Phone Remi on 0409 163 515 for more details.

International Women's Day will be held on Thursday 8th March. This is a central day in the calendar of women's organisations due to both its global and symbolic importance. The City of Melbourne has funded a number of related events including seminars at Queen Victoria Women's Centre where there will be a major celebration for Victorian women living and working in the heart of Melbourne.

Club Wild – Dance Party on Friday 9th March from 7-10pm at the Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall, corner Queensberry and Errol St., North Melbourne. \$10 entry (carers free), café and T Shirts available.



Here is a sample of existing weekly programs:

- Carpet Bowls
- Mixed Netball
- Movers and Shakers Dance
- SWEAT Water Exercise
- IBIS Performing Arts

And lots lots more!!

Programs to be introduced in 2007 include:

- Self Defence
- Tai Chi
- Walking
- Swimming
- Gym

For more information contact:

Maria Tsiantas on 9742 5630.

Our Community Workshops

Workshop 1

Wendy Lawson

Autism Spectrum Disorder: Hope for the Future
Tuesday 13th February 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

This workshop will explore a variety of personal experiences via Wendy's life story to show how hope for the future can be a very real possibility, for both individuals with ASD and for their families.

Workshop 2

Dr Avril V. Brereton

Autism: Current issues and research
Tuesday 13th February 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm


In this second workshop Dr Brereton will discuss autism spectrum disorders and recent research, including a discussion of best practice and evidenced based interventions.

To attend Yooralla's Our Community Workshops please contact reception at our Independent Living Centre in Brooklyn on 9362 6111. Please download the [Workshop registration form](#) for more details.

Yooralla friends and associates \$150.00 including two sessions and lunch.

Yooralla staff, clients and carers \$50.00 including two sessions and lunch.

CONFERENCES 2007

- 16 February 'Human Rights in Education'
Presented by the University of Melbourne Human Rights Forum.
Parkville.
Phone: (03) 8344 1096. Email: human-rights@unimelb.edu.au
Visit website for more information: www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au
- 21-22 February 'From Welfare to Social Investment –
Reimagining Social Policy for the Life Course'
More information contact Dr. Lauren Rosewarne on 8344 9482;
or visit: www.public-policy.unimelb.edu.au/conference07
- 22-23 February 'Participate in Health'
Phone (03) 9944 8268 or email paul_conneely@racv.com.au
More information: www.health.vic.gov.au/consumer/conferences
- 27 February Freedom Respect Equality Dignity: Human Rights
Phone Catherine Smith on (03) 9281 7105 or email
catherine.h.smith@eoc.vic.gov.au Closing date 12/2/07
Register online: www.eoc.vic.gov.au/conference
- 5-6 March 'Good to GREAT' – Disability Professionals Victoria
For more information and registration see www.dpv.org.au
- 
- Exciting News – Helen Adams will be presenting at this conference
- 22-24 March 8th Biennial National AGOSCI Conference: 007 'Licence to Kill'
For more information contact Jane Farrall on (03) 9848 4812 or
Email covenor@agosciconference.org.au
- 2-3 April ACROD'S 2007 Ageing and Disability Conference:
'Between two worlds: growing older with a disability', Adelaide
Visit website for more information: www.acrod.org.au
- 1 May Innovation in Planned Activity Groups' (PAG's) Conference
(more information will be provided when it comes to hand).
- 1-3 May Are We There Yet? National Youth Affairs Conference
Larissa can be contacted on (03) 9267 3799.
Email: info@yacvic.org.au

Some photos from the launch



A big thank you to everyone who made this possible.

- * WRDN members
- * WRDN Coordinating Group
- * WRDN staff
- * City of Moonee valley and the other Councils who provided venues and catering
- * annecto for its unwavering support and encouragement as the WRDN auspice
- * DHS for financial and in-kind support over the years
- * Reichstein Foundation
- * Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
- * Susan Fitch and Associates

