

# The 27<sup>th</sup> Reinforce Annual General Meeting

22nd October 2014



**“Nothing about me without me”**



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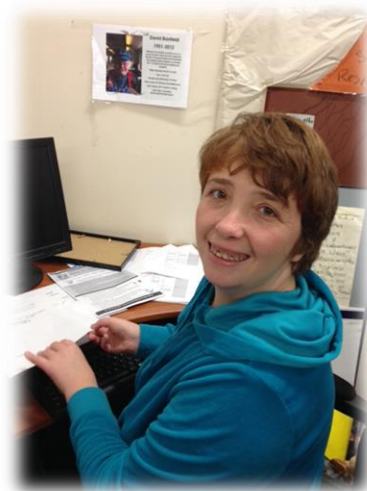
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# Welcome

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## **President Report 2013-2014**

Welcome Friends to this year's AGM.

Reinforce volunteers have been working hard as usual.

It has been a busy year. Due to personal issues I have been away a lot but still continuing what work I can from home.

I have enjoyed my new position as President. I hope that I will continue in my role as President until the next AGM in 2015.

Some of the things I've been doing during my time as President include:

- Talking to people on the internet for Healthy Start organisation

Healthy Start is a national organisation which helps to improve outcomes for children whose parents have learning difficulties (this includes intellectual disabilities).

- Running my own group called Powerful Parent Self Advocacy Group

This group is still supported by Reinforce and SARU

- Met with Arthur Rogers about NDIS along with other self-advocacy groups
- Started talks with Government about funding Powerful Parents Self Advocacy Group. Also started talking about the United Nations Article 23 respect for the home and family saying that the country will help and support parents with a disability

This is clearly not happening and I want the government to match the United Nations recommendations and provide the support needed in helping parents with a disability to care for their children at home.

- Office administration
- Running Committee meetings
- I organized the Commissioners training for complaints.

# Committee of Management

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**President:** Susan Arthur

**Vice President:** Norrie Blythman

**Secretary:** Colin Hiscoe

**Assistant Secretary:** Julie Brasington

**Treasurer:** Amanda Millear (Hiscoe)

**Assistant Treasurer:** Tim Elson

**Public Officer:** Colin Hiscoe

**Ordinary Committee Members:**

Greg Axtens  
Andrew Dally  
Luke Stone  
Janice Slattery  
Jane Rosengrave

## **Workers and Meeting Attendees:**

### History Group

Janice Slattery

Jane Rosengrave (Hauser)

Amanda Millear (Hiscoe)

Norrie Blythman

### Newsletter

Editor Janice Slattery

### Social Group

Jane Rosengrave (Hauser)

Colin Hiscoe

Janice Slattery

John Slattery

### Powerful Parents Self Advocacy Group (PPSAG) Group Leader

Susan Arthur

### Training Officer

Colin Hiscoe

### Paid Workers

Pam Geoghegan, Book keeper

Sally de Beche, Support Worker/Advisor

Jan Coles Support Worker



# Office Administration

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The office on the second floor is working well.

Some things have stayed the same.

Colin Hiscoe is the Training Officer and Pam Geoghegan continues to look after the finances with Treasurer Amanda Millear.

Volunteers who work in the office include, Jane Rosengrave (formerly Hauser), Colin Hiscoe, Norrie Blythman, Janice Slattery, Amanda Millear (formerly Hiscoe), Tim Elson and Susan Arthur.

# Treasurers Report



By Amanda Millear (formerly known as Hiscoe).

This is my 11<sup>th</sup> year as Treasurer for Reinforce. I am the longest serving treasurer in Reinforce's history.

It has been a busy but interesting year. Our recurrent funding comes from the Department of Human Services, Office for Disability in Victoria. We received funding this year from Minor Works & Equipment grant of \$3,242.80 (2013 & 2014) and Data Management grant of \$ 1,247.40. We also received some funding from the City Of Melbourne \$3,300 for our Social Group and from R E Ross Trust \$4,510 for My House My Home My Rights in a CRU project.

I would like to thank Pam for all of the hours that she has spent in supporting me with the accounts and financial records for the management committee each month, and a great big thank-you!

In the future we are looking forward as always to finding new funding for all our plans and ideas.

I have enjoyed my time as treasurer.

I would like to present the financial statements (which are at the end of this report) for adoption by the meeting and I am going to ask Pam to come to join me to clarify any questions regarding the reports.

# Training Officers Report



**By Colin Hiscoe**

This year has been a bit topsy tervy because of my health issues and being in and out of hospital and rehabilitation.

Reinforce wrote another submission to the R.E. Ross Trust to run the training for staff in group homes which was successful with a grant of \$4,510 for this year.

After the SARU road show in Bendigo in May 2014 and discussions with Dean from the SARU a trip to Bendigo was organised. We spoke with the accommodation manager for the Loddon Mallee Region to show him the training that we were hoping to get into the houses for staff. After discussions around the project he agreed for Reinforce to present at a meeting with accommodation managers from around the area. We are hoping that these managers take information about the training to their houses. Then by talking to their supervisors hopefully they will then book in the My House, My Home training for the Group Home. The areas we are hoping to train are Bendigo, Kyneton, Maryborough, Echuca and Rochester. Also we have employed a support worker to transfer all of the training manual onto computer with additional notes for the trainer. A trial run of the training has been organised for the 14<sup>th</sup> August at Ross House to see if there is anything else that needs to be changed then we plan to organise some train the trainer sessions so we have a few trainers available.

Also a training session has been organised in another DHS house in Gippsland for the staff. We are hoping that from all of this training word of mouth, the word will spread and I am hoping to work with David Batten Manager Continuing Practice People & Culture Branch to see what help he can offer us in regards to My House My Home My Rights Training for staff in group homes.

Colin Hiscoe

Training Officer



# Catering Coordinator's Report

By Amanda Millear (formerly Hiscoe)

Throughout the last twelve months I have been busy in my role with catering and organizing different events.

Together with support from others I have done the ordering, collecting and paying for the food.

Everybody has liked the presentation of the food at the events when we have done the catering.

I catered for last year's AGM. I have also ordered lunch for most of the committee meetings.

We chose the fillings for the sandwiches and everyone has enjoyed them.

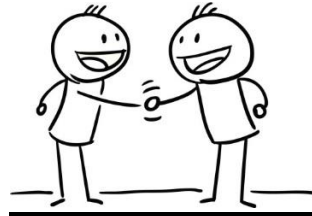
I enjoy this role and I love seeing people eat the food.

In addition to my normal duties I have also been in charge of keeping stock of supplies like milk, tea, coffee and sugar etc. I record that supplies are fresh and when they need replacing.

It's been a privilege to be the Reinforce Catering Coordinator for four years!



# Advising Government and Non-Government Groups, Campaigns and Partnerships



Reinforce does a lot of work sitting on boards, going to meetings and working with other groups these include:



## **The Victorian Taxi Directorate**

Makes sure taxis are fair



Villamanta Disability  
Rights Legal Service Inc.

## **Villamanta Legal Service**

Work for people with a disability



**STAR** A group that works for the families of people with a disability



**AMIDA** - A partner of Reinforce's on many projects. Norrie Blythman currently sits on this committee of

management. Jane Hauser (Rosengrave) and Amanda Hiscoe (Millear) work as peer advisors with the AMIDA's housing rights project



The Australian Federation of Disability Organization

**Act Resource Group (ARG)**- Is a group who make resources around the Victorian Disability Act. Amanda Hiscoe and Andrew Maurice sit on this group



**SARU**- Tim Elson & Norrie Blythman are the Reinforce representatives for the group which manage the SARU. Reinforce is part of the SARU Consortium responsible for running SARU

# Independent Third Person

Colin Hiscoe and Janice Slattery are continuing to work on the Independent Third Person training. This project teaches people how to support people with disabilities in the justice system.





# Raising Our Voices



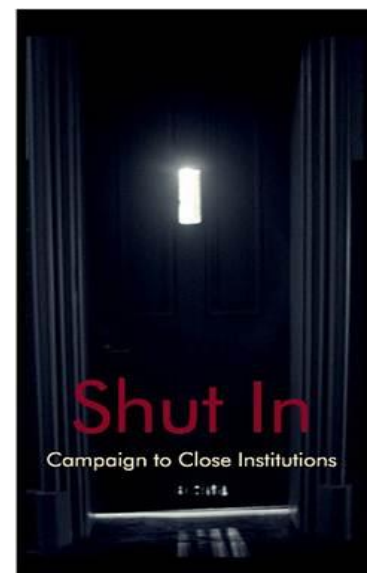
Reinforce continue to have a strong presence on Radio station 3CR

Many of the Reinforce members have taken part in the 'Raising Our Voices' radio show run by AMIDA. This show raises awareness around issues affecting people with disabilities

Let us know if you have a topic or are interested in being involved

## Shut in Campaign

Reinforce continues to partner with the Shut In Campaign & VALID to lobby for and demand the closure of all institutions. The Shut In Campaign is made up of a number of disability organisations nationally.



## New Wave



Reinforce have a mentoring, auspicing and partnership role with New Wave who are based in Morwell.

Reinforce presented with new wave at the recent SARU DARU DAV conference in August about what Self Advocacy means. Together we sang the Self Advocacy Rap! People in the presentation really enjoyed hearing about what we at Reinforce and New Wave do.

## **History Group - By**

Amanda Millear (formerly Hiscoe)

The History group started in 2006 and ran until 2012. In this time we all worked very hard to get it off the ground. A number of people completed a draft of their personal stories.

We were very excited about our book and the results of our hard work. The project was a learning curve for everyone involved.

A big thanks to Reinforce Self Advocates and supporters of Reinforce for their stories. Chris, Patsy, Paul, David (the storyteller), and Josh who put the book together. Thank you all for your time, commitment & support.

Janice and Amanda signed "Speaking Up over the Years" at a Conference in Sydney, November 2013.

The history group had a launch of their Coffee table book earlier this year on the 24<sup>th</sup> February at the Latrobe University in Melbourne. Many people attended this launch and gave talks too. The lunch was great too!



Patsy,

Janice & Amanda

## **Powerful Parenting Self Advocacy Group (PPSAG)**

By Susan Arthur

It has been a big year for the Powerful Parents Group and lots of new things happening.

After my presentation at the SARU DARU DAV conference I was asked by some people in Tasmania if the PPSAG would consider going national.

At the moment the PPSAG is still looking at whether this could be possible and the best way to go about this.

Our group is continuing to recruit new members. We are happy with the progress so far. The PPSAG offers both support and Advocacy to its members

If you would like to know more about this group or are interested in joining you can contact me at the Reinforce Office.



## **Social Group**



The Social group met for the first time this year in August. This was

due to a group member having been sick. The group were very excited to talk about new ideas and suggestions for outings.

Some ideas included a BBQ at the park and Karaoke.

We will keep you posted about the upcoming events which all social club members are voting on.

We will be having an outing soon and invite you along!





On behalf of everyone at Reinforce we would like to thank the following people. First the Reinforce Management Committee for all their help and support.

A special thank you to Danielle Crawford, Sam Smith, Colin Hiscoe, Sue Smith & Jan Coles for their herculean efforts in our office move and clean up. Thanks to Kelly Geoghegan and Sam Winch for her help in the office with office administration.

We would also like to thank SARU for their ongoing support, in particular Sue Smith. A thank-you also to Jan Coles, Dean Dadson and Jacqui Ward for all their help supporting us to do the 'Know Your Rights' training

Thank- you to STAR, particularly Esther Harris for her invaluable contribution to us and in particular her continued support of our organisation.

We would like to thank VALID and Kevin Stone for their partnership in the 'Shut In Campaign' and the



Doug Pentland-David Banfield  
Award for excellence in self-  
advocacy which is presented each  
year at the Having a Say  
Conference.

The 'My House, My Home, and My  
Rights' training package would not  
be possible without the following  
people:

We would like to say a big thanks to  
everyone who has been a part of the  
Creative Think Tank. We would also  
like to thank AMIDA, and DHS,  
particularly Pauline Williams, Nobel  
Tabe and Arthur Rogers for financing  
and supporting the project.

For our ongoing funding we would  
like to thank the Office for Disability;  
in particular Felix Neighbour Thank-  
you!

Thanks also to Arthur Rogers and his  
continuing commitment to hearing  
the concerns of people with a  
disability through our regular self  
advocacy meetings.

Thanks also to our paid workers Pam,  
Jan and Sally for their hard work and  
support.

And last but not a least a big thank  
you to all our volunteers for their work  
in the organisation and for the sub  
committees that they sit on. These

people dedicate their free time to helping others. Without them we would not be able to do everything that we do- so thank you!

**LET'S EAT!**



**REINFORCE INC.**  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
**Membership and Promotional Account 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**July 2013— 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**Income**

DHS Recurrent Grant	\$ 33,939.56
DHS Minor Works	\$ 4,490.20
My House My Home Project	\$ 4,510.00
SARU	\$ 4,394.83
City Of Melbourne Grants	\$ 3,300.00
Donations	\$ 1,188.00
Associate Memberships	\$ 10.00
Video/Training Resources	\$ 33.00
ATO	\$
SARU Work Reimbursements	\$ 700.95
Sessional Fees	\$
Interest	\$ 4.12
Other (including transfers to & from accounts)	\$ 10,018.44
Reimbursements	\$

**TOTAL** **\$ 62,589.10**

**Expenditure**

Ross House Rent & Meeting Rooms	\$ 14,114.31
Office Supplies & Stationery	\$ 918.70
Phone/Fax/Internet/Website Maintenance	\$ 1,442.31
Postage	\$ 270.00
Photocopying	\$ 643.65
Volunteer Participation Expenses & Travel	\$ 830.00
Equipment Purchase	\$ 1,157.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 135.00
Support Workers Remuneration Jan	\$ 8,175.64

Administration Support Pam	\$ 4,799.93
Superannuation	\$ 1,724.55
Workers Travel	\$ 20.28
Workcover	\$ 00
SARU Work Reimbursements	\$ 668.23
Honorariums	\$ 889.25
Planning Days/AGM meetings	\$ 551.00
Coffee Mornings	\$
Memberships & Subscriptions	\$ 264.00
Conferences Workshops	\$ 1,749.00
My House My Home Project	\$ 133.05
ATO	\$ 7,288.00
Other	\$ 12,374.88

**Total** **\$ 58,148.78**

## Notes

### Income

Other is made up of \$10,000 deposited from Term Deposit and Miscellaneous \$18.44

### Expenses

Other is made up of \$10,000 transfer to Term Deposit, \$51.40 Consumer Affairs, \$280 Rubbish Collection and \$2,043.48 Miscellaneous

**REINFORCE INC.**  
**Reconciliation for Membership & Promotional Account**  
**1/7/13- 30/6/14**

<b>Balance as at 1/7/13</b>	<b>\$ 7,581.72</b>
<b>Plus total receipts</b>	<b>\$ 62,589.10</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 70,170.82</b>
<b>Less total expenditure</b>	<b>\$ 58,148.78</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,022.04</b>
 <b>Balance - Bank Statement 30/6/14</b>	 <b>\$ 12,022.04</b>
<b>Less unrepresented Cheques</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Total available funds 30/6/14</b>	<b>\$ 12,022.04</b>



**President – Susan Arthur**

15-10-14

**Date**



**Treasurer-Amanda Hiscoe**

15-10-14

**Date**

**Term Deposit - Account Number 06 3011 50129319**

**Balance as at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013** **\$ 27,795.78**

Total of interest for the financial year 2013-2014 **\$ 1,167.36**

**Balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014** **\$ 20,160.66**



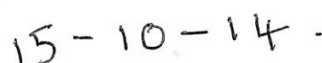
**President – Susan Arthur**



**Treasurer- Amanda Hiscoe**



**Date**



**Date**

**REINFORCE INC.**

**Statement Of Income And Expenditure  
Gippsland Project Account July  
2013 — June 2014**

**Income**

Money paid into wrong account by DHS	\$ 3,665.38
Other	\$ 244.99

**Total** **\$ 3,910.37**

**Expenditure**

Office Hire GDA	\$
Office Supplies	
Volunteer Expenses/Travel costs	\$ 1,425.40
Worker	
Superannuation	
Other (transfer Reinforce recurrent grant to Reinforce)	\$ 8,520.77
Transfers to Term Deposits	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,946.17</b>

**Term Deposit Account Number** **063011 50143874**

**Balance as at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013** **\$16,063.61**

**Total of Interest for the financial year 2012-2013** **\$ 391.99**


**Balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014** **\$ 16,455.60**

**REINFORCE INC.**

**Reconciliation for Gippsland Project Account  
1/7/13 — 30/6/14**

<b>Balance as at 30.6.13</b>	<b>\$ 12,386.57</b>
<b>Plus total receipts</b>	<b>\$ 3,910.37</b>
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$ 16,296.34</b>
<b>Less total expenditure</b>	<b>\$ 9,946.17</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,350.77</b>
<b>Balance - Bank Statement 30/6/14</b>	<b>\$ 6,350.77</b>
<b>Less unpresented Cheques</b>	<b>\$ 00</b>
<b>Total available funds 30/6/14</b>	<b>\$ 6,350.77</b>

  
**President – Susan Arthur**

  
**Treasurer- Amanda Hiscoe**

15-10-14  
**Date**

15-10-14.  
**Date**



## Schedule 1

Regulation 15

## Form 1

### *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*

Sections 94(2)(b), 97(2)(b) and 100(2)(b)

**This form is required to be provided to the members at the AGM with the association's accounts.**

### **Annual statements give true and fair view of financial position of incorporated association**

We, Susan Arthur and Amanda Hiscoe, being members of the Committee of the Reinforce Incorporated, certify that—

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Reinforce Incorporated during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 2013-2014.

Signed: *SMARTHUN*

Dated: *15-10-14*

Signed: *A. HISCOE*

Dated: *15-10-14*