



March Newsletter 2018.

EDITORIAL



Hi Readers,
Welcome to our Autumn Edition.
And welcome to another exciting
Year, hope everyone had a good
Christmas and New Year.
This year the Having A Say
Conference was on the 5/6/7 of
February

There were lots of good workshops,
we had some great presentations and
guest speakers including speakers from a
self-advocacy group in Singapore. As usual
there was a Red Faces Competition and we
congratulate James Teeken in coming 3rd with
his song a dance called Frank Sinatra Days,
well done James.

We would like to hear from our members
what you like about the newsletter?

If you would like to receive the newsletter
by email?

I will make sure you get a copy.

Send in your email address to me at

gipsygirl88@bigpond.com or

sw@reinforce.org.au If you wish to know

more about Reinforce please see our

website - www.reinforce.org.au

Disclaimer All information contained within the Reinforce newsletter is as
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Reinforce does not recommend any product, activity, organisation, service or
item – such details are provided with the Reinforce news for general information and interest only.

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Editorial from Janice

Doug Pentlend and
David Banfield award.

Our night out for Amanda
and Julie's birthday.

Office Bearers

History of Having a
Say

The new Saru office

Birthday Column

We wish the following Reinforce members very happy returns on their birthday for March and April:

John Slattery: March 2nd.

Susan Arthur: March 9th.

Norrie Blythman: March 15th.

Maryanne Huggins: April 28th

Luke Stone: April 29th.



If any members would like their birthday mentioned in the birthday column just SMS me your birthday and your name to (0439806000)

Congratulations to the Doug Pentland and David Banfield Self Advocacy Award

Every year the Doug Pentland and David Banfield award is presented at the Having a Say Conference, this year the award was sponsored by Deakin University and presented by Norrie Blythman from Reinforce and Patsie Frawley from Deakin University.

This year we congratulate Kalena Spurling from Speak Out Association Tasmania.



Having a Say Conference

On our first night in Geelong Reinforce crew went out to the Hogbreath Café to celebrate Amanda Miller and Julie Brasington's birthdays.

Amanda and Julie having fun.

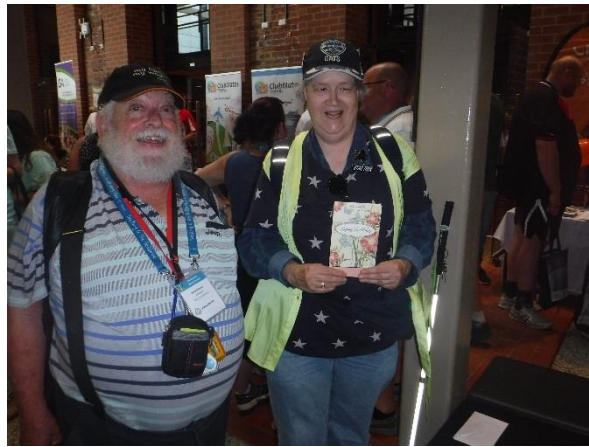


Amanda is enjoying her food.

We would also like to congratulate James Teeken who performed in the Red Faces Competition at the Having a Say Conference. He came third overall and was given a gift voucher for his performance. Good work James.

The first having a Say Conference was held in Maryborough in the year 2000. There were almost 190 people involved in the conference and the enthusiasm generated inspired those involved to do it again the next year. Since then the conference has grown each year, and has an average 1000 participants each year. People enjoy coming to the conference for a range of reasons. Some are keen advocates for people with a disability and want to debate about disability issues, others find the whole environment empowering and some just want to have fun.

Amanda and Norrie at the conference



Janice enjoying her Harley Ride



John having a go at wheelchair basketball

Reinforce Committee of Management

On the 6th of December Reinforce had their elections of office bearers and these people got elected:

President: Colin Hiscoe.

Co-president: Janice Slattery.

Secretary: Julie Brasington.

Assistant-secretary: John Slattery.

Treasure: Amanda Millear.

Assistant-treasure. Norrie Blythman.

Public-officer: Julie Basington.

Editor: Janice Slattery.



SARU's New Office

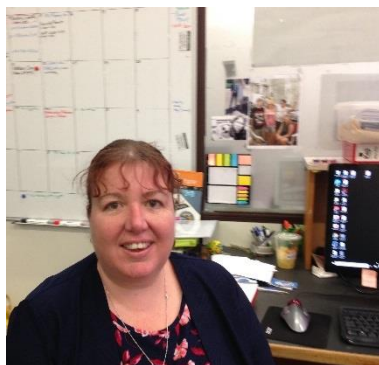
The Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) now has two offices on the ground floor at Ross House in Flinders Lane. This year SARU is not only supporting more than 20 self advocacy groups in Victoria but we are also managing 8 new projects! SARU staff expanded so we needed another office to fit everyone. The new office really needs a name but no-one agrees on what to call it, some suggestions have been: The Hub, Base Camp, The Project Room, SARU No.2, The Green Room and Space Station!

The new office has lots of space and all self advocates and their supporters are welcome to visit. It is a great place to meet other self advocates and hear what other self advocacy groups are doing.

Larissa MacFarlane from Brain Injury Matters created a huge beautiful artwork on the wall that says "Nothing About Us Without Us" made up of prints of walking sticks. The office is open 10-5pm Mon-Fri.



Janice and John (Reinforce)
visiting the new SARU Office.



VSAN (Victorian Self Advocacy Network)

2017 was a big year for VSAN and 2018 is going to be even bigger! The network is getting stronger, more organised and more recognised. In November 2017 VSAN ran a forum focussed on Public Transport in rural areas.

Self advocates from across Victoria put their questions to a panel that included representatives from government (Arthur Rogers - Special Advisor/NDIS Reform Dept. Premier and Cabinet /Peter Bon - Senior Policy Officer – Transport), Travellers Aid, Accessible Transport Services and the Victorian Disability Advisory Council.

The next VSAN forum will be about self advocacy groups getting ‘Ready’ for the NDIS and how they might be able to get funds to run projects in their communities.

