

PATRONS:
ALLISON RITCHIE
& MELISSA CARLTON

Winter 2009
Volume 12: Issue 2



Cheryl Shuttlesworth
1955 - 2009

PEPTalk is the magazine of the:

**Association for Children
with Disability (Tas.) Inc.**

Hobart Office

121 Bathurst Street, Hobart
GPO Box 730, Hobart 7001
Phone 62312466
Fax 62310833
Freecall 1800244742

Launceston Office

59D Amy Road, Newstead 7250
Phone 63430344
Fax 63430355

Editor

Dianne Fuglsang

Chief Writer

Alice Hansen

Design & Production

Manuel Duharte

Email enquiries

admin@acdtas.com.au

ACD BOARD OF MANAGMENT

President

Dianne Fuglsang

Vice President

Michelle Breen

Secretary

Dianne Snowden

Treasurer

John Stubbley

Other Board Members

Anne McKinstray
Lyn Shegog
Sheree Hill

ACD STAFF

Caroline Pegg

Executive Officer
Mobile 0400623120

Robyn Loh

Admin Officer
Phone 62312466

Pamela Timbs

MyTime Facilitator
Mobile 0428991511

Kym Ridgway

Case Management Services
Mobile 0437744662

Diane Ewington

Family Advocacy/Support (North West)
Mobile 0400623121

Shaelene Craddock

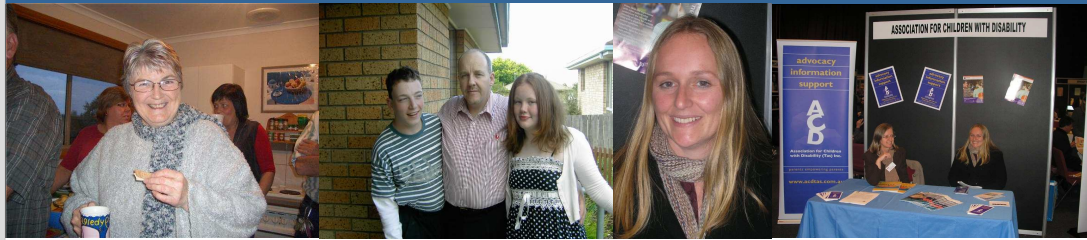
Family Advocate (South)
Mobile 0402637023

Dianne Hamilton

Family Advocacy/Support (North)
Mobile 0428384081

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor nor any member of ACD(Tas.) Inc., nor do we promote or recommend any therapy, treatment, institution, professional etc. The Editor reserves the right to make such corrections as are appropriate and in accord with established editorial practice, in material submitted for publication. Articles from PepTalk can be reproduced with permission and acknowledgement of the source.

contents



Regulars

- 3 Editorial
- 4 ACD Report To Members
- 5 Executive Officer's Report
- 8 NDS National News Update
- 20 The Hill Report
- 22 PEPTalk Notice Board



Features

- 6 Lessons In Disguise
- 7 Welcome Kym Ridgway
- 7 ACD 2009 Mothers Camp
- 10 Embracing Joseph
- 11 MyTime Groups
- 12 In Memory Of Cheryl Shuttleworth
- 17 Gearing UP Expos
- 18 News From Tascare
- 18 Cerebral Palsy Register
- 19 Cosmos Vacation Care
- 19 Hobart Mobility Map
- 21 Early Days Workshop

FRONT COVER:

Cheryl Shuttleworth

Deadline for next issue: 9 October 2009

ACD MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

If your ACD membership is overdue, or you would like to become a member please fill in the membership form on page 23 and send it with your payment to:

The Treasurer
Association for Children with Disability (Tas) Inc
GPO Box 730 Hobart, Tasmania 7001
(ABN 32 091 767 455)



PEPTalk is published by:

OUTHOUSE productions

Ph: 0400 623389

editorial

Welcome to our Winter 2009 edition of *PEPTalk*.

This issue of *PEPTalk* is a little later than usual. Typically, we aim to mail the second issue well before the end of July, but two events in May affected the process significantly and, in order for other matters to take priority, the Magazine was 'put on the back burner' for a few weeks.

The first event, on 8 May, was the official takeover by Caroline Pegg, our new Executive Officer. You will recall in the last issue I announced the resignation of our much respected EO, Manuel Duharte and at that stage, we were unable to announce his successor. Many of you will know Caroline from her previous position as ACD's Southern Advocate and later, as Case Manager for our MAIB clients.

Caroline has stepped into the position as EO with the tenacity and passion which is perhaps her hallmark over the years I have known her. In the 3 months since she took office, she has worked enthusiastically to ensure that the transition for the board, staff and clients from one manager to another is seamless and, in her words, *to enable ongoing positive outcomes across service delivery areas*. Her loyalty to ACD, her ethical, flexible and intelligent approach to work stands her in excellent stead to lead ACD into the next era of its history.

The second event was the very tragic news which we received on May 26 that our long-standing board member and former President, Cheryl Shuttleworth, had passed away that day. The Board and Staff were totally shocked and extremely sad to hear this news. Cheryl had worked harder and longer than anyone for ACD through its most difficult years and I can say with all certainty that we would not have survived had it not been for Cheryl. Later in this issue there are some stories and thoughts that several people have written in her memory – I would encourage you to read them. I have included some of Cheryl's own writing...she was a talented and natural writer and we are lucky at ACD to have the legacy of her wisdom, humour and empathy in the form of the many pieces she took the time to share with you, our members.

It is always difficult to persuade parents to write down their stories and ideas for publication.

However, most people are rewarded by the effort, if they can actually find the time, (and "finding" is the operative word – when you share your life with a child with disability, writing your story can be the last on a long to-do list of non-urgent items, let alone the priorities). When I write, I often get the feeling later that I "didn't know I was thinking that, till I started to write". It's a bit like stripping away old paint, the layers are hidden until you start to peel. In that way, it can be a cathartic experience to unearth your hidden thoughts and you may be surprised how uplifting an experience it can be.

If you have any faint hint of a desire to tell your story, let us know and we can help you if you don't feel confident enough to do it on your own. We can help edit your story or if you feel more comfortable, we can interview you. You would know by reading *PEPTalk* over the years, that it is the parent contributions that make the issues memorable.

This issue we are pleased to have three parent stories: firstly there is "Embracing Joseph", a mother's inspirational story of her son Joseph, which expands on the point that when you live with someone with a disability, gradually the disability withdraws and the person and their personality emerges. The themes of the future and the past emerge as she talks in a very positive manner of her anticipation of sharing her life ahead with Joseph and the past lessons he has already taught her.

No edition of *PEPTalk* would be complete without "The Hill Report". I have mentioned to Sheree about the possibility of ACD losing membership if she doesn't continue to write...we have plenty of feedback from members who love to hear what's going on in her hectic life. And the last parent story comes from my experience a few weeks ago at a fancy dress party with Isobel and her housemates.

Lastly thanks to Manuel who, as a casual employee, has taken on the mammoth task of putting together this edition. I am the Editor, but the real work has been done by him. Enjoy the issue!

Dianne Fuglsang