

# TAD JOURNAL

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A man with a slight smile is seated in a wheelchair in an art studio. He is wearing a white polo shirt with red and blue horizontal stripes and dark shorts. Behind him, a large easel holds a vibrant, abstract painting with splashes of blue, green, yellow, and red. In the background, another man in a blue shirt is working at a table. The studio is filled with art supplies and framed pictures on the walls.

## *Creative* arts

### RECREATION

Camera mount  
Sewing caddy  
Horse-drawn pleasure  
iPad mount  
Happy riding

# About TADNSW



## WHAT IS TAD?

Technical Aid to the Disabled (TAD) was initiated in 1973 by George Winston AM, an electrical engineer, and formally established in 1975. George recognised that customised devices could assist people with disabilities to maximise their opportunities and live their lives more fully and independently.

Thirty-five years later, TAD organisations operate in all states of Australia and the ACT. They coordinate the work of volunteers to design and construct devices for people with disabilities, and some also refurbish and supply recycled computers.

## TADNSW'S MISSION

We provide personalised equipment and advice to people with disabilities and their carers, through the innovative services of skilled volunteers and staff.

## TADNSW'S CORE BUSINESSES

Our core businesses are the supply of equipment, support in the use of equipment, and provision of advice and information about equipment to people with disabilities, their carers and the disability sector.

### Custom Designed Aids Service

Designs and makes custom-designed devices for our clients where commercial equipment is not appropriate.

### Computer Support Service

Refurbishes and customises donated computers, supplies them to clients and supports clients in their use.

### FREEDOM WHEELS®

#### Modified Bike Service

Modifies bicycles to enable children with disabilities to ride them.

### George Winston

#### Communication Service

Communicates "the TAD story" and supports services and fundraising by raising awareness about TADNSW.

## TADNSW'S VALUES

- innovative and personalised services;
- assistance that is affordable and fit for the purpose;
- services that are responsive to the needs of our clients, within operational constraints.

## TADNSW'S ORGANISATION

TADNSW is managed by a Board of 13 Directors and has 21 staff (17 FTE). Our offices are at Northmead in Sydney. We also have 13 branches and interest groups in regional NSW run by local volunteers with support from Northmead staff.

## WHO DOES TADNSW HELP?

TADNSW helps anyone with a disability, including conditions associated with

ageing. There is no means test, and a referral is not always necessary.

Clients are charged for costs and materials for custom-designed equipment, and a small purchase fee for computers. Our volunteers donate their skills and labour.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

You can help TADNSW by becoming a volunteer. You can construct aids for clients, refurbish computers, or provide support for administration, management, fundraising and communications.

You can become a member of TADNSW, which brings various benefits including copies of the *TAD Journal*, or subscribe to the journal without becoming a member.

You can donate funds to support our services. TADNSW is a registered charity and contributions of \$2 or more are tax deductible. You can also donate computers and related equipment.

## SPONSORS

Many generous organisations and individuals support our unique work for people with disabilities. We particularly recognise the support of two major sponsors: Amway of Australia supports the FREEDOM WHEELS® Modified Bike Service; and Holcim supports the Custom Designed Aids Service.



Taking a stroll in the park, riding a bike, painting a picture, doing a spot of fishing are just a few of the many recreational activities available to most of us. Recreation gives us a break from everyday routine to do something we enjoy. The motive may be the opportunity to compete with others, personal fitness, the fun factor, or the sense of achievement from doing something worthwhile.

But what if you couldn't go for that bike ride because your disability prevents you? What if you are unable to paint because you can't hold a paintbrush? What if you only have one arm to use when you are fishing?

Designing customised equipment to solve the problems faced by people with disabilities in their pursuit of recreational enjoyment provides some of the many challenges that TADNSW faces each week.

In this edition you will find examples of recent recreational projects that TADNSW has completed. For our volunteers, there is great satisfaction in developing a solution that makes a real difference for a person with a disability. It's not work for them but their form of recreation.

The enjoyment that a child with an intellectual disability gets from the sights and sounds in a sensory room touches your heart. To see the excitement of child with a disability riding his or her bike for the first time on the M7 cycle path is just inspiring.

Recreation is something we all need to lift our spirits. We thank our volunteers for turning difficult into easy, and our clients for presenting the challenges that give us a great sense of satisfaction in being able to help.

**Alan McGregor**  
Chief Executive Officer, TADNSW

## Contents



### CUSTOM DESIGNED AIDS SERVICE

- 4 Easier painting
- 6 Horse-drawn pleasure
- 8 Wheelchair camera mount
- 9 Simple but effective
- 10 Sewing caddy
- 11 iPad mount
- 12 Sensory stimulation
- 14 Gaining movement
- 15 Happy riding

### COMPUTER SUPPORT SERVICE

- 16 The land of the living
- 17 CSS laptops support Burmese refugees

### VOLUNTEERS

- 18 A journey of friendship
- 19 Volunteers years of service awards
- 19 Reg Gardner

### NEWS AND DEVELOPMENT

- 20 First FREEDOM WHEELS ride
- 20 New bikes for special school
- 20 New Board members
- 21 Bill Phippen honoured
- 21 35th anniversary dinner
- 22 Bequest from Helen Murphy
- 22 Workplace giving
- 23 Contribute to TADNSW

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#### OUR COVER

A specially designed easel and headpointer made by TADNSW have made it much easier for Daniel to produce his artworks.



## Easier painting

To connect with their creativity and realise their potential, most artists need a good teacher, access to a variety of materials and a light-filled space to work. So it is at Studio Artes in Hornsby, which provides arts and other related training for adults with a disability.

One artist at the studio is Daniel Collati, who has cerebral palsy. He is serious about his work and generally comes to the studio four days per week. His paintings are mainly landscapes with varying degrees of abstraction, and they are colourful, well composed and compelling.

However, Daniel can't use the tools of the trade in the traditional way, as he has no functional grasp and can't hold a paintbrush. He therefore controls the brush using his head.

Daniel had an existing setup with a frame that fitted over his head, which had a shaft mounted in the centre. The brush he wanted to use

was loaded with paint by his aide and clamped to the shaft.

However there were several problems with this arrangement. The frame did not fit correctly on his head, which meant he did not have maximum control of the brush unless he wore a hat under the frame. The frame was irritating his forehead, the chin strap was irritating his chin, and the brush attachment was too heavy, which made it even harder to control the brush and also gave him neck-ache.

TADNSW volunteers had previously made a camera support for a wheelchair user at Studio Artes (*TADJournal* Summer 2003), so the staff knew that our volunteers could probably provide a better solution for Daniel.

When volunteer Bruce Watts went to investigate, he realised that Daniel would also benefit from using an easel. At the time Daniel was resting his painting on the table in front of

him and bending over to reach it. This was likely to be adding to his neck problems, particularly as some of his paintings are quite large.

"Of course you're going to strain your neck in that position," Bruce said. "We had to get him upright." He designed an easel and asked his friend and fellow volunteer the late Bob Jones, who specialised in woodwork, to make it. At the same time Bruce set about making a better head mount for Daniel's paintbrush.

For the new frame, Bruce used the inner mechanism from a welder's helmet, which has a tensioner at the back to ensure an exact fit. He riveted a small brass plate to the front, taking care to preserve the frame's cloth surround so that Daniel's forehead is protected.

Onto the plate Bruce mounted a shaft made of aluminium tube, which is much lighter than the previous brass one. Two aluminium clamps with

## COVER STORY

brass tightening screws hold the brush in position on the shaft, keeping it completely firm and preventing it from twisting. Daniel also sometimes uses a roller on his paintings, so Bruce made a separate attachment for this.

Bruce then took a range of Daniel's brushes and cut off the ends to make them shorter and lighter, machining down the larger ones to further lighten them and enable them to fit easily into the clamps. He also made a brush stand with a brass label with Daniel's name on it, so that the brushes can be easily stored and identified as Daniel's.

The easel was the last project Bob completed before he died in June 2010 (see the *TADJournal* October 2008 for Bob's profile), and is typical of his immaculate woodwork. Made from plywood and pine, it is designed to sit on the table so that Daniel can easily get his wheelchair in underneath it.

The easel has a deckchair-type mechanism at the back which gives four different angles, a lip at the front to rest the painting on, and a clamp in the centre which holds the painting in place. The clamp locks in place using a tri-nut, and can be moved up and down in a central channel to cater for different sizes of painting.

"I was changing the entire concept of how Daniel worked, so it was important that he was involved and took ownership of it," Bruce said. "I was a bit wary about how it would go, but apparently he was absolutely thrilled because it made so much difference."

Daniel says it took him a couple of months to get used to the new system, but now it is working very well. An

added advantage is that he gets a much better view of the painting as a whole, without someone having to hold it up off the table for him.

As well as the brushes and roller, Daniel also uses other tools such as a sponge, a fork and stamps. His aides have worked out ways to fit these onto the new shaft as well, with a bit of masking tape coming in handy in some cases.

Bruce also made a head-mounted holder for another artist at Studio Artes, Lucy Lambley, who has severe cerebral palsy. Lucy had previously been holding the brushes in her mouth, which was unhygienic, and was wearing away her teeth and giving her a sore jaw. Her holder is similar to Daniel's apart from being a little shorter, and has also been a great success.

Daniel says that in his eight years at the studio he has probably sold around a hundred paintings at an average of \$300 each. Daniel's paintings, and those of other artists from the studio, can be viewed and purchased at Gallery Artes, 12-14 George Street, Hornsby NSW 2077, phone (02) 9476 3533.

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## SUMMARY

**client profile**  
cerebral palsy

**description of project**  
easel and head mount for artists

**age group**  
adult

**volunteers**  
Bruce Watts, Bob Jones

**project nos**  
SO9-0255-1/2

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## Photos

**Top:** One of Daniel's landscapes. See also the painting on the front cover.

**Centre:** The trimmed-down paintbrushes in the brush holder, with Daniel's name on the front.

**Below:** The head frame showing the fabric cover at the front, the shaft and the two clamps for the paintbrush.

# Horse-drawn pleasure

Many people find horseriding a pleasurable activity and a way of getting away from everyday life, including many people with a disability. Riding for the Disabled (RDA) is a voluntary, non-profit organisation that provides the opportunity for anyone with a disability to enjoy safe, stimulating and therapeutic horse-related activities throughout Australia.

The Bathurst branch of RDA wanted a horse-drawn cart so that children who can't actually ride a horse, for example because of poor balance, could still enjoy the group's specially-trained horses. The group had a cart made by the local TAFE, which worked well for many of these children.

However, the cart only had two seats, and as it had to have a qualified driver at all times for safety reasons, it meant that children who needed a carer with them could not use it. Also, it was not strong enough to carry heavy electric wheelchairs, which precluded other children as well.

RDA Secretary Shirley Walsh asked TADNSW's Central West branch if they could build an improved version of the original cart. The goal was to carry a driver plus one child in an electric wheelchair, two children who were not in wheelchairs, or a child and a carer.

Using a standard horse-drawn cart as a base, volunteer Neil Musgrove designed a sophisticated cart which meets all RDA's needs. It has a sturdy chassis made from steel tubing, with marine-grade plywood panels and floor and fabricated metal mudguards. "All in all, it weighs about the same as a box trailer," Neil said.

Horse drawn carts generally have big wheels which make them quite high so that the driver can see over the top of the horse. However Neil's version is very low-slung, with the floor of the cart only 30cm from the ground.

"We had to do that to enable a wheelchair to be wheeled on, otherwise you would have needed a ramp a mile long," he said. "Being lower down also gives added stability and prevents it from rolling over."

Instead of the usual spoke wheels with a timber or steel rim, Neil opted for smaller car tyres. "As well as being lower to the ground, they are designed to carry heavier loads and give a softer ride," he said.

The tailgate of the cart consists of two hinged sections which fold down to form a ramp for wheelchair access. When folded down, the first section is supported by a leg between the two sections, and the second section rests on the ground. To make it easier to unfold the sections, there is a handle in the centre of the lower section.

When folded up, the two sections form a sturdy back panel which is extra protection against the wheelchair rolling out of the cart, if by chance it became unsecured. "The back is locked in place with a pin on either side, similar to a tailgate on a truck or trailer," Neil said. "It's fully contained so the pin can't come all the way out and get lost."

The cart has three seats. The two outside seats each have two arms, so the outer arms create a safety railing and the inner arms create divisions between the seats which help to keep the passengers in position.

Displaying an impressive range of skills, Neil also upholstered the seats and seat backs with vinyl covered foam. "After you restore a vintage car, you learn to do all sorts of funny things," he said.

The centre and right seats are removable to provide space for a wheelchair. These seats are held in place by four locking pins, which are easy for a trained person to take out but according to Neil, too difficult for someone with a disability. The centre seat rests on the outer ones and lifts out first, followed by the outer one.

When an electric wheelchair is in place instead of the two seats, it needs to be in exactly the right position so its weight is equally distributed to the front and back wheels of the cart. It also needs to be firmly secured so it doesn't move and change the balance of the cart during travel. Neil therefore added toggle clamps similar to those used for securing wheelchairs in buses.

On the side wall left of the driver's seat there is a foot-operated brake which uses a car hand-brake mechanism, and has a hand lever to lock it on. This can be used to keep the cart completely still while the passengers are boarding, even if the horse moves a little. It can also be used as a parking brake when necessary, for example on a hill.

To make the ride as comfortable as possible, the cart has leaf springs from a car suspension, which were chosen for their load-carrying capacity. "You can adjust the capacity by adding or removing leaves to the spring," Neil said.



**Top:** The cart with the three seats in place. The swindle bar is visible between the wooden shafts at the front. **Centre:** The ramp folded down for wheelchair access. **Below:** The wheelchair in place on the cart, with two of the seats removed.

The system for attaching the cart to the horse is similar to a normal horse-drawn cart. There are rigid hickory shafts mounted at the front of the cart which keep the cart away from the horse and prevent it from tipping forward or backward.

The shafts slide back and forth rather than being rigidly attached to the horse, otherwise the horse would only

be pulling on one side when it was turning. They have been steam-bent inwards so they fit snugly around the horse's shoulders when it turns. "Past the horse they bend out again so they act like a funnel to get the horse into the correct position," Neil said.

To pull the cart the horse uses leather straps which are attached to a swindle bar at the front of the cart – Neil says

this sort of bar is used on most horse-drawn vehicles of this type. The bar swivels as the horse turns to maintain an equal load on both sides.

Once complete, the frame was painted maroon and the outside panels a cheerful yellow, with grey anti-slip paving paint on the floor of the cart and the ramp. "The idea was to use federation colours to make it look like an old carriage," Neil said.

Neil completed all the work on the cart himself, and according to his records it took 430 hours to complete (equivalent to over 12 weeks full-time work, excluding weekends). "The man from Riding for the Disabled at Orange asked me if I would like to build another one," he said. "I said I would think about it!"

Although they have had some trouble finding a suitable horse and a qualified driver, Shirley says that RDA Bathurst are absolutely delighted with the cart. "Neil was really good," she said. "He had us out there looking at it every so often to make sure it was exactly right."

### SUMMARY

#### client profile

variety of conditions

#### description of project

horse-drawn cart suitable for wheelchair

#### age group

children and adult

#### volunteer

Neil Musgrove

#### project no

CW-08/14



## Wheelchair camera mount

Ian Dihm is a keen and successful photographer who has travelled to far-flung corners of the world, including Antarctica, Siberia, Greenland and parts of Africa, in search of the perfect picture.

Although he had never made it his full-time profession, Ian has held exhibitions, sold pictures and won awards with his striking landscape and nature photographs. "He enjoyed it so much he just wanted to do it for himself," said his wife Susan Mayo.

Ian had a major stroke in 2009 at the age of 65. He was completely paralysed at first, but after rehabilitation he has recovered some movement and is able to walk and talk. Even while he was still in residential rehabilitation, he wanted to take up his beloved hobby again.

However he still can't use his right arm, which means he can't simultaneously hold his camera firmly and press the shutter, particularly as he uses large lenses which are quite heavy. Using a tripod to hold the camera doesn't work either, as it's difficult to set this up with one hand.

Susan asked Ian's therapists if there was anything that could be done to help Ian. "He's been taking photographs since he was a child, and I knew how important it was to him. It also activates the brain which I understand is important after a stroke."

The therapists suggested that TADNSW might be able to help, and volunteer Bruce Watts was sent to assist. "Bruce was amazing," Susan said. "We said this is what we want, and we had a long talk about the whys and wherefores, and he did a design on the back of an envelope, and then came up with the device, which was beautifully machined, it was just perfect!"

Bruce's design uses a U-shaped aluminium frame to support the camera. This is mounted on the footrests of Ian's wheelchair, using specially made clamps that stay on the chair. "You just slip the frame into the clamps when it is needed," Bruce said.

The top section of a tripod is mounted in the centre of the frame's cross bar, held in place with another specially made aluminium fitting. The base of the camera then screws into the tripod

TADNSW can make aids to suit most cameras, such as grips for easier handling, supports and mounts for wheelchairs, adaptations to the shutter, focus and zoom controls and remote operating attachments.

**Photos:** Top: Ian in his wheelchair using the camera. Above left: The camera from Ian's point of view. Above right: The specially made clamp on the footplate. Right: One of Ian's photographs taken in Greenland.



head in the normal way. Ian can move the camera up and down the tripod's shaft, and adjust the angle and direction using a lever on the left side.

"Ian takes time span photos, so he has to be able to adjust the camera position very finely and it has to be completely stable," Bruce said. "The mount also needs to be as light as possible, as weight causes deflection, which is why aluminium was the best choice."

It's taking Ian a while to adjust to being back at home, but he is slowly experimenting with his new camera setup and getting back into his digitised darkroom. He is thinking that he might start working on a smaller scale, producing bookmarks and postcards with patterns rather than large landscapes.

"My motive was to make it possible for Ian to take photographs again, and see what happens," Susan said. "It's a big challenge, but it wouldn't be possible without Bruce's device. We were just incredibly impressed with the whole thing."

**SUMMARY**

**client profile**  
hemiplegia

**description of project**  
camera mount for wheelchair

**age group**  
adult

**volunteer**  
Bruce Watts

**project no**  
SO10-0169-1

## Simple but effective

*Many of the projects completed by TADNSW's volunteers are relatively simple solutions. These show the creativity of our volunteers in using easily available materials to provide an effective and affordable solution that can still make a big difference.*



### COMMUNE FOOTSTOOL

Fourteen-year-old David Gough has cerebral palsy and developmental delay. He needed a commode chair to use in the bathroom, but his parents didn't want to have to replace it in a few years when he grows taller.

The most suitable commode is too big for David at the moment, and his legs don't reach the footplate. His therapist asked TADNSW to provide a waterproof platform that would sit on the footplate and provide a stable rest for David's feet.

Local volunteer Mike Atkinson saw a bargain-priced plywood coffee table with the correct dimensions, which had a smooth top and curved sides that would be easy to waterproof and clean. And because the plywood had already been bent under steam heat, Mike knew the glue in the ply must be waterproof.

Volunteer John Crimmings cut off the legs to the required length, and then volunteer John Brumby painted

the platform with epoxy marine paint and added non-slip strips to the top. So that the platform could be removed later without compromising the commode, he made and added aluminium angle brackets to the inside of the legs, with velcro strips on the bottom. These attach to corresponding velcro strips on the footplates.

*Project no: SO9-0191*



### CHAIR BASE PLATE

Six-year-old Diwali Guha can't sit on a chair without support, so when she is at school she is either in her wheelchair or in a wooden chair with a lap strap. However, the lap strap holds her so securely that she can rock her chair backwards with a real risk of toppling over.

Diwali's occupational therapist, Catherine Cartwright, suggested that a base plate be fitted to the bottom of the chair, extending 30cm at the back and 20cm in the front. Volunteer the late Bob Jones carried out the job using 9mm plywood and Diwali is now safe and unable to endanger herself.

*Project no: SO9-0279-1*



## Sewing caddy

To keep her materials close at hand, Mrs Brett had a fabric storage bag that fitted over the arm of her favourite chair, with pockets on either side of the arm. However, as her mobility needs changed, she needed a new recliner-style chair. After purchasing this chair she found that her previous set-up no longer worked, as the arm was too wide and not tall enough for the bag to balance on.

TADNSW physiotherapist Weh Yeoh suggested a free-standing caddy to solve the problem, and this was made by late volunteer Bob Jones. Beautifully turned and stained to match the rest of Mrs Brett's furniture, the wooden caddy has two posts with bars across at the top and bottom, and wide feet for stability.

Mrs Brett's granddaughter then made a new, more advanced bag for her, with multiple pockets and a cushion on the top for her pins. The stand fits neatly next to the recliner and does not create a trip hazard when she is getting on and off the chair. "Everything is now within reach," she said.

Nancy Brett has always enjoyed sewing and knitting, but her hobby has become more important to her since her husband died last year. "We were married for 67 years," she said, "and I needed an activity to keep me busy at home, because I can't go out much, and reading all the time is hard on the eyes."

With a variety of health conditions including osteoarthritis and heart problems, Mrs Brett's mobility is quite

limited. She still lives in her adapted family home, and has good support from her family and visiting carers.

Mrs Brett produces a wide range of items including soft toys for hospitals and fundraising drives by her local club, and knitted squares for the Wrap With Love aid program. "I think it is good for my hands to keep using them like this," she said. "A lot of older ladies can't do it any more."



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**SUMMARY**

**client profile**

heart problems, osteoarthritis

**description of project**

caddy for knitting bag

**age group**

seniors

**volunteer**

Bob Jones

**project no**

SO10-0070-1

# iPad mount

Greg Moran became a quadriplegic after he broke his neck in a football game when he was 15 years old, and has been a wheelchair user since then. His computer and more recently his iPhone are very important to enable him to organise his life – currently his activities include painting, filmmaking, counselling and motivational speaking.

However, Greg was not finding it easy to access his laptop computer from his wheelchair. When the chance arose to get a smaller iPad from the US prior to their release in Australia, he jumped at it.

Before the iPad arrived, Greg asked TADNSW to make a bracket so the iPad could be mounted on his electric wheelchair. He also wanted to be able to pivot the iPad so he could use it in either landscape or portrait mode.

Greg already had a bracket attached to his wheelchair to hold his iPhone, house front gate control and universal remote which operates the TV and sound systems. Volunteer Les Daniels checked all the dimensions of the iPad on the internet, so the new bracket would be ready when it arrived.

Les then attached another horizontal bar to the wheelchair. He cut an aluminium base to hold the iPad, with a disc underneath so the device could rotate. He glued strips of Velcro to the supporting base and to the underneath of the iPad case, so it sits firmly in position on the base.

Greg has limited movement in his arms, and although he can operate the controls of his wheelchair by hand, he uses a mouthstick to operate both the iPhone and iPad. He is very proud

of his mouthstick (or iStick), which he and a friend designed and made.

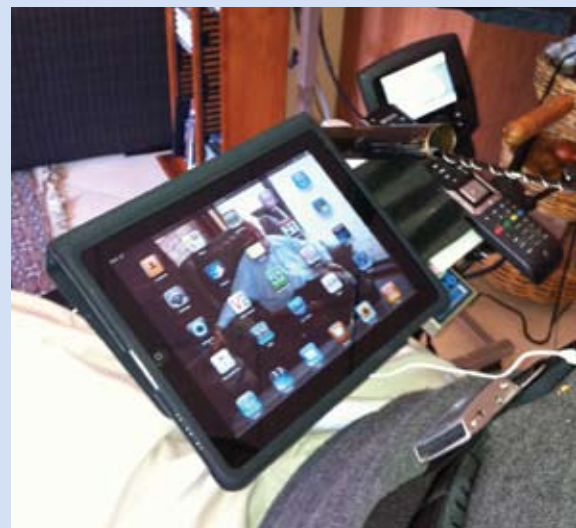
Greg and his friend started with an iPhone stylus, which some people use to operate the touchscreen instead of their finger. They attached this to a lightweight carbon fibre arrow shaft using a compass pencil holder.

To give the necessary electrical conductivity from the body to operate a touchscreen device like an iPhone or iPad, the shaft was wrapped in stainless steel wire right to the top, so it is in constant contact with Greg's lips or tongue when he is using it. When he is not using the mouthstick, it sits within easy reach in a metal tube mounted on the wheelchair.

The initial idea was that Greg would be able to rotate the iPad with his mouthstick, but this proved too difficult. As it turned out, after using his iPad for a while Greg found he generally preferred it in landscape mode anyway.

One of the drawbacks of the two devices is that if you use them all day you can run out of battery. Greg has overcome this problem by using an iPhone car charger kit to connect each device to his wheelchair battery.

Greg, like virtually every iPad user, is enchanted by it and delighted that it is now easy for him to use, thanks to the mounting. "I can read books, watch videos, email, access the internet and a million other things. It is not as powerful as a normal computer, but I can remotely access my laptop through my iPad if I need to, or even use my iPad as a wireless keyboard and mouse to operate my laptop."



For more information about Greg and his counselling services, refer to [www.gregmoran.com.au](http://www.gregmoran.com.au).

## SUMMARY

**client profile**  
quadriplegia

**description of project**  
iPad mount

**age group**  
adult

**volunteer**  
Les Daniels

**project no**  
SO10-0059



## Sensory stimulation

Teachers and therapists often use sensory equipment when working with children with disabilities. This is sometimes done in a dedicated space known as a sensory room, which contains a number of different sensory devices that can be used to accommodate the individual needs of each child.

Having a separate space means that children can enjoy these sensory experiences in a controlled environment. The room is often darkened to highlight certain lights or lit objects, which can be useful for children with intellectual disabilities who may have difficulty maintaining their attention on a specific activity. It can also make it easier for children with a visual impairment to distinguish the lights and objects.

The support unit at Chatham High School in Taree teaches 52 students with a variety of disabilities, most of whom have high support needs. A visiting teacher of children with vision impairment, Annette Gleeson, suggested to special education teacher Michael Osborne that they

could set up a sensory environment for the children.

Michael began with a simple perspex tunnel which he placed over a single child lying on the floor. He then sectioned off a storage area to create a dedicated room, with the aim of accommodating up to five children and two teachers.

As well as assisting the children's cognitive skills, motor development, language and social interaction, Michael wanted to teach them about cause and effect. To do this, he wanted to have a number of devices that could each be activated by a jelly bean switch.

"Children with intellectual disabilities can find it hard to grasp the concept of cause and effect, but in a dark room, the focus is much more intense," Michael said. "They understand more quickly that if they hit that switch that light comes on. They learn to make choices, and that can be moved into other areas such as learning to switch on the CD player or TV for themselves."

To encourage the children's understanding of cause and effect, a latching switch can be used with the sensory devices. This turns the device off automatically a certain time after it is switched on, so the child can press the switch and turn the device on again without it having to be turned off first.

Due to the need for each sensory device and the latch boxes to have dedicated power supplies, there were a number of power leads running along the floor of Chatham's sensory room. This concerned Michael and Annette, and when local TADNSW volunteer Chris Scott attended a TADNSW clinic at the school, Annette asked him if anything could be done about the leads.

As the sensory devices that were being used ran on low voltage, Chris suggested using a low-voltage latch box. This would mean that the power for the devices could be supplied directly through the latch box rather than having a separate lead. The transformers could then be mounted on the wall out of harm's way.

Chris approached TADNSW Sydney volunteer Peter Bennett to design and make a low-voltage latch box. This needed to operate with multiple voltages, as the sensory devices do not all have the same voltage (otherwise each latch box would have to be matched to a specific device).

Peter designed a box that can also accommodate multiple devices. Each sensory device was then modified for compatibility with the system, and a voltage-specific cable made up for it.

To further reduce the number of power leads required, Chris and fellow volunteer Allen Pidgeon then designed a power module. This can supply up to four latch boxes operating with different voltages. An indicator on each latch box lights up only when the correct voltage is available from the power module.

The power modules can be piggy-backed, so that multiple latch boxes can be connected. The modules can also run from a battery rather than a power supply, and they have Velcro

on the back so they can be attached wherever they are needed.

“That switchbox (the latch box) is a pretty amazing bit of gear,” Michael said. “It’s so easy now. You just plug in what you want to use and flick the switch on, and the whole system is small and easy to manage.”

“And because it is self-contained and completely portable, it can be used anywhere. If you don’t have a room you can set it up anywhere for a group of children or just one child. You can set it up in a tunnel or on a wheelchair or beside a bed or wherever, so no-one misses out.”

“That has been the great benefit of what Chris has done. It’s great to have someone with that expertise, who can think it through and solve problems as we go.”

Taree Lions Club provided funding for devices for the room, including special lighting such as black lights, a mirror ball, fibre optic sprays, lava lamps and flashing lights. It also has other sensory equipment such as bubble

machines, fans and an activity wall with a variety of tactile items.

Nicknamed “the Cave”, the new sensory room was opened recently by the Hon. Rob Oakeshott, who is the local MP. Mr Oakeshott said it was great to see so many facets of the community working together for the benefit of the students. “The more schools that can be integrated into the community, the better and stronger they will be,” he said.

**SUMMARY**

**client profile**

variety of conditions

**description of project**

power system for sensory room

**age group**

children

**volunteers**

Chris Scott, Allen Pidgeon, Peter Bennett

**project no**

S09-0106



**Photo top left:** Chris in the sensory room with student Michael Honeyman.

**Left:** Support unit students at the opening with, from left, TADNSW volunteer John Brumby, TADNSW CEO Alan McGregor, Michael Osborne, Peter McKellar from Taree Lions Club, Chris Scott, Rob Oakeshott and Chatham High Principal William Holvast.

Photos courtesy of the Manning River Times (Fairfax Media).



The Chailley Cart is sized to suit the needs of most young children. The wheels can be set forward or backwards depending on their needs, and it can also be made with a different kind of seat, such as a padded corner chair back, a small plastic seat shell or a bucket seat.

## Gaining movement

A Chailley Cart from TADNSW has made a huge difference to the life of two-year-old Ava Edwards. “It has got her up off the floor, and it’s the first time that she can go where she wants to without getting frustrated and injuring herself,” said her mother Kristy.

Ava (pictured left with baby brother Ezaiah) has spina bifida and hydrocephalus, and is paralysed from the waist down, but has good cognitive development. Before she received her cart, the only way she could move independently was to drag herself along the ground on her stomach.

“That meant she couldn’t really go outside, because she was skinning her legs and she has poor blood circulation so it would take ages to heal,” Kristy said.

The Chailley Cart is designed as a mobility device for young children who cannot walk but have good upper body strength. Made primarily from plywood, it has a winged back support and an extended, upholstered base with a lap belt. The child propels it by pushing directly on the side wheels, and it also has front and rear castors to prevent overturning and make steering very easy.

The cart can be used by children who are too young for a wheelchair, developing skills in steering and turning as well as building strength. It also empowers them and enables them to make the kind of decisions that other children are making and learning from about when, where and how to move in the world.

“It took Ava about a week to learn to drive the cart,” Kristy said. “Now she can go around corners and steer between things, and she has a little piano and she can get in under that to play it. And lately she has worked out how to go really fast and then turn quickly to do a wheelie!”

“It’s also a benefit for me, as I have a new baby and now I don’t have to carry both of them. The cart isn’t suitable for use out in public, but it is handy in all sorts of other situations – she used it all day around the hospital last week.”

But the overwhelming benefit for Ava has been a social one. “She can keep up with her older brother and sister now, and go outside and play chasings with them,” Kristy said.

“The kids at playgroup also interact with her more now that she can move and she is on eye level with them. Before that they thought she was a baby, because she was just on the ground and was small for her age.”

### SUMMARY

#### client profile

spina bifida, hydrocephalus

#### description of project

mobility cart

#### age group

children

#### volunteer

Ian McClelland

#### project no

SO10-0188-1

# Happy riding

When Debbie Coombs saw a little girl at the Spastic Centre at Allambie Heights riding a bike that had been modified, to suit her disability, she thought that something similar could work for her son Alex.

Alex is an outgoing boy of nearly five who has spastic diplegia. This mainly affects his lower limbs, but he is able to walk short distances using a walker. His motor skills and strength in his left hand are also affected.

Debbie booked into a FREEDOM WHEELS bike clinic at TADNSW, where children are assessed on test bikes. "It was near his fourth birthday, so I asked if it would be possible to get it by then," she said.

Alex's bike did not need extensive modification, as he has reasonable upper body strength. His bike has the usual wider seat and outrigger wheels, plus a high-riser bar with a padded back support plate and a pelvic strap. It also has toe clips to keep his feet securely on the pedals, and the hand brake is located on the right side to suit his stronger right hand.

The bike did arrive in time for Alex's birthday. "They did it really quickly, they were fantastic," Debbie said. "Alex got onto the bike as soon as he saw it!"

Since then Alex's riding has progressed to the point where he can pedal on his own on flat ground, although his parents have to help him with a push when he is going uphill. "It didn't take him long to pick it up, the steering and so on, and now he's learning to use the brakes to stop, and to turn around corners," Debbie said.



Alex and his sister Mali on their bikes.

But the most important thing is that the bike gives Alex a sense of achievement. "He likes it because it is something he can do," Debbie said. "He's quite proud of himself when he does get it going independently. And it's an activity for the whole family. We all go to the park, and his sister Mali rides her bike and he rides his. It's a nice thing for us all to do together."

## SUMMARY

### client profile

spastic diplegia

### description of project

modified bike

### age group

children

### project no

SO10-0066



Bikes can be modified for most children with a disability, even those with high support needs. For more information, go to the TADNSW website at [www.tadnsw.org.au](http://www.tadnsw.org.au) and click on Freedom Wheels. You can also download the application form to register for a bike clinic.



Eha Carr has made many journeys in her life, and has recently embarked on a major new one with the help of a refurbished computer from TADNSW's Computer Support Service.

"It is quite difficult for me to get out of the house now, and with such limited stimulation it would be easy to become brain dead, but you can open up the computer and you are in the land of the living," she said.

Eha was born in Tallinn, Estonia before the Second World War and is now in her 70s. Her father was a senior lawyer with the Estonian army, and when the Russians invaded in 1944 the family had to flee to Germany. "The Russians got rid of everyone with an education," she said.

Germany was in chaos at the end of the war. The US set up camps for refugees and Eha's family lived for several years in a camp of over 4,000 Estonians. "It was the best camp in Germany," she said. "We had our own schools, theatre, church and everything."

Eventually Eha's family was sponsored by a relative to come to Australia. "It was very hard for my parents, because

## The land *of the living*

my father couldn't practice over here, so he cut soles for tennis shoes at Dunlop. He had never done physical work in his life," she said.

Eha settled into life in Sydney's eastern suburbs, doing well at school and mixing with the varied communities in the area. She studied medicine, but left before taking her degree due to family commitments, as she had married a fellow Estonian.

The marriage lasted for 21 years, during which time Eha had two children, and did public relations and entertaining for her husband's family company. "My father went to work for them as well, which made things a lot easier for him," she said.

The next move for Eha was to the Northern Rivers with her second husband. "We built a beautiful house near Byron Bay, but unfortunately that didn't work out either, so I found myself at 50 with no work record and very tight finances," she said.

Eha moved to the Gold Coast, but found it difficult to compete with younger people for the available jobs. After struggling for some years, she wondered where she could go.

She knew of an Estonian retirement village outside Sydney, as her mother had lived there briefly, and moved there 17 years ago. Since then she has had a number of major health issues including cancer, strokes, back, heart and gastric problems. "It is nice here in many ways, but quite isolated, and it is difficult to get out when you don't have a car and your mobility is so limited. I can't socialise much, and I have to rely on community services

and the goodwill of individuals to help me," she said.

"That is where the computer comes in," she said. Eha had a computer previously, when she did an Arts degree with Open Universities Australia. "I used it for word processing and the internet, but it was too expensive," she said. "When that computer passed out I said no more, but after a while I was going bananas, handwriting the shopping list and so on."

Eha saw an ad about TADNSW in a leaflet from the local health authority. "My birthday was coming up, so when friends asked what they could get me, I asked them to make a contribution towards one of TAD's computers."

"People were wary about a second-hand computer, but I said if it has a two-year guarantee it must be all right. We have a guy here who helps people with their computers, and he was very impressed and said it was good gear."

Since then Eha's computer use has increased exponentially. She uses it for writing, and has written chapters for two books that are being published about the Estonian camp in Germany. She also likes to enter competitions, which often involve writing a short statement. "My writing is crazy, it's funky, it's often bad grammar, but people say it doesn't matter, it's you," she said. "So I've done quite well."

She goes on survey panels for market research, which generally pays a small sum or a product in kind. "I'm registered on 108 different panels, doing new product evaluation, or for politics or religion. I spend four to six hours a day doing all this."

"I'm also interested in so many things you can find on the internet," she said. "I go to the Bureau of Meteorology to see what's going to happen to the weather. I'm very interested in cycling, so I follow the Tour de France and the Vuelta Espana. I also subscribe to Bigpond movies, which is good value."

"You can also get lecture series by some very well-known academics, they are expensive but sometimes they have sales. I would rather eat baked beans and spaghetti for a while to get those – that is the greatest wealth, to have the greatest lecturer in the world!"

"I love cooking, and the internet is great for that too. I can easily search for recipes, and buy spices, and I get emails from SBS on food. And there's a website called 'Not Quite Nigella', so I'll go and blog on that, it has hundreds of people blogging every day. They have wonderful prizes too, and I've already won a couple of them."

"Email is the biggest part I use. I probably get around 150 emails per day, which is almost too much. My friends say I am too much on the computer, but I am balancing myself better now, and it's better than watching TV all day. And its no more expensive than before, as my phone and post bills are down."

Eha is quite unwell, but she was determined to share her story with *TADJournal* readers. "I feel I am not the only one who lives on their own, who is in a similar situation, out of contact with the world, and if they know how happy it has made one person, what a difference it has made, maybe they will get one as well," she said.



Volunteers at the WLC with the CSS laptops.

## CSS LAPTOPS SUPPORT BURMESE REFUGEES

A consignment of computers from the Computer Support Service has recently gone to India for use by groups supporting refugee women from Burma. Via TADNSW physiotherapist Weh Yeoh, the CSS delivered 16 refurbished laptops to two organisations, the Women's League of Chinland (WLC) and Burmese Women Delhi (BWD).

There are up to 100,000 Burmese refugees living in India, most of whom are ethnic minorities fleeing Burma to escape persecution by the military government. However, they frequently find their situation is even worse in India, as they are often unregistered and therefore unprotected under Indian law. They lack access to jobs, education and medical care, and may be subjected to abuse, violence and discrimination.

Weh travelled to Delhi as one of a group of interns with the Centre for Refugee Research at the University of New South Wales. The centre is facilitating dialogue between Burmese refugees in the area and local office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

"As I was leaving the WLC office, one of the ladies excitedly shook my hand and thanked me," Weh said.

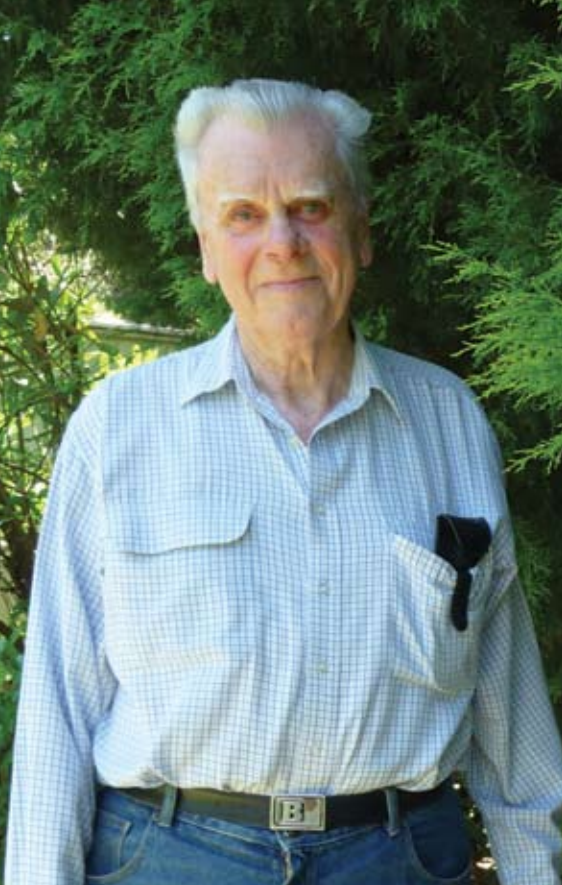
"She said, 'Before you came, we had only one laptop in our office, and now we have eight!'"

"The TAD laptops are so important for these groups. They are truly integral to keeping the organisations ticking over, so they can make things happen for the people they are trying to help. Have a look at the WLC website to see what they are capable of with virtually no resources."

"Working with WLC and BWD showed me how there are many people struggling in their daily lives to help others with few resources. I have come across some incredibly inspiring people through my work at TAD, but nothing could prepare me for what I saw over there. It was a truly moving experience, and another example of how doing something which is relatively easy for us can have a huge impact for people who are desperate for support."

Apart from bringing the laptops, the interns also made a financial donation to both WLC and BWD, and to a clinic that provides free medical care for Burmese refugees. For more information, refer to <http://chinwomen.org/> or <http://yamuna-clinic-delhi.blogspot.com/>, or phone TADNSW and ask for Weh.

## A journey of friendship



When talking to Bruce Watts about the projects he has worked on as a volunteer with TADNSW, just about everything he mentions has been written about in the *TADJournal*. That's because Bruce, a mechanical engineer, has used his design and metalwork skills to produce some very innovative devices.

Leaving school at 15, Bruce tried a career in insurance and then turned to engineering. He trained as a toolmaker and spent 19 years in precision and production of mechanical products for industry and agriculture.

Bruce then became a director of a fledgling company, working on its expansion over the next 11 years until ill-health prompted him to move back into management. He managed several enterprises including heavy industry and NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) laboratory certification of process instrumentation and products for the food and beverage industry.

When Bruce "happily retired", he wanted to do something useful and was particularly interested in helping

people with a disability. "I thought that there was so much that can be done in my field to support people, and I have the equipment there to make the things that they need," he said.

Bruce consulted the yellow pages, and there was TADNSW. "It fitted exactly," he said. "My first job was a camera, making a device to enable a guy who had had a stroke to operate his zoom lens while simultaneously holding the viewfinder up to his eye." (*TADJournal* Summer 2005.)

Since then Bruce has worked on a number of TADNSW's more technically challenging projects, often in collaboration with other volunteers. These have included a drink and sandwich holder which enabled a young wheelchair user to lunch independently at school (*TADJournal* Spring 2005), a lifter for a client with muscular dystrophy (*TADJournal* July 2008), and an adjustable double-seated chair for a young man who could only sit with his legs completely curled up.

He also worked with volunteer Barry Lees on the famed "Boddington Bessie", a motorised wheelchair mover for a diversional therapist with a back injury

(reported in the July 2006 *TADJournal* as taking 647 hours to make!). See also pages 4 and 8 of this issue for two of Bruce's more recent projects.

Bruce says that working with TADNSW has given him a lot of satisfaction, particularly in meeting the clients and making life easier for them. "The most touching was a client with motor neurone disease for whom I made a number of devices," he said.

"He couldn't get his hand in the right position to operate the controls on his wheelchair, so I put a motor under the seat which he could use to move the arm of the chair to the exact position that suited him at the time. He said it was the best thing since sliced bread!"

"But it's also been a journey of friendship," Bruce said. "It's nice to associate with people who have similar interests and skills and blend with them to produce the required result."

"We've lost both Bob Jones and Graham Sharp recently, and I often worked with both of them – generally they did the woodwork and I did the metalwork. There always seems to be room for two people to work on something and get it done."



## TADNSW YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS 2010

### 35 YEARS SERVICE

Bill Phippen

### 30 YEARS SERVICE

Fred Clark

### 25 YEARS SERVICE

Eric Booth  
William Rodoni

### 20 YEARS SERVICE

Bill Arnold  
Gail Tang-Demetriou

### 16 YEARS SERVICE

Laurie Chambers  
Alan Perriman  
Ian Young

### 12 YEARS SERVICE

Paul Ereat  
Alvan Hancock  
Ingrid Liermann  
Keith McKay  
Donald Pearson

### 8 YEARS SERVICE

Robert Castles  
Noel Gavenlock  
Daniel Mills  
Tony Oyston  
Laura Walker

### 4 YEARS SERVICE

Michael Atkinson  
Bruce Beattie  
Peter Bennett  
Harry Blundell  
John Brumby  
Mayo Brumby  
Rod Elliott  
Robyn Foster  
Peter Loewensohn  
Geoffrey Milton  
Afet Ozyigit  
Graham Pearce  
Geoffrey Permezal  
Ignatius Pirina  
Michael Stanford  
Steven Woods

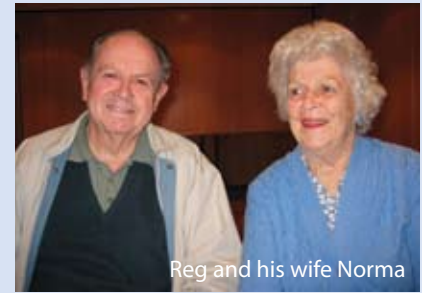
## REG GARDNER stalwart volunteer and innovative boatbuilder

All at TADNSW were very sad to hear of the recent passing of long-time volunteer Reg Gardner OAM. Reg joined TADNSW in 1996 and became a stalwart of the custom designed aids volunteer team, working on over 450 projects in the next 15 years.

An electrician by trade, Reg was well-known as the developer of the Endeavour, an early fibreglass yacht. He had been oriented towards the sea from an early age, and began competition sailing.

When he became concerned about the state of the woodwork in his yacht, he looked for a replacement he could build with fibreglass. With boat builder John Bott and naval architect Len Hedges, he developed a mould for a streamlined boat which he displayed to great interest at the 1965 Sydney Caravan and Boat Show.

Reg began to receive orders for the fibreglass yacht and became a full-time boat builder. During the next 45 years he produced more than 600 sailing and racing yachts. He made relatively cheap, kit-form



Reg and his wife Norma

yachts that made the sport available to ordinary Australians, as well as larger boats up to 32 feet.

Reg brought his boat-building skills to TADNSW when he retired, working with wood, metal and plastic. He was happy to take on a wide variety of tasks ranging from minor adjustments to existing equipment, to bathroom steps and wheelchair trays to complex powered lifting devices.

One TADNSW client who Reg worked with was David O'Brien, who has quadriplegia. Over the years Reg made David mouthsticks, a table for his wheelchair, a book stand, a sip-and-suck mechanism to operate his bed, pen holders, drink holders, a revolving overbed table and a portable table.

"Reg was a unique person in that he could see solutions and answers to problems that others couldn't," David said. "He would involve you from the beginning and make sure the aid was just what I wanted. The end products were really special because they not only looked good, they were very functional."

"Reg was a good friend as well. He was very sincere, passionate, reliable and caring. And he inspired me, and still does, because all that he did for me allows me to have a productive day, every day. I remember him telling me about other devices he had made for disabled children that would allow them to walk better, and his eyes were full of tears!"



David O'Brien with a tray and flexible-use table Reg made for him.



## FIRST FREEDOM WHEELS RIDE

TADNSW's inaugural Westlink M7 FREEDOM WHEELS Bike Ride was held on International Day of People with Disability in December.

The goal was to bring our FREEDOM WHEELS client families together for a social ride, and invite the general public to join in. We wanted to show how important a simple pleasure like riding a bike is to someone with a disability and that the perceived barrier between ability and disability is irrelevant.

Starting from Lady Penhryn Park at Kings Langley, the ride covered a short loop of the Westlink M7 bike path.

Westlink M7 assisted with planning and signage along the track.

We attached colourful balloons to each bike, which provided a fantastic sight to the other riders using the path. The children seemed to have a ball, and each rider and volunteer was presented with a certificate and a hat to thank them for coming.

In 2012 we plan to hold several rides to cater for varying abilities, including a serious ride covering the length of the motorway. For more information, email [fundraising@tadnsw.org.au](mailto:fundraising@tadnsw.org.au), or phone (02) 9912 3406.

## NEW BIKES FOR SPECIAL SCHOOL

Students with disabilities at Tallowood School in Kellyville will have six modified bikes to ride thanks to the generosity of students at William Clarke School and the National Australia Bank.

Students from William Clarke have been doing charity work with Tallowood for several years, and saw children riding test bikes which were on loan from TADNSW's FREEDOM WHEELS service. When William Clarke received funding from NAB under its Schools First Award, they decided to use it to donate bikes that could stay permanently at the school.

According to TADNSW physiotherapist Brendan Worne, the bikes have a range of sizes and modifications but

are all "low support". This means that they are not highly modified, and are generally suitable for children with mild to moderate disabilities. Bikes can often also be modified for children with high support needs, but these will usually need to be tailored very specifically for the individual rider.

Brendan says that leaving a range of test bikes at special schools is a great way of introducing some children to riding. "Generally we test children for bikes at a clinic held at TAD, but this doesn't work so well for children with disabilities like autism as it is too unfamiliar," he said.

"Having the bikes at school enables children to approach them gradually

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Three new Board members were elected at TADNSW's AGM in October 2010. They are:

### Matthew Kayrooz

Matthew has worked in the insurance industry for over 30 years and is now with Suncorp, specialising in CTP insurance.



### Laurie Nelson

Laurie trained as an industrial engineer, and then moved into accountancy. He is now a FCPA and Registered Tax Agent.



### Tony Ross

Tony has worked in the financial services industry for many years, and is currently the owner of Serenity Financial Professionals.



Cole Rojas from William Clarke School assists Jacob Cassar with a bike.

in a familiar environment, as part of their daily routine. It also introduces the idea to the parents and teachers, and shows them what is possible."

If you are interested in the loan bike program, please contact TADNSW.

## BILL PHIPPEN HONOURED

TADNSW President Bill Phippen received the award of 2010 NSW Senior Volunteer of the Year at Parliament House in December. The award includes a \$1,000 donation to TADNSW plus a Seiko watch, which Bill has also donated to TADNSW.

Run by the NSW Centre for Volunteering, the awards received more than 6,000 nominations. The process gave Bill the opportunity to make important contacts on TADNSW's behalf, and he was also featured as one of Sydney's 100 most influential people in the December issue of the Sydney Morning Herald's Sydney Magazine. They quoted him as saying: "Volunteerism is not unpaid, it's just not paid in dollars."

No-one who knows Bill could doubt that he richly deserves the award. He became a member of TAD when it began in 1976, and has served on the management committee and Board continuously since then. He has been TADNSW President since 1997.

As well as completing over 125 projects for the Custom-Designed Aids Service, Bill has steered TADNSW's governance and management for many years. He cites his greatest achievement as overseeing the process of fundraising for, and moving to, TADNSW's new \$2.7 million premises in Northmead.



Bill with The Hon. Michael Veitch MLC

## 35TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Over 100 friends of TADNSW turned out on a wild night in October to celebrate 35 years of service to people with disabilities.

The theme of the anniversary was "Growing Independence: TAD's 35 Year Journey", and the surrounds of Eden Gardens at North Ryde helped capture that idea. Each guest also went home with their own packet of forget-me-not seeds to grow.

Television personality Mike Bailey acted as MC for the night, with musical entertainment from the wonderful jazz and soul singer Isaac. But the highlight of the evening was the speeches from two client families.

Linda Langton spoke about the challenges she and her husband face as parents to Georgia, who has a developmental disability, and the assistance TADNSW has provided – such as making the kitchen safe and allowing them to eat as a family with one of TADNSW's Joshua Chairs.

Penny Graham then spoke about her son Alex, who has cerebral palsy. Alex has received a computer from the Computer Support Service, bed rails from the Custom Designed Aids Service, and a modified bike from the FREEDOM WHEELS Service. It was very clear from both mothers what a big difference TADNSW has made to their lives.

Long-serving TADNSW President Bill Phippen was given a surprise Honorary Membership at the dinner, to recognise his dedication to TADNSW since he joined in 1976.

Bill also launched the first TADNSW calendar, which contains excellent



artworks by TADNSW clients. We were lucky to have two of the artists, Matt Kilby and Stephanie Gore, in attendance, as well as Trish and Wayne Faint, the parents of our cover artist, Luke Faint.

Thanks goes to all our guests and supporters, including Cincom Systems, Microsoft (Australia), Inghams Enterprises, IBM, Suncorp, The Mailing House, Amway and our staff and volunteers for helping to make the evening such a success. You can view the rest of the photos on our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/tadnsw](http://www.facebook.com/tadnsw).

**Photo top:** Penny Graham and Mike Bailey. **Centre:** TADNSW President Bill Phippen, recent CEO Joy Barrett, current CEO Alan McGregor and former CEO Sancha Donald. **Below:** TADNSW Board member Monica Vardabasso (centre), her husband Vincent de Gouw and Jackie Evans from The Mailing House.

## BEQUEST FROM HELEN MURPHY

TADNSW was honoured last year to receive a bequest from the late Helen Murphy OAM, a long-time volunteer and supporter.

For 23 years Helen was a familiar face in TADNSW's office. Every Monday she took on the responsibility of making follow-up phone calls to clients to ensure that their device was meeting their needs. She then fed back the responses to the volunteer who made the device and staff of the Custom-Designed Aids Service. As with all our volunteers, Helen's role was crucial to TADNSW's operations.

Before retiring, Helen was a social welfare worker with Sydney City Council and Waverley Council,

working in Senior Citizens' Clubs and Meals on Wheels. Once out of the workforce, Helen was involved with a number of organisations including Plan International Australia, the Older Women's Network, and Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation.

Helen also made a major contribution to 2RPH (Radio for the Print Handicapped), where she was a Board Member, read the daily newspapers on air two days a week and produced two weekly programs, "New Ideas" and "Technical Aid to the Disabled".

As with any bequest to TADNSW, Helen's gift is a life-giving act for our services. The funds have been invested by the Board to ensure that



we fulfil Helen's wish to support our ongoing work for people with a disability and their families and carers.

For a confidential discussion on making a bequest to TADNSW, please contact Mark Lees on his direct line (02) 9912 3406.

## Have you considered workplace giving?

### WHAT IS WORKPLACE GIVING?

- A simple and effective way to regularly donate to TADNSW through automated payroll deductions.
- Your tax deductible pledge is sent directly to TADNSW each month by your payroll office.
- Regular flow of income enables TADNSW to better plan activities, goals and budgets.
- A better alternative to expensive fundraising campaigns.
- Each company can opt to match their employee's donation dollar for dollar.

### WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Your tax is calculated on your 'net' amount after the donation = an immediate tax benefit.
- Your donation is received free of cost by TADNSW.

### WHAT HAPPENS AT TAX TIME?

- Your employer provides you with a statement along with your group certificate for the amount you have donated.
- In a pre-tax workplace giving system you will only need to record the amount on your tax return, rather than keeping receipts and claiming for that amount. It's an easy way to give!

### HOW IT WORKS

#### Traditional donations

Donation	\$10.00
Administration costs	- \$1.70
Receipting costs	- \$3.60
Total donation to TADNSW	\$4.70

#### Workplace giving

Donation	\$10.00
Administration costs	Nil
Receipting costs	Nil
Total donation to TADNSW	\$10.00

*If you would like TADNSW to talk to your management about a Workplace Giving Program in your workplace, call Mark Lees on his direct line (02) 9912 3406 or email [mlees@tadnsw.org.au](mailto:mlees@tadnsw.org.au).*

# Contribute to TADNSW

## MEMBERSHIP

As well as the opportunity to support TADNSW's services, benefits of membership include voting rights at meetings of the company, eligibility for election to the TADNSW Board and branch committees, issues of the *TADJournal* and invitations to seminars and functions.

## DONATION

We have over 300 volunteers who donate their labour to make around 1,000 custom-designed aids and maintain around 1,000 computer clients per year. However, we do need funds to support and deliver these services, and for this we rely on the generous support of our donors. For more information refer to [www.tadnsw.org.au/Support/donate.php](http://www.tadnsw.org.au/Support/donate.php).

## TADJOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION

You can subscribe to the *TADJournal* without becoming a member or volunteering. For more information refer to [www.tadnsw.org.au/Services/Communications/subscribe.php](http://www.tadnsw.org.au/Services/Communications/subscribe.php).

## VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers have the opportunity to use their skills to support people with disabilities and their families. Volunteers can receive the *TADJournal* and invitations to seminars and functions, and are covered by insurance while doing authorised voluntary work. Reduced-rate membership is available to volunteers who wish to have voting rights and be eligible for election. For more information refer to [www.tadnsw.org.au/Support/volunteer.php](http://www.tadnsw.org.au/Support/volunteer.php).

## PRIVACY STATEMENT

The information collected by TADNSW is for the purposes of processing your enquiry, request, registration, donation and/or for promotional purposes. TADNSW only discloses personal and sensitive information to the TADNSW employee or volunteer involved in the provision of the service you have requested.

If you are giving personal information about another person, e.g. next of kin, you should seek their permission beforehand and advise why you are disclosing their details to TADNSW. For a copy of our Privacy Policy visit [www.tadnsw.org.au](http://www.tadnsw.org.au) or telephone 1300 663 243 or (02) 9912 3400.

## MEMBERSHIP

I wish to become a member of TADNSW and enclose payment for:

- Member** \$50.00 per year  
 **Volunteer member** \$10.00 per year  
(available to registered volunteers only)  
 **Corporate** \$250.00

Overseas members please add \$AUS 15.00 per year for postage.

## DONATION

I would like to:

- Join the TAD1000 Club to help fundraise**

Please send me a TAD1000 Club sign-up kit

- Become a regular donor**

I authorise TADNSW to deduct regular monthly payments from my credit card until further written notice in the amount of:

- \$2     \$5     \$10     \$20  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

- Make a single donation**

Please deduct from my credit card/my cheque or money order is enclosed for the amount of:  \$25     \$50     \$100     \$200  
 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Make an in-kind donation**

Details \_\_\_\_\_

- Leave a bequest**

Please send me more information on leaving a bequest to TADNSW

All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible (CFN 10944)

## TADJOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION

- I wish to subscribe to the *TADJournal* \$45.00 per year including GST  
Overseas subscribers please add \$AUS 15.00 for airmail postage

## VOLUNTEERING

- Please send me more information on volunteering

Ms/Mrs/Miss/Mr/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card type     Visa     MasterCard

Number

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to Locked Bag 2008, Wentworthville NSW 2145



# Ensuring your legacy with TADNSW

**Technical Aid to the Disabled (TADNSW) is a unique charity that uses technology and the creativity of our volunteers to provide solutions that improve the lives of people with disabilities. If you would like to leave a lasting reminder of your support for TADNSW's services, please consider leaving a gift to TADNSW in your will. This will help to ensure that these invaluable services continue and develop in the future.**

A gift to TADNSW will help ensure a long-lasting legacy. To leave a gift for TADNSW, you should nominate the TAD Foundation as your beneficiary.

When you decide to make a gift to TADNSW, please let us know. This will allow us to thank you personally for your generosity. It will also allow us to plan for the future knowing that we will have the financial resources to continue helping people with disabilities and develop our services.

There is no need to tell us the amount if you do not want to, and we will treat any information you give us in the strictest confidence.

You could also leave a memorial gift to TADNSW by including in your will a request to family and friends to give a donation to the TAD Foundation in lieu of flowers.

For more information on bequests and wills, please see your solicitor

or estate planner. You can also access information online at [www.pt.nsw.gov.au](http://www.pt.nsw.gov.au).

For more information on leaving a bequest or memorial gift to the TAD Foundation, please phone Mark Lees on his direct line at (02) 9912 3406 or mobile 0407 253 136, or email [bequests@tadnsw.org.au](mailto:bequests@tadnsw.org.au). You can also find information at [www.tadnsw.org.au/support/bequest.html](http://www.tadnsw.org.au/support/bequest.html)



## DIRECTORY

### TECHNICAL AID TO THE DISABLED NSW (TADNSW)

#### PATRON

Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, AC CVO  
Governor of New South Wales

#### VICE PATRON

Mark Bagshaw BA, Dip Int Marketing  
Managing Director, Innov8 Consulting Group

#### ADDRESS

Unit 10, 185 Briens Road  
Northmead NSW 2152  
Locked Bag 2008, Wentworthville NSW 2145

#### PHONE AND FAX

Phone: (02) 9912 3400  
Freecall: 1300 663 243  
General fax: (02) 9890 1911  
Custom Designed Aids Service fax:  
(02) 9890 1912

#### WEBSITE

[www.tadnsw.org.au](http://www.tadnsw.org.au)

#### EMAIL

**Administration:** [tad@tadnsw.org.au](mailto:tad@tadnsw.org.au)  
**Custom Designed Aids Service:**  
[cda@tadnsw.org.au](mailto:cda@tadnsw.org.au)  
**Freedom Wheels Modified Bike service:**  
[cda@tadnsw.org.au](mailto:cda@tadnsw.org.au)  
**George Winston Communication Service:**  
[gwic@tadnsw.org.au](mailto:gwic@tadnsw.org.au)  
**Computer Support Service:**  
[cls@tadnsw.org.au](mailto:cls@tadnsw.org.au)  
**Development:** [fundraising@tadnsw.org.au](mailto:fundraising@tadnsw.org.au)

#### BRANCHES AND INTEREST GROUPS

(phone 1300 663 243 for details of your nearest group)  
Albury/Wodonga, Central Coast, Central West, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Hunter, Illawarra, Manning/Great Lakes, Northern Rivers, Port Macquarie, Shoalhaven, Southern Area, Southern Highlands

### TAD AROUND AUSTRALIA

#### TADACT

T: (02) 6287 4290; E: [tadact@tadaust.org.au](mailto:tadact@tadaust.org.au)  
[www.technicalaidact.org.au](http://www.technicalaidact.org.au)

#### TAD QUEENSLAND

T: (07) 3216 1733; E: [tadq@tadq.org.au](mailto:tadq@tadq.org.au)  
[www.technicalaidqld.org.au](http://www.technicalaidqld.org.au)

#### TECHNICAL AID TO THE DISABLED (SA)

T: (08) 8261 2922; E: [admin@tadsa.org.au](mailto:admin@tadsa.org.au)  
[www.technicalaidsa.org.au](http://www.technicalaidsa.org.au)

#### TECHNICAL AID TO THE DISABLED (TAS)

T: (03) 6223 7794; E: [info@tadtas.org.au](mailto:info@tadtas.org.au)  
[www.tadtas.org.au](http://www.tadtas.org.au)

#### TADVIC

T: (03) 9853 8655; E: [info@tadvic.asn.au](mailto:info@tadvic.asn.au)  
[www.tadvic.asn.au](http://www.tadvic.asn.au)

#### TECHNOLOGY ASSISTING DISABILITY WA

T: (08) 9379 7400; E: [technicalaidwa@westnet.com.au](mailto:technicalaidwa@westnet.com.au); [www.technicalaidwa.org.au](http://www.technicalaidwa.org.au)