

TAD JOURNAL

Winter 2011 Vol 31 No 3



down on the farm

new handle helps with farm work

piano stands give musician new passion for songs

fighting for a better future: central west mum campaigns for change

About TADNSW

Custom Designed Aids (CDA)

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



Freedom Wheels (FW)

Modifies bicycles for children with disabilities.



WHAT IS TAD?

Technical Aid to the Disabled (TAD) was conceptualised 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-six 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

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

TADNSW'S CORE BUSINESSES

TADNSW's core businesses are the supply of equipment, support in the use of equipment, and provision of advice

Computer Support Service (CSS)

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



Volunteers

TADNSW volunteers work in each of the services lending their skills and expertise. They also provide admin support.



and information about equipment to people with disabilities, their carers and the disability sector.

TADNSW'S ORGANISATION

TADNSW is managed by a Board of 13 Directors and has 20 staff (15.92FTE). Our offices are at Northmead in Sydney. We have 12 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 of materials for custom-designed equipment, and a small purchase fee for computers. TAD volunteers donate their skills and labour.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

VOLUNTEER

You can help TADNSW by constructing aids for clients, refurbishing computers,

or providing support for administration, management, fundraising and communications.

DONATE

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

SPONSOR

TADNSW is currently seeking a Major Sponsor for each of CDA, FW and CSS. The funds invested will be used to support the outreach of the programs to the elderly and people with a disability. In return TADNSW will seek the support of our donors, clients, volunteers and stakeholders for their goods and services.

BECOME A MEMBER

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



From the CEO

In recent times there has been much said about the need for change within the disability sector and particularly damning was the Productivity Commission's draft report which described the disability support system overall as "inequitable, underfunded, fragmented, and inefficient and gives people with a disability little choice". If ever there was a case for change this surely must be the catalyst for implementing change in the disability sector. For the first time in perhaps several decades there is less rhetoric and more action on the part of government to implement real change. Foremost is a move to drive service delivery to be more 'person centered' with focus giving the person with a disability more choice in accessing services.

Modifying young Daniel's powered trike, enabling Kayla to enjoy her toys, modifying Ashleigh's first bike so she can join in with her friends, re-kindling Rose's passion for her music and helping Glen get on and off his tractor are each examples of an absolutely person centered service. Something that TADNSW has always done.

Speaking of change, TADNSW has decided to change its name to TAD Disability Services. Although our name has changed, just a little bit, our mission and our focus on client driven solutions remains the same.

I would also like to mention the immediate, decisive and very much appreciated support given by the Minister for Disability Services, Mr Andrew Constance MP for personally intervening to reinstate funding for this Journal.

This Journal is produced for therapists to use for ideas, inspiration and solutions for their clients; for universities to teach future therapists and rehabilitation engineers to look beyond the ordinary; for carers and clients to know that most things are possible; for volunteers to know their work makes a real difference and for our supporters to know their generosity is necessary and appreciated.

Alan McGregor, Chief Executive Officer,
TADNSW

Contents



Cover Story

Folding handle helps farmer Glen get into his Gator **4**



Freedom Wheels
Mum, Aimy Thorne is a woman on a mission **6**

Daniel's need for speed trike soft start modification **10**

Playtime for Kayla switch adapted toys **11**

Ashleigh defies the odds Freedom Wheels **12**

Getting a good night sleep folding bed rails **14**

Going for Gold Volunteer Portrait **15**

Making the Grade Computer Support Service **17**

Springtime Bookfair Events **18**

Get on your bike for TAD Events **19**

The Newsroom **22**



Custom Designed Aids
New music stands rekindle Rose's love of music **8**



Computer Support Service
TADNSW donates computers to charity **16**



Fundraising and Marketing
GFC drives new strategies for TADNSW team **20**



Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/tadnswdisabilityservices



Follow us on Twitter
twitter.com/tadnsw



Read our blog
tadnsw.blogspot.com

PUBLISHER

Technical Aid to the Disabled (NSW)
Unit 10, 185 Briens Road,
Northmead NSW 2152, Australia
Locked Bag 2008, Wentworthville NSW 2145
Tel: (02) 9912 3400
Email: tad@tadnsw.org.au
Website: www.tadnsw.org.au
ABN: 82 002 042 462

EDITING AND DESIGN

Nicky Fagan

REPRODUCTION OF TADNSW MATERIAL

Articles published in the *TADJournal* may generally be reproduced with credit to TADNSW, as long as permission is obtained from the George Winston Communication Service. Reproduced articles may not be edited unless the edited version is approved by TADNSW prior to publication. Photographs may be provided in some circumstances.

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this journal is of a general nature and is to be used as a guide. TADNSW does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy of the technical information in this journal, and disclaims any liability howsoever caused by reason of any application or misapplication of the data or information contained or arising from articles in this journal.

TADNSW advises that any person wishing to use or apply any data or information contained in this journal should contact TADNSW for assistance or otherwise seek further professional help.

OUR COVER

Glen Clark using his custom designed handle to support him transferring from his wheelchair to his tractor.

SUMMARY

Client Profile: paraplegia

Description of Project: folding handle for Gator vehicle

Age group: adult

Volunteers: John Brumby and Detlef Czerniejewski

Project Number: SO11-0085

Funded by: TADNSW donors and CDSE NSW Clubs



The handle in the raised position



A better handle on farm work

folding handle helps Glen get into his Gator

Everyone knows that farm work is hard work. Exposure to the elements and tough physical demands are among many things that make life difficult for farmers. But Glen Clark doesn't let anything stop him doing his share on his family's farm near Kempsey. Not even his wheelchair.

Glen has paraplegia, as the result of a spinal cord injury, causing paralysis of the lower part of the body. He drives around the farm on a Gator, an off road vehicle commonly used on farms.

'I use the Gator for spraying the fields but also to follow the dogs when they're rounding up the cattle,' says Glen. 'There's no way I could manage that in the wheelchair, the Gator gives me freedom to contribute to the farm.'

Glen's therapist from CRS Australia noticed that he was over-stretching and reaching awkwardly when moving from his wheelchair to the Gator which could potentially cause muscle or joint damage in his shoulders. She felt he needed a handle that would enable safe and independent transfers.

Glen's therapist got in touch with TADNSW and volunteers John Brumby and Detlef Czerniejewski from the Port Macquarie group visited the farm to assess the situation.

As they discussed options and requirements Glen hit on a great idea. He suggested making a handle attached to the roof bar of the Gator, which could be folded and locked into the roof while he was driving.

The volunteers went straight to the drawing board to design something that would meet all the requirements; storing away safely and not falling down as the vehicle went over tough terrain and staying sturdy in position when Glen was moving to and from his wheelchair.

The Technical Bit

Making the handle secure was the top priority. They first thought of bolting the handle through the roof strut but then decided to clamp it on and include two grub screws to further reduce the risk of rotation. This would also make it easier to adjust in the future.

The locking mechanism developed from their first prototype as they based it on balanced forces around the main shaft. A compression spring now provides the tension to hold the lever handle in the required positions defined by 2 ball bearings, fitted into holes bored into the side of the handle lever, which rotate against a housing plate.



The handle lever with ball bearings; and bracket plate with locking holes

When the balls align with the positioning holes drilled into the plate, the force of the compression spring holds the lever in place.



The partially assembled mounting bracket

Glen now uses the handle to get in and out of the Gator and the folding mechanism is working well.

'Its great that other people can still drive the Gator without hitting their heads on the handle. I think Detlef and John did a great job – it was exactly what I had in mind!'

fighting for a better future

Mum, Aimy Thorne is a woman on a mission

Bringing up children is a challenge. Making sure they eat right, getting them dressed in the morning, teaching them social skills and helping them make friends are all on a parent's 'to do' list. But bringing up a child with Autism takes this challenge to a whole new level.

Aimy's son William is a happy 6 year old boy and today he is cycling enthusiastically on his brand new Freedom Wheels bike from TADNSW as Aimy proudly looks on.

'William does great at school academically,' says Aimy 'but socially and emotionally he struggles a little.'

William has Autism and ADHD and these are characteristics which are common of the conditions.

Aimy lives in Molong near Wellington with William and his sister Claudia and is determined to get parents in the area and beyond a fairer deal, 'What we are aiming for is raising awareness of autism in the central west because all the special services are in Sydney so we have to travel there just like many other families. So ideally we would like some kind of clinic out here, so people can have that outreach, especially for the people even further out west.'

The experience of bringing up William has enabled Aimy to understand other parents' struggles, 'I stumbled through

the first few years with William but now that I've learned my way through, it would be great to help other families to save them that anxiety that comes with the first diagnosis and beyond.'

'I've never seen him do this, something so basic as riding a bike, its normal and you take it for granted.'

Aimy's awareness raising activities have been so inspirational that she now has the local paper The Wellington Times on board.

'Since we appeared in the paper after hosting local morning teas the response has been overwhelming, we've been contacted by other parents and people wanting to help in whatever way they can. Next year we are organising a walk from Wellington to Broken Hill and so many individuals and organisations are lending their support. It's really lovely.'

William attended a Freedom Wheels bike clinic in May at the local school in Wellington and TAD therapists Brendan and Jess fitted him for his first bike.

TADNSW Occupational Therapist Jessica Canacott explained, 'William is learning to ride a bike, and like most children requires training wheels. Due to William's Autism, he is sensitive to sounds and he has to cover his ears. The noise made by regular training

wheels meant that he was trying to steer with his elbows. The outrigger wheels that we use on the Freedom Wheels bikes are very quiet allowing William to ride really well. We hope that in the future William will be able to ride a standard bike without needing any supports.'

'Initially he was a bit uneasy,' adds Aimy, 'because he is so used to feeling that way. But once he got on the bike and realised that it was safe he was very happy with it.'

As Aimy talks, William's sister Claudia climbs off her mum's knee and runs to give her brother a helpful push on his bike. I ask Aimy what impact the bike will have on William's life and instantly her eyes fill up, 'you can see just now, I've never seen him do this, just something so basic as riding a bike, its normal and you take it for granted. This will give him his independence back, because he gets frustrated with himself that he can't do normal things and to see him zooming around and to see Claudia helping him...its just beautiful.'

SUMMARY

Client Profile: Autism and ADHD

Description of Project: modified bike

Age Group: Children

Volunteers: Freedom Wheels workshop

Project Number: SO11-0218

Funded by: Wellington Rotary Club and The Wellington Times

Interactive Box

To see the look on William's face when he sees his bike for the first time check out our YouTube channel - [youtube.com/tadnsw](https://www.youtube.com/tadnsw)

Or like us on Facebook
[facebook.com/
tadnswdisabilityservices](https://www.facebook.com/tadnswdisabilityservices)

To find out more about Aimy's walk from Wellington to Broken Hill check out her blog
ruralautismwalknsw.blogspot.com



Thank you for the music



Rose with her new stand on the piano



View of piano stand from the back

SUMMARY

Client profile: Cone Rod Dystrophy

Description of Project: music stands

Age group: Adult

Volunteers: Ken Kirwood and Col McIntyre

Project Number: SO11-0098 & SO11-0212

Funded by: workplace giving supporters
and TADNSW donors

New music stands rekindle Rose Tully's love of music

Music is in Rose Tully's blood. Her parents were in a dance band and toured around the Illawarra when Rose was a child. In her early twenties she studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and was praised by teachers for her amazing ability to play tunes by ear. During her course Rose was given the news that she had Cone Rod Dystrophy, a progressive disease, which in basic terms, causes deterioration of eye sight. This put an end to her dream of becoming a music teacher because in the coming years it would become more difficult to read music.

Rose continued to play music in her spare time but when her mum died ten years ago she lost her appetite for music and her vision became worse.

'I used to write songs and call mum up and play them over the phone for her,' says Rose. 'She was always very kind and gave me encouragement. Recently I started getting back into playing the piano but I was bending my back in a painful way because I need to have the music close to my face.'

Rose got in touch with

Vision Australia who sent an Occupational Therapist to her house to assess what changes could be made to make her life easier. When Rose told her about the piano she put her in touch with TADNSW.

TAD volunteer Ken Kirwood came to assess Rose's situation. 'She needed a stand that could be tilted at exactly the correct angle so that she could read the music,' says Ken, a former carpenter, builder and joinery teacher at TAFE. 'To do this, I put a hinge at the top so the bottom could tilt upwards. She wanted to still be able to open the top of the piano so I had to suspend the stand over the front. She also needed to have vertical and horizontal movement so there was a lot to think about.'

Rose was delighted with her new stand and asked if Ken could make one for her electric piano too. Ken passed this job to fellow volunteer Col McIntyre who could complete the metal work.

'The main priority with the electric piano was that the stand be portable like the piano, as well as having the music at varying distances from Rose's

eyes,' says Col. 'I tried to simplify the job and use the existing support as much as possible and make adjustments. It was challenging because I didn't have much space to work with because the piano was tightly fitted into a small alcove in the house – but I was very pleased with the simplicity in the end.'

And Rose was thrilled with her new stands, 'The guys did everything I wanted. The stand for the electric piano even looks exactly like it should be there.'

Now that Rose has her musical enthusiasm back she is planning to try some music teaching. 'I want to teach people how to play from ear. I want to introduce them to one key and then work through whole songs with them.'

'I feel very blessed. If it wasn't for the two volunteers from TAD I would have been too frustrated to continue with music. I'd like to thank them for making my own, and other people with disabilities', worlds that much bigger, for widening the parameters. They have sparked a chain reaction and have enabled me to give back by teaching which is wonderful.'



The complete electric piano stand

Daniel's need for speed

New electronics and bucket seat keep Daniel in control



Easy Rider: Daniel takes his new trike for a spin

Daniel Little is a typical 6 year old boy. He loves cars, bikes and diggers and is a dedicated thrill seeker.

Daniel has ataxic Cerebral Palsy which causes him to be quite unsteady and a little shaky. He uses a Kaye Walker to get around and his condition affects a lot of aspects of his life. His mum Lucy didn't want his condition to get in the way of his need for speed, so when she saw a little girl at the Cerebral Palsy Alliance riding a modified bike she set about trying to get something similar for Daniel.

She bought an electric ride on tricycle with Family Assistance Funding (FAF) from the Department for Aging Disability and Home Care (ADHC) and got in touch with the team at TADNSW to make it safe and useable for Daniel.

Since Daniel has much better control and movement in his hands than his feet, volunteer John Griffiths took the accelerator away from the pedals and placed it on the handlebars.

'Rather than having the bike shoot off as soon as the accelerator was pressed,' says John, 'we put in a control circuit so that when you push the switch the bike accelerates slowly.' There is also a facility for reducing the maximum speed so that Daniel can learn to ride slowly before graduating to a higher speed.

John also put a bucket seat onto the trike so that Daniel can be tightly strapped in for extra safety, which definitely puts mum Lucy's mind at ease.

'Daniel loves his trike,' says Lucy. 'He rides along the bike track and

the other kids all think his bike is so cool; it's a real talking point. The trike enables him to play with the other kids and helps him become included which is so important.'



bucket seat

SUMMARY

Client profile: ataxic Cerebral Palsy

Description of Project: Hawk tricycle soft start modification and bucket seat installation

Age group: Children

Volunteer: John Griffiths

Project Number: SO11-0107

Funded by: AMP Foundation Ltd

Play time for Kayla

Switch adapted toys give Kayla a fun pastime



Play is a huge part of a child's development. Not only is it a lot of fun but playing with toys teaches children valuable lessons about cause and effect, control, responsibility and boosts self-esteem.

Five year old Kayla is a happy and sociable little girl. She has Rett Syndrome, a regressive disorder, which is causing her to lose the speech she had when she was younger and a lot of the functionality of her hands. She also has apraxia and dyspraxia meaning her body doesn't always cooperate with what her brain is telling her to do.

'Kayla is a joy to be around, she always has a smile on her face,' says mum Anna. 'It was so important for us to get some toys that Kayla could engage with because otherwise she is so



limited in what she can do besides from watching television and playing with her toy piano.'

Anna asked Kayla's ADHC occupational therapist about getting some toys adapted and she put her in touch with TADNSW.

Volunteer Michael Barfoot adapted the toys to make them accessible for Kayla. The loss of function of her hands means that Kayla can only swipe her hands rather than grip with her fingers.

'Making switch adaptations to toys is fairly simple,' says Michael, 'the tricky part is often locating the switch as it can be hidden in the toy's hand, foot or tail. It can also be difficult to stitch it back together without causing a mess but sometimes my wife helps with that!'



Once the wires are located from the battery compartment, a lead is fed out at an appropriate point and the switch is then connected externally to the toy.

And Kayla is a very happy customer. Anna adds, 'we got 6 toys adapted and now she has so much choice for what she plays with. It's lovely to see her playing and having a giggle at her toys.'

SUMMARY

Client profile: Rett Syndrome

Description of Project: Switch adapted toys

Age group: Children

Volunteer: Michael Barfoot

Project Number: SO11-0099

Funded by: TADNSW donors and supporters



Playtime: Kayla plays with Chicken Dance Elmo

Ashleigh defies the odds

TADNSW team goes back to the drawing board to give Ashleigh her Freedom Wheels



At TADNSW we are so proud of our Freedom Wheels programme. Over the years it has become a slick process where a special standard bike frame is adapted to fit a child after our therapists have assessed them. However everyone is different and sometimes a child comes along and sends our team back to the drawing board.

Ashleigh Hamilton is an active 7 year old who enjoys playing handball at school and loves fairies and make-up. She has a dislocated right knee with hip and knee problems on the same side and wears a leg brace to keep her leg straight.

Ashleigh's mum Linda saw flyers for TAD at her local hospital and spoke to Ashleigh's physio at Northcott about the possibility of riding a bike. She brought Ashleigh to TADHouse in Northmead and physiotherapist Brendan Worne assessed her requirements.

Brendan said, 'not being able to bend her leg made riding a standard bike difficult for Ashleigh but when we assessed her strength, coordination and balance we realised that with a little support she could ride a modified bike.'

Volunteer John Griffiths got involved to apply his problem solving skills to the case. 'It was clear she couldn't use the pedal on the right hand side so Steve, who builds the bikes, took the right pedal off,' says John. 'In fact, we took most of the pedal mechanism on the right side off and replaced it with a foot rest to support her leg and keep it straight.'

Ready to go: Ashleigh at her first clinic at TADHouse

This made a one pedal bike so Ashleigh could propel the bike forward by using the left pedal and at the same time her right leg would be fully supported. Its had a huge impact on family life – before Ashleigh had her own bike her mum put her in a trailer attached to her own bike. Now Ashleigh rides by herself on family cycle trips, 'its a real thrill to see Ashleigh ride,' says mum Linda, 'you always hope that your child will be able to ride a bike but I didn't really think it would be possible.'

how they did it



Foot Cup

Rather than using a pedal that rotates, Ashleigh's bike was fitted with a foot cup support that allows her foot to rest while her left foot does the work with the pedal on the other side.

Leg Brace

Ashleigh is unable to bend her right knee - this means she couldn't push the pedal on that side. Steve, from the Freedom Wheels workshop, removed the pedal mechanism on the right hand side and replaced it with a metal leg brace to help keep Ashleigh's leg straight.



Photo: Ashleigh before the brace was fitted

SUMMARY

Client Profile: dislocated knee with hip and knee problems

Description of project: modified bike

Age Group: Children

Volunteers: John Griffiths and Freedom Wheels team

Project Number: SO11-0060

Funded by: Supporting Rotary Clubs of Western Sydney

If you would like to support the Freedom Wheels programme - why not join our sponsored bike ride in December? Check out page 19



you can see our latest photos and videos from the Freedom Wheels programme on facebook.com/freedomwheelsnsw

Getting a good night sleep

New bed rails put parents' anxieties at ease

Every parent knows you can't keep an eye on your children 24/7 so it's essential to know that after the lights go out; your children are safe in their beds. This was particularly significant to two families who were having sleepless nights over bedtime.

Five year old Ebony has Developmental Delay and tends to lie on her side and roll or push her legs against the rails of her bed. Her bed was fitted with a plastic bedrail which was not providing support which was increasing the risk of her falling out of bed.

Twins April and Angel have Rett Syndrome. They slept in matching hospital style beds which can be raised up and down. The beds had significantly large gaps between the bars and the rail and did not cover the entire length of the bed. The girls move in their beds while sleeping and this could potentially lead to them getting caught in the rails. Again, causing worry over the girls' safety.

Volunteers Mike Atkinson, Detlef Czerniejewski and John Wallace from the Port Macquarie group had their work cut out. There are many things to consider when designing new rails; avoiding the danger of entrapment or pinching where the rail folds down, ensuring that the design would fit with the family's needs and also matching the rails to the aesthetics of the bed.

Possible entrapment points were assessed with a design developed to minimise this risk. The pinching danger was overcome by dropping the hinge line (where the rail folds) below the mattress level and covering the joint with a rubber membrane that folds outwards during closing.

When the rail was folded down, both beds needed to have a large enough gap between the rail and the floor, to reduce potential for a carers' feet being

crushed. Also in Ebony's case, her hoist (which is used for transfers) extended beneath the bed. Rather than using timber for the whole rail, which would be heavy and expensive, the team used textilene infill panels to reduce the weight and cost but not sacrificing strength or durability.

Finally the team put a stained varnish finish on Ebony's rail (pictured below) to match her bed and bedroom furniture.



The twin rails were painted with acrylic paint in keeping with the original design of the bed.



(left) Angel and April's new beds and (right) the rubber hinge that avoid nips

April and Angel's mum Jodi was delighted with the end result, 'now I'm not straining my back and there is nowhere for the girls to get caught.'

Bed modifications are important in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our clients. TADNSW needs to follow the correct process for assessing an individual's needs, recommending the appropriate modifications and ensuring adequate follow up. Every type of modification request will be assessed on an individual basis to make sure that this occurs.

Stay tuned for more information on bed rail modifications in the TADJournal.

SUMMARY

Client Profile: Developmental Delay and Rett Syndrome

Description of project: folding bed rails

Age Group: Children

Volunteers:

Mike Atkinson, Detlef Czerniejewski, John Wallace

Project Number: SO10-0304 & SO10-0336

Funded by: The George Lewin Foundation



Going for gold

TADNSW volunteer Rob flies the flag for disability sports



'I don't think anyone is disabled,' says Rob Blackadder. 'I think some people have a disability and my aim is to help people make the most of what they have.'

Rob arrived in Sydney in 1972 after spending most of his early life in Loughborough, England. He responded to an Australian recruitment drive for teachers aimed at Brits, "The slogan was 'come teach in the sun' and that appealed to anybody raised in the UK," smiles Rob.

Rob taught children physical education and soon got involved with organising sports carnivals in local communities. In the early 90s Rob visited a carnival at Homebush and saw some international athletes and after 30 years of officiating school carnivals he reckoned he could help at this level. He started volunteering as an official for many athletic events and then in 1994 he was asked to volunteer at the National Wheelchair Athletics Championships which marked the beginning of Rob's work with athletes with disabilities.

When the Sydney Olympics and Paralympics were announced, Rob was at Homebush with a class of 30 children and the atmosphere was electric. He was a Throws Official at the Sydney Olympics then he was an Assistant Manager Technical at the Paralympics ensuring all the equipment was in the right place at the right time.

Rob has volunteered in every state and went as far as Birmingham for the World Championships. This year he was in Christchurch just before the earthquake hit and destroyed the stadium he was volunteering at. Over the past two years he has been in Samoa, Palau and the Cook Islands educating local officials and raising the skill level.

Rob met a TADNSW volunteer at a social event. 'At the time I was designing a tie down platform to support an athlete in a wheelchair to throw a javelin, the chair must be tied down so that the athletes don't fall over with the effort of the throw.' Rob's design was adopted by the Paralympics in 2000 and is still used worldwide.

Rob got involved with TADNSW as a volunteer and there is always enough work to keep him busy. He attends Freedom Wheels clinics and helps out on assessment days, putting nervous children at ease by running along with them as they take their first ride. He drives the courier run, delivering finished products to clients and picking up materials for other volunteers to use and, from time to time, he helps Freedom Wheels bike builder Steve out in the workshop.

'I love meeting the kids and the families at the clinics, seeing how much they achieve, I just find it inspirational.'

Reaching out to the Community

TADNSW donates computers to women and children's charity

Having a computer is fast becoming one of life's necessities. It opens a portal to work, education, communication, shopping and gaming. The next generation will barely be able to conceive of life without them.

TADNSW's Computer Support Service has been running for more than 17 years refurbishing donated computers and providing them at a reduced rate for those who need them most.

When CSS was approached by International Community Advocates (ICA) asking for computers for their clients we were only too happy to help. ICA are based on the Central Coast of NSW and set up in February 2011 by a group of friends who wanted to help women and children affected by domestic violence.

The group began by helping Woy Woy's Women's and Children's Services by providing them with emergency packs containing things that they would most need after fleeing the family home because of domestic violence. ICA Director Fiona Crane explains, 'we provide things like pyjamas, underwear in different sizes and baby packs too. Sometimes families turn up in the middle of the night with nothing but the clothes on their backs so we are there to help them.'

ICA also provide Care Packs containing school books, pencils and footwear as well as Transition Packs with cleaning materials and linen for families in transition from a refuge to a new home.

One thing Fiona felt was missing was computers, 'computers are so important for helping kids do their homework and stay in touch with their friends. Often these children are traumatised by things they have witnessed and the change to their lives – giving them access to a computer reduces further marginalisation in their peer group.'

TADNSW is now supplying ICA with computers each month to assist the families to get back on their feet. Fiona added, 'the computers are going to make such a difference – just seeing the looks on the families' faces says it all! Now we just need a van to deliver them all!'

Interactive Box

To find out more about ICA and the work they do you can visit their website

www.internationalcommunityadvocates.com



ICA volunteer Theo Thomas receives the first computer to help with the charity's administration

Making the Grade

Students get to grips with donated computers



Year 11 students Subangi Suntharakuma (left) and Saira Arshi (right)

'We have learned so much about refurbishing computers and the work that TADNSW does this week,' says year 11 student Saira Arshi as she stands amongst motherboards and keyboards in TAD's Computer Support Service (CSS).

Saira and her classmate Subangi Suntharakuma from MacArthur Girls High School have, like many students before them, spent the week in CSS taking apart donated computers and refurbishing them with Microsoft software and customising them for TAD's clients.

TADNSW works in partnership with ParraSIP (Parramatta Schools Industry Partnership – soon to be renamed AusSIP) who provide a string of talented students to come and work in CSS to learn more about computers and IT. 'It's a great opportunity for students to demonstrate the

technical skills they have learned in the classroom, in a work environment,' says ParraSIP's Programme Manager John Watters.

Students who are completing a Vocational Education and Training (VET) course are required to do 2 weeks work placement over years 11 and 12 and for MacArthur Girls High School teacher Margaret Ramsey, TAD always comes top of the list, 'TAD is the best place to send students, they learn so much because they are allowed to take the computers apart and the staff and volunteers are so friendly.'

And this sentiment is certainly echoed by her students, 'I would definitely recommend that other people help out here,' says Subangi, 'especially young people who are interested in IT and want to get some experience.'

THANK YOU!

With the loss of our major sponsor as a result of the GFC, TADNSW approached a long term supporter to help fund the Computer Support Service for 2010-11 while we searched for a new sponsor. The very generous support of the Cecilia Kilkeary Foundation allowed TADNSW to maintain and grow the Computer Support Service, increase the number of companies donating equipment, create income from eBay sales as well as increase our environmental responsibility by sourcing a metal recycle company in Melbourne to purchase the remaining computer parts and components.

SPRINGTIME OPEN AIR BOOK FAIR

Are you a self-confessed book hoarder? Or a dabbling reader on the daily commute? We have books for all types in a rapidly growing pile here at TADHouse in anticipation of our book sale in September - so why not come and join us?

We will be selling copies of brand new children's book *Herbie's Here to Stay: Reminiscences of a Guard Dog* by author Carol Staines.

There will be something for everyone; romances, thrillers, sci fi, war epics, biographies, cookery, gardening - you name it we'll most likely have it.

For the kids there will be a special children's story tent with facepainting, soft toys on sale and other fun activities.

If you're peckish there will be a sausage sizzle on the go serving snacks from 11am - 2pm. As if that wasn't enough we will be displaying all the entries to our 2011 art competition which is a beautiful, eclectic collection. See you there!



SPRINGTIME OPEN AIR BOOK FAIR

for charity

Saturday 17th September 9am - 4.30pm

Brand new children's book on special sale
Herbie's Here to Stay: Reminiscences of a Guard Dog
 by Carol Staines

TADNSW Open House: displays from Freedom Wheels, Computer Support Service and Custom Designed Aids

facepainting children's story tent barbeque soft toys
 art display by TADNSW clients: people's choice to decide cover of TADNSW 2012 calendar
 and loads and loads of books

COME AND CELEBRATE SPRING!



185 Briens
 Road,
 Northmead
 NSW 2152



Get on your bike for freedom wheels

Westlink M7 Freedom Wheels
Miles and Miles of Smiles bike ride 2011



Sunday 4th December

start times dependent on ability
ride in one of three groups;
professional, family or Freedom Wheelers

Sign up now at

www.tadnsw.org.au

celebrating international day of people with disability



The Freedom Wheels programme
customises standard pushbikes for children
with disabilities.

TAD volunteers create bikes for children to ride
when most often they cannot walk unassisted.

Find out more online www.tadnsw.org.au



Cycle the M7 for Freedom Wheels

Freedom Wheels is all about giving children the opportunity to take part in an everyday activity and to join in with everybody else. What better way to celebrate this and raise some money than a sponsored bike ride? Whether you are a pro rider or a Sunday cyclist you are welcome to join the TAD team and the Freedom Wheels kids on a bike ride along the M7.

Help Freedom Wheels supply bikes to 100 children with a disability in 2012!

We have our very own M7 Westlink Freedom Wheels page where you can create a profile and get your mates to sponsor you online and send you messages of support. You will be able to keep up with event news and see who else is fundraising for the day. Just visit the tadnsw.org.au to sign up.



celebrating international day of people with disability

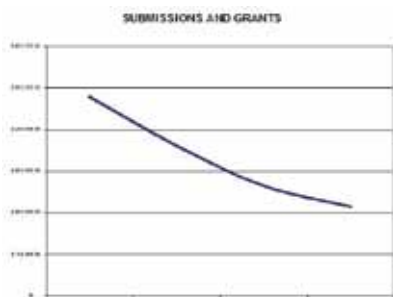
Global Financial Crises drives new Marketing and Fundraising strategies

Where it all started

The Global Financial Crises (GFC) hit in mid 2007 with the initial affects impacting in the financial year of 2008-2009. It was then that most not for profits saw their fundraising impacted heavily.

Overall donations to charities fell 10.8% reversing a decade long upward trend. High end donations collapsed by nearly two thirds. Two years further on, this has impacted greatly on the incomes and wealth of many philanthropists and corporations who support disability organisations through registered Trusts and Funds.

On Friday, 5 August 2011, the volatility of the World Financial Markets raised the possibility of a sequel to the GFC.



A call to action

TADNSW CEO speaks about the implementation of a new Strategic Plan to guide TADNSW in the years ahead (see CEO's Editorial page 3). Flowing down from this initiative is the need to restructure the way TADNSW raises its funds to fulfil this future vision of the organisation by reaching out to the wider community for support. Within the field of disability, amongst our clients and their families, TAD is a well known and highly respected organisation.

Very few of the general community however, are aware of our work. Tests over the last few months by the TADNSW Marketing and Fundraising team have shown that our stories and our cause is a very easy product to 'sell'.

Our three to five year strategy

TADNSW's strategy is now one of acquisition of new donors to our cause. We have undertaken to reevaluate our brand; strike up a closer relationship with the wider community for support, to acquire new donors, sponsors and supporters amongst families, the workplace and corporates in order to lessen the burden of reliance on government and philanthropic Trusts and Funds.



TADNSW is seeking new Corporate Partnerships; undertaking Direct Marketing initiatives that are being better integrated with all social networks in order to be totally transparent with our donors; seeking support through Workplace Giving; being much more selective and targeted with special events; seeking longer term relationships with selected Trust and Funds.

Website redevelopment

Our website is TADNSW's window to the world, a virtual shop front and our most important link with donors, stakeholders, staff, professional networks, clients

past and present and volunteers. It is an online reflection of our business. It has served TADNSW well over the years. However, a new age of digital technology needs new tools to meet the challenge of effectively marketing our brand to the community.

Our new design will deliver an improved experience for users, increase staff productivity, create a virtual family amongst our many clients and increase fundraising income at a much lower cost through the ability to run targeted, digital campaigns utilising responses and interaction with the many mediums such as Twitter, Facebook and You Tube.

Through these mediums we will create a portal through which we can provide a unique service to people with disabilities and their families and carers to share experiences, frustrations, ideas, tell their story, seek advice from our physiotherapists, and/or skilled volunteers or simply talk/write to each other.

Our future

The Marketing and Fundraising team's passion is to ensure a solid foundation of well resourced income streams so that TADNSW can provide equipment and advice, to people with disabilities and their carers, through services of skilled volunteers and staff for the next 35 years.



Have you considered your staff?

GIVING YOUR TIME

- Your staff can come and volunteer for a day.
- They will spend their time working together in a different environment away from their office.
- This shared experience develops team work and gives a great feeling of contributing to the community.
- Help is needed in our Computer Support Service, Custom Designed Aids, Marketing Department and in Administration.

WHAT IS WORKPLACE GIVING?

- A simple and effective way to regularly donate to TADNSW through automated payroll deductions.
- A tax deductible pledge is sent directly to TADNSW each month by the 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 STAFF?

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

WHAT HAPPENS AT TAX TIME?

- The employer provides staff with a statement along with their group certificate for the amount they have donated.
- In a pre-tax workplace giving system staff will only need to record the amount on their tax return, rather than keeping receipts and claiming for that amount.

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 staff about a Workplace Giving Program in your workplace, call Mark Lees on his direct line (02) 9912 3406 or email mlees@tadnsw.org.au.

Pictured right: a team from IBM lends a hand



Get involved with TADNSW

There are many ways to get involved with TADNSW. You can become a **MEMBER** giving you voting rights at the AGM, eligibility to stand for the board or branch committees and free issues of the TADJournal. Or you can **MAKE A DONATION** and help us continue to deliver services to people in the community. Or you can **SUBSCRIBE** to the quarterly TADJournal and get it delivered to your door. Or you can donate your time and expertise and become a **VOLUNTEER**. For more information and to see our privacy statement visit www.tadnsw.org.au

MEMBERSHIP

- I wish to become a member of TADNSW and enclose payment for:
- Member \$50.00 per year
 - Volunteer member \$10 per year (for registered volunteers only)
 - Corporate \$250
- Overseas members please add \$AUS \$20.00 per year for postage.

DONATION

- I would like to:
- Join the TAD1000 Club to help fundraise (send me a 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 enclosed 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.
- 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 20.00 for airmail postage

VOLUNTEERING

- Please send me more information on volunteering

Mr/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 TADNSW Locked Bag 2008, Wentworthville NSW 2145

The News Room

Governor-General visits TADHouse

Photo: The Governor-General arrives at TADHouse greeted by TADNSW President Bill Phippen



The floors sparkled and the surfaces shone at TADHouse in anticipation of a visit from the Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce in early July. Ms Bryce dropped by to learn more about the work of TADNSW and to meet the clients, volunteers and staff.

Ms Bryce toured the building and spent time with some of the families who have benefited from TAD's services. She watched with delight as four year old Curtis Crichton was presented with a brand new bright red Freedom Wheels bike. Curtis, who has cerebral palsy, sped around the corridors as proud parents Jamie and Kylie looked on.

Her presence surprised 16 year old Josip Mihaljevic who was rounding off a week's work experience placement in the Computer Support Service. Josip, from St Pauls College in Greystaines said, 'I couldn't believe it. It was such an honour to meet her and it finished off a great experience working with TAD.'

A group of special guests including TAD founder George Winston AM and his wife Jean and MPs Julie Owens and Melanie Gibbons gathered in the warehouse to hear Ms Bryce deliver a heartfelt speech. She said, 'My mum taught children with cerebral palsy and it had an enormous influence on me as a teenager and for the rest of my life.' She added, 'Thank you for what you do every day.'

TAD President Bill Phippen presented a miniature model of a Freedom Wheels bike displayed in a

glass case before she spent time talking to all the guests. Bill invited the Governor-General to visit when he met her at the NSW Volunteer of the Year awards where he won Senior Volunteer of the Year.

CEO Alan McGregor said of the day, 'It was very special to have the Governor-General acknowledge the work done by so many dedicated volunteers and our staff team.'



Photo: The Governor General with Curtis Crichton

The Interactive Box

To see more photos from the G-G's visit including her sharing jokes with the families visit our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/tadnswdisabilityservices

TADNSW get great review at State Parliament



Former TADNSW Fundraising Manager Melanie Gibbons was elected to state parliament back in April this year as state member for Menai and she was sure to make certain that TADNSW got pride of place in her maiden

speech. Melanie made a warm tribute to the work that TADNSW does to improve the lives of people with disabilities and the elderly. She spoke about her ambition to ease the burden on people with disabilities and

elderly people and called for higher accessibility standards. The speech also touched upon our Freedom Wheels programme.

Melanie said 'one of the most heart-warming parts of the job was watching children who were unable to walk be helped out of their wheelchair, have their feet placed on the pedals and then be able to ride a bike for the first time.'

You can read Melanie's speech in full by visiting www.parliament.nsw.gov.au and click Hansard.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE NSW

We have information about all kinds of products, equipment and home design to make everyday living easier

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- assistive technology information
- journal and website
- display centre
- access audits and advice
- home modifications advice

No 1 Fennell Street Parramatta NSW 2150 ■ Weekdays 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Info-Line 1300 885 886 ■ 02 9890 0940 ■ Fax: 02 9890 0966

email: help@ilcnsw.asn.au ■ Web: www.ilcnsw.asn.au

IBM team lend a hand

At TADNSW, the work is never done. So we were thrilled when a staff team from IBM came to spend a day helping out at TADHouse this winter to celebrate 100 years of IBM.

The team spent the day painting and sanding block trolleys to make them look like giraffes and spotty Dalmatians. The trolleys support children with disabilities when they are learning to walk.

They also built marketing packs and took on the mammoth task of categorising the donated books for TAD's book fair on 17th September. Check out page 18 for more details!

Some of the team lent their expertise and helped our volunteers refurbish donated computers in TADNSW's Computer Support Service.

IBM Sales Manager Tammy Stewart said, 'I think TAD is amazing. Its really refreshing to get out of the corporate office and look at all the things that TAD does for people to enhance their lives.'

Afterwards staff gathered to say a fond farewell to the team before blowing out a candle on a cake to mark IBM's 100th birthday in style.

Photo: IBM worker sands some block trolleys



The Interactive Box

To see a video of the IBM team helping out, visit our Facebook page [facebook.com/tadnswdisabilityservices](https://www.facebook.com/tadnswdisabilityservices)



Ensuring your legacy with TADNSW

TAD Disability Services (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.

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



DIRECTORY

TAD DISABILITY SERVICES (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
CDA Service fax: (02) 9890 1912

ONLINE

www.tadnsw.org.au
facebook.com/tadnswdisabilityservices
twitter.com/tadnsw
youtube.com/tadnsw

EMAIL

Administration: tad@tadnsw.org.au

Custom Designed Aids Service:

cda@tadnsw.org.au

Freedom Wheels Modified Bike service:

cda@tadnsw.org.au

George Winston Communication

Service: gwcs@tadnsw.org.au

Computer Support Service:

css@tadnsw.org.au

Development:

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.

TAD AROUND AUSTRALIA

TADACT

T: (02) 6287 4290; E: tadact@tadaust.org.au
www.technicalaidact.org.au

TAD QUEENSLAND

T: (07) 3216 1733; E: tadq@tadq.org.au
www.tadq.org.au

TECHNICAL AID TO THE DISABLED (SA)

T: (08) 8261 2922; E: admin@tadsa.org.au
www.tadsa.org.au

TECHNICAL AID TO THE DISABLED (TAS)

T: (03) 6223 7794; E: info@tadtas.org.au
www.tadtas.org.au

TADVIC

T: (03) 9853 8655; E: info@tadvic.asn.au
www.tadvic.asn.au

TECHNOLOGY ASSISTING DISABILITY WA

T: (08) 9379 7400;
E: technicalaidwa@westnet.com.au;
www.technicalaidwa.org.au