

The New Link

St George Association

For People with Physical Disabilities Incorporated

"Capabilities Conquer Disabilities"

Vol. 33 No.9

July 2005

Future Programmes

July 2 / Aug 6	Sat	10.30 am	Book Club	Belgreen
July 13 / Aug 10	Wed	10.30 am	Wednesday Group	Belgreen
July 17	Sun	12 noon	'Christmas In July'	Belgreen
July 19	Tues	7.30 pm	Management Committee	Belgreen
July 23 / Aug 27	Sat	10.00 am	Embroidery Group	Belgreen
July 26	Tues	7.30 pm	Product Presentation Circuit	Belgreen
Aug 20	Sat	2.00 pm	Games afternoon	Belgreen
Aug 23	Tues	7.30 pm	Trish Skehan	Belgreen
Dec 4	Sun	12 noon	Christmas luncheon	Kogarah

**Thank you to members for donations received
when sending your Membership Fees – greatly appreciated!**

**There are still a number of members who have not renewed their subscription – we do
seek your support and ask that you forward payment to**

Jenny Chin, 2 Salerwong Place, Ryde NSW 2112

**Membership fee \$11.00 for those employed
\$5.50 for those not employed**

Report from the Annual General Meeting – held 18th June 2005

It was pleasing to see the number of people, who attended the Annual General Meeting – your support is appreciated. All went well and I would like to inform you of the Management Committee Members for the year 2005-2006.

President	Pat Davies	Secretary	Patricia Byrne
Treasurer	Jenny Chin	Vice President	Peter Meagher
Assistant Secretary	Rosemary Gray		

Committee members: Betty Alwin, Connie Micalizzi, Ann-Mason Furmage, Janet Malone, Betty Hill, Daphne Berger and Maura Outterside.

The efforts of the Management Committee over the past year was acknowledged, congratulating the team for the manner in which they all pulled together for what was a very difficult year following the sudden death of President, Kevin Byrne.

Pat Davies was welcomed as the new President with thanks being extended to Peter Meagher for his efforts in taking on the role of Acting President and a welcome to Maura Outterside as a new member of the Management Committee. ***(On your behalf I offer congratulations to Pat Davies and wish her all the very best in her role as President).***

The Presidents of the Master Plumbers & Mechanical Contractors' Association NSW, Five Dock RSL Sub-Branch and Lions Club of Oatley were once again elected as Patrons of the Association.

The meeting was followed by a very enjoyable afternoon tea, allowing time to socialize and partake of some tasty food and a cuppa. Many thanks to members, who assisted with the catering. A few "stayers" lingered a little longer and dialed in a pizza and continued having a chat.

The raffle (which raised \$485.00) was drawn at the conclusion of the meeting and we thank all for their support – great result. Congratulations to the lucky winners!

- 1st prize – framed embroidery - purple ticket C75 Ann-Mason Furmage
- 2nd prize – knitted rug – purple ticket C42 Marilyn Glover
- 3rd prize – sandwich maker – apricot ticket T33 Pat Davies

Information from Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN)

NSW Health has commenced the 'Health Futures Planning Project'. The Planning Project aims to develop a longer term planning framework for health and health care in NSW to ensure that NSW Health Care System continues to meet patient and community needs over the next 15-20 years.

For more information on the Project and how you can have your say go to :

www.health.nsw.gov.au/futuresplanning/

Further news from Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN)

As you all know, PDCN has been doing a great job in conjunction with other organisations bringing to the Government's attention the ongoing problem of inadequate funding for the PADP Scheme. The following information has been received from PDCN.

"In the May 2005 Budget, the NSW Government announced an enhancement to the PADP budget of \$3million. While this hard fought-for increase is welcome, it falls well short of what is actually needed.

PDCN continues to co-ordinate the campaign to increase the funding available to this critical program. Our campaign is supported by more than 60 disability and health organisations across NSW. We need your help to make it happen! Have you applied for equipment through the NSW Program of Appliances for Disabled People (PADP)? Are you still waiting? TELL US YOUR STORY! Call, fax or email Bronwyn or Sharon at PDCN telephone 9552 1606 or 1800 688 831, fax 9552 4644, e-mail po@pdcnsw.org.au

Background

1. Introduction On Monday 5th April 2004, 33 non-government agencies in the NSW disability sector sent a joint letter about the PADP to the Minister for Health, The Hon Morris Iemma. In that letter we called for a significant enhancement of Government investment in PADP. Organisations of and for people with disability are calling for ;

- an immediate injection of \$14million into PADP to relieve current unmet need for essential equipment
- an enhancement of funding to PADP to take recurrent spending to \$36.4million per annum to meet future need for essential equipment. (This amount would still be 0.4% or less than half of 1% of the total Government allocation to the Health Budget.

Our aim is simple. We urge the Government to invest now in PADP.

Unmet need for vital aids and equipment is on the increase – and this is not disputed.

2. At this stage it truly is a question of money. For more than 4 years the disability sector in NSW has contributed to the reform of PADP. Mostly that's been a positive process, if frustrating at times. We have contributed significantly to joint work that has resulted in these changes :

- * Development and introduction of new and broader eligibility criteria
- * Formulation of a new PADP policy manual
- * Agreement of a new and more appropriate equipment list.
- * Revision of the data collection objectives for PADP
- * Movement towards establishing quality performance indicators for PADP
- * Consideration of an assessment prioritization tool.

The final piece of the jigsaw is Budget enhancement – this requires a political decision by State Government.

3. Investing in a future for all. Investing funds in PADP will lead to reductions in expenditure elsewhere in health and specialist disability services. The knock-on effect to people with disability, their families and associates will also result in benefits for everyone. How? It's simple: people with disability with the aids and equipment they need participate more in their communities and contribute more. Our claim for budget enhancement of PADP is not some modern day version of Oliver Twist's begging for more. We call for investment that promotes better health, great social inclusion and, as a consequence, a better use of tax dollars as well as a return on investment through increased participation."

Thanks to PDCN for the above information. If you have a story to tell, please contact them.

The following article has been reproduced with the permission of **Making Connections**. For more information about Making Connections please visit www.spinalinfo.nsw.gov.au

"The Making Connections 'Future Directions' workshop was held on Monday 9th May at the Australian Technology Park.

Making Connections readers were invited to participate along with non-government organisations representing people with spinal cord injury and other neurological conditions, researchers and health professionals.

The workshop was an opportunity to assess the Making Connections website, e-newsletter and online forums one year after the project was launched. The aim of the workshop was to make recommendations about the future content, direction and most appropriate management of Making Connections to ensure it stays relevant and useful and continues to grow.

All participants agreed that one of the most valuable aspects of Making Connections is that it fills a gap in existing information and resources for people with spinal cord injury and neurological conditions. The ability to find out the latest research news and information, and discuss recent developments and researchers from Australia and overseas via the online forums, was seen by all as a unique and important resource that differentiates it from other websites."

Further news from Making Connections.

Premier's Forum and ongoing contributor to the Making Connections online forum and newsletter.

Dr. Teng and his team's recent research "Respiratory abnormalities resulting from mid-cervical spinal cord injury and their reversal by serotonin 1A agonists in conscious rats", has just been accepted by the *Journal of Neuroscience* and includes original data that has not been published so far in any other forms except for a brief abstract at the 2004 Society for Neuroscience annual meeting.

Writing to Making Connections, Dr. Teng states: "We see the present work as a major progress in the SCA neuroscience field....."

"Our group and others have shown that treatment of post-SCI respiratory dysfunction through strategies such as respiratory motoneuronal preservation have a very limited therapeutic window, i.e. within a few minutes after spinal cord trauma.

We therefore have been seeking strategies with greater promise for wider clinical application for the prevalent and highly morbid complication of SCI.

Our work shows that neuroscience knowledge produced from neurological models which truly emulate clinical pathology can advance our fundamental understanding of both clinical and basic problems underlying diseases and other mechanisms to develop novel treatments."

Future Programmes

Book Club 10.30 am Saturday, July 2 Belgreen 40-42 Chalmers St, Belmore

Convener, Maura Outterside provides the following report from discussions that took place at the last Book Club gathering.

"Barra Creek" by Di Morrissey is a heavy read, but for light reading "Thy Neighbour's Wife" by Ann Purser set in an English village is a very good "chill-out" book. This is a book of no great consequence, just an enjoyable, light-hearted read. The story revolves around life in a small village set in the Midlands. It is typically gossipy, amusing and heart rending in parts. Not world shattering in depth, doesn't have a moral to the story, but is just enjoyable nonetheless. (Janet Malone).

"One Fourteenth of an Elephant" by Ian Denys Peek details the ingenuity, horror and breathtaking endurance of the human spirit in the construction of the Burma Railway during W.W.II. (Anne Buchanan).

"Aspirin" : The Story of a Wonder Drug" by Diarmuid Jeffreys covers the history of aspirin from a 6,000 year old Egyptian papyrus, through its industrial development at the end of the 19th century and its key role in the flu pandemic of 1918, to its subsequent exploitation by the pharmaceutical conglomerates, chief among them the Bayer Co. of Germany. (Maura Outterside).

We are looking forward to discussing our favourite read next month. There's plenty

of room for any new members and different points of view. Hope to see you at our next meeting 2nd July 2005.

Wednesday Group

10.30 am Wednesday, July 13 Belgreen 40-42 Chalmers St, Belmore

Come along, bring your lunch and join together for a chat. Tea/coffee available at the Centre. Please call Daphne Berger if you need other information - **9718 3678**.

'Christmas in July' Lunch

Sunday, July 17 12 noon Belgreen 40-42 Chalmers St, Belmore

A few people have advised they would like to get into the mood of 'Christmas in July' but there is certainly room for more. We are planning to order chicken and add the extras ourselves by using our kitchen at Belgreen, so it will be quite economical. However, for catering we do need to know numbers. It will be fun to get together.

Please ring me if you wish to come – Patricia 9150 5512, so I can add your name to the list.

7.30 pm Tuesday 19th July Management Committee Meeting Belgreen 40-42 Chalmers St, Belmore

7.30 pm Tuesday, July 26 Belgreen 40- 42 Chalmers St, Belmore Wendy Baker from Product Presentation Circuit.

Wendy Baker will have a variety of goods on display, which you can find in your local supermarket. New products as well as items you may not have bought. It's an opportunity to find out about the products. In the past, there have also been samples to try. We look forward to seeing you.

**Saturday, July 23 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.
Embroidery Group
Belgreen 40-42 Chalmers St., Belmore**

The group continues to enjoy their time together and last month we were able to welcome a couple of new people, who we hope will be able to join with us on these days. Coralie Lewin is able to provide great expertise and guidance. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn new stitches or techniques, or just work on your own project.

**Sunday, December 4
12 noon – 5.00 p.m.
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
Mahogany Room, St. George Leagues Club**

This is just giving early notice so you can note the date in your diary. I must admit I find it very hard to think that far ahead, however, we do need to make the booking and the date has only just been confirmed, so thought I would let you know early.

Program Report

Members were most impressed last month when we had the opportunity to meet Simon Annabel (The River Keeper) and hear about his work in looking after the Georges River. Simon presented a most interesting power point presentation, providing an incredible insight into the care of our waterways. He must be twins to do all the work he does. A fascinating evening and very informative.

Fund Raising

Thank you to our team of supporters, who continue to make goods and donate items for our stalls. It is greatly appreciated.

Other News

I recently received some information from Ability Technology – a not-for-profit organisation that helps people with special needs to access a computer.

For more information about Ability Technology visit their website www.ability.org.au

I am not able to speak with any authority about the organisation, other than to advise you of their contact details. Apart from their website, you can contact them on tel. 9907 9736 or fax 9907 9599.

Personal Parts

I recently had a telephone call from **Kevin Hollingworth** (Dubbo) and he wished to be remembered to those who know him.

Jenny Chin tells me she has received quite a few letters/notes **from members** when they have been sending their membership fees – it is good to hear news from you. Thanks for taking the time to write.

We do send our best wishes to **Mary Draper**, who recently advised her daughter had a very serious accident, suffering many fractures. At the time of writing she had been in hospital 8 weeks. We send our best wishes.

Our special thoughts also go to **Betty Alwin**, who has just come home from spending a couple of weeks in hospital. You will be sorry to know Betty had a stroke recently, but I am pleased to say she is progressing very well and is naturally happy to be home in her own environment. She has to take things easy, and we send our love and prayers to her, Kevin and family.

Ken Pheeny (Queensland) sent an e-mail with his apologies for the Annual General Meeting – thought it was too far to come!!

He is keeping busy, and also wants to know when someone is calling in for a visit. He says come and see the turtles. Best time December to March, especially January where you can possibly see the laying and hatching, hundreds of the

critters run down the beach to the ocean when they crawl out of the sand. No one is allowed to move.

Congratulations to **Bert Foster** who celebrated his 75th birthday on the 18th June. It was great to see him on the day, as he and Morrie came to the Annual General Meeting. All the very best, Bert.

The “travelling bug” is alive and well –

Bill Freshwater spent 6 weeks in Tasmania, whilst his Mum/Dad (**Gwen/Sid**) had a trip to America.

Jean Ross is on an extended holiday travelling through the Northern Territory, Queensland and NSW.

Pat Wynne had a trip to Norfolk Island.

Betty/Kevin Alwin visited Foster.

Janet Meagher is back from her overseas trip and we look forward to hearing more about that trip when she has a chance to write something for *The New Link*.

John Chate & Helen O’Neille are off to Rockhampton and “other places” for a couple of weeks.

As previously reported **Connie Micalizzi** has gone to Italy and **Jenny/Ross/Emma Chin** have gone to Indonesia – we look forward to hearing their stories when they return.

And I spent the long week-end in Lake Cathie visiting my brother in his new home.

All in all a bit of activity going on!!

Sadly, we recently heard of the death of another one of our members, Pam Turner. Due to health problems, Pam was not able to be actively involved in Association

activities, but always kept in touch via *The New Link*, and Rosemary Gray. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

Honorary Members

At the last Management Committee Meeting the following people were re-elected as Honorary Members in recognition of their service to the Association.

K. Alwin, J. Anderson, D. & L. Berger, R. Breen, M. Chin, A. Foster, M. Gray, O. Hale, H. Joy, A. & C. Lewin, M, Lotty, K. Main, J. & J. Steinfurth, Y. Williams and P. Wynne. Many thanks to you all.

For Sale

Ken Pheeny advised he has a Wymo hoist and roof wheelchair carrier for sale – only \$150.00, but need to arrange for delivery from Coral Cove (near Bundaberg). Please call him on 07 4159 3440.

Free!

Jean Ross has an adjustable shower chair that she is willing to give to anyone, who is interested. Please call Patricia 9150 5512 if you are interested and I will get in contact with her.

Management Committee 2005 –2006

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All Financial matters to: Hon Treasurer, 2 Salerwong Place, RYDE NSW 2112

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Email patriciabyrne@optusnet.com.au

Hon Treasurer: Jenny Chin 02 9888 5234

Vice President Peter Meagher 02 9520 3521

Asst Secretary: Rosemary Gray 02 9820 1308

Betty Alwin 02 9579 4600 Daphne Berger 02 9718 3678

Betty Hill 02 9750 8461 Janet Malone 02 9787 1042

Connie Micalizzi	02 9567 6423	Maura Outterside	02 9718 5803
Ann-Mason Furnage	02 9517 4667		
Welfare Officer:	Elizabeth McDonald	02 9747 6268	