



## October 2008

### Meeting Report

**Please Note: Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 2 September are on pages 5-9.**

### Local News

#### PARENT TO PARENT

Introducing Parent to Parent Association Qld Inc, a network of parents who have a daughter or son with a disability. Families assist each other by providing peer support, skill enhancement opportunities, networking, and succession planning, via local groups. Call 1800 777 723 or visit [www.parent2parentqld.org.au](http://www.parent2parentqld.org.au) to find out more about this initiative coming to the Redlands.

*Parent to Parent brochure*

#### DADS IN THE REDLANDS

Dads Appreciating Disabilities (DADS) provides informal support by men, for men. It is for any male (not just dads! – grandfathers, uncles, in-laws, stepfathers etc are also welcome), who would like to make a difference in the lives of people who have a disability or health impairment. To find out more about the local group, email [graham-dads@bigpond.com](mailto:graham-dads@bigpond.com) or visit [www.dadsaustralia.org.au](http://www.dadsaustralia.org.au).

*DADS brochure*

#### MEETING VENUE

Looking for a venue for your group's next meeting? The Alexandra Hills Sporting Club on Windemere Road has a function room that is available free of charge to not-for-profit organisations. To find out more, please contact the Club on 3824 1303.

*RDN Minutes*

#### DO YOU NEED THE LIONS?

The Redlands Lions Club now has their own hall, located next to the Old School House Art Gallery (on the way to Cleveland Point) on Shore St West, Cleveland. This space may be available to not-for-profit groups to hold meetings etc. The Lions are keen to help your group – whether with this meeting space, a sausage sizzle or their food van! Please contact the Club at PO Box 52 Cleveland, or call Des on 3286 2485 to find out more.

*RDN Minutes*

### FUN & FITNESS

Did you know that the Special Olympics (nothing to do with Paralympics!) is an organisation providing year round sports training for people with an intellectual disability? Sports currently on offer in the Brisbane East Region include:

**Ten Pin Bowling** - Saturday 10.30am at AMF Capalaba, 9 Currumbin Court, Capalaba. For more information contact the coordinator, Sally Carr, on 3824 4644.

**Swimming** - Saturday 11.45 am at Redlands YMCA, 128 Link Road, Victoria Point. Contact Janet Bombolas on 3390 2120.

**Bocce** - Wednesday 6.30pm at Redlands Sporting Club, Anson Road, Wellington Point. Call Sonya Le Lay on 3207 7050.

**Tennis** - Thursday 6.30pm at the Sheldon Tennis Centre, 29-35 Duncan Rd, Sheldon. Call Dean Toparis on 3206 4872 for more information.

**Basketball** - Match training on Saturday at 10.30am; skills training on Tuesday 6pm. Both held at Redlands YMCA, 128 Link Road, Victoria Point. Contact Dean Booyesen on 3207 0365.

**Soccer** - is also held in the cooler months at the Mooroondu Sport and Rec Club in Thorneside. Contact Kirsten Lisner on 3207 2880.

*Keith Brown, Special Olympics*

### LEGAL INFORMATION SESSION

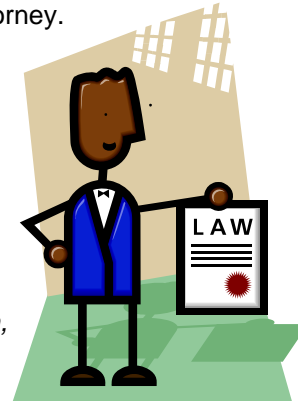
Bayside Community Legal Service and Redland Community Centre are hosting an information session on wills, estates and power of attorney.

**When:** 7-9pm, Wednesday  
12 November

**Where:** Redland Community Centre, 29 Loraine Street, Capalaba

If you are interested in attending, please call the Redland Community Centre on 3245 2117.

*Christine van Didden,  
Redland Community Centre*





## BREKKY ON THE BEACH

Bayside Domestic Violence Initiative Inc (BDVI) would like to invite as many women (and their friends and families!) as possible to a sausage sizzle / breakfast on the beach.

**When:** 7am, Saturday 1 November

**Where:** Wellington Point

The event aims to raise awareness of the need for a regional domestic and family violence service in our local area. For more information, please contact Sara on 0411 488 696.

*Lynne Blighton, Dept of Communities*

## Grants & Funding

### SUPPORTING YOUR GROUP

Want to apply for a grant? Wondering where to start? Need a letter of support? There is help available for Queensland self help / support groups! Please contact Trish at the Self Help Queensland office on 3344 6919 to discuss the possibilities.

*Self Help Qld newsletter*

### SPORTING CHANCE

Financial assistance is available for athletes with a disability, that have been identified at introductory and development levels of sport. To find out more, please visit [www.sportingdreams.org](http://www.sportingdreams.org).

*Sporting Wheelies newsletter*

## Information & Resources

### COMMUNITY SERVICES WORK

Career Employment Australia is offering training in Community Services Work, for people with a disability. The course is at no cost, subject to the usual eligibility criteria for Queensland government funded programs. The 9 week program will commence on October 21 at 29 Cambridge Street, Coorparoo (near the train station), and will be held three days per week from 9.30am – 2.45pm. Call 3397 9899 for more information.

*Ross Kelly, CEA*

### WHAT IS QPPD?

Queensland Parents for People with a Disability Inc (QPPD) was established in 1981. As well as personally supporting one another, members take up issues collectively on behalf of sons, daughters and others, speaking out about injustices and promoting people with disabilities as respected, valued and participating members of society. For more information, contact [qppd@qppd.org](mailto:qppd@qppd.org) or call 3368 3055.

*QPPD brochure*

### COMMUNICATION ACCESS

Break down the communication barriers ... this Victorian project with retailers is a wonderful example of what can be done to overcome communication difficulties.

Communication boards and face-to-face support, plus the launch of the *Good Communication is Good Business Guide*, assisted retailers to develop positive and successful interactions with customers with communication difficulties. For a copy of the Guide or more information on this project, please contact the Communication Resource Centre on (03) 9843 2000 or [crc@scopevic.org.au](mailto:crc@scopevic.org.au).

*RDN Minutes*

### LAUNCH INTO LIFE

Recently Queensland Parents for People with Disability released *Launch into Life*, a booklet to assist families with transitioning their students from school to post school. To order, visit [www.qppd.org.au](http://www.qppd.org.au).

*RDN Minutes*

### LIFETEC QUEENSLAND

Did you miss the presentation by Lifetec Queensland at the September RDN meeting? Want a speaker for your group, or to find out how to make life easier for a client? Lifetec can help! Contact 3552 9000 or visit [www.lifetec.org.au](http://www.lifetec.org.au) for more.

*RDN Minutes*

### QUEENSLAND ADVOCACY

The transcripts from the Queensland Advocacy seminar on *Implementing and Monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Australian Social and Legal Context*, held on August 20, are now available on their website at:

[www.qai.org.au/content/online\\_library\\_documents.cfm?ID=69](http://www.qai.org.au/content/online_library_documents.cfm?ID=69)

*QDN E-Bulletin*

### QR TRAVEL COMPANION PASS

The QR Travel Companion Pass is issued to a person with a permanent disability who is unable to travel on rails services unaccompanied. The companion is not restricted to one carer or spouse, but allows free travel to anyone traveling with the person. The pass currently costs less than \$10 and is valid for 2 years. For more information, please contact QR on 3235 2810.

*Sporting Wheelies newsletters*

### MENTAL HEALTH SITE

Keep up to date with promotion and prevention approaches to mental health at [www.auseinet.com](http://www.auseinet.com). Auseinet is pleased to announce the addition of its new onsite search facility. The "Search by Topic" page is being trialled at <http://auseinet.fritsweb.net/resfind>.

*Auseinetter newsletter*



### RELIVE COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL 2008

Melbourne community television channel C31 has aired a one-hour special on the 2008 Communities in Control conference. The special, which is fronted by popular broadcaster Stella Young, can be viewed at [www.c31.org.au](http://www.c31.org.au).

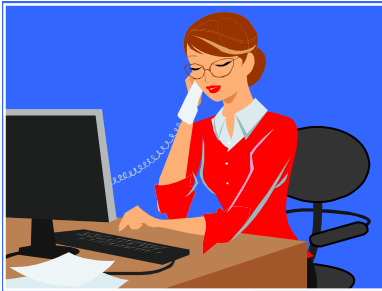
[www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)

### CARERS WEEK

"Because I care" is the theme for Carers Week (19 - 25 October) 2008, and explores the impact of caring on individuals and society. To find out what activities and events are occurring throughout Queensland, visit [www.carersweek.com.au/qld.html](http://www.carersweek.com.au/qld.html).

*Auseinet Alert*

### NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE DVD



The National Relay Service (NRS) has produced a free instructive DVD for Australians who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, to explain how their unique telephone service works. The

DVD is available in a standard version with captions, and an Auslan version. Contact Alicia on (02) 9352 3401 or [alicia.afuang@relayservice.com.au](mailto:alicia.afuang@relayservice.com.au) to find out more.

*Disability News/Infoxchange Australia*

### CRITICAL BRIDGES DVD

The *Critical Bridges* DVD deals with education and transitional stages experienced by people with disability. Hosted by the Disability Council of NSW and the NSW Department of Education and Training, this six hour series brings together people with a great deal of personal and professional experience to discuss, debate and inform us about three important stages of educational transition, including:

- Transition to school;
- Adjustment after acquiring a disability; and
- Transitioning to post-school destinations.

Free copies of the DVD are available as long as stocks last. Email [disability.programs@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:disability.programs@det.nsw.edu.au) or call (02) 9244 5085.

*Disability News/Infoxchange Australia*

### PARENTS WITH A DISABILITY

Parents with a disability now have an opportunity to share strategies, stories, and ideas on the *Raising Children Network* website forums. Check it out at <http://raisingchildren.net.au/forum/Forum132-1.aspx>.

*Disability News/Infoxchange Australia*

## Research & Reports

### DISABILITY IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a report entitled *Disability in Australia: Trends in Prevalence, Education, Employment and Community Living*. The report looks at trends in the numbers of people needing assistance with basic daily activities, and in education, employment and community living amongst people with a disability. Find out more at:

[www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10495](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10495).

*QCOSS*

### NATIONAL ARTS AND DISABILITY STRATEGY

If you have an interest in the areas of arts, health, disability and community services, ageing, education, employment, Indigenous affairs and infrastructure, then this discussion paper could be of interest. It looks at developing a National Arts and Disability Strategy, and is available online, as a printed brochure, Auslan interpreted captioned DVD, in Braille and also large-print. Find out more at

[www.cmc.gov.au/working\\_groups/national\\_arts\\_and\\_disability\\_strategy\\_working\\_group/national\\_arts\\_and\\_disability\\_strategy](http://www.cmc.gov.au/working_groups/national_arts_and_disability_strategy_working_group/national_arts_and_disability_strategy). Submissions will be accepted until 3

November 2008.

*Australian Policy Online*

## Conferences & Training

### SHARED VISIONS 2009

The next Shared Visions conference will be held on 2 & 3 April 2009 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. To put your name on the mailing list for updates, visit [www.disability.qld.gov.au/community/shared-visions](http://www.disability.qld.gov.au/community/shared-visions) to register your details.

*Community Connect*

### QUALITY OF LIFE CONFERENCE

The 10th Australian Conference on Quality of Life will be held in Melbourne on 19 & 20 November, 2008. Want to find out more? Then visit:

[www.deakin.edu.au/research/acqol/Conferences/ACQOL\\_Conference/2008/index.htm](http://www.deakin.edu.au/research/acqol/Conferences/ACQOL_Conference/2008/index.htm).

*Auseinet Alert*

### CARERS SYMPOSIUM & EXPO 2008

Perth will host the 2008 Carers Symposium and Expo on November 24 and 25. For further information, please visit [www.worthofcarers2008.com.au/index.html](http://www.worthofcarers2008.com.au/index.html).

*Auseinet alert*



**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Gold Coast / Redlands Skills Development Network is offering a range of training opportunities over the coming weeks:

**Blueprint for Action! Determining the Professional Development Needs of your Organisation**

Standard 8 of the Community Standards asks that an organisation ensures that “its employees have access to ongoing training and development opportunities appropriate to their roles within the organisation”. How do managers determine which formal and informal opportunities are most appropriate, and how does this fit within the organisational processes?

- When:** Wednesday 29 October, 8.30am (for a 9am start) – 12 midday. Morning tea provided
- Where:** ‘Panorama Suite’ Gold Coast Arts Centre, 135 Bundall Road, Bundall
- Cost:** \$20 for ISD target group\* / \$50 non-target group / \$100 govt workers
- RSVP:** Contact 3234 1680 for more.

**Child Protection: the law, practice & practical tips for community sector workers**

This workshop is designed to provide information on the Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld), recent legislative changes and how to assist clients in negotiating with the Department of Child Safety.

- When:** Wednesday 19 November, 9am – 2pm
- Where:** Southport Sharks Function Centre, Cnr Musgrave & Olsen Ave, Southport (take Smith St Exit off Hwy)
- Cost:** \$20 for ISD target group\* / \$50 for non-target group / \$100 govt workers (morning tea and lunch included).
- RSVP:** Register by 5 November. For more information about the course, contact 3234 0190

**Sudanese Cross-Cultural Information Workshop**

This workshop will give you an insight into the cultural structures, protocols, the “do’s” and “don’ts” when working with people from Sudan.

- When:** Thursday 13 November, 2008, 12.30pm – 4pm (commencing with lunch)
- Where:** ‘Panorama Suite’ Gold Coast Arts Centre, 135 Bundall Road, Bundall
- Cost:** \$20 for ISD target group\* / \$50 non-target group / \$100 govt workers
- RSVP:** Register by Thursday 30 October; contact 3234 1680 for more.

**Muslim Cross-Cultural Information Workshop**

Gain an understanding of the cultural structures, protocols, etc when working with people from a Muslim cultural background.

- Date:** Thursday 13 November, 9.30am – 12.30pm (concluding with lunch)
- Venue:** ‘Panorama Suite’ Gold Coast Arts Centre, 135 Bundall Road, Bundall
- Cost:** \$20 for ISD target group\* / \$50 non-target group / \$100 govt workers
- RSVP:** Register by Thursday 30 October; contact 3234 1680 for more.

**Creative Therapies Showcase**

It’s a taste ... an experience ... a preview of the possibilities ... for working creatively with your clients. Participate in your choice of three of the following electives:

- *Body Wisdom with Monique Rutherford*
- *Symbols & Clay in Expressive Therapy with Carol Farnell*
- *Music Focused Interventions with Dr Felicity Baker*
- *Art Therapy with Bronwyn Holm*

- When:** Thursday 27 November, 10am – 4.30pm
- Where:** Bardon Conference Centre, 390 Simpsons Rd, Bardon
- Cost:** \$30 for ISD target group\* / \$60 non-target group
- RSVP:** Register by 6 November; contact 3234 1680 for more.

*Karen O’Donohue, InSync*

**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday 2 December, 9.30 - 11.30am  
at Capalaba Place meeting hall  
14 Noeleen Street, Capalaba**

*To RSVP, please call 3829 8489 or email [janet.camilleri@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:janet.camilleri@redland.qld.gov.au)*

**I believe that everyone in the world has disabilities, it’s just that some, like mine, are more obvious.**

**Jan Pike**



## Meeting of Tuesday 2 September 2008, 9.30–11.30 am Capalaba Place Meeting Hall

**CHAIR** – Pamela Doherty, Redland City Council

**ATTENDANCE:**

Keith Brown, Special Olympics  
Michelle O'Flynn, member of Queensland Parents of People with Disability (QPPD)  
Barbara Goodwin, Foundation for Independence Recreation & Social Training (FIRST)  
Deirdre McCulloch, FIRST  
Alison McFarlane, Education Queensland  
Lorraine Juliana, Mamre Association  
Jill Aitken, CRS Australia  
Janet Camilleri, Redland City Council  
Pamela Doherty, Redland City Council  
Ruth Watts, Centacare  
Keith Duffy, Disability Services Queensland  
Lisa-Jane Luck, CARE Inc  
Peter Lindley, Redlands Hearing Impaired Support Group  
Jill Lindley, Redlands Hearing Impaired Support Group  
Des Burke, Lions Club of Redlands  
Rob McLaughlin, Lions Club of Redlands  
Ken Parker, Department of Veterans Affairs  
Gillian O'Brien, FSG Australia  
Cheryl Levi, FSG Australia  
Sharon Wade, FSG Australia  
Sharon Reynolds, Open Minds

**APOLOGIES:**

Nikki Banks, Horizon Inc  
Judy Mayfield, SHARE Inc  
Jo Pipe, Centacare

**CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES OF 3 June 2008.**

The Minutes were confirmed as being correct.

**ROUND ROBIN INFORMATION SHARING**

**Pamela Doherty, Redland City Council** – Part of Pamela's role as the Coordinator of the Community Development Team is to facilitate the Redlands Disability Network.

**Janet Camilleri, Redland City Council** – Janet provides the admin support to the Community Development team, which includes preparing the newsletter for the RDN. Janet attended to prove that she really does exist and is not just a phantom at the other end of the email! So if you have information that you would like distributed, please contact Janet on 3829 8489 or [janet.camilleri@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:janet.camilleri@redland.qld.gov.au).

**Jill Aitken, CRS Australia** – CRS Australia works with people who have had an injury, illness or disability, to help them return to work.

**Ken Parker, Department of Veterans Affairs** – Ken is the Community Support Advisor and his role is to network with other organisations on behalf of the veteran population, to find the gaps in services etc so that these can be filled.

**Rob McLaughlin, Lions Club of Redlands** – Rob and Des (also from Lions) are interested in attending meetings to see where the Club can cooperate or assist in practical ways.



**Des Burke, Lions Club of Redlands** – The Lions Club now has a community centre located next to the Old School House Art Gallery on Shore Street West (on the way to Cleveland Point). The Lions are making this space available at no cost to not-for-profit groups for meetings. Current projects for the Club include supplying computers to a number of people through the Donald Simpson Over 50's Leisure Centre, as well as taking nursing home residents on a monthly outing. If RDN members feel that there is some way that Lions could help, whether it be with a meeting venue, a sausage sizzle or their food van, please call Des on 3286 2485 or write to the Lions Club at PO Box 52 Cleveland 4163.

**Peter Lindley, Redlands Hearing Impaired Support Group** - Peter also represents Better Hearing Australia Brisbane, and the Deafness Forum, where he is chairman of the National Hearing Health Advocacy Committee for Deafness Forum. Peter made mention of the role hearing impairment plays in the 2004 Social Isolation report.

**Lisa-Jane Luck, CARE Inc** – CARE (Community Assist Redlands Enterprises) Inc runs aged care and disability services in the Redlands, such as community access, in home support, respite and transportation.

**Jill Lindley, Redlands Hearing Impaired Support Group** – Along with her husband Peter, Jill is a member of the Redlands Hearing Impaired Support Group. Last September, Jill had some discussions with Anne Hassett from Redland City Council's Community and Social Planning, regarding communication access particularly at Council facilities. Anne suggested that Jill could bring this need to the RDN for action. Upon reading the July planning workshop summary, Jill felt that one area which could be targeted is communication access in the Redlands.

**Lorraine Juliana, Mamre Family Support** – Lorraine works with the young children's program at Mamre, which is for families of young children (aged 0 to 7) with a disability.

**Michelle O'Flynn** – Michelle is a parent member of Queensland Parents for People with Disability (QPPD), a systems advocacy organisation that lobbies the State and Federal Governments. Recently QPPD has released *Launch into Life*, a booklet to assist families with planning / transitioning their students from school to post school.

**Alison McFarlane, Education Queensland** – Alison is a school transition officer, and has replaced Susan Jordan in this role. Alison is not new to the job as she has been in the Logan Beaudesert area for the last 19 years, however she is very new to the Redlands area. This is her first RDN meeting.

**Deirdre McCulloch, FIRST** – Deirdre is a manager at Foundation for Independence Recreation & Social Training (FIRST), a community access service which is new to the Redlands.

**Barbara Goodwin, FIRST** – As the lifestyle coordinator, Barbara is currently based in Victoria Point each Monday. At this point FIRST offers community access in the Redlands but hopes to expand, as the organisation also offers training, in home support, etc.

**Sharon Reynolds, Open Minds** – The Personal Helpers and Mentors program for the bayside area is currently full, but Open Minds is still taking referrals. The program is for anyone 16 or over who has a mental illness which severely affects their ability to cope, and offers practical support to help people reach their goals. The program has just employed a peer support worker with a view to starting up some small groups in the near future.

**Keith Brown, Special Olympics** – Keith is the chair of the Brisbane east region, as well as the secretary of the state organisation. Special Olympics (nothing to do with Paralympics!) provides year round sports training for people with an intellectual disability. In the Redlands, ten pin bowling, swimming, bocce, tennis, basketball and soccer are available. Keith is also on the board of management of Redlands Bayside Disability Services.

**Keith Duffy, Disability Services Queensland** – This is Keith's first RDN meeting; he is the new community resource officer for DSQ for funded non-government service providers in the Redlands.

**Ruth Watts, Centacare** – Centacare runs a program for the aging carers of people with intellectual disability. To be eligible, carers should be 60 or over and have a young person with an intellectual disability living with them.

**Sharon Wade, FSG Australia** – Sharon has recently started at FSG Australia as a senior coordinator, a newly created role. She works closely with Gillian (see below), the coordinator of the new respite home.



**Cheryl Levi, FSG Australia** – As the service manager for FSG Australia, Cheryl is based in the Beenleigh office. FSG has just opened a new respite home in the Redlands, at Victoria Point. Brochures and other promotional material with criteria, costing etc are currently being developed. The house has 4 bedrooms and is suitable for supporting up to three people, depending on the needs of those individuals.

**Gillian O'Brien, FSG Australia** – Gillian is the coordinator of the new respite home at Victoria Point (which will support people with a disability), as well as Bayside Cottage at Thornlands, which is specifically for frail aged with dementia needs. Referrals welcome! Contact FSG Australia on 3297 4300.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Disability Action Week (14-20 September 2008)** – Pamela asked network members for information on any activities planned for Disability Action Week. Barbara from FIRST advised that they would be holding a free masquerade ball at their centre at Eagleby on 16 September – mask essential, ball gown optional! The event will feature entertainers, food, wheelchair dancing demonstrations, art and craft.

Pamela suggested that RDN members may be interested in touring the new Redlands Performing Arts Centre, which is touted as being fully accessible. A tour is to be arranged for the week after Disability Action Week.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Report from RDN planning meeting held on 15 July** – Pamela distributed the notes from the planning workshop, while Michelle shared what happened at the meeting. (Please refer to workshop summary – ask Janet if you did not receive a copy). Topics discussed at the workshop included:

- Reasons for becoming involved in the disability sector, such as: to make a difference, to help families in need, to improve the quality of life for people with disability, passion and love, personal experience.
- Reasons for joining the Redlands Disability Network, which included: collaboration, working together, sharing ideas, advice and information.
- Members recalled the origins of the RDN as a reference group to Council. Whilst members appreciated the information sharing aspects of the network, it was felt that more could be done to encourage Council to be more proactive in the area of disability access (eg ongoing staff training); also, to support member organisations in achieving their goals (eg by providing photocopying).
- Key goals identified:
  - To have an influence on council planning and policy
  - To have a stronger collective voice on inclusion issues such as employment and housing
  - To continue information sharing – the network is very well resourced and appreciates Council's support in this regard
  - To urge Council to employ / provide work experience to people with disabilities
  - To have Councillor representation on the network, sending newsletters and minutes to Councillors (protocol/procedures to be checked first)
  - To re-introduce disability awareness training for Council staff
  - To develop an action plan
  - To raise the RDN profile locally
  - To recruit members.

As there was only a small group present at the planning workshop, Pamela invited comments or feedback on the outcomes. Some of the matters raised included:

- Many organisations are entirely volunteer driven, and have no funding and/or resources. Support could include free meeting venues, volunteer recruitment and training. Two possible venues were suggested:
  1. The Alexandra Hills Sporting Club has a meeting room which is free for not-for-profit groups; and
  2. The new Lions Club facility in Cleveland can cater for up to 40 (please put request in writing).
- Involving Councillors and making them aware of the Network and disability issues. Short-term strategies could include inviting a councillor to each meeting, to be a guest speaker (or guest listener!).
- Communication access in public facilities was seen as network priority. With the ageing community, the population with hearing loss is only going to increase. Members also noted that communication access is a problem for more than just those with a physical or sensory disability, it could also be due to intellectual



impairment. The RDN could raise awareness that it is not just a matter of installing expensive equipment such as loops, or providing live captioning; it is also about educating staff and community members; having signs asking customers to advise staff if they have a hearing impairment; promotion and installation of communication boards (eg project by Scope Victoria – see item on “Communication Access” p2 of newsletter). Council was used as an example: at this stage only the two Customer Service Centres, and RPAC main auditorium are fitted with audio loops. The Donald Simpson Centre has a portable audio loop available for community use, but very few people know how to use it. Pamela advised that she would liaise with the various Council departments regarding this issue and feedback progress to the network.. Members voted to send a letter to the Mayor regarding communication access in Council, to be signed by RDN members, to further highlight this issue.

**Moved:** Rob McLaughlin      **Seconded:** Jill Aitken

As part of this process, the RDN could show a DVD of what hearing loss is like at the next meeting. Members could invite their local Councillor to attend.

## GUEST SPEAKER

Huang and Kate are from Lifetec Queensland, which was formerly known as the Independent Living Centre Queensland at Coorparoo. Lifetec is now located at Newmarket, and has a large display centre which is free and open for the public to come in and have a browse. Opening hours are Monday – Friday 9am to 4pm, and Saturdays 9am to 2pm. There are approx 1500 items on display ranging from manual and power wheelchairs to electric recliner chairs, kitchen aids, bathroom aids, switches, and communication devices.

Lifetec is a not for profit, non government organisation that services the whole state of Queensland. Once a year they visit regional areas like Mount Isa, Rocky, Charleville and the Torres Strait islands. The team, which is comprised of occupational therapists and a speech therapist, also conducts talks for groups, and can provide advice on assisted technology (which basically means any device, any equipment or design that helps people live their life more independently and safely). Topics for group presentations include Great Gadgets (today); vision aids; hearing aids; children’s equipment; and professional workshops (eg how to modify your vehicle).

Lifetec provides information ONLY, they do not hire or sell anything. The website ([www.lifetec.org.au](http://www.lifetec.org.au)) has a database listing 8000 different items, or you are welcome to call the centre for advice, or to arrange a talk for your group on 3552 9000 or 1300 885 886. There is also a consultation service – clients or families can have a therapist visit their home for a small fee (the fee for clients with a pension card is just \$20 an hour).

Huang demonstrated several products including:

- Emergency call systems.
- Computer aids - alternative ways to access an ordinary keyboard or mouse.
- A handy bar - a device to help a person get in and out of a car.
- Long handled reachers and personal care aids – such as a long handled toe wipe. Huang pointed out that sometimes these items can be made at home very economically.
- Low vision aids – such as magnifiers, large print documents etc.
- Tap turners.
- Medication aids - such as Webster packs and pill bobs.
- Kitchen aids – such as cutting boards with raised edges, modified knives.
- Finally, Huang explained that plain, simple and cheap rubber tubing (available from shops that sell parts for fridges, insulation etc) can be used to build up handles for those with limited grip or movement in their hands.

## NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, 2 December 2008 from 9.30am – 11.30am**  
Capalaba Place (behind Capalaba Library), 14 Noeleen Street

**Please send apologies to Janet on 3829 8489 or [janetca@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:janetca@redland.qld.gov.au).**

