

DEAL

Communication Centre Inc.



Annual Report 2002-2003

DEAL Communication Centre Inc.

538 Dandenong Road, Caulfield, Victoria 3162, Australia

Phone 03-9509 6324 Fax 03-9509 6321

E-mail: dealcc@vicnet.net.au

Homepage: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~dealccinc>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

July 2002 – June 2003

I am pleased to present the 2002 – 2003 Annual Report and audited accounts of DEAL Communication Centre Inc.

Since opening in 1986 DEAL has been outstanding in providing services to people with severe communication impairments. The year 2002 – 2003 was no exception.

In 2002 the Victorian state government introduced funding for electronic communication devices for children with complex communication needs. Unfortunately, the funding does not cover the cost of therapy to assist the children, their families and carers to learn to use the devices.

To rectify this situation, DEAL together with the Communication Aid User's Society (CAUS), obtained funding from the Telstra Foundation to run a camp for school aged children who have electronic communication devices. The camp, which was called the Big Mouth Camp, ran in Victoria for 5 days during April 2003.

Eleven children and their families attended the Big Mouth Camp. In addition to achieving its main aim of enabling the children to communicate more effectively with their devices, the Big Mouth Camp produced a number of wonderful results. These included the establishment of friendships and information and support networks between device users, their families and carers as well as the opportunity for siblings to meet and to share their experiences.

On behalf of the Committee of Management I would like to thank those at DEAL and at CAUS who worked so hard to make the Big Mouth Camp such a great success. I would also like to thank the children, their families and carers and the many volunteers who gave so generously of their time.

As in previous years, in 2002 – 2003 DEAL has been assisted by the generosity of a number of charitable foundations and private donors. On behalf of the Committee of Management I would like to give special thanks to the Lowner family of New York City and also to the members of the Big Heart Cycle Team. This small team of people, led by Mr John Rathgebber, were incredibly successful in raising funds for DEAL in the annual Murray to Moyne relay. Our thanks also go to Ms Gabby Franklin who organised a screening of Ned Kelly, which benefited DEAL. The thanks of the Committee of Management also go to the Lance Reichstein Foundation, the Pratt Foundation, the Mercy Foundation, the Singer family trust and the Brockhoff Foundation, as well as to many generous individual supporters.

During 2002 – 2003 DEAL was able to continue its role in developing the communications skills and awareness in the students who will staff disability services in the future. A number of students from different universities and tertiary institutions undertook practical work placements at DEAL, including an intern from Cologne and a student from Berlin.

On behalf of the Committee of Management I thank the director and all staff at DEAL for their hard work and dedication. Their ability and commitment have enabled DEAL to continue to provide services of the very highest standard to clients both in and outside Melbourne.

Finally, I wish to thank all the members of the Committee of Management for their support and enthusiasm.

Amanda Ducrou, President, DEAL Committee of Management

Making Damper



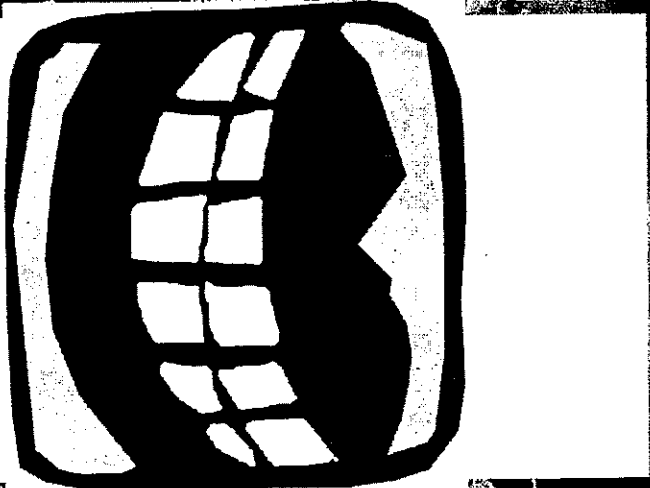
Cleaning up



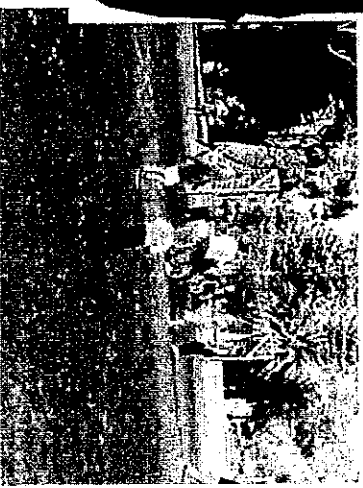
Having a chat



Camp concert



Wheelchair soccer

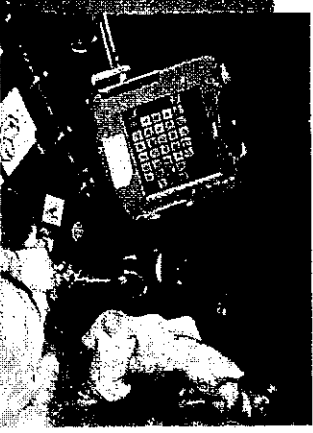


○ Big Mouth Camp 2003 “Don't Stop Talking”

Hero worship



Making overlays



Trialling a new device

What DEAL contributed to Victoria, Australia and the World from July 2002 to June 2003

DEAL serves people with complex communication needs, people who often have great difficulty in having their needs met, people who cannot even say 'I need help'. Since it opened in 1986, DEAL has provided communication therapy to 2000 Victorians without functional speech. Some of the first children to attend DEAL, students who were believed to be significantly intellectually impaired as well as mute, have now graduated from university. Through its client outcomes, advocacy and publications DEAL has markedly increased general awareness of non-speech communication not only in Victoria and throughout Australia, but also further afield.

- DEAL's innovative programs have had wide international impact. Communication strategies developed at DEAL are now used in more than thirty countries, and have led many government agencies and universities – the Queensland Department of Family Services, the Bolton Institute in England and Syracuse and Cologne Universities - to establish programs in non-speech communication.

DEAL is highly productive. In the financial year from July 2002 to June 2003 DEAL's output included:

- ***Therapy provision** to 156 people with severe communication impairments, 83 of whom were new clients. As well as providing services to Victorians, DEAL staff undertook assessments and consultations in N.S.W. and QLD, and in England, Finland, Thailand and the U.S.A.

***Big Mouth Camp** – DEAL, in conjunction with the Communication Aid User Society, staged the first residential camp for children who use communication aids ever held in Victoria. The camp involved 11 aid users together with their families. It offered intensive therapy input over 5 days and was especially valuable for children from country Victoria, who often lack access to communication specialists.

***Advocacy** - in addition to providing individual advocacy, DEAL takes up wider issues affecting all people with significant speech limitations. During 2002-2003 we lobbied for improved services for people with complex communication needs who are hospitalised. People who cannot talk clearly and fluently are often at considerable risk in hospital. Not only are their most basic needs often not met, but their health may be placed in jeopardy when hospital staff disregard their communication attempts.

***Research & Development** - Current projects include an on-going investigation of hand function difficulties in people with Down syndrome and their treatment funded by the Mercy Foundation.

***Information & Education** - DEAL staff delivered lectures and conducted workshops in many settings during 2002-2003, including Boston, Canberra, Helsinki, London, Los Angeles, Manchester, Odense and Sydney. In addition, many tertiary students and overseas visitors spent time at DEAL.

***International Advisory Service** - DEAL provides a popular free e-mail information and advice service used by parents and therapists around the world.

***Publications and Conference Presentations** (July 2002 - June 2003)

Four issues of the DEAL Newsletter, a small publication with international circulation, much quoted here and overseas.

○ **International Society for Augmentative & Alternative Communication (ISAAC), 10th Biennial Conference, August 12-15 2002, Odense, Denmark**

- R. Crossley, Facilitated Communication Training: A Strategy For Improving Manual Selection Skills - pre-conference workshop
- R. Crossley & C. Borthwick, The Epistemology of AAC - paper
- R. Crossley, From Typing to Speech - Unexpected Speech Development in AAC Users - miniseminar
- R. Crossley & L. Zimmerman, B.A.Bar - Not an Elephant, a Bar-code Reading VOCA - poster
- R. Crossley & R. Ryall, A Communication Kit for Use in Hospitals – poster

Seventh Biennial ISAAC Research Symposium, Odense, August 16-17, 2002
R. Crossley, What Constitutes Evidence? - Why the debate about facilitated communication is important for ISAAC - paper

Kuntoutusohjaaja Autismi, August 19-20, Helsinki, Finland

Facilitated Communication Training – Two-day Workshop

○ **Inaugural World Autism Congress, November 10 - 14 2002, Melbourne**

- R. Crossley, Beyond The Labels - Communication impairment and cognitive assessment in people with autism - poster
- R. Crossley, Breaking The Silence - Enabling people without functional speech to use complex typed language - poster
- R. Crossley, From Typing To Talking - Development of functional speech after using communication aids and computers which speak what is typed - poster

TASH Annual Conference, December 11-14 2002, Boston MA

R. Crossley, Enabling Communication Aid Users to Achieve Their Potential
Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment (AGOSCI) 6th Biennial Conference, March 21-3 2003, Sydney

- R. Crossley & C. Borthwick, The Epistemology of AAC - Paper
- R. Crossley & L. Picking, B.A.Bar - Not an Elephant, a Bar-code Reading VOCA – poster

• J. Farrall & L. Picking, If At First You Don't Succeed: AAC in Rett Syndrome - paper

• J. Farrall & B. Michaels, Me and My Shadow: Literacy in the context of life - paper

West Coast Symposium on Facilitated Communication, 3-5 April 2003, Los Angeles, CA

R. Crossley & A. McDonald, Getting a Life - paper

DEAL – Management Committee 2002-2003

DEAL Committee Centre is administered by a Committee of Management elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting. Any person supporting the aims of DEAL is eligible to be a member. DEAL's clients are encouraged to join DEAL and to stand for places on the Committee of Management.

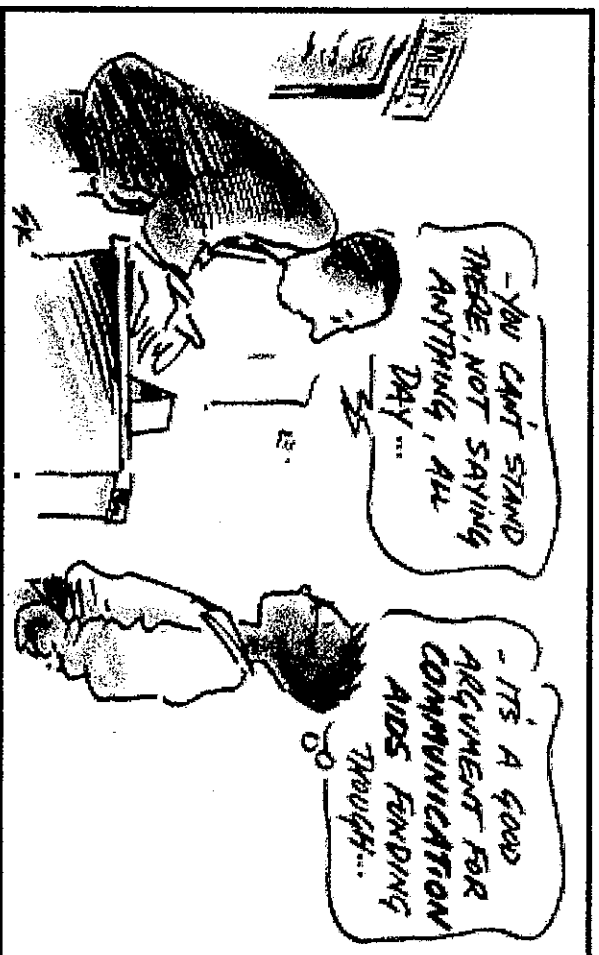
The Committee of Management elected at the AGM held on November 12th, 2002 was:

Executive

President	Ms Amanda Ducrou, B.A./LL.B., M.B.A.
Vice-President	Ms Margaret Batt, L.A.C.S.T
Secretary	Mr Chris Borthwick, B.A., LL.B.
Treasurer	Ms Jill Johnson, B.Sc.

Committee

Ms Mary Clough, B.A., Dip.Ed., Dip.Sp.Ed.
Mr. Stephen Davis, LL.B.
Ms Joan Dwyer, B.A., LL.B.
Ms Kaye Gooch, S.L.C.
Ms Leanne Leckie, M.U.M.
Ms Anne McDonald, B.A.
Mr John Perry, T.P.T.C., T.Sp.P.C.



DEAL — Staff 2002-2003

Director	Dr. Rosemary Crossley, A.M., M.Ed., Ph.D.
Speech Pathologists	Ms. Jane Farrall, B.App.Sci. (Sp.Path.), M.Sp.Ed. Ms. Leslie Zimmerman, B.App.Sci. (Sp.Path.)
Occupational Therapist	Ms. Leah Picking, <i>Bach.O.T.</i>
Office Manager	Ms. Eve Chapman, B.Sc., <i>Dip.Ed.</i>
Technical support	Mr. Sean O'Connor, B.Sc. (<i>Hons</i>)
Computer consultant	Mr. Colin Donald, <i>Dip.Arts, Gr.Dip.Bus.Comp.</i>

Unlike last year, this year has seen few staff changes. The most important has been the retirement of our physiotherapist, Rosemary Ryall, who has been with DEAL in one capacity or another since we opened in 1986. Rosemary has made an enormous contribution to DEAL and our clients. We miss her, and we wish her well.

DEAL has always been fortunate in attracting enthusiastic staff who work long and hard to help our clients, and the present team is no exception.

We are also lucky to have the voluntary services of Bruce Marks, a retired accountant who manages the office on Mondays and looks after our books. We are very grateful to Bruce and to Ben Ruschinek, our honorary auditor.

And as ever, the DEAL committee has supported the staff in many ways.
My thanks go to you all.

Rosemary Crossley, Director



B. Ruschinek & Associates

Certified Practising Accountants, Registered Tax Agents
Level 1, 207 Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick, 3185.
P. O. Box 693, Elsternwick, 3185.
Telephone: 9523 8666, Fax: 9528 2785

AUDITORS REPORT

To the Members of DEAL COMMUNICATION CENTRE INC.

I have audited the attached Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2003 and the Income & Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2003.

I have formed the opinion that the above Accounting Reports are in accordance with the financial records and minutes of the Committee of Management

The Account reports are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of this Organisation's state of affairs as at 30 June 2003, and of its operations for the year ended 30 June 2003.

The Committee of Management has taken note of my report to it of various matters and as such is reflected in the reports as above.

Yours sincerely,
B. RUSCHINEK & ASSOCIATES



B. RUSCHINEK. CPA
13 October, 2003.

DEAL Communication Centre Inc.
538 Dandenong Road, Caulfield 3162, Victoria, Australia

Treasurer's Statement

In my opinion the attached Income and Expenditure Statement gives a true and fair view of the results for the year ended 30 June 2003, and the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs at that date.



Chris Borthwick
Treasurer
14th October, 2003

DEAL COMMUNICATION CENTRE INC.

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2003

	2003	2002
ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	64889	31363
Investment Funds	100000	121986
Cash on Hand	0	150
Debtors	4141	0
Prepayments	2127	0
Office Furniture (At Cost)	7055	6605
Less: Provision for Depreciation	-687	-334
Written down value	6368	6261
TOTAL ASSETS	177525	159760
LIABILITIES		
Creditors	3859	0
Provision for Long Service Leave	25855	16250
TOTAL LIABILITIES	29714	16250
NET ASSETS	147811	143510
GENERAL FUNDS		
Balance at 1 July	143510	27826
Surplus for Year	4301	115684
BALANCE 30 JUNE 2003	147811	143510

DEAL COMMUNICATION CENTRE INC.

Income/Expenditure Statement for Year Ended 30 June 2003

	2003	2002
INCOME		
Grants-Government	0	0
Grants-Foundations	19700	55590
Seminars & Consulting	28905	20996
Donations	184954	195061
Membership	561	848
Interest	4301	3486
Sale of Materials	1520	1896
Sundries	132	168
Bike Ride (Net of Expenses)	34499	23236
Big Mouth Camp (Net of Expenses)	4537	0
TOTAL INCOME	279109	301281
EXPENDITURE		
Communication Equipment	18050	19951
Depreciation Office Equipment	353	344
Rent	12090	12000
Salaries	178096	100683
Superannuation	16046	7959
Workcover	2130	468
Conferences	3160	0
Consultant Physiotherapist	0	3247
Advertising	0	994
Cleaning	170	255
Computer Consumables	1407	1844
Gas,Light & Power	1544	884
Insurance	7366	2480
Photocopying & Printing	260	548
Postage & Freight	1235	1538
Security	369	0
Stationery	2167	2168
Subscriptions	192	127
Telecommunications	1874	1408
Travel	16872	10813
Sundries	1822	1636
Provision for Long Service Leave	9605	16250
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	274808	185597
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	<u>4301</u>	<u>115684</u>