

DEAL

Communication Centre Inc.



Annual Report 2004-2005

DEAL Communication Centre Inc.

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Lucy Blackman M.A.

Lucy is the first DEAL client to have obtained a post-graduate degree.

Lucy first came to DEAL in 1987, when she was 14 years old and attending a Special School for students with intellectual impairments. She had autism and she could neither talk nor write. After starting to type, initially with facilitation and later more independently, Lucy passed her VCE at Glen Waverley Secondary College in 1991 and completed her BA on-campus at Deakin before moving to Queensland in 1996. She recently received an MA in Literary Studies from Deakin University.

Lucy is the author of *Lucy's Story: Autism and Other Adventures* (1999) (Republished UK 2001) and a contributor to *Autism: the Myth of the Person Alone* by Douglas Biklen *et al* (2005).

Lucy chose to work towards independence in typing through analysing her movement, sensory and information-processing differences. In doing so she also created the nucleus of *Lucy's Story*, together with a fascination for all aspects of autism. She finally achieved her goal of typing without physical contact in 1995, though she continues to require a communication partner.

Lucy has been involved in several presentations and conferences in the US and Queensland, as well as visiting users of Facilitated Communication in Canada, the United States and Britain. Currently she is a member of an FC writing group, which is participating in the Brisbane Writers' Festival in Sept/Oct 2005.

Congratulations Lucy!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

July 2004 - June 2005

I am pleased to present the 2004 - 2005 Annual Report and audited accounts of DEAL Communication Centre Inc.

2004 - 2005 proved to be a challenging year for DEAL due to funding constraints. Notwithstanding this DEAL has continued its outstanding work in providing services to people with severe communication impairments.

One of the highlights of 2004 - 2005 was seeing Sue Rubin, one of DEAL's US clients, on the red carpet at the Academy Awards after "Autism is a World", a documentary about Sue, scripted by Sue, was nominated for an Oscar.

During 2004 - 2005 DEAL continued its important international work. To this end the director attended conferences in Heidelberg and Los Angeles and worked with clients in New York City and Los Angeles.

As in previous years, in 2004 - 2005 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 thank the Lowinger family of New York City for their contribution over the past three years. Special thanks go to the members of the Big Heart Cycle Team, led by Mr John Rathgebber. For the 4th year in a row this small team of people were incredibly successful in raising funds for DEAL in the annual Murray to Moyne relay. The thanks of the Committee of Management also go to the Singer family trust, the Lord Mayor's Fund, the Belong Foundation, the Brockhoff Foundation and the Enjo Social Club, as well as to many generous individual supporters.

During 2004 - 2005 DEAL was able to continue its role in developing the communications skills and awareness in the tertiary 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 three interns from Germany and visitors from the U.S., U.K. and N.Z. Many speech pathology students will also participate in the Big Mouth Camp, which will take place in September this year.

Unfortunately, due to an unexpected decrease in funding DEAL had to reduce its staff during 2004 - 2005. Jane Farrell and Susannah Dopke have had to leave DEAL and the other staff members have been required to reduce their hours. On behalf of the Committee of Management I would like to thank the staff for the support and loyalty which they demonstrated at this very difficult time. They have continued to provide services of the very highest standard both in and outside Melbourne. The Committee of Management also thanks the director for her dedication and hard work.

Finally, I wish to thank all the members of the Committee of Management for their support and enthusiasm. On behalf of the Committee I congratulate Joan Dwyer and John Perry on receiving awards in the Queen's Birthday honours in June.

Amanda Ducrou, President, DEAL Committee of Management

What DEAL contributed to Victoria, Australia and the World from July 2004 to June 2005

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 opening in 1986, DEAL has provided communication therapy to more than 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.

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 to establish programs in non-speech communication.

DEAL is highly productive. In the financial year from July 2004 to June 2005 DEAL's output included:

***Therapy provision** to 178 people with severe communication impairments, 77 of whom were new clients. As well as providing services to Victorians, DEAL staff undertook assessments and consultations in N.S.W., S.A., W.A., the ACT and QLD, and in England, and the U.S.A.

***Big Mouth Camp** – DEAL stages an annual residential camp for children who use communication aids. The 2005 camp, organised by Jane Farrall, involved more than 80 people and provided intensive therapy input over 5 days; especially valuable for children from isolated areas without access to communication specialists.

***Advocacy** – in addition to providing individual advocacy, DEAL takes up wider issues affecting people with significant speech limitations. Recently we were thrilled to hear that the Department of Human Services will continue the provision of electronic communication devices to school children. This is a direct result of DEAL's co-ordination of statewide lobbying on this issue over many years.

***Research & Development** – During 2004-5 DEAL staff focused on the needs of people with acquired communication impairments, especially those associated with Persistent Vegetative State, Huntingtons Disease and ageing, and presented workshops and published articles on these topics.

***Information & Education** – DEAL provides an e-mail information and advice service used by parents and therapists around the world. In addition to our local and interstate lectures and workshops, during 2004-5 staff delivered presentations in Germany, the U.S. and N.Z. and five overseas tertiary and graduate students undertook internships at DEAL.

DEAL — Management Committee 2004-2005

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 stand for places on the Committee of Management.

The Committee of Management elected at the AGM held on October 14th, 2004 was:

Executive

President Ms Amanda Ducrou, B.A./LL.B., M.B.A.

Vice-President Ms Margaret Batt, L.A.C.S.T

Treasurer Mr Chris Borthwick, B.A., LL.B.

Secretary Ms Jill Johnson, B.Sc.

Committee

Ms Mary Clough, B.A., Dip.Ed., Dip.Sp.Ed.

Ms Corrine Collins, B.A. (Econ.)

Ms Joan Dwyer, O.A.M., B.A., LL.B.

Ms Kaye Gooch, S.L.C.

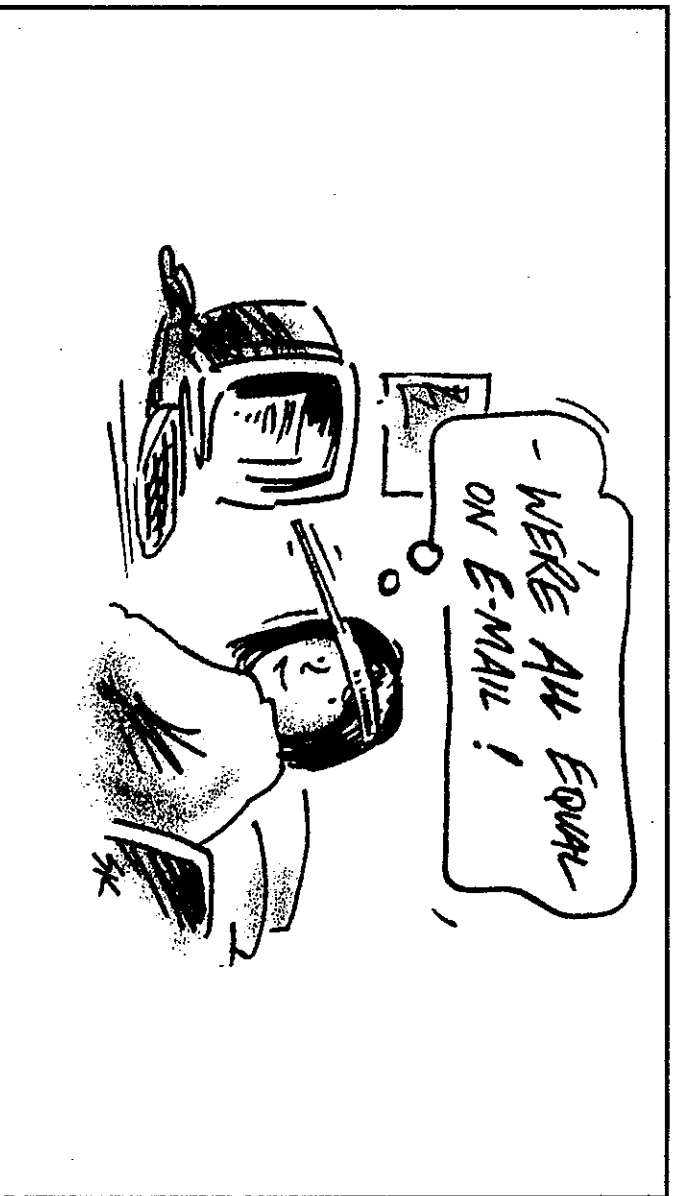
Ms Leanne Leggo, M.U.M.

Ms Anne McDonald, B.Hum.

Mr Bruce Marks, C.A.

Mr John Perry, O.A.M., T.P.T.C., T.Sp.P.C.

Ms Cheryl Soafkin, B.A., Dip.Ed., Gr.Dip.Lib., Gr.Dip. Counselling



FAREWELL TO DEAL COMMITTEE!

Tonight I say farewell to DEAL's Committee of Management, having served on this committee for 25 years.

I first joined the DEAL Committee in 1979, not long after Anne McDonald's release from St. Nicholas Hospital. At that time, DEAL was a lobby group, campaigning for better conditions for people living in institutions. These people lived horrific lives; and those who were severely physically disabled and unable to speak – like Anne and her friends – had no way of complaining, or making their needs or wishes known.

We met at Rosie and Chris' house at North Melbourne. Gradually we became aware of the needs of the wider community of speech disabled people – those with cerebral palsy, autism, Down 'Syndrome, and people with acquired speech disability, including those with head injury after accidents; stroke patients; and those with neurological diseases such as Motor Neurone Disease. Therapists and carers weren't always sure where to get advice about communication options; and communication technology was becoming more sophisticated. There was a need for a "speech disability advice centre", where therapists could assess people, and recommend the most appropriate communication equipment.

In 1985 DEAL received a State Government grant to establish what is now the DEAL Communication Centre. So, this centre is approaching its 20th anniversary! Over the years, we've enabled many people to reach their true potential. People diagnosed as severely mentally retarded on the basis of being unable to speak, have graduated from university. But academic achievements are not the most important part of DEAL's work. Most important of all, is our clients' improved **quality of life** – the ability to **communicate**. They now have a way of being understood by family and friends, to participate socially. Anne McDonald said in a recent newspaper interview that "the most important thing is being given a way to communicate. Nothing can top that!" I heartily second Anne's sentiments, having been given a way of understanding others' speech, with a cochlear implant some 20 months ago.

Communication – expressing ourselves and understanding others – is our means of taking our full place in the human race.

Over the years, DEAL has often challenged the status quo, in the process sparking considerable controversy. This may have been a factor in our losing Government funding under the Kennett state administration. After this, our late friend and fellow committee member Nancy O'Donnell did much to ensure DEAL's survival under straitened circumstances, her business acumen and talent at interacting with people with disabilities, being an absolute godsend. In recognition of her contribution Nancy was awarded an AM.

During the quarter-century I have been on the DEAL Committee of Management, I have seen much change. Now DEAL is facing another challenge, and I hope someone with good fundraising and public relations skills, to lift DEAL's profile and steer it in a new direction, can take my place on the Committee.

Thank you to Margaret Batt and John Perry for their note taking at DEAL meetings; to Jill Johnson for her hospitality prior to meetings; and for the good times we've shared together. I wish DEAL every success in the future, as it continues to help people with speech disabilities realise their true potential and take their rightful place in our world.

Kaye Gooch

DEAL — Staff 2004-2005

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.) Dr. Susanne Dopke, Ph.D., M.A. (Sp.Path.)
Occupational Therapist	Ms. Leah Picking, <i>Bach.O.T.</i>
Office Manager	Ms. Eve Chapman, B.Sc., <i>Dip.Ed.</i>

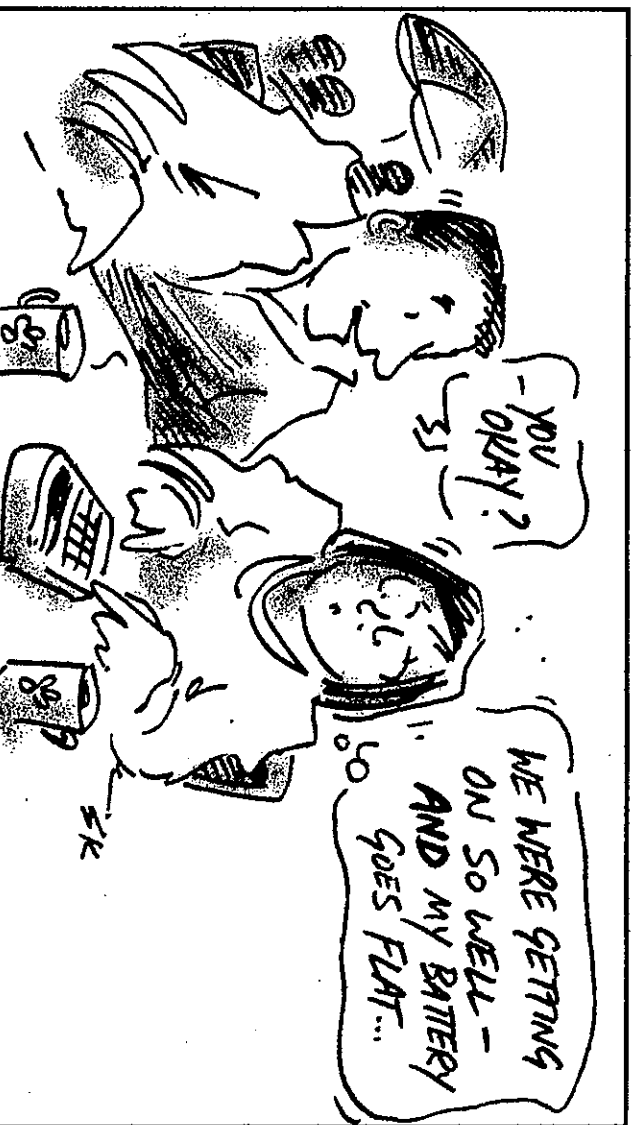
In June we were thrilled to hear that the devoted service of DEAL committee members Joan Dwyer and John Perry had been recognised by the well-deserved award of medals in the Order of Australia. Our congratulations go to them both.

Very sadly, early in 2005, we had to farewell Jane Farrall and Susanne Dopke. Jane had been with DEAL since 2001. She is a very talented therapist who broadened DEAL's services in many ways, especially by starting the Big Mouth Camp for communication aid users, which ran for the third time this year. Along with her therapy skills Susanne brought valuable linguistic expertise to DEAL. We miss them both, and thank them for their invaluable contributions to DEAL's clients and to the Communication Centre..

We have been blessed with the voluntary services of Bruce Marks, a retired accountant who manages the office on Mondays and looks after our books, and Dymphna Collin, who is queen of the office and the laminator on Fridays. We are very grateful to them both and to Ben Ruschinek, our honorary auditor.

My sincere thanks go to the committee, staff and volunteers for their support in a challenging year. Without them, there would be no Communication Centre.

Rosemary Crossley, Director



AUDITORS REPORT

To the Members of DEAL COMMUNICATION CENTRE INC.

I have audited the attached Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2005, the Income & Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2005 and the accompanying Cash Flow Statement.

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 2005, and of its operations for the year ended 30 June 2005.

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.
3 October, 2005

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

Treasurer's Statement

In my opinion the Statement of Financial Performance herewith gives a true and fair view of the results for the year ended 30 June 2005, and the Statement of Financial Position gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs at that date.



Chris Borthwick
Treasurer
3rd October, 2005

DEAL COMMUNICATION CENTRE INC.

Statement of Financial Performance

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
INCOME		
Grants-Government	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Grants-Foundations	15000	15000
Seminars & Consulting	18162	19788
Donations	106820	189263
Membership	316	1113
Interest	1698	1417
Sale of Materials	566	2007
Sundries	6149	<u>0</u>
Bike Ride (Net of Expenses)	19646	65763
Big Mouth Camp	1961	11561
Tea Party Donations	<u>5680</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>175998</u>	<u>305912</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Communication Equipment	915	11576
Depreciation Office Equipment	<u>0</u>	375
Rent	13913	14170
Salaries	190860	192504
Superannuation	17183	15830
Workcover	2583	2790
Conferences	<u>0</u>	590
Cleaning	52	294
Computer Consumables	3564	3339
Gas, Light & Power	1216	1324
Insurance	7438	7689
Postage & Freight	914	1406
Repairs-Office Equipment	9103	885
Security	504	492
Stationery & Printing	1873	2234
Subscriptions	120	171
Telecommunications	1843	2201
Travel	-2925	6069
Staff Amenities/Sundries	1149	1115
Provision for Long Service Leave	<u>0</u>	<u>4750</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>250305</u>	<u>269774</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	<u>-74307</u>	<u>36138</u>

DEAL COMMUNICATION CENTRE INC.

Statement of Financial Position

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	64654	185089
Investment Funds	0	0
Cash on Hand	0	0
Debtors	4103	3376
Other Debtors	61040	19783
Office Furniture (At Cost)	11511	8871
Less: Provision for Depreciation	<u>1062</u>	<u>1062</u>
Written down value	<u>10449</u>	<u>7809</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>140246</u>	<u>216057</u>
LIABILITIES		
Creditors	0	1504
Provision for Long Service Leave	<u>30605</u>	<u>30605</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>30605</u>	<u>32109</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>109641</u>	<u>183948</u>
GENERAL FUNDS		
Balance at 1 July	183948	147811
Surplus for Year	<u>-74307</u>	<u>36137</u>
BALANCE 30 JUNE	<u>109641</u>	<u>183948</u>