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TECHNICAL AID TO THE DISABLED (SA) INC.

PO Box 540, Modbury, South Australia 5092

NEWSLETTER

No. 153 - WINTER



TADSA's VISION

To be a leader in developing unique and innovative equipment for people with disabilities in South Australia

TADSA's MISSION

To improve the lives of people with disabilities, the frail, the aged and those who care for or assist them through the development of unique and innovative equipment, using the skills of volunteers and staff.

Interwork presents

"Your Choice" Disability & Ageing Expo"

A free Expo about health and wellbeing for people with a disability and those who are ageing, their families, carers, supporters, friends and health professionals and the wider community.

Over 200 exhibitors, packed with advice, ideas and inspiration

PLUS Entertainment, including Tracking Culture, No Strings Attached, Goyim, the Street Gypsy Duo and Bach to the Blues band

AND FOR THE CHILDREN – face painting magical Dragon, Eli the Elephant and the Kids Craft workshop, with other interactive activities

A great family day out!

**Adelaide Event & Exhibition Centre (Wayville Showgrounds) - Jubilee Pavilion
Friday 13th August 2010 10am – 4pm**

For more information visit www.dircsa.org.au or call Claudia (DIRC) on 8236 0555

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We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of this issue of our Newsletter by the Lions Club of Blackwood Inc.

TADSA INFORMATION



Technical Aid to the Disabled (TADSA) Inc

is an Australia wide voluntary organization, with TAD branches in every State. Technical members are people with skills in many fields, who give their time to helping people with disabilities and elderly people with practical problems for which no completely satisfactory commercial solution is available. This may require modifications to existing equipment, or the construction of new, specialised aids. Sometimes we can provide the means to overcome difficulties that had seemed insurmountable.

Technical Aid to the Disabled (SA) Inc.

is based at The Royal Society for the Blind, Gilles Plains, on site with The Royal Society for the Blind, Disability Services SA and Disability Services SA-ILC. Our members work, where necessary, in close cooperation with health professionals. If you have a problem for us to solve, or if you know someone who has, contact us at the TADSA office. No referral is necessary; cost is normally only that of materials used, service charge and expenses actually incurred (usually small).

Volunteers Needed -

If you have skills such as mechanical, carpentry, electrical or electronic fields, good handyman etc, you might like to use some spare time on this challenging and most rewarding work. TADSA is always seeking more volunteers. If you would like to know more about how you could be part of our team, please telephone either the Project Manager (Travis) or the Office Manager (Julie) on 08) 8261 2922.

Home Phone Numbers for Urgent TADSA Business –

Chairman – Richard Jackson 08) 8294 8591 or 0412 895826 (mob)
Secretary – Tony Scully 70000022 (H)
Office Manager – Julie Peak 0411 240118 (mob)



Freedom Wheels Program

is a national program involving all state TADs working with Amway One By One Foundation to develop a range of standard add-ons that fit on a range of modified bikes. This means that an Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist can “prescribe” the attachments needed to correctly support a child. The bike set up by TAD technical volunteers to suit is delivered to the child. For further information contact the TADSA Freedom Wheels Program Manager, Tony Scully, at the TADSA office.

Page-Turner Loan Program –

TADSA has 12 mechanical page-turners for loan to people with severe disabilities. A small fee for this loan is requested. Each machine has been modified to allow connecting the most suitable control device. Contact Julie in the office for further information.

Electric Wheelchairs Program –

Rugged terrain wheelchairs – TADSA has two electric wheelchairs available for loan to people with severe disabilities living in rugged terrain.

Fold up electric wheelchair – This chair has been added recently to our loan pool of equipment and is available to anyone seeking short term loan of a chair to be used in standard conditions. It can easily be transported in the back of a car.

For further information, contact Julie in the Office.

Supported by



Government of South Australia
 Department for Families
 and Communities

NEW TADSA LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Steve joined TADSA in July 1998 and has completed many projects over the years. He also previously volunteered time in the office working as our Data Entry Officer for 4 years and served on the TADSA committee for 3 years. Steve's background is growing up and working on the family farm, giving him many and varied skills and the attitude "of where there is a need, to make it yourself." Steve's area of expertise is general mechanical work and in his spare time he is a very keen sailor.



Steve with Richard Jackson, TADSA Chairman

"I receive much pleasure when I complete a TADSA project, seeing the benefit of helping someone who has a need." - Steve

A Day at the Clipsal Races



Technical volunteers L-R Bruce, Les, Ken & Barton

"Every day and in many ways, volunteers play a major role in all aspects of life here in South Australia". In recognition and appreciation of services, TADSA was invited by the Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP, (then Minister for Volunteers) to nominate a group of volunteers to enjoy the Premier's hospitality at the South Australia Suite at the recent 2010 Clipsal 500 V8 Race, held on Friday 12th March.

We were limited to inviting only 15 volunteers and whilst we found many of our volunteers had other commitments on that day, we did manage to find our allocated number – and what a magnificent day they had! Excellent venue, food and company.



TADSA Office Volunteer Annette with Ken



Our thanks to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for this very special day.

An interesting statistic, the number of volunteer years within this small group of TADSA volunteers who attended the Clipsal race totalled 134 years!

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 10TH -16TH MAY 2010

TADSA held an "Open House" during this week to welcome our volunteers in for morning or afternoon tea. We only had a small number who joined us, possibly due to our upcoming Technical Volunteer Luncheon which has had a very positive response. For those who did join us however, we enjoyed lamingtons and yeast buns over a cuppa.

Our volunteers are very much appreciated, as we say often say – ***“without our volunteers, there would be no TADSA”***. Our thanks to all our volunteers.

New TADSA Website

Our new website is now up and running. There are a few areas that need more work, but in general it is working well. The MEMBERS ONLY area is still to be finalized. This will be where technical members can have an input, tools and equipment for sale, technical tips and information, maybe even a joke or two. If you have something you feel might be relevant for this area, please pass the information on to the Newsletter Editor/Office Manager, Julie Peak or our Project Manager, Travis James.

Just another reminder, we need more photographs of completed projects please, especially photos including the client with the technical volunteer and the project.



FREEDOM WHEELS – TADSA

– BY TONY SCULLY, FREEDOM WHEELS SA CO-ORDINATOR

On the 7th April a clinic was held at Novita, attended by Mel, Laura (Novita physios), Travis, myself and 5 children. The team ensured the children were well fitted to the bikes, Travis assisting with any possible modifications that may be needed. The day was a great success, with only two bikes needing modifications by TADSA. All children were very keen.

On the 8th I joined Laura (physio, Equipment Dept. Novita) for a "Come and Try Day". This allows parents to bring their children along to trial riding a trike. It was a very rewarding time spent with the children. Our aim is to try to assist them to ride a 2-wheeler - a trike is another option. In most cases, we are having success. We are going to set up the first sample bike that we received from TADNSW with full supports fitted to enable physios or O/Ts to show parents at any time.

I have also committed Freedom Wheels to be at the next 3 "Come and Try" days at Novita. This will now be an invitation to "Come and Try Bike and Trike". All we need now is for those who came to the clinic to say they want a bike.

PUBLIC RELATIONS NEWS

By Ian Beaton, TADSA Public Relations Officer

Website launch At the time of writing, the launch of our new website is to take place on May 26th at Parliament House. The Hon. Jennifer Rankine Minister for Disability will press the 'Enter' key to send the site 'live'. This will be held during a luncheon attended by our Committee and staff at Parliament House.

Cops for Kids On March 3, Detective B/Sgt Drew Bynoe from the South Australia Police presented a cheque to Chairman Richard Jackson and Secretary Tony Scully (see photograph). TADSA received a very generous donation of \$7,000 from Cops for Kids. This group of approximately 700 police officers each donate an amount every month from their pay. The substantial amount raised is then donated to charities which support children. It was through the lobbying of Tony Scully's son-in-law (a member of the police) and also the article and photo in the Advertiser regarding FREEDOM WHEELS, that we received this substantial donation. Thank you to Drew and Cops for Kids.



Disability Expo TADSA will again have a site at the Expo so come down and visit us on Friday 13th August between 10am and 4pm at the Adelaide Showgrounds Wayville.

Budget Rent a Car When it was decided to expand the FREEDOM WHEELS program to regional South Australia we asked Budget if they would extend their sponsorship to include these clinics. Budget has very generously agreed to provide a van for all clinics (metro & country). Sponsorship includes 18 days free rental with a maximum of 1200kms for all metropolitan clinics and 6600kms for all country clinics. Magnetic signs for the van have been produced to acknowledge Budget and the other sponsors of FREEDOM WHEELS. We very much appreciate Budget's ongoing support.

Talks If you or someone in your family is part of a service club or support group please keep TADSA in mind for speaking opportunities in 2010. Myself or someone else from the organisation would be happy to give a talk on the work of TADSA.

TADSA talks given (January – April 2010)

Ingle Farm Stroke Club
 Uni SA – OT students
 Aged Carers Support Group
 Combined PROBUS Club-Payneham

National Seniors – Modbury
 Lions Club of Playford
 Rotary Club of Thebarton

How it was Done

Please Note – Personal names have been altered to respect client's privacy

PROJECT NO. 2010-029 - **Gardening tools modification**
TECHNICAL MEMBER - **John**



Peter has a spinal injury caused by an industrial accident some years ago. He has lost the use of his legs and most of the strength in his hands and uses a wheelchair. As Peter was keen to continue his passion of gardening, raised flowerbeds were installed in his home. The lack of strength in his hands and wrists however meant he couldn't hold or control his gardening tools. TADSA was approached to see if we could help.

Technical member John tackled this project by making gutter supports that went along the forearm, strapped on by Velcro.



Steel rods bolted to the gutters and connected to the tools transfer the pushing force from Peter's arm to the tool, bypassing his wrist.

Photos supplied by John

TOTAL DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION TIME: 51 Hours

PROJECT NO. 2010-142 - HYGIENE DEVICES
TECHNICAL MEMBERS - TONY AND JEAN

Steve has only the use of one arm due to an accident and needed to replace his wall mounted nailbrushes and exfoliating soap holders.

Technical member Tony purchased two nailbrushes and fitted suction cups to the handles.



Meanwhile, Jean (Tony's wife and technical member) purchased a commercially available soap holder and a block of luffa fibre. She then slit the cloth backing on the commercial unit, so that the soap could be inserted. Tony then hollowed out the piece luffa so a cake of soap could be inserted. The luffa fibre is used to exfoliate Steve's skin.

A good husband and wife team effort on this project.

Photos taken by Travis

TOTAL DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION TIME: 6 Hours

PROJECT NO. 2010-137 - CHAIR MODIFICATION
TECHNICAL MEMBER - ROD



Andrew is an adult and has severe cerebral palsy. TADSA was asked by his mother if we could modify a suitable chair to enable him to eat at the table with the rest of the family.

Technical member Rod took on this project and made a lightweight, height adjustable table top (plywood) and lacquered it to give a "timber look" finish. The tray is attached to the chair by wing-nuts at the back, making it easily removable when not in use.

Photo taken by Rod

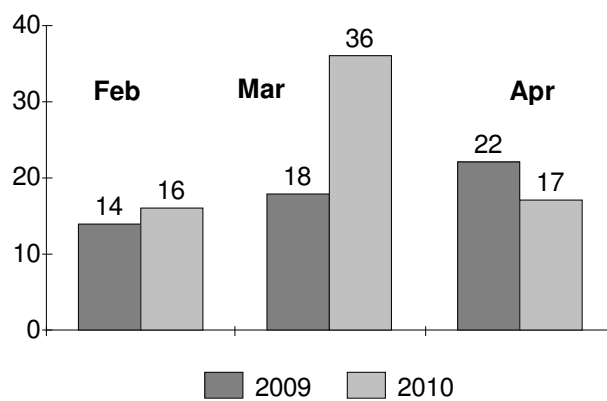
TOTAL DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION TIME: 18 Hours

PROJECTS ASSIGNED TO MEMBERS**1st May – 31st July 2010****(tp = technical project ap = assessment by Project Manager)**

Proj No.	ap/tp	Project Title	
2010-164	ap	Bowling ramp	
2010-165	tp	Chair raiser platform	on hold
2010-166	ap	Reading unit mods	
2010-167	ap	Oxygen bottle carrier for gopher	
2010-168	ap	Walker mods - discontinued	
2010-169	ap	Overtable assessment	
2010-170	tp	Garage door opener on wheelchair	
2010-171	tp	Sweet dispenser	
2010-172	tp	Motorised table	
2010-173	RW	Custom bedstick	
2010-173	tp	Custom bedstick	
2010-174	ap	Gardening tools assess	
2010-175	ap	Beach chair assessment	
2010-176	tp	School Trolley	
2010-177	ap	Paint brush holders	
2010-178	ap	Shower cushion replacement	
2010-179	ap	Chair modification	
2010-180	tp	Remote control repair	
2010-181	tp	Paint Brush mouth piece	
2010-182	tp	Paint Brush mouth piece	
2010-183	tp	Sofa modification	
2010-184	tp	Bowling ramp mods	
2010-185	tp	Walking bar	
2010-186	ap	Pool access assessment	
2010-187	tp	Wheelchair trailer for scooter	
2010-188	ap	Bike assessment for child	
2010-189	ap	Door locking assessment	
2010-190	tp	Toilet modification	
2010-191	tp	TV & remote setup	
2010-192	tp	Wireless headset mods	
2010-193	ap	Overway table assessment	
2010-194	ap	Seating for pool	
2010-195	tp	Recliner chair modification	
2010-196	tp	Wheelchair footplate mods	discontinued
2010-197	tp	Oricom phone setup	
2010-198	tp	Oricom phone setup	
2010-199	tp	void - duplicated	
2010-200	tp	Ramp installation	
2010-201	ap	Guarded knife	
2010-202	tp	Shower cushion replacement	outsourced
2010-203	tp	Wheelchair power adaption	discontinued
2010-204	ap	Wheelchair controls assessment	
2010-205	ap	Princess Chair mods "	discontinued
2010-206	tp	Care Alert installation	
2010-207	ap	Childs Seat Shock absorbing assess	discontinued
2010-208	tp	Transport device for wheelchair	
2010-209	tp	Trackball for computer – supply only	
2010-210	ap	Electric door assessment	
2010-211	ap	Electric door re-locate	
2010-212	ap	Walker mods	
2010-213	ap	Inside house doors assessment	
2010-214	tp	Thoracic strap for bed	
2010-215	tp	Door bell repair	
2010-216	tp	Oricom phone program	
2010-217	tp	Laundry chute lifter repair	
2010-218	tp	Wheelchair foot-guard	
2010-219	tp	12V lights installation - discontinued	
2010-220	tp	Oxygen bottle carrier for gopher	

2010-221	tp	Person lifter delivery	
2010-222	tp	Car clutch extension	
2010-223	tp	Recliner chair repair	
2010-224	tp	Electric over-way table	
2010-225	ap	Bike modification	
2010-226	tp	Tap device for on/off	
2010-227	tp	Over-table footrest	
2010-228	ap	Lifter mods	to be allocated
2010-229	tp	Strapping for holding scissors	
2010-230	tp	Ramp for office	
2010-231	tp	Key grip for car key	
2010-232	tp	Bike steering mechanism	(Freedom Wheels)
2010-233	tp	Wheelchair repair	
2010-234	tp	Baby alarm flashing light	
2010-235	ap	Bed pole assessment	
2010-236	tp	Seat stalks modification	
2010-237	tp	Pitch fork gutter	(estimate sent)
2010-238	ap	Computer assessment	
2010-239	tp	Senior pilot mounting & repair	
2010-240	tp	Chin Control Mounting repair	
2010-241	ap	Change table assessment	
2010-242	ap	Bed foot stool assessment	to be allocated
2010-243	ap	Mount speech unit on wheelchair	
2010-244	tp	Baby stroller repairs	
2010-245	ap	School desk mods assessment	
2010-246	tp	Speech amplifier	
2010-247	ap	Call system	
2010-248	tp	Buzzer wrist watch	

Comparison Statistics Projects Allocated



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

SAFETY ALERT – EYE PROTECTION



What happened? - Tom is a bricklaying apprentice. He was working on a site carrying a bucket full of mortar on his shoulder. As he went to set the bucket down, it slipped and slammed on the ground causing the mortar to fly up and cover his face and eyes. At the time of the incident, Tom was NOT wearing his glasses and was using bricklaying gloves instead of manual handling/labouring gloves.

The supervisor washed his eyes out then took him to the first aider the finally put him in the car to take him to hospital. From start to finish it was around 45 minutes from the time of the accident to Tom being seen by a doctor, his eyes were burning all this time. The mortar caused severe burns to both his eyeballs, the mortar had also started to go off, so needed to be scraped off his eyeballs by the doctor. Tom has had a number of stays in hospital and has had several operations already. Tom still doesn't know how much sight he is going to get back, how many more operations will be required or how long it will take him to recover.

When asked if he had a message for others, Tom simply said "WEAR YOUR GLASSES." Glasses wouldn't have prevented the incident from happening, as the mortar would still have splashed, BUT glasses WOULD have massively reduced the severity of Tom's terrible injuries.



- ❖ Wear your eye protection – it could save your site
- ❖ Make sure that the gloves and glasses you are wearing are suitable for the task.
- ❖ If you get mortar in your eye, flush eyes continuously with clean running water and get somebody to call for medical advice.

Our TADSA projects do not usually involve carrying a bucket full of mortar, but this safety alert reminds us how important it is to –

wear the appropriate safety equipment for the job being done.

DISABILITY GUIDE

Glaucoma

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases characterised by damage to the optic nerve, usually due to excessively high intraocular pressure (IOP). This increased pressure within the eye, if untreated, can lead to optic nerve damage resulting in progressive, permanent vision loss. In addition to high intraocular pressure, damage can also be caused by poor blood supply to the optic nerve fibres, weakness in the structure of the nerve, or a problem in the health of the nerve fibres themselves.

Through early detection, diagnosis and treatment, you and your doctor can help to preserve your vision. To find information Glaucoma Australia for a range of glaucoma information. www.rsb.org.au

Low Vision Products – final

Recreation - Playing cards are available in a range of sizes and include large print and Braille options. Free-standing or hand-held card holders are also available. Games with larger print or with tactile indicators are available and include Ludo, Scrabble, Snakes and Ladders, Chess, Chinese Checkers, Dominoes and Draughts. There are Braille editions of the games Upwords and Uno.

Needle threaders assist with threading cotton through the eye of the needle for sewing.

Remote controls are available in a range of sizes with bigger buttons for operating televisions and audio visual devices. A Television Screen Magnifier can be attached to the front of the television to enlarge the image. Magnifying glasses especially designed for watching television help some, however, some people with low vision may simply benefit from sitting closer to the television. It is possible to get a dictionary, thesaurus, diary, calendar or music book in large print. Book stands assist people who have difficulty supporting a book and holding it open.

Money Identification – The Cash Test Australia is a note guide that identifies the value of an Australian note. Coin holders can be used to identify \$1 and \$2 coins.

Contrasting Colours – define objects and make them stand out from the background. A dark coloured placement under a white dinner plate will help define the edge of the plate and accentuate the food. A white cup may assist in determining the level of dark tea or coffee. Use a dark coloured chopping board for preparing lighter coloured vegetables. A contrasting colour along the edge of a work bench will help define it. A strip of paint on a step will clearly define the edge.

Tactile Marking – can be used on a variety of household appliances to locate controls. They can be used to locate light switches, power points, temperature controls on a stove, buttons and controls on tape recorders and remote controls. A variety of materials are available to provide a tactile mark. These include plastic raised dots, paint dots with raised profile and hook and loop fastenings (Velcro).

Technological Solutions – Screen magnification software magnifies screen text and graphics. Screen review software sends the text displayed on a computer screen to a speech synthesizer. Text-to-speech scanners produce printed text as spoken words. Electronic magnifiers enlarge printed text and images onto a screen or monitor.

Identification Badges which indicate that a person has a vision impairment may be of benefit to raise awareness in various settings such as banks, shops and public transport.

*To contact the Low Vision Centre phone 8232 4777
or for more information visit the RSB website www.rsb.org.au*

Disability SA – Independent Living Centre

The Independent Living Centre’s Mobile Unit Outreach Service is a free government service for people living in rural and remote South Australia. Visitors to the wheelchair-accessible caravan are able to discuss their individual needs with an experienced health professional (Occupational Therapist) and view and trial a wide range of equipment. Information sheets covering a large variety of topics are also available. Free individualized advice is provided on techniques and equipment to assist those living or caring for someone with a disability, injury or illness. Program for the next three months for the visiting Mobile Outreach Service includes –

- June** nil
- July** Cooper Pedy (20th) and Alice Springs - 22nd
Clare - 28th & 29th
- August** Eyre Peninsular Field Day (Cleve) – 10th-12th

Contact Independent Living Centre for further details on 1300 885886 or 8266 5260.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO TADSA?

**Simply fill out the form below and return to:
Technical Aid to the Disabled (SA) Inc.
PO Box 540, Modbury SA 5092**

Please send me more information and membership application. I am interested in joining as a:

[] Technical Member [] Individual Member [] Organisational Member

Or

I would like to make a donation of \$

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

Make your donation dollars count and help us make an impact on the lives of people with disabilities by making a donation today. For more information or to donate online please visit our website www.tadsa.org.au