

BEYOND DISABILITY INC. ANNUAL REPORT 2011



“The ability to connect people” |

Beyond Disability Inc

Helping housebound mobility disabled get subsidised interactive communication from home.



Richard Stubbs OAM thanks
The Chief Executive Officer of
Connecting Up Australia,
Doug Jacquier for supporting
Beyond disability Inc
Picture taken at DonorTec
conference 2011

*The success of BDI is demonstrated by awards for interactive innovation
and best family service to disabled.*

- * Dept Human Services best program Victoria for including disabled.
- * Rotary international award-disabled people helping disabled.
- * Tattersall's - Enterprise/Achievement award—commitment to others to achieve extraordinary things.
- * Flinders Award.
- * Casey "Most Innovative", best volunteer and best family community services award.
- * 3MP Best Community Program 2006
- * Casey Family & Community Support Volunteer Award 2008
- * Facsia "Inclusion" award 2007

Legal Entity: Beyond Disability Inc (formerly known as RPDS) ABN 82 846 344 613

A registered tax exempt Charity in Australia.
Donations to the Beyond Disability Gift Fund are tax deductible.
Bequests needed.

Incorporated Association Registration No. A 0037035K

Web Page: <http://www.bdi.org.au>
<http://www.beyonddisability.com.au> (Under development)

Mail: P.O. Box 1451 Pearcedale 3912
Tel / Fax: +61 3 59776547 with answer machine

Contacts: Amanda Lewis BDI Secretary 03 5977 6547 secretary@bdi.org.au
Tricia McGill BDI Team Leader 03 5995 2080 tmcgill@bdi.org.au

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Extracts from **Address to Huawei Digital Inclusion Summit**

Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy. Parliament House, Canberra 17 **August 2011**

Introduction

For many isolated Australians the walls of their home define their world; setting the boundaries of their social contact.

The internet has the power to dissolve those walls...

It can enable people who have been alone and isolated to chat and connect; to browse and shop; access services and information; connect with their local community or read newspapers from their homeland; and travel the globe – visiting museums and galleries.

People can see their loved ones as they talk to them.

The online world is the gateway to a vast range of opportunity and engagement.

But while the internet presents these opportunities, we must also be mindful that if we leave people behind, the isolation will get even greater.

The challenge, as Tim [Williams] wrote in the media last week, is to “avoid adding the burdens of digital exclusion to social exclusion...”

As we go online in more ways, for more services – including health and education – we face the risk of some people being left behind if they don’t have access to the internet.

Job opportunities are increasingly posted online, government services are increasingly being made available online, even discount shopping coupons – the latest internet trend – are online.

Those already at risk of social isolation through age, illness, disability, culture or location could find themselves further socially and financially disadvantaged. It is not enough to just deliver access to the internet at home. It is also about ensuring access to high quality broadband-enabled services, and the skills and resources to maximise them.

I’d like to point out there are already many organisations doing inspiring work to advance digital inclusion... and let me, by way of example, mention a few.

Beyond Disability, led by OAM recipient Richard Stubbs, is a team of local volunteers who assist people who are physically disabled and housebound to connect with the world by using online technologies. **Beyond Disability** has provided access to computer equipment and volunteer assistance to more than three hundred people, including to some of them for more than a decade continuously.

Connecting up Australia this year celebrates 30 years working to strengthen the non-profit and community sector in Australia.

As well as running an annual conference to share information about social entrepreneurship, technology, and social innovation, Connecting Up Australia also manages the technology donation program Donor Tec.

This program distributes technology donations from companies such as Microsoft and Cisco. These are wonderful and inspirational initiatives by Australians sharing with others the social benefits that lie online. I thank them all. **Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy**

Source : http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/speeches/2011_-_minister_speeches/022

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A Big thank you to our partners:

Optus has joined us with a \$5,000 grant and the Bendigo Bank Pearcedale with \$5,000. NAB is giving a helping hand with donated laptops.

Without the support of the following longstanding partners we would not be able to continue this important and innovative programme:

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE

Yulgilbar Foundation

Calvert Jones Foundation

Cities of Frankston & Mornington Peninsula

The Lord Mayor's Fund

Rotary

Capital Security Solutions

Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation

Special thanks to:

DonorTec

Stateless Systems

~



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[Beyond Disability CEO report for year ending the 30th of June 2011](#)

What do we do?

We are a volunteer self help interactive communication program for housebound physically disabled people and wheelchair school children aged 7 years to 95 years and our new Vets program which includes veterans, widows and carers. We try to use donated recycled equipment where possible.

Our prime focus is on providing low cost interactive communication using our equipment with online access. The secondary part of the program is access to the Internet which is the world's biggest library for education, and an easy way to shop when housebound, and bank online, and sometimes for just having fun.

We have for well over 10 years successfully stuck to our core activities which led to the Department of Human Services, Melbourne awarding us the best program in Victoria for including disabled into their communities and November 2007 being one of only two Australian based NFP's invited by Fachsia to Canberra for the inaugural national volunteer awards under the "Social inclusion" section.

Our members say a big thank you to the following:

We again acknowledge Microsoft's significant support with software now through the DonorTec program (originally Microsoft community initiatives) over past 11 years. The once-off support from Stateless has been a godsend and allowed us to make the giant step of providing heavily subsidised broadband to our members.

Although, the 24 month contracts is a first for us hence we have placed funds on bank deposit to meet the next 2 years commitments. Supply of wireless broadband from the major Telco has not been easy and has taken up considerable time for both me and Colin.

The support of Frankston and Mornington Councils and the Melbourne Lord Mayor's Fund to sponsor those unable to afford even the low monthly programme fee is so very important to the program participants.

Our People:

Our volunteers are and always will be our greatest asset. It is important that the participants realise that their volunteers are not on 24 hour call and can only make reasonable calls on their time for home visits which will be at a time which suits our volunteers. The increase in costs across the board to our volunteers who are mainly retired has led to us to making available a system for reimbursement of motor vehicle costs for all our volunteers.

Lina McGann has looked after the programme payments banking and receipts for many years and this is really appreciated by us all. It is Lina's way of saying thanks for helping her

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family. Without this type of member contribution we would struggle to manage all the paperwork.

The programme payment includes part of the cost of supplying and maintaining the computers, the internet access, the costs of the programme – volunteers, phone, insurance and other costs.

We must not underestimate the high importance which is to be placed on the social side for volunteers' get-togethers. Funding is available for a coffee session to ensure that this is done at no cost to the volunteers. However they do need to make the arrangements themselves.

The loss of funding for the first time from Casey council in 2011/2 meant disabled Casey residents had to leave the program as they lost their sponsorship.

Fees for 2012 are set as follows:

Plan	Service Fee	Broadband	Total/month
Provide own broadband Connection	\$11.00	-	\$11.00 +GST
Pre-paid 10GB/year	\$11.00	\$9.00	\$20.00 +GST
3GB/month (existing users)	\$11.00	\$19.00	\$30.00 +GST**

**** Note - 24 month contract option currently closed**

New clients

Primarily coming from referrals, community support groups, Anglicare and following local newspaper and radio publicity.

We have plenty of capacity to help more people. Please help to get the message out.

Financial state:

The treasurer's report shows that for the 2011 financial year we raised only \$68,000. This reflects the diminishing support for the role we have in society at this time. Expenses for the year totalled \$87,000. Our largest expense was again technology costs \$24,130.

Our equipment is conservatively valued at \$36,000 and we have no liabilities, except Telco 24 month contracts covered by bank term deposits.

Equity is \$383,000.

The past 12 months have been difficult due to health impacts on volunteers and committee. Hopefully we are all on the mend and can soon get back to our routines.

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Tricia McGill and myself will continue to be involved in public speaking. I would hope that volunteers and participants will individually make themselves available to join us to tell their story over five minutes when we go out to talk to self help groups.

Insurance: all insurances are paid to the next 12 months including committee protection, volunteers and public risk.

Other matters needing attention

- 1. A volunteer to keep partners informed**
- 2. New website update** - make the site meet the clients and BDI needs.

Would you please let our secretary, Amanda Lewis, know any other matters which you feel the committee needs to be made aware of. Ph 03 5977 6547



Richard Stubbs OAM, Chief Executive officer 15/09/2011



Richard Stubbs OAM with Mark Karpinski, managing director of Capital Security Systems – providers to BDI of Norman Anti-Virus software for 12 years

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Treasurers Report 30 06 11 Beyond Disability Inc

Closing bank balance at the end of the 2011 financial year was \$168,422.52 ('10 \$369266).

BDI raised \$68,180 ('10 \$386319) . An important note is that these funds are to grow the broadband and necessary equipment needed to facilitate broadband. Funds have been placed onto 13 and 25 month bank term deposit to ensure we can meet our long term contractual obligations to Telstra. National Bank "Helping hand" has been our only source of donated laptops in 2010/2011.

Yulgilbar Foundation has generously funded Wheelie kids for 5 years @ \$20000 p.a.

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC. DBE is a long term most generous supporter directly providing new equipment funding and helped with sponsorships and other support together with Calvert-Jones Foundation \$10,000.

Again the councils with \$11,810 ('10 \$10,000) – Lord Mayor's Fund, Casey, Frankston and Mornington provided solid support as did Rotary Dromana with manpower. Federal and State Government support was Nil. FACHSIA \$Nil ('10 \$nil) & Dept Human Services Nil ('10 \$nil). Disappointingly Casey Council has declined to sponsor Casey based disabled members next 12 months.

BDI members raised funds totalling \$4,370 ('10 \$7365) reflecting the need to fully sponsor more members who continue to do it tough. DonorTec (formerly Microsoft Community Initiatives) continued to provide significant long term software support which is invaluable to the program. Capital Security Solutions continued their long association with valuable anti virus support.

Expenses for year totalled \$ 87,527 ('10 \$84385)

Again our largest expense is Technology costs \$ 66,891 ('10 \$ 56842) including Wheelie kids \$24,130 ('10 \$23001); Insurance \$4766 together with additional volunteer / third party cover and assets cover with AON our insurer and includes Committee liability cover taken. Telephone \$ 13,715 ('10 \$6630) reflects shutting down the dial up ISP and providing Telstra BigPond Wireless broadband. BigPond is provided on 24 month contracts which is a significant long term commitment for BDI.

Business expenses including AGM were \$ 3066('10 \$3588).

Volunteer reimbursements & training costs \$13,047 ('10 \$10853).

Travel costs \$ 6,185 ('10 \$8351) Volunteers cover a significant area in their cars, most are pensioners and cannot afford the high cost of petrol.

Training \$7254 ('09 \$12982) includes production of training materials both on disk and paper plus costs for committee to attend volunteer seminars which provided excellent networking. We continued to develop and provide CD training media for participants, volunteers and partners. Volunteer recognition is important and a number have completed over 10 years service. Volunteer functions \$1862

The upgrade of members to broadband entails a significant long term cost. It does provide an incentive to new members to join and Veterans, widows and carers are starting to join.



Alan Blackburn, Treasurer.

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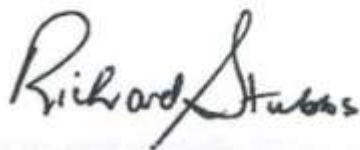
Beyond Disability Inc.

Balance Sheet 30 06 2011

	Audited	Audited
	300610	300611
Assets		
Cash and bank accounts		
Cheque Account S1 VTCU	6,562.44	9662.85
Gift Fund S2 VTCU	14,044.20	21,111.65
Petty Cash		50.00
Cash Management S 10 VTCU	346,059.98	133,304.13
Bendigo Bank Pearcedale	2,450.20	1,293.89
Total cash and Bank	369,266.82	168,422.52
Creditor due from ATO - GST	3,327.00	1,288.87
Sub total Current Assets	372,593.82	169,711.39
Non-Current assets		
Investments note 1	Nil	200,000.00
Fixed Assets	51,785.00	36,000.00
Equipment note 2		
Total assets	424,378.82	383,611.39
Total Liabilities and Equity	424,378.82	383,611.39

Note 1. Term Deposits - Represents funds from Stateless put aside into bank term deposits for 13 and 25 months to meet future commitments and 2-3 year contracts for broadband and equipment.

Note 3. Equipment is valued on a best endeavours basis by Secretary, Treasurer and Public Officer. New equipment at purchase price and all older computers have been recycled with Beyond waste Recycling. All P111Stock Compaq desktop internet computers & CRT screens were donated to a church group. Reduction in overall value reflects write down of dial-in ISP servers and related equipment.



Richard Stubbs Public Officer



Alan Blackburn, Treasurer

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Beyond Disability Inc Profit & Loss July 2010 through June 2011

Cash Basis

Jul10- Jun11

Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income	Client Fundraising	Program Fee	4,370.50
	Total Client Fundraising		4,370.50
	Donations Income		40,000.00
	Grants		12,000.00
	Local Government Income		11,810.00
	Total Income		68,180.50
Expenses			
	Administration - AGM Expenses		392.91
	Bank Service Charges		47.56
	Dues and Subscriptions		1,209.14
	Office Supplies stationary	431.43	
	Total Office Supplies		431.43
	Postage and Delivery	645.39	
	Subscriptions	339.77	
	Total administration		3,066.30
	Fundraising costs		
	Books and Publications		1,369.00
	Programme Expense		302.36
	Total Fundraising costs		1,671.36
	Insurance		1,214.50
	Publicity		868.18
	Repairs & Maintenance workshop Building Repairs	700.00	
	Repairs & Maintenance workshop - Other	68.12	
	Total Repairs & Maintenance workshop		768.12
	Technology Expenses		
	broadband		1,574.79
	Computer Components		6,633.96
	Dataco IT Service		1,899.88
	Electricity Server Workshop		2,460.00
	Insurance		3,552.69
	Monitored Security		8,561.39
	On line host		189.72
	RSL Vets Wellness		31.82
	Software Expense		3,320.45
	Telephone		13,715.88
	Voi Equipment		820.86
	Wheeie Kids IT		24,130.42
	Total Technology Expenses		66,891.76
	Volunteer Reimbursements		
	Training Expenses		6,038.22
	Volunteer function		824.11
	Volunteer Travel Reimbursements		6,185.44
	Total Volunteer Reimbursements		13,047.77
	Total Expense		87,527.99
	Net Ordinary Income		-19,347.49
	Other Income/Expense		
	Other Income - Interest Income		17,214.32
	Total Other Income		17,214.32
	Net Other Income		17,214.32
	Net Income		-2,133.17



Alan Blackburn, Treasurer



Richard Stubbs OAM, CEO

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BEYOND DISABILITY INCORPORATED INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2011

SCOPE

We have audited the Financial Statements of Beyond Disability Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2011. The association is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Financial Statements and the information they contain. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on them to the members.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly so as to present a view of the Club, which is consistent with our understanding of its financial position and the result of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

INDEPENDENCE

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian Professional Ethical Pronouncements.

OPINION

The Financial Statements for Beyond Disability Incorporated for the year ended 30th June 2011 are in accordance with the books and records of the association.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Peterson".

MARK PETERSON CPA
Dated – 11th October 2011



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27 September 2011

Richard Stubbs
Beyond Disability Inc.
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PEARCEDALE VIC-C 3912

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201 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000
DX 10206 Sydney Stock Exchange
phone +61 2 9253 7815
fax +61 2 9253 7799
email cheryl.sunshine@aon.com

Certificate of Currency

In our capacity as Insurance Brokers to **Beyond Disability Inc.**, we hereby certify that the undermentioned Insurance Contract is current, subject to payment.

This certificate is issued as a matter of information only and confers no rights upon the certificate holder. This certificate does not amend, extend or alter the coverage afforded by the policy detailed below.

Class of Insurance	Public & Products Liability
Insurer	CGU Insurance Limited
Policy Number	MFC R3057
Period of Insurance	From: 01-Sep-11 To: 01-Sep-12
Limit of Liability	\$10,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate for Products
Situation/Location	Anywhere in Australia and New Zealand

Yours faithfully

Cheryl Sunshine
Signed for and on behalf of
Aon Risk Services Australia Limited



Aon Risk Services Australia Limited ABN 17 000 434 720 www.aon.com.au

Aon has always valued the privacy of personal information. If you would like a copy of our Privacy Policy, you can contact us or access it from our website at www.aon.com.au.

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CERTIFICATE OF CURRENCY TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that the details outlined below are current as at 15 September 2011

THE INSURED: BEYOND DISABILITY INC, WHEELIE KIDS & ELDERLY CITIZENS ONLINE

PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS: In-home Interactive communication

CERTIFICATE NUMBER: 11SME-040-24795-600034

TYPE OF INSURANCE: Association Liability

CONTRACT WORDING: RUPPL - Association (31 March 2007)

PERIOD OF INSURANCE: 10 June 2011 to 10 June 2012 at 4:00PM Local Standard Time

LIMIT OF LIABILITY: \$1,000,000 each and every claim and in the aggregate any one Period of Insurance

EXCESS:

a) Professional Indemnity	\$1,000
b) Office Bearers	\$0
c) Association Reimbursement	\$1,000

COVERAGE / EXTENSIONS: As Per Contract Wording and/or Endorsements attaching to and forming part of the Certificate.

RETROACTIVE DATE: Unlimited excluding known claims and circumstances.

OUR PROPORTION: 100.00%

SECURITY: 100% Lloyd's Underwriters

All Certificates of Currency are issued by Resource Underwriting Pacific Pty Ltd on the basis that any Contract of Insurance referred to in a Certificate of Insurance can be legally cancelled at any time for non payment of premium

Any inquiries on this issue must be directed to the Insured or the Broker.



Resource Underwriting Pacific Pty Ltd
Lloyd's Coverholder
15 September 2011

LLOYDS

Underwritten by certain Underwriters at Lloyd's

Resource Underwriting Pacific Pty Ltd
ABN 51 051 374 228 AFS Licence No: 247340
Melbourne: 8th Floor, 22 William Street Melbourne VIC 3000 P (03) 9629 5444 F (03) 9629 1854 E info@ruppl.com.au
Sydney: 5th Floor, Suite 504, 46 Market Street Sydney NSW 2000 P (02) 9279 3422 F (02) 9279 4344 E rupp@royalruppl.com.au
Sydney Postal Address: PO Box Q193 Sydney NSW 1230
www.ruppl.com.au

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Beyond Disability Volunteers



Richard Stubbs OAM
Chief Executive Officer



Thomas McGann
Deputy CEO



Amanda Lewis
Secretary



Alan Blackburn
Treasurer



Cindy Reed
Local Govt. Consultant



Simon Reed
Assistant Treasurer



Colin Richmond
Technical Support



Tricia McGill
Team Leader Casey



David Buchanan
Team Leader
Peninsula



Brian Nugent
Finance & Planning Consultant
General Committee



Robert Davidson
IT Technician



Malcolm Fowler

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Lina McGann



Gerry Schulz



David Weinstein



Ian George



Peggy Stocks



Sam Varghese



John Macafee



Rick Hayllar



Arjuna Fernando



Nestor Riquelme



Harry Zhou

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Letters of thanks from some of our younger Beyond Disability members to Sarah and Baillieu Myer AC. who provided the laptops they use.



My Name is James. I am 9 years of age. I have an undiagnosed form of CP. I am unable to hold a pen to be able to write so my dad is sending this on my behalf. I love playing with my family and going in the hydro pool because it's nice and warm. I love going onto ABC for kids, reading eggs and mathletics. I also like basket ball and playing Xbox games. We also have a pet dog (Charlie) who plays outside with me on fine days. We shoot hoops and he chases the ball—he doesn't bring the ball back though. Dad has to chase him for it. It's a good laugh.



Carlee with Baillieu Myer AC. on the day she received her new laptop

My name is Carlee. I'm 13 years old and I have Juvenile Type 1 Dependent Diabetes. I love hanging out with my friends and playing and umpiring netball. Thank you for the laptop. I use the laptop at school in my classes, except cooking. I use it at home when I am sick and can go on Skype with my classmates and join in my class. I am hoping you may in the future give a chance for me and my mum to visit your gorgeous property and have a chance to say 'Thank you'. You helped make my life easier. Thank you, Carlee.



Adrian on the day he received his new laptop from Baillieu Myer AC.

My Name is Adrian. I am 16 years old and I have Duchene Muscular Dystrophy. I mainly like going to the cinema because there is not much more I can do. The rest of my time I spend on the laptop you have provided for me and I thank you very much for this. I use it at school for my school work and I use it at home a lot as it is the only way I am able to keep in contact with my friends. It also helps me find out what is happening in the world as I am limited to where and how far I can go. I am hoping that I will have a chance to see you again with mum and dad as I had a wonderful time at your property last time when you gave me this laptop that I am using to write this letter. Thank you so much for your kindness and for making my life a bit better. Adrian.

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My Name is Thomas. I am 17 years old. I have a neuromuscular disorder which means I use a wheelchair. My hobbies include sailing, filmmaking and using a computer.

Thank you for the laptop and broadband. I use the laptop at school in order to complete my year 12 education as I have trouble with writing due to my physical disability.

I also use the laptop at home to keep in touch with my friends from school and also friends that I have met who are also in wheelchairs.

My mother and I would enjoy the opportunity to visit your property as I have heard it is magnificent.

Your support has enriched my life and assisted me to explore my potential. Again, thank you. Thomas.

A word from Thomas's mother, Angelina:

Many thanks for your assistance. It's great to see Thomas expand his horizons and successfully complete his schooling with the aid of this equipment.

I know you may have read hundreds of letters expressing why you should support this organisation or that charity, but my letter, hopefully, will show why you should support this wonderful organisation, BDI.

BDI not only supply laptops and broadband, but an opportunity for part of my life to be normal. Through their services I and other benefactors are able to not only achieve better education aspects but also socially as well. With this laptop and broadband I can take my work home with me, write letters (such as I'm doing now), do projects or essays, write little poems and do what other teenagers do, like go on facebook or msn.

I would not be able to do all these or continue to do all these ordinary things without the support of yours or of others such as yourselves.

So, I would implore you to keep supporting this generous organisation, BDI.

Yours sincerely, Renee (13 years old) July 2011



Renee with Sarah Myer at Red Hill winery 2009

The BDI children receiving their new laptops from Baillieu Myer AC. 2009



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Amelia age 7 (pictured with her mum Amanda) with her new BDI laptop delivered July 2011.

Thank you to Yulgilbar Foundation from both Amelia and Amanda.



(Article taken from The Herald Sun January 24th 2011)

She's only seven but she's moved the world. Langwarrin girl Amelia has become a magnet for love, prayers and gifts after being diagnosed with a rare illness. Her plight has galvanised the efforts of many, launching Amelia's Project and giving her parents Amanda and Scott Nicholds the strength to carry on and keep on hoping. At the age of two Amelia was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, but late last year doctors said that diagnosis was wrong. Amanda's first reaction was relief. But that relief turned to devastation when the doctors told Amanda and Scott that their daughter suffered from a very rare and fatal condition called ataxia telangiectasia.

"What can we do now?" Amanda asked. Nothing, was the blunt answer and with that, their world was changed forever.

Only 40 Australians have ataxia telangiectasia, a genetic disease that systematically kills brain cells until the patient becomes bedridden, unable to do anything for themselves. Those with AT rarely reach their 20s.

"When they confirmed the diagnosis I asked what we could do," Ms Nicholds said. "The doctor's told us to live a life that will be amazing for her."

During their hospital stay Amanda, a Facebook addict, began updating her friends on the outcome of meeting with doctors. Doing it on Facebook allowed her to let those important to her know what was going on. Then a funny thing happened—more and more people started to find out what was happening and her Facebook friends grew. People she had been to primary school with offered words of support. Friends organized to deliver meals to the family immediately after Amelia's diagnosis.

"We were playing I Spy recently and Amelia's said she spied something beginning with L," Amanda said. "After we had a few guesses she said, "It is something we all share."

We guessed food and clothes and she said: "No, it is something we all share in our hearts."

"Scott and I looked at each other and guessed, 'love', and with a huge smile on her face she said, "Yes."

Letters of Support from BDI members

I have been with BDI since “forever” and still marvel at how far it has come from its inception by Richard to present day. What difference has it made to my life? Well I can’t imagine what it would be like not to be able to be in touch with my friends and family. My children are proud of me for being so old and keeping up with technology. This wouldn’t be possible without the help of the volunteers. A big thank you to Brian Nugent for his regular assistance and I would really love to acknowledge Bob Thornhill who was my volunteer for about 10 years. He began as a volunteer and he and his wife Bev became very good friends.

Thank you Richard and all at BDI who make it possible for the whole program to work.

Regards, Carol Kidger.



Dear Richard,

I would like to let you know how much I appreciate BDI for giving me so much support since I have been in the programme. I knew absolutely nothing about computers when I first was put in touch with you. I have a wonderful volunteer with Tricia McGill. She has been so helpful, and I feel I am mastering a lot of things that I never thought possible. I can't believe what a difference it has made to my life. I can catch up with friends and family in the U K, as the art of letter writing is no more. It is so much easier to get on the computer to get in touch, and, you get an answer.

I have been put on Skype, which I find very useful, and that gives one a chance to see who you are talking to. I find that to be very nice, and it saves on your phone calls. I still have a lot to learn, especially on the internet, I am still trying to master that, but I can't believe how much I have learnt in such a short time.

So I would like to say a big thank you to you and all the wonderful volunteers that keep the programme going for people like me, it is very much appreciated, and I wish every one all the very best.

Kind regards, Violet Meddicks.

This is for you Tricia and all at BDI.
From Bob Sharp

I was 80 years old when I joined the BDI programme to be taught and learn about the computer under the guidance of Margaret Knight, a volunteer at that time. At that time I was caring for my wife, suffering from dementia, and I took on this new activity as a welcome outlet from my stress. Now, 8 years later, and I'm on my own, it is my connection with the outside world with pen-friends in USA, Britain and Indonesia and with the newspapers of other countries to read.



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Having been taught by my volunteer to manage bill-paying, tedious trips to the local Post Office & standing sometimes in long queues are a thing of the past.

It is so wonderful that now it is possible to look up information on any subject that interests me, including my medical condition & treatment.

I owe a lot to BDI for their amazing assistance over these years and I wish to thank them from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely, Bob Sharp.

Hi my name is Wendy,

I have Multiple Sclerosis and can't get out very often to catch up with family/friends. Thanks to BDI supplying a computer with internet access I can stay in touch with everyone. I don't feel trapped inside the house. I must also say a big thank you to Colin; he is the volunteer that has been helping me, nothing seems to be a problem for him.

Regards, Wendy Thompson.



During the past year I have had the privilege of assisting BDI with 3 RSL widows having computers installed in their homes. Unfortunately my health has not, and still is not, the best but no sense in crying. I am trying to find out when the next meeting of the LEGACY LADIES (RSL.) is to be held and hoping to attend to inform them about BDI. The 3 widows are progressing well at present. I will contact them to supply an up date to you for the A.G.M.

Regards John Richardson .(J.P.)

Hello Amanda,

Many thanks to Richard and the committee for the broadband connection. I had no idea about its properties and because of our problems with digital radio here wondered if it would work in our situation, it does. The most noticeable difference is the speed of the anti virus updates, before I used to have to wait for ever for updates sometimes in the beginning of a download it would quote ridicules times of 5 to 6 hours, now it's done in a flash, and there is not the frustrating wait for information to trickle through. I know because of my lack of skill we are not using it to any where near its potential but it is indeed a great improvement, thank you again. By the way if you are ever in need of a door prize and would accept a watercolour painting feel free to ask.



Cheers, Ron. (Farnill) July 2011

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Hi Trish, I would like to thank BDI for their program, now with broadband we find instead of getting in touch with our ageing family all of whom are interstate every few months, we now have a lively ongoing discussion about everything, thank you very much, and we have also started googling in a tentative way. **Betty and Ron Farnill**



I know I won't be bored, 'cause I can play
Jigsaws-cards and much, much more
Travel the world or buy from any store
Talk to my brother in England on Skype.
E-mail my daughter who lives in Port Dry
It is just so good to have a PC from BDI.
The volunteers are too good to be true!
When you need them they are there for you!
Thank you BDI for putting the sunshine into a rainy
day.

By Ron Bromley.

To whom it may concern

I just want to thank everyone for the support they have given me not in the last year but for years they helped my husband Bert in so many ways and are doing the same for me where would I be without them. Even when I was in hospital I still had their support. As for payment it is worth the fees we have to pay
Thank you to every one at BDI

Queenie (Edwards)



Hi Tricia,

I think myself very fortunate to be on the BDI program. When Harry died I assumed the computer would be taken back (although due to his decreasing abilities he was unable to use it and I kept in touch with the world at large for him).

I was very grateful to be allowed to keep it and use it mainly for finding activities for preschool children. I run two playgroups for grandparents and families who would not normally be able to afford to come along. Many grandparents look after their grandchildren while the parents work and they can be quite socially isolated so these playgroups are very important for them. Without the computer I couldn't write newsletters or plan activities so BDI I can't thank you enough.

Special thanks must also go to Gerry (my contact person) and Colin who has come out on several occasions to sort out technical problems.

Sincerely Dawn Cotterell

Beyond Disability Inc

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Having heard Richard speak over 2 years ago at a gathering of Parkinson's Victoria I was inspired to offer assistance writing the newsletter.

For some time I'd experienced trouble using a standard mouse due to a tremor in my hand losing control of the cursor. BDI provided me first with a 'trackball' input device which was an improvement and then a 'Tracksys Joystick II' device which was ideal.

Earlier this year I underwent Deep Brain Stimulation which removed the tremor and I am now able to use a standard mouse again.

Furthermore my privately owned monitor developed a fault and my hard drive suffered a virus. Both items were replaced with new equipment and Broadband installed. I am now a member of BDI and am happy to pay the quarterly fee.

Thank you Richard, Tricia and Colin.

Doug Field.

~

BDI Volunteers

From the workshop

It's been another busy year for all of us and for me, mainly in the workshop. Since we started with the idea of using broadband internet connections rather than the old and outdated dial-up internet, there have been many changes. Some of our members still had Windows 98 machines, which were unsuitable for use with mobile broadband and these older systems needed upgrading to Windows XP, so change-over machines were setup and configured for those members. Once we received the BigPond mobile broadband modems, these needed to be installed at each member's home together with a brief lesson in using the broadband.



Most installations went without any problems, but a few down in Rosebud caused headaches for Malcolm, Brian and John and of course the members concerned. The problems were caused by a "black hole" in Telstra's mobile network coverage. Fortunately, Malcolm was able to resolve these problems by making and installing external antennae.

Having made the change to broadband this has enabled direct remote connection from my computer to other computers, using the internet. This remote connection using "TeamViewer" software allows me (and other volunteers) to remotely repair and/or adjust settings on a computer that may be misbehaving. Minor problems can be very easily fixed without having to bring that computer to the workshop or for a volunteer needing to do a repair in the field. This type of repair or adjustment can only be done so long as the computer and internet are working properly and being able to do this has made things much easier and quicker.

Colin Richmond

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This year has been an interesting one, and a particularly exceptional one for BDI with so many changes. Most clients are overwhelmed now they are on wireless broadband. The vast changes we've made set me to thinking how much my own computer usage has changed and how the BDI programme has altered my view of the internet and technology. My first computer had Windows 95 installed and from memory I had the huge, (or so I thought) amount of 8 MBs of RAM. Now we speak in GB's and couldn't conceive of returning to the old slow, slow dial-up. One thing that stands out for me this year is bringing Lynn Roberts back into the BDI fold. Lynn joined the programme before me but I have been with her almost every step of the way. I taught her the ins and outs of Dragon which she uses almost exclusively on her computer, and would be lost without it.

Unfortunately she had to move to a nursing home about the same time that I went into hospital so it was some months before we were able to reconnect. Her first words to me when I visited her and asked how she is, were, "I'm bored." Hopefully having a BDI laptop, and her email contact with family and friends restored has helped to ease some of that boredom. Setting Lynn up this time around was no easy task. We had to find her the right sort of desk to accommodate her wheelchair and one that didn't take up too much space in her small room. Because of her not so good eyesight we had to find a way to set her special keyboard on top of her laptop keyboard. Colin, as always the person to turn to when you have a difficult problem to overcome, found just the solution by adapting a piece of Perspex to fit over the keyboard so that the screen was brought nearer to Lynn's face.

Richard is always passing the comment that we stick to our core activity at BDI, and to me the extra work we put in to make sure Lynn was suitably reconnected epitomises this phrase. It's achievements like this that make the work we do as volunteers the most rewarding.



Tricia McGill (Sept 2011)

Tricia introduced me to BDI about 2 years ago and I was gently 'broken in' and given the task distributing BDI leaflets, which enabled me to become familiar with the area and various caring organisations. A memorable day was my introduction to Ron, who was also from the U.K. He had never encountered a computer so a visit to the library showed him the wonders and he was hooked. Ron is very good to report any problems which I appreciate as it enables us to have a chat and a 'cuppa' I look forward to meeting more people.

BDI has encouraged me to learn more about computers and has benefited me socially.



Regards, Peggy Stocks.

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Celebrating Volunteer week at Cranbourne RSL May 2011



Ginni Richardson, NAB manager with Richard Stubbs OAM



Richard Stubbs OAM presenting Malcolm Fowler & Colin Richmond with gifts of appreciation for their exhaustive input into BDI's transition to wireless broadband

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Cranbourne RSL Vets receiving BDI laptops



Richard Stubbs OAM and John Weire, Cranbourne RSL May 2011

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Volunteers receive their awards for 10 years service to BDI at 2010 A.G.M.



BDI Committee members Sept 2011

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BDI A.G.M 2010



Lina draws winning ticket in raffle



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No Limits Filming Vets for Channel 31



John, Richard and Kevin



Dave Buchanan receives his pen and badge for 10 yrs service to BDI at Dromana Rotary Jan 2011



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Some of BDI's members old & new



Bev & John McConville



Sylvia Lloyd



Kerry & Nhung Caughey



Shirley Miller



Lynn Roberts



Doug Field



John Weire

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Vale Guy Mirabella 2011:

Guy recently passed and will be missed. Guy was a long serving member of Beyond Disability. A Gentleman who was wheelchair bound but lived life without complaint.

(Colin Richmond)

Disabled go hi-tech

By Emma Sun

THREE ladies from the Cranbourne RSL each received a laptop computer this month from Beyond Disability to help them connect with the world.

About 30 people from the RSL turned up to the event and enjoyed lunch together.

Cranbourne RSL welfare officer John Richardson said the ladies, who weren't able to get out of their own homes, were thrilled at the donation, which had assisted them greatly in helping contact family and friends.

"It's been a great help to the three of them," he said.

"We also have an ongoing volunteer service that comes out and assists those who would like assistance with setting up computers. It opens up a whole new world to them."

Certificates and badges were also handed out to the many volunteers who had offered their service.

Shirley Miller, one of the recipients of a new computer who is housebound, said it was a great gesture.

"I haven't been using it very much; I have trouble with my eyes but they've given me the big screen computer, which was brilliant," she said.

"I am going to go with the other two



Shirley Miller, John Weire, Richard Stubbs from Beyond Disability, Cranbourne RSL welfare officer John Richardson, Brenda Gardiner and Sylvia Lloyd at the laptop handover at the Cranbourne RSL.

Picture: Stewart Chambers

ladies and do a course for beginners at the community centre to learn how to use it properly.

"I have ventured into a few of the things and I've run into a little bit of trouble but I am learning."

She said the computer would greatly assist her in maintaining contact with her family and the games would keep her entertained when she was at home.

"I have a grandson in Melton and I'll be able to talk to them and send them emails," she said.

"I'm so pleased about it and it's given me a new lease on life."

Beyond Disability is a local non-profit team of local volunteers who assist to bring housebound mobility disabled back into the community.

[Cranbourne News 26.5.11](#)

Banks make a difference

By Danielle Galvin

WORTHWHILE community groups and not-for-profit organisations are being supported by the Bendigo Bank's community branches.

On 9 August, the community company hosted a grant presentation evening to hand out cheques to clubs, sporting reserves and groups from Tooradin, Cranbourne and Pearcedale.

The Cranbourne Lions Choir and Beyond Disability were successful in their grant applications.

CEO of Beyond Disability

Richard Stubbs said that the grant will go a long way.

"We have been supported by Bendigo Community bank for many years both locally and from Rye since we help housebound physically disabled all over the peninsula," he said.

The funds are profits generated from the community bank branches in Lang Lang, Pearcedale, Kooweerup, Narre Warren South and Tooradin.

"This current funding will help us to sponsor locals who cannot afford a computer or the internet as disabled people have much higher living, medical and trans-

port costs."

Mr Stubbs said the rest of the funding will go towards training and reimbursing volunteers as well as upgrading some of the equipment.

Pearcedale Recreation Reserve and Tooradin Sports Club have also been given funding to buy automatic defibrillators, training packages on how to use the machines as well as triple zero registration.

In total, 61 community and sporting groups from Casey and Cardinia shire shared in just over \$278,000.



Pearcedale and Cranbourne community groups with their Bendigo Bank grants.



Missy inspects the new BDI workshop

**THANK
YOU**

*To everyone who
helps make the
BDI programme
the success that it is*