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1. *Xmas Message from SARU*
2. *Powerful Parents Self Advocacy Group*
3. *DARU, SARU and VDAN Conference Update*
4. *SARU Crossword*

### 1. *Xmas Message from SARU*

It is that time of the year again - Xmas seems to come around quicker every year. It has been an exciting year for self advocacy in Victoria and SARU would like to recognise self advocates who have worked hard throughout 2011 to make a difference to the lives of people with disabilities. SARU would also like to wish everyone a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to working with you all in 2012.

The SARU office will be closed from 16<sup>th</sup> December and re-open on 16<sup>th</sup> January. The good news is Jacqui Ward will be returning to work at the SARU on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan.

We would like to thank Jan Coles for filling in while Jacqui was away she did a fantastic job and she will still be around doing more "Get Into the Act" training for self advocacy groups in 2012.

### 2. *Powerful Parents Self Advocacy Group*

Susan Arthur from Reinforce has set up a self advocacy group for parents with an intellectual disability the group is called the Powerful Parents Self Advocacy Group. This is what Susan has to say about the group:

*"We are a group of parents who believe that most parents with an intellectual disability could have our children at home with us with support."*

Starting in February 2012 the group will meet on the first Wednesday of every second month

**Call Reinforce for more information on 9650 7855**



### 3. DARU, SARU and VDAN Conference Update

It is getting closer to the SARU, DARU, VDAN conference which is on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at the Melbourne Park Conference Centre. We are hoping to have members from all the self advocacy groups in Victoria at the conference. Some of the sessions SARU will be running include:

- Nothing About Us Without Us: from Across the Tasman a talk by Michael Aldridge and Cindy Johns about People First New Zealand



- Strength in Numbers: a talk about setting up a Victorian Self Advocacy Network



- My House My Home My Rights : a talk about your rights in a CRU by Colin Hiscoe from Reinforce



- United Brains a network of self advocacy and support groups for people with an ABI will talk about the issues people with an ABI face. They will also be officially launching United Brains so come along for a bit of a party



- The Victorian Deafblind Self Advocacy Group: will run Deafblind World a session where you get a hands on experience of what it is like to be deaf and blind.



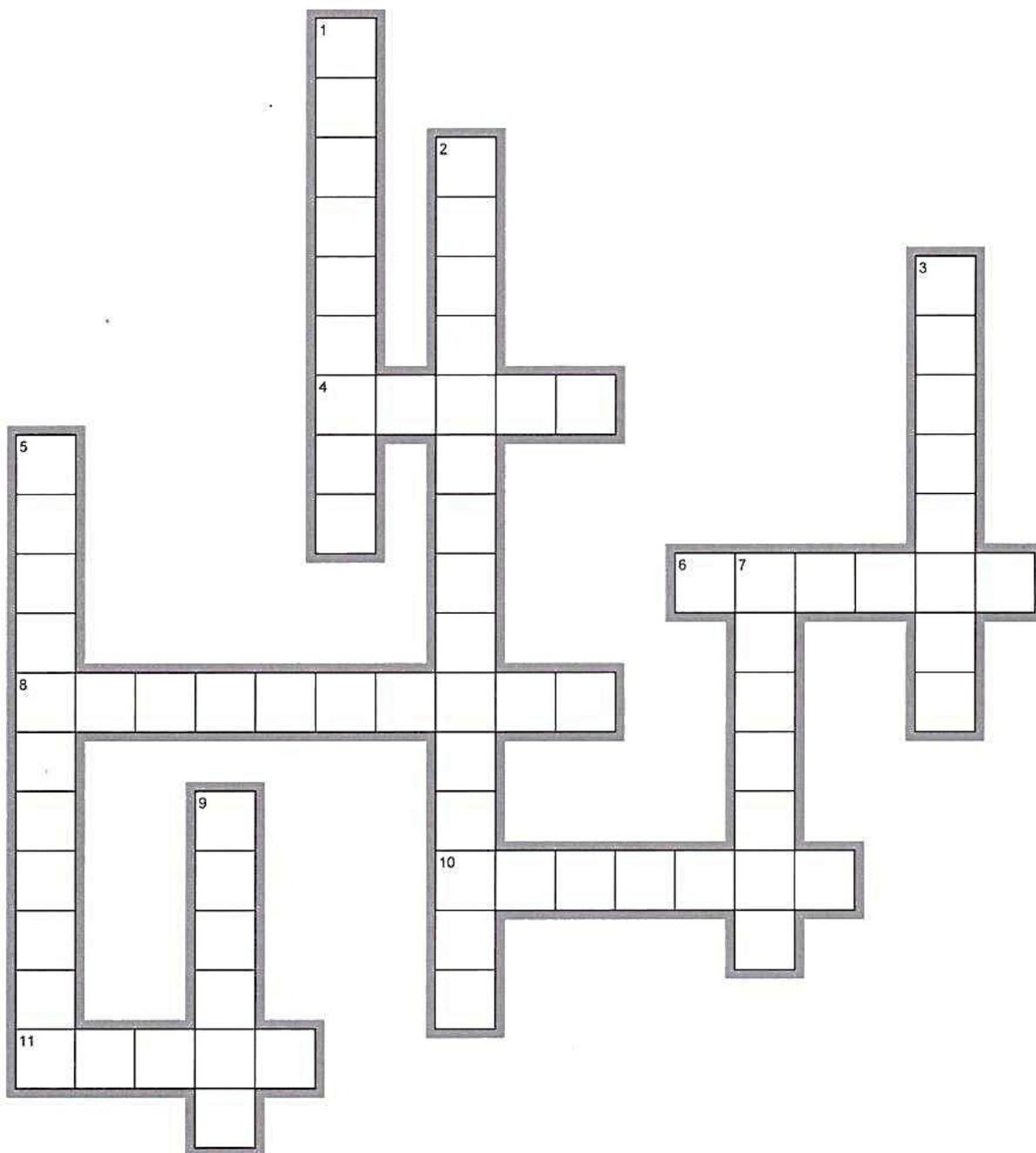
There will be lots of other interesting talks at the conference - so we hope to see you there. To find out more about registering for the conference contact SARU Ph: 9639-6856

### 6. SARU Crossword

On the next page is the SARU crossword. Have a go and see what you think. If your group would like to make a crossword for our next e-memo or for your own newsletter contact the SARU.



# Xmas 2011



EclipseCrossword.com

## Across

4. The SARU/DARU/DAN conference is in this month
6. .... Brains
8. Self advocates from this country will be talking at the conference.
10. Self advocacy groups are thinking about setting up one of these.
11. Self advocates would like .... rights in their Xmas stocking

## Down

1. Merry .....
2. .... self advocacy group is a new group set up by Reinforce
3. Watch out for these on your roof at Xmas time
5. A longtime member of Reinforce
7. There is strength in .....
9. Name of the sea that separates New Zealand and Australia