



Ground Floor Ross House
247 Flinders Lane Melbourne



Ph: 9639-6856



<mailto:saru@rosshouse.org.au>

Self Advocacy Resource Unit

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1. *Self Advocates meet with Arthur Rogers*

On May 31st over 40 self advocates from all over Victoria met with Arthur Rogers the Executive Director of Disability Services DHS. Arthur has agreed to meet with self advocates at least three times a year.

"Best meeting I have been to bloody fantastic"

Greg Axten Reinforce



Some of the issues raised with Arthur included:

- People's rights in group homes
- Relationship rights
- Importance of self advocacy training
- Shortage of funding for self advocacy groups
- Lack of access of interpreters for people who are deafblind
- Need to raise community awareness about the needs of people with an ABI
- Problems with public transport and taxis
- Need for people to have the support and freedom they require to have an active nightlife
- Lack of access to independent accommodation
- Closing institutions
- Need for rights education for people with disabilities and the community



2. DARU, SARU and VDAN Conference

Great news planning has begun for the DARU/SARU/VDAN conference which will be held on: **March 26 and March 27 2012** at the Melbourne Park Conference Centre. The theme of the conference is:

YOU BE THE JUDGE - Disability Advocacy and the Legal System

SARU will be running a self advocacy stream at the conference and we would love to hear from groups what other topics you think should be discussed at the conference. SARU will again be able to offer some financial support for members of self advocacy groups to attend the conference (details later in the year). **So lock it in your diary now!**



3. New Resource

Check out the latest SARU training resource:

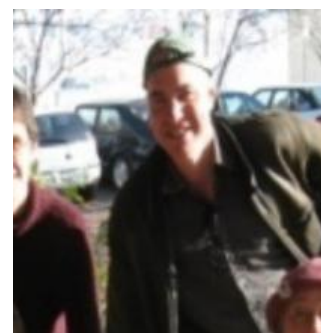
“Have a Go at Public Speaking”

It is a PowerPoint presentation that includes top tips to help make speaking in public easier. You can download the training for free from the SARU website www.saru.net.au



4. In Memory of Andrew Green

It is with great sadness that I let people know that Andrew Green has passed away. Andrew was a member of the WESABI self advocacy group and was also the voice of the animated character Jim Spin who features in the SARU DVD and the Get into the Act DVD. He had a passion for the rights of all people and was an enthusiastic supporter of self advocacy. Our condolences to his friends and family he will be sadly missed.



5. What's On

Diversity N Disability (DnD) are running two great projects people may be interested in attending. DnD is a self advocacy group for people with disabilities from an ethnic background.

Discover the Artist in you!

These sessions are a chance for people with a disability to explore and discover their own creative expression. We will explore various approaches to drawing, painting, printmaking and creative collage leading onto much more. At the end of 15 sessions there will be an exhibition open to the general public where your artworks will be on display. This is a great opportunity to discover the artist in you!

Date: Every 2nd Friday **Time:** 10.30am to 12.30pm

Where: Migrant Resource Centre North West – 45 Main Rd West, St Albans (opposite St Albans train station)

RSVP: Email: christian@mrcnorthwest.org.au Phone: 9367 6044



Exciting Free Yoga Sessions

This class is tailored for people of all abilities to give an opportunity to relax, look at yourself and the world around you in a different and positive way. Come and try it out and if you like it, you can join the class. These sessions are specially targeted towards ethnic people with a disability but everyone is welcome.

Time: 10.30am to 11.30am

Dates: Monday 1st Monday 15th August Monday 29th August

Where: Migrant Resource Centre 45 Main Road West, St Albans

RSVP: Email: christian@mrcnorthwest.org.au Phone: 9367 6044



6. Update from Kirabati

Jacqui has sent an update on the work she is doing in the Pacific Island country Kirabati. Jacqui is on 12 months leave from SARU and working with a disabled persons organisation in Kirabati. The group she is working with is called **Te Toa Matoa**. Brenda from AFDO is also there.



Members of the group are very talented they write plays, compose lyrics and perform. They travel around the different islands using music and theatre to promote disability rights and raise community awareness. They are also involved in the broader community such as the National Women's Federation. There are very few support services for people with disabilities in Kirabati and they support each other. They are strong supporters of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability but unfortunately their government hasn't signed the Convention yet.



7. Funding Opportunities

Grant: William Buckland Foundation - ANZ Charitable Trusts

Closing Date: 1 September 2011

The Foundation provides support for activities, organisations and projects that create lasting public benefit for the Victorian community. In particular it focuses on health and community wellbeing, particularly children and young people. Get more information and the guidelines from the following link:
www.anz.com/personal/private-bank-trustees/trustees/apply-grant/named-charitable-trusts/



7. Funding Opportunities cont.

Grant: State Trustees **Closing Date:** 31 August 2011

The State trustees are seeking applications for grants under the following categories

1. Older people and aged care
2. Physical disability
3. Psychiatric illness, intellectual disability and acquired brain injury

Get more information and the guidelines from the following link:
www.statetrustees.com.au/state-trustees-australia-foundation



Grant: Sidney Myer Fund **Closing Date:** Ongoing

The Sidney Myer supports projects that benefit the Australian community, and projects that strengthen communities facing disadvantage. Get more information and the guidelines from the following link:



<http://www.myerfoundation.org.au/programs/content.cfm?loadref=39>

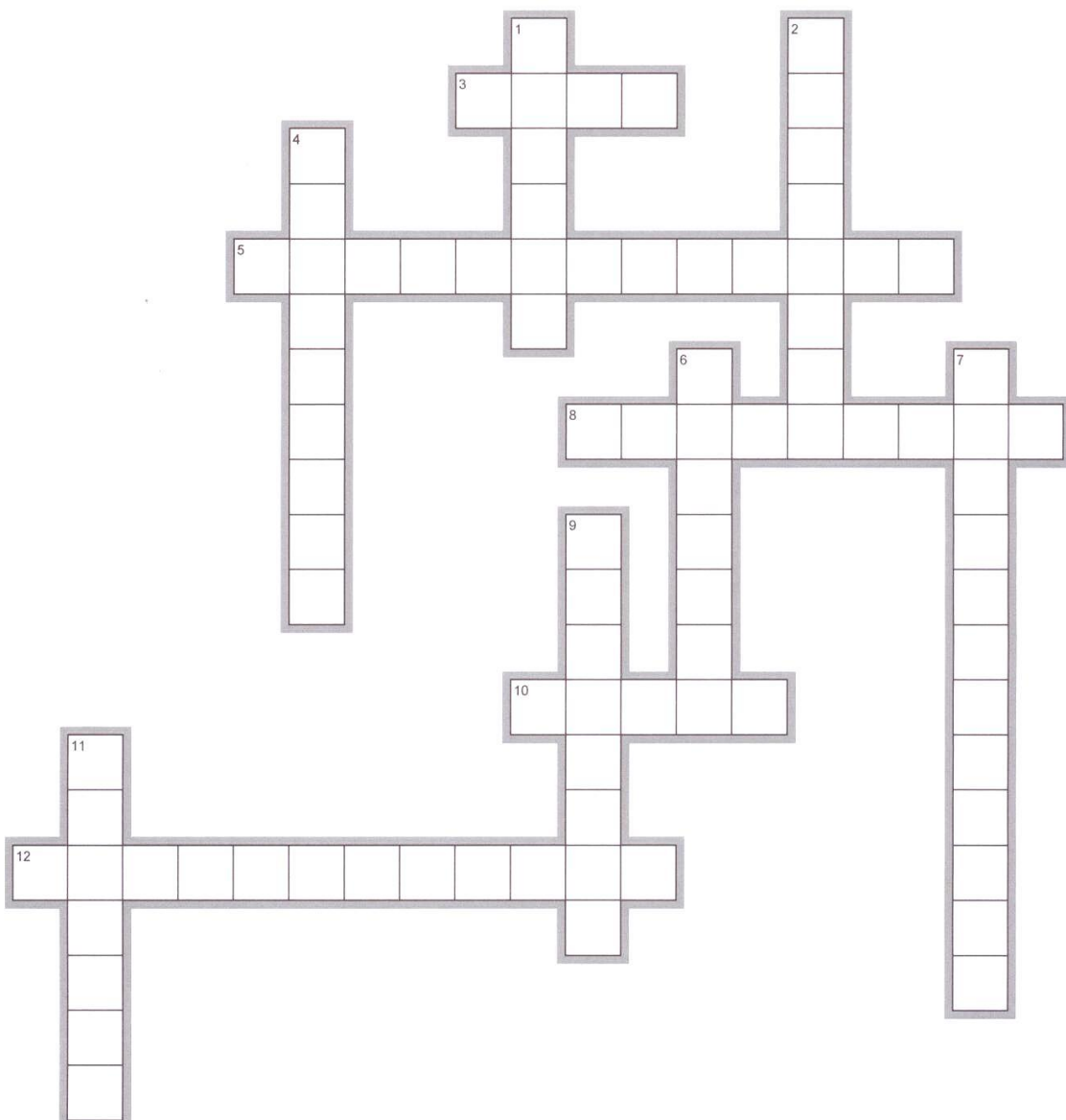
8. SARU Crossword

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.

If your group is having a special event let us know and we will put it in the E-Memo email us you info. You can also help us by letting us know:

- what you think of the memo
- how we can improve or make the memo better
- things you would like to read in the memo

July 11



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

- 3. This exercise helps you to relax
- 5. The SARU/DARU/VDAN conference theme is . . .
- 8. People with disabilities want accessible public
- 10. The SARU/DARU/VDAN conference will be in this month
- 12. Many self advocates want all of these to close

Down

- 1. Every Australian
- 2. The SARU Office is in this lane
- 4. Every emmo has one of these in it
- 6. Kirabati is in this ocean
- 7. The Executive Director of Disability Services
- 9. The latest SARU traininkg kit is about public
- 11. Many self advocacy groups need more of this