



TAHPC NEWS

The Newsletter of the Tasmanian Association for Hospice and Palliative Care Inc.

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Councillors - South	Denise Ray	
	Sally Bonde	
	Angela Bresnehan	
Councillor - North	Sarah Coulson	
	Frank Reynolds	
Councillor – North West	Denise Lloyd	
<i>To contact any of our Councillors please email secretary@tahpc.org.au</i>		

President's Report

Jenny Lowns & Jane Jupe – Joint Outgoing Presidents

The Tasmanian Association for Hospice & Palliative Care Inc (TAHPC) is the peak body for palliative care in Tasmania, with the aims of promoting palliative care within Tasmania and providing education to both professionals and the general community.

Three years ago TAHPC wrote a strategic plan and sought funding to offer these education programs to a wider audience of people. As you know we succeeded beyond our expectations. We had a proposal ready to go when the Australian Government launched the Better Access to Palliative Care in Tasmania program (BAPC) and were granted \$2.66 million to raise community awareness of the benefits of palliative care, and increase understanding of end of life care. This demonstrated a confidence in our organisation, which we have been able to meet well beyond their expectations.

Our Networking End of Life Care Across Tasmania Project has gone from strength to strength this year. We have delivered education and information to more than 3000 Tasmanians, and 104 hours of community-based education, well over the targets the Australian Government has set.



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Additionally the Tassie Communities Talk Death Forum held in May 2015 was a huge success and TAHPC would like to run a similar event in the future, if we have the funding.

We would like to thank all the staff who have worked incredibly hard over this last year: Colleen our Project General Manager, Jenny our Education and Community Facilitator who did a great job in arranging the Community Forum. Also our Project Officers, Lynne and Sharon, and Christina the office administrator, who seems to keep adding jobs to her load. Pete, the project accountant has managed the finances with unflappable efficiency, in partnership with TAHPC's Treasurer. Thanks also to Anna, Tracy and Christobel who were employed previously with the project. And a welcome to Marnie who joined the project in July and who has what we consider an impossible task in pulling statistics together and writing reports for Government.

This exciting project has raised TAHPC's profile significantly in the last year and we would like to welcome all the new members who have joined, and thank our longer-term members for their continuing loyalty. We welcomed three new Council members this year, Kent Herne our Treasurer, and Denise Lloyd and Dale Eastley as general Council members.

2014-15 also saw a change in our administrative support for Council. Rose Grubits retired after six years with us. Rose has been unfailingly reliable and extremely competent, to the extent that she even assisted in the recruitment process and handover to her replacement which has resulted in a seamless transition to Melissa who started in June. Melissa works from home in the North so we have only met online so far!

TAHPC has commenced strategic planning for the next three years. All Councillors are committed to building on the work of the BAPC project, particularly within the area of informing the wider community about the benefits of palliative care and advance care directives. The BAPC program has raised community expectations, and we need to build on that. Moving into the new financial year, the new Council will have the opportunity to implement our future focus.

The end of the Federal Government's \$55 million BAPC funding in June 2015 will be a challenge for Tasmania, but an opportunity for TAHPC, which now has a proven track record in developing and delivering successful programs. Finally, we would like to particularly thank all the Councillors for their support of our Joint Presidency, for turning up at meetings, making a lot of hard decisions and being such a great group of people to work with. We will be resigning as Joint Presidents this year and wish our successor good wishes and good luck as TAHPC continues to develop.

To access a copy of the Annual Report please visit our website at www.tahpc.org.au



TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION FOR HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE INC.

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AGM Report

TAHPC was formed in 1995 so this is our 20th year! Our AGM was held at the Grange in Campbell Town on October 10th. We are grateful to all those who came, both the local people and to those who journeyed from around the state to be there.

We covered the usual business of an AGM and the Presidents report for the year 2014-15 is included in this newsletter.

We were very pleased to elect a new President, Dale Eastley. Dale has spent the last 15 years as a CEO in the aged care and disability sector. He is an accountant and company director and was most recently the CEO of the MS Society of Tasmania. He retired in April 2015 and joined TAHPC Council soon after. He is also a member of the Tasmanian Council of Social Service Board.

Also elected were:

Frank Reynolds	Vice-President
Kent Herne	Treasurer
Jane Jupe	Secretary
Jenny Lowns	Minute Secretary
Madeleine Ball	a newly-elected Councillor
Angela Bresnehan	Councillor
Denise Ray	Councillor
Sally Bonde	Councillor
Denise Lloyd	Councillor



2015-16 Council Members

Sarah Coulson has resigned from Council due to competing demands on her time, and we thank her very much for her input over the last year.

Project General Manager Report

The 2014-15 Financial Year was a very busy and highly productive year for the Tasmanian Association for Hospice & Palliative Care (TAHPC).

Halfway through the year we underwent an organisation change to ensure the right structure was in place in order to continue and improve the great work TAHPC is achieving across Tasmanian communities.

The team has undergone a process of renewal with the employment of a new Northern Project Officer, a new Administrative Assistant, Strategic Networks Coordinator, and Project General Manager. These positions complement our existing North West Project Officer and Education and Community Facilitator position. It is pleasing to report that, while the restructure resulted in one position being made redundant, overall one additional net full time equivalent position was added to the team.

A testament to our team are the outcomes they have achieved while undergoing this process of renewal:

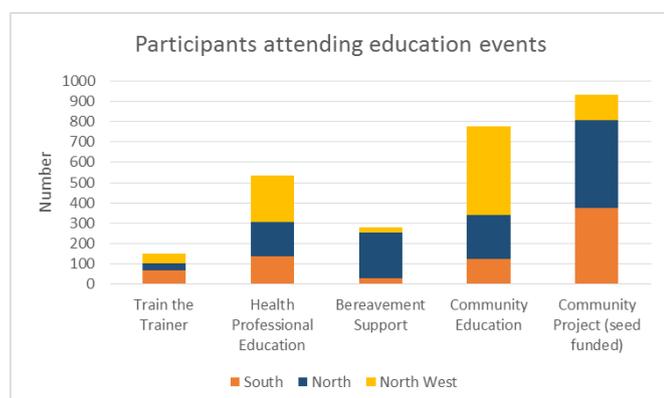
- 3,051 participants in TAHPC led and funded education, information and community development activities (see Figure One);
- \$293, 515 provided to community organisations for activities to improve death literacy, assist communities through grief and bereavement, and increase the number of people completing advance care directives;
- Partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services (Better Access to Palliative Care Team) and the District Nurses (Hospice@Home Program) to deliver the highly successful *Tassie Communities Talking Death* forum;



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- Hugely successful seminars in the North and South by the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement;
- Hugely successful seminars in the North West by Michael and Ann Barbato; and
- Building stronger working relationships with a number of Tasmanian peak health bodies.



The bulk and breadth of this work demonstrates the commitment the TAHPC team has to helping Tasmanians increase their understanding of palliative care, dying, and advance care planning. By increasing community understanding more people are becoming aware that palliative care is everybody's business.

It must be noted that none of this great work would be possible without the Australian Government's support through the Better Access to Palliative Care in Tasmania project.



Colleen Johnstone

Conference Diary

Indigenous Conference to be held in Darwin during 2015

2015 National Indigenous Health Conference will be held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Cairns and scheduled for 1-3 December, 2015

World AIDS day – December 1, 2016

World Volunteers Day – December 5, 2016

Victorian State Conference

July 28th and 29th, 2016 in Melbourne
"Inside, Outside – keeping the essence of Palliative Care alive"

The National Palliative Care Conference 2017

Will be held in Adelaide

National Palliative Care Conference: Fit for the Future

I was fortunate to be able to go to the 13th National Palliative Care Conference in Melbourne in September. It was stimulating to be part of such a huge and successful conference, with over 800 registrants, interesting poster presentations and the chance to talk to colleagues old and new. The keynote speakers were excellent. I especially enjoyed Dr Christian Sinclair from University of Kansas Medical Centre, USA who spoke about the role of social networking in health and asked us all to "like" the conference on Facebook and twitter. By the end of the 3 days there had been 4165 tweets and it was reckoned information could have reached 600.000 people. He noted that social media offers the opportunity to create new ways to reach the broader community with information about palliative care.



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Sara Fleming from the Womens and Childrens Health Network spoke of the preference for young families to receive information via email and to get answers to questions in this way rather than through appointments in outpatients. Other keynote speakers included Gail Eva, an occupational therapist from the UK who is passionate about keeping the personality, hopes and aspirations of individual patients in the forefront of our minds as we offer care and advice, Prof David Currow and Ass Prof Katrina Anderson from the ANU who spoke on teaching empathy as part of the medical student curriculum. There were 2 presentations in the sphere of aboriginal health which I particularly enjoyed, both describing innovations in practice to alleviate the tyranny of distance, poor housing conditions and lack of equipment. Slides showing the nurses' 4 wheel drive bogged in deep sand made a salient point! As did talk of people living hundreds of kilometres from the health centre.

From Tasmania, Fran McInerney from the Wicking Research centre gave us insights into palliative care for people with dementia and Sarah Coulson, one of TAHPC's Councillors, gave an excellent presentation on caring for a palliative client in a group home – both of these demonstrating the flexibility of palliative care practitioners to adapt their practice to less usual situations, and work with staff not necessarily conversant with managing a palliative client or dying person.

The newly produced DVD "Little Stars: achieving the extraordinary in the face of serious illness" was shown for the first time at the Conference. It's a beautifully made film about paediatric palliative care, and the filmmakers hope it can be screened to raise awareness that children are an often forgotten group of the population who need to access palliative care. TAHPC has 3 copies of the DVD if any member would like to access it.

I much appreciated the support of the TAHPC's Networking End of Life Care project in funding me to go to this conference.

Jane Jupe

Paper Garments for the Grave

Offering effective grief and loss support to others while also caring for yourself

The exhibition of TAHPC's project on Paper Garments from the Grave will be exhibited at

Rosny Barn, Rosny Hill Rd, Rosny
from
October 24th – Nov 15th 2015
11am to 5pm, Wed to Sunday

The exhibition is the work of 12 artists, curated by Kitty Taylor

This fantastic project has already been shown in Burnie, Launceston and on the mainland, and this is the last opportunity to see the garments all together before they return to the artists. Members are encouraged to attend.