



# Wise Words for a Back Bending Life

## Brain Injury Matters Newsletter

### December 2010

### Issue 2

It has been a while since the first newsletter was published but keep in mind the phrase 'quality not quantity'.

A couple of events have happened; like the Federal Election and 'The Other Film Festival'. On Page 5 there is an update on Omabi, Wesabi and Brain Injury Awareness Week and a Self Advocacy networking day. There has also been a series of writing workshops that produced from the closet Sylvia Plaths and Sartres ... watch out for their pieces on the DiVine site <http://www.divine.vic.gov.au/main-site/home>. To finish Lisa has created a fun crossword...(Here's a hint the clues all relate to BIM, Self Advocacy or human rights)Test yourself on Page 6 and see how BIM savvy you are!!

#### Editorial

My 15 year old son and I have a love/hate relationship. On the hate side he has the usual shortcomings shared by most adolescents, an almost pathological dislike of the word 'homework' never mind the real thing, an urgent and overt desire for the utmost privacy and an acute embarrassment felt whenever he's in the company of his mother in public.

He sometimes takes advantage of my disabilities. For example I can't run, a fact he shamelessly exploits.

But I adore him. He is my unpaid carer, one whom I have no qualms in semi-abusing as a moron, a half-wit, an idiot. It goes without saying that I currently don't have a partner.

When he was younger of course I was much younger too and totally physically able to cope with the demands of a toddler and young child (he never ran away from me, I think he just understood not to). Now that I am older and have the accompanying aches and pains that all pre-geriatrics experience he has been invaluable in so many ways. ie. Bouncing up and fetching things for me, hauling me up from an ungainly position on the ground, I cannot think of all the things he does for me. Just suffice to say I feel safe with him around, that's not to say I feel unsafe when he's absent, I don't. I just feel safer with his presence. I've just realized, earlier I told him I was writing an article about him. Now re-reading it I hope he's forgotten about it. While he knows I love him I would not wish him to read this and get a big head!

Peta Ferguson

INTERVIEW  
With  
Lesley Hall CEO of AFDO  
(Australian Federation of Disability Organisations)



Peta Ferguson President of BIM asked Lesley:  
“What do you think is important for people  
to know about the Federal Government and  
Disability policy?”



This is some of what Lesley said were important issues....

The National Disability Strategy: Australia has ratified the UNCRPD (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities). The Convention sets out what governments should be doing. The UNCRPD is NOT based on a medical model it is a Social model. There are 33 Articles in the UNCRPD.

One of the ways that the government is implementing the UNCRPD is through the National Disability Strategy. The NDS takes a ‘whole of life’ approach, it is to be delivered across all governments and all departments, for example sports, arts, employment and education.

**Peta:** How is the Convention monitored? What if countries don’t implement it correctly?

**Lesley:** The Australian government reports to the United Nations itself but also NGOs (Non-Govt. Organisations) and DPOs (Disabled People’s Organisations) report. There is a working party that has been going for 2yrs. There is also a ‘Shadow Report’ that advises the UN committee. The Convention is not the full answer it should be seen as only part of a ‘tool kit’ to improve the rights of people with a disability.

**Peta:** Tell me more about the UNCRPD Committee. Are there people with disabilities on the committee?

**Lesley:** Yes there are people with disabilities. Not every country has a rep though, it is organised in 'blocks' and Australia is in the 'Western' block. Ronald McCullum from Australia was Chairman but he is now retired. I think that Article 12 is an important Article in the Convention as it talks about supported decision making.

**Here is a link to a simple version of the convention:**

<http://www.africandecade.org/convention/First%20Draft%20-%20UN%20Convention%20articles%20simplified%20screen.pdf>

**Information about the Shadow Report here:**

<http://www.afdo.org.au/node/321>

The National Disability Insurance Scheme. AFDO supports the idea of a National Disability Insurance Scheme but there are two important aspects to consider:

- **Financing:** Will there be enough money to fund the scheme? How will the money be raised, for example it could be paid in a similar way to Medicare
- **What will the money be spent on?:** This is still under discussion. It means things like individualised or tailored supports? AFDO supports a 'Disability Inclusion Allowance' that you can spend how you want and you would still get the Disability Pension

There is more information about the National Disability Insurance Scheme on the AFDO website here:

<http://www.afdo.org.au/http://www.afdo.org.au/>



Other things that AFDO consider important to people with disabilities are:

- The Disability Discrimination Act. Access, Transport and Education are the first 3 standards to be rolled out.
- The Disability Employment Services have been improved There used to be a waiting list, now no more.
- Review of Australian Disability Enterprises. Currently there is a consultation going on called the '10 year Vision'
- Centrelink – Is revising the Impairment Tables
- National Mental Health Employment Strategy
- National Arts & Disability Strategy – Inclusive Practices
- Accessible Cinemas
- Communication – The Australian Consumer Advocacy Network
- Aviation Access – Federal Government Working Group

## What's Been Happening

**HUGE CONGRATULATIONS!!**  
**Everybody Clap!!!**

Ange Barker

**Young Victorian of the Year**



Have a look at her story

<http://www.buildingbetterlives.org.au/wp-content/uploads/BENWed4Nov24-1.pdf>

### **Brain Injury Awareness Week**

This year it was in August and the main event was at the Melbourne Town Hall. It was a great day with speakers, a inspired performance from BIM's own Ross Cottee and an open mic session, where many people with an ABI got up and told about their experiences.

BIM's 'El Presidente' Peta Ferguson has recovered from her semi-significant electric bicycle accident (still not too late for Get Well gifts!! lol)

If you have any information or know of activities that promote the rights of people with an ABI email them to BIM Newsletter group – [bim\\_statewide@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bim_statewide@yahoo.com.au)

## What's Coming Up

### **BIM/SARU Meeting**

Next Committee meeting 13<sup>th</sup> January.

### **ABI Networking Meeting**

Friday 28th January 2011

11-3pm. A day for members of ABI self advocacy groups and support groups who promote the rights of people with an ABI. Groups will talk about their common issues. For more info or to RSVP contact Jacqui at SARU. 9639 6856

### **Peninsula Support Group – A Bright Idea**

Meets first Wednesday of the month 1-3pm. Contact Maureen Vernal, Liaise Team Leader 5990 1648

### **Brain Strength – Support Group.**

Meet every Thursday 1-3pm at Berwick Neighbourhood Centre, 112 High St. Berwick. Contact: Paula Correla 9796 1970

**WESABI** – Meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month 12-2pm. Next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> January will be a photography workshop.

Contact: Larissa 9687 3231

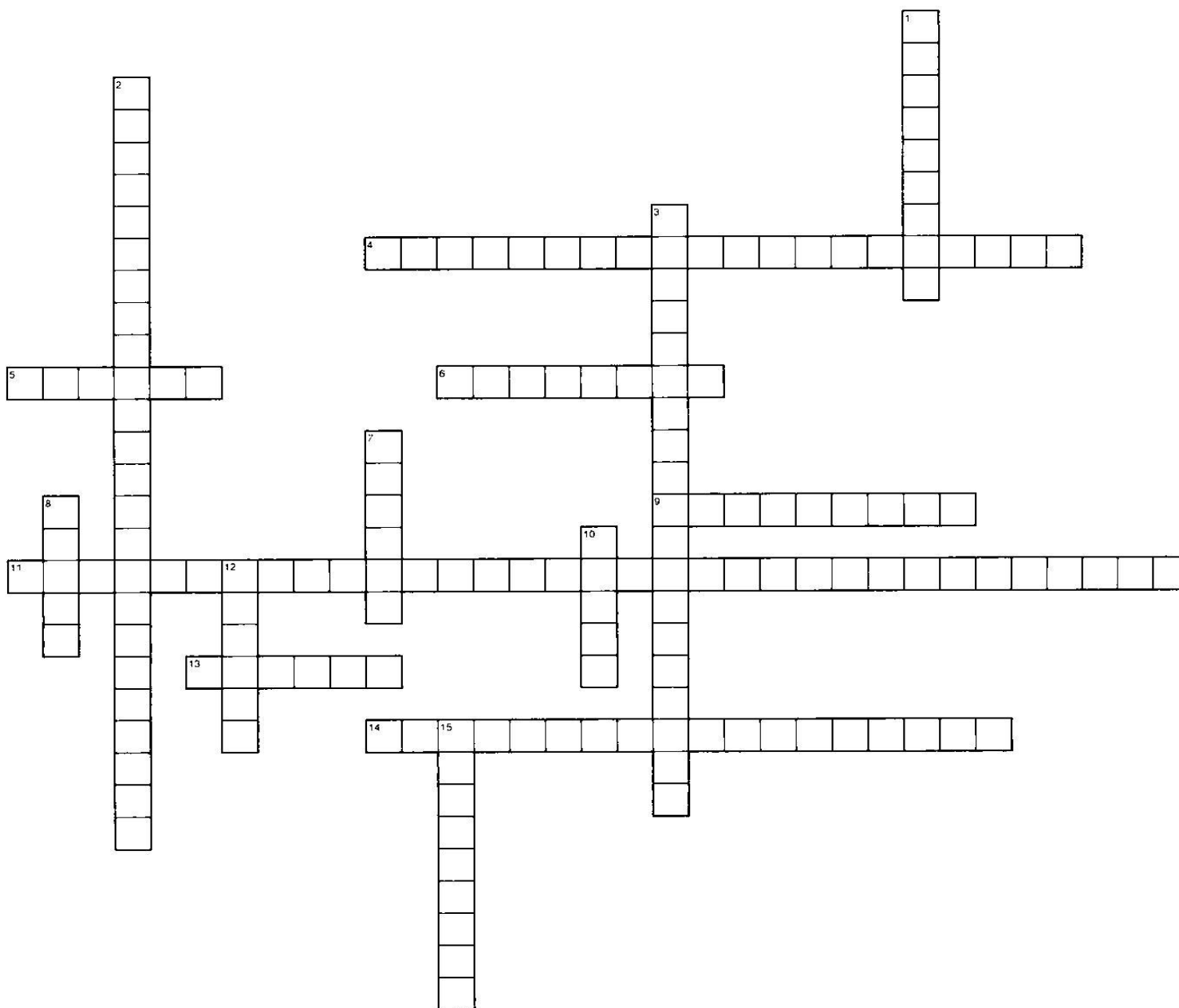
**OMABI** – Singing and chanting group. Meet every Friday at Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane. Melb.

Contact: Lyn MacDonald  
9639 7222



# BIM Issue No2

Lisa



EclipseCrossword.com

## Across

4. What does TBi stand for?
5. Name an online disability site?
6. What does Peta's son 'pathologically dislike'?
9. Name the building BIM is in?
11. What does NDIS stand for?
13. Name of a Self Advocacy group in the Western suburbs?
14. What does BIM stand for?

## Down

1. Peta Ferguson is the ..... of BIM
2. What does NDS stand for?

3. What does ABI stand for?
7. What month was Brain Injury Awareness Week?
8. The name of an ABI singing group?
10. The ..... Film Festival
12. The Parthenon is situated in which former home town of BIM member Lisa?
15. Who is Victoria's Young Australian of the Year for 2011?



Would you like to help with the newsletter? It usually involves a couple of meetings to plan what is going to be in the newsletter, we need people to write articles, type up articles, help with layout, check spelling, print and mail. If you would like to give it a go email: [pfergs@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pfergs@optusnet.com.au)

BIM is based in Ross House,  
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BIM is run for and by people with an ABI.

Thanks to the BIM Newsletter group of Peta, Lisa and Larissa.

