



## **BARRIER BREAKERS INC**

*Inc No A00 487 21F ABN 35 677 151 893*

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008**

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**The Annual General Meeting of Barrier Breakers Inc held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 in the Kath Teychenne Centre 11-13 Breed Street, Traralgon.**

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#### **Our Mission**

**Barrier Breakers Inc believes that the delivery of appropriate services to the mentally ill in the Gippsland region is inadequate and disadvantages those people most in need of treatment, care and support.**

**Barrier Breakers is determined to facilitate an improvement in the services provided to those suffering from mental illness in the Gippsland region.**

## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

## SECTION 1

**Chairman:** Bob Faulkner

**Secretary:** Derek Amos

**Treasurer:** Ian Johnston

**Ordinary Members:**

- Dr Daryl Ham
- Dr Fred Edwards
- Lyn Douglas
- Toni Ham \*
- Hilton Gruis \*
- Geoff Newby
- Neville Penrose

**Returning Officer:** Harvey Pynt

\* Toni Ham resigned from the Committee by letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008

\* Hilton Gruis resigned from the Committee by letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008

## CHAIRMANS REPORT

## SECTION 2

This has been a year of progress for the team at Barrier Breakers! I am delighted to have the opportunity to present the second Chairman's Report to you all.

Looking back on this year's achievements there are a number of progressive items that further develop the capacity of our organisation to meet its stated purpose and a number of items that are directly in line with our stated purpose. Some of those items are:

1. We continued to engage with Medical and Mental Health professionals throughout Gippsland.
2. We continued to engage with many mental health consumers.
3. We strengthened our links with numerous Service Providers in and around the mental health profession throughout Gippsland.
4. Our grant application to the Reichstein Foundation was successful
5. We engaged a researcher, Cheryl Wragg who completed the research into the extent and effectiveness of mental health services in Gippsland. This document was supported by our funding from the Reichstein Foundation and will be a very significant document in the next twelve months.
6. We employed Louise McKendry as our Administration Support Secretary, who researched and compiled the first ever data base and Directory of mental health service providers in Gippsland. A key objective of Barrier Breakers!!
7. Derek and I toured the entire mental health facility at the LRH
8. We completed a submission for the Commonwealth Inquiry into employment opportunities and services for people with disabilities.
9. We completed a submission for the State Government Inquiry into mental health services (Barrier Breakers response to the Green Paper).
10. We have completed a request for funding for the provision of housing for people suffering from mental health issues to both State and Federal Governments.
11. We have continued dialogue with State and Federal Government Ministers, MP's and other Government agencies.

I think these achievements are substantial yet there is more, much more to be done. We have a number hard working people who sacrifice a great deal of their personal and business time to help our organisation achieve its stated purpose. The first person most worthy of our very grateful thanks is the Barrier Breakers secretary, Derek Amos who has again been overwhelmingly generous with his time and without whom we would not have progressed in the way we have. Derek and his wife have been trying to retire for some time now and we have been very lucky to have him continue working with us. Thank you again this year, Derek, I am most grateful for your support.

Ian Johnson is more than a treasurer for Barrier Breakers. He is a regular contributor to our meetings and always with a down-to-earth common sense approach that sends us off into a proper direction. I very much enjoy Ian's clarity of thought. Again this year Ian has not only kept an eye on the books but he has ensured that we are compliant with Association laws etc. Again, thank you Ian.

Daryl Ham is someone I learn from every time we meet. Daryl's advice to Barrier Breakers is extremely valuable and I thank him very much indeed.

Thank you also to Cheryl Wragg who completed our initial research project. Not an easy project and Cheryl persistently persevered and completed our requirements very well indeed – thank you Cheryl.

Louise McKendry who has met a number of challenges for us this year including meeting with consumers, re-directing consumers, supporting Cheryl, supporting Derek and myself, completing numerous administration tasks and she still found time to research and complete our data-bank Directory of mental health service providers in Gippsland. Thankyou Louise.

Early in the year Toni Ham and Hilton Gruis resigned from our board and I thank these two people very much for their contribution to Barrier Breakers. Tony was a founding member and a driving force in the establishment of the organisation. Tony still contributes to our cause in other ways and we thank her for that. We will miss Hilton of course for his expert knowledge about indigenous issues surrounding mental health service provision but I am pleased to say he has offered his contact details and encouraged us to consult him on any indigenous issues that may arise. Thank you Hilton for your past contribution and for your continuing advice.

We now welcome Geoff Newby and Neville Penrose to our Board. Both these people bring extensive management, governance and other life experiences to our organisation. Geoff has great experience as Superintendent of Police here in Gippsland and Neville as Regional Director of the Dept. of Sustainability and Environment. I am very much looking forward to working with each of them.

Thanks again to our corporate sponsors who have generously supported us again this year, including Telstra, Chris Humphrey Office National and Latrobe City. Thank you to many other businesses and individuals who have signed up as sponsors for Barrier Breakers. We would be lost without you.

Looking forward, there will be many challenges that the existing mental health service structure will place before us, and we are keen to meet those challenges. We now have a well researched document that we will launch and share with Government – Federal, State and Local. In fact we will share our findings with anyone who is interested – we are keen to present our findings and make them public. For this we need additional funding.

Regular funding is the life blood that will allow us to complete our work. We are continuing our search for ongoing funding that will support us in our task. Our urgent priority in the next twelve months is to present our case to Government and other organisations that may be able to fund us on an ongoing basis. As you can see we can show much from our first two years of operation. We hope now that our representations will be successful.

Appropriate facilities and systems for people with mental health issues will support their full and appropriate inclusion in our community – this is what makes our work so vitally important.

**Bob Faulkner**  
Chairman - 2008

**Presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 10 September 2008.**

We are all well aware of the old saying, "hasn't time flown". Well, while it seems that the older one gets, the faster go the passing of the months, it really does feel that it was only recently that we were gathering in this very same room for the 2006-2007 Annual General Meeting.

It has been a very busy 12 months (perhaps that's the main reason why the year seems to have gone so quickly) and I believe we have achieved much in pursuing our objectives.

The Preamble to the Statement of Purposes and Objects of Barrier Breakers states –

*"Barrier Breakers Inc believes that the delivery of appropriate services to the mentally ill in the Gippsland region is inadequate and disadvantages those people most in need of treatment, care and support. Barrier Breakers Inc is determined to facilitate an improvement in the services provided to those suffering from mental illness in the Gippsland region".*

The first 9 of the 13 clauses of the Statement then explain our principal objectives and they provide the base for any measure of our progress in the past year. I am therefore pleased to report considerable progress, despite how quickly this past year has gone.

**Objective 1.** - *"To establish and maintain an information network and data-bank"* . Major tasks, associated with this objective, have been undertaken with the base for the "information network" and data-bank established. These tasks were achieved through the research and development works that were funded by the Reichstein Foundation.

**Objective 2.** - *"To consult widely"*. Consultation with a wide number of consumers continued throughout the year. This consultation occurred during the work on the Reichstein funded research projects and also during the course of our on-going personal advocacy program. We will also be extending this consultative process in individual case studies as a major component of a new research project we have been funded to undertake by a grant from the Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA).

**Objective 3.** - *“To protect the dignity of those people with a mental illness-“*. Unfortunately, the stigma attached to mental illness continues to exist and not a great deal of dignity can be maintained if mental health sufferers continue to be denied appropriate treatment and live in sub-standard accommodation. Despite these difficulties, we strive to restore dignity and promote and protect the human and civil rights of all those who access our personal advocacy program. To this end, we have developed and established privacy policy and information release documentation to protect the privacy of those who seek our help.

**Objective 4.** - *“To improve the quality of life –“*. While it is obvious that mental health sufferers in the Gippsland region need major reform of the system before real quality of life changes can be made, we continue to assist sufferers and their families with our personal advocacy program.

**Objective 5.** - *“To address the needs of those with a mental illness-“*. This on-going objective has received considerable attention during the past 12 months from both our systemic and individual advocacy programs. This work included research, submission preparation and presentation to state and federal government inquiries/reviews. We submitted a major response to the state government’s Green Paper, “Because Mental Health Matters”, the government’s proposals for reform of the mental health system and we also presented a submission in response to the federal government’s inquiry into “National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy”. Of course, our personal advocacy program also continues to address the needs of mental health sufferers on a case by case basis.

**Objective 6.** – *“To Achieve best quality outcomes-“*. Our submissions towards reform of the mental health system and our representations to governments are all about implementing changes in the effectiveness and delivery of mental health services that do provide best quality outcomes.

**Objective 7.** *“To establish appropriate bench marks for determining the adequacy of the budgetary provision -“*. While a great deal of work remains to be undertaken, our recent research program has established the foundation for calculating the budget allocation needed for the provision of an improved and adequate mental health care system in the Gippsland region.

**Objective 8.** *“To advocate for improved services-“*. Our submissions and representations to governments have been heavily focussed on the desperate need to improve mental health services in the Gippsland region. An example of this advocacy has been our highlighting of the special need for the provision of more supported accommodation in the region for those people with a mental illness. To this end, we have liaised with other support agencies in the region and presented submissions to both the federal and state governments for the allocation of funds to meet this need.

**Objective 9.** *“To enter into on-going dialogue with politicians-“.* We have established and maintained good relationships with our local parliamentary representatives and kept them all informed of our submissions/representations to governments. As a general rule and if appropriate, we endeavour to involve the relevant local MP in all Ministerial representations on behalf of consumers under our personal advocacy program. We also took the opportunity of the recent Gippsland By-Election to interview the candidates from the major parties and obtain their support for our endeavours. Particular thanks go to Russell Northe, Gary Blackwood and Peter Hall for their strong support for our cause.

### **Reichstein Foundation:**

During the past year, the Reichstein Foundation generously provided us with a grant of \$25,000 to undertake the following tasks:

- Compile a list of organisations/agencies/medical practices in the MHS field in Gippsland. - The data to contain information on structure and full contact details.
- Initiate contact/discussion with like organisations and establish on-going liaison.
- Research areas of most need and compile supporting evidence for government submissions.
- Identify specific campaign projects, which need urgent government attention.

The Committee employed two researchers to do this work on a part time basis. Louise McKendry was engaged to compile the data-bank/Directory of support agencies and initiate the necessary contact and liaison and Cheryl Wragg was engaged to undertake the research project into the extent of and delivery of mental health services in the Gippsland region. Both researchers performed excellent work. Louise has completed her work on the first stage of the Directory. It has now been compiled and published and is currently on trial with a number of our partner agencies. Cheryl has also completed her research work. Entitled, “Joining the Dots – Making sense of Gippsland’s mental health system”, the findings from this valuable research formed the basis of our submission in response to the state government’s Green Paper, referred to earlier. Copies of this submission have been forwarded to our partner agencies in the region and we intend to facilitate a meeting with all interested parties in the near future to discuss a coordinated lobby of our joint interests with the government’s reform working party.

I take this opportunity to thank both Louise and Cheryl for their Stirling efforts. I am also grateful for the kindness and understanding shown by the Reichstein Foundation in supporting our project.

### **Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA):**

We were also successful in obtaining a grant of \$11,000 from the MHCA in the past year. This grant is to enable us “-to better describe the system of mental health service provision in the wider Gippsland region by researching, analysing, writing up and publishing some case studies in a case study report.” We are currently in the process of selecting the most appropriate case studies and we are planning to commence case study interviews by mid October. As with stage one of our research project, “Joining the Dots”, we believe that the work on these case studies will greatly improve our ability to achieve desirable change and reform of the mental health system.

### **Latrobe City Council (LCC):**

I again acknowledge the great support given to Barrier Breakers by the LCC, Councillors and staff. We continue to receive support through Council’s provision of our office in the Kath Teychenne Centre and last year Council provided us with a \$5000 grant to enable our purchase of a new photo-copier for our office. We recently applied for a number of small grants under the Council’s “Community Support” grants program and another from the Latrobe City Trust.

We are seeking funds from the Community Grants program to replace one of our computers and its associated technical support, produce a region-wide community newsletter and launch a major fund-raising campaign, aimed at the corporate sector. Our application to the LCCC Trust is for funding for research into problem gambling caused by electronic gaming machines. I take this opportunity to particularly thank Councillors’ Sandy Kam, Doug Caulfield, Susan Lloyd and the Mayor, Bruce Loughheed and Deputy Mayor, David Wilson, for their support for Barrier Breakers.

### **Partner Agencies:**

Our other partner agencies, namely Gippsland Lifeline, GARRS, SNAP and VIMIAC, have also given us great support throughout the past year and we hope that we have also been of assistance to them in the excellent work they undertake. The state government’s Green Paper proposes an extended mental health care system and our research project, “Joining the Dots”, clearly identified the important role of the PDRSS sector. Accordingly, our submission in response to the Green Paper recommends a “*new overarching accountability framework*”, recognition and appropriate funding.

### **Blake Dawson Lawyers:**

The well credentialed law firm of Blake Dawson continues to support Barrier Breakers with their advice and consultancy services on a pro-bono basis and we thank them for their valuable assistance. In recent months, the firm has taken on the task of drafting amendments to the association's Rules, in accordance with the decision of the Committee to corporatize Barrier Breakers to effect a more efficient organisation and optimise our funding opportunities. This work has been completed and the Committee is recommending the adoption of the new Rules at this Annual General Meeting.

### **The Keith Chenhall Foundation - Arts Program:**

Thanks to the support of well known and respected Traralgon identity, Keith Chenhall, we will soon be implementing a modest arts therapy course for people with mental illness. The Keith Chenhall Foundation has kindly donated the sum of \$1,500.00 to assist us in this quest. We had originally applied for federal funding through the Mental Health Council of Australia to establish a more substantial arts therapy program with Arts Billabong. Unfortunately, our \$11,000 application for this particular program was unsuccessful. Thank you Keith for your kind support.

### **Sponsors:**

We acknowledge and thank our sponsors for the past year. They provide for our very existence as we do not receive any on-going government funding and need to rely upon special purpose grants for the projects we undertake and support from the Council and the corporate sector for our everyday operations. We developed a five star corporate sponsorship program during the past year. It includes Platinum, Gold, Silver Bronze and Friends of Barrier Breakers. A complete list of our sponsors and Friends of Barrier Breakers is acknowledged on our web-site at [www.barrierbreakers.org.au](http://www.barrierbreakers.org.au) and we urge everyone to support those businesses that support us. We particularly mention our Platinum, Gold and Silver sponsors.

**Platinum** - Reichstein Foundation, **Gold** Telstra, L.V. Printers, Chris Humphrey Office Supplies, Pixelways Web Design, Traralgon Lion's Club, **Silver** - Work Solutions Gippsland, McMillan Partners, Eziway Salary Packaging, Traralgon Rotary Club. **Bronze** – Carpet Court, Chris Webster's Office Supplies, Cattanach Welding, Loy Yang Power.

## **Committee:**

I express my gratitude to the members of the out-going Committee for their help and guidance over the past year. As you all know, we have gone through a particularly busy year and I have very much appreciated the Committee's support. Co-founder, Toni Ham and Hilton Gruis found it necessary to step down from the Committee earlier this year to meet family and career demands and another co-founder; Lyn Douglas will not be seeking re-election because of health considerations. I particularly want to acknowledge their important role in our development.

As mentioned, Toni and Lyn are co-founders of Barrier Breakers and it was their tremendous support and enthusiasm for an active lobby group for mental health that prodded and drove me to marshal this activity, draft our first constitution and engage Blake Waldron to register the Gippsland Advocates for Mental Health. On behalf of all those we are endeavouring to help, I thank you Toni and I thank you Lyn. Hilton also played a large role in the formative stage of our first elected committee. His experience in the field of aboriginal mental health is without peer and his sage advice was always welcome. Fortunately, this experience and advice remains as close as the telephone and/or email. Thank you Hilton. I should also thank Neville Penrose and Geoff Newby for accepting nomination to the Committee. Both men have a wealth of experience and bring great talent to our association.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the role played by my fellow Officers of the Committee, our Chairman, Bob and our Treasurer Ian. Despite the fact that both men are very busy principals of large private sector companies, they have unselfishly given of their time to guide and shape Barrier Breakers I am personally grateful for their strong support. I thank them on behalf of everyone.

**Derek Amos**  
**SECRETARY**

# TREASURERS REPORT

# SECTION 4

See attached PDF File

## ELECTION

## SECTION 5

The Rules, as adopted at the annual general meeting of the Association on 10 September 2008, provide for a Board of up to nine (9) persons. Rules 18.2, 18.3, 18.4 and 22.2 determine the number of office holders of the Association, their initial election/appointment as office holders and Board members and the process for vacancies. The office holders of Barrier Breakers Inc shall be composed of –

:

- Chairman
- Secretary and Public Officer – to be known as the Chief Executive Officer.
- Treasurer

The Board of the Association shall be composed of the above named officers and -

- Four Members of Barrier Breakers Inc
- Two non-members of Barrier Breakers Inc

The Returning Officer announced that in accordance with Rule 18.4, which provided for a transitional Board and Rule 18.3, he had called for nominations for election to the transactional Board. He declared all previous positions vacant and thanked the outgoing Committee for their work over the past twelve months.

Chairman: 1 nomination received- Robert Faulkner  
Secretary (CEO): 1 nomination received- Derek Amos  
Treasurer: 1 nomination received- Ian Johnston

As no other nominations had been received the Returning Officer declared the above positions elected.

One nomination was received for the position of non-member and the Returning Officer declared Helen Alty elected. The Returning Officer told the meeting that the new Rules of the Association permitted the Board to make an appointment of an additional no-member.

Five nominations were received for the member's positions on the Board

- Dr Fred Edwards
- Marina Green
- Dr Daryl Ham
- Geoff Newby
- Neville Penrose

Ballot papers were distributed to Barrier Breakers Inc members, and the following people were elected onto the Board of Barrier Breaker Inc

- Dr Fred Edwards
- Dr Daryl Ham
- Geoff Newby
- Neville Penrose

The Returning congratulated all those elected to the Board and invited the Chairman to resume control of the meeting.