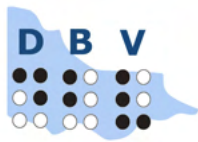


Deafblind Victoria Annual Report 2023



DBV MEMBERS AT JOE'S EXHIBITION, FEDERATION SQUARE

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1. Welcome – Michelle Stevens

I am so proud to present our 2023 annual report, written and edited by a Deafblind person for the Deafblind community and beyond. This year, DBV is running more smoothly and achieving more than ever before.

There were 11 paid staff working on projects, 7 of whom are Deafblind. We were supported by 3 hearing-sighted project workers, 1 deaf-sighted bookkeeper, and many commguides, interpreters and wonderful volunteers. Our volunteer program was even nominated for a “Best Inclusive Volunteering” award!

This year we offered three group activities for the Deafblind community per month, as well as a weekly drop-in program. There were more Deafblind World workshops than ever, raising awareness with a range of groups: an Aboriginal health organisation, a company that supplies water to households, the Auslan community, Ross House tenants, trainee commguides and more. We ran many activities to celebrate Deafblind Awareness Week. The theme was “In touch with community”.

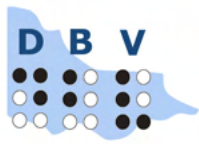
We contributed to the NDIS review, emphasising the importance of funding self-advocacy, and to the Disability Standards in Transport review. We advocated with the state government about Deafblind housing needs. We also published several resources - our guiding instructional video had over 3000 views, and our guide showing how Deafblind people set up and run our own organisation has been used by Deafblind people interstate and overseas.

We were very grateful for donations, especially three generous donations from the CFMEU which will support the development of a new video resource. DBV registered as a charity, which will help us get the grants and donations we need to keep things running.

Our 2-year strategic plan is on track; we have a healthy reserve in our savings account, and we had a strategic meeting to discuss trialling a commguiding/interpreting service. We will run a small trial over the next six months.

The Committee of Management, staff and volunteers hope you enjoy this report, and we are always happy to hear your comments.





2. Project report – Ntennis Davi

a) *Deafblind Community: Growing Together*

This project aims to help Deafblind Victorians gain skills and confidence, and to make DBV stronger and more capable. It's DBV's biggest project and it includes a lot of activities. There were monthly peer support events: DBV Café, Recreation Program and Craft Group. DBV's website and social media were maintained with regular updates. Some great resources were developed, and DBV committee members and Deafblind project staff gained skills and knowledge in administration, chairing meetings, teamwork and more.

In 2023, organisational capacity building helped DBV to:

- move all projects in-house and employ staff directly,
- register as a charity with DGR status for tax-deductible donations,
- develop policies and procedures,
- start a business selling and hiring out tactile interpreting tables, and
- conduct strategic planning activities.

This project is funded by the federal government Department of Social Services (DSS), and will end in June 2024.

b) *DBV Connect*

DBV Connect has two parts: a drop-in program every Thursday, where members visit for social connection and support, and skill-sharing sessions run by deafblind people. There were almost 50 skill-sharing sessions in 2023. Skills taught included braille, crafts, technology and tactile Auslan.

This project is funded by the federal government Department of Social Services (DSS), and will end in June 2024.

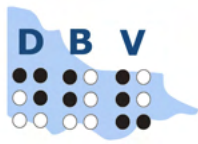


ANDREW TEACHING TRUDY TO USE
ACCESSIBILITY SETTINGS ON WINDOWS

c) *Deafblind Retreat*

The Deafblind Retreat offers fun and relaxation for Deafblind people at a scout camp in Ballarat, surrounded by bushland. Two new deafblind project workers helped plan and run activities at the retreat, gaining skills in the process (Andrew Howard and Robert Lokmer). The retreat is scheduled for Dec 2023.

This project is funded by a Lendlease community grant and a Guide Dogs peer support grant, and will end in Dec 2023.



d) TGDNB Auslan practice group

From October, people who are transgender or non-binary met one evening per month at Ross House to practice deafblind communication and make friends. The group is facilitated by a deafblind person and attended by a mix of people with different skill levels in deafblind communication, some deafblind and others deaf-sighted or hearing-sighted.

This project is funded by a peer support grant from Transgender Victoria until June 2024.



GINA WITH MACRAME AT CRAFT GROUP

3. President's Report – Trudy Ryll

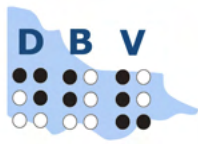
I have been involved with DBV for about 17 years. My DBV work includes:

- Monthly art and craft group
- DBV café
- Administration
- Researching for grants to apply for to create opportunities and support the deafblind community members.

How I became involved in DBV:

- I grew up learning to be a self-advocate as it was very hard being deaf in a hearing world.
- I became passionate about advocacy for deafblind people after being diagnosed with deafblindness and appalled observing deafblind community members not getting opportunities.
- I was motivated to make a difference for deafblind people.
- And a co-founder of DBV with Heather Lawson and Michelle Stevens.

My highlight of 2023 was going to Ottawa Canada for the 18th Deafblind International World Conference.



4. Secretary's Report – Michelle Stevens

On November 30 2022, we held our first AGM at the Richmond Rowing Club with our Deafblind members, Committee, volunteers and staff. The meeting adopted our constitution and elected committee members:

- President - Trudy Ryall
- Vice President - Alex Sar
- Treasurer - Heather Lawson
- Secretary - Michelle Stevens
- Ordinary member - Jasper Cleland
- Ordinary member - Rodney Basket

As always Ntennis and our team is working so hard in the background to make sure we are on track and always helping us to develop our skills.

Our major achievement for this year was registering as a charity with the Australian Government. The Special General Meeting was held on May 17th to make changes to our aims and purposes along with the winding-up clause. The Constitution was changed so we could get charity status with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Gifts over \$2 or more are now tax deductible.

This year has seen a big interest from the Deafblind community in technology training and Braille training. Services extend to rural Victoria, and visitors have come from as far as Queensland!

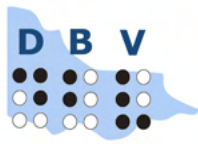
My highlight for 2023 was attending the Deafblind International conference in Ottawa. I visited the Helen Keller Center in New York. I learned a lot of new haptic signs and tried pro tactile conversations. Meeting Bapin and other deafblind professionals from different countries was inspiring. There was interest in the Deafblind interpreting table, and I feel we have laid good foundations for possible future sales.



MICHELLE AT DBI CONFERENCE, OTTAWA

We showed the world that Deafblind Victoria is indeed a unique organisation because we are self-actuating. It is humbling to realise that other organisations overseas are very much led by hearing/sighted people.

I want to thank organisations that helped us in the beginning, such as Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU), Jacqui and many friends who kept us all together; Able Australia was also instrumental. I feel so fortunate that I work with a fantastic team and I love my time with the Deafblind community of Victoria.



5. Training and finance – Heather Lawson

What is your work with DBV?

I am the training officer organise and facilitating Deafblind awareness workshop working with deafblind members as a group. As well, I work on deafblind resources and developing slowly. I teach tactile Auslan to peers. Doing finance and still learning.

How long have you been working for DBV?

I became employee part time work since 2017.

How did you become involved?

I am one of founder members and volunteer work by the request from Able Australia in 2006. Part of that time, I am interested to learn self-advocacy. In 2007 become DBV support by SARU.

During 2023, what were the proudest moments in your work?

Over 12 months I had the effort organise deafblind awareness workshops / trainings to various TAFEs, government and many other organisations. I am proud it has been successful for 18 workshops this year. I am proud to work with other Deafblind members as peers. I am proud to see the video “How to guide deafblind people”.

6. Membership - Jasper Cleland

What is your work with DBV?

I am a youth and memberships officer. My work mainly involves managing the membership database and contacting members to let them know what is happening with DBV.

How long have you been working for DBV?

I started working with DBV in May 2021.

How did you become involved?

The DBV committee were looking for 2 young people to work with DBV. I wanted to get more young people involved with DBV, but that has been a challenge.

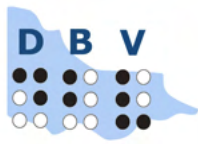
During 2023 what were the proudest moments in your area of work?

We have 12 new members so far in 2023.

I have started facilitating a monthly trans/gender diverse/nonbinary peer support to build social connections and practice Auslan.



HEATHER AND JASPER TACTILE SIGNING



7. Recreation, volunteers and social media - Alex Sar

What is your work with DBV?

I am a Youth Officer at DBV who runs a monthly recreation activity in collaboration with Able Australia, runs social media and is also volunteer coordinator.

How long have you been working for DBV?

I started work at DBV since May 2021.

How did you become involved?

I first became a member of DBV in 2018 and attended several DBV events. In 2021 DBV were looking for two young workers to join the Team.

During 2023 what were the proudest moments in your area of work?

Seeing the return of Day on the Bay, and our Volunteer program getting nominated for Best inclusive Volunteer organisation Award.



DBV VOLUNTEERS

What do you want DBV to achieve for the future?

I want to see more Deafblind people given opportunities to get volunteering at DBV and to see more Deafblind people get employment in the future.

8. Finance report – Rosalie Kassulke

2022-2023 financial year summary:

Total income: \$101034.07 – DBV received various project fundings, donations, shirt sales, tactile tables sales/hire and DB awareness workshops.

Total expenses: \$62960.25 – we pay for DBV staff wages, WorkCover, insurance and superannuation and travel & accommodations.

Bank balances 30th June 2023:

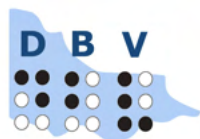
- Account#1 (general savings): \$70,260.47
- Account#2 (projects): \$338,941.14

DBV will pay ATO for staff PAYG tax \$4308 and GST \$31668.83.

DBV hold the annual leave funding for staff total \$13860.

DBV is applying for the LSL to portable LSL (Vic) every quarter for all Vic staff.

Detailed financial statements for FY 2022-23:

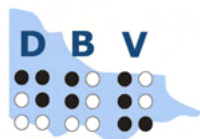


Balance Sheet

Account	30 Jun 2023	30 Jun 2022
Assets		
Bank		
Society Cheque Acct - General	70,260.47	39,498.50
Society Cheque Acct#001 - Project funding	338,941.14	0.00
Total Bank	409,201.61	39,498.50
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	4,100.00	0.00
Total Current Assets	4,100.00	0.00
Total Assets	413,301.61	39,498.50
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	12.01	0.00
GST	31,668.83	0.00
ILC - grant funding in advance - Individual Capacity Building	253,762.78	0.00
ILC - Grant funding in advance -Deafblind connect	12,116.85	0.00
Lendlease - Deafblind Retreat	10,000.00	0.00
PAYG Withholdings Payable	4,308.00	0.00
Provision for Annual leave	13,860.82	0.00
Transgender Victoria - Peer Support Program	10,000.00	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	335,729.29	0.00
Total Liabilities	335,729.29	0.00
Net Assets	77,572.32	39,498.50
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	38,073.82	21,168.58
DBV Funds	18,329.92	18,329.92
Retained Earnings	21,168.58	0.00
Total Equity	77,572.32	39,498.50

Statement of Cash Flows

Account	2023	2022
Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	43,052.36	21,168.58
Payments to suppliers and employees	(49,513.75)	0.00
Cash receipts from other operating activities	30,426.75	0.00
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	23,965.36	21,168.58
Financing Activities		



Other cash items from financing activities	345,737.75	18,329.92
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	345,737.75	18,329.92

Net Cash Flows	369,703.11	39,498.50
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Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	39,498.50	0.00
Net change in cash for period	369,703.11	39,498.50
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	409,201.61	39,498.50

Profit and Loss

Account	2023	2022
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Trading Income

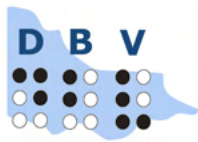
Deafblind Awareness Income	19,542.18	9,346.61
Donation	9,321.00	354.00
ILC Grant funding - Deafblind connect	26,453.22	0.00
ILC grant funding - Individual Capacity Building	34,694.67	0.00
Other Revenue	873.73	10,838.97
Sales - DBV merchandise	10,149.27	629.00
Total Trading Income	101,034.07	21,168.58

Gross Profit	101,034.07	21,168.58
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Operating Expenses

Annual leave expenses	13,860.82	0.00
Consulting & Accounting	275.85	0.00
Equipments	1,781.77	0.00
General Expenses	2,172.06	0.00
Insurance	1,077.12	0.00
Insurance -workcover	344.47	0.00
Interpreting	1,350.00	0.00
Office Expenses	687.18	0.00
Printing & Stationery	56.62	0.00
Rent	1,789.82	0.00
Repairs and Maintenance	44.55	0.00
Stripe Fees	61.39	0.00
Subscriptions	192.89	0.00
Superannuation	3,383.95	0.00
Telephone & Internet	69.39	0.00
Travel - International	3,000.00	0.00
Travel and accomodations	584.15	0.00
Wages and Salaries	32,228.22	0.00
Total Operating Expenses	62,960.25	0.00

Net Profit	38,073.82	21,168.58
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9. Committee member - Rodney

This year, I represented DBV on the national Deafblind Awareness Week (DBAW) committee.

I like to encourage all Deafblind people to DBV projects, programs, and activities.

10. Other project staff

Justin Gadze – project officer

I am a project officer with DeafBlind Victoria and an Auslan Interpreter. I have been involved with the DeafBlind community for around 19 years. I began volunteering, then worked as a commguide. I was the coordinator of Able Link and I got to know Ntennis and Claire, the previous coordinator. I started working with DBV as a project officer in 2021.

In 2023 my proudest moments were seeing how much DBV has grown as a valued organisation that provides awareness training, advocacy and resource development, and is a vital hub for members to develop and maintain meaningful, long term social connections.

I would like to see DBV become more financially sustainable with ongoing funding. I want to oversee DBV's trial of a commguide program and ascertain if this is a viable and effective service we can offer in the future. Perhaps a larger office space and 1-2 new staff members would be great!

Jenny Gibson – project officer

What is your work with DBV?

Supporting DBV staff, members and volunteers as required. I also carry out general administrative tasks.

How long have you been working for DBV?

I've been working for DBV in a paid capacity since September this year.

How did you become involved?

I became involved as a volunteer from June last year.

During 2023 what are the proudest moments in your area of work?

My proudest, happiest and luckiest moment is becoming a paid member of the DBV team. Thanks again for the opportunity.



JENNY AND PETER PRACTICE AUSLAN