



"Life is Not a Dress Rehearsal"

Annual Report 2014—2015

OUR MISSION VISION AND VALUES

Our Vision

We create fulfilling opportunities for people and communities through our passion

Our Mission

Empowering people to achieve

Our Values

*R*elationships

*E*xcellence

*S*trength

*P*assion

*E*xperience

*C*ommunity

*T*rust

The *Respect* we have for each other and the *Respect* we have for people and communities gives us the opportunities to build for today and grow for tomorrow.

ConnectAbility acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of this land where we work and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future. Together we acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians with a disability to this country, and reaffirm ConnectAbility's purpose of building an inclusive society where people can live the life they choose.



Steve M and Paul B , both deaf and one gentleman also blind support each other to walk along the Redhead Beach Walk.

WELCOME

From the Chair and CEO

Welcome to the ConnectAbility Annual Report of 2014—2015 where we celebrate the achievements of the people who choose to use our service and the organisation.

This has been a significant year for ConnectAbility. At the beginning of the year the Committee of Management and Senior Executive made a strategic decision to look at growing the organisation through adding complimentary support opportunities alongside our disability services. Through this diversification more people within the community could benefit from our individualised and person centred models and ConnectAbility could benefit from a varied funding base. The Committee of Management (CoM) commenced discussions with the Board of Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre who provide:

- Neighbourhood Aid supporting Aged Care services
- Adolescent and Family Counselling
- Hall Hire (Jesmond and Silveridge)
- Community Hub supporting activities such as a playgroup, exercise classes, community garden and english conversation classes

The programs and activities offered through the Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre directly support the community. We are excited to be able to learn from the clients and staff of Jesmond and extend support opportunities to more people within the Hunter.

The merger which was approved by the appropriate Funding Authorities has seen us take on an additional 15 staff and 402 participants. Today we employ over 120 staff and volunteers who remain committed to assisting the people we support. People are encouraged and supported to dream of the life that they want and identify the steps, big and small that they need to take to achieve this life.

For our older community members this is about maintaining community contacts, friendships and independence. For our young people and families attending counselling services it is about developing strengths, strategies and understanding of each other and their communities and for our playgroups and exercise classes it is about building

skills and making new friends.

ConnectAbility is in the midst of an era of unprecedented change. The National disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is now a reality and its implementation is involving thousands of people across the Hunter Trial site. Over the past year approx. 63% of our disability participants have transitioned to the NDIS. For these people the NDIS has provided people with disabilities and their families more choice, control and portability over the use of their funding. People are able to choose the provider that meets their needs, goals and aspirations.

The NDIS is a significant generational milestone for people with a disability, their families and carers, and for not for profit service providers like ConnectAbility. Our presence in the Hunter NDIS trial site positions us well to learn first hand as the transition to full scheme approaches. It also provides a vast insight into the real costs and impacts associated with delivering supports and services.

We believe ConnectAbility is well placed to respond to the changes facing the sector, and further improve and diversify service provision to add value and increase the quality of people's lives, but to achieve this it is essential that ConnectAbility remains financially sustainable and viable. This is highlighted with ConnectAbility achieving external Third Party Verification in September 2014. This outcome demonstrates ConnectAbility meeting key criteria in service delivery against the NSW Disability Service Standards highlighting the services Quality Assurance systems are well established.

The ConnectAbility Committee of Management (CoM) firmly believes in the importance of investing in all our people, our services and programs and systems to ensure ConnectAbility has the organisational capability to achieve outcomes and make a real difference in the lives of people who choose to engage us as their provider of choice.

With implementing the many changes associated with the merger of Jesmond and the challenges associated with the transition to the NDIS a decision was made by the Committee of Management to engage a Financial Consultancy Agency to assist with analysis and reporting of our financial position and how to implement efficiencies in processes to ensure ongoing viability and sustainability for ConnectAbility.

Cinch Financial were originally engaged for three months from May 2015 to undertake a scope that included looking at efficiencies in the Finance area and working on the current unit cost for service provision for the organisation. In order to continue to investigate additional areas for efficiency and productivity increases the contract has been extended until February 2016. By this time they will have introduced a series of measures and reporting processes that will assist the organisation to monitor, manage and grow in the future, adapting to the changes within the aged and disability sectors allowing us to become stronger. We thank David Hubbard and Joanne Haywood in particular for their patience, guidance and expertise.

As always we have some fantastic community connections that enhance opportunities and outcomes for ConnectAbility and its people

- The Australian Hotels Association Newcastle and Hunter (AHA) continue to support us through the annual Dine Out for Disability campaign. Last year was the fifth anniversary of this event and again local hotels ensured a great outcome that supported the purchase of a vehicle to get more people out into their communities. Dine Out has raised over \$205,000.00 for ConnectAbility since its inception. A truly great achievement.
- ConnectAbility have partnered with, and been supported by a number of local businesses that have assisted us to enhance the supports we provide and increased our capacity through the sharing of skills and knowledge. The support from businesses small and large have made us a better organisation for which we are truly grateful.
- We are also fortunate that we have such a great group of participant and family volunteers. In 2014 they helped create around 1000 Christmas Decorations that were sold at the annual Hunter Arts Network Christmas market. The funds raised have been used to provide art resources which all participants have been able to enjoy. A great initiative supported by our Arts Facilitator Susan Porteous.

Throughout this report we are delighted to celebrate the achievements of ConnectAbility's people. The examples demonstrate their abilities and achievements and we hope you celebrate along with us after reading them.

We are also fortunate to be able to achieve individual and organisational outcomes through working with corporate and community supporters who assist us to build our skills base, assist with fundraising or provide enhanced opportunities and we are grateful for their support.

As Chair and CEO we would like to thank the members of the Committee of Management and the members of the various sub committees who so generously give their time, expertise and support to the organisation.

ConnectAbility is fortunate to have a skilled, dedicated and passionate management team and workforce of paid staff and volunteers. Without their commitment and support of ConnectAbility we could not continue to grow, be innovative, flexible or meet the unique individual needs of all the people we support, their families and our stakeholders.

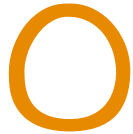
As always we wish to thank the management and staff of Departments of Social Services, Aged Care Programs, Family and Community Services, and Family and Community Services, Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) for their support and assistance during the year. Their contributions and dedication to assisting providers such as ConnectAbility allow us to remain focused on achieving positive participant outcomes.

We also thank the Management and staff of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). They are delivering positive outcomes for our participants and working with us to maximise opportunities.

Most of all we would like to thank our participants, families, stakeholders, supporters and partners who place in us their faith and trust that we will support strengths, maintain and develop independence, showcase and enhance the abilities of those we support, keep community contacts alive and make dreams realities. It is with joy that we celebrate the significant achievements of those we support and look forward to joining you and your families in the adventures of the year ahead.

David Bate, Chair Committee of Management and David Carey, CEO

RETAINING INDEPENDENCE



One of the things that we all treasure is our independence.

When through, age, illness or circumstances beyond our control that independence is diminished it can be a difficult time emotionally in coming to terms with the need to say yes to some assistance.

ConnectAbility, through its Jesmond and Silveridge sites offers older members of the community a variety of assistance opportunities that support people to maintain independence and stay in their own homes. There are options to have a volunteer provide transport to medical appointments or to complete shopping. You can have a staff member come to provide basic domestic duties to help maintain the home and there are the Friendship Groups that meet to share a meal, entertainment and meet good friends.

Mrs Peggy Paton was kind enough to share her and her husband Doug's experiences in utilising these supports.

Mrs Paton told us that at first she was reluctant to accept any in home supports. "By accepting a stranger into the home to complete tasks you had been doing for a number of years you were decreasing your privacy and admitting you were getting older or frail".

This has thankfully not been the case with the ConnectAbility staff member and Mr & Mrs Paton have developed a good relationship and routine around the assistance. Bathroom, kitchen and floors are quickly and efficiently cleaned and extra care is taken to ensure the cleaning is done in a safe manner for the family.

Mr Paton, a retired carpenter, built the family home and has no desire to move at this stage. By linking with Domestic Assistance supports the couple can maintain their independence and privacy and there is less of a need to move into a smaller home or consider moving into aged care.

Mrs Paton also shared that they use the volunteer transport service to get them to their

favourite day of the week—Friday Friendship Group. Despite significant illness this year Mr Paton is always up early on a Friday ready to spend time with the friends they have made at the group and enjoy entertainment and a two course lunch.

The social aspect of the group is important in maintaining community connections and health and wellbeing outcomes for people who may now live alone and have restricted access to community activities due to mobility or illness. It is an opportunity for people to provide peer supports and staff can identify and assist people whose needs may be increasing. This can be critical for individuals where family are not able to provide support or assistance.

ConnectAbility is honoured to be included in the lives of all the clients who utilise Domestic Assistance, transport and Friendship groups and are pleased that Mr & Mrs Paton feel included within the community and supported by that community.

ConnectAbility will continue to look at opportunities to enhance and grow these programs to support additional people with a range of activities and opportunities.





HELPING YOU, HELPING ME.

Being a part of a community is about being involved, engaged and feeling that you are contributing.

Frazer has a well developed sense of generosity and compassion for people. He loves to be with, and to support others where he can.

Frazer is also a young man who wants to secure a future for himself, to be independent and to one day carve out a career that he enjoys.

Finding work when you have a disability can be difficult as you often need experience. ConnectAbility staff were delighted for Frazer when he was able to undertake a voluntary role through the Hunter Volunteer Centre that would support him in gaining skills and experience with an added bonus of working with people.

Frazer began his work experience with the Hunter Volunteer Centre in March by becoming part of the Charlestown Square Welcome Team.

The Welcome Team provides individuals with work experience and a chance to develop their skills and work ethic. Twenty percent of those participants move on to paid work, either with Charlestown Square or retailers who see their value as workers.

Following a two-week induction he was provided with a uniform and began helping people find their way around Charlestown Square. He was assisted to help customers find retail outlets and greet people with a smile.

At first he was not sure that he was “right” for the position. His support staff helped him through those

early nerves of being in a new role. Gradually he became more comfortable with the role and the centre itself.

Frazer states that he loves his job as he enjoys helping people.

Frazer more recently has begun working in the food court at Charlestown Square where he clears away rubbish, wipes down tables and returns trays and cups to food outlets. It also provides him with an opportunity to connect with people.

Frazer looks forward to his volunteer shifts, and he’s made friends with the people he works with.

Frazer was coached in his job through role modeling and team work with his support workers who were also inducted into the Welcome Team. He is currently exhibiting a new found level of independence and confidence in his role.

In his spare time Frazer loves to draw and create stories. He has exhibited at local events which has also boosted his self esteem and awareness of his strengths and skills.

These workplace skills are transferrable across all areas of his life and will support him into the future.

ConnectAbility is honoured to be able to accompany Frazer on his journey into the workforce.



HOTELS SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUALS TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS

Argenton Hotel	Edgeworth Tavern	Mary Ellen Hotel	Sydney Junction Hotel
Australia Hotel (CESSNOCK)	Erringhi Hotel	Minmi Hotel	The Albion Hotel (WICKHAM)
Bar Petit	Gates Hotel	Nags Head Hotel (ADAMSTOWN)	The Beaumont Exchange Hotel
Bay Hotel Motel	General Roberts Hotel	Neath Hotel	The George Tavern
Beach Hotel	General Washington Hotel	Northern Star Hotel	The Honeysuckle Hotel
Beauford Hotel	Grand Hotel (NEWCASTLE)	Oakdale Tavern	The Junction Tavern
Belmore Hotel (MAITLAND)	Gunyah Hotel	Paterson Tavern	The Lake Macquarie Tavern
Bennett Hotel	Hamilton Station Hotel	Pippis at the Point Hotel	The Lambton Park Hotel
Blackbutt Hotel	Heddon Greta Hotel	Potters Hotel and Brewery	The Maryland Tavern
Boatrowers Hotel	Hotel CBD Newcastle	Premier Hotel	Toronto Hotel
Bradford Hotel	Hotel Jesmond	Prince of Wales Hotel (MEREWETHER)	Wangi Hotel
Burwood Inn Hotel	Hotel Tudor	Queens Wharf Brewery Hotel	Wentworth Hotel (CESSNOCK)
Bushrangers Bar and Brasserie	Iron Horse Inn Hotel	Royal Federal Hotel	Windsor Castle Hotel (EAST MAITLAND)
Caves Beach Hotel	Jewells Tavern	Rutherford Hotel	
Central Hotel (STROUD)	Junction Inn Hotel (RAYMOND TERRACE)	Salamander Resort Hotel	
Cessnock Hotel	Kent Hotel	Sea Breeze Hotel (NELSON BAY)	
Colliery Inn Hotel	Lake Macquarie Hotel Motel	Seven Seas Hotel	
Cricketers Arms Tavern (COOKS HILL)	Lakeside Village Tavern	Shaft Tavern	
Customs House Hotel	Lass O'Gowrie Hotel	Shenanigans at the Imperial	
Delany Hotel	Lemon Grove Hotel	Stag & Hunter Hotel	
Dockyard Hotel	M J Finnigans	Station Hotel (KURRI KURRI)	
Duke of Wellington Hotel (NEW LAMBTON)	Marquis of Lorne Hotel	Sunnyside Tavern	



DINE OUT FOR DISABILITY 2014

2014 proved to be another successful year in partnership with the Newcastle and Hunter Australian Hotels Association (AHA) as we celebrated the **FIFTH** year of Dine Out for Disability

Dine Out for Disability is a unique initiative that sees local hotels and the Hunter Community donate \$1.00 from every meal to ConnectAbility.

Around 80 local hotels throughout the Hunter participated in 2014, with the staff, Licensees and managers on board.

Not everyone understands how difficult it can be to leave your home to catch public transport if you have a physical or intellectual disability. Just being able to access a vehicle or understand what you need to do on public transport can be daunting for people.

Many of the AHA owners have grown up, lived and worked within their communities and know first hand the challenges faced by people with a disability and are determined to make a difference by providing specialised transport opportunities for people living in the Hunter.

With the support of Kent Woodcock, who continues to deliver fantastic media campaigns for us and along with our media partners, NBN Television, Austereo and the Newcastle Herald, Dine Out for Disability raised enough money to purchase a fully modified Toyota Hi-Ace bus. This vehicle now assists many more ConnectAbility participants in being able to get out and about into their communities, when they choose, giving them more independence and control over how they live their lives.

People are able to get to sporting events, visit family, shop and utilise all the resources the Hunter has to offer.



ConnectAbility is grateful for the support demonstrated by the AHA Executive and members, and the opportunities it has given in enhancing choice and independence for those that access our service.

The AHA owners don't just walk into their businesses each day and then go home in the evening. They develop relationships, understand the challenges faced by people with a disability and look for opportunities to improve outcomes for the individuals and the general community. True community citizens.

The benefits of the relationships built between the AHA Newcastle and Hunter owners and the local community which includes ConnectAbility, our participants and their families will be the long term improvements in how people with a disability are recognised and valued within the Hunter.



HOW ONE MANS GROWING INDEPENDENCE SUPPORTS HIS FAMILY

The National Disability Scheme was introduced to improve opportunities for people with a disability to meet their goals and help them become more independent and active members of the community.

ConnectAbility Australia has noticed a far greater benefit from the support outcomes achieved by one of their participants Nic, following his transition into the scheme.

Nic is a young man in his early twenties with significant disabilities who transitioned to the NDIS last year. One of Nic's goals was to gain more skills of independence that would mean he didn't have to rely on his family to provide his every need.

The NDIS provided an opportunity for a support worker to meet Nick early in the morning and assist him to learn how to undertake getting showered and dressed for the day and how to make his own breakfast. This involved assisting Nic understand what was involved in each activity, breaking down the activity into smaller tasks and providing him with the skills and confidence to try to achieve them on his own. This took a little while and we are not sure who was prouder on the day he got his own bowl and poured cereal into it – Nic or his worker Jen.

These new skills are a fantastic outcome for Nic and couldn't have been achieved without the support of the funding received through the NDIS. Interestingly, ConnectAbility noticed that while these skills were centred on Nic his whole family is benefiting.

His parents, who both work, and his siblings, who are at school, no longer needed to juggle their morning schedule to assist Nic to get ready in the morning. This allows them more time, less stress and they were able to interact as family members rather than carers. A key struggle for parents of disabled young people is managing the required long-term care,

while continuing to be productive citizens and parents to the other children in the family. The NDIS and ConnectAbility are working together to support these special families.







JESMOND - A COMMUNITY HUB

When Bridget Noonan accepted the part time role of Manager at Jesmond she knew her Community Development role would assist in identifying community need and facilitate in bringing people together.

Following the merger with ConnectAbility, Bridget has continued in her role and looks for opportunities for promoting inclusion, innovation in programs and capacity building in individuals and the community through investigating trends and unmet need.

Community members are able to drop into the centre to access information on resources and services available throughout the area, take part in programs and activities on offer through the centre or they can make contact by phone. There are a number of individual programs and activities on offer that the community are welcome to join.

Heartmoves

Heartmoves is an exercise program for seniors run by a qualified fitness instructor twice a week. The program is targeted for people with stable but long term health conditions such as joint or mobility problems and the participants often join after being referred by their medical practitioners.

A side benefit of the program is the social network that has developed between the participants where they now follow their exercise program with lunch together.

Youth and Family Counselling

This important program is facilitated by two qualified counsellors and runs across 5 days per week supporting young people and their families either together or separately.

Funding is supplied through the Dept of Family and Community Services and referrals come to the service either directly from a family or young person, schools or Government Departments.

English Conversation classes and IT skill Classes

To assist people from different backgrounds and skill level Jesmond provides classes to assist women to improve their skills and integrate more fully into the community.

In addition to learning to converse in English or upgrade computer skills there is an opportunity to build social networks.

Community Garden

A partnership between Jesmond and Stockland Wallsend has resulted in the donation of land for the development of a community garden.

The volunteer gardeners grow fruit trees, herbs, vegetables and flowers which are picked and shared within the community. The gardeners are a mix of ages and backgrounds and provides people with a social network in addition to accessing "home grown" produce.

Hall Hire

Jesmond also oversee the hire of the Hall at Jesmond and at the Silveridge Community Centre on behalf of Newcastle City Council. The Hall is often booked by community groups during the week and those holding functions on the weekend.

Looking into the future

Jesmond will continue to provide the local community with opportunities to build, improve, engage and enjoy social contacts and activities.



THIS IS ME-THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF

Think back to when you were aged 13 to 15 and what you might tell your younger self about self worth and confidence.

Through funding provided by Dept Family and Community Services a program to build skills around confidence, self esteem, team work and leadership was facilitated at Jesmond between May and July 2014.

The program was designed for young women and facilitated by Simone Darcy, a local artist, photographer and workshop facilitator. Schools helped identify those that would enjoy and benefit from the program.

For two months the fifteen young women met at Jesmond weekly, working through a series of artistic activities with a specific outcome to be achieved each week.

The group worked together to create projects that provided skills using photography and built positive experiences around personal image and value status.

When the program commenced many of the girls were too shy to have their photos taken saying they were not pretty/thin enough or didn't like having their photos taken. Through working together, looking at self image and identity the young women gradually became more confident.

Culmination of the project was when the young women

took a series of self portraits that were later exhibited at Lake Macquarie Art Gallery.

The project was so successful in supporting this group of young women that a grant was achieved through Clubs NSW to run the program again in 2015.

The experiences and skills learnt during the workshops will be able to be utilised by the young women in undertaking any role they may choose in the future. A great outcome.



INVESTMENTS IN THE YOUNG

Circus Classes

Each Wednesday after school a group of young people come together at Jesmond to have a fun afternoon that also supports learning, team work, promotes fitness and gross motor skill development and health and wellbeing outcomes through *CIRCUS CLASS*.

The activity is run by lead trainer of Circus Avalon and participants get to try a range of activities.

The program is advertised through local schools and is free to join. This allows everyone within the community to take part in an after school activity regardless of individual circumstance.



Playgroup

The staff at Jesmond understand the importance of nurturing and teaching young people in order to build better communities in the future.

As part of their commitment to inclusion a multi cultural playgroup runs each Thursday with around 15 families from a variety of cultural backgrounds attending. While the children play and learn together the mums get to socialise and make new contacts and supports from within the community.



OUR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

David Bate Chair

David joined the CoM in 2010. Prior to retiring, David held the position of General Manager, Client Programs with Northcott Disability Services. David was a Regional Director with the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and has spent over eight years as a Senior Executive in the human services field with the NSW Government.

Professor Frank Bates Deputy Chair

Frank joined the CoM in 2007 and was elected Deputy Chair in 2010. Frank is emeritus Professor of Law at the University of Newcastle. Frank has been a Law Reform Commissioner for Tasmania, a member of the Family Law Council and a Senior Fulbright Scholar. Frank has been widely published on law related matters. His most recent book was published in August 2015.

Peter Coughlan Treasurer

Peter joined the CoM in 2011. Peter is an Associate member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia. Prior to taking on this role Peter had supported the organisation by providing guidance and expertise in relation to financial management. Peter has his own consultancy business within the Thexton Armstrong group providing assistance to business owners to grow their revenue, profit and value.

Joan Gatt

Joan joined the CoM in November 2008 and is one of two Participant representatives. Joan has a 28 year old son with a disability and volunteers with the service to assist in his support. Joan is an active member of the Jewells school community, assisting with student banking and other activities.

Robert Emanuel

Bob was elected to the CoM in November 2009. Prior to retiring in 2009, Bob was a teacher in Engineering trades at TAFE NSW, Hunter Institute. Bob brings to the CoM a willingness and enthusiasm to explore ways and means to maintain and improve methods of fundraising and initiatives for the benefit of participants and staff of ConnectAbility.

Holly Martin

Holly Martin's professional career has spanned more than 12 years in in-house capacities as well as within consultancies. In 2012 she launched her own boutique consultancy, *Just Holly | Marketing, PR, Communication*. She has a broad based range of experience, including in the NFP, aged care, Information technology, engineering, industrial, professional services and manufacturing industries across both the public and private sectors. Holly is also the Editor and Publisher of local business news website, Hunter Headline.

Scott Brooks

Scott Brooks has over 15 years of experience in the accounting and financial services industries, including 7 years working in London, returning to Newcastle in 2014. Scott is currently with Maxim Accounting & Business Advisors and is also a director of the Hunter Business Chamber.

With family using similar service organisations within NSW, Scott is a keen supporter of the industry and committed to ensuring ConnectAbility continues to provide valuable services to the local community.

Nathan Franks

Nathan joined the CoM in 2015 to support ConnectAbility through sharing his ICT skills. He has expertise in cloud computing, information technology and managed services, Nathan is constantly seeking new ways to bring the future of computing to the world of ConnectAbility. Nathan has a strong commitment to the community and has been integral in developing strategic measures to allow advances in the way that ConnectAbility works as an organisation.

Anna Bailey

Anna Bailey is a Senior Solicitor at Harris Wheeler Lawyers with over 9 years' experience in the legal industry including time spent in both the United Kingdom and Europe. Anna's experience extends to property law, commercial law and estate planning. She acts for some of the Hunters major institutions and private clients including the McCloy Group, Hunter Development Corporation and Port Stephens Council. Anna is also on the committee of the Newcastle Business Club.



Maddies Models

**These Plasticine models were made by Maddie during an art class.
The objective was to create a 3D model from a 1D picture.**

A brilliant effort

OUR SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

David Carey, CEO

Over the past 20 years I have been involved in the community services sector. I first became involved when I moved from nursing into managing a supported employment service for people with a disability. This was my first exposure to working with people with a disability and a life changing appreciation of what hurdles had to be overcome in order for those with a disability to be accepted as equals in Australian society.

I have worked in aged care as part of a team who commissioned a new 90 bed facility. I set up a state wide out of home care service working with children and foster carers to provide safe and nurturing environments for children to grow up in. Most of my time has been in disabilities and working towards improving access and the quality of services for participants and families. For those in this area of work including me, it's about making a positive difference in people's lives, that's why we choose to work in this sector. Merging with Connected Communities has allowed us to broaden our services in; aged care, children, family and adolescents counselling, multi-cultural services and a community hub.

With the advent of the National Disability Insurance Scheme a greater focus has been

placed on participants and families to truly individualise services they receive and how and when they receive those services. ConnectAbility has worked closely with families and participants through the NDIS trial period to ensure continuity of service through each transition.

Services cannot be delivered without a cohesive team, from the committee of management, to staff, volunteers, managers and office staff and many thanks for your commitment to providing these much needed services to the community.

Scott Harvey, Operations Manager

It has almost been 20 years since Scott first walked through the door of ConnectAbility as a very green volunteer. Over this long association with the organisation Scott has fulfilled many roles from providing community supports to participants, developing programs and resources to his current role as Operations Manager for ConnectAbility. Scott has an Arts Degree specialising in Psychology, Cert 4 in Workplace Training & Assessment and Cert 4 in Frontline Management.

Scott said of his role

"Each and every day poses a new challenge, but I am very proud to have been part of

the organisations journey. It is these challenges which drive my motivation to inspire change and the opportunity for greater community participation, inclusion and opportunity for people living with a disability. I continually ask myself "what have I done to improve the quality of someone's life today"? Over many years I have made many long-standing relationships with participants, their families and many staff. These are very important to me and drive my motivation "to do better" every day.

My passion has always been to ensure a positive approach to support is provided without focusing on an individual's limitations and ensuring we have a skilled and knowledgeable workforce to deliver the best outcomes to people using the service. I have a strong belief in human rights and equity for all. We must look at each person's vision to maximise their independence and social and economic participation as the benefits for the people using ConnectAbility and their families/carers are huge if we get it right".

Bridget Noonan, Manager & Community Development worker

Bridget Noonan has been the Manager of Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre for 3.5

years. She has a social science degree and a Certificate 4 in Frontline Management. She has a history of working in community development for the past 10 years and has managed two community centres.

Bridget provided the following insights into her role

"Initially I was attracted to working in Jesmond because of the high number of migrants and refugee's. My previous work history was in Western Sydney where the main client group is refugee and migrant populations. As this is my area of speciality the Jesmond community was a good fit. I enjoy my work at Jesmond as our programs bring isolated residents together and allow them to form new friendships and practice new skills.

I am motivated by a deep belief in social justice and this is aligned with the community development approach that Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre takes. I believe those who are marginalised or disadvantaged need a foot up to realise their dreams and goals. At Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre we work with those who are on the margins of society and help them create better networks and develop new skills to better meet their needs. We start with people's strengths and build on them to create enriching programs that foster relationships and new skills."

A GRAND OPENING



Thanks to the Dept Family and Community Services, Ageing Disability & HomeCare (ADHC) and their Equipment Modification Fund ConnectAbility welcomed new automatic doors to the Hamilton site. This will allow participants, families and stakeholders with mobility issues to access the building unaided. This supports people maintaining and achieving independence as they no longer need to wait on a staff member to assist them.

Nathan Dunne was happy to pose with staff from ADHC (Susan Mullard, Anne Mullen and Ben Spence), when they stopped by to thank them for their efforts in getting the doors installed.

A group of people, including several elderly individuals, are seated around a table in a room decorated for Halloween. A yellow caution tape with the text "KEEP OUT HAUNTED DANGER" is strung across the top of the frame. The table is set with glasses, plates, and a menu titled "BOOO Menu". One person is holding a small white cup, and another is holding a glass of orange juice. The background shows a brick wall and a doorway leading to another room.

A BIG COMPANY WITH AN EVEN BIGGER HEART

W

hat does a large company such as Steggles have to do with ConnectAbility

CHICKENS!

Steggles has a long history of supporting local organisations and local communities especially when they are in need of assistance.

When Michelle Mitchell, NSW Shop Coordinator, heard that the Jesmond Friendship Club were having difficulties in providing a meal for its participants she was thrilled to be able to step in and make a difference.

The Friendship club is made up of older community members who come together once a week to enjoy a nutritious hot meal and entertainment. The group have been meeting for some time and have formed close bonds with each other providing social interaction and supports to each other.

Their favourite meal is of course a roast with all the trimmings.

As the cost of living has increased this has become more difficult to supply each week and the Chef oversighting the program has tried to stretch the costs where possible. This has meant that on some weeks there have been other meal choices whilst always acknowledging that a roast would have been preferred.

Michelle felt that Steggles would easily be able to solve this problem and that our older community members deserved to be able to have a meal of their choice.

Hence every month Jesmond Friendship Group receive enough chickens to supply them with two meals. This assists in stretching their budget and gives people what they want. A great outcome for everyone involved.

For Steggles this may seem like a small donation but for the participants of the group it has huge implications. They enjoy their meal and their sense of wellbeing and health is increased through participation in the group.

They also continue to feel valued as members of the community because of the recognition Steggles provides them through their donation.



The Friendship Group celebrated Halloween by dressing up and enjoying their lunch in the themed dining room. A great time was had by all.

IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER



Why are supporters so important to ConnectAbility, what outcomes are achieved through their involvement and, why should you become involved?

Local Businesses unite for ConnectAbility

Kerry Houghton of Jims Carpet Cleaning wanted to support ConnectAbility's participants to be able to achieve their dreams, so he decided to host a Putt Putt Golf fundraising day in October 2014.

As a member of BNI (Business Network International) he invited other local businesses to join on the day.

Close to 100 people spent the afternoon at the Broadmeadow Putt Putt Centre in support of ConnectAbility.

Funds were raised through people donating towards raffles, a secret auction, sausage sizzle and by playing in a BNI tournament.

Over \$800.00 was raised for ConnectAbility on the day and further funds donated throughout the following week.

ConnectAbility are grateful for the support of local businesses who also help promote the organisation and build awareness of the skills, opportunities and needs of people with a disability in the Hunter.

Kerry said he felt the day was a huge success and he planned to make this an annual event by ensuring that his support of ConnectAbility meant we could support more local people



WE BUILD BETTER COMMUNITIES

Cardiff Toyota— Keeping the ConnectAbility Fleet Moving

Through Cardiff Toyota's initiative to support ConnectAbility's Drive for Disability again in 2015 ConnectAbility is able to keep our fleet updated and on the road .

Many of the people we support are unable to access public transport and look to ConnectAbility to assist them to get into their communities. To help in ensuring our

fleet is updated and contains the safety equipment needed by the organisation Cardiff Toyota generously donated \$1.00 from each vehicle serviced over April and May of this year. The team at Cardiff Toyota also understood that like them many of the ConnectAbility participants are car enthusiasts and look forward to perhaps achieving their goal of driving a car. To assist them on their journey ConnectAbility were also able to look at driving practice software that everyone enjoys utilising through the generous donations from Cardiff Toyota.



This invaluable partnership demonstrates how business can contribute to a more equitable society where everyone has equal opportunity and access to work towards dreams.



(Tracy Busch from Cardiff Toyota and Scott Harvey from ConnectAbility inspect a new Toyota at handover)

MY LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE-

Being able to follow your dreams and live the life you choose is Jordan's mantra on being a ConnectAbility Participant.

When Jordan first started coming to ConnectAbility he wasn't sure *exactly* what he wanted to do in the way of activities and social interactions—just that he was determined to make the most out of every day.

Through building relationships with his workers, Jordan began to envisage what he wanted out of life. He tapped into the skills, expertise and passions of staff who were then able to assist him to achieve goals that he had only dreamt about.

Night Fishing

Jordan loves fishing so one of his first goals was to get out and enjoy a spot of night fishing. Jordan and his worker identified time, location and gear. There was discussion on what type of fish he was after and where it might be found and how to safely fish at night.

While the haul was small the experience was huge—Just like a fishing story should be.



JORDAN'S STORY

Camping

For Jordan camping is an all inclusive term. It encompasses four wheel driving, swimming, canoeing and cooking on a fire. It is a passion for the outdoors and sleeping under the stars. Through ConnectAbility Jordan was able to identify a worker who shared similar interests and was able to accompany him. This is now a regular activity for Jordan and his skills around planning have developed. He is now more confident in his abilities to support himself and identify and mitigate risks along the way. The camp sites are often unique in their location requiring decision making on where to set up, make the campfire and how to leave the area when you are finished. Jordan has also developed a sense of teamwork and ensures that those who are with him also remain safe and enjoy the experience.

Helping support a person to learn responsibility, decision making and independent skills is a privilege for ConnectAbility.

Art

Jordan's love of drawing was explored and developed during his ongoing classes with ConnectAbility. His bright 'Pop Art' style fitted perfectly with his love of skateboarding and so he commenced painting skateboard decks. He visited an exhibition of "Pop Art" in Sydney with another ConnectAbility artist so they could gather ideas. He worked weekly with ConnectAbility's Art Facilitator and then entered one of his skateboards along with other work into a local exhibition. When they sold he was delighted to be able to share his success with his family.

He continues to develop his style and has a portfolio of works to refer to.

Jordan is typical of a young man looking to take control of his life. His experiences will continue to inspire him and ConnectAbility are proud to be walking with him as he achieves his dreams.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Trading outcomes

The 2014/15 financial year saw last year's predictions of a challenging year coming to fruition. Our underlying trading result for the year was a loss of \$1,095 which was generally in line with the original budget. It was pleasing to note that whilst there were movements between the actual and budget figures, some positive and some negative, across all the income and expense categories, our overall budgeting process has been shown to be robust. This in turn provides confidence for your Board with regards to our future plans and our ability to maintain strong control across all major expense areas even in the event of changes to revenue.

In accordance with relevant Australian Accounting Standards the take-up of the net assets (\$143,235) arising from the merger with Connected Communities Incorporated is required to be reflected as an income item in the Profit and Loss Statement.

As a result of the treatment the total reported trading result for the year was a surplus of \$142,140.

Through the course of the year we received a total of \$39,548 in donations. I take this opportunity to acknowledge their support and give our grateful thanks to all our community and corporate supporters. Some of their achievements are detailed within this report.

Consistent with prior year there are 2 substantial non-cash expense items:

- depreciation (\$155,925)
- movement in employee leave provisions (\$61,511) .

Adding back these items to the trading result indicates a theoretical improvement in cash reserves through the course of the year of \$359,576. As the Balance Sheet indicates, the cash on hand reserves as at 30 June 2015 have actually increased by \$312,759 on the balance from 30 June 2014. While it is comforting to have total cash reserves of \$1,604,247 as at year end this level of reserves is by no means excessive. As a result of the increased size of the organisation, the ever increasing obligation to

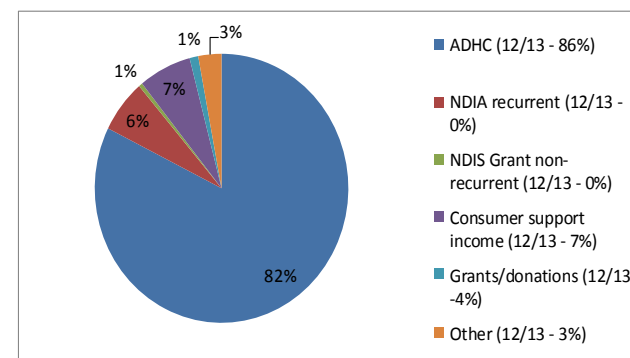
fund future employee leave entitlements, ongoing replacement of the motor vehicle fleet and the like, the overall measure of solvency is substantially unchanged over recent years as indicated in the graph below.

The graph as below shows there was a reducing reliance through the 2014/15 year on ADHC funding (the 2013/14 figures are indicated in brackets beside the narration). However as the graph indicates this is being replaced by the increasing reliance on revenue from participants funded through the NDIS.

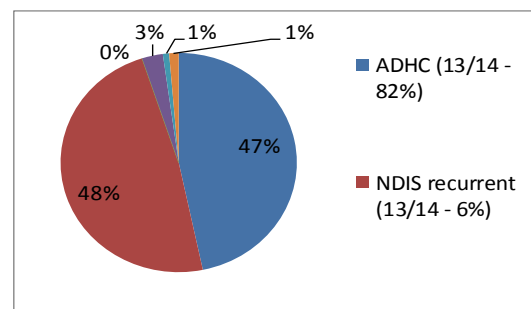
Consistent with last year's report, apart from the movement from ADHC to NDIS as major revenue sources, your Committee would naturally like to see a considerable further diversification of income streams; however in line with most entities in the broader Disability Services sector achieving this aim is challenging. The merger with Connected Communities Incorporated is an initial step in this direction. Based on our understanding of likely trading conditions through 2015/16 the budget as adopted by the Committee of Management indicates a trading surplus of \$57,472 and a cashflow surplus of \$240,395. Whilst the Committee is comfortable with the projection for the 2015/16 year there is continuing and ongoing concern relating to the long term implications of a full scale roll out of the NDIS. Whilst there have been some incremental improvements in the broader funding model it is the Committee's opinion that the current funding model remains insufficient to ensure the long term viability of the Not For Profit disability sector as a whole.

Your Committee continues to very closely monitor the long term expectations to actual performance to ensure that appropriate financial outcomes are achieved and the entity is at all times appropriately solvent.

(Table shows 2013/2014)



(Table shows 2014/2015)



Finance, Risk and Opportunities (FRO) Committee

The FRO committee met on six occasions during the financial year. The key aim of this committee is to provide support to the Committee of Management and management staff in the areas of general risk management and to aid in the identification and leveraging of opportunities to diversify funding and grow services.

The FRO committee achieved the following key goals during the year:

- continued to explore merger opportunities with likeminded bodies to identify opportunities to better deliver service to those in need within the broader Hunter region.
- continued to closely review all matters relating to the development of the Self Funded Management and NDIS models as they apply within our region and as they may be implemented in the longer term.
- close oversight and management of all financial activities/outcomes of the organisation including the implementation of the fleet management system and an improved staff rostering/timesheet system

Fundraising Activities

As in prior years our major fundraiser continues to be Dine Out for a Disability supported by the Newcastle and Hunter Australian Hotels Association and the community. The funds raised through this event provide ConnectAbility with opportunities to enhance outcomes for participants, families and the organisation. As noted above the changes in how the sector is funded following the introduction of the NDIS will see an increased emphasis on attracting donations directly and through events. The donations received in 2014—2015 were utilised to further enhance the organisation's motor vehicle fleet. Our sincere thanks to all who assisted.

The Fundraising Committee will continue to look at other opportunities to diversify income through donations and fundraising.

General Observations

The Auditor's Report and statements as well as the full copy of the financial statements for the year ended 30th June, 2015 are included in the Annual Report. Reiterating the point made earlier the ongoing challenge facing ConnectAbility is the likely impact of the implementation of the NDIS under the funding model as currently proposed. As well as impacting on trading performance the proposed timing of NDIS cashflows will have a flow on impact of solvency. We are accordingly very mindful of the need for extreme vigilance in managing ongoing income/expenses, cashflows and cash levels. We are pleased to have been able to maintain current solvency levels through the transition of a material number of our participants, ongoing vigilance is required to ensure that this key measure of financial sustainability is maintained at appropriate levels.

Naturally, in line with all Australian businesses, ConnectAbility must also continue to pay careful attention to areas including information technology, fleet management, diversification of income streams and employment law. These challenges appear to increase in their scope and extent every year, and as such ongoing management and Committee consideration is directed to these areas.

ConnectAbility has at its core the requirement to be constantly adapting to the ever changing expectations and requirements of our current and prospective participants, their families, employees and stakeholders. Your Committee, with the great support of the management team and all employees, are striving to identify, meet and exceed all the challenges as they are encountered. I take this opportunity to record my personal appreciation to all those who have contributed to the combined efforts that have led to ConnectAbility being the sound and substantial organisation it is today, and I look forward to seeing it continuing to adapt and flourish to better meet the needs of those in need.

Disclosure of Interests.

In accordance with the requirements of the Rules of Association, I advise members that no payments have been made to any Committee of Management member other than for reimbursement of out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of carrying out their function as elected committee members.



COMMUNITY SUPPORTING COMMUNITY

When you think of an organisation supporting a not for profit most people think of corporate donations of money or skills.

ConnectAbility are fortunate in that we have been supported by other community groups.

Mulbring Rural Fire Service are usually found out in the community putting out fires or assisting at the scenes of accidents.

What many might not know is that they also provide education and fun activities to schools and organisations on fire safety.

For many of ConnectAbility's participants with a disability a fire can be a very scary and dangerous situation. The smell, sounds and sense of panic can lead to people being in danger. Through familiarising people with what they might experience during a fire and making them feel comfortable with our emergency services such as the Fire Brigade, RFS, Police and Ambulance, ConnectAbility can assist in improving life skills and outcomes for our people.

And lets face it—we all love our RFS volunteers.

In October we welcomed Captain Scott Callan and Fire Service members Scott Finley and Andrew Taylor to ConnectAbility. Captain Scott took people through what to do if there was a fire and who would be coming to help you. He explained the role of each person on the truck and how the truck was equipped to support different situations. Helmets and jackets were passed around so that people could see how clothing would protect you.

Everyone was then delighted to find there were some fun activities they could become involved in. There was a line to get into the truck and try out the siren and an even bigger line to test the fire hoses. People were amazed at the pressure and how hard they were to handle.

Gross motor skills were practiced in trying to knock the tennis ball off the cone, and how to hose your friends and colleagues was a popular side benefit.

When it came time to pack up there were even volunteers to help roll up the hoses, which was harder than people thought it might have been.

While everyone enjoyed the visit ConnectAbility is very aware that for some of our people being exposed to situations and experiences that we take for granted is an important part of understanding and connecting with your community.



Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 93 056 378 299

Independent Audit Report to the members of

Connectability Australia Incorporated

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report being a special purpose financial report, of Connectability Australia Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Officers' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The officers of Connectability Australia Incorporated are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note , is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation (NSW) 2010 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The officers' responsibility also includes such internal control as the officers determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 93 056 378 299

Independent Audit Report to the members of

Connectability Australia Incorporated

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Connectability Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2015, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation (NSW) 2010.

KLM Accountants
Company



Neil Watson
Partner

Charlestown, NSW

21 October 2015

Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 93 056 376 299

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

Contents

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

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Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 80 066 379 299

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue	2	4,488,166	3,783,003
Other income	2	211,954	382,716
Net gain on business combination	3	143,235	-
Employee benefits expense		(3,940,083)	(3,032,376)
Depreciation expense	4	(188,826)	(137,108)
Other expenses		(575,207)	(754,332)
Surplus before income tax		142,140	252,202
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus for the year		142,140	252,202
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		142,140	252,202

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 53 555 378 235

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	1,604,247	1,291,488
Trade and other receivables	6	258,971	119,241
Other assets	7	99,179	30,880
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,962,397	1,441,589
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	602,360	638,582
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		602,360	638,582
TOTAL ASSETS		2,644,757	2,080,171
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	764,722	361,297
Borrowings	10	28,186	28,828
Employee benefits	11	433,622	375,944
Other liabilities	12	1,765	8,544
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,228,295	773,711
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Borrowings	10	7,395	42,488
Employee benefits	11	57,981	55,048
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		65,376	97,514
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,293,671	871,225
NET ASSETS		1,351,086	1,208,946
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		1,351,086	1,208,946
TOTAL EQUITY		1,351,086	1,208,946

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

2015

	Note	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2014		1,208,946	1,208,946
Profit attributable to members of the entity		142,140	142,140
Balance at 30 June 2015		1,351,086	1,351,086

2014

	Note	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2013		656,744	656,744
Profit attributable to members of the entity		262,202	262,202
Balance at 30 June 2014		1,208,946	1,208,946

Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 93 055 379 399

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from customers		\$ 4,811,132	\$ 4,489,742
Payments to suppliers and employees		(4,288,321)	(4,021,057)
Interest received		28,844	37,881
Finance costs		(3,958)	(11,855)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	16	328,687	474,790
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		3,437	-
Proceeds from merger with Connected Communities Inc.		143,235	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(137,729)	(229,044)
Net cash used by investing activities		9,143	(229,844)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Proceeds from borrowings		55,180	-
Repayment of borrowings		(90,281)	(27,093)
Net cash used by financing activities		(35,071)	(27,093)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		312,759	217,853
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,291,488	1,073,635
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	5	\$ 1,604,247	\$ 1,291,488

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 92 000 270 569

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

The financial statements cover Connectability Australia Incorporated as an individual entity. Connectability Australia Incorporated is a not-for-profit Association incorporated in New South Wales under the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation (NSW) 2010 (the Act).

The principal activities of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2015 were to deliver and expand the ongoing operations to support the development and maintenance of life skills, social opportunities, and friendships for people with a disability in the Hunter and surrounding regions.

The functional and presentation currency of Connectability Australia Incorporated is Australian dollars.

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations and the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation (NSW) 2010.

The significant accounting policies used in the preparation and presentation of these financial statements are provided below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are based on historical costs, except for the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

(b) Comparative Amounts

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

Where a change in comparative has also affected the opening retained earnings previously presented in a comparative period, an opening statement of financial position at the earliest date of the comparative period has been presented.

(c) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(d) Leases

Leases of fixed assets where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership that are transferred to the Association are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely that the Association will obtain ownership of the asset or over the term of the lease.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

(e) Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Grant revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income when the entity obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Interest revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

(f) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset are capitalised as part of the cost of that asset.

All other borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

(h) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment of losses.

Assets measured using the revaluation model are carried at fair value at the revaluation date less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Revaluations are performed whenever there is a material movement in the value of an asset under the revaluation model.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including buildings and capitalised leased assets, is depreciated on a reducing balance basis over the asset's useful life commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Bank overdrafts also form part of cash equivalents for the purpose of the statement of cash flows and are presented within current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

(j) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than twelve months after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

Employee benefits are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the Association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date regardless of the classification of the liability for measurement purposes under AASB 119.

(k) Adoption of new and revised accounting standards

During the current year, the following standards became mandatory and have been adopted retrospectively by the Association:

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

(k) Adoption of new and revised accounting standards (cont'd)

- AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement
- AASB 115 Employee Benefits
- AASB 128 Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures
- AASB 2012-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosures - Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

The accounting policies have been updated to reflect changes in the recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses and the impact of adoption of these standards is discussed below.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement does not change what and when assets or liabilities are recorded at fair value. It provides guidance on how to measure assets and liabilities at fair value, including the concept of highest and best use for non-financial assets. AASB 13 has not changed the fair value measurement basis for any assets or liabilities held at fair value, however additional disclosures on the methodology and fair value hierarchy have been included in the financial statements.

AASB 115 Employee benefits changes the basis for determining the income or expenses relating to defined benefit plans and introduces revised definitions for short-term employee benefits and termination benefits.

The Association reviewed the annual leave liability to determine the level of annual leave which is expected to be paid more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Whilst this has been considered to be a long-term employee benefit for the purpose of measuring the leave under AASB 113, the effect of discounting was not considered to be material and therefore has not been performed.

(l) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations

The AASB has issued new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods. The Association has decided not to early adopt these Standards. The following table summarises these future requirements, and their impact on the Association where the standard is relevant:

Standard Name	Effective date for entity	Requirements	Impact
AASB 2015-16 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities	1 July 2016	This standard extends the scope of AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures to include the application by not-for-profit public sector entities	This will cause the disclosure of related party transactions and KMP remuneration for not-for-profit sector entities

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

- (i) **New Accounting Standards and Interpretations (cont'd)**
- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>AASB 15 Revenue from contracts with customers and AASB 2014-6 2017 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15</p> | <p>30 June 2016</p> | <p>Accounting policy changes will arise in timing of revenue recognition, treatment of contracts costs and contracts which contain a financing element</p> | <p>This may cause changes to the timing and amount of revenue reported in the financial statements as well as additional disclosures.</p> |
| <p>AASB 8 Financial Instruments and amending standards AASB 2010-7 / AASB 2012-6</p> | <p>30 June 2016</p> | <p>Changes to the classification and measurement requirements for financial assets and financial liabilities</p> | <p>The impact of AASB 8 has not yet been determined as the entire standard has not been released</p> |

2 Revenue and Other Income

Revenue		
- Operating grants	2015	2014
- Interest received	\$	\$
	4,423,679	3,745,022
	34,487	37,584
	<u>4,458,166</u>	<u>3,782,606</u>
Other income		
- Brokerage fees	122,222	237,912
- Profit on disposal of fixed assets	3,536	47,317
- Other income	86,096	107,587
	<u>211,954</u>	<u>392,716</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

3 Net gain on business combination

On 21 May 2015, Connectability Australia Incorporated acquired the asset and liabilities from Connected Communities Incorporated, a not-for-profit association based in Jesmond NSW, at nil consideration and this resulted in Connectability Australia Incorporated obtaining control of Connected Communities Incorporated. This acquisition is expected to increase Connectability Australia Incorporated's share of this market and reduce costs through economies of scale.

The following table shows the fair value of the identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed of Connected Communities Incorporated as at the date of acquisition:

	Fair value \$
Assets or liabilities acquired:	
Cash and cash equivalents	165,470
Plant and equipment	61,973
Trade and other payables	(38,342)
Provisions	(45,666)
Total net identifiable assets	143,235
Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed	143,235

4 Result for the Year

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Depreciation		
- Leasehold	8,279	8,074
- Motor vehicles	126,577	112,640
- Plant and equipment	4,674	5,253
- Office equipment	4,876	6,466
- Computer equipment	11,517	5,641
	155,825	137,109

5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand	1,604,247	1,291,453
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6 Trade and other receivables

CURRENT		
Trade receivables	254,328	119,241
Other receivables	4,643	-
	258,971	119,241

7 Other non-financial assets

CURRENT		
Prepayments	98,179	30,860

Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 93 098 379 299

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

8 Property, plant and equipment PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Plant and equipment At cost	120,458	60,852
Accumulated depreciation	(50,335)	(20,725)
	<u>70,123</u>	<u>39,127</u>
Motor vehicles At cost	879,428	794,790
Accumulated depreciation	(607,333)	(483,705)
	<u>272,095</u>	<u>311,085</u>
Office equipment At cost	169,202	119,232
Accumulated depreciation	(143,185)	(108,233)
	<u>26,016</u>	<u>10,999</u>
Computer equipment At cost	173,638	146,330
Accumulated depreciation	(147,314)	(124,146)
	<u>26,324</u>	<u>22,184</u>
Improvements At cost	343,847	326,461
Accumulated depreciation	(84,352)	(55,072)
	<u>259,495</u>	<u>271,389</u>
	<u>682,360</u>	<u>638,582</u>

Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 60 066 278 216

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

8 Property, plant and equipment (cont'd)

(a) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Plant and Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Office Equipment	Computer Equipment	Improvements	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2015						
Balance at the beginning of year	34,228	301,085	10,959	21,884	270,388	638,582
Additions	7,680	87,507	12,382	2,616	17,485	137,730
Transfers from merger	40,921	-	7,512	13,540	-	61,973
Depreciation expense	(4,874)	(126,577)	(4,873)	(11,517)	(8,279)	(155,925)
Balance at the end of the year	78,133	272,095	26,015	26,522	279,595	682,360

Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 93 096 373 222

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

9 Trade and other payables

	2016	2014
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Secured Liabilities		
Trade payables	457,544	145,085
GST payable	46,891	47,350
Employee benefits	30,602	22,858
Accrued expenses	180,873	80,688
Other payables	48,112	55,298
	<u>764,722</u>	<u>391,297</u>

10 Borrowings

CURRENT		
Secured liabilities:		
Lease liability secured	28,188	28,826

NON-CURRENT

Secured liabilities:

Lease liability secured

	<u>7,385</u>	<u>42,483</u>
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11 Employee Benefits

CURRENT

Long service leave

Annual leave

	262,912	160,974
	<u>180,710</u>	<u>185,070</u>

NON-CURRENT

Long service leave

	<u>433,622</u>	<u>375,044</u>
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12 Other liabilities

CURRENT

Amounts received in advance

	<u>1,755</u>	<u>8,564</u>
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13 Remuneration of Auditors

Remuneration of the auditor, KUM Accountants, for:
- auditing or reviewing the financial statements

	<u>8,100</u>	<u>7,750</u>
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Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 93 052 270 229

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

14 Contingencies

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the Association did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2015 (30 June 2014: None).

15 Related Parties

(a) Key management personnel

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity are considered key management personnel.

The totals of remuneration paid to the key management personnel of Connectability Australia incorporated during the year were \$130,339 (2014: \$101,115).

16 Cash Flow Information

(a) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Surplus for the year	142,140	252,202
Non-cash flows in surplus:		
- depreciation	155,925	137,109
- net proceeds from merger	(143,235)	-
- donated fixed assets from merger	(51,973)	-
- net (profit) / loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(3,535)	3,880
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(139,730)	(95,083)
- (increase)/decrease in other assets	(88,319)	216
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	403,424	112,054
- increase/(decrease) in other current liabilities	(7,420)	3,313
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	51,511	51,057
Cashflow from operations	338,687	474,788

17 Economic dependency

A large proportion of income is received by way of case-based grant funding from the Department of Social Services, NSW Department of Family and Community Services, Ageing Disability and Home Care, and the National Disability Insurance Agency which are administered by the Commonwealth and New South Wales State Governments.

18 Events Occurring After the Reporting Date

The financial report was authorised for issue on 21 October 2015 by the Committee of Management.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may

Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 93 955 379 299

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

18 Events Occurring After the Reporting Date (cont'd)

significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

19 Association Details

The registered office of the association is:

Connectability Australia Incorporated

Units 3 & 4, 46 Hudson Street

HAMILTON NSW 2303

Connectability Australia Incorporated

ABN: 55 858 378 295

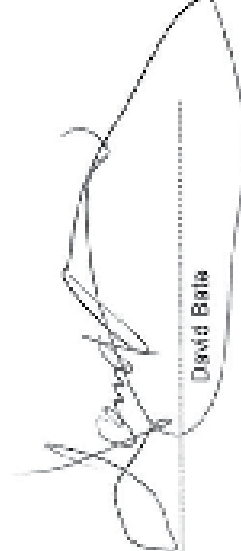
Statement by Members of the Committee


The committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 15:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Connectability Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Connectability Australia Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by

Committee member.....

David Ball

Committee member.....

Peter Caughlan

Dated 21 October 2015

Aloojs and Margaret Novak
 Alistair Woodcock
 Automotive Action
 Baiada Enterprises Pty Ltd (formerly Barter
 Enterprises Pty Ltd)
 Bianca Grosz
 BNI Chapters Newcastle
 Cardiff Combined Probus Club
 Cardiff Toyota
 Cardiff RSL, Cardiff
 Charlestown Bowling Club
 Cheryl Carkean
 Chris Johnson
 Disability Network Hunter
 EDI Downer Rail, Cardiff
 Ellen Ross
 Ethos Health
 Garry Willis
 Gavin Blyth
 Graham Heine
 Grill'd The Junction
 Hamilton North Bowling Club
 Helen O'Driscoll
 Hunter Arts Network
 Hunter Residences, Stockton, Management and staff
 IPAR
 Jess Irwin and Nathan Pritchard
 Jodie Armstrong
 Kathryn Charlesworth
 Kathy Buechner
 Kayleigh Doyle
 Kent Woodcock, Kent Woodcock Creative Solutions
 Kerry Houghton - Jim's Carpet Cleaning



Susan Porteous our Arts Facilitator oversaw the production
 of close to 1000 decorations hand made by ConnectAbility
 participants for the Hunter Arts Network Summer Bazaar.
 Volunteer family members assisted in getting the individual
 items ready for sale. Proceeds support our Art Program.

Kerry White
 Kirsten Woodforth Photography
 KOFM
 Lake Macquarie City Council
 Leslie Potter
 Linda Miller
 Lions Club Jesmond
 Lisa Baker
 M&G Signs
 Markey Insurance
 NBN Television
 Narelle Liplyn
 Newcastle Community Arts Centre
 Newcastle and Hunter and NSW Australian Hotels
 Association
 Newcastle City Council
 Newcastle Herald
 Newcastle NOW
 Newcastle Permanent Building Society
 NSW Communities, Sport and Recreation
 Rachel Wen Jia Tan
 Southern Cross Austereo—NXFM & KOFM
 Sue McKinnon
 Taylor Deutscher
 Terry Lawler and Lawler Partners management and staff
 The Forum
 Thelma Cotter
 Theresa Roberts
 Tim Osborn—Osborn Solicitors
 Tina Sierke
 Wendy Jessup
 Wheelchair Rugby League NSW

THANK YOU



We are very appreciative of all of the help and support that we receive throughout the year from individuals, families, corporate and community supporters

FAREWELLS

Lyn Williams

After 15 years of keeping the ConnectAbility accounts in order Lyn Williams made the decision to leave ConnectAbility to spend more time travelling and to be with her family in Queensland. We will all miss her expertise and commitment.

At any time there were often participants in Lyn's office looking to share their daily adventures. This openness with people will be missed by participants, families and staff. We all wish her well in her new adventures.

Fran Bills

Fran loved to see participants achieve their goals and dreams. So it was with some reluctance that Fran decided to leave ConnectAbility to pursue her own dreams and to be closer to her parents. We will all miss her calm and thoughtful outlook on life. We thank her for close to 20 years of providing quality outcomes for people.

CONTACT US

**Units 3 and 4,
46 Hudson Street,
Hamilton, NSW, 2303
P.O Box 225 Islington, NSW, 2296**

Phone: (02) 4962 1000

Fax: (02) 4962 1030

E-mail: contact@connectabilityaus.org.au

Web: www.connectabilityaus.org.au

About ConnectAbility

ConnectAbility Australia was founded in 1992 by a group of community members and families to meet the needs of people with significant disabilities to provide opportunities to access community based resources, facilities and services. In 2015, a decision was made to diversify and grow the organisation to provide supports and opportunities to other groups within the community and a merger between ConnectAbility and Jesmond Connected Communities was completed.

We now provide a broad range of personalised supports to older community members, children and young people and people with disabilities. ConnectAbility participants reside throughout Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Maitland and other Lower Hunter local government areas.

Our approach is personal, flexible and centred on the person. Whether you are attending one of our Friendship Groups as an older person, a playgroup, community education sessions, or are a person with a disability looking to achieve goals and dreams ConnectAbility will work with you and, should you choose, those closest to you to ensure you achieve your goals.

Dependent on your requirements, ConnectAbility can assist people with in-home personal care and domestic assistance, shopping and meal preparation, assistance with medication management, social supports and respite care both in-home and in the community. We look at creating meaningful relationships and true inclusion for people within the community. There are a number of community education and support opportunities offered such as language classes, vacation programs for school children, and youth and family counselling.

Whether you are looking to undertake further education and training, volunteer work or recreational activities using local facilities such as libraries, parks, gyms, shopping centres and other recreational venues ConnectAbility can work with individuals to address any barriers that exist for people being able to achieve their goals, dreams and aspirations.

We actively seek community and corporate supports and partners to further enhance opportunities and outcomes.

ConnectAbility Australia is a not for profit incorporated association, and is registered as a gift deductible recipient with tax charity concessions. We are governed by a Board consisting of volunteer community and consumer representatives.

This report reviews our activities and operations for 2014/2015. Many of our supporters have had input into the information in the report and have allowed their photos to be used and we are grateful for their contributions.

It is also a celebration of the achievements of the individuals and families who use our services and we thank all of them for allowing us to use their photos and share their stories in this report.

Additional copies of this report can be obtained from our office, website or by contacting us by e-mail, phone or post.

THANK YOU THELMA

Commitment to her Community

For over 26 years Thelma Cotter has been volunteering in the Jesmond Friendship Group assisting older community members have a great time and maintain connections with friends and the community.

Thelma originally started volunteering following retirement when she was looking for something to do that would benefit her community. She saw an ad for volunteering with the group and thought she would go along and see what it was all about. Well 26 years later she is still attending each Friday organising and playing games, serving meals and making people feel welcomed as they enjoy each others company.

Thelma stated that what keeps her going is the friends she has made, they are like family, looking out for each other. It is sad when someone leaves the group or passes away.

Thelma also feels that the group keeps her young as she is a “people person” and this is a “**people person**” job.

Thelma is a unique individual as it is rare to find someone so generous with their time over such a long period. All the Friendship group attendees and the staff of ConnectAbility are honoured to have her on board.



Support Us— Together we can achieve anything!

If you are an individual or business and would like to make a real difference for people living in our community please call our reception and talk to Margaret on 4962 1000 to discuss the many ways you may be able to assist. This could be through direct supports, volunteering, staff giving or sharing your skills, passions and expertise. **We would love to hear from you!!**

