



Life Members — Arnold & Thelma Wright

Both Arnold & Thelma were very strong & dedicated supporters of the Deaf community from the time they were young school students at the Blind and Deaf Institute. Arnold was the voice of the Deaf community, running everything from A to Z. He went to the first Deaf carnival and was very heavily involved with the Deaf cricket teams, playing, selecting, organizing and raising funds. He was a staunch supporter. He was involved with the new Deaf clubrooms at Lewis Street helping with working bees and was on the committee for many years. He was a very highly respected person in the Deaf community.



Thelma was the steady supporter welcoming the Deaf people to their home before the Deaf clubrooms were set up and provided the refreshments during the depression. She was a very keen badminton player and was involved with the Deaf Women's Guild then the Senior Citizens Deaf Club for many years. Thelma loved playing cards and was a very independent lady and, in recent years, lived on her own till she passed away recently at the age of 96.

Life Members — Derrick & Beryl Tabor and Frances Webster



All of them gave many years of selfless service to the Deaf community of Tasmania.

Frances gave a lot of her time making craft items (which she generously donated), sewing the uniforms for the carnival cricket teams, making refreshments, helping out with the fundraising and working on committees.

Derrick & Beryl are still heavily involved with everything in the Deaf community. They regularly volunteer their time and expertise to help on committees, stalls, fundraising, selling raffle tickets, helping out with sports/carnivals and with maintenance.

They have been volunteering as far back as the days of the Deaf and Blind Institute. They also were the house parents at Tabor House for 5 years as volunteers, running the place, cooking meals, looking after the boarders, cleaning, keeping up with maintenance of the property. They were wonderful role models for the Deaf and Hearing people and were and still are highly respected. Now in their 70's, they are still helping out at Tasdeaf and work tirelessly in the office when extra hands are needed.



Life Member — Mervyn Grace

Mervyn was a very strong and dedicated supporter of the Deaf community and was always willing to lend a helping hand. He was a very good handy man and loved fixing things and making things at no cost for the Deaf community. On a couple of occasions he made trailers to be raffled for fundraising. He also served on committees, regularly supported and participated in fundraising activities and helped with maintenance when and where it was needed. He worked and supported the society well into his 70's and was highly respected and much loved for his big heart and his smiling face.



Life Member—Leigh Harrison

Leigh Harrison has been heavily involved with Tasdeaf for the past 22 years including 1985-1987 where he was part of the interim committee for Tasdeaf to become a separate entity from the Royal Guide Dogs. He has also represented Tasdeaf on the Royal Tasmanian Society of Blind and Deaf for over 22 years.

Life Member — Peter Bailey

Peter was heavily involved with the Deaf community when the Royal Tasmanian Society for the Blind and Deaf were separated in 1988. He was a Board Member then Vice President of R.T.S.B.D from 1987-1995.

He was a Deaf President of Interim Board for the Tasmanian Deaf Society from 1986-1987 until he become the first Deaf President of the newly formed Tasmanian Deaf Society in 1988.

He also become the first Deaf President of Tasmanian Council of the Deaf people from 1984-2002.

Over the years, Peter has been appointed to the positions of Secretary and President on the Tasdeaf Board as well as many years as an elected member. He was the Honorary Secretary of Xth Australian Deaf Games in Hobart.

He was a great supporter of the World Federation of the Deaf in Brisbane with his donation and also donor supporter to Tasdeaf, Tasmanian Council of Deaf people for



Life Member—Diana Hodgetts

Diana has been a committed worker and tireless volunteer for the Tasmanian Deaf Society, the Deaf community, the Department of Education, Adult Education and any organisation needing input from a Deaf community perspective. Her paid employment was part-time but her commitment, energy and passion has been full-time for over 30 years.

A founding member of the Deaf Society, Diana began working part-time for the Society in 1987 after the Blind and Deaf Institute separated to form two organisations. An inaugural Board member, Diana gave her time generously to see the Deaf Society develop from a new organisation to its present form. She has diligently kept the history of the Society by voluntarily finding, collecting and collating photographs, articles and items of interest, which are now in Tasdeaf archives.

Diana has taught Auslan and Deaf culture to new staff members of the Deaf Society, as well as running classes through Adult Education. She taught Deaf Studies to deaf students in schools and was involved in interpreter training and Deafness awareness training for a range of service providers. Diana's representation of the Deaf community has been extensive. As well as being a committee member for a variety of deaf forums and committees, Diana has also been a member of the Deaf Signing Choir, a member of the organising committee for the Australian Deaf Games held in Tasmania in 1991, a committee member for the National Deafness Conference, held in Tasmania in 1996, and has organised many social events and festivals for the Deaf community.



Life Member — Jack O'Toole

As there was no Deaf club in the North/North West region, Jack organised the Northern Deaf Men's cricket team for many years to play against the Southern Deaf Cricket Team. In co operation with Arnold Wright, Jack played, selected, organized and fundraised for the teams. Imagine the difficulties of contacting players to organize teams, dates and times to suit Deaf shift workers(no computers, no mobile phones, no TTY or relay service back then). So it must have meant hard work for Jack for many years. Amazing to think of that remarkable achievement to keep it going for years until there was no longer a Deaf cricket team to take part in the Deaf games.

