INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR AUGMENTATIVE & ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION

# isac e-news

#### June 2015



Jeffrey K. Riley, ISAAC President

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# Message from the President

#### **Dear ISAAC Members:**

In my part of the world the weather has become warm and the days long and sunny. The season always means opportunities for outdoor socializing, and the summer tradition of the barbeque. Last week I had the good fortune to once again be invited to the "Cool Communicators Barbeque" on Vancouver Island.

The Cool Communicators are social groups of adults who use AAC, with members in their late teens right into their 80s. The "CCers," as they sometimes refer to themselves, meet throughout the year in their respective cities on Vancouver Island and join together for a big barbeque once a year, usually in June. It is quite the party, with loads of food, fun, and games. As a participant I am always impressed at the level of engagement shown by the Cool Communicators... they plan the activities, the menus, the invitation list, and the themes.

Somewhere between 35 and 50 of them show up for the big day with at least as many supporters and family from across Vancouver Island (a landmass larger than Belgium, with a lot more mountains). When they arrive at the seaside park where this event occurs (see photo below), new arrivals are greeted warmly by others already in attendance, with questions, good-natured jokes, and sometimes unique gifts.

In the context of human beings across the world, the event of a big family barbeque is not remarkable, except that these individuals are for the most part people with significant developmental delays, and physical and communication disabilities. People with these challenges often exist in total lonely isolation, with few or no friends, and no community. In this small corner of the world we are able to witness firsthand how



# Message from the President continued

individuals with significant challenges can build community and knit themselves together into friendships, and families.

Of course, communities are built on the contributions and participation of all its members, and as such the Cool Communicators were and continue to be supported by the greater community around them. But just as there are nurturing communities of and for people who use AAC on remote Vancouver Island. I know there are similar communities across the world in Australia. California. Ontario. Norway, and South Africa, to name just a few. It has long been ISAAC's mission to knit these communities together through the work of ISAAC groups and initiatives, e.g., the ISAAC committees of BUILD and LEAD; the ISAAC publications, resources, website: and of course the biennial conference when we all gather together to build and strengthen our global community of AAC. So here is a challenge to you all... as we move toward the next ISAAC conference in Toronto in 2016, I ask you to link with the ISAAC committees of LEAD and BUILD to share the unique stories and descriptions of your own local communities of people who use AAC. Each community story is a precious voice that contributes to the chorus of our human family truly the song of our lives.

Speaking of our ISAAC family, it is my great pleasure to announce the

successful candidate for the position of ISAAC President-Elect... please join me in warmly welcoming Meredith Allen of Australia to this position. Meredith is a long-time ISAAC member, serving on multiple ISAAC committees including LEAD, Publications, Finance, and Nominations. a s а representative on the ISAAC Council. Meredith is a previous winner of the Words+/ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award (1998), and the ISAAC President's Award (2006), and will become the first person who uses AAC to serve as President-Elect of ISAAC. She will serve as President-Elect for an exceptional three-year term (2015-2018), followed by a two-year term as ISAAC President.

Meredith's addition to the ISAAC Executive Board is a testimony to the strength and diversity of our organization, bringing people from all across the world to create and nurture a global community that includes all people and all voices. Wherever you may happen to be at this our season of the solstice, let all voices be heard around the fire.

Best wishes to you all, Jeff

Jeff Riley ISAAC President 2012-2015





<u>Connect to</u> <u>ISAAC's</u> <u>YouTube</u> <u>Channel</u>

# isac

# ... From the Executive Director

"Message from the President" and "...From the E x e c u t i v e Director" can be found in translation on the ISAAC website, <u>here</u>. Welcome to the June 2015 edition of ISAAC E-News.

The ISAAC International office continues its work on behalf of the membership around the world, and is thrilled to advise on the following initiatives:

#### Conference 2016

The Conference 2016 Call for Papers is now open! The online submission portal can be accessed by clicking <u>here</u>, or by navigating to <u>https://www.isaac-online.org/english/</u> conference-2016/call-for-papers-

<u>2016/</u>, and clicking on the blue button at the top of the webpage. We are anticipating a very strong response to our Call for Papers, which is currently scheduled to close on October  $16^{th}$ , 2015.

Planning for the conference is now "kicking into high gear", and we are looking forward to welcoming the world to Toronto, Canada in August, 2016! Please check out all the current conference information, including the Star Alliance air discounts, at <u>https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2016/</u>.

#### 2015 Membership Directory

We are now in production for the ISAAC 2015 Membership Directory

which will be available for viewing or as a PDF download from the Members Only area of our website. We will be emailing all members once it is available.

#### **ISAAC** Webinars

USSAAC. the ISAAC International Chapter in the United States, recently held two well attended webinars, with over 200 people registering for each. Presented by Lewis Golinker and facilitated by Amy Goldman, these two webinars provided attendees with valuable information relating to funding for speech-generated devices in the United States. Additional information relating to these webinars, including PDF copies of the PowerPoint slides and videos of the presentations themselves, are available at: https://www.isaac-online.org/ english/news/webinars/. Our congratulations to USSAAC and their organizing committee for delivering these very well received webinars.

If other ISAAC Chapters or Council members want to make use of the ISAAC International webinar platform, feel free to get in touch with me directly.

# ... From the Executive Director continued



#### Administrative Streamlining @ ISAAC International

ISAAC International continues to look for ways of getting the most from each membership dollar. Up until recently, we have been paying for an outsourced computer server solution to host our membership database and all of ISAAC International's computer file access and storage requirements.

We have now completed а migration to a self-hosted solution that will provide us with improved access and greater file storage capacity, at an overall annual cost savings of \$6,000! Reducing our overall expenses by this amount will allow us to yet again increase the proportion of funds directed to supporting the vision and mission of ISAAC, while minimizing overall costs of administration.

ISAAC International now has the capability and capacity to assist others Chapters around the world with access to a hosted server at an affordable cost. If any Chapter or Council member is interested, feel free to get in touch with me directly.

#### 2014 Financial Audit

ISAAC International has been spending April and May finalizing and reviewing its 2014 audit results. The

ISAAC Finance Committee has also recently completed its review, and has recommended to the Executive Board (EB) that they be approved, which the EB has accepted. The approved 2014 audited financial statements can be found on the ISAAC International website, in the Members Only area. We are in the process of ensuring on-time filing of our required statements to both the <u>Canada Revenue Agency</u> and <u>Internal</u> <u>Revenue Service</u>.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly, at <u>franklin@isaac-online.org</u>, should you require any further information or assistance.

Regards and thanks, <u>Franklin Smith</u>

#### POSITION STATEMENT ON FACILITATED COMMUNICATION, NOW AVAILABLE IN CHINESE

The ISAAC Council approved a position statement on facilitated communication at the July 20, 2014, Council meeting in Lisbon, Portugal. Thanks to our members in the ISAAC-Taiwan Chapter, the Chinese translation of this statement is now available in the Members Only section of our website, <u>here</u>.

# **iseac** Important Notice About your AAC Subscription



ISAAC members' access to their AAC accounts will be transferred to Taylor & Francis Online over the next few months, with migration complete by the end of August. Over the course of the migration members will receive an invitation showing them how to access their content.

The activation process message will look similar to the below:

Your journal content has been migrated to Taylor & Francis Online. Simply click on the link: <u>http://</u> <u>www.tandfonline.com/</u>, sign in with your email address and password and your online access will be available to you via the "Access" tab.

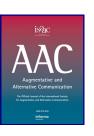
Journal content will remain available on the <u>Informa Healthcare</u> site until the end of August, but we suggest that all members activate their Taylor & Francis Online accounts before this date in order to maintain journal access.

#### Migration to Taylor & Francis Online

AAC will benefit from many features on the Taylor & Francis Online platform. Journal pages host information relating to the journal, such as article level download and citation data; a versatile mobile version; "Most Read" and "Most Cited" article information, and much more. Visit the website here www.tandfonline.com/iaac.

During this process, your contacts are: **Gillian Mundy** for membership updates: <u>gill.society@tandf.co.uk</u> **Managing Editor** for journal updates: <u>ellie.gilroy@tandf.co.uk</u>

# New AAC Journal — June 2015 Vol. 31 No. 2



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#### e-news

#### Page 6

# ISAAC Welcomes New President-Elect: Meredith Allan, Australia





MEREDITH ALLAN, AUSTRALIA ISAAC PRESIDENT-ELECT OCTOBER 2015 – SEPTEMBER 2018

ISAAC is pleased to announce that Meredith Allan of Australia will succeed Gregor Renner of Germany as President-Elect of ISAAC in October 2015.

At that time, we will bid a fond farewell to Jeff Riley (Canada), ISAAC President 2012 - 2015, and Gregor Renner will assume the role of ISAAC President.

At ISAAC we have been extremely fortunate to have had strong organizational leadership. Meredith Allan follows in this tradition of excellence.

Meredith has held volunteer positions with ISAAC International since 1997 - 98, at which time she served on ISAAC's People Who Use AAC (PWUAAC) Committee (now LEAD). From 1998 - 2002 she was our international representative for the Australian Chapter of ISAAC.

In addition to her involvement through ISAAC-Australia, Meredith has contributed directly for many years as a volunteer at the international level, including Consulting Editor for the AAC Journal and membership on a number of committees, including the Finance, Publications, and Nominations.

Meredith was employed by the Australian Taxation Office in increasingly responsible positions from 1985 to 2014, at which time she chose to retire. At that time she enrolled in a Master's program at Deakin University in Melbourne as a part-time student. She also acts as a Communication Assessor for SCOPE Australia on an asneeded basis.

With a strong background in finance and a degree in economics from Monash University, Meredith will bring these skills and many others to ISAAC as we move forward.

Meredith looks forward to contributing her time, skills, and talents in furtherance of ISAAC's mission and strategic goals, and in becoming ISAAC's youngest-ever PWUAAC President-Elect!



# ISAAC-UK COMMUNICATION MATTERS ROAD SHOW

30 June 2015, Bristol, UK

Every year CM organizes a number of Roadshows around the UK to update and inform everybody in the field of AAC, including providers and people who are new to AAC technology. The suppliers at the upcoming Bristol Roadshow will provide short presentations, an exhibition and opportunities for individual discussion. Suppliers include: • Crick Software • Inclusive Technology • Liberator • RSLSteeper • Sensory Guru • Sensory Software • Smartbox Assistive Technology • Techcess • Therapy Box • Toby Churchill.

Sponsored and hosted by the AAC supplier members of Communication Matters. For more information, <u>click here</u>.

# A LETTER FROM ISAAC-FINLAND: DISBANDING THE CHAPTER

At the April 28, 2015, meeting of the Council of ISAAC-Finland, the Chapter made a difficult but unanimous decision to disband our Finnish Chapter and inform our members to join ISAAC International. Despite of various efforts to reform the role of ISAAC-Finland, we did not succeed. We lost many members and were not able to recruit new ones, to our membership or our Board. This meant that we were not able to follow our bylaws and were able to continue any longer.

ISAAC-Finland was established as an association in 1990 by the president of Finnish Bliss Association Marjatta Jaroma, with keen AAC supporters. ISAAC-Finland has during its 25 years, worked to promote AAC through information, training and projects. It has fulfilled its purpose by paving the way for many publicly-funded independent organizations in the field of AAC that now exist in Finland.

Communication and Technology Center Tikoteekki was established 20 years ago. It has the same task and role as ISAAC had. Tikoteekki is developing AAC and interaction models, and does training and dissemination of information with newsletters, leaflets and through <u>Papunet</u> website. Tikoteekki and Papunet have employees who stand up for the rights of people who use AAC. Finland also has other organizations with employees who are active in the field of AAC.

I want to thank our members as well all our friends in Finland and abroad. Even though the work of ISAAC Finland is finished, our co-operation with Nordic countries and ISAAC International continues and you will see us at the upcoming conferences.

- Eija Roisko, Former President of ISAAC-Finland

# Chapter News continued

#### **ISAAC-AUSTRALIA**

ISAAC Australia recently announced their 2015 Award Winners! Congratulations to all. To read about the winners and their accomplishments, <u>click here</u>.

#### **ISAAC-BRAZIL**

The VI ISAAC-Brazil Conference took place from June 9th to 12th at the Faculty of Medical Sciences – Unicamp, São Paulo. The theme was *Alternative Communication: Occupying Territories* (home, schools, clinics and specialized institutions, hospitals, workplaces, courtrooms, and sociocultural territories.

Participants from fields such as Health, Education, Art, Language, Information Technology and Engineering took part in roundtables, short courses, presentations, posters, exhibitions and demos.

Congratulations to ISAAC-Brazil on hosting a very successful conference!

#### **ISAAC-ISRAEL**

ISAAC ISRAEL is delighted to announce that after years of effort, high-tech AAC devices have been approved for inclusion within the government-funded "basket" of healthcare services. On behalf of the ISAAC-ISRAEL Committee, the members of our organization and our friends, thank you to all those who took part in this effort, thank you to the coalition of organizations which supported the submission to the Ministry of Health: Ezer M'Zion; IsraALS; The Israeli Rett Syndrome Association and the Law Offices of Zysman, Aharoni, Geir and Associates; Kesher; Israeli Speech Language and Hearing Association; and the Department of Rehabilitation Equipment and Mobility in the Ministry of Health.

- Judy Wine, Yonit Hagoel Karnieli, and Hadar Zetzer Fallah, The Committee to Promote Legislation, ISAAC-Israel

#### **ISAAC-TAIWAN**



Professor Charity M. Rowland from the Oregon Health & Science University was invited by Dr. Meng-Ju Tsai, President of ISAAC-Taiwan, to visit Taichung City, Taiwan. Prof. Rowland gave a presentation on the

applications of ICF-CY in AAC practice on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and a Communication Matrix Workshop on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at Chung-Shan Medical University.



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# Chapter News continued



## **ISAAC-US (USSAAC)**

This spring, ISAAC was pleased to partner with the ISAAC-US Chapter, USSAAC, for a free webinar series on Funding for Speech-Generating Devices (SGDs). The two sessions, held April 8th and June 3rd, 2015, explored implications for the AAC Community of impending changes in policy and coverage guidelines for SGDs.

For details and online resources, <u>click</u> <u>here</u>.

# **ISAAC OUTSTANDING CONSUMER** LECTURE AWARD 2016

Now open for submissions! **Details**, including application guidelines, can be found <u>here</u>. The deadline for submissions is **November 30th, 2015**.

# ISAAC-UK (COMMUNICATION MATTERS)

Applications for volunteer trustee positions with the organization are being accepted. Trustees are elected for a three-year term of office. They can then stand for re-election for a further three-year term. For more information, click here.

#### **News From Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC)**

We need your help to reduce the barriers to telephone communication for people with speech and language disabilities (SLDs). It will only take you a few minutes and may have a major impact on increasing awareness of the needs of this population. Many people with physical and SLDs disabilities are living in institutional settings because there are no reliable, accessible, affordable telephones for them to use. Other people who can access phones, experience significant barriers that could potentially be addressed through improved message, video or speech-to-speech relay services.

The Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is conducting a public consultation on the use of Message Relay Services (MRS) for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing or who have a speech disability. This is an operator-assisted service for people who can type their messages. It is primarily used by people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

At this time, we are asking the CRTC to bring a national focus to the needs of people with SLDs in terms of the provision of reliable, affordable, accessible telephones and appropriate services such as message relay services, video relay services and speech-to-speech services. Please see my attached letter for details about why this is important as well as our past dealings with TELUS and the CRTC. You can also see our posts on the CRTC site.

# News from CDAC continued

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

To draw attention to these issues, we need as many people as possible to post their comments on the CRTC site.

#### CRTC Deadline: June 29, 2015. To post your message on the CRTC site , click <u>here</u>.

You will be prompted to set up a log in and password. Under "Active Conversations," choose "Message Relay Services". You can choose to put your comment in a reply to one question or to all 4 question areas (the more exposure the better). If you like, you can hit reply to the comments I posted or add your own. You can also cut and paste from suggested texts below.

#### Suggested Text 1:

People who have speech and language disabilities have the right to access telecommunication services. At this time they experience major barriers that impact on their ability to maintain social contacts; call for help in an emergency and in many cases it impacts on their ability to live independently in the community. We want the CRTC to address this by establishing a national focus on the needs of this population in terms of the provision of reliable, affordable, accessible telephones and the extension and development of telecommunication services such as message relay services; video relay services and speech-to-speech services.

#### Suggested Text 2

People who have communication disabilities, not caused by hearing loss can experience significant communication barriers when using telecommunications. Some of these barriers include:

- People not understanding their natural speech or the speech they generate from their communication device.
- People hanging-up on them because they think their unclear speech is due to being drunk or that their device is an automated sales call.
- Not being able to physically access a telephone from a wheelchair or bed which may impact on one's ability to safely live in the community or use personal support services.
- People not accepting assistance from a communication interpreter that they authorize to assist them communicating on the telephone and /or people assuming their assistant has power of attorney to make decision for them in critical communication situations.



# News from CDAC continued

- Not being able to use automated prompts (numbers to navigate the phone system) due to physical disabilities.
- Not being able to participate and effectively communicate in teleconferences.
- Not knowing about message relay services that are typically marketed to people who are Deaf or have a hearing loss.
- Not being able to effectively use message relay services because operators are not trained in facilitating people who have unclear speech or who use AAC.
- Increased cost of telephone services due to slow rate of communication.
- Businesses and organizations not accepting ways other than the telephone to access services (e.g. text, email, or assistance).

Thank you for your participation on this important initiative.

Barbara Collier Reg. CASLPO Executive Director Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) 131 Barber Greene Rd. Toronto, ON M3C 3Y5 Canada

#### A CELEBRATION OF LIFE: ANNE WARRICK



On June 4th, 2015, a Celebration of Life took place in Ottawa to honour the life and work of Anne Warrick, a long-time ISAAC supporter and friend. The quilt that was made for her by a group of friends will be hung at the Ottawa Children's

Treatment Centre (OCTC), and the AAC Library at OCTC is being renamed the Warrick AAC Library in recognition of Anne's dedication to communicating with the children of OCTC. The quilt makers were asked to write short stories

about Anne that related to the Bliss Symbols on the quilt for the OCTC archive, and it is now available to share with all of us. This beautiful Anne Warrick Recognition Booklet is posted in PDF format on the ISAAC website, here.



- Photos courtesy of Jane Beaumont (above, with the quilt; right, Anne with friend Jorge at ISAAC 2010 in Barcelona)

# AAC Around the World

#### **CSWN News**

**Communication Support World Network (CSWN) News** (formerly Augmentative Communication World Network Newsletter) welcomes articles about emerging AAC nations that you either live in or support. Please send your submissions to CSWN Newsletter editor <u>Dot Fraser</u>.

To read the June 2015 issue of **CSWN News** in PDF format, please click here.



A special issue of CSWN News, Special Education: Sub-Saharan Africa, was published in May 2015. Thanks to Harvey Pressman, Editor, and Nenneya Shields, Managing Editor, for this detailed resource. To view, please <u>click here</u>.

#### **ISAAC BUILD AAC**

We have an update from Dot Fraser and Aldona Mysakowska Adamczyk, BUILD Subcommittee for Europe, on the 10th Eastern and Central European AAC Conference (ECEAAC). The conference will take place in Chişinău City, Republic of Moldova, October 12 - 14, 2015. For information about the host university, please <u>click here</u>.

Participation at the conference requires fee payment by bank transfer in the amount of 120 EU for each participant. For those who would like to participate and support AAC in Eastern and Central Europe, but are unable to travel to Moldova in October, a distance participation option is available. A fee of 40 EU includes conference materials and covers postage costs.

For more information, please contact <u>Dot Fraser</u>.

# **ISAAC ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

<u>Click here</u> to view and "like" ISAAC International on Facebook, as well as <u>ISAAC BUILD</u> <u>AAC</u>, which is curated by Petra Autnam Dillmann of Namibia. Both pages are a great way to share news with ISAAC members and others interested in AAC. Follow <u>ISAAC on</u> <u>YouTube</u> for updates on video, too!

#### e-news

# How Can You Support ISAAC BUILD AAC?

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ISAAC BUILD AAC was formed with the aim of supporting emerging AAC countries in their efforts to increase AAC awareness and utilization. Promoting and implementing AAC is often a challenge in these countries due to lack of financial or infrastructural resources.

As reported in the March issue of E-News, we are seeking ISAAC Chapters who may be interested in collaborating with/supporting emerging AAC countries or regions. We believe that such partnerships would be meaningful and beneficial for both Chapters and BUILD. Some possible ways that Chapters could help include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Sponsoring membership of individuals from emerging countries;
- Developing/sharing resource materials;
- Providing training in an emerging country/region;
- Sponsoring emerging countries on the <u>ISAAC Five & Five Program</u>.

Chapters who are interested can either contact <u>Sarah Yong</u>, BUILD Chair, or <u>Janice Murray</u>, Chair of the ISAAC Council. We will connect you to the appropriate individuals and will be happy to provide more information. We look forward to collaborating with you in this exciting work!

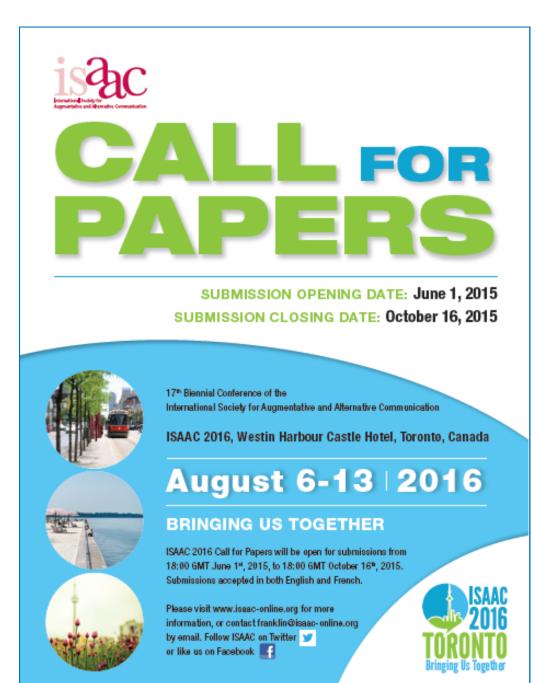
- Sarah Yong, ISAAC BUILD Committee Chair



Representatives from BUILD AAC countries shared information and resources at ISAAC 2014 in Lisbon, Portugal.

# 17TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF ISAAC August 6 - 13, 2016

The ISAAC Conference 2016 Call for Papers is open for submissions! Click here for submission guidelines.



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## HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR ISAAC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015?

If you are currently a member of ISAAC, you can renew your membership through your national or regional <u>Chapter</u>. Members of ISAAC International and ISAAC Canada may <u>renew their membership online</u>.

# THANK YOU !

# ISAAC Chapters

ISAAC-Australia (www.isaacaustralia.com)

ISAAC-Brazil (<u>www.isaac.org.br</u>)

ISAAC-Canada (<u>www.isaac-canada.org</u>)

ISAAC-Denmark (<u>www.isaac.dk</u>)

ISAAC-Francophone (French-Speaking Countries and Regions) (www.isaac-fr.org)

ISAAC-India (www.isaac.org.in)

ISAAC-Israel (www.isaac.org.il)

ISAAC-Italy (www.isaacitaly.it)

ISAAC-NF (Netherlands and Flanders) (<u>www.isaac-nf.nl</u>)

ISAAC-Norway (<u>www.isaac.no</u>)

ISAAC-Sweden (www.isaac-sverige.se)

ISAAC-Taiwan (<u>twsaac.blogspot.tw/</u>)

ISAAC-UK (Communication Matters) (www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

ISAAC-US (USSAAC) (www.ussaac.org)



ISAAC has Chapters in 14 countries or regions worldwide. For information about how you can participate, contact the organizations listed above, or <u>ISAAC International</u> for areas not listed.



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#### INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR AUGMENTATIVE & ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION

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ISAAC Chapters and members worldwide are invited to submit items of interest from your country or region. News, AAC practice tips, research, personal essays, in article format or as a link to online articles or resources, will be reviewed and made available on the ISAAC website as appropriate. Please send articles and photos to Nola Millin.

**ISAAC E-News** is published four times each year. Comments on this issue are welcome. Please contact <u>Heather</u> <u>Stonehouse</u>.



ISAAC's Vision is that AAC will be recognized, valued and used throughout the world.

ISAAC's *Mission* is to promote the best possible communication for people with complex communication needs.

ISAAC is a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

#### **Contact Us**

#### Executive Board 2014-2016

J<u>effrey K. Riley</u> President, Canada (until end of September 2015)

<u>Gregor Renner</u> President-Elect, Germany (until end of September 2015)

#### Meredith Allan

President-Elect, Australia (beginning October 2015)

Janice Murray Chair of the Council, UK

Aldona Mysakowska Adamczyk Chair-Elect of the Council, Poland

India Ochs VP without Portfolio, USA

<u>Tracy Shepherd</u> VP-Conference Planning, Canada

<u>Vic Valentic</u> Leadership Chair for People who use AAC, Canada <u>Sarah Yong</u> VP without Portfolio, Singapore

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<u>Heather Stonehouse</u>, Manager – Communications

Nola Millin, Editor, ISAAC Website

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Jackie Brown, AAC Editorial Assistant

