



International Society for
Augmentative and Alternative Communication

**ISAAC-Australia Inc.
The Australian Chapter of ISAAC**

Meredith Allan
104/932-936 Riversdale Rd
Surrey Hills Vic 3127
mmallan@netspace.net.au
23 September 2022

Dear ISAAC-Australia Members,

Attached to this email are

- [Flyer for AAC Awareness month \(October\) – Competition](#) - please spread widely
- [Secretary nomination form](#) - still open

The Call for Papers for next year's ISAAC conference (July 24th - 27th) has gone out. The link is <https://isaac-online.org/english/conference-cancun/call-for-papers/>

The Silent Auction has raised over \$800. This means we have \$1500 in Scholarship fund to help get a person who uses AAC to the ISAAC conference in Cancun, Mexico next year.

We are thinking of having a Silent Auction on line in 2023. If you would be interested in helping Lisa organise the silent auction please email Lisa littlebigwitch@yahoo.com.au

This year the ISAAC Australia Awards were given in two categories, the Community Award and the Information Award. There were two winners in each category.

The Community Award went to **Michaela Banks**.

As a parent of child who uses AAC, Michaela has been a strong advocate for AAC within her community for any years. Her son is now in Grade 5 and in an inclusive classroom. Along with her individual advocacy and collaborative approach to supporting his inclusion at school, she has also dedicated her time to sharing information with other families and encouraging them also to pursue inclusive education. Michaela has been a representative on several committees, as well as regularly presents parent workshops. She has often shared the feedback after these workshops that some of the parents have reflected that her information has completely changed their perspective and that they now feel that attending a mainstream school is a possibility that they had never considered before. This is life changing for their children.

The next Community Award went to, **Phoebe Zander**.

Phoebe is also a parent and foster parent of four children, three of whom use AAC. Phoebe, and her partner Karl, support each of their children to be autonomous communicators and has made sure that each of them has had access to multimodal communication as soon as their communication needs has been identified. Phoebe advocates strongly for her own children to be heard and has also been an amazing advocate for communication rights in her career as a teacher. She is active in a number of community groups and is constantly raising awareness of AAC through those groups and organisations. Her family communicates with Proloquo2Go, PODD (non-electronic and electronic) and AUSLAN, as well as speech. One of her daughters has developed a love of art and you can see her work on <https://m.facebook.com/dotzedscreatures>

The Information Award went to **Jennifer Jacobs** who's known as Jen, and who works at Uniting Communities in South Australia. Jen has been a driving force behind Uniting Communities becoming Communication Accessible. This began in late 2019, when she obtained funding to ensure that the newly opened U-City, A retirement Village, Platinum Accessible apartments, an accessible hotel opened in Adelaide. Jen has a commitment to see the whole of Uniting Communities become communication4 accessible. Her willingness to see that the whole of Uniting Communities become Communication Accessible can only be described as committed and unwavering.

The Information Award went to **David Niemeijer**, the guy, the face, the brain trust behind Assistive Ware, and the developer of the applications that changed worlds many! The nomination writes: David has had a profound effect on the profile, understanding and implementation of AAC around the world. He is a developer of more than one app for AAC and has done some incredible work around community awareness, including supporting the filming of "This is not about Me", a high profile film about an autistic woman who uses AAC. His company regularly produces videos around good AAC practice, presents at conferences in a number of countries and has raised the profile of AAC in mainstream technology circles

with companies such as Apple. He has made quality AAC available in a number of languages and has helped many individuals with CCN gain a voice – all while continuing to follow AAC best practice guidelines and advocating for those guidelines to be used at all times. He’s certainly a worthy recipient!

Incidentally, the award winners receive a year free membership, a gift voucher and a certificate. But because David doesn’t need a membership, he received a little something with a little Australian nod, and hopefully he could fit it in his luggage!

When we next open nominations for the ISAAC Australia Awards in early 2025, please think about nominating someone.

If you are on Facebook, please make sure you visit our ISAAC Australia page.

Finally, congratulations to BJ Price on being officially appointed ISAAC Australia Council representative.

Thanking you,

Meredith Allan
National Treasurer/Secretary
ISAAC Australia



isaac
AUSTRALIA

AAC AWARENESS MONTH

COMPETITION
Using any media you want to represent the theme **'SHOW YOUR VOICE'**
1st 2nd 3rd prizes

Entries to:
isaacaustralia@gmail.com
or please ask for postal address if submitting a physical entry.
Get Creating!!

Closing date
31 OCTOBER 2022