

**TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION of STATE  
SUPERANNUANTS  
SUPER-NEWS**

ISN.5605 MAY 2010 No 2/10  
*The Newsletter for and by TASS members*

*36 Years old*

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**Launceston General Meeting  
WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> May  
At Sunny Hill Hotel  
Ravenswood  
Gather at 11.30 for Lunch  
At 12.00 noon  
Meeting completed by 3pm  
Phone 63272562 or 0414770864  
To book for lunch  
Details on Page 2**

**EDITORIAL**

I have been holding this section hoping to comment positively on our State election results. As you all know the polls were declared, there was a long wait and then we got the same party in government with a green tinge. Well you have seen the replies from the three political parties in Super-News, the Greens were very positive and sympathetic to our cause. I wonder just how much our TASS vote helped them? Also we will remind them of their stated position later, but will it now change 'as a matter of convenience'? Time will tell.

Later in this issue are comments on our AGM at which our elections were held. You will be pleased to hear we did not end up with a 'hung executive'. We were very happy with the result but we do have room for one more executive member. Are you interested?

As promised in the last issue, this Super-News has more of the humorous items and puzzles that are so popular with our members. We have also been able to include 'Computer Help' which many of our readers value.

To the left is the notice of our Northern General meeting. While a good role up from our members in the North is anticipated, members from any area would be most welcome to attend. For those from the South or North West, a pleasant drive to Launceston, a luncheon at Sunny Hill, possibly some shopping and return home. *Ed.*

## FUTURE MEETINGS



### Launceston Northern Luncheon and Meeting

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at the Sunny Hill Country Club Hotel, 59 Castlemain Rd. Ravenswood. This year we are moving to the East Tamar as June and Bert Hazzlewood have made arrangements for a luncheon to precede the meeting.

Please phone June/Bert on 63272562 or 0414770864 if you intend to have the meal before the meeting. They have been able to arrange for a two course meal for \$20. This is a significant saving on normal meal prices at this Hotel. For those unable to make the meal we expect the meeting to start about 1 pm.

Now for Southern members not familiar with the area, June has given the following directions to the Sunny Hill Country Club Hotel.

“Travel into Launceston down the Southern Outlet which merges into Bathurst Street. Keep in the centre lane avoiding the two right lanes at the Launceston College underpass. Then change to the right arrow lane and turn right just before the Charles Street Bridge. Take the first left turn into the Esplanade and keep the river on

your left. It is approximately 5.4 km from here and there is no need to turn off or cross the centre line ‘till you get to your destination. You will pass the K-Mart on your right and go up winding Henry Street (which becomes Lambert St.). Lambert Street curves slightly right at the Ravenswood Shopping Centre then left and ends at a T-junction. Turn right and you are in the Sunny Hill Country Club car park. Enter through the Bistro entrance and turn right into the function room.”

The meal before the very short meeting is a wonderful opportunity to meet and catch up with old acquaintances.

The last Northern luncheon/meeting resulted in a greater number of members attending than was the case in Hobart. Let’s keep up the good work.

Type “Sunny Hill Country Club Hotel” into Google to see map.

### Executive Meetings

Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday July 20<sup>th</sup>

Both the above meetings will be held in Forestry Tasmania, Melville St. Hobart. Starting at 1.30 pm

4 Odd balls, 5 fatso, 6 heavenly

### Notes from our Annual General Meeting

As mentioned in the last Super-News our AGM took place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. You may recall that grave fears were expressed as to whether TASS would be able to continue if insufficient members offered themselves for election to the executive. Well the news is very good. We now have two new capable members on the executive and a further member has offered to carry out tasks for the executive without attending meetings. To echo the sentiments made from the chair by President Tony Robinson "Thank you all very much"

Our new members now on the executive are Tony Naughton and Ross Brown. As the picture below shows, we now have 3 'Tonys' and two 'Browns' which could result in some confusion.



The first meeting of the 2010 executive took place just before this issue went to press. So the news is good we are up and running again. Although many of the 'stalwarts' retained their roles we were also able to welcome John Chalmers to the position of Treasurer. He replaced Lance Brown who has held the position for 15 years. Rob. vanSchie took over the role of minutes secretary, replacing Kay Jones and vice President Charles Thomas who has also taken over the role of Web site manager, replacing Mal. Jones. Tony Robinson thanked all retiring members mentioned above and also Malcolm Kays, for their years of service to the organisation and also welcomed the new faces. In 'reports' membership officer Kevin Hardy reported that the extra mail out of S.N. to those who forgot to pay, coupled with the introduction of 'e pay' has given us a further 33 members. *(continued on next page)*

## Notes from AGM (cont)

### The Executive for 2010

Tony Robinson – President Ph 6265 2238

Charles Thomas – Vice President and Web Ph 6248 5902

Tom Ellison – Secretary Ph 6228 3113

John Chalmers – Treasurer Ph 6249 1240

Rob. vanSchie – Minute Secretary Ph6229 7923

Kevin Hardy – Membership officer Ph6228 6485

Tony Haig – Super-News Editor Ph 62601026

Lance Brown Ph 6228 2018

Geri Bitt Ph 6272 1093

Brian Richardson Ph 6243 5835

Tony Naughton Ph 6229 5696

Ross Brown Ph 6243 7336

General Committee

Executive meetings are listed in each copy of Super-News but are held in Forestry Tasmania on the third Tuesday of each month. Any member is welcome to attend an executive meeting to observe, or to see if they would like to join the executive in the future. There is also one vacant position on the executive committee. If you think you could be interested, come along to a meeting to see us in action.

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## Vaccination

Although we have enjoyed a very mild summer, winter is not very far away. As we all know winter is the time when influenza can become a problem. This is particularly the case for those of us of retirement age. Check with your local Doctor about having the 2010 Flu vax. The new batch is now available and includes both seasonal flu together with the swine flu vaccine. Apparently for those of us who did have the swine flu injection towards the end of last winter, are also recommended to have the seasonal flu vax with the swine flu included.

Also to repeat a warning given in an earlier edition of Super-News, talk with your doctor about the desirability of also having a Pneumococcal Vaccination. That is the vaccination that protects against a large number of forms of pneumonia. Again those over 65 years of age, even if they are in very good health, are at increased risk of contracting Pneumonia. Typically in Australia about 100 people over the age of 65 die from pneumococcal disease each year. It is not uncommon for seniors to be hospitalised for some time with pneumococcal infections. Repeat vaccinations are not required each year, but again depending on your personal situation, may be recommended from between 5 and 10 years. Again ask your health professional's advice as vaccination may even be free. 7 Buffalo, 8 Key Ring 9 Dimwit

## More Classic Faux Pas from Malcolm Jones

- 1 - You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists and writers are buried daily except Thursday - Moscow hotel lobby.
- 2 - Haircutting while you wait. - Dublin barber.
- 3 - MacArthur flies back to front. - US paper.
- 4 - Study finds sex, pregnancy link. - Cornell Daily Sun.
- 5 - Queen Mary having bottom scraped. - US paper.
- 6 - Stolen painting found by tree. - US paper.
- 7 - Clinton places Dickey in Gore's hands. - Bangor Maine News.
- 8 - Passengers hit by cancelled trains. - Manchester Evening News.
- 9 - Something went wrong in jet crash, experts say. - US paper.
- 10 - Iraqi head seeks arms. - US paper.
- 11- Man shoots neighbour with machete. - Miami Herald.
- 12 - Man run over by freight train dies. - Los Angeles Times.
- 13 - Marijuana issue sent to joint committee. - Toronto Star.
- 14 - Drunk get nine months in violin case. - US paper.
- 15 - Organ festival ends in smashing climax. - San Antonio Rose.
- 16 - Red tape holds up new bridge. - US paper.
- 17 - Typhoon rips through cemetery: Hundreds dead. - US paper.
- 18 - Man minus ear waives hearing. - US paper.
- 19 - I believe that people would be alive today if there were a death penalty. - Nancy Reagan.
- 20 - I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy. But that could change. - Dan Quayle.
- 21 - If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure. - Dan Quayle.
- 22 - It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it. - Dan Quayle.
- 23 - The Holocaust was an obscene period in our nation's history...this century's history...we all lived in this century...I didn't live in this century. - Dan Quayle.
- 24 - I was recently on a tour of Latin America, and the only regret I have was that I didn't study Latin harder in school so I could converse with those people. - Dan Quayle.
- 25 - We are ready for any unforeseen event that may or may not occur. - Dan Quayle.
- 26 - What a waste to it is to lose one's mind. Or not to have a mind is being very wasteful. How true that is. - Dan Quayle.
- 27 - Outside the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country. - Mayor Marion Barry.
- 28 - The streets are safe in Philadelphia. It's only the people who make them unsafe. - Frank Rizzo.
- 29 - It's no exaggeration to say that the undecided could go one way or the other. - George Bush.
- 30 - I have opinions of my own- strong opinions-but I don't always agree with them. - George Bush.
- 31 - If the terriers and bariffs are torn down, this economy will grow. - George W.Bush.
- 32 - Traditionally, most of Australia's imports come from overseas. - Keppel Enderbery.
- 33 - If this thing starts to snowball, it will catch fire right across the country. - Robert Thompson.
- 34 - Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life. - Brooke Shields.
- 35 - I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and my father. - Greg Norman.

## Possible Changes to our TASS Card

One item that was discussed at our March AGM was any method that could be adopted to reduce the time demands on our Treasurer and Membership officer. Both of whom have very heavy workloads, especially at the time of membership renewals. In the last issue mention was made of one change that may help in this regard. That is the payment of subscriptions by e-pay methods. While this could not be used for those new members when they join, it could be useful for existing member's renewals. This method when introduced only 2 months ago was a free service, has now become a charged service with some financial institutions. Check with your Bank or Credit Union.

A second idea was suggested to reduce the amount of unnecessary paperwork undertaken by the membership officer. At present every member is given a personalised TASS membership card when they pay their annual subscription. While we realise that a few of our members do use this card regularly, those with Centrelink cards find that it has little use for them. Others without a Centrelink card report that they too never use the TASS card. The suggestion was that any member desiring a membership card would be forwarded one as at present. Those who do not request a card will not be issued with one. While no change will happen before 2011 we would like to hear your views on this possible change. This issue was discussed at the April executive meeting and the following options were suggested for those who would like the card.

1. The card have the TASS information with a number but not the member's name
2. The card would have the TASS information also the member's name.

These two alternatives are given as it takes a considerable time to print individual cards for each member, while numbered cards could be done much easier. Please phone or email your thoughts on this matter to any member of the executive.

Please note, that whichever option is adopted, all those wishing to have a TASS card will continue to receive one.

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## WHAT?

Have you noticed that over recent years other people are speaking in hushed tones and that in busy locations the background noise level has increased? Join the rest of us who are also having mild hearing problems. Chances are that you are also, like most of us, who will seek help when our hearing 'really' becomes a problem, but not just yet. Many seniors can get free hearing tests and even free hearing aids. Modern aids are quite small and some of your friends may be wearing them without you noticing. They really can improve your interaction with others and yes, even your quality of life. If this does not really apply to you, mention it to somebody you think it may help. I bet the reaction that you will get is similar to your reaction!! *Ed*

## Monopoly - I did not know this!

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape...

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-run could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U..K. Licensee for the popular board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were imprisoned. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set -- by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets.. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail' Free' card!

*This came from the internet but I assume that it is true Ed*

## The Theory of Intelligence.

This must be right; I saw it in the paper!

“Well you see Norm, it is like this, a herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. So when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that is killed off. This is called natural selection, and is good for the remaining members of the herd, as their average speed and health improves by killing off the weakest members.

In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest cells. Now as we know, a large intake of beer consumption kills brain cells, but naturally it attacks the slowest and weakest ones first. In this way the consumption of beer eliminates the weaker cells, thus making the brain operate faster and more efficiently.

**And that, Norm, is why you always feel smarter after a few beers.”**

## GLAUCOMA

In the last issue of Vision News, the newsletter of the Centre for Eye Research Australia, there was a plea for those over 50 to have a test for glaucoma. An estimated 150,000 Australians have glaucoma, an eye disease that can lead to irreversible vision loss and so to blindness. The sad part is that they don't know it. Treatment is available, but it only slows the progression of the disease, **it does not reverse it!**

The writer of the article suggests that people over 50 have an eye test every two years. This is very important for those who have a family history of the disease.

Glaucoma occurs when the optic nerve is damaged, often by high pressure within the eye. It is the leading cause of irreversible blindness in Australia, affecting more than 300,000 of us

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**A man moved to a new house. He thought he would get to know the locals and went to the pub near his home. He went in and sat at a stool and asked for a drink. In front of him was a jar of 10 cent coins, with a sign saying correct guess wins you the jar!!! After about 10 beers he told the barman he was on his way home and the barman said seeing he was such a good customer he could have a free guess at the jar. The man had been thinking about an amount all night and replied with 206 dollars. The barman stood amazed and said, THAT'S CORRECT !! How did you know how much was in there? The man said just a lucky guess, grabbed his jar of coins and staggered out and walked home. As he walked up the front stairs of his house he tripped and the jar crashed to the patio and scattered the 2060 coins all over the place. He decided he would pick them up in the morning. He crept into the bedroom and without waking his wife went to sleep. Early next morning his wife came in all excited to wake him up yelling JOHN,JOHN..... You wont guess what's all over our patio?.... John opens his eyes and says calmly, Yeah I know..... 206 dollars in 10 cent coins**

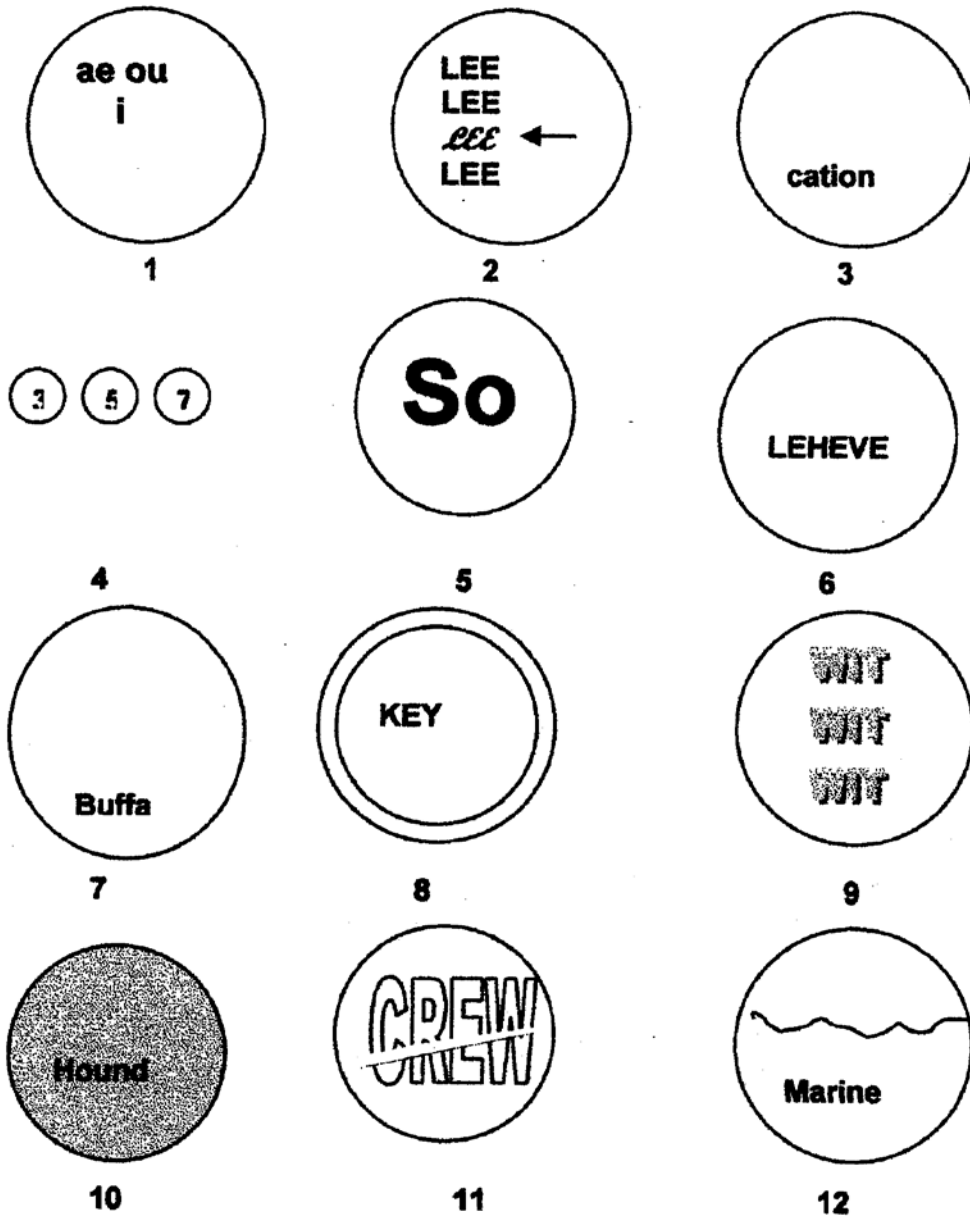
**NO!! she said.....There is 200 litres of MILK !!!!**

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# The Rebus Page

Those who have been members for some time and also have a good memory may remember that back in 2003 we included some Rebus puzzles in Super-News. The Oxford Dictionary lists Rebus as “Enigmatic representations of name, word, etc. by pictures etc. Suggesting syllables”. Below are 12 Rebus. The solutions will be included in scattered points in this edition. You have to find them!!



One more Rubus which is a real tester. O\_ER\_T\_O\_ A clue. It has to do with the missing letters. Something that is desirable.

Computer Help desk. By kind permission of "Linking Tasmanian Seniors". As arranged by Malcolm Jones.

## **CD and DVD**

There is a drawer on the front of your computer. Though some people use it as a cup holder, that is not its purpose. It is a CD or CD/DVD drive. A CD drive (common on older computers) uses only CDs. It cannot do anything with a DVD even though a DVD will fit in the tray. A CD/DVD drive, on the other hand, can use both CDs and DVDs. It automatically detects which one is in the drive.

Though they look alike, the main difference between a CD and a DVD is in the amount of data that they hold. A DVD holds about 7 times more data than a CD.

Differences aside, they are similar in size and shape consisting of a round piece of clear plastic with a reflective back and a label of some type. The label is very thin and covers the reflective back. Many think that the reflective back is on the opposite side of the label but it is not. If you scratch or abuse the label of the CD/DVD, you can also scratch the reflective back and permanently ruin the disc. On the other hand, if you scratch the bottom side which is clear, you may be able to polish out the scratch and still use the CD/DVD. So be especially careful with the label side of the disc.

The data is kept between the clear plastic and the reflective back. It is either in the form of microscopic pits in the plastic (these are made when the plastic disc is manufactured), or microscopic spots. The data is stored in a single spiral track circling from the inside of the disc to the outside. The fact that the spiral track starts at the centre means that the CD can be smaller than 4.8 inches (the normal size of a CD). There are now plastic baseball cards and business cards that you can put in a CD player. The CD business cards hold about 2 MB of data before the size and shape of the card cuts off the spiral.

As a needle follows the groove in a phonograph record, the drive is calibrated to follow the spiral of data. A laser is shined on the spiral and is either reflected back to a light sensor or reflected somewhere else by the spiral's pits or spots. These produce a series of 1s and 0s which is the data.

CDs have several formats. CD/DAs and CD-ROMs are CDs that are manufactured with the data permanently stamped on the CD in microscopic pits. The data on these CDs cannot be changed. CD/DAs are audio or music CDs and CD-ROMs are computer CDs (like those with software and games on them). CD/Rs and CD/RWs are CDs that can have data written to them by lasering microscopic dots on them. CD/Rs can only be written to once. You cannot erase the data once it is written to these CDs. CD/Rs are usually cheaper to purchase than CD/RWs. CD/RWs can be written to many times.

DVDs have even more formats: DVD+R, DVD+RW, DVD-RAM, DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD-ROM. DVD burners often can only write to a certain format of DVD, so

Computer Help desk. By kind permission of "Linking Tasmanian Seniors". As arranged by Malcolm Jones.

if you want to burn some DVDs, you should first check to make sure that you purchase DVDs that are compatible with your DVD burner

To a certain extent DVD formats follow CD formats. DVD-ROM like CD-ROM are discs with the data stamped on them and cannot be changed or overwritten (when you purchase a movie on a DVD, it is a DVD-ROM). DVD-R and DVD+R like CD-R can only be written to once. DVD-RW and DVD+RW, like CD/RW, can be written and rewritten to many times.

DVD-RAM is an alternative to DVD-RW and DVD+RW but many DVD drives do not support it. Instead of having one long spiral running from beginning to end (like a record), it has separate tracks. The advantage of DVD-RAM is that it holds more data and it can be treated more like a hard drive by your computer (usually not requiring extra software).

Did you notice the plus (+) and minus (-) in the above DVD formats? They are important. They signify two opposing formats (sort of like Beta and VHS). The minus formats are supported by Panasonic, Toshiba, Apple Computer, Hitachi, NEC, Pioneer, Samsung, Sharp, and the DVD Forum. The plus formats are supported by Philips, Sony, Hewlett-Packard, Dell, Ricoh, Yamaha and others. At one time DVD burners only supported one or the other. Now there are multi-format burners (also called combo or DVD-Multi) which handle both formats.

Before you go to buy blank discs for burning on your DVD burner, check your drive to see which format it will handle. If you can't find this information, you can buy one and hope that either you have the correct drive for it or that you have a multi-format drive. There are some people who prefer one format over the other, but there is not a noticeable difference and it is very unlikely that one format will be shut out in the future (like Beta was).

Added to the CD-like formats mentioned above there is also DVD+R DL and DVD-R DL (also called DVD+R9 and DVD-R9). DL stands for Dual Layer or Double Layer. These discs have two recordable layers giving more space for data. They are supported by a range of manufacturers including Dell, HP, Verbatim, Philips, Sony, Yamaha, and others.

There is also the HD-DVD. These DVDs use a special burner with a 405nm-wavelength blue-violet laser (traditional lasers are red at 650nm-wavelength). This new type of laser can record to smaller spaces storing up to 23 hours of standard video on a double sided DVD. Two types of HD-DVD are Blu-ray Disc (BD) and Advanced Optical Disc (AOD). Since Sony, Samsung, Sharp, Thomson, Hitachi, Matsushita, Pioneer and Philips, Mitsubishi, and LG Electronics jointly developed BD and Toshiba and NEC jointly developed AOD and since HD-DVD is a new technology, expect HD-DVD drives to handle only one or the other.

## USEFUL CONTACTS FOR MEMBERS

As a service to members TASS will include a regular section giving useful contact points (usually telephone numbers) which may be of value to members.

RBF Pension queries or death of the superannuant .....	1800 622 631
Australian Tax Office: Income Tax inquiries .....	132861
Superannuation help .....	131020
Tax Refund .....	132863
CENTRELINK: To book an appointment at a regional office ...	131021
Pension enquiries .....	132300
Overseas Pensions .....	131673
Family enquiries .....	131305
Disability, sickness and carer .....	132717
Hearing or speech impairment .....	1800 000 587
Financial Services Burnie .....	6434 1535
Devonport .....	6424 0665
Launceston .....	6332 8298
Hobart .....	6232 1555
Bellerive .....	6244 0566
Better Hearing Australia (Hobart) Voluntary group .....	6228 0011

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### Pension Limits as from March 2010

#### INCOME TESTS

Part pension is possible for a couple receiving less than \$2,362 per fortnight  
 Single receiving less than \$1,544 per fortnight  
 For a Pensioner couple separated by ill health, less than \$3,052 per fortnight

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card for a couple on less than \$80,000 per year  
 for single on less than \$50,000 per year

#### ASSETS TESTS (not including your home)

<b>a) For Home Owners</b>	<b>For Full Pension</b>	<b>For Part Pension</b>
Single Pensioners	Up to \$178,000	Less than \$645,500
Couples (Combined)	Up to \$252,500	Less than \$957,500
Couples Sep. due to ill health	Up to \$252,500	Less than \$1,187,500
<b>b) For non-home owners</b>		
Single Pensioners	Up to \$307,000	Less than \$774,500
Couples (Combined)	Up to \$381,500	Less than \$1,086,500
Couples Sep. due to ill health	Up to \$381,500	Less than \$1,316,500

Should you change your address would you please advise us of your new address. Some members believed that advising RBF of a change will also involve that information also coming to us. This is not so. RBF quite correctly keep their address data confidential and will not pass this information on to us. If we do not have your correct address, we cannot send you Super-News.