

## **Recollection of events regarding Jonathon Mann and the Dentalman book**

I don't remember how my husband Simon met Jonathon Mann and I am reluctant to ask Simon about it. It was sometime in 2004, that we first met.

But it was Simon (a dentist) who introduced me to JM, along with a chiropractor (Dr H) and Louise (the current girlfriend of JM). The idea was to create a series of books for children on oral health care, called Dentalman and Friends.

Dr H already had produced a book for children with JM, called Chiroman and Dr H and JM decided to set up a company called [Chiroman Media Enterprises](#) to create educational booklets for children. I was told that JM had already worked with a plumber to create a book on plumbing as a career for children.

It seemed to be a worthy cause. From a dental point of view, education on oral health care is sadly lacking in New Zealand, and this seemed an excellent idea to rectify that.

So Simon and I paid over \$10,000 to JM plus another \$2000 for the website registration of dentalman.com.

The 5000 copies were published and the book was put out to various people for their opinions and the feedback was that it was good, but could be made better with a few changes. Those changes were never implemented.

I was excited to be working on this project as it was a change from book-keeping and taking care of our children and the house.

My job was to get sponsors and find book publishers – something that I had no previous experience of. I was continually turned down.

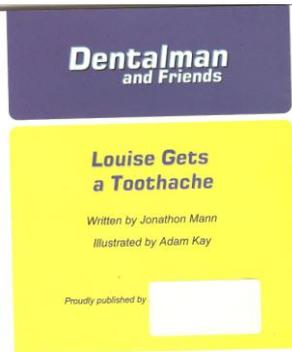
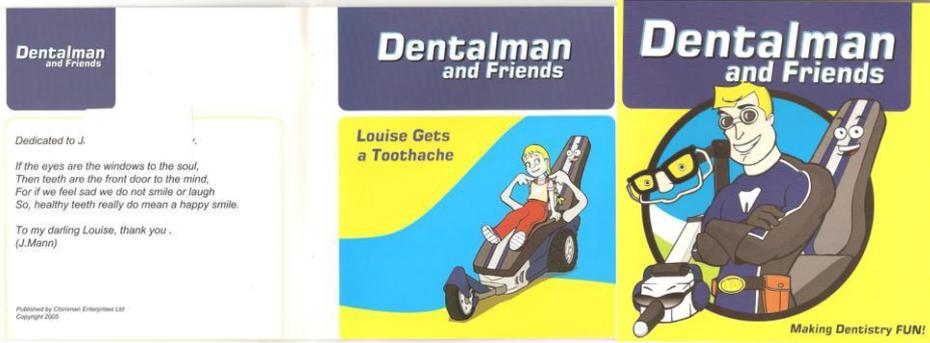
Until, we made contact with a big oral health care company. I don't remember who got that breakthrough. So JM made a Powerpoint presentation and JM, Dr H and I ended up having 2-3 meetings with the marketing folk.

What got me were the vast sums of money (hundreds of thousands of dollars) that JM was suggesting that the oral health care company should pay us for the privilege of sponsoring our books. JM was getting quite excited at the prospect of toothbrushes with Dentalman characters on the handles. In the end the doors were shut in our face.

We were left with a couple of thousands of books and out of pocket. We ended up giving the books to a few kindergartens and school dental nurses to distribute to children.

JM used to make very flattering comments to me, and if I had a weaker personality I would have fallen for his charm. Louise was quite brisk and I was disappointed that we did not spend time together to work on the project, and getting to know one another. But JM may have meant to keep us apart.

Dr H has since told me that he regrets having been duped by JM. Dr H still has thousands of Chiroman books in a cupboard.



Helen Wenley [hwenley@gmail.com](mailto:hwenley@gmail.com)

30<sup>th</sup> August 2011