

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INC.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2014

Welcome and thank you for attending the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Myasthenia Gravis Association of Queensland Inc.

The past year has been another very successful year for the Association highlighted by the following:

Membership

Our current membership stands at 319 of which 160 are unfinancial, while our Mailing list is 269 of which 66 receive the newsletter via e-mail. Of those 319 members 237 are category “A” (people who have been diagnosed with MG) 65 are Category “D” (Carers) and 17 are Category “E” (Supporters). During the year 1 of our members passed away and the Association expresses its sympathy to the family on their loss. Our Information Officer, Shirley Johnston was kept busy answering a host of calls to our 1800 802 568 Freecall number.

Data Collection Survey

The project is still ongoing as well as collecting data from our members, the Survey document has been forwarded to Medical professionals to hand to patients who have MG but are not members of the Association. The Survey document has also been forwarded to our interstate associates for distribution. We are still hopeful of having some medical articles published soon from the results of the analysed survey results. Dr Stephan Blum is very passionate about the survey as he expressed on the occasions he has been guest speaker.

I would like to thank Susan White for her time and effort in her ongoing meetings to keep this survey moving.

Exercise Effect on Myasthenia Gravis – Pilot Study

Copies of the booklet are available in hard copy or electronic form if any current financial member require it.

Meet the Members’ Program

This is a very successful program and we had a very enjoyable meeting in Brisbane where lots of stories about MG were told as well as any side effects we have from the medications.

Production of DVD’s of Guest Speakers

Now that these are produced professionally the standard is very high and they are distributed to all Category A Members. This initiative of producing the DVD’s of our Guest Speakers presentations’ is so that our members who are unable to attend in person will still get the benefit of the information.

MGAQ Website

Our website at www.mgaq.org.au has had more enhancements during the year and we are now on Facebook. I would like to thank Kate for looking after our Facebook page and adding stories.

National Alliance

The committee is still working on the National Alliance but with our other MG organisations in Australia not meeting as regularly as us it is taking quite a long time but we also do not want to rush this as we need to get it right from the start. We have received notification from the NSW Association that they will come on board with us.

Lending Library

We have a few resources available for loan to our members so please make use of this library.

UQ interviews

Shirley Johnston has been busy this year with telling her MG story and Bill Synnot telling his as a carer with students at UQ Brisbane and hoping to do this again later in the year. This is another avenue for spreading the word about MG.

What's Ahead in the Coming Year?

Plans for 2014/2015 year include:

Progress with the National Alliance Proposal:

Continue with the Data Collection Survey

Queensland Health Funding

Explore other ways in which social media can assist the Association in its aims and further efforts to increase the public awareness of Myasthenia Gravis and our support to the sufferers of Myasthenia Gravis and their families.

We wish our fellow MG organizations in New South Wales, South Australia and West Australia all the best in their endeavours to provide support for sufferers of MG and increase public awareness about the disease. I would also like to thank the MGA of UK and the MG Foundation of America for their generous permission in allowing us to reproduce in our newsletter MessaGes, articles which appear in their newsletters.

Finally I have many people to thank, and not in any order of importance they are:

Vice President John Noble for his help and guidance on many subjects and also for taking the reins whilst I have been away

Treasurer Susan White for an excellent job of looking after our books and also looking after our investment accounts and overseeing the Survey.

Secretary Carol Buchanan for all the Secretarial jobs and helping with Qld Health transitions plan.

Shirley Johnston who looks after all the calls from the 1800 number as well as doing ring arounds for our special meetings etc.

Committee Members Catherine Ormsby for producing the Monthly newsletter and Graeme Peters for the printing and sending out the Newsletter as well as his valuable input in different aspects of the running of the Association.

Our Regional Co-ordinators for their efforts in keeping their members in touch.

The wives, husbands, partners and families for the committee members for their support and forbearance:

Queensland Health for their very generous financial supports:

Our members for having sufficient confidence and trust in the Association to renew their membership:

Everyone who donated – our sincere appreciation and anyone else who has provided support and encouragement throughout the year.

Looking forward to an even better 2014/2015 year and wishing everyone great health and happiness.

Anita Jackson

President

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATION of QUEENSLAND INC.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2014

The 2013-2014 Financial Year continued in the vein of previous operating years with no unusual outgoings. Total incoming funds were down a little across all areas, notably from donations as in the previous year significant contributions came from two extra-ordinary events. Interest rates have fallen and are continuing to fall though with careful planning, total accumulated funds have been able to grow. Queensland Health thankfully continued their support by supplying the full grant throughout this period.

General expenses remain consistent with small CPI rises. Three areas have been more substantial to the operations this year and include one off items. These are Office Expenses, Travel and the Website.

The website has been significantly upgraded again and now offers features including an automatic electronic mail-out of the newsletter and up coming events to all registered parties either members or non-members. Browsers, including those using mobile devices, will find it easier to use. The new presentation assists in raising awareness of MG and highlights the growing product range of the Association.

Travel costs are incurred as we take advantage of Committee Members representing all areas of Queensland. Also, this year we were able to invite Regional Coordinators to Brisbane for a function as a second stage to taking the Committee to the regions as was the agenda over the past few years.

Office outgoings reflect the carried over expenditure of equipment required for the restructuring of the Committee. The Association did receive notification from Queensland Health that the funding for this project could be carried forward from the previous Grant. In December, it was necessary to restock supplies of the information booklet. The total cost for this printing service was \$3,360.00 and supplied 2000 booklets.

The Association incurred its first invoice for a teleconferenced management committee meeting. This proved to be inexpensive and very effective and will be part of the strategy going forward.

A full review of all expenses is planned after consultation with members. Insurance costs are expected to remain consistent, as is the Freecall balance. Areas to be evaluated will include the storage costs, DVD and Newsletter production plus travel options.

BDO again provided our audit at no charge. This is a wonderful gift to the Association and in particular to the Treasurer as the service is provided promptly, efficiently and with genuine interest in our members. I sincerely thank Anthony Whyte and his team at BDO Australia Ltd. Kindly they have agreed to support us in this way again next year.

As has been highlighted in updates via the newsletter, financial planning for the year ahead remains confusing. Funding has been received for the first quarter and is possibly available at some level until December 2015. As Treasurer I have been asked to provide financial figures for the past three years and to provide proposed budgets for the following three years of operations. The uncertainty does cloud the current decision making processes. All necessary actions will be taken to ensure that the Association remains viable into the future. Our reserves are high and as

our method of operating can be adapted, therefore changing the running costs. When we are unencumbered by the process with Queensland Health our position in regard to applying for other forms of support, by way of grants from other Government sources and/or commercial sponsorships, will be clearer. Possible ways for members to provide greater assistance will also be discussed.

Susan White
(Treasurer - MGAQ 2013-2014)