



# MessaGes



Myasthenia Gravis Association of Queensland Inc

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

Myasthenia Gravis Association of Qld Inc IN NO WAY endorses any products, medical procedures or medical practitioners mentioned. Articles are provided as a guide, and/or for information purposes only.

We take this opportunity to thank Queensland Health who by the provision of a grant, make the work of the Association and the publication of this Newsletter possible, and to those who take the effort to contribute to its success.

## **Myasthenia Gravis Association of Queensland Inc**

P.O. Box 16  
MT. GRAVATT QLD 4122  
NATIONAL FREE CALL 1800  
802 568  
ABN 92 055 613 137

E-mail: [mgaq@gil.com.au](mailto:mgaq@gil.com.au)  
Internet: [www.mgaq.org.au](http://www.mgaq.org.au)

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### *President*

Anita JACKSON  
Ph. 3800 4913

#### *Vice-president*

Kris KLITGAARD  
Ph. 3890 0115

#### *Secretary and Editor*

Graeme Peters  
Ph. 3288 4484  
email: [grapop@dodo.com.au](mailto:grapop@dodo.com.au)

#### *Treasurer*

Susan White  
Ph. 3358 1056

#### *Committee*

Shirley JOHNSTON  
Ph. 1800 802 568

John CHESTER  
Ph. 3899 9387

Bill Synnot  
Ph. 0418196707

#### *PATRON*

Dr Cecillie LANDER  
Neurologist  
Founder Member, of Brisbane

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Hello, I'm your new President, elected at the very successful Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 13 September 2009 with 25 present. Included in this edition of MessaGes are the President's Annual Report for 2008/2009 and extracts from the Audited Financial Report for last financial year which were adopted at the AGM. (see pages 4 to 7).

On behalf of all members I would like to thank Shirley for her work as President over the previous 12 months and am glad that she is not lost to the Committee, as she has been elected as a Committee Member, and will continue to operate the Freecall 1800 line. I would also extend thanks to Judie Barbour for her Committee work over the past 2 years, but know that although she is no longer on the Committee, she will continue to participate actively in the Association.

A special welcome to new Committee Member Bill Synnot – we look forward to a great working relationship with Bill.

A highlight of the day was the excellent presentation by Katrina Williams, a specialist neurological physiotherapist from the University of Queensland, on MG and exercise. All present took a lot away from the presentation. The presentation was video taped and again, if the video is of sufficient quality, a DVD will be produced and distributed to eligible members.

Judie Barbour has adapted a brochure from the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Chicago Chapter, which we hope will make it easier for children to understand MG. The brochure provides a bit of play time for children while explaining what MG is in language children can understand. Copies of the brochure are available from Shirley on Freecall 1800 802 568.

Gordon Jiear gave a very informative talk on MG to a neurology workshop at the Princess Alexandra Hospital on 14 August, with Shirley and myself backing him up with our MG experiences. They were very well received by nursing, ancillary and medical staff, and the Association thanks the PA Hospital for the opportunity to participate.

That's all for now,

*Anita*

PS: Have you noticed that the people who are late are often so much jollier than those who have been waiting for them

Supported by



**Queensland Government**  
Queensland Health

**CHAT LIST:**

Each member of our Management Committee is happy to speak with you, while the following members, who include MG sufferers or their carers, have offered to join our Chat List. If you have a need to have a yarn, particularly about how MG affects you, please ask if it is convenient to talk, and respect the privacy of those whom you call.

In the interests of one's privacy, we have not listed surnames. Do not be embarrassed by ringing a stranger and asking to speak to say, "Fred or Mary". If you wish to disclose your surname, that is your prerogative. Simply explain that you are a MYASTHENIC or a CARER.

Remember there is also the FREECALL telephone number for Australia manned (or is it womanned?) by Shirley and is 1800 802 568. Please do not hesitate to call if you feel the need. If the 1800 802 568 is not answering, please leave a message and Shirley will get back to you as soon as practicable. Your call is valuable to us, so please do not hang up without leaving a message.

**CHAT LIST – QUEENSLAND REGIONAL COORDINATORS**

HANNA	4054 4538	FAR NORTH QLD
CAROL	4773 1213	TOWNSVILLE
GWEN	4954 5353	MACKAY
JOAN / HAROLD	4928 1438	ROCKHAMPTON
SHIRLEY	5443 1728	MAROOCHYDORE SUNSHINE COAST
JOHN / MARILYN	5532 4547	GOLD COAST
SHARON	4151 7661	BUNDABERG/WIDE BAY
VACANT		DARLING DOWNS

**CHAT LIST – QUEENSLAND REGIONAL MEMBERS**

JOHN	4783 1556	AYR
YVONNE	4783 4643	AYR
MARK	4067 1784	BABINDA
HENRY	4982 6507	BLACKWATER
DAVID	4053 2291	CAIRNS
RON / HELEN	4051 3286	CAIRNS
SHIRLEY	4128 3596	HERVEY BAY
SHARON	4151 7661	NORTH BUNDABERG
BARBARA	4124 2312	POINT VERNON
RAY / MARY	5443 8667	MAROOCHYDORE
DAVID	5474 5534	NOOSA
MARLENE	5447 4986	NOOSA HEADS
JOY	4165 4647	MUNDUBERRA
BILL / COLLEEN	4926 2410	ROCKHAMPTON
TOM / SCOTIA	4693 3730	PITTSWORTH
HEATHER	4728 7550	TOWNSVILLE
JO	4723 8721	TOWNSVILLE
KELLY	4728 4913	AITKENVALE
VALMA	4068 0702	TULLY
PERLA	4939 2724	YEPPON
IAN	4623 5169	YULEBAR
CAROLYN	5472 0386	COOROY
ROBYN	5520 4242	BURLEIGH HEADS
MAUREEN	5572 7993	MERMAID BEACH
HELEN	5445 4853	SUNSHINE COAST
OWEN	4742 1190	CLONCURRY
PATRICIA	5535 0274	BURLEIGH WATERS
AILSA	4055 1303	CAIRNS
JUDIE	0439 461288	AIRLIE BEACH
BARRY	5483 1783	CURRA
JAMES / ROSEMARY	5530 1558	HOPE ISLAND
DONALD	5563 7207	RUNAWAY BAY
RAJKO	5580 6404	OXENFORD
ELIZABETH	4936 2410	GLENLEE

MELISSA	4662 3337	DALBY
TERRY	5494 2470	MALENY
ROBERT	5492 9754	MOOLOOLAH VALLEY
MOYRA	5576 4979	BURLEIGH WATERS
GLORIA	5534 2669	CURRUMBIN
GEOFFREY	5491 5472	CALOUNDRA
SARA	0422 109492	BLACK RIVER
DENISE	4788 0798	BUSHLAND BEACH
PAMELA	4151 5499	BUNDABERG
KATHLEEN	0416178458	UPPER COOMERA

\*\*\*\*\*

**Future Planned Activities**

Sunday 6 December 2009 Christmas Function, Sunshine Coast

Venues and details of the above activities will be provided closer to the dates.

The Management Committee meets on the second Saturday of each month (except January) and all members are invited to attend. If you wish to attend any of these meetings, please contact Shirley on the 1800 number to find out the time and place of the relevant meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2009 – 2010**

At the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 13 September 2009, the following persons were elected to the Management Committee for the year 2009/2010:

President	Anita Jackson
Vice-President	Kris Klitgaard
Secretary	Graeme Peters
Treasurer	Susan White
Committee Members	Shirley Johnston
	John Chester
	Bill Synnot

You will note from the above that although there has been a shuffling of some positions, only one new committee member was elected. Judie Barbour did not nominate for election.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ANNUAL REPORTING**

Pages 4 to 7 present the President’s Annual Report for 2008-2009, together with the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Statement from the Audited Accounts for the Association. The full Audit Report is available to financial members by telephoning Shirley on 1800 802 568.

\* \* \* \* \*

**TRIVIA QUIZ**

Because of space limitations, the Trivia Quiz is not in this issue of MessaGes. It will return as usual in the October edition.

\*\*\* \*\*

**Notice to Members**

If any member has had dealings with a Mr Neville South with respect to an ‘eBook’ for MG please contact the Secretary on (07) 32884484 or via email at [grapop@dodo.com.au](mailto:grapop@dodo.com.au)

\*\* \*\* \*\* \*\* \*\*

**MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INC**

**PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2009**

Welcome and thank you for attending the 18th Annual General Meeting of the Myasthenia Gravis Association of Queensland Inc. Without membership support the Association would cease to exist.

The past year has been another successful year for the Association. Our current membership stands at 211, of which 40 are unfinancial, while our Mailing List is 217, of which 26 receive the newsletter via email.

While we had a successful year, it has also been a very sad one with the passing of Frank and Kath Ross within a few days of one another. As most of you would know, Frank and Kath were both very caring and hard workers for the Association since its inception, and were intimately involved in a lot of important issues, including incorporation of the Association and procurement of our Queensland Health grant. Kath was also our founding President. Also, a long time member, Des Zeimer, from Bundaberg, passed away during the year. Des very generously bequeathed a substantial amount from his estate to the Association. How to use the money in the most judicious way for the benefit of our members has yet to be determined.

Our very important 1800 freecall number received 379 calls in the year.

This year we had two great Guest Speakers, Dr Rob Henderson (Royal Brisbane Hospital), who gave a presentation on MG in general at last year's AGM, and Dr Stephen Reddel (Concord Hospital, Sydney) who presented 'Myasthenia Gravis Update 2009' to members on 14 June 2009. Both presentations were very informative and very well received by those who attended. And for the first time, each presentation was videoed by a committee member and DVD's produced for distribution to eligible members. Dr Henderson's DVD has been distributed, while Dr Reddel's is in the process of being distributed. Feedback from Dr Henderson's DVD has been extremely positive and I am sure that the same will result from Dr Reddel's.

We moved to a new Internet domain name in August 2008. The new domain name is [www.mgaq.org.au](http://www.mgaq.org.au). This domain name of '.org' reflects the fact we are a not-for-profit organisation, rather than a commercial one. During the coming year we will review our current website and look at ways in which we can improve it for our members.

Again, I must point out the fact that the current members of the Management Committee are getting older, and with that comes a decreased level of health and energy. I would ask that younger members put themselves forward for positions on the Management Committee to ensure the future of the Association.

We wish our fellow MG organisations 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 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:

- Treasurer Susan White for an excellent job in her first term as treasurer, and she is a 'treasure';
- Anita Jackson who takes the minutes of our meetings (not an easy job) and attends to our emails;
- Secretary Graeme Peters, who also compiles, prints and distributes the newsletter;
- Committee Members Judie Barbour, John Chester and Kris Klitgaard for their wisdom and assistance;
- Gordon Jiear for his open-ended assistance whenever needed;
- Our Regional Co-ordinators for their efforts;
- The wives, husbands, partners and families of committee members for their support and forbearance;
- Queensland Health for their very generous financial support;
- And anyone else who has provided support and encouragement throughout the year.

Looking forward to an even better 2008/2009 year, and wishing everyone great health and happiness.

*Shirley Johnston* - President

%%%%%%%%%

**Myasthenia Gravis Association of Queensland Inc ABN 92 055 613 137**  
**Income and Expenditure Statement**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Donations Received	724.50	395.00
Raffle Income	310.00	174.70
Insurance recoveries	421.19	
Interest received	507.25	19.49
Subscriptions (Membership)	2,004.57	1,374.57
Queensland Health Grant	20,234.00	19,531.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>24,201.51</b>	<b>21,494.76</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Audit Fees	1,230.00	800.00
Bank fees and charges		29.76
Depreciation	488.82	329.00
Filing Fees	38.10	38.10
Function/Meeting expenses	616.83	580.22
Gifts	36.36	
Insurance	5,540.49	2,977.62
Internet	921.81	671.94
Office Expenses	133.69	36.36
Postage	1,824.50	1,472.70
Printing & Stationery	5,629.95	750.94
Replacement (tools, etc)	117.27	445.23
Storage	1,145.46	1,036.36
Subscriptions		50.00
Telecommunications	2,414.33	2,387.30
Travel, accom & conference	3,291.77	9,079.95
Web Site		864.55
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>23,429.38</b>	<b>21,550.03</b>
<b>Profit from ordinary activities before income tax</b>	<b>772.13</b>	<b>(55.27)</b>
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
<b>Net profit attributable to the association</b>	<b>772.13</b>	<b>(55.27)</b>
<b>Total changes in equity of the association</b>	<b>772.13</b>	<b>(55.27)</b>
Opening retained profits	5,161.36	5,216.63
Net profit attributable to the association	772.13	(55.27)
<b>Closing retained profits</b>	<b>5,933.49</b>	<b>5,161.36</b>

**Myasthenia Gravis Association Of Qld Inc ABN 92 055 613 137**

Detailed Balance Sheet As At 30 June 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Cash Assets</b>		
Cash at bank (#10263772)	7,529.02	14,697.98
Term deposit (#20710476)	10,494.79	
Cash on hand	405.15	405.15
	<u>18,428.96</u>	<u>15,103.13</u>
<b>Current Tax Assets</b>		
GST payable control account	(607.00)	635.89
Input tax credit control account	1,151.88	(57.76)
GST Clearing	837.40	274.37
	<u>1,382.28</u>	<u>852.50</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b><u>19,811.24</u></b>	<b><u>15,955.63</u></b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
Plant & equipment – at cost	31,760.15	31,760.15
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(30,319.15)</u>	<u>(29,830.33)</u>
	<u>1,441.00</u>	<u>1,929.82</u>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b><u>1,441.00</u></b>	<b><u>1,929.82</u></b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>21,252.24</u></b>	<b><u>17,885.45</u></b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
<b>Payables</b>		
<b>Unsecured:</b>		
Trade creditors	2,594.66	
	<u>2,594.66</u>	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b><u>2,594.66</u></b>	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>2,594.66</u></b>	
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b><u>18,657.58</u></b>	<b><u>17,885.45</u></b>
<b>Members' Funds</b>		
<b>Reserves</b>		
General reserve	12,724.09	12,724.09
Accumulated surplus (deficit)	5,933.49	5,161.36
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>	<b><u>18,657.58</u></b>	<b><u>17,885.45</u></b>

\* \* \* \* \*

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATION OF QLD INC cont'd**

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporation Act QLD 1981. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility, for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates, to any person other than the members of the association, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

**Basis for Qualified Auditor's Opinion**

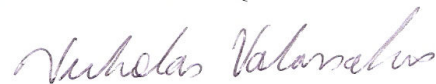
The size of the Association is such that it does not allow an adequate system of internal control. Accordingly we could not satisfy ourselves that all the transactions of the Association have been completely and accurately recorded. Therefore, our audit is limited to the Association's records as presented to us, and the financial report has been prepared in accordance with the books and records maintained.

**Qualified Auditor's Opinion**

In our opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of the matters referred to in the qualification paragraph, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Myasthenia Gravis Association of QLD Inc as of 30 June 2009 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

**THE MACRO GROUP**

Suite 10, 205 Montague Road  
SOUTH BRISBANE QLD 4101

**NICHOLAS VALASSAKIS**

Dated at Brisbane this *25th* day of *August* 2009

**MEMBERS' FORUM**

There are no contributions to the Forum this month.

Please send in contributions to our Members' Forum – it provides an ideal opportunity for members to share their experiences or questions.

If you have a response or an issue to raise, please forward it via mail to PO Box 16 Mt Gravatt 4122 or via email to [grapop@dodo.com.au](mailto:grapop@dodo.com.au).

Your questions and responses may be anonymous for publication, but we will require your full name and address to be submitted to ensure genuineness. When forwarding a response, please refer to the issue or question raised so that we may correctly associate it to the issue or question.

**Issues and Responses are published in the Members Forum as-is without any recommendation as to their suitability or accuracy. The opinions expressed are entirely those of the contributor. Care should be taken if following advice or suggestions presented and it is strongly recommended that the advice of your GP or Specialist is taken in all cases.**

Remember we **cannot** offer medical advice – this can only be offered by a registered Medical Practitioner.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Dr Stephen Reddel's Presentation on 14 June 2009**

The presentation, '*MYASTHENIA GRAVIS UPDATE 2009*', given by Dr Stephen Reddel to our members on 14 June 2009 was lauded by all present as an excellent and informative presentation. The presentation was video taped by a committee member and is being made into a DVD. The visual quality of the video is not the best, in particular the images from the Powerpoint graphics. However, the committee is of the opinion that the DVD is of sufficient quality, and the information contained in the presentation is of such importance to our members, that it be distributed to our members.

Therefore, a free copy of the DVD will be mailed to each member who is eligible to vote at the AGM on 13 September – that is, each current member who was financial for the year 2008-2009, members who were current at 30 June 2009 and all Life and Honorary Members. Where 2 or more members have the same mailing address, only 1 DVD will be sent to that address.

Those who do not fall into the eligibility criteria above, but wish to acquire a copy please contact our Freecall telephone number 1800 802 568.

Delivery has commenced and will continue over 3 to 4 weeks. If you do not have your copy by mid October, please let Shirley know on our Freecall 1800 802 568 number.

Please remember that this is an amateur production, so do not expect professional quality.

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<

**Two Irish Engineers and a Blonde**

Two Irishmen were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up. A blonde walked by and asked them what they were doing.

Paddy replied, 'We're supposed to be finding the height of this flagpole, but we don't have a ladder.' The blonde took out an adjustable spanner from her bag, loosened a few bolts and laid the flagpole down. She got a tape measure out of her pocket, took a few measurements, and announced that it was 18 feet 6 inches. Then she walked off..

Mick said to Paddy, 'Isn't that just typically like a blonde! We need the height and she gives us the length.'

\* \* \* \*