

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INC

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2010

Welcome and thank you for attending the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Myasthenia Gravis Association of Queensland Inc.

The past year has been another very successful year for the Association. Our current membership stands at 211, of which 31 are unfinancial, while our Mailing List is 224, of which 26 receive the newsletter via email. Of those 211 members, 146 are category "A" (people who have been diagnosed with MG), 49 are Category "D" (Carers) and 16 are Category "E" (Supporters) Our very important 1800 802 568 freecall number received 510 calls in the year.

As mentioned in last year's Annual Report, 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. As you will see in the Financial Statement, we have placed the money (and the interest accrued from it) in a Research Account, and we are currently working our way through some possible research projects. We have also established a Special Reserve Account which is intended to keep the Association going in the event that in the future, we no longer receive the generous grant from Queensland Health. On that note we are pleased to inform you that Queensland Health have renewed our Service Agreement for the three years 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2013, inclusive, and have made an increase to our annual grant.

We have continued to distribute DVD's of our Guest Speaker presentations and the feedback from our members is that they have been very informative and welcomed. You may have noticed an improvement in the quality of the latest DVD as a result of our decision to have them professionally produced from now on.

This past year saw the introduction of a program of "Meet the Members" whereby the Management Committee visit one of our regions for the purpose of conducting an open forum with our members. The first of these was held in Cairns in March 2010 and the outcome exceeded expectations. The following regions have been scheduled for this financial year and into the following one – Sunshine Coast (November 2010), Townsville (March 2011), Gold Coast (November 2011) and Mackay (March 2012). The remaining regions will follow. We hope that the upcoming meetings will be as successful as that in Cairns. Keep watching your newsletter, MessaGes, for more information.

Most of our new members during the year have emanated from our website. We still want to improve the website and are eagerly awaiting suggestions from our members on how we can do this.

John Chester resigned from the Management Committee because of health problems. I would like thank John for his contribution to the Association as a Committee Member and look forward to John regaining his health fully and to seeing him at future functions. To fill the Casual Vacancy, the Committee appointed Carol Buchanan to the committee until the AGM. I thank Carol for offering her services.

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 as treasurer;
Shirley Johnston who operates our 1800 Freecall telephone;
Secretary Graeme Peters, who also compiles, prints and distributes the newsletter;
Committee Members Bill Synnot, and Kris Klitgaard for their wisdom and assistance;
Gordon Jear 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;
Our generous donors;
And anyone else who has provided support and encouragement throughout the year.

Looking forward to an even better 2010/2011 year, and wishing everyone great health and happiness.

Anita Jackson - President