

Cardiomyopathy Australia



Has Cardiomyopathy
Touched Your Life?

Supporting people with
cardiomyopathy and their
families.

Newsletter Number 99 — Spring
Includes selected articles from Cardiomyopathy UK Newsletter

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Aims of the Association:

- ◆ To provide the opportunity for individuals and their families to share their experiences and to support one another.
- ◆ To provide accurate and up-to-date information about Cardiomyopathy, when it is available, to members, their families and those in the medical profession.
- ◆ To increase public awareness of Cardiomyopathy.
- ◆ To foster medical research in this area.

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Requests may be made to the editors (*contact details are on page 3*).

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From the editor

Hello to all members,

2020 has definitely been a year to remember! I hope very much that you're all safe and well and are managing to cope with the restrictions that we've learned to live with during these past months. We may find the new lifestyle inconvenient at times, but I'm sure you agree that it's vitally important if we're to enjoy a return to normality.

As you will see on the adjoining page, this issue contains a fresh selection of interesting and informative articles along with our regular segments.

Also featured (on pages 12-16) are two absorbing personal stories —

The first is from popular member, Joan Kerr, who has held the position of Victoria State Contact for the past eighteen years despite her battle with DCM and other health issues during this time. Lately she has also been acting as stand-in Contact for regions currently without a representative.

Our second story is from new member Carly Bannan, who writes a very moving and inspiring account of her young daughter's journey with HCM and her family's involvement with the condition.

Carly is set to be another asset for CMAA! She has generously volunteered to take on some important administrative roles which will spread the team's workload and make a big difference to the smooth running of our Association. Welcome, Carly, and a huge vote of thanks!

My best wishes to you all for a happy Christmas — followed, hopefully, by a Covid-free 2021!

Flora



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President's report to the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Dear members and readers,

A warm welcome to the 2020 Cardiomyopathy Australia Annual General Meeting. I am pleased to provide this report on behalf of the National Executive.

It will come as no surprise to members that our Association has suffered greatly from the effects of Covid-19. As a result, our direct support has been limited to phone and email contacts and our regular newsletters. We look forward to resuming social get togethers when restrictions are removed. It is frustrating when events are organised with limited response, however we understand that often age, ill health and location of members prevent attendance.

Most areas of social support are feeling the pinch these days including churches and other membership-based organisations due to lack of volunteers.

As will be heard from the Treasurer in his report we continue to be financially viable despite the removal of the requirement to pay renewal fees. Special thanks go to members for their donations, also the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services for its grant.

I had indicated that I would not be renominating as a director in the hope someone would seek to fill my position. As this has not occurred, I have agreed to stay on for another term to assist the other directors whose terms expire at the 2021 AGM. It is not our financial position that threatens the future of our Association but the lack of members prepared to assist in its running, including those who will assume State Contact positions. If this doesn't occur, the future of our Association will be in jeopardy.

The present team are to be congratulated on outstanding service to CMAA.

Please contact me or our Secretary, Janet George, at info@cmaa.org.au if you think you can make a contribution to our Association that has been going strong since 1994, helping people with cardiomyopathy and their families.

Every best wish for good health in this Cardiomyopathy year and beyond.

***Alistair Kerr
President
On behalf of the National Executive***