



THE Committee

We were joined this year by some bright new faces: Christine Griffith, Lisa Slater and Rita Dahah. This lovely group brought some new and great ideas to the table. We are so lucky to have them onboard, as well as the associations back bone in Lyn Kerslake, Jerry McNamara and Jim Beverstock, in which the time they have given us has been invaluable. It isn't easy to give up some of the only free time you have to volunteer but this lovely group of people do it with no complaints. Together we make a pretty special team. Some of the wonderful things that the committee has been involved with and achieved in 2014 include:

- Launching a new website. The new AHLTA website is bright, informative and educational. Easy to negotiate and simple to use.
- Amending the newsletter. Just given it a bit of a face-lift really.
- Start applying for grants. A hard and tedious job yet so beneficial if we are approved one.
- Improved communication through website and Facebook
- A successful tax appeal with three regular monthly donations. As you know our association relies on donations to survive, therefore, these regular monthly donations will help us to better support our members in the future.

Members

The Association has 596 current members, 37 Associate members and 15 financial members. We have seen a drop this year in new members, although transplants are on the increase. The association has a plan for this in the New Year; this will be discussed further down.

30th Anniversary

As many of you know Heart Lung Transplantation turned 30 in 2014. We happily celebrated, holding a thanksgiving service to over a hundred people and party afterwards, which included some very special guest speakers. The association also made two healthy contributions to the research of heart and lung research. All of which helps to improve the treatment and outcomes of patients.

Stall Week

During this time in February the Association also took to the foyer of St Vincent's with their stall to help raise awareness for the association and organ transplantation, in particular heart and lung. This week was fabulous and successful for the association but could not have been achieved without so many of our lovely members volunteering their time. These efforts help our association to go forward. We could not do it without our great volunteers, thank you. Most notably these said volunteers give up so much of their time to help and I think this is something special, they are something special. In attendance were also our amazing Doll Ladies. They attended every stall that week, getting the bus and train from Gosford to Manly while carrying all their stock. Dedicated is an understatement. This is also not forgetting to mention making jams, and selling at many of their own stalls between Gosford and Manly. This wonderful group of women are truly amazing. We are so grateful to be involved with them and I'm sure if you know them you will feel honored to spend time with them as I do.



Financial Assistance Program

This program was very successful in 2014 and I get no better satisfaction than being able to help someone in need. This is the main reason for our existence. This year we helped 8 people in need.

Clinic

We continue to maintain the Noddy Cars in clinic, plus the Fish Tank and magazines for all to read during the long wait.

Plan of 2015

Continue to help Clinic and we will be purchasing a couple of portable DVD players in the not too distant future for the many bored and lonely inpatients. We also intend to set up a roster of people to attend the support group. I think it is vital that AHLTA has a face around clinic, so people know who we are, how we can support them and know exactly what we do. You never know there may actually be people who want to join the executive committee or just volunteer for us. Constitution - This year will also see a minor facelift of the constitution, which will also include job descriptions of the executive committee. These will all be as per the legal requirements of a charity and all members will be informed of proposed changes. Continue to raise our profile by encouraging people to fundraise. Speaking of which, we have 2 Bunning's days this year. Watch this space for dates.

Ultimately, all I want for the association is to support our members, be known to people, help others and raise awareness of organ donation. This year I will strive to enlist more members, gain more community support and hopefully more member involvement. I'm excited as to what 2015 will hold and look forward to many more wonderful AHLTA functions. I wish you all good health and good luck.