



## Presidents report AGM – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Welcome all and thank you for coming. What a great turn out. Firstly I'd like to say a big thank you to Lyn Kerslake, our secretary and my better half, for organising today. It takes a lot of time, effort and patience to organise an event like today. Thank you Lyn.

The association has had yet again another great year. We are a non-government funded association. Therefore all money we make and support others with is through donations or fundraising. This is not an easy task by all means. Ways that this is achieved.....

Our Everyday hero page has been a driving force behind our fundraising tallying up close to \$15000. What makes this so special is it organised by our members. A page is set up by a person and they ask their family and friends to support them in an activity usually such as a running event, fundraiser of some kind or just a general donation. This makes me smile. It's a way of people giving back. And I say well done to everyone that has contributed this way.

I cannot go past our wonderful doll ladies. I've spoken about them before, and their amazing dedication, enthusiastic and motivation to fundraise. We are thankfully one of their chosen charities. Year after year the doll ladies make all their own jams, cakes and sell them at stalls from Manly up to Gosford. And I tell you they are winners particularly Winifred lemon butter. What makes me admire these ladies even more is their age, without given too much away, lets just say they have a few, few years on us..... And I think if the doll ladies can do it so can i.

Our stall days- well I didn't think our stall days could get much better. I was actually a bit concerned how Lyn and i would cope once Andy and Joy joined the grey nomads and left us for greener pastures. Well I'm happy to say we survived our first year without you! And survive did we what! Stall day last week took in excess of \$1000! So you ask how is this possible, well I did some wheeling, dealing and downright persuading. I managed to get a few beautiful generous souls to come help me. Little did I know or realise these lovely ladies could cook!! Food is the way to people's heart and hip pockets that is for sure! We sell cakes, and chocolates and lollies and much more. So thank you Leanne Demers, Wendy and Tina Strickland, Christine Griffith, Lyn Kerslake and most recently we added a male back into the ranks Richard Gifford-Moore, I do think his selling was the key to our great week last week. Gee we have such a good day, a chat to many others, encouragement to those who are waiting, those who have just been done or those who are down on their luck. I cannot say thank you enough ladies and Richard.

Bunnings day- our bunnings day was also a great success. The smell of sausage however stays with you for many weeks and nobody wants to hear 'with or without onion' ever again. We are looking to expand our Bunnings days next year to other bunnings.... Watch this space.

The association continues to support our members in many different ways:

We provide financial support through the financial assistance program. This financial year helping 15 people in times of need.

Our facebook page continues to grow in numbers of members. It is an ongoing support for many who live a distance away, cannot get to support groups at the hospital. It makes for a non-confrontational way for people to ask questions and gain support/guidance from others.

We service the nobby cars used by the less mobile. Maintain the fish tanks in clinic.

The association also rents and maintains AHLTA house in Leichhardt St Darlinghurst. Which aids the recovery of tx recipients and houses many relatives or tx recipients who live out of Sydney. Recently the AHLTA house undertook a small facelift. New carpet/ paint and new wardrobes. All for the comfort and safety of our members.

AHLTA as an association could not survive with out the support and donations from our members, to them we say thank you. I'd also like to thank the ongoing support of the organizations and business for their continued support to AHLTA,

McKay Property and Finance

WHO Printing

Telligence Web Design and Support

Doll Ladies of Sydney and Gosford

Karen Kennedy's monthly contribution from Gunnadah Motel.

Lastly but definitely not least I'd like to personally thank the AHLTA committee. Our committee members continue to work hard and I am so grateful and appreciative the time and effort they put into our committee.

In closing I would like to wish the newly elected AHLTA committee all the very best in 2014.

## **Plan for 2014-**

St Vincent's hospital has a wish list for many departments. This coming year the association wishes to honour a few items on the wish list that will directly help/ aid heart/ lung transplant recipients.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is fast approaching. We will be holding a week stall in the foyer St Vincent's Hospital from the 17<sup>th</sup> Feb until 21<sup>st</sup>. Selling food, 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorabilia. Following this will be our annual thanksgiving service on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> February. This will be a big shindig so put it your diary. We are also looking for more volunteers to help with stall days and cooking for goodies. Please let Lyn or I know if you can help in anyway.

Last but definitely not least we have decided to move in a different direction. I've been questioning for many months how we help our members, how we could better help our members and are we at our full potential. We are in a society that is ever changing and I believe its time for us to change as well. We have recently enlisted the services of Babak Jafari. He will be assisting AHLTA one day a week in duties such as updating our database to a new current system, So we can do things like email the bugle. Redesigning our website so it is easily accessible, appealing and informative for our members, Babak will also be looking at grants for the association and in general moving us into a more tech savvy 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is by no means a criticism of our past committees and the wonderful job they have done for nearly 30years. This is just keeping abreast with our ever-changing society.

The first thing we are doing to move this way is to hear from our members such as you guys. We need to know what you want, and what we can do to help you or what you can do to help us. So please fill in the survey you were given on the way and help us improve the association to help you.

Fundraising comes in many different shapes, sizes and forms. If you think you can help in anyway please come and see me or Lyn and we can discuss options for the future.

I'd like to welcome the new committee of 2014 and to you guys I say onwards and upwards we go.

Thank you all.

Have a great day.