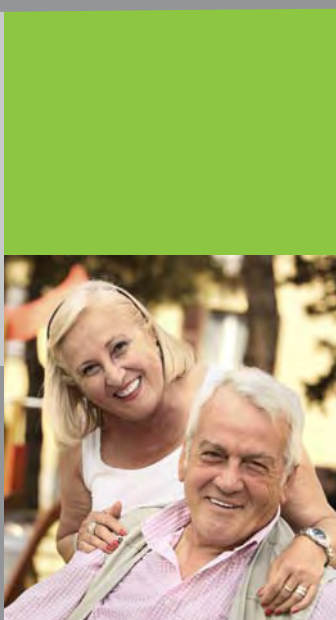


Directions:

a report from Diabetes - Australia Tasmania



president's report



It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the new President of Diabetes Australia - Tasmania.

This is a very exciting time for the organisation and I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to occupy this position. Diabetes Australia - Tasmania has come a long way over the past five years and I thank Fred Howard, our past President, for his calm and measured leadership of the Board.

Diabetes Australia - Tasmania has an important role to play within Tasmania, not only to our members and those people who have diabetes but also in communicating to all levels of government and the community as a whole the need for urgent and appropriate action in managing and combating the disease within this state.

On a broader level we also have a duty to present to the Tasmanian community the message of the need for good health self management. This is a tough message to deliver as many in the community feel that it is up to the individual as to how they live their lives. This of course is true, however the flip side of this is the economic cost of healthcare for those who suffer a range of illness brought about by an inappropriate lifestyle. This cost is borne by our community.

I believe that we can deliver this message in a timely and non-judgemental manner. This is a part of the long-term vision we have for Diabetes Australia - Tasmania. To this end we are commencing a process of restructuring the organisation. Some of these changes are small and some will be major but together the reform process will place our organisation in a stronger position within the Tasmanian community, both from the position of effectively fulfilling the role tasked to us of being the state administrator of the NDSS as well as from the position of being the peak body for diabetes in Tasmania promoting our message of good health for life.

This process has commenced this year with the appointment within Diabetes Australia - Tasmania of an NDSS state manager, a dietitian and a communications and development officer. There is also exciting news of the imminent appointment of three new staff members through collaboration with the state government.

The significance of these appointments should not be underestimated. The positions have been filled because there is a need to respond directly to the urgent requirement for additional diabetes education and management within our community. This organisational restructure, coupled with the recent strategic planning undertaken, will strategically place Diabetes Australia - Tasmania at the forefront of diabetes in Tasmania.

We should be reminded that there are an estimated 20,000 Tasmanians who have diabetes and do not know it. This should be setting off the alarm bells for all of us. We do not want to spread fear in our community but these are the facts. This is terrible news as the outcomes for undiagnosed and unmanaged diabetes include kidney failure, blindness, erectile dysfunction, cardio vascular complications as well as the human suffering associated with chronic disease. Additionally the number of people who are at risk is increasing dramatically every year.

There is a very important job to do and I encourage all readers of this magazine, members of our organisation and our strategic partners to actively promote a dialogue that engages our community in a debate about poor health self management. Community awareness of the issues associated with diabetes will dispel fear and debunk the myths that abound regarding the disease. This will hopefully contribute to the earlier diagnosis of the disease resulting in reduced complications, the acceptance by our community of the need for healthier lifestyles and, over time, a reduction in the incidence of the condition.

I congratulate our CEO Caroline Wells for her effective leadership over the past two years and I acknowledge the valuable contributions that the management, staff and volunteers of the organisation have made.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board of Diabetes Australia - Tasmania to thank retiring Board member Margaret Davis for her significant contribution to our organisation. We will be presenting Margaret with a Life Membership as a token of our gratitude in the near future.

Wishing you all a very safe and happy Christmas.

Anne Sheehan
President



Each year the Christmas decorations hit the shops earlier and earlier making the year seem shorter than it already is! I cannot believe another year has passed so quickly. A lot has happened at Diabetes Australia – Tasmania in 2007 and again it was very successful year.

Pollie Pedal is one of our most successful events, both from a fundraising and community awareness perspective. The event in March was no exception, with terrific involvement from schools and aged care facilities. Planning for Pollie Pedal 2008 is well underway with the route taking in the scenic north and north east, including Scottsdale, Bridport, Low Head and the West Tamar. The ride will be held between 29 Feb – 2 March 2008, commencing at Evandale and concluding at Launceston.

The national message for National Diabetes Week was 'Reduce your Waist, Reduce Your Risk' and this message was reiterated at our three statewide health and well being expos. Based on the low attendance at some of the expo venues we are considering smaller rural road shows next year, focussing on diabetes education and the ever popular healthy cooking demonstrations.

In conjunction with Salamanca Rotary, our second combined dinner event was held in July. The Gribbles Knight of Nights was a great success, with many guests dressing the part and it certainly felt as if we were back in medieval times! Our thanks to Salamanca Rotary for their support and help with this event.

DARE (DiAbetics Reaching Extremes), the brainchild of the ever energetic and enthusiastic Caroline Burridge has taken shape over the last six months. The challenge for six young people to walk the Overland Track has been very well supported and a big thanks to all those involved

An Aged Care Education Package, developed by staff at Diabetes Australia – Tasmania has been very well received with the Package rolled out to the majority of aged care facilities in the southern region. Thanks to GP South for the ongoing support with this venture. With the assistance of GP North West the Package will be delivered to aged care facilities in the north west in 2008. The purpose of the Package is to provide consistent and up to date information relating to diabetes management and care for staff working with the elderly.

There have been a number of staff changes, with Noelene Ross leaving the organisation in early 2007. My thanks to Noelene for all her hard work and effort over many years. Lisa Burgess has joined us in the role of NDSS Manager, Jonathon Jones in the new role of Communication and Development Co-ordinator, Nigel Donoghue as one of our diabetes educators and Yvonne Wilkins, our dietitian. It is wonderful to have so many new people and new roles with in the organisation.

Reflecting the new National Diabetes Services Scheme Agreement there will be a number of new sub agencies around the state. Lisa Burgess is well underway with the appointment process, so early in 2008 many more outlets will be available.

I would like to thank all of the staff, Board and volunteers at Diabetes Australia – Tasmania for their invaluable assistance and their ongoing efforts. It is a real pleasure to work with all these people as we all strive to improve the quality of life for people with diabetes and to continue to raise community awareness of this chronic disease.

Wishing you all a very safe and happy Christmas.

Caroline Wells
Chief Executive Officer

Last edition I commented on some of the new directions that we will be pursuing in 2008. I used the word 'exciting' as the adjective to describe our journey and this remains our theme as we move forward.

As an incorporated body, ensuring good corporate governance is critical. The Board of Diabetes Australia – Tasmania acts on behalf of the members in overseeing and governing the organisation. In a 2007 commentary by Newett, reported by the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), it is noted that the strongest indicators of a board's strategic and monitoring influence in their organisation are the board's company-related knowledge and the strength of their working relationships with management. We are very fortunate here at Diabetes Australia – Tasmania to have both of these requirements actively demonstrated and as such this should provide great confidence for members regarding ongoing organisational development.

The Annual General Meeting of Diabetes Australia – Tasmania for the period 2006/2007 was held on Thursday 18 October 2007. Members at the meeting confirmed all Reports from the financial year 06/07 together with electing four Board members for a two year period.

Five nominations for Board members were received for four positions, with a ballot

held on the night. Margaret Davis who served on the both the Board and Executive Committee decided to step down at this AGM, after contributing so much to the organisation over many years.

As a member based organisation it was disappointing to see the low numbers of members present. I know this is an issue that many membership based organisations face, but it is certainly a situation that I would like to see change. Identifying what is of value to our members is critical and we will be concentrating on this area in 2008.

The Constitution of Diabetes Australia – Tasmania is currently being reviewed by myself and a working group of Board members. The purpose is to ensure that the Constitution will meet to the needs of the organisation over the coming years and that processes such as the election of Directors is streamlined and in line with best practice governance principles. I expect a revised Constitution to be available to members early/mid 2008.

The strategic direction of the organisation for the next three years was both discussed and endorsed at our recent Board Planning Day. There will be an expansion of health service delivery statewide, with additional

diabetes educator and dietitian services. In addition the provision of diabetes education for health professionals will be an expanding area.

Increasing the community visibility of the organisation will be another key focus area with a sustained marketing campaign planned for 2008. Ensuring people with diabetes and those at risk are aware of what services are offered by Diabetes Australia – Tasmania will be an integral part of this campaign.

Finally, and probably of most significance strategically is that the organisation will be rebranded. This means that both the name and logo will change. In 2008, the organisation will be formally named Diabetes Tasmania and the new Diabetes Australia logo adopted. The marketing opportunities that this will afford the organisation are significant and will provide additional leverage to raise the profile of the organisation and as a result provide greater support to people with diabetes.

Caroline Wells
CEO, Diabetes Australia - Tasmania

board members

The following members were elected to the Board for a two year term:



Anne Sheehan

Anne has been a Board member since 2005 and has held the position of Treasurer. Following the AGM, Anne was elected President. Anne has been active at the national level of Diabetes Australia, taking on the role of Tasmanian delegate earlier in the year.

Anne is employed by the Department of Health and Human Services in the role of Physical Activity - Policy and Program Officer. She has a Bachelor of Education (PE), Graduate Certificate of Management and a Certificate IV in Life Coaching and is currently enrolled in a Master of Business Administration at the University of Tasmania.

Anne also sits on a number of state and national organisations, in varying capacities from Treasurer to Chair, across a diversity of organisations. As a result she brings a wide variety of experience to Diabetes Australia - Tasmania. Anne is committed to seeing the organisation further develop and brings much passion to the role of President.

board members



Fred Howard

A health professional with a background in podiatry, Fred is responsible for the delivery of a range of Primary Health Services including the Southern Community Allied Health Services and the Community Rehabilitation Unit and has been a Board member since 1999, holding the position of Treasurer and more recently that of President.

Fred has a strong commitment to Diabetes Australia Tasmania forged by a strong belief in the ability of non government organisations to deliver a range of services efficiently and effectively. An advocate for the concept of a Boards of Governance rather than a Boards of Management, Fred has actively pursued this direction in his time as President.



Kim Daly

Kim joined the Board in 1998, following the successful resolution of an advocacy matter by Diabetes Australia – Tasmania, related to her Type 1 diabetes.

Being employed with the State Government Kim brings several business process and project management skills to the team. Kim is also keenly interested in risk management and is a member of the Quality and Risk Management Committee. Her qualifications in Adult Education, Public Policy and Social Science are of great value to the organisation.



Andrea Schiwy

Andrea has been a Board member since 2004 and brings strong financial management skills to the organisation. For the last 22 years Andrea has worked in government regulatory organisations including the Australian Taxation Office, Australian Securities and Investment Commission and State Revenue Office (Department of Treasury and Finance). She is currently a Trustee of the Retirement Benefit Funds Board and a part time tribunal member for the Social Security Appeals Tribunal.

Andrea was elected Honorary Treasurer following the AGM.



Patricia Rogers

Patricia has been a Board member for a number of years, joining in 2000. Patricia is an active volunteer with the organisation and brings business experience in accounting and insurance. Patricia is actively involved in community activities and is currently Treasurer of Friends of Chauncy Vale and The Hobart Dog Club Inc.

The following are profiles of the remaining Directors:



John Bates

John joined the Board of Diabetes Australia – Tasmania in 2006. Now semi retired, John has had extensive experience in the justice system working at the Supreme Court of Tasmania. He was Associate to the late the Honourable Mr Justice Zeeman and Supervisor of the Probate Registry. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in September 1999. Prior to his court experience John served in the Defence Forces.

John also volunteers at Diabetes Australia – Tasmania and is an active board member of the RSPCA.

Anne Muskett

Anne is the Clinical Nurse Manager of the Diabetes Centre at the Royal Hobart Hospital and as such her extensive clinical knowledge is valuable when planning service provision and to assist the organisation in working with other health providers. Anne is also President of Tasmanian Branch of the Australia Diabetes Educator Association.

Anne joined the Board of Diabetes Australia – Tasmania in 2005.

Katie MacNamara

Katie McNamara is a Hobart Pharmacist who has over 10 years experience in primary healthcare. Katie has an MBA through Melbourne Business School and Cornell University in the USA, as a Rupert Murdoch Fellow, and has been recognised for her business achievements as the Telstra Tasmanian Business Woman of the year in 1999 and the Young Australia Career Achiever of the year 2000.

Katie has a long history of community service, through her pharmacy in assisting the Derwent Valley community with health education, but also as a mentor to other young women and as the developer of a youth scholarship, encouraging and helping young people into further education. This was recognised by her being awarded a Centenary medal for her services to Australian Society.

Katie brings to the board experience as a director, having served 6 years as a Trustee of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, as well as on a number of smaller companies, and as a graduate of the AICD Company Directors' course. In addition, Katie's has had 3 years experience as an associate consultant with one of the world's top tier Management Consultant Companies, McKinsey & Company, where she has advised many of Australian's largest companies in the areas of strategy and operations.

New branding for Diabetes Australia - Tasmania

After much discussion and research it has been decided by the management and Board of Diabetes Australia - Tasmania to rebrand the organisation.

There were several reasons for this, the most notable being the desire to align ourselves to the new brand identity adopted by Diabetes Australia Ltd, the national body.

Additionally we are seeking to obtain increased visibility as the peak Tasmanian body for diabetes which is providing leadership in chronic disease management education and prevention. The opportunities provided in rebranding will allow us to communicate, in a fresh way, to all of our stakeholders the relevant and timely

message of the need for increased management of diabetes in this state.

The new logo, conceived and designed for Diabetes Australia by leading Australian advertising agency Saatchi and Saatchi presents a contemporary message of turning around diabetes and the effects of the disease.

We are pleased to announce both the adoption of the new logo and the change of our name to Diabetes Tasmania. This will be progressively rolled out over the next few months commencing 1 January 2008.



Diabetes

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