



Annual General Meeting

Saturday 3 December, 2005

La Colussi Café, Camberwell

Secretary report

Our attitude for KA for this year was, “we can only do what we can do”. We acknowledge that we have few committee members who are able to commit the time and energy required to assist in achieving our goals. As a result, we’ve had probably our most successful year yet!

Larry has already highlighted the milestones for the year 2004/5: our support work; our seminars; our meeting with managers of private health insurance funds; research and last but not least, membership. My role has largely focused on the operational aspects of these activities.

We decided that in the absence of a vice-president, we would focus our efforts on our June fundraiser only rather than liaising with larger philanthropic funds. And as Larry described, it generated a significant amount of money for Keratoconus Australia.

Of particular significance was our involvement with Dr Michael Loughnan and Dr Tim Steele which aims to investigate the genetic origins of keratoconus. It was a distinct example of mutually beneficial relationship – it would have been a much more laborious task for the researchers to have recruited such a large sample without the involvement of our members and from our perspective we were delighted to have had the opportunity to actively support the research.

In an effort to promote the work of KA, we have maintained our interactions with Vision2020 who have expressed interest in supporting Keratoconus Australia and in early 2006 we will be meeting with the executive manager with a view to have a better understanding of the organisation and vice-versa.

In relationship to interstate support groups, one of our Tasmanian supporters, with the assistance of Lions Sorrell Club in Hobart, are now at the stage of producing the

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content for a pamphlet that they plan to distribute across Tasmania in an effort to increase the awareness of keratoconus and promote better treatment.

As a result of the inaugural Keratoconus Australia seminar in Sydney, much interest was generated for a support group with approximately ten people expressing interest to be contacted to assist in formation of the group. We're very optimistic that in the coming year, the presence of Keratoconus Australia will be more prominent in New South Wales.

Contrary to what we had anticipated last year, we have not been successful in advancing a support group in Queensland. With committee member Helen Rizvi, we had hoped to get this group up and running, however unfortunately we have been unable to contact Helen for some time. As a result Helen will not continue as an ordinary committee member of KA.

Finally, I am grateful to Brunetti, Carlton for kindly donating pizza for KA seminars. I would like to thank the committee for their contribution to KA, especially Larry for his tireless contribution to the increasing amount of support work, maintenance of the website and production of the newsletter.

Thank you.

Belinda Cerritelli

Secretary