



ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

Australian Pituitary Foundation

It seems that that time of the year when the committee reflects on the achievements of the past year comes around faster and faster. 2007 has been tinged with sadness with the passing away of Ron Waters, one of the founders of the Foundation. Ron is missed very much by all connected to the Foundation. He continued to take an interest in the Foundation and provided advice and support even after he retired a few years ago.

Sue Kozij, Catherine Wormald and Kel Child's attended the Endocrine Society of Australia (ESA) and Endocrine Nurses Society of Australia (ENSA) conference on the Gold Coast in August 2006. Catherine and Kel presented to the nurses and found it a very rewarding experience. The nurses were very interested in the Foundation and the work it undertook. Kel talked about pituitary disease from the aspect of male health, which was the theme of the conference. The Foundation looks forward to continuing this positive relationship with ENSA and the ESA.

One of the main forms of communication with members is of course the newsletter. The committee has received many positive comments and suggestions about the newsletter. The committee appreciates this feed back, as it spurs us on to provide a resource that his helpful and informative. The Foundation would like to thank Ipsen for their continued sponsorship of the newsletter, a very important tool for members. The website provides another avenue for communicating with members and providing them with information. Thanks must go to Lyn Taylor, Dr. Emma Duncan, Dr. Morton Burt & Professor Donald Chisholm, Dr. Stephen Thornley & Dr. Robert Smee who have contributed information and updated articles for the website.

The Chairperson attended the Conference of the British Pituitary Foundation (Pit Pat) which was held in Manchester in April 2007. It provided the chance to see how another organisation is run and the resources they provide for their members. One of the outcomes of attending was that the APF has introduced a toilet facilities card for members who have Diabetes Insipidus (DI). This card was available at the National Seminar.

Social gatherings are an integral part of human existence and provide opportunities for interaction with like minds and similar interests. To this end the Cushing's social group in Sydney continues to meet a few times a year. Queensland continues to have regular get togethers. Western Australia has also managed to organise a couple of events for their members as have South Australia. Sue and Eric Kozij, and Catherine organised an afternoon education seminar at St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne in November 2006. It was very well received and those attending expressed a desire to have more of them. Thanks must go to Warrick Inder and St Vincent's Hospital as well as the other presenters. Seminars were held at the Garvan Institute in Sydney and Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane. Thank you to Professor Ken Ho at the Garvan and the Endocrine Team at the Princess Alexandra Hospital for their continued support and pituitary education seminars.

In September 2006 the Chairperson was able to meet with representatives of the Foundation in Western Australia and at the same time meet some of the health professionals who do such excellent work supporting the Foundation and providing their time to speak at various activities. The opportunity was also taken to respond to an invitation from the Mental Health Department of Royal Perth Hospital to speak about pituitary disease. These meetings allow staff working in the hospitals to meet members of the Foundation and discuss ways of working together. Elizabeth Howell in Western Australia was active in raising awareness of acromegaly through an article published in the WA media.

The directors would like to thank all those people who have volunteered their services to the Foundation. In particular thanks to Barbara Elliott who has worked long hours to keep the database updated and provides labels and results of other requests whenever necessary. Thanks to Hal Bernyk and his wife, Luba, who have made sure that the newsletters are folded, enveloped

and posted. This is greatly appreciated as the newsletter is a very important means of communicating with members. Tida Wong See looks after the new members, ensuring that they are welcomed and provided with appropriate support material. Many doctors, nurses and other allied health professionals look after Foundation member's medical health and also inform patients about the Foundation.

A big thank you has to go to members who donate money to the Foundation. Without these additional funds the Foundation would struggle to survive financially. We would also like to thank the pharmaceutical companies who have provided financial support over the previous year, Novartis, Sandoz, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Eli Lilly, SciGen, Serono and Ferring without whose funds the Foundation could not have undertaken the Inaugural National Seminar and who enable the Foundation to continue to support its members and put in place new and improved services for its members.

Thank you also to the committee for their contributions to the running of the Foundation, in particular Sue Kozij and her husband Eric.

I would personally like to acknowledge the contribution Hal Bernyk and his wife, Luba, have made to the Foundation. This year Hal is not standing as a director, but will continue to ensure that you all receive your newsletters. Thank you Hal.

Catherine Wormald
Chairperson