

Cardiomyopathy Australia



Has Cardiomyopathy
Touched Your Life?

Supporting people with
cardiomyopathy and their
families.

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Includes selected articles from Cardiomyopathy UK Newsletter

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Aims of the Association:

- ◆ To provide the opportunity for individuals and their families to share their experiences and to support one another.
- ◆ To provide accurate and up-to-date information about Cardiomyopathy, when it is available, to members, their families and those in the medical profession.
- ◆ To increase public awareness of Cardiomyopathy.
- ◆ To foster medical research in this area.

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Requests may be made to the editors (*contact details are on page 3*).

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From the editors

Welcome to this edition

It's Autumn, a time when nature uses the strength from days past and looks forward to new opportunities. Similarly, we notice that medicine and the care of patients are served by caregivers who are aware of and use the strengths and discoveries of the past while exploring the opportunities of the future. This edition reflects that. We can see how discoveries of the past have become the commonplace treatments of the present. We know that present day research will lead to future treatments that in their turn will become the norm.

In the excitement of looking to the future, we should not discount the well researched and proven treatments of the past and present. Vaccines have obliterated scourges of the past like smallpox and polio but those diseases will reemerge unless vaccines continue to be used.

We now have vaccines against influenza, whooping cough, measles, tetanus and, more recently, shingles. The research that was invested in the development of these vaccines will be wasted unless we use them properly. Similarly, we must heed present day advice rather than listening to reports of future possibilities and spurious claims of marvellous treatments.

Remember, the best sources of advice are from medical practitioners. They will be aware of your condition and treatment and should be able to answer your questions.



David and Anne Abbott
Newsletter editors

Email: abbottdm@gil.com.au or
newsletter@cmaa.org.au

Phone: 07 3202 8138

Contact us

Details of your nearest Contact Person are provided on the following pages.

They are also available on:

- our website at — www.cmaa.org.au
- our 24 hour message bank service — **1300 552 622**
- HEARTLINE — **1300 362 787**

Our postal address is:

PO Box 43, Doncaster Heights, VIC, 3109

Our email address is:

info@cmaa.org.au



President's message

Dear Members and Readers

We value highly our long-standing relationships with other organisations such as the Heart Foundation. Therefore, it is pleasing to advise that we have reached an agreement that the Heart Foundation Health Information Service provide a cardiac nurse-on-call service.

The collaboration provides the establishment of a pathway for CMAA members and persons who have cardiomyopathy to connect with a heart health professional. The Health Information Service telephone counselling facility will be provided during business hours.

We hope that this initiative is well supported. Our South Australian directors, Kerry and Bronny, have worked diligently to bring this to fruition. Cardiomyopathy UK has provided a similar service successfully for some time.

Our Association has sent congratulations to **Professor Chris Semsarian AM** on his recent award as Member of the Order of Australia. We are delighted that he has agreed to be guest speaker following our Annual General Meeting to be held at Epworth Hospital, Richmond, Victoria on Sunday, 10 September 2017.

Chris is the pre-eminent authority on cardiac genetics in Australia and has been a great supporter of our Association as a senior medical adviser for many years.

I trust you will put an early entry in your diary so you will not miss this Cardiomyopathy Day presentation.

Best wishes to you and yours in 2017

Alistair Kerr, President

On behalf of the National Executive



Have you enrolled in the National Genetic Heart Disease Registry?

If you or a family member have an inherited cardiomyopathy you may be eligible to take part in this registry. We are aiming to enroll every family with an inherited heart disease in Australia, which will assist Australian research groups learn more about these conditions.

More information, including patient information sheets can be found at our website
www.registry.centenary.org.au

To get an enrolment pack please contact **Dr Jodie Ingles or Laura Yeates.**

Molecular Cardiology Centenary Institute

Locked Bag No 6 Newtown NSW 2042

Phone 02 9565 6185 Wednesday—Friday

Email: j.ingles@centenary.org.au