



RCH Medical Alumni

Greetings to all our Alumni Members.

Firstly we want to congratulate John Rogers on the award of AM in the Queens Birthday honours. This is a really well deserved award, and we are delighted for him, Margot and the family.

The main reason for this note is to inform you that the Vernon Collins Oration will NOT be on August 8th as intended. At this stage it seems likely to be in September or even October. The Oration is arranged by the RCH Administration, the University and the Medical Staff Association. While it is officially one of the Alumni meetings, we do not manage it. We will let you know details in due course. Meantime the Executive is persuading an excellent speaker to come to our 29th November 2013 meeting, which is also the AGM.

Executive met with Christine Kilpatrick and Peter McDougall on 26th June 2013. A number of issues were discussed, including communication, IT support, circulation of hospital news to Alumni, an Alumni website page, and honorary appointments. A further meeting will be held on 22nd August 2013 to follow up actions taken.

We have been assured that the RCH Executive Office will continue to provide some secretarial support. However at present we await appointment of a new person designated to do so. Anna Storrer, who replaced Lina Costanzo resigned to move interstate. Shauna Morris and Simone Williams in the Executive Office are fortunately holding the show together meantime.

To that end Garry and Andrew are working hard on getting our membership roll confirmed. It is especially helpful for us to have email addresses, and some of you will be approached about that soon.

The Executive continues to consider whether membership should be broadened to include more non-medical staff. This will be an agenda item for the AGM, possibly with a motion for a change to the constitution to allow it. We would be pleased to receive written views about this over the next month or two. They can be sent to me by email at graeme.barnes@rch.org.au

Some members have expressed concern about possible loss of some of the history of the RCH campus, partly related to the shift into the new buildings – historic photos, honours boards etc. Executive is exploring a possible role for podcasts being produced, which might include interviews with many of you who have so much knowledge of RCH. These would then be available on-line. They do cost a dollar, so there will be debate about who pays!

On a sad note, a service was held at the MCG recently to honour Dr Bernard Neal who died this month.

The Executive encourages members to consider assisting the Alumni Association by nominating for positions on the Executive. Nominations will be called for prior to the AGM. Andrew Kemp will become President. New members of the executive are needed for 2014.

Best wishes to all. And watch for notification of the Vernon Collins Oration.

Graeme Barnes
Hon Sec



The Royal
Children's
Hospital
Melbourne

- *Dr Mary Dwyer*
(President)
- *Prof Andrew Kemp*
(Vice-President)
- *Prof Graeme Barnes*
(Secretary)
- *Dr Sumitra Wickramasinghe*
(Treasurer)
- *Prof Garry Warne*
(Co-Opted Member)

Dear Alumni Member,

I have had the privilege of being your treasurer for the last eleven years.

The time has come for me to step down, Dr Garry Warne known to most of you ,will be the new treasurer.

I would like to thank you personally for the dedication and loyalty shown over the years to the association which has made my job easy and enjoyable.

I consider myself fortunate to have Mr. Nate Myers as secretary to guide me in the early years.

I have tried to follow his vision for the association.

I like to conclude by saying the association is in a strong financial position and you the members will see to it that it survives for the next 25 years.

Yours Truly

Sumitra Wickramasinghe