



ShoeString

Newsletter of The Dialysis and Transplant Association of Victoria Inc

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DATA Christmas in July 2007

For DATA members, Saturday 28th July 2007 was a Christmas celebration. If you weren't there, well, you missed out.

For \$20 a head, you received:-

- punch for pre dinner drinks, non alcoholic of course
- fruit & nut nibbles for starters
- a wonderful Christmas dinner, cooked with love & tenderness
- Christmas pudding & custard, to sweeten the event
- lollies from Santa, for good cheer
- games & trivia lots of fun & laughter
- wonderful company

Where else could you get all that for the price? No where, of course!



Our cute decorations for the night - aren't they cute!



Our Trivia MasterKen Donnally.
I want to know where his questions from
SoI can get the answers!!!!!!

The church hall, across the road from the DATA Blackburn house, was turned into a Christmas dining room. The tinsel sparkled, the balloons shone & the Christmas carols played quietly in the background. To get us going, Vicky played head & tail games, where three lucky people won scratchies.

Ken did his usual "great fun" trivia. How does he remember all that information?

The questions consisted of:- General knowledge - very easy for some, but hard for the rest of us.....name the capital cities.

Do you know the capital of Latvia?

Music - the song was always at the tip of the tongue, but didn't quite always make it to the answer sheet

There were a few prizes with the trivia. Some lucky people won Val-

halla biscuits or wine or cinema tickets or lollies.

Father Christmas didn't grace us with his presence this year, but Geoff did a good imitation. We all received a lolly bag from Santa & those who could answer Geoff's questions received a second lolly bag.

Geoff asked the questions, such as:

"Why did the man get buried half way up the hill? Because, he was dead of course. Obvious after you hear the answer.

We all ate far too much but enjoyed every mouthful.

Everyone had fun. It was a lovely way to spend an evening.

To all the people who helped to make the Christmas in July an enjoyable evening, a big thank you. Without help, Christmas in July wouldn't happen.

The social committee.



Geoff Fletcher wearing his wonderful Xmas hatwe can't see the Lollies Geoff where are they????

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Word from the Editor.....

It doesn't feel like it has been 12 months since I took over as "ShoeString" Editor. I have enjoyed the last 12 months, coming up with the creative ideas for the issue.... I hope you have enjoyed reading what has been printed.

It take a lot of organisation to get "ShoeString" out to you. Do you really know what it takes? It doesn't just do it self!

Obviously I have to put the issue together, it is easier if I have some letter or article from you to help fill the issue. If I haven't enough articles, I need to go searching the internet and other sources to get my stories.

I convert the issue to a PDF file and send it to the printers, either Alan or I pick it up or if neither of us can do this, Tim from Copy Cat will bring it home to me,(which I must say is greatly appreciated).

On Saturday or Sunday afternoon we meet at the Blackburn house and we fold the newsletter and once we have done that then we put them into their envelopes and box them up, so on Monday they are ready to go to the post office.

I would like to thank the office volunteers who go down to the office get the membership list up to date and print the envelopes, (I hear there is a lot of hot words that fly around if the printer decides to play up!) It can take up to 6 hours to print 1000 envelopes!

It really is quite a good afternoon of catching up with each other We have lots of cuppas and delicious food to keep us going, the time goes so fast when there is many hands.

But....all of this can't be done if I don't have any stories to fill the issue, there are some issues I really do struggle to fill it. I need you to right about what you are going through, how you cope and feel, what recipes you adapt or use. There are new people coming onto Dialysis (unfortunately) every day and they feel just as you felt when you were diagnosed with Renal Failure! So please help me, drop a line, either to the D.AT.A email or my personal one which is sue.nick@optusnet.com.au.

I look forward to hearing from you, soon.

Sue Hatzimichalis

President's Report for 2007 the 34th AGM of D.A.T.A

Hi to all Members present at this 34th AGM and to those who will read this and other Reports in Shoestring.

Firstly, just a review of some of the changes over the past 4 years while I have been President. I want to make it clear the nearly all the changes and improvements have been through team work and consultation. For example, the new format for the Ron Jones Educational Awards was developed firstly through some ideas of Sue Hatzimichalis and then with Fay Rawson and me over several sessions during the Xmas period. I am pleased that we have several recipients of the Awards here today to receive their certificates and cheques.

The office has been re-organised under the capable hand of Fay Rawson but there have been continued and sustained assistance from particularly Joan Eastwood and earlier Maryann Cribben and others including Jill Morgan and Ros Adcock sometimes. More recently Carl Sherman has been helping John Hulskamp, a former Treasurer of DATA, who we have engaged to keep the books. The office equipment has also been updated.

After the sad passing of our Accountant John Dyck we found that the world of accounting had changed dramatically and we needed to become much more professional in our approach to our accounting, banking and recording processes. We engaged the accounting services of HLB Mann Judd who have a branch that deals with charities. It is costing us more but our operation is much more transparent. One of the changes is the valuation of our houses at market value instead of historical cost. Hence you will notice a big change in the total value of our assets in the 2006/07

Year's Balance sheet which you will receive shortly. I'll have more to say about our financial position when I give the Treasurer's Report in a moment. All I'll say now is that despite our healthy cash reserves, we are no longer generating enough income to cover our expenses. We will need to raise funds to ensure our long term survival.

Other areas and activities of DATA continue and they are working well, for example, ShoeString and the Holiday Homes but it seems that interest in our Xmas BBQ and Xmas in July are less attractive to Members than formerly as the attendances are down even though those attending do enjoy themselves. Our welfare program is growing in size as some areas of the general community feel the economic pinch more acutely. Without more funds we may find it difficult to sustain this level of help in the future.

Secondly, as has been my custom each year, I want to individually thank certain members of the Committee because to run and manage an organisation with about 500 members, two holiday homes and the Blackburn House, produce a bi-monthly magazine, run a welfare program and social functions, virtually all by volunteers, takes commitment, dedication, time, energy and co-operation between the Committee team. The Committee must and has supported each other and that includes supporting me as their and your President for the last four years. I wish to thank them all for their continued support, commitment and participation over the time.

Special events: Some people have put in concerted efforts at particular times and

some are not on the Committee. I'm referring to the Xmas BBQ and Xmas in July as well as the work put in to the other BBQs and Carers nights.

Minutes: My thanks to Kim Donnelly who continued the minutes under very difficult circumstances and now to Angela who delivers the Minutes to all of us efficiently on time every time.

Homes: I have done little to run the Homes except to keep in touch with what is happening. Alan Rawson continues to do an excellent job in running the accommodation, attending to the maintenance and is exceptional in raising funds to cover most of the major repairs and replacements. Geoff has put a lot of effort to manage and improve Blackburn. Both keep the properties in tip top condition and the occupying members rarely have anything to complain about. Thank you both with appreciation on behalf of the DATA members. Without stealing anything from Alan Rawson's Holiday Homes Report, the Homes were well used throughout the year and many took up the winter special accommodation offer for the Rosebud house. Occupation at Blackburn depends on the medical needs of the country folk in the city here but I urge all those living over 100 kilometres from the GPO to think about staying at the Blackburn House as financially it helps DATA a lot.

ShoeString: Shoestring, the main connection with our members, continues to be produced on a regular basis. Again, I want to mention the continued efforts of our editors, formerly of Joan Eastwood for many years and more recently Sue Hatzimichalis

I have already mentioned the helpers in the **Office** but there is a special person to whom I owe

an everlasting gratitude and appreciation. That person is Fay Rawson. Fay has not only been my right hand man (person) from the time of my election as President and she has been involved in nearly all the decisions I have made. I have used her as devil's advocate to bounce ideas and work through the numerous issues that crop up in running our organisation almost on a daily basis. I have probably spoken to Fay at least 3 times a week and sometimes 3 times a day. She has always had time for me even when her tea was on the table getting cold and her advice shows wisdom and thought. I also wish to thank Fay for volunteering to take up the position of Secretary last elections. She has done an incredible job at organising the office and its personnel, going far outside the commitment that she should be required to make as Secretary. She will need to be supported by sub-committees in the future so if you can give Data a few active hours please volunteer for the Committee. That I have not specifically mentioned the two Kens, Vicki, Bev, Nick and Jan by name in no way diminishes their contribution to the Committee's work as part of the team. If I have left someone out by name please forgive me having what is called today asenior's moment. This brings me to a few words on the roll of the President if any of you are thinking that way. When Fay asked me to think about taking the President's position she said that DATA needed someone who could chair meetings and speak at functions. I indicated that I was not able to be hands on packing Shoe and other such jobs. I guess Fay knew that my natural enthusiasm and nature would ensure that I would soon get involved with all aspects of

running the organisation. And that what it takes to be President. I mentioned earlier I spoke to Fay 3 or 4 times a week. I also spoke to John Hulskamp about the books at least 3 times a fortnight although some of that work was in the roll of Treasurer.

The president has to know and think about every aspect of the DATA operation and sometimes action is required even if it discussing and sometimes directing people who specialise in their own areas. Also, Also, the President has to encourage others to come up with ideas and processes and then help that person run with them. Hence, the Presidency is a roll of honour but essentially of commitment as to time and application. It is not just attending meetings and making speeches.

Having said all that some of us become unwell at times and others need to stand in and support that person and each other. Running DATA needs to be a team effort.

DATA is a great and caring organisation often the envy of some others. We do a very good job in the areas we tackle and the special services we provide. Even though we are now the size of a small business, DATA operates with a soul. We care for our members and they respect and cherish the organisation. We are and need to remain a "self help group". We are bound to each other through our common medical issues and a desire to help ourselves and each other. Although we have a reasonable asset base we need to watch our cash flows to ensure the financial viability necessary to maintain the support and caring each of our member's need. As in the past I am sure this will be achieved by the active participation of members -both on and

off the committee. DATA is strong and will continue notwithstanding that I foreshadow some big changes in the future administrative processes.

Being President of DATA has been a privileged position and a challenge, a challenge I have enjoyed and will miss as Constitutionally I can only run for 4 consecutive years. Boy, time flies when you are having fun! Once again, thank you all for your support and friendships over my time as President.

Lloyd Samuel

Women's Bumper Stickers
(Continued from ShoeString
July07)

Sticker Number....

11. Guys have feelings too. BUT like who cares?
12. Next mood swing: 6 minutes.
13. And your point is...?
14. WARNING: I have an attitude and I know how to use it.
15. Of course I don't look busy.....I did it right the first time.
16. Do not start with me, you will NOT win.
17. You have the right to remain silent, so please SHUT UP!
18. All stressed out and no one to choke.
19. I'm one of those bad things that happen to good people.
20. How can I miss you when you don't go away?
21. Sorry if I looked interested. I'm NOT!
23. If we are what we eat, I'm fast, cheap and easy!
and Number 24.

**DON'T UPSET ME! I'M
RUNNING OUT OF
PLACES TO HIDE THE
BODIES!!!!**

The 34th Annual Meeting of DATA was held on Sunday 27th August with about thirty people attending. It was good to see some old as well as some new faces there.

Barbara Noon was there and her kidney is 35 years old, I wonder if this is some sort of record, can you beat that? The meeting was fairly long but there was much to cover, the Committee works hard all year on your behalf and so these things all have to be reported. The business of the day is reported on other pages so I won't go into all that.

I do want to say a few words about the guest speaker : Mr Bernie Farrell.

Bernie told us that his wife has had kidney disease for 8 years and is on dialysis. As a result of their involvement in haemo dialysis Bernie has become involved in two committees- 1. Maintenance Dialysis Advisory Committee, Kidney Health Australia Consumer Participation Committee, and MDAC is an advisory group (not a policy making body) commissioned by the Department of Human Services Victoria. It includes representatives from hospitals, satellites, and a consumer group. The department chairs the meeting which meets six monthly. Some of the areas MDAC have been involve in are: New and expanded Dialysis clinics : In 2005/06 New chairs were opened at Mildura (3), Warrigul (1), Donald (2).

In 2006/7 Rosebud increased from 3 to 9 chairs, Peter James increased from 12 to 20 chairs, Moorabbin Hospital increased from 12 to 15 chairs. 2007/08 Melton new six chair unit opened on Feb 2007, six more chairs to open by July 2008. Craigieburn new 6 chair unit open Feb 2007 Lilydale confirmed no dialysis service planned. Box Hill Hospital Stage 1 Box Hill Hospital redevelopment includes 16 chair dialysis unit Work expected to be completed by mid 2008 Maroondah Hospital new renal unit -16 chairs Werribee Mercy – expansion from 6 to 12 and subsequently 15 chairs. The DHS has provided funds to all hospitals to employ a project Officer to further develop implementation plans.

A Working party was formed by this committee to work on infectious diseases guideline and as a result of that DHS has published guidelines for bacterial infection and viral infections, plus a ten point patient guide and a wall chart for dialysis Units. (We must try and get these for our holiday homes.)

Bernie told us that 'home haemo' has been recognised as an underutilised dialysis modality and hat steps are being taken to facilitate every suitable patient having access to it. MDAC is developing a project group to improve understanding of patient and carer needs, both practical and psychosocial and to develop a state wide program to address barriers to dialysing at home. If you have any views you would like to contribute please email Bernie. berniefarrell@csso.com.au There was also some discussion of re-cycling water back into the system in this present day climate with water restrictions.

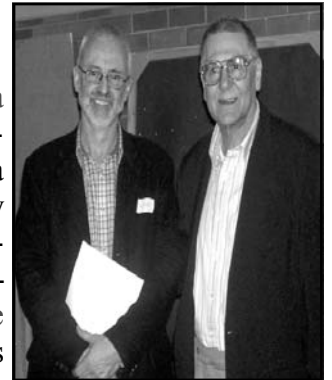
Transport is acknowledged as an area of concern and will receive future attention. KHA has developed a patient "charter", Principles of Optimum Care for Patients with Chronic Kidney disease. KHA's next consumer forum is in Geelong on 27 October. There was much, much more which I don't have room to report here. **So a big thank you Bernie** for a really great and informative day. It is good to know someone is out there looking after and advocating for those with Chronic kidney failure.

Other happenings at the AGM..... The raffle was drawn by Barbara Noon owner of the oldest Kidney, (I believe it is 36 years old). Congratulations to the winners of the Raffle: 1st prize \$500 Voucher - Michael Stead, 2nd prize \$250 Voucher- Mary Jude, 3rd prize \$100 - Kevin Walsh.

The afternoon tea was sensational, thanks to Angela for organising. The venue was good – were the chairs a little hard ?

Mrs Vin Dyck thanked the DATA Committee for providing the holiday homes as well as other services for DATA members. Her late husband John always enjoyed his trips to Yarrawonga.

Farewell to Maryann from the Committee though I understand she will still support us on Social subcommittees. Congratulations to Sue Hatzimichalis back in the Chairperson's Chair! Lloyd Samuel is Treasurer, Fay Rawson is Secretary and Angela Lindsey is Minute secretary, Alan Rawson is still going to look after the Holiday homes and Geoff Fletcher, the Blackburn house. Ordinary Committee members are Bev Boff, Ros Ball, Nick Hatzimichalis, Joan Eastwood, Vicki Abbetangelo, Ken Smith and Carl Sherman.



Bernie Farrell and Lloyd Samuel



Barbara Noon with Lloyd Samuel drawing the AGM Raffle.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2006

As this Report presenting the 2005/2006 Financial Statement is being made nearly 12 months after the adjourned 2006 AGM due to the necessity of engaging professional assistance in order to ensure more transparent and up to accounting processes, I will not make forecasts as those will be made in the 2006/2007 Treasurer's Report to the AGM which is to follow immediately this meeting.

You will notice that the distributed Financial Reports are marked "DRAFT". This is because there has not been time to have the accounts audited at this time. This will be done and another AGM called to pass the Audited Accounts. Notice of that meeting will be given in ShoeString as usual.

I took over the position of Treasurer after our last two Treasurers had to resign due to illness in the family or themselves. Auditing a charitable organisation is a specialist job as we found out when we asked a suburban accountant to do the audit for us for this 2005/2006 financial year. After inspection he found that although our accounts balanced, more recent changes to accounting standards and especially in relation to charities required professional advice.

We engaged the services firstly of a paid bookkeeper to keep our accounts up to date as the job had become beyond that which a volunteer could achieve and secondly, we engaged the services of HLB Mann Judd a large firm of accountants with expertise in charitable organisations. As a result of their input we have changed our banking and recording practices in line with modern requirements. I stress that our books always balanced.

The only item I particularly want to explain is the "Depreciation – Adjustment for prior years". The accountants found that we had miscalculated the accumulated depreciation over a number of years using the depreciation rates we normally used. This adjustment was made this year and hence the loss of \$29,008 is really a surplus of \$3,599 for 2005/6.

I draw your attention to the Disclaimer of Chris Simpson, Director HLB and I move that, subject to the Audited Accounts being put to a further AGM, this meeting accept the DRAFT Financial Reports for the Year Ended 30th June 2006, compiled but edited as mentioned above, from our own balanced accounts.

Moved: Lloyd Samuel, Treasurer

Dark Tunnel!!!

Sitting together on a train, traveling through the Swiss Alps, were a Kiwi guy, an Australian bloke, a little old Greek lady, and a young blonde Swiss girl with large breasts. The Train goes into a dark tunnel and a few seconds later there is the sound of a loud slap.

When the train emerges from the tunnel, the Kiwi has a bright red hand print on his cheek.

No one speaks.

The old lady thinks: The Kiwi guy must have groped the blonde in the dark, and she slapped his cheek.

The blonde Swiss girl thinks: That Kiwi guy must have tried to grope me in the dark, but missed and fondled the old lady and she slapped his cheek.

The Kiwi thinks: The Australian bloke must have groped the blonde in the dark. She tried to slap him but missed and got me instead.

The Australian thinks: I can't wait for another tunnel, just so I can smack the Kiwi again!!!!!!

As this Report is being given immediately following the presentation to the Members of DATA of the 2006 Financials, the comments I made in relation to the engagement of HLB Mann Judd, Accountants and the lack of Audited Reports applies also to the DRAFT 2006/2007 Financial Reports circulated today.

I want to make a few comments about the cash flow viability of DATA in the future.

However, I want to start with the Balance Sheet. You will notice that the Property value has increased from \$257,087 in 2006 to \$1,478,441. The substantial change in these figures represents the adoption of the new accounting standard requiring property valuations every three years.

Now turn to the Income Statement comparison for 2007 and 2006. Members should note that as a result of the sale of our shares there will be no "Dividends Received" next year. Also, the unusual item of "Profit on Disposal of Investments" of \$38,286 will not be reoccurring future income. The two together amount to over \$43,000. (This may be a little difficult to follow.) However, remember this Report is made on a CASH basis, not accrual. This means that the shares we sold in October/November last year were put, with other funds, into interest bearing deposits for 12 months at that time. Hence the interest expected on those investments had not been paid to us as at 30th June 2007 and does not appear in our accounts to that date.

We expect about \$31,000 from those investments in a full year (see NAB and ANZ Term Deposits in the Balance Sheet amounting to over \$500,000.) (For the mathematically minded), Based on what I have just said, the "Interest Received" of \$7,546 is about \$24,500 short in real terms. So, on an accrual basis, given about the same normal income and expenses for other items, deduct \$43,000 from this years surplus of \$30,000 and add back the expected interest of an extra \$24,000 (there is about \$7,500 already recorded) and we should finish up with a surplus next year of about \$11,000 (less an accounting and auditing bill expected to be about \$3 - 5000).

I have become rather more involved than I expected but the bottom line is that, although DATA is holding its own at present, the current group of volunteers who have run the office and holiday homes for years will retire from that strenuous work, probably within 12 months to two years and DATA will have to use the services of an efficient Administrator/Secretary to run the Homes and the office. This will cost money and the Committee and the Members will have to start thinking of raising funds from within the Membership and from outside sources, namely, Charitable Funds and Government. This will be the big challenge for future committees.

Subject to a further AGM to receive the Audited Reports for the Year Ended 30th June 2007, I move that the DRAFT Financial Reports be accepted.

Moved: Lloyd Samuel, Treasurer.

**DIALYSIS & TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION OF
VICTORIA INCORPORATION**
DRAFT
**INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2007**

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Donations Received	8,059	9,593
Dividends Received	5,033	8,962
Interest Received	7,546	20,909
Subscriptions	5,595	6,256
Fundraising Income	8,220	353
Profit on Disposal of Investments	38,286	
Profit on Rental Operations	14,491	9,359
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	87,230	55,432
EXPENDITURE		
Bank Charges	70	209
Bookkeeping Fees	2,556	-
Cleaning	-	307
Depreciation	13,017	12,209
Depreciation - Adjustment for Prior years	-	32,607
Donations	1,285	1,745
Filing Fees	-	37
Flowers, Gifts, Cards etc	87	393
Function Costs	-	376
Fundraising Costs	1,915	379
General Expenses	46	270
Insurance	5,631	5,922
Light & Power	3,474	3,097
Merchant Fees	212	-
Postage, Printing & Stationary	9,710	10,017
Professional Services - Accountancy	470	-
Rates and Taxes	3,389	3,254
Repairs & Maintenance	2,993	5,536
Staff Amenities	505	75
Social Welfare payments	4,980	1,635
Telephone	3,026	2,241
Travelling Expenses	3,054	3,000
Water rates	590	771
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	57,010	84,440
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET PROFIT (Loss)	30,220	(29,008)

**DIALYSIS & TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION OF
VICTORIA INCORPORATION**
DRAFT
**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH JUNE 20007**

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash in bank - NAB Common Fund #4939	9,269	23,230
Cash in bank - NAB Cheq ac #8952	15,958	23,120
Term Deposit - ANZ #8829	200,006	43,006
Term Deposit - NAB #5561	300,709	194,369
Term Deposit - NAB #	-	100,000
Petty Cash	249	114
Input Tax Credits	1,350	848
	<u>527,541</u>	<u>384,687</u>
PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
Plant and Equipment at Write Down Value (refer Schedule)	1,478,441	257,087
	<u>1,478,441</u>	<u>257,087</u>
INVESTMENTS		
Franking credits	1,497	2,661
Shares in Listed Companies	-	144,144
	<u>1,497</u>	<u>146,805</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,007,479</u>	<u>788,579</u>
NET ASSEST (DEFICIENCY)	<u>2,007,479</u>	<u>788,579</u>
SHARES CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Asset revaluation Reserve	1,229,479	40,453
Unappropriated Profit (Accumulated Loss)	778,346	748,126
TOTAL SHARE CAPITAL AND RESERVES	<u>2,007,479</u>	<u>788,579</u>

Holiday Homes Report 2006-07

This years bookings Yarrawonga 48 weeks Rosebud 43 weeks
Rosebud Haemo Dialysis 15 wks T/plants 27wks CAPD 1
Yarrawonga Haemo 27 wks CAPD 2 wks T/plants 19 wks

ROSEBUD

Booking for 06-07 were very good, 43 weeks .Bookings in the winter months have never been popular ,but this financial year we were very successful due to the \$50-00 a week winter rent, which we have again this year . We had 15 weeks of members who dialyzed at the house or at Rosebud Hospital or Hastings Two Bays Hospital who have vacancies .This financial year with the Rosebud Hospital increasing to 8 chairs we hope that a few more members will be able to dialyse at the Hospital. We have a new TV and DVD /video recorder in the lounge room. The TV from the lounge room is now in the dialysis room. We have had a new TV aerial installed . Our thanks to Dorothy Kurrle who is such a great help and also a great friend to Fay and myself.

YARRAWONGA

This year has been another good year 27 wks booked by members on dialysis. Thanks again to Ann and Frank Bonser, Greg Hoare for their help with the holiday homes and the continuing support of Margaret Corboy and Neil Clark from Retravision Yarrawonga.

We also thank the renal unit at the Yarrawonga Hospital for their job they do for DATA members who dialyse at the hospital. Thanks to Mellissa and all the other renal nurses.

With a donation from the clubs Services ,the Ski Club and the Yarrawonga and Border Golf Club we were able to purchase a new Air Conditioner. Yarrawonga was opened 21 years ago and is still as popular as ever .

We have 2 haemo machines at both houses , Gambro AK 95 and a Fresenius.

With the costs to run the two holiday houses going up like, the council rates at Yarrawonga , approx \$1600-00, that is over \$30-00 a week out of the rent plus increased water rates , power and gas, DATA will have to increase the rent, watch for further news.

Early this year at a lunch at the Blackburn Hotel DATA on behalf of all our members DATA presented the Technicians Tony Skipper Austin ,Colin Cutler, MMC and Tony Beeston RMH with Life Memberships

Alan Rawson

Blackburn House Report, August 2007

This Last 12 months we have had a bit of maintenance to do at Blackburn. Our rear neighbour Mr Ming Zie and his Body Corporate complained about the big tree in our yard that was hanging over his property, I contacted 2 arborists and our solicitor about what to do, their advise was to notify Mr Zie and his Body Corporate and inform them that we would do nothing about the tree as the builder of the premises should have dealt with it, when he built the building.

The heater failed whilst tenants were at Blackburn, and they had to wait 7 days for repairs, so I purchased 2 electric heaters to help keep them warm. The upstairs toilet cistern was over flowing into the bowl, I temporality repaired them as we had a full house, I replaced both toilets due to old age after they left. The tap handle on the basin were broken in the upstairs bathroom, and with great difficulty, were eventually replaced, again due to age.

Ken Smith (step-toe) has provided us with more pictures (we are running out of walls to put them on) and also 2 clocks, thanks Ken, maybe some can be installed in the holiday homes.... I will talk to Alan.

The Blackburn House has had a few occupants, this year, there was 1 transplant patient from Hobart , another 1 from Gippsland , they were there for a few weeks each, we also had a few short stay tenants staying at the house for Doctor's appointments. There was also 2 long term holiday tenant, which is good to see.

There are still a number of other repairs that need doing at Blackburn, a leaking gutter at front door, reinstall the blind in the kitchen, repair clothes line and some bush and tree pruning. If you can help just let me know.

Thanks Geoff Fletcher

Pictorial of Christmas in July 2007.

Do you recognise anyone?
Don't they look like they 're having fun?



The Ron Jones Educational Awards

Lloyd presented the Ron Jones Educational Awards to the Winner Jocelin Lewis, and 2 Encouragement awards to Jack Murphy and Rob Campbell. There was another Encouragement award given to Adam Thomson but he had a "Deb" ball to go to on Saturday night and couldn't make it. It was great to see these young people attend the AGM and accept their awards. Congratulations on your achievements..... Good luck with your studies!

Jack Murphy

Jocelin Lewis

Lloyd Samuel

Rob Campbell



Dates to Remember



Up and Coming Events for 2007:

Carer's Night Friday 19th October
14 Queen Street Blackburn
6.30pm, BYO plate of food to share..

“Well on My Way, Getting on with Life” Hosted by Kidney
Health on Saturday 27th October 2007, 9am to 3pm at
Deakin University Geelong Waterfront Campus.
For more information please contact Sue Brurevis at Kidney
Health on 9674 4300 by 19th October 2007.

Annual Events for 2008 :

New Member's BBQ Sunday February 24th
14 Queen Street Blackburn.

Carer's Nights date to be advised , there will be 2 throughout
the year keep an eye on this space!

Christmas in July, Saturday date to be advised

A G M - Dialysis & Transplant Association
Sunday in August 2008 2pm
At ST John's Anglican Church Hall (across the road from
DATA House 14 Queen Street Blackburn)

Christmas Party Sunday 6th December 2008
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Our thanks to all who contributed to this edition.
We would like to hear your story please write and tell us how you
deal with kidney failure.
The Editor, ShoeString, P.O. Box 165 Blackburn 3130.

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