Come Celebrate Christmas with DATA!

December 2, 2012, first Sunday in December
11 am Start
Guide Hall, Halliday Park
300 Mitcham Road, Mitcham VIC 3132

A spit roast will be provided
A choice of meats, salads, desserts as well as tea and coffee

Santa and Christmas raffle to be enjoyed

A great day out for the whole family.
Come and join in the revelry!

MAXIMUM OF 2 ADULTS FREE PER MEMBERSHIP
NON-MEMBERS $10, CHILDREN FREE

RSVP DATA CHRISTMAS
Return by Friday 23 November
PO Box 165, Blackburn 3130 by 7th October 2012

Name: ........................................
Address: ........................................
Phone: ........................................
Adults: ........................................

(Non-Members Adults:
(Non-Members $10 per person)

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED MY CHEQUE/MONEY ORDER FOR PAYMENT OF $10 PER PERSON FOR NON-MEMBERS

DATA AGM
page. 10 - 11
Hello everyone, and welcome to another edition of ShoeString.

ShoeString’s 40th Birthday was officially celebrated at the 39th Annual General Meeting of DATA. Fun and cake (appropriately shaped as a shoe) was shared by committee and members, as well as special guests, Celia Browne (who has the deepest of respect from the current editors as we are aware how taxing ten years of editing must have been!) and Elvie Jones.

A report of the AGM along with photos of the day (and the cake!) are displayed on pages 10 and 11.

We are honoured, as well, to be able to include a brief history of the beginnings of DATA contributed by former editor, Michael Oakley, on pages 6 and 7.

For all those who were unable to attend the AGM, a very comprehensive report from our Treasurer, Eleanor Allen, has been included as well as excerpts from the official Auditor’s report.

Be sure to take a look at the notice board on page 5 for some small contributions from members. (Keep them coming!)

DATA looks forward to seeing you at the annual Christmas party—let’s make it even bigger than last year!

June & Adrianne, Editors
President’s Report

DATA is a charity I am proud to be part of, and president of. As seen at the AGM, we are celebrating ShoeString’s 40th birthday with poster displays, photos and birthday cake. Our guest speaker, Celia Browne, a past editor of ShoeString gave us an insight into her 10 years as editor. DATA is not quite so old as ShoeString but was formed due to the foresight of those involved with ShoeString. I’ve been reading old ShoeStrings and found some real gems, such as the comment about there being over 1000 people on dialysis.

In several ways it’s been a hard and challenging year for DATA.

Our much loved treasurer, Lloyd Samuel passed away, which left us in shock. He and Sue were also in the process of employing a new bookkeeper as John, our current bookkeeper, was retiring.

Units have been and are being built, or being planned all around us in Queen St. So after a special committee meeting, it was decided to sell the Blackburn house. (Minutes for this meeting are available.)

Several Members of the committee became ill, and hospitalised, and were unable to attend our committee meetings. Our secretary, Sue broke her hip, resulting in her being unable to continue with DATA’s management, which has really made us think about how we do things and how to put in a backup system.

Good news is Alan and Sue are slowly recovering, and we wish Michael Allan, who’s still in hospital, a quick recovery. (Mike and Eleanor had to cancel a much desired holiday)

The committee approached Eleanor Allan (who had had a short stint on the committee) to take on the treasurer’s job and she accepted this challenging task. Eleanor had to get to know our books which took her some time. At the same time employing a new bookkeeper, and learning the ways of a new bookkeeper. I had to remain impartial, as it was my niece, who DATA was planning on employing, and did. I thank Eleanor for all her hours and effort on this large assignment.

Our house and headquarters in Queen St. has sold with a good outcome. The committee has plenty of time to decide where to relocate our headquarters and how to help our country members wanting accommodation in Melbourne.

Congratulations must go to Joan Eastwood, who was awarded an Angel award earlier this year. This award is given to people who have put energy into improving the lives of those with renal disease. Joan is always helping out in many different roles as well as with the catering for DATA and is well deserving of this award.

A sub-committee has been formed to help review DATA and modernise DATA. It’s difficult at times to organise these meetings and know how to move forward, but Kidney Health has offered to help us and we have gratefully accepted their help. This will all begin next year.

Our three major activities went well, with our Christmas Party at the zoo being a great success with more people attending than we have had for some time. Our summer BBQ saw some new and younger members join us on this day. Our Christmas in July with a new location at Manchester Unity Hall also went well with some music and dancing to liven the crowd. DATA hopes to start holding more activities, so all suggestions are welcome.

With ill committee members and the small number of people on the committee this year, it makes us realise how we need more committee members, with new ideas to help with the running of DATA. More committee members will mean everything can be shared out. More hands mean less work.

Lastly, I thank all committee members for their support, especially Alan who nominated me originally, (and gave me lots of encouragement and support) and Sue, who as secretary worked closely with me. Also the people who work behind the scenes such as the editors of ShoeString and those who help pack ShoeString, as well as those who help ensure the smooth running of our social days.

Ros Ball, President
Holiday Homes

Rosebud:

We have had a very busy year regarding the rosebud holiday home. Over this financial year – the house has predominantly been occupied by members on haemodialysis and those who have received a transplant. Only 2 members on home haemo booked the home, but home haemo members are encouraged to use the home, and we can organise the dialysis machine you are familiar with to be set up for use whilst you are at the home. We had 5 weeks of cancelled bookings, all these being at short notice due to medical or family emergencies, and thus unable to fill. Currently the house is fully booked until mid-March 2013.

Thanks go to Leigh for being the emergency contact for the home, and had to be called on a couple of times when members have accidently locked keys in the home. Thanks also need to be extended to the Rosebud Hospital dialysis unit and the wonderful Renal nurses that work there, who have dialysed many of DATA’s members who have stayed at the holiday home over the past year – without them being there to offer a chair to our dialysis patients, many renal patients would miss out on the opportunity to holiday in Rosebud. All in all – it has been a very successful year, and I hope many more members get the opportunity to take a holiday at the Rosebud home.

Rosebud Holiday Home Secretary - Kaitlyn Steavenson
In 2013 Rosebud will be managed by a new Home Secretary:
Angela Pratt
Phone: (03) 9589 4894.

Yarrawonga:

Vacancies: Cup Week November 4 to 11, and December 2 to the 16 (two weeks) is free. Bookings are also open for 2013. We do get cancellations too. so please ring me.

Don’t forget you Haemo Patients to ring the Yarrawonga Renal Unit (Phone: 57438189) to find out what is available and then ring me to book that time into the house; Haemo Patients get first preference at the house. Do not leave it until you are about to go to Yarrawonga.

The donation of $3000 from the Mulwala Ski Water Ski Club was used to replace the block out curtains in the four bedrooms and also on a new kitchen curtain. We thank Kaye Ferguson and the committee from the Ski Club for their donation which we will be following up with a Certificate of Appreciation.

REMEMBER: YOU are responsible for the cleaning of the house.

Yarrawonga House Secretary
Alan Rawson, 22 Tarwin Drive Croydon 3136,
Ph. 9723 3019, E-mail: fayal@Rawson@hotmail.com

REMINDER: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SMOKE IN ANY OF THE HOUSES.

Please consider the health of other members who use these facilities. Any member who does smoke in the DATA house will be dealt with at the discretion of the DATA committee, which will probably include a ban on using any of the holiday homes.
Holiday Homes

Blackburn:

As advised in ShoeString, the house at Blackburn was put up for sale in a Joint Venture Agreement with the owners of 12 Queen Street earlier this year. Tenders closed this past week and DATA has been successful in selling the property, with settlement in February 2013. DATA’s share of the tender price, $1 296 000, is, according to the estate agent, the highest price paid per square metre of land for any property in Queen Street. Given that the house would shortly require major maintenance, DATA could easily have spent $100 000 on renovations. This money is now available for other uses.

Further measures are under consideration to subsidise accommodation in lieu of the Blackburn accommodation.

Blackburn House Secretary
Sue Hatzimichalis
Ph. 9378 9222, Mob. 0412 469738

Notice Board

Speaker Available

Do you belong to a service club/social/sports/church/organisation or any other group where you require a free public speaker, then I am your man and it will cost you nothing. Since my retirement I have become a volunteer free public speaker for DonateLife Victoria. DonateLife Vic raises awareness and educates in the community on organ and tissue donation in Vic/Aust. Being both a transplant recipient and a member of a donor family, I find being a public speaker for DonateLife provides me with the opportunity to contributing back to the community.

Contact: Twanny Farrugia on
Mobile: 0412 107 734
Email: twannypac@gmail.com

Travelling with Dialysis

My name is Richard and I am a Peritoneal Dialysis patient. I was diagnosed with Kidney Failure in 2001 and received a kidney from my mother in early 2003. That kidney then unfortunately rejected early this year and I have been on Peritoneal Dialysis since March this year.

I’m leaving on holidays at the end of September. I’m travelling to a few countries in Europe for a couple of months and I’ve set up a blog for people to follow.

The link is http://travellingwithdialysis.wordpress.com/.

The reason for this blog is to give hints and tips to fellow dialysis patients who are travelling on dialysis. With some help from my team at the Peritoneal Dialysis Unit as well as Baxter, I’ve organised the deliveries of PD stock to where I’m going and now I’m just about ready to go. I’ll keep you updated on my progress.

You should not put your life on hold waiting for a kidney!
In March 1973 the staff of the Austin Hospital Renal Unit sent out the first edition of a newsletter to their home dialysis patients which commenced: ‘You are not alone! Did you know that the Austin Hospital has eighteen people on kidney machines in the home in Victoria?’

The newsletter listed the names of the ‘Incubating Eggs’ (patients in training) and ‘Sparrows leaving the nest’ (patients taking their machines home) together with loads of useful information about the do’s and don’ts of being a good (and healthy) home dialysis patient. The newsletter was titled ‘ShoeString’ reflecting on the opportunity through home dialysis treatment, for the end stage renal failure patient to pull him/herself up by the shoestrings and have a life. Contributors in 1973 included The Austin’s Dr John Dawborn and Dialysis Technician Sue Evans, Royal Melbourne’s Graham Carter, plus many others.

This spirit of friendship led to the home dialysis patients gaining the confidence and will to form a self-help group.

One of the sparrows leaving the nest in April 1973 was Ian Sutherland. On Sunday 1st July 1973, a meeting was held and a provisional committee formed with Ian as President-elect, Brian Thomas as Secretary and Alan Tait as Treasurer. Harry Davis, Ron Jones and a Mrs. Parkes were appointed to prepare a draft constitution. The Austin’s Helen Millen was editor of ShoeString at this stage.

With no government funding for home dialysis in 1973, kidney machines were being financed by Lions Club donations. The main aim of the executive was to act politically to improve conditions for renal patients and in particular, home dialysis patients. The group named itself The Home Dialysis Association of Victoria (HDA).

‘A voice to be heard in Spring St and Canberra.’

In February 1974, the HDA sent a submission prepared by Ian Sutherland to the Labor Governments Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, urging support for home dialysis. In March 1974, Professor Sir Lance Townsend, Dean of Medicine at Melbourne University (amongst many other things) became the HDA’s Patron, which added some clout. Then in September 1974 the Government finally agreed to finance the purchase of dialysis machines for home dialysis. As a result in January 1975, the Austin set up its Home Dialysis Training Centre at 11 Martin St.

With these goals achieved, the HDA was left saying ‘what now?’ The 1975/76 Committee under President David McKern were looking longingly at the holiday flat set up in Mona Vale, Sydney, by Drake Willock and thought: ‘that’s what we need now, a holiday facility.’ A steering committee was formed (July 1976), headed by Ron Jones to investigate what holiday facilities were needed and for the next several years, this remained the main aim and topic for discussion.

A General Meeting was held for HDA members every two months with guest speakers and common interest discussion. Every second month ShoeString was published, by past President, now Editor, Ian Sutherland, keeping members up to date with news and useful tips, salt free recipes, etc. Professor Bob Atkins, Prince Henry’s Renal Director joined the HDA Committee in the 1976/77 year.

In October 1977 The Haemodialysis Association of NSW opened a holiday house at Toukley on the Central NSW Coast (Mona Vale having been closed.
thanks to intolerant neighbours). This fantastic achievement really focused the HDA Committee's thoughts on a similar holiday house for Victoria.

FINALLY in July 1980 and sponsored by the HDA, The Australian Kidney Foundation Dialysis Patients Holiday Home Appeal was launched. I had become editor of Shoestring in 1978 and might mention that during this 1978 to 1980 period, in addition to hopes and dreams about a holiday facility, there was of course, a great deal of social activity. BBQ's, meetings and get-togethers which may, when it's all boiled down, be the most important thing.

The Holiday Home Appeal was extremely successful raising approximately $100K. Sadly, HDA President and Appeal Chairman, Ian Sutherland passed away on October 15, before its conclusion. Things were carried through by Vice President Ron Jones and Secretary Peter Seman.

In November 1980 the HDA opened an Opportunity Shop at 177 Springvale Road, Nunawading. Run by HDA Committee-men John Owen and Bernie Keeley (with assistance from local volunteers Grace and Claire), it was an immediate financial success. This additional income gave everyone confidence in our ability to meet recurrent future holiday home costs.

During February 1981 we purchased the house at 17 Rosemore Street, Rosebud and with the assistance of the Rosebud Lions Club plus Austin, Prince Henry's and Royal Melbourne Hospital staff, had it furnished and set up with dialysis equipment for an official opening on June 21.

The profile of the Home Dialysis Association was raised by all this activity and there was concern that as a renal patient self-help group, the name 'Home Dialysis' might confuse and limit membership. So, on October 11 1981 the name was changed to The Dialysis & Transplant Association of Victoria (DATA).

This was only the beginning. A lot has happened subsequently. A lot of good people have come and gone. Keep up the good work, it matters.

Dialysis & Transplant Association of Victoria Incorporated (DATA) is in a strong financial position at end of our financial year to 30th June 2012 with available funds in bank accounts including term deposit totalling $576,275.83.

I commenced as treasurer in April this year, following the sad and unexpected passing of our previous treasurer, Lloyd Samuel, who had done a sterling job for many years despite various health issues. In addition, our long-standing book-keeper, John Hulskamp, whom I thank for his past services to DATA, was replaced in March 2012, by our current book-keeper, Anyce Grayly.

This meant there was a lack of continuity in the accounting area which made the first few months of my term difficult. It was decided to move away from Reckon as our Financial Software Application, and to migrate to MYOB with which both Anyce and I are familiar. Unfortunately for Anyce, re-entry of the financial data for the previous nine months took far longer than anticipated – and she had offered to do this Free of Charge to DATA! I thank her for her long hours and perseverance in bringing this up to date. A copy of the Jobs Report is available for anyone who is interested.

Our main source of income is from members’ subscriptions (which fall due at start of each financial year) and donations. I am sure you agree that our annual subscription of $10 is well below commercial rates for annual subscriptions. Due to the generosity and support of members and friends, via purchase of raffle tickets and donations, for which I sincerely thank the donors, the production costs of ShoeString, our magazine, are subsidised. I therefore recommend that the cost of DATA’s annual subscription remains at $10 per annum. It is worth mentioning at this point, for those members who are not aware, that DATA has ‘deductible gift recipient’ status with the Australian Taxation Office and any donations of $2 and over are tax deductible by the donor.

No applications for grants were submitted to Government Departments or other sources in the financial year. The decision on one application this year will be announced next month and I am hopeful that DATA will be successful in procuring this grant and others in the current financial year.

As advised in ShoeString, the house at Blackburn was put up for sale in a Joint Venture Agreement with the owners of 12 Queen Street earlier this year. Tenders closed this past week and DATA has been successful in selling the property, with settlement in February 2013. DATA’s share of the tender price, $1,296,000, is, according to the estate agent, the highest price paid per square metre of land for any property in Queen Street. Given that the house would shortly require major maintenance, DATA could easily have spent $100,000 on renovations. This money is now available for other uses. I believe this sale to be a good financial outcome for the future of DATA.

Further measures are under consideration to subsidise accommodation in lieu of the Blackburn accommodation.

In the 2012 year we finished with an excess of expenses (after non-cash item of Depreciation $17,850) over income resulting in a net shortfall of $4,717 compared to the previous year of a profit of $1,769. However, almost $50,000 was spent on capital improvements to Rosebud property thus our bank assets at 30th June this year totalled $576,275.83 (comprising cash in 2 accounts of $26,275.83 and a term deposit of $550,000.00 currently earning 5.25% compared to $611,130.00 at the start of the year. The only significant change in expenses was in Fundraising ($7,008) made up of SER Raffle expenses $1714, AGM Expenses $818.19, Christmas at the Zoo $3,436.25 and Christmas in July $1,857.72. This was off-set by sales for these activities of $8,907.71

DATA enjoys a healthy financial situation moving into the 2013 financial year which enables us to face forecasted increases in costs.

Eleanor Allen, Treasure
## Auditor’s Report

### Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>80,075</td>
<td>78,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>(17,850)</td>
<td>(18,565)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>(7,080)</td>
<td>(8,357)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>(5,821)</td>
<td>(5,875)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>(1,060)</td>
<td>(2,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing &amp; Stationary</td>
<td>(2,892)</td>
<td>(2,795)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rates &amp; Taxes</td>
<td>(4,577)</td>
<td>(4,212)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>(5,251)</td>
<td>(5,455)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>(3,685)</td>
<td>(3,957)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>(2,218)</td>
<td>(2,382)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social services</td>
<td>(1,433)</td>
<td>(1,420)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>(7,009)</td>
<td>(7,032)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>(999)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Jones Award</td>
<td>(999)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>(4,717)</td>
<td>(3,735)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
<td>(4,729)</td>
<td>1,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total comprehensive income for the year</td>
<td>(4,729)</td>
<td>1,792</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>26,276</td>
<td>81,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
<td>7,409</td>
<td>13,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td>880,909</td>
<td>880,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current assets</td>
<td>884,585</td>
<td>894,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
<td>2,531,922</td>
<td>2,473,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total non-current assets</td>
<td>2,531,922</td>
<td>2,473,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>3,016,508</td>
<td>3,357,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other payables</td>
<td>8,981</td>
<td>14,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES</td>
<td>8,981</td>
<td>14,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS</td>
<td>3,007,527</td>
<td>3,242,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQUITY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>2,224,627</td>
<td>2,224,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained earnings</td>
<td>833,333</td>
<td>858,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EQUITY</td>
<td>3,067,955</td>
<td>3,082,686</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About 30 people attended the 39th Annual General Meeting of DATA and overall it went very well. The current president, myself, Ros Ball and secretary, Sue Hatzimichalis, had to stand down and declare the positions vacant. As there were no other nominations for these positions, I became the secretary, and Sue the president for the following year.

After the general business of DATA, such as the election of committee members, financial report, and holiday house reports, a life membership was awarded to Elizabeth Phelan. Elizabeth has been a member of DATA due to her husband’s illness with kidney disease. Even though Elizabeth’s husband Frank died, Elizabeth has remained one of those people who work behind the scenes, ensuring ShoeString is packed ready for postage and involved with the catering of our social events. This award came as quite a surprise to Elizabeth and it was some moments before she realised who we were talking about. Congratulations Elizabeth.

The Ron Jones Scholarships were awarded and presented by Elvie Jones, the wife of Ron Jones, a member who was President many years ago and the person the Education Award is named after. The first one was awarded to Malin Abeyratne, for demonstrating excellent scholastic ability, with his mother accepting the prize, and the second to Mark Thompson, winning the Encouragement award for further academic achievement. As Mark lives in Mildura he was unable to attend the meeting. Congratulations to those winners.

Our guest speaker was a past editor of ShoeString, Celia Browne, who did this for 10 years! We heard about her son’s struggle with kidney disease, a long struggle, which many of us can relate to. Editing ShoeString, Celia used a typewriter and photocopier and each page was sorted and stapled manually. No computers then, or printing company!

The meeting was then closed and everyone was invited to stay and partake in the celebrations of ShoeString turning 40 and the cutting of the birthday cake. We were honoured that Celia Brown and Elvie Jones could stay.

Most members did stay and chat and enjoyed the afternoon tea and birthday cake.

Ros Ball

(from left to right) Celia Brown helping to draw the raffle; Elvie Jones presenting the Ron Jones Award to Marlin Abeyratne’s mother; Elizabeth Phelan receiving a lifetime membership award.

Winners of the Raffle

1st prize $500 Voucher - Winner was Lyn Cole from Shepparton

2nd prize $200 Voucher - Winner was Harry De Visser, who donated the prize back to DATA. Thankyou very much!

3rd Prize $100 Voucher - Winner was Lynne Smith from Donald
AGM

Guest Speaker Celia Browne

DATA members

Sue Hatzimichalis thanking Elvie Jones and Celia Browne

Ros Ball and treasurer, Eleanor Allen

40th Birthday Celebrations for ShoeString

Display of archived ShoeString editions

Birthday cake - What’s a birthday without cake!
**Dates to Remember**

**November 14**  World Diabetes Day

**December 2**  DATA Christmas Party  
*RSVP 23 November*  
Halliday Park, Mitcham

**February 24** - **March 3**  Donate Life Week

**March 14**  World Kidney Day

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**Our thanks to all who contributed to this edition.**

Why not spread the word and pass this copy on?

*ShoeString* are always looking for stories to publish. If you have a story to tell and you’re not sure where to begin our editors would be more than happy to assist you in writing your article. Or if you have ideas of issues you would like to see covered, contact us.

*Write to:* The Editor, ShoeString.  
*PO Box 165 Blackburn 3130*  
*Email: editor.shoestring@gmail.com*

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**Deadline for the next ShoeString: 10th December**