

# Shoestring



Newsletter of the Dialysis & Transplant Association of Victoria Inc.

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Dialysis and Transplant  
Association of Victoria Inc.

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## *Join DATA for a wicked night out at Witches In Bitches*



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**When:** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
**Time:** 6.30pm for 7.00pm start  
**Cost:** DATA members & carers \$30 a head,  
Non-members \$60 a head  
Includes a 3 course meal & the show  
**Where:** 84 Dudley St. West Melbourne  
**RSVP:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, phone 9894 0377  
or email [info@datavic.org](mailto:info@datavic.org)

In response to our request in last Shoe String, for your Memories of earlier DATA days, PAT NOTTLE has written us a letter about her memories over the years.

Thank You Pat

You can read it on Page 3.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sue is unwell, and has stepped down from secretarial duties for the time being. We wish you well, Sue, and hope you are feeling better.

Gwen is continuing in the Office twice weekly usually Tuesday and Friday afternoon. Gwen takes care of the computer, incoming mail, dispensing it to the relevant person on committee. Angela and Vicki have been taking care of other secretary and financial matters.

Hello to all those who are not doing so well. Remember we are all in the same boat and a problem shared is a problem solved. Ring the Office and leave your phone number, someone

will ring you back. and as Angela says in her story on page 10., "When life gives you a lemon you make lemonade".

At our February meeting we did discuss the vaccination requirement for the Holiday homes. It was agreed that the double vaccination requirement would stand for the time being but will be reviewed at the March meeting in line with State Government recommendations.

Unfortunately Barefoot Bowls was cancelled yet again but we await a rescheduled date. Thanks to Alan and Carol Thomson and Angela Lindsey for the time and effort spent organizing and cancelling this event.

I am sure things will work out better next time.

You will find on Page 5 an Application for Ron Jones Educational Award. As you know this Award is offered every year, for school year 6 to 11. I would encourage all eligible participants to scan the application and get writing. Applications must be in the DATA Office by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Let's all work together to stay safe and take care

Best wishes Brendan

In association with Joan Eastwood

This is seven members of DATA Committee hard at work. First meeting for two years in Person. It was so great to see everyone in the flesh!

Masks were mandatory and plenty of social distancing.

In March, we will meet on Zoom then in April we will meet in



## Editor's comments

Thankyou to all who helped with this edition. Special thanks to Pat Nottle for her memories of DATA & ShoeString. Not bad for ninety seven year old, eh!!

Hello to all the sickies. Hope you find something in ShoeString to give you a smile or just food for thought.

If you were a member of DATA in the

Eighties, write and tell us about the Op shops and the way you ran raffles etc. to be able to buy not one, but two holiday homes for those with kidney failure.

Thanks to Gwen for a lot of typing up of articles. And thanks to Ros for her article on page 7.

Keep those stories coming in.,

Cheers Joan



## Letter from Pat Nottle

My eldest son, Ric, was four years old in 1960 when he had his first operation for the removal of kidney stones.

My husband, Rupe, and I knew absolutely nothing about kidney failure and we were on a very steep learning curve. We certainly knew the situation was very serious. We decided that even if Ric's life was to be short we would do our best to make it as normal as possible.

By the age of twenty-one Ric had grown to be six feet tall. He was a strong swimmer, enjoyed local cricket, skiing holidays and fruit picking with his friends in orchards in the Dandenong Ranges in summer vacations. He had gained his Queen's Scout Award and had a job as a clerk in the Public Service.

We were blessed to be helped by the gentle, brilliant surgeon, David Gunter and skillful staff at Prince Henry's Hospital. Between the above activities he had undergone thirteen operations until the doctors had to say, 'There's only so much a kidney can take.' We began dialysis with three eight hour sessions, three times a week. At first we felt bewildered and completely alone.

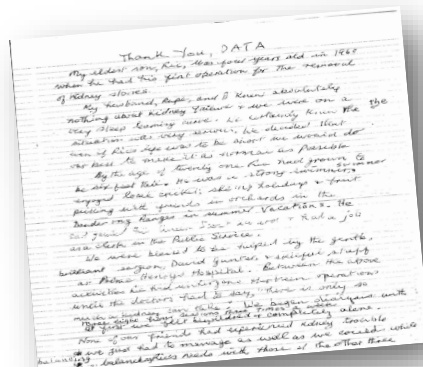
None of our friends had experienced kidney trouble so we just had to manage as well as we could while balancing Ric's needs with those of the other three children in the family. At one stage I heard there was to be a support group for kidney patients and their families. I went to a meeting. I think it was a social worker from the Austin Hospital who said, 'It is very hard managing kidney problems.' A great feeling of relief spread through me. At last, somebody understands. I did not feel so ALONE.

Rupe and I attended meetings, sold raffle tickets, supported other fund raising and helped as much as we could. Ric rarely complained. At first, we all hoped he would receive a transplant kidney, even when the doctors explained this would not be. Kidneys were in short supply and it was most unlikely a transplant would succeed in his case. He bought a small boat with an outboard engine.

It was good news when DATA acquired the Rosebud House. On our first arrival at the house we were greeted by a husband and wife representing the local voluntary group who had helped DATA acquire the house. We also received a beautiful home baked cake.

We were the first family to enjoy it and managed the dialysis process there except for one hitch. Equipment was supplied by Prince Henry staff. One evening as we were setting up for a dialysis session we realized we had been given the wrong size fitting. So, I had to drive up to Prince Henry's in South Melbourne, obtain the correct size and return to Rosebud.

Local fishermen were really helpful, sharing their knowledge of the best spots and times to go fishing. One afternoon we really struck it lucky. It was calm and sunny as we sat with our lines over the side of the boat when Ric gave a shout, 'I've got a bite!' The nerves of his fingers were badly affected by his condition so I moved towards him to help and was giving my own line to Rupe when I got a bite. I shouted this and was attempting to give him my line when he shouted, 'I've got a bite!' It seemed a fisher's dream. We were laughing and scrambling around the boat, lucky not to have capsized it. This was the highlight of a marvelous



holiday break – something of a normal life.

Ric's general condition deteriorated. He was very thin and shrunken, lacking in energy and prone to infections when some of his toes became infected and gangrene set in. (I had thought of gangrene as being in Florence Nightingale's days in the Crimean War.) His legs were amputated below the knees. He had two very loyal

friends who visited regularly, one every second day for five years. We were glad we could support him at home and make his life as interesting as possible, playing card games, taking him on drives in the Dandenongs where he'd hiked so much in his scouting days. He died in 1982, aged 26.

I have maintained my membership of DATA and have been amazed at how the organization has developed. There is the sophisticated newsletter, the scholarship, two holiday homes and an interesting programme of events through the year.

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU DATA

One thing with DATA which disappointed me was my attempt to persuade DATA to raise awareness amongst teachers and others, of the effect kidney failure has on a child. This effect is not obvious as it is in other disabilities, eg., cerebral palsy may cause limb impairment, a child with vision impairment may have glasses, visual aids and even a visiting teacher. Similarly a child with hearing impairment may have aids and a visiting teacher.

At one stage I phoned a senior member of the committee and proposed some information be sent to schools. I hope I am wrong but I do not think any action was taken. Also kidney treatment has changed in recent decades so the effects of renal problems may not be so debilitating. Nevertheless I wish I had persisted. I may have failed children with kidney problems

On one occasion I attempted to inform a Head Master of the general effects of kidney dysfunction, operations, rehabilitation, etc., His rude and dismissive reply was, 'Maybe we haven't patted him on the head enough.' (We transferred Ric to another school.) Maybe a letter from Ric's doctor would have been a better way of approaching this. Just as a letter from a doctor might help an afflicted child today.

P. G. Nottle.

*Editors Thanks Pat for this lovely story.*





## DATA Holiday Homes

The Rosebud & Yarrowonga holiday homes are for the use of DATA members and their immediate family, with a member present on all holidays booked. The DATA Committee require all eligible members and visitors to the Holiday Homes to provide proof of vaccination and check in with QR codes.

Both houses can facilitate haemodialysis machines. For those members on home dialysis, please contact the House Secretary to discuss if your hospital technician can supply and install a dialysis machine in the house for your holiday.

We are sure you will appreciate that members on haemodialysis find it very difficult to holiday, so we often prioritise them over PD and transplant members. But there are always vacancies so please don't hesitate to ring and check.

Friends and extended family are welcome to join the DATA member and they must pay \$20 per person per night.

Please note, you are responsible for the cleaning of the houses when you leave which does include bathroom and toilet, so we expect the houses to be left neat and tidy for the next holiday makers and please do not leave any food.

No pets allowed with Guide dogs being the exception.

There are no landlines now at the holiday homes, so don't forget to take your mobile phone, and please remember to take your KEY for the house.

### Yarrowonga

#### Vacancies :

**May 1st— May 8th**

**May 29th— June 5th**

Cost is only \$200 per week for you and your immediate family. Call as we do get vacancies.

*Bookings at the Yarrowonga Renal Unit Ph: 5743 8189*

*For HOUSE bookings please ring  
Yarrowonga House Secretary*

*Amanda Pratt Ph: 9589 4894*



Swings in yard at Yarrowonga

### Rosebud

#### Vacancies

**March 20th—March 27th.**

**March 27th— April 3rd.**

**April 3rd— April 10th.**

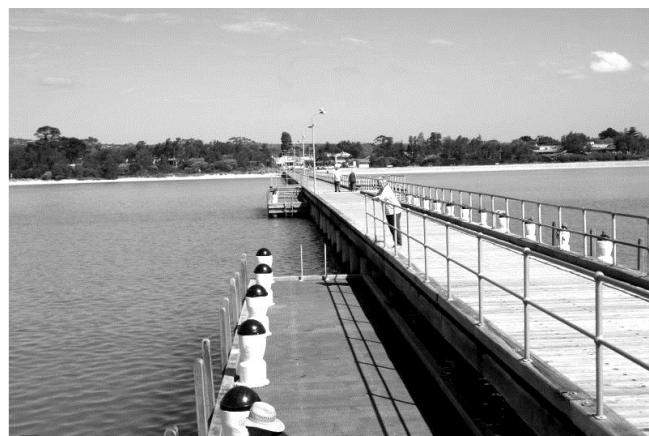
**April 10th—April 17th.**

**April 24th— May 3rd.**

**Costs** \$200 per week. Extra guest is \$20 per night.

*For HOUSE bookings please ring  
Rosebud House Secretary Amanda Pratt*

*Ph: 9589 4894*



Rosebud Pier within walking distance from the House



# Ron Jones Educational Awards



**These awards offer a fantastic opportunity for students between school years 6 to 11, to shine.**

Applications for the Ron Jones Educational Awards, are now open, so fill out your Application form below for a chance to win fabulous prize money.

Assessment is based on the Applicant's school reports together with essay on the topic of 'My Chosen Career'.

There are two levels of Awards to be won. One Award is based on excellence and scholastic ability plus three Awards for encouragement.

The Ron Jones Educational Awards honour the memory of a founder and long time dedicated worker for DATA, Mr Ronald N Jones, AOM.

- Applications must include a handwritten essay of 300 words entitled 'MY CHOSEN CAREER'.
- Please include the Applicant's previous year's school reports.
- Applications must be received no later than **30 June 2022**. Winners will receive awards at the AGM in October 2022.

Please fill in this form using Block Letters and forward it to:

The Secretary, DATA Vic Inc, PO Box 159, FOREST HILL Vic 3131

SURNAME ..... GIVEN NAMES .....  
ADDRESS .....  
POST CODE ..... DATE OF BIRTH .....  
HOME PHONE ..... MOBILE .....

## PARENTS / MEMBERS PARTICULARS

(IF APPLICANT MEMBER IS UNDER 18 OR A CHILD OF A MEMBER)

SURNAME ..... GIVEN NAMES .....  
ADDRESS .....  
POST CODE ..... PHONE ..... MOBILE .....

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT .....

SIGNATURE OF PARENT .....

Financial Member of D.A.T.A. YES ☐ NO ☐

MY ESSAY ON "MY CHOSEN CAREER" AND SCHOOL REPORTS FOR THE LAST YEAR ARE ENCLOSED.

YES ☐ NO ☐

SCHOOL PARTICULARS:

PRESENT YEAR OF STUDIES .....

SUBJECTS STUDIED .....

.....

.....

.....

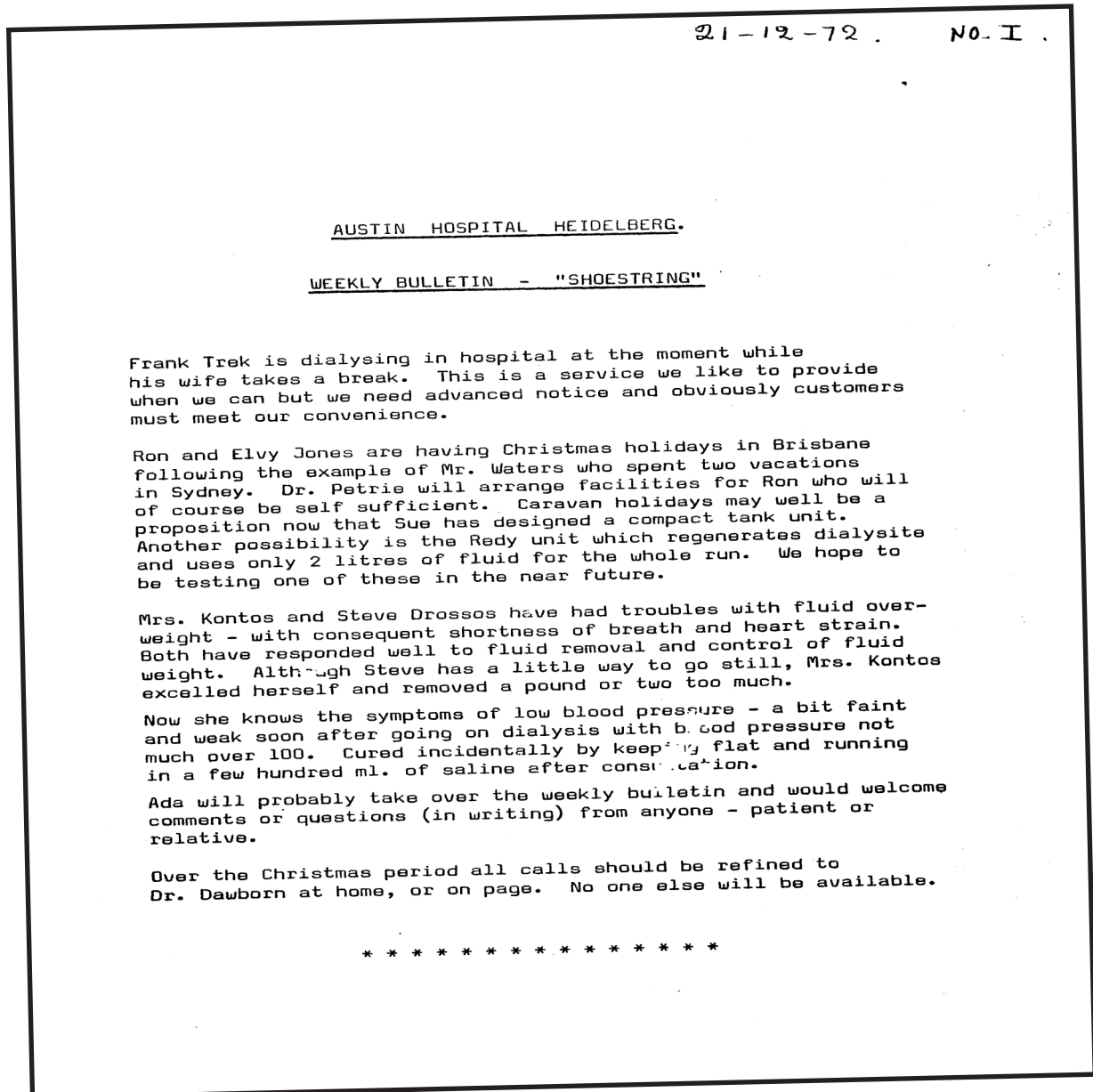
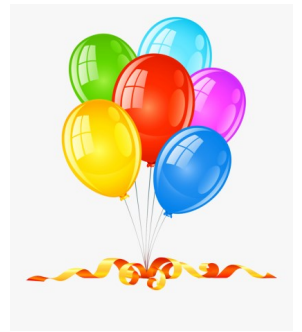


## Celebrating almost 50 years of ShoeString

ShoeString began its life as a weekly bulletin for the Austin Hospital home dialysis patients.

We are reproducing the very first issue and include an extract from ShoeString Issue 2.

Issue 1 was one page in length, Issue 2 was three pages, Shoe String 2022 is eight or twelve pages.



"This weekly bulletin is aimed to keep people informed about the current policies in the Unit. it is also hoped that we can supplement your education and training by discussion each week of some of the problems which arise from time to time and has to handle them. If you file these away you should eventually build up a reference file."

*Extract from second edition of SHOESTRING 2nd January 1973*



## IS IT A MIRACLE?

In September, 2021 American surgeons, with the permission of the family, transplanted a set of pig kidneys into a brain dead man. His kidneys were removed to test the external implants. Excitingly they functioned for the duration of the 77 hour experiment, maintaining blood flow and producing urine.

The biggest hurdle to successful human to human transplants is the lack of available donors. Doctors thanked the family of James Parsons, a registered organ donor injured in a motorcycle accident, for allowing the research and promised to name the study after him. His sister said 'He would be thrilled so many people stand to benefit. So many people need a kidney.' (1)

Dr. Jayme Locke, Lead Surgeon on the procedure and Director of UAB's (University of Alabama, Birmingham) Incompatible Kidney Transplant Programme said, 'What a wonderful day it will be when I can walk into a clinic and know I have a kidney for everyone waiting to see me. Kidney failure is refractory, severe and impactful and we think it needs a radical solution.' (1) Her hope is that pig kidney transplants can be offered within five years.

Gene Editing, the process of inserting, deleting, or modifying DNA, was used to specifically breed a pig for the experiment that would reduce the risk of pig diseases and add enough human DNA to reduce the risk of transplant rejection. The pig was also kept in a purpose-built facility under strict health protocols.

Researchers on projects such as these are bound by strict ethical guidelines which have not yet agreed to clinical human trials, restricting them to pig to baboon transplants, so this was the first opportunity to observe the human response to gene edited Xenotransplants. These are defined as the transplanting of living organs, tissues or cells from one species to another.

In another transplant first in January this year, permission was given to do a pig heart transplant on a man who did not qualify for a human transplant. The heart pumped vigorously with no signs of rejection although his progress was slow owing to his state of health prior to surgery. His doctor likened it to putting a BMW engine into a 1960's car. In this case four genes were removed to prevent rejection and growth of the organ plus six human genes added to reduce the risk of rejection. It is a milestone that these gene edited pig organs are not being rejected.

David Bennet, unfortunately, passed away on March 8, two months after his landmark surgery on January 7, 2022. His doctor said, 'He proved to be a brave and noble patient who fought all the way to the end.' David's son said he hoped his father's transplant would 'be the beginning of hope and not the end. We are grateful for every innovative moment, every crazy dream, every sleepless night that went into this historic effort.' (7 News.com.au)

Several laboratories are now focussed on developing genetically modified donor pigs in order to bypass the immunological barriers but once scientific problems are solved there is still the hurdle of gaining permission for clinical trials due to the controversial nature of its ethical (animal rights, immunological risks), legal (informed consent) and regulatory (sterile confines, cost) requirements, plus there are no international agreed guidelines.

And let's not forget other research underway such as stem cell experimentation where two teams have grown kidney and intestinal tissue. How fantastic would it be if we could grow our own organs? This works by tricking mature cells into reverting to embryo form, bathing these in a chemical solution which stimulates the required organ tissue growth. It's early days here

too but these cells could be used to test drug safety on human kidney tissue which is a win for those of us whose kidneys have been damaged by drug treatments.

Is it a miracle for those with kidney disease? Perhaps not today but a good start on the way to tomorrow's miracle

### Articles

Pig Kidneys Transplanted to Human  
<http://scientificamerican.com/article/pig-kidneys-transplanted-to-human-in-milestone-experiment>

Kidneys From A Genetically Altered Pig Are Implanted In A Brain Dead Patient (1)  
<http://www.nytimes.com>

First Pig To Human Heart Transplant  
<http://media.nature.com>

Pig Heart Transplant Patient Surviving Begins Physical therapy  
<https://www.floridatoday.com>

What the World's First Pig to Human Heart Transplant Could Mean For the Future of Transplants  
<http://technologynetworks.com>

How The Immune System Impacts Organ Transplantation  
<https://verywellhealth.com/understanding-and-preventing-organ-transplant-rejection>

Researchers Grow Kidney, Intestine From Stem Cells  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/heath-news/researchers-grow-kidney-intestine-stem-cells>

*And for the medically minded*

Infectious Disease Issues in Xenotransplantation  
<https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC88959>

Australian Academy of Science Gene Editing With CRISPR  
<https://www.science.org.au/curious/crispr>





## Photos at Bella Cosi First outing 2022

DATA's first outing for 2022 was at Bella Cosi in Port Melbourne on Thursday 17th February. It was a nice warm day, just great for going out. Six members turned up, one Anne McGinley, a recent member, came for the first time. It was lovely to have new and old members together. We entertained ourselves for nearly two hours - talked about dialysis, people, football (this is Melbourne after all) and everything else. A very enjoyable day.



**Barefoot Bowls at Altona** had to be cancelled due to wet weather and a very wet green .

We hope to reschedule this activity on a fine day. We will let you know the date hopefully, in the next Shoe String.

## Next Outing 9/4/22 Witches in Britches see page 1 for details

### Then in May Join DATA for lunch, then visit Heide Museum of Modern Art

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

12.00pm for lunch;

2.00pm for the museum talk & tour

\$20 for DATA members, \$35 for nonmembers

7 Templestowe Rd, Bulleen

Meet in the café (opposite the museum)

RSVP: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022, phone 9894 0377,

or email [info@datavic.org](mailto:info@datavic.org)

Heide Museum of Modern Art began in 1934 at the home of John and Sunday Reed. It opened as a public art museum in 1981.

We hope to see you there.







## It's World Kidney Day!

Today, we are celebrating **Kidney Health for All - Bridging the Gap to Better Kidney Care**.

On this year's World Kidney Day (WKD) - Thursday 10 March, we encourage all to be aware of their kidneys and to seek out actively what kidney health measures, including improving their health literacy, they can personally take.

Professor Agnes Fogo, President of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and Siu-Fai Lui, President of the International Federation of Kidney Foundations – World Kidney Alliance (IFKF-WKA), jointly lead the WKD 2022 campaign. They affirm that for WKD 2022, kidney organizations must prioritize shifting the narrative from a misplaced emphasis on patient-deficit health literacy narrative, to that of it also being the responsibility of clinicians, healthcare providers, related healthcare organizations, and health policymakers.

Read the full press release text here: <https://www.worldkidneyday.org/resource-library/2022-wkd-press-release/>

The **World Kidney Day 2022 website** states, "Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is common and harmful: 1 out of 10 adult people worldwide have it, and if left untreated it can be deadly. While early detection allows for disease care and management to help prevent morbidity and mortality, and improve cost effectiveness and sustainability, kidney disease related mortality continues to increase yearly and is projected to be the 5th leading cause of death by 2040. A persistent and ongoing CKD knowledge gap exists, one that is demonstrable at all levels of healthcare.

The World Kidney Day Joint Steering Committee **has declared 2022 to be the year of "Kidney Health for All"**. Specifically, it calls on all of us to work to bridge the knowledge gaps to better kidney care. The 2022 campaign will focus on efforts to increase **education and awareness about kidney health** and on reducing the stubbornly high CKD knowledge gap at all levels of kidney care."

The **Healthy Kidneys Education Project**, created by **Filter Your Future**, and sponsored by **D.A.T.A.**, aims to reduce the incidence of preventable kidney disease by educating children how to keep their kidneys healthy and avoid type 2 diabetes, the major cause of renal failure. Our project targets primary school children aged 5-12 years and is aligned to curriculum in Australia and New Zealand. The focus is on educating future generations about the importance of healthy kidneys.

The zoom event was also a chance to give a big 'shout out' to the **Dialysis and Transplant Association of Victoria (D.A.T.A.)** and share with the global kidney community our celebration of **50 years** since a group of friends set up a self-help support group for those whose lives are impacted by chronic kidney disease.

Together we are bridging the knowledge gap towards "Kidney Health for All."

Yvonne Farquharson

Filter Your Future

*Just letting you know that our WKD event and DATA is now on the WKD MAP.*

*Check out WKD web site.*





## Get to know your Committee: ANGELA LINDSEY

My nursing career began in October 1975 at the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH). The reason I chose RMH, was that the Nurses Home, in which I lived in for 2 years, had a rose garden in the front. In due time the rose garden became a parking lot and now it's the Women's Hospital.

After finishing my 3 years I stayed at RMH and did my staffing year (now called the graduation year). We had a choice of a specialty, mine was renal. I worked on the renal ward with transplants, peritoneal dialysis and kidney problems. Haemodialysis was only performed by specialty staff.

In the next few years, I travelled, worked as a nurse in England and had my children.

Wind the clock to 1<sup>st</sup> April 1984 and I found myself in a haemodialysis unit at RMH. I can still remember my 1<sup>st</sup> week. For those that know anything about the Drake Willock haemodialysis machine, it was the same as a manual car, and the new machines of today are like automatic cars. On the Drake Willock the transducer, which measures the venous pressure was just pushed on, not like the screw type of today. Anyway, there I was returning the blood when the dialysis finished, and all at once the transducer came off. Well the blood spread everywhere – floor, ceiling, machine, patient and of course me. The patient didn't want me to go near him, I was very upset and the cleaning was laborious. What happened is that I clamped the venous needle by accident, opened the pressure limits wide, pressure built up and the transducer flew off. The machines these days are built so those things cannot happen. I survived and ended up working in many haemodialysis units for 34 years.

I have many wonderful and funny memories working in the dialysis unit. A few that stand out:

I was dialysing a patient in the ward when he vomited his teeth in the bowl. I put my gloves on & fetched the teeth out. I must have looked green because the cleaner called out "Sister, sister are you alright?" Well I wasn't, I felt like vomiting myself. You'd think I would eventually get use to vomit, but not me. I was so excited when a country patient on dialysis got a visit from his wife. The problem was it wasn't his wife. Two patients with the same name were in rehab and the rehab staff sent the wrong wife to dialysis. I was really upset, as much as the wife.



Back in the 1980's erythropoietin (EPO) was not freely available and a dialysis patient's Haemoglobin (Hb) was very low, 70g/L if they were lucky. Normal Hb is 120g/L or more. We had a patient who worked full time, came to dialysis 3 times a week and exercised to increase the Hb. She was often stressed and frustrated and took it out on the staff, but she was one determined woman.

When one television is shared between patients, there is always one patient who wants it all their own way. Well

there is always a solution – get a portable TV for the patient who misses out. I'm still think of you, Nick Hatzimichalis, who in the end won. Some people have a very hard time accepting dialysis, they can be angry, frustrated and plain rude. Yet when they receive a kidney and dialysis has ceased, they become a very nice person.

When I worked by myself with 3 patients and saw them every Monday, Wednesday and Friday we were like family. We played games, played tricks and taught the others our specialty. I was teaching them about dialysis and one patient said "I'll teach you how to swear." Swearing was her specialty!

Dialysis has come a long way since 1984, but even with all the advances, being on dialysis is not easy. A lot of people who commence dialysis these days are in their 70's or 80's, but from my experience it's the young men who have the toughest time.

I have enjoyed my time working in dialysis, made many friends, came across some remarkable people and loved the many patients who crossed my path.

I joined DATA in 2000 and was the Minute Secretary for a number of years. Now I do—whatever needs to be done, organise outings, print envelopes (with help) for Shoestring, update documents. Many people on the committee have lots of stories to share. Some have had it tough and yet they have come through it well. DATA is there to help everyone who has a kidney problem. It has made me understand how people are resilient **and when life gives you lemons you make lemonade.**

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### Quotable Quotes or Words of WISDOM

They say marriages are made in Heaven, but so are thunder and lightning. (Clint Eastwood)

Don't go round saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first. (Mark Twain)

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## LAUGHTER—THE BEST MEDICINE

**Taken** from the book *Master and Commander* by Patrick O'Brian, set between 1800 and 1801 Jack Aubrey (Ship's Captain) and Stephen Maturin (Ship's Surgeon) are enjoying their supper on the HMS Surprise:

The story of two Weevils

Two weevils crept from the crumbs.

'You see those weevils, Stephen?' said Jack solemnly.

'I do.

'Which would you choose?'

'There is not a scrap of difference. Arcades ambo. They are the same species of *curculio*, and there is nothing to choose between them.'

'But suppose you had to choose?'

'Then I should choose the right-hand weevil; it has a perceptible advantage in both length and breadth.'

'There I have you,' cried Jack. 'You are bit !- you are completely dished. Don't you know that in the Navy you must always choose the lesser of two weevils? Oh ha, ha, ha, ha!'

From the book 'Master And Commander' by **Patrick O'Brian**  
(Ed Comment Look for it in your library might be a good read.)



### The Train Journey

The train was quite crowded and a U. S. Marine walked the entire length looking for a seat.

There seemed to be one next to a well-dressed French woman, but when he got there, he saw it was taken by the woman's poodle. The war-weary Marine asked, "Ma'am, may I have that seat?"

The French woman sniffed and said to no one in particular, "Americans are so rude. My little Fifi is using that seat." The Marine walked the entire train again, but the only seat available was under that dog. "Please, ma'am. May I sit down? I'm very tired."



She snorted, "Not only are you Americans rude, you are also arrogant!"

This time the Marine didn't say a word; he just picked up the little dog, tossed it out the train window and sat down. The woman shrieked, "Someone defend me! Put this American in his place!"

An English gentleman sitting nearby spoke up. "Sir, you Americans seem to have a penchant for doing the wrong thing. You hold the fork in the wrong hand. You drive your autos on the wrong side of the road. And now, Sir, you seem to have thrown the wrong bitch out the window.

### The Mum Test

I was out walking with my 5 year old daughter. She picked up something off the ground and started to put it in her mouth.

I took the thing away and asked her not to do that. "Why?" she asked. "Because it's been on the ground, and you don't know where it's been. It's dirty, and it probably has germs."

At this point my daughter looked at me with absolute

admiration and asked, "Mum, how do you know all this stuff? You are so smart."

I thought quickly and replied, "All mums know this stuff. It's on the mum test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a mum."

We walked along in silence for two or three minutes, but she was evidently pondering this new information.

"Oh, I get it!" she beamed, "So if you don't pass the test, you have to be a dad."

"Exactly" I said.

**Send us your best joke**





**Dialysis and Transplant  
Association of Victoria Inc.**

PO Box 159,  
Forest Hill Vic 3131

Phone: (03) 9894 0377  
Email: [info@datavic.org](mailto:info@datavic.org)  
[www.datavic.org](http://www.datavic.org)

#### **Office Bearers**

##### **President**

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Joan Eastwood 0402 097 331

##### **Treasurer**

Vicki Abbatangelo 0408 103 571

#### **Committee Members**

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Neane Collis	0439 990 963
Steve Shuster	0427 515 770
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The views expressed in the editorial and the contributed items, are those of the authors and are not necessary the opinions of D.A.T.A. Vic. Inc.

## **DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE 06 MAY 2022**

The Dialysis and Transplant Association of Victoria Incorporated (D.A.T.A.) is a patient self help group made up of people with kidney failure and their families and friends. Social days are held at regular intervals and the year culminates with the annual Christmas event.

We own and run two holiday homes for use by our members—One is at Yarrawonga, the other at Rosebud.



**‘ShoeString’** denotes the feeling of life when it is turned up-side-down and that, with Kidney failure, Dialysis or Transplant, you sometimes have to pull yourself up by the shoe strings to get going.



## **Dates to Remember**

### **List of Social events for 2022, subject to change:**

As you know, these are all subject to change and Covid regulations & restrictions at the time of the events.

**April 9th, Saturday** - Dinner & Show at Witches In Britches

**May 18th, Wednesday** - Heide Museum

**June 24th, Friday** - Melbourne Observatory

**July 23rd, Saturday** - Christmas in July

**August 28th, Sunday** - Yarra Valley Chocolaterie

**September 25th, Sunday** - BBQ & cruise at Yarrawonga

**October 23rd, Sunday** - AGM (50th Shoestring anniversary)

**December 4th, Sunday** - Q Train.—Please note change of date.