

# TRANSPLANT VOICE

*The newsletter of*

**transplant**  
**australia**  
victoria&tasmania



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*February 2016*

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Secretary / Juniors: Brooke Huuskes - 0417 238 468  
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Newsletter / Membership: Chris Tew - 03 9754 4736  
Community Engagement: Alan Chrystie 1969albear@gmail.com

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – ROXANNE KAVANAGH

Happy New Year to all our members for 2016.

We have started the year off with two great events, the Australia Day march down Swanston Street, Melbourne which was a fun day and educated the public on organ donation. We also ran the Geelong Ten Pin Bowling day which was well attended and gave everyone a chance to catch up.

Keep your eye on newsletters this year, as it is a games year we will be holding events to help you train and decide what to participate in at the Western Sydney Transplant Games. So if you would like to have a try at archery, darts or table tennis, stay tuned. Remember, if there is anything else you would like to suggest, let us know, whether it is a sport to try or a group day out, ideas are welcome.

Information on the Games is now available, you can register to attend, choose your sports, book your preferred accommodation and shortly, uniform order forms will be sent out. Until then, we hope to see you at one of our events. (If you have registered for funding- form attached,, your attendance counts towards funding assistance for the games).

Roxanne Kavanagh  
Roxanne Kavanagh  
Chair - Transplant Vic/Tas



Getting the crowd involved at the Australia Day Parade.

Transplant Australia is supported by the Australian Sports Commission.



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Sports Commission**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February / March 2016	TA Vic / Tas will attend various Universities during Orientation Week to promote Organ and Tissue Donation.
February 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Carers Group, see this newsletter for details.
April 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Come and Try Table Tennis, Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough. Details to come.
April 30 <sup>th</sup> 2016	Carers Group, see this newsletter for details.
May 15 <sup>th</sup> 2016	Come and Try Archery. Arrow Plus, 17 Wallace Ave, Point Cook. From 12 noon.
May 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2016	Tombstone Country Music. Starts from 11.30am. See the details in this newsletter.
June 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Come and Try Darts.
July 17 <sup>th</sup> 2016	Ten Pin Bowling, Moorabbin.
August 27 <sup>th</sup> 2016	State Dinner, The Village Green, Mulgrave. 6.30pm. Cost \$65 for members, \$70 for non-members. Includes uniform, collection, presentation of the Victorian Team for the ATG, music, dancing and good company!
24 <sup>th</sup> Sep – 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct, 2016	Australian Transplant Games – Western Sydney.
October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Post Games Awards and Lunch. Windy Hill from 1pm includes finger food lunch.
December 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2106	Christmas Function, Westerfold's Park, Templestowe.
25 <sup>th</sup> June, – 2 <sup>nd</sup> July, 2017	World Transplant Games – Malaga, Spain.

It is essential that anyone attending an event RSVP if requested. Numbers are needed for bookings, catering, etc. It becomes really difficult if people just show up unannounced!

**FYI.** An accommodation subsidy is available for financial members travelling over 75km (one way) to attend TA Vic / Tas functions and staying overnight. Please submit your accommodation receipt to the Treasurer Karen Knuckey, 20 Holyrood Ave, Newtown, 3220 for a \$50 rebate. Please include your name and the function attended.

## MEETING DATES FOR 2016

Meetings for 2016 – 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, 10am at the Table Tennis Come & Try Day TBC. Most other meetings are held at the Windy Hill Venue, Corner of Napier Street and Brewster Street, Essendon. Contact the Secretary if you wish to come along, add things to the agenda or have any questions regarding meetings. Brooke Huuskes [bhuuskes@gmail.com](mailto:bhuuskes@gmail.com) 0417 238 468, Become a social club member at Windy Hill. Collect the membership form at the front desk.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - Victorian and Tasmanian Members

Family membership is \$30, Single \$20. Donor Families are Free. Living Donors are free, but if the recipient lives in the household and a family membership is requested the fee is \$30.

Transplant Australia has a new Membership Portal powered by RegOnLine. All details can be found at the website link <http://www.transplant.org.au/Membership.html>

Please pay your membership fees on this system, if you don't have a computer, credit card or do not use your credit card online you will need to renew your membership or join by contacting Chris on 9754 4736 or ringing the Sydney office on 02 9922 5400. This system sends reminders a week before membership needs renewing and also has the direct debit feature. Cheque payments will be processed by the State Treasurer.

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE – [www.transplant.org.au](http://www.transplant.org.au)**

**Facebook - [www.facebook.com/TransplantAustraliaVicTas](http://www.facebook.com/TransplantAustraliaVicTas)**

Any member using the EFT payment system must include their name and reason for payment e.g. Jane Smith, State Dinner. Please email Karen Knuckey, the Treasurer, so she can check / confirm the transaction - [nuckster@ncable.net.au](mailto:nuckster@ncable.net.au)

**EFT – Date funds transferred: ..... Transplant Australia Ltd (Vic/Tas)**  
**BSB 033062 Account 402639 Reference: Your name & “reason for payment”**

## WELFARE

Please let our Welfare Officer Karen Knuckey, 0423 021 984, [nuckster@ncable.net.au](mailto:nuckster@ncable.net.au) Or one of the committee members knows of any member who is having some problems, there may be some way that TA Vic / Tas can help.

## CARER'S GROUP

Meetings held at the Yarraville Footscray Bowling Club,  
339A Francis Street, Yarraville. Starting at 11am

Saturday 27th February

Saturday 30th April

RSVP & enquiries or to arrange private counseling, contact Karen 0423 021 984 or via email [nuckster@ncable.net.au](mailto:nuckster@ncable.net.au)

If you are unable to attend but would like to in future or wish to receive emails, please register your interest.

## DONOR FAMILYS GROUP AUSTRALIA

A Facebook site can be found at - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/219966401436603/>

The webpage is [www.donorfamilies.com/news/](http://www.donorfamilies.com/news/) - you can view the groups' newsletters here.

Join in the discussion with donor families, recipients, read their stories.

Leanne Campbell (Donor Family Coordinator) on 0422 123 014 / [ricklean@tpg.com.au](mailto:ricklean@tpg.com.au) if you need to discuss anything or have questions regarding Donor Families.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Information on how to go about being a 'Community Champion', please contact the CEP Co-ordinator Alan Chrystie [1969albear@gmail.com](mailto:1969albear@gmail.com)

**To donate life, discuss it today. OK For more information visit [www.donatelife.gov.au](http://www.donatelife.gov.au)**

## Promoting Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness during Orientation Week at Universities.

Transplant Vic/Tas is again teaming up with Donate Life for the upcoming "O Week" to be held in February/March 2016.

It is our intention to have a stall at as many universities as possible to promote organ donation, answer questions and hand out donor forms. To achieve this, we need as many volunteers as possible to help out across the week. If you would like to help out during "O-week", please contact Allan Chrystie on email: [1969albear@gmail.com](mailto:1969albear@gmail.com) 0427 217 010 (or for more information etc.) and leave your name, venue you can help at, time available and contact number.

District	University / TAFE	Day	Date	Bump In	Start	End	Bump Out
City Metro (St V's)	ACU – Fitzroy	Monday	22-Feb		8:30-10:30am	12:00-2:00pm	
City Metro (St V's)	ACU – Fitzroy	Tuesday	23-Feb		8:30-10:30am	12:00-2:00pm	
City Metro (St V's)	ACU – Fitzroy	Wednesday	24-Feb		8:30-10:30am	12:00-2:00pm	
City Metro (St V's)	ACU – Fitzroy	Thursday	25-Feb		8:30-10:30am	12:00-2:00pm	
East Metro	Box Hill - Elgar	Thursday	18-Feb		11:30am	1:30pm	
East Metro	Box Hill - Whitehorse	Tuesday	16-Feb		11:30am	1:30pm	
Albury Wodonga	Charles Sturt - Albury	Tuesday	23-Feb		10:30am	2:00pm	
East Metro	Deakin - Burwood	Tuesday	1-Mar	8:30am	10:30am	3:00pm	3:30pm
Gippsland	Federation - Gippsland	Tuesday	1-Mar		10:00am	2:00pm	
South Metro (Monash)	Holmesglen - Chadstone	Tuesday	23-Feb		11:30am	1:30pm	
South Metro (Monash)	Holmesglen - Moorabbin	Tuesday	16-Feb		11:30am	1:30pm	
South Metro (Monash)	Holmesglen - Waverley	Thursday	18-Feb		11:30am	1:30pm	
Bendigo	La Trobe - Bendigo	Tuesday	23-Feb		12:00pm	2:00pm	
North Metro (Austin)	La Trobe - Bundoora	Thursday	25-Feb		11:00am	3:00pm	
City Metro	Melbourne Uni - Parkville	Tuesday	23-Feb	9:30am	11:00am	3:00pm	4:00pm
City Metro (RMH/RCH)	Melbourne Uni - Parkville	Thursday	25-Feb	9:30am	11:00am	3:00pm	4:00pm
City Metro (RMH/RCH)	Melbourne Uni - Parkville	Friday	26-Feb	9:30am	11:00am	3:00pm	4:00pm
North Metro (Austin)	Melbourne Polytechnic (NMIT) - Collingwood	Thursday	25-Feb	10:30am	12:00pm	1:00pm	
North Metro (Austin)	Melbourne Polytechnic (NMIT) - Epping	Tuesday	1-Mar	10:30am	12:00pm	1:00pm	
North Metro (Austin)	Melbourne Polytechnic (NMIT) - Fairfield	Tuesday	23-Feb	10:30am	12:00pm	1:00pm	
North Metro (Austin)	Melbourne Polytechnic (NMIT) - Heidelberg	Tuesday	16-Feb	10:30am	12:00pm	1:00pm	
North Metro (Austin)	Melbourne Polytechnic (NMIT) - Prahran	Wednesday	24-Feb	10:30am	12:00pm	1:00pm	
North Metro (Austin)	Melbourne Polytechnic (NMIT) - Preston	Wednesday	2-Mar	10:30am	12:00pm	1:00pm	
City Metro (Alfred)	Swinburne - Hawthorn	Wednesday	24-Feb	9:00am			4:00pm



## Thank You Marg Beattie who has just retired from the State Committee.

Marg Beattie first joined TA in 2006 and Geelong was her first Transplant Games. She soon started attending activities and it became apparent that her main interest was for Community Engagement.



Marg was a registered volunteer with what was then LifeGift, and later became DonateLife. When TA launched their new Community Engagement Program, Marg was one of the first to register and undertake training. She was keen for TA to work together with DonateLife, and working with the then President Karen Knuckey, this was successfully achieved with the first co-branded shirts being produced for awareness events.

During this time Marg has done countless talks within the community and manned many, many stands at community events. Marg had 2 stints on the Vic/Tas Branch Committee and took charge of the Community Engagement portfolio. Organ Donor Awareness Week was to become DonateLife week, which Marg managed well, with

awareness stands in various Shopping Centres within Victoria.

Marg developed a strong relationship with the DonateLife nurses located within various hospitals, particularly at Geelong, and worked with them on awareness projects. Her best idea was to target young people by having awareness stands at Universities during O-Week, which originally fell right around the time of DonateLife week. This proved to be hugely successful and DonateLife “week” became DonateLife month! Although the timing has changed and DonateLife week now falls in August, our presence at O-Week events is still strong and is a valuable tool to educate young people about organ donation.

Marg has had her own ups and downs health-wise, and she has had many frustrations with funding, filling volunteer spaces and “management”, but she has continued to carry out her chosen role exceptionally well. Her desire to give back to the community that saved her has been a driving force behind her tireless work.

The time has come for her to pass the baton to Allan Chrystie, who is very aware of the size of the shoes he has to fill. Marg is not leaving us, just taking a break to spend time with her beautiful family. Marg is the first to pitch in and help, and is great at donating prizes for fundraising, and I can’t imagine this will change.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Committee and members of the branch, to thank Marg for her work on the branch committee and in particular, in the CEP area. She has certainly set a high standard and I wish Allan well in taking over the portfolio.

## Australia Day Parade 2016.

A group of 17 recipients, donors and supporters marched down Swanston Street on Australia Day to spread the word on organ donation and transplantation. We carried laminated signs stating the type of transplant we’d had and watched the reaction of the crowd as these were read.

As we walked, we took photos with members of the public who were delighted to be included in a happy snap. We even got the television reporter involved.

Thanks to those who took part in what was such an enjoyable day.

Roxanne Kavanagh

At Right: Saffron Holyoak, Kevin Green and Roxanne Kavanagh





Frank Simovic (Above)

Photo bombing the reporter on the way!



## GEELONG TEN PIN BOWLING DAY - 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

A wonderful roll up of 40, plus one guide dog in training for the Ten Pin Bowling Day at the Belmont Lanes. There was some awesome bowling skills on display and lots of high fiving for strikes, spares and not going in the gutters!



Male Transplant Recipient Winners were (score total for two games):

1<sup>st</sup> - Jose Lopez 273      2<sup>nd</sup> - Geoff Bowen 232

Female Transplant Recipient Winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> - Sarah Green 241      2<sup>nd</sup> - Karen Knuckey 231

Winning Male Supporters:

1<sup>st</sup> - Dan the Man 261      2<sup>nd</sup> - Kevin Banfield 239

Winning Female Supporters:

1<sup>st</sup> - Cathy Guy 223      2<sup>nd</sup> - Leanne McPhee 213

Junior Boy Supporters: (below Left)

1<sup>st</sup> Curtis 174      2<sup>nd</sup> - Zachary 160

Junior Girl Supporters (below right)

1<sup>st</sup> - Eliza 228      2<sup>nd</sup> - Sophie 199

3<sup>rd</sup> - Robert Jones 215

3<sup>rd</sup> - Roxanne Kavanagh 188

3<sup>rd</sup> - Damien Walker 226

3<sup>rd</sup> - Laraine Lopez 194

3<sup>rd</sup> - Sam 141

3<sup>rd</sup> - Natalie Guy 155

That you to all who attended, donated prizes and organised such a fun day.







## Australian Transplant Games 2016 – Western Sydney.

The schedule for the week is on the table below.

Check <http://www.australiantransplantgames.com/> for all the latest information on the Games.

The online Registration is up and running now. This time you can register early and pay a deposit rather than all money up front. Once you have registered it is possible to go in and alter anything if needed up until closing. Emails asking you to register are being sent out by the Sydney office, if you haven't received yours or you are not on email ring them on

02 995400 or 1800 827 757 or email [contactus@transplant.org.au](mailto:contactus@transplant.org.au)

Check the website now to order the souvenir T-Shirt which has your name and transplant years on it. <http://transplant.org.au/product/transplant-australia-t-shirt-2/> You can order one even if you are not attending the games

## Australian Transplant Games Western Sydney Accommodation

Three styles of accommodation have been offered by the Organising Committee of the Transplant Games in Western Sydney. The options are:

Saturday 24/9/16	Sunday 25/9/16	Monday 26/9/16	Tuesday 27/9/16	Wednesday 28/9/16	Thursday 29/9/16	Friday 30/9/16	Saturday 01/10/16
Day Time Events							
<b>Saturday 24/9/16</b> <b>9:00am – 5:00pm</b> REGISTRATION Penrith Panthers Business Centre  <b>2:30pm – 5:00pm</b> Social Sport SOFTBALL Panthers Outdoor Area	Penrith Regatta Centre <b>7.45am - 8.45am</b> Road Race/Fun Run Registration  <b>9am – 10am</b> OPENING CEREMONY DRAGON BOAT RACE <b>10am – 11am</b> ROAD RACE/FUN RUN  <b>11.00am – 1.30pm</b> WELCOME LUNCH  <b>11.30am – 6:00pm</b> PETANQUE SINGLES & PAIRS <b>1:00pm – 4:00pm</b> SAILING	<b>10am – 11.30am</b> CITY OF SYDNEY PARADE Martin Place          <b>5.00pm – 6.30pm</b> DONOR FAMILY RECEPTION	<b>9.00am – 5:00pm</b> SWIMMING Blacktown Swimming Pool    <b>9:00am – 5:00pm</b> LAWN BOWLS PAIRS Penrith Bowling & Recreation Club	<b>9:00am – 2:00pm</b> CYCLING Regatta Centre  <b>10.00am – 2.30pm</b> BADMINTON Penrith Valley Indoor Centre  <b>9.00am – 5.00pm</b> LAWN BOWLS SINGLES Penrith Bowling & Recreation Club  <b>10.00am – 1.00pm</b> TEN PIN (Juniors/Supporters) AMF Rooty Hill	<b>8.00am – 2.00pm</b> GOLF Penrith Golf Club  <b>9:00am – 5:00pm</b> TENNIS Nepean District Tennis Centre  <b>9:00am – 5:00pm</b> TEN PIN AMF Rooty Hill	<b>9:00am – 5:00pm</b> ATHLETICS Blacktown International Sports Centre       <b>6:30pm – 10pm</b> DARTS Panthers	<b>9:00am – 2.00pm</b> TABLE TENNIS Venue tba  <b>9.30am – 3.00pm</b> FOOTBALL 9.30am-11am: Clinic 11.30am – 12.45pm: Social Matches  1pm – 3pm: TA Football Team Match Oval adjacent to Panthers
Evening							
<b>7.00pm – 9.30pm</b> TEAM DINNERS Penrith Panthers		<b>7.00pm – 9.30pm</b> CHESS/SCRABBLE Panthers  <b>7.00pm to 9.30pm</b> ARCHERY Penrith Indoor Archery	<b>7.00pm to 9.30pm</b> VOLLEYBALL Penrith Indoor Centre <b>7:00pm – 9:30pm</b> SUDOKU/BACKGAMMON Panthers	<b>8.00pm-10pm</b> TRIVIA NIGHT Penrith Panthers	<b>6.30pm - 10pm</b> DINNER CLUB PACEWAY Penrith	<b>7:00pm – 10pm</b> DARTS Panthers	<b>6:30pm – 11pm</b> GALA CELEBRATION DINNER Penrith Panthers

- **The Mecure Penrith** - Cnr Mulgoa & Jamieson Rds, Penrith 2750  
Phone 02 4721 7700
- **Gateway Lifestyle Nepean Shores** - 6-22 Tench Avenue, Penrith NSW 2750 Phone: 02 4720 8100
- **Quality Inn.** - 261 Mulgoa Road, Penrith NSW 2750  
Phone: 02 4734 5555

In order for the Victorian/Tasmanian Team to be together for the week of the games, we are suggesting that you book Nepean Shores. The Park offers a range of room styles, BBQ facilities, a games room, playground, tennis court, two swimming pools and parking and is reasonably priced. It is not essential that you choose this accommodation but it has been selected as the preferred choice for the Victorian/Tasmanian Team. It should be noted that if you choose to stay in any accommodation other than the three approved by the Organising Committee - no shuttle bus service will be available to you throughout the week.

Bookings for accommodation are to be done by the individual, not Transplant Vic/Tas. When booking you should advise that you are part of the Transplant Games in order to receive the prices quoted below.

If you are a single person looking to share a room, contact Chris Tew and she will let you know who else is looking to share. [gtew2475@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gtew2475@bigpond.net.au) or phone 9754 4736.

### Nepean Shores Gateway Lifestyle prices.

One bedroom cabin	1 Queen bed (Sleeps 2), Kitchen facilities	\$135.00
One bedroom cabin	2 single beds (Sleeps 2), Kitchen facilities	\$135.00
Two bedroom cabin	1 Queen Bed in one room and two single beds in another room. (extra roller bed for child. Can sleep 5).	\$155.00
Motel Room	1 King size bed or 2 single beds. (Sleeps 2) Tea and Coffee facilities, mini bar fridge.	\$115.00
Motel Room Bunk beds	2 sets of bunks (Sleeps 4), Tea and Coffee facilities, mini bar fridge.	\$115.00

*There is no provision at any of the three selected accommodation choices for you to bring your own caravan.*

<http://www.australiantransplantgames.com/general-info/accom/>

<http://glhp.com.au/parks/gateway-lifestyle-nepean-shores/>



**MÁLAGA • SPAIN**  
WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES 2017

### **21st World Transplant Games, Malaga, Spain 2017**

Start Date 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017

End Date 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017

The WTGF President and Council are pleased to announce that the 21st World Transplant Games will be held in Malaga, Spain in 2017.

Keep these dates in your Diary if you are interested in these games. Details will be circulated as they become available.

### **Transplant Football (Soccer not AFL) Club**

A new Transplant Football Club has been established. The Inaugural Match will be 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 at Cromer Park, home of Manly United.

A Transplant Team will play a Belrose / Terry Hills Invitational Team.

Check this <http://transplant.org.au/kicking-new-goals-in-2016/> for more details.

Managing the new club is Matty Hempstalk, he can be reached at [footballclub@transplant.org.au](mailto:footballclub@transplant.org.au) Contact him if you are interested in being a player, volunteer or would like to watch. If you are not online please call the Sydney Office on 1800 827 757 or 02 9922 5400.

Check the Facebook page too <https://www.facebook.com/transplantaustraliafc/>

### **DRAGON BOAT RACING.**

Dragon Boat Racing is on Day 2 of the Australian Transplant Games – check the program. It is a good idea to know how to paddle etc before racing at the games.

Any member wishing to Try out Dragon Boat Racing prior to the Australian Transplant Games should look at the Dragon Masters website on [www.dragonmasters.com.au](http://www.dragonmasters.com.au) They train 3 time a week and are happy to have anyone come along (with notice ie you tell them that you'd like to come along!) Another Come and Try Day will happen soon, check with them or their website.

#### **Training times**

**Dragon Masters are currently training three times a week:**

■Saturday 8.30am

■Monday 5:45pm

■Wednesday 5.45pm

**Location:** You can find us at Shed 2, North Wharf Rd, Docklands

This is not the only Dragon Boat Club around, there are plenty of others that may be easier for you to get to. Check out this website <http://www.dragonboatvictoria.com.au/clubs/team-pages> Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Mildura, Warnambool, Albury / Wodonga have DB clubs.

# TOMBSTONE COUNTRY

SHAWS ROAD, TEESDALE

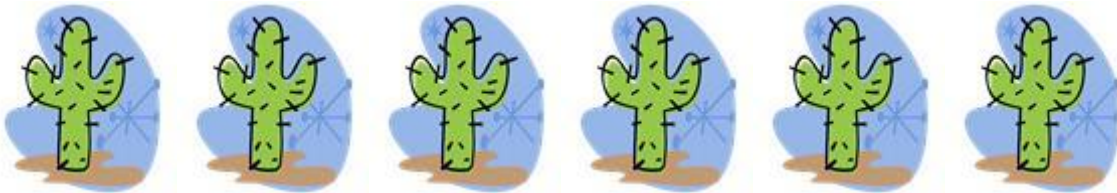


SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2016 from 11.30am

COST: \$5 per person

BYO Drinks - BBQ lunch for purchase

*This is a family friendly fundraiser for the Sydney Games  
so come along and enjoy the live music and Country  
atmosphere.*



Please contact Karen Knuckey if you are intending on coming along as helpers are required on the day –  
[nuckster@ncable.net.au](mailto:nuckster@ncable.net.au) or 0423 021 984

We need prize donations, they can be given to any committee member and we need to receive them by mid-April.  
We mostly need items to be auctioned, including hampers.

A book of raffle tickets will be sent out soon. We hope that you can support this event even if you are unable to attend.

This is a fun day of music, BBQ lunch, endless tea and coffee, spinning wheel, auctions and raffles. Bring some friends and enjoy the day.

## CONGRATULATIONS.

Congratulations to member recipients who reach the following milestones in February and March.

### February

Nathan Wardle (kidney / Pancreas) 10yrs  
Sue Horsman (Liver) 20yrs  
Wayne Kelly (Kidney) 22yrs

Glen Teague (Kidney) 13yrs  
John Purvis (Kidney) 20yrs  
Alan O'Meara (Liver) 25yrs

### March

Michael Knight (Liver) 10yrs  
Ronwyn Davies (Liver) 11yrs  
Jamie Drivas Kidney / Pancreas) 15yrs  
Susan Sutton (Kidney) 23yrs  
Phillip Gaunson (Kidney / Pancreas) 26yrs

Nicole Wood (Liver) 10yrs  
Jayne Macleod (Kidney) 13yrs  
Joanna Middleton (Bone Marrow) 17yrs  
Kerrin Litchfield (Bone Marrow) 25yrs  
Justine Travers (kidney) 35yrs

Sorry to Marg Beattie (Liver) and Debbie Slater (Cornea) who both celebrated 10 years in January and were missed in the last newsletter.

Well done to all and wishing you all good health and many more transplant years!

Thanks to all Living Donors and Donor families.



### **Transplant Australia welcomes commitment to increase donation rates**

Transplant Australia today welcomes the release of an independent review into the performance of the organ and tissue donation sector in Australia.

Transplant Australia Chairman, Jason Ryan, said the review should give those on the transplant waiting list confidence that the Federal Government was doing everything possible to ensure Australia maximised its donation rate.

'Our number one imperative is to ensure every suitable organ is made available. Although 2015 was a record year with highest number of organ donors recorded, we know Australia must strive for greater donation rates in order to be best practice,' Mr Ryan said.

Mr Ryan believed the review pointed to three changes that are imperative to help achieve the national targets.

1. First, the Australian Organ Donor Register must be modernised to allow Australians to sign up to be to be an organ donor in a fast and simple way. We now have clear evidence to demonstrate that a person is far more likely to be a donor if they are signed onto the register. In fact, the rate of consent is double when a person has registered compared to the consent rate involving a family who has never discussed donation. We want to see Australia adopt a cutting edge sign up process, together with compelling awareness campaign.

'Transplant Australia looks forward to working with the Federal Government to improve access to the Australian Organ Donor Register so that as many Australians as possible can commit to donation, to improve the lives of those waiting for a life-saving transplant.

2. 'We call on state governments to support the increased rates with the required resources in intensive care, operating theatres and transplant units,' Mr Ryan said. 'The strategy of ensuring that every potential donation conversation in a hospital is undertaken by a trained professional must be achieved. The Organ & Tissue Authority must be given the support to ensure that its Professional Education Program, which is based on the Gift of life Institute in the United States, must reach all staff involved in donation.

'We look to the future, and to working with the Organ & Tissue Authority to develop further strong performances in organ and tissue donation and transplantation.'

3. "In the same way that society ensures a person's wishes in their will are honoured, all sectors of the transplantation community should work together to ensure that a person's decision to be an organ donor is upheld. If a person signs the register, their wishes must be honoured," said Mr Ryan.

We speak on behalf of the 1583 people waiting for a transplant. We need to improve the consent rate for them.

For further information, please contact:

Natasha Chadwick  
Marketing & Communications  
Transplant Australia  
P| +61 2 9922 5400 M| 0499 090 777  
E| [Natasha.chadwick@transplant.org.au](mailto:Natasha.chadwick@transplant.org.au)