Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland Incorporated

Annual Review 2013
What is motor neurone disease?

Motor Neurone Disease (also known as ALS - Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or Lou Gehrig’s Disease), is a devastating and incurable neurological disease affecting more than 1900 people in Australia at the present time.

The term ‘motor neurone disease’ (MND) describes a group of related diseases affecting the nerves in the brain and spinal cord. These nerves are known as motor neurones. As the nerves become damaged the muscles they control weaken and waste.

The nature of the disease is that it affects different people in different ways. In other words there are no clear-cut definitive symptoms that immediately indicate a diagnosis of MND.

Early symptoms can be mild, indicated by problems with walking, difficulties holding objects due to weakness of the hand muscles, slurring of speech or a swallowing difficulty due to weakness of the tongue and throat muscles. During this time the mind, senses and intellect remain intact.

A key feature of the disease can be its rapid progression creating a significant burden of adjustment for individuals, carers and families responding to complex care needs.

This terminal illness takes the life of at least one Australian every day with a life expectancy of 2–5 years after diagnosis.

At present there is no known scientific cure or treatment for MND. Research in Australia and throughout the world is ongoing.
Our Vision
A world free from the impact of motor neurone disease

Our Mission
To help reduce the impact of motor neurone disease on people living with MND, their families and carers. We do this through:
- the provision of information, education and support;
- by raising awareness of MND and its impact on the individual, families, carers, health care professionals and the community; and
- supporting efforts to find a cause and a cure for motor neurone disease through discovery and research.

Our Cornflower
The cornflower is the symbol of hope for people living with MND—hope for finding the cause; hope for development of treatments, and for a cure. The cornflower represents positive hope for the future—a future without MND.

Our Current Position
As MND Qld celebrated 30 years of operations we acknowledge significant milestones in the organisation’s growth.

Membership
From 21 members in 1983 to a current membership in 2013 of over 300.

Support Groups
From one support group established in Brisbane in 1983, we currently have 10 Active Support groups throughout Queensland.

Staff
When MND Queensland was established in 1983 it started with one permanent part-time staff member and a team of dedicated volunteers.

In 2013 we now have 6—7 permanent part time staff providing services support, administration, marketing and fundraising to ensure ongoing growth of critical funds, compliance and quality business practice, in addition to an ever expanding body of much-valued volunteers.

Fundraising
Hands-on fundraising activities including Drink Tea for MND, Walk to D-Feet, Harley Davidson motorcycle rides, athletic events, lawn bowls and golf days. In addition to community fundraising, electronic communication and fund generating systems include our Facebook page, Twitter, website and fundraising through Everyday Hero, My Cause and GiveNow on line systems.

Looking ahead to the next 30 years of MND in Queensland, we will continue to assist people with MND in the community & support research into a cause and cure for MND.

We dedicate ourselves to working along side our members, their carers, their families and health care professionals in the year to come.
Patron
Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC,
Governor of Queensland

Vice Patrons
Dr Rob Henderson, Neurologist
Dr Pamela McCombe, Neurologist
Mrs Karen Malcolm, Speech Pathologist
Diane Reilly, former MP

Governance Structure
The Governance of the Association in 2013 was
the responsibility of the volunteer Management Committee (Board)
and its two standing sub committees,
the Audit & Finance Committee and Governance & Review Committee,
composed of Board members and other members of the Association
with relevant expertise and experience.

Board Sub-Committees
Audit & Finance Committee
Alison Armstrong    Catherine O’Keeffe    Allan Morrison

Governance & Review Committee
David Schwarz    Graeme Holyer    John Wearne AM    Jacqueline D’Alton

Staff
Hedley Lockyer, State Manager to August 2013
Cheryl Miller, CEO from November 2013
Anna Thompson, Fundraising & Communications Manager
Telisa Sekona, Administration Coordinator
Denise Plunkett-Mansell, Information & Referral Officer/Equipment Services
Christine Carroll, Regional Advisor, Gold Coast (under contract with MND NSW one day per week)
Kate Hudson, Regional Advisor, Brisbane
Our Board

Anne Collett
BA, GCM, GDMC, CPM, FAMI, MFIA
President to December 2013
Anne is Business Development Manager at Queensland Community Foundation with over 25 years business, communications and marketing experience, including more than 15 years in the non-profit sector. Anne’s qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Political Science), a Graduate Certificate of Business and a Graduate Diploma in Media and Communications. Anne is a Fellow of the Australian Marketing Institute and member of the Fundraising Institute of Australia. Anne was first elected to the Board in 2007.

Peter Denham
Vice President to December 2013
President from December 2013
Peter Denham, Peter served 26 years as an officer of the Australian regular Army, both in Australia and overseas. Following his military career, Peter worked for Legacy and then as the Executive Director of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Queensland, an association which Peter guided from a small voluntary organisation to a charity with income of more than $3million per year offering aid to some 4000 people in Queensland with muscular dystrophy. Peter has served as President of MND Qld since 2011.

Jackie D’Alton
MAppFin, BCom, FAICD, SF FINSIA
Secretary
Jackie is a Fellow of AICD and a Senior Fellow of FINSIA, holds a Master of Applied Finance, Bachelor of Commerce and is a Graduate from the Securities Institute of Australia and of the AICD Directors Course Directors Update Course and Nexus Course; Jackie has over 15 years’ experience on Government Boards including QLeaves and the Major Sports Facility Authority, in roles including Board Chair and Chair of Audit Risk & Compliance Committee and Finance Committee as well as other Committee roles. Jackie is also Board Chair of “Topology”, a Queensland contemporary classical music ensemble. Jackie has been a member of the MND Qld Governance & Review Committee since 2012 and was appointed a Board Member in May 2013.

Allison Armstrong
Bcomm, CA
Treasurer to December 2013
Allison is a Chartered Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Business. Allison has worked for 10 years in public practice in a small accounting firm in Paddington and has worked for 18 months as internal accountant for a coffee company. Allison has worked for the Public Trustee of Queensland in the tax unit since March 2012; and is now Acting Manager for Taxation.

Allan Morrison B.Ec., B. Bus.
Treasurer from December 2013
Allan holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Bachelor of Business, and for 11 years worked in government (including as Director – Trade and Investment within the Queensland Premier’s Department). He then established a successful business management consultancy and then BSD Robotics, a company designing, manufacturing and supplying high tech scientific laboratory instruments to world niche markets which he sold to a US based public company. Allan then continued as General Manager in Brisbane. Allan retired in July 2012 but has since acquired two bakery businesses to be run by family members.

Graeme Holyer
Board Member
Graeme studied mechanical engineering at QIT, graduating with a Certificate of Mechanical Engineering and worked in QR as a Design Draftsman and Technical Officer, working on equipment design, purchase, commissioning and modification, and organising and conducting training courses before retiring in 2009. Graeme was a founding member of the Caboolture Support Group in 1993 and became President of the group in 1998, whose name changed to The North Brisbane and Caboolture Support Group. Graeme has been a member of the Board since 2012.

Elizabeth Holyer
Board Member
Elizabeth has worked extensively in clerical & financial positions in government and in private companies. Married to Graeme, with two daughters, Elizabeth ran Grace Primary School tuckshop for 8 years then became Bursar/Business Manager’s assistant of the school. Elizabeth’s extensive charity work includes Rural Youth, Leo, Rotaract & Lions clubs. She became involved with MND Qld in 1993 when a neighbour was diagnosed with MND and has served as President and Secretary of North Brisbane & Caboolture Support Group, as well as managing the finances.
Good Morning all,

It is with considerable pleasure that I join you this morning, at this very significant event for the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland, marking the 31st anniversary of its founding, at the instigation of Charles Graham, whom we will honour at this annual Conference with the delivery of the inaugural Oration named for this unassuming Queenslander who, while dealing with his own diagnosis with this dreadful disease, and the inevitable turmoil that followed for him and his family, felt compelled to act to help others similarly affected, to do something practical to offer "hope and help", to borrow from the Association’s motto, chosen at the Society’s Foundation Meeting, held in the Oxley CWA hall on 26th February 1983.

That small Saturday morning gathering, of 21 people, including Charlie’s family, in that small community hall, is a long way removed, in time, place and sophistication, from this state-of-the-art Caboolture ‘hub’ - and the Learning and Business Centre chosen as the venue for this year’s Conference, but looking at this audience of Association members, family members and carers, noting the speakers and the subjects on the agenda, I would like to think that a similar spirit will mark this meeting - that there will be a similar sense of fellowship, of sharing and encouragement and a similar resolve to focus, in a practical way, on things that can or could be done to assist Queenslanders dealing with the enormous challenges that MND and an MND diagnosis represents.

As Patron of the Association in Queensland, I thank the Executive and CEO and others involved with the planning and organisation of this year’s annual conference; I thank our Guest speakers, in anticipation of their contribution later this morning; and, as I declare the Conference formally open, express the hope that it will prove productive and worthwhile for all attendees.

One means of helping to make it so, I believe, is the launch of the Charles Graham Oration - designed to be a feature of all future such conferences.

As both Governor and as Patron of MND Queensland, I am honoured to have been invited to deliver the inaugural lecture, and at the same time, to have the opportunity to meet more members of the MNDQ community - or ‘family’, as I have come to think of it, since I accepted the role of Patron two years ago.

I recall vividly receiving the letter of request, from then Vice-President and Secretary, David Schwartz, accompanied by an additional letter from his wife, Kate. Then four years into my term as Governor and being already Patron of over 200 community organisations, with all the work that this involves, year-round, in addition to the many other responsibilities that attach to the role of Governor, there was little enthusiasm in the Office of the Governor for the idea that I should agree to add another.

But, for me, the case - the cause - was compelling. I actually wrote on the letter: "I am overloaded with work and Patronages, but do not think I can refuse this".

Nor did I and so here I am, as Patron, opening this Conference, paying tribute to the Association and its now thirty years of service to the community, and to Charles Graham, who initiated its establishment.

Like many in the community, Charlie had never heard of the disease before his diagnosis, in October 1981, and his efforts to find out as much about it as he could proved very frustrating. Although Queensland and the world was on the cusp of significant change and an information and communications revolution: on the eve of hosting the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982 and the launch of the ‘internet’ and the first call ever from a mobile cellular phone in 1983, readily available information and communications network system that could assist MND sufferers and their families, was glaringly lacking. Nowhere in sight, it seemed, in Brisbane.

It was not until a year after his diagnosis, in November 1982, that Charlie learned from a magazine article about a well-known Victorian sportsman with MND, that there was a Motor Neurone Society in that State. In what I have come to understand was typical fashion, he immediately contacted them, pursuing his quest for information and just as quickly joined the Victorian
Society - but then no sooner had he done so, began to ask why not a Society here in Queensland?

There followed a flurry of activity - correspondence with the Victorian Society, letters to Queensland newspapers, approaches to friends and colleagues, discussion about fees, finances, family subscriptions, constitutions, possible patrons or medical advisers and -importantly - ways of generating more publicity.

With the sense of urgency that attaches to those dealing with a terminal illness, Charles obviously felt he had little time to waste and within three months of reading that chance article in *New Idea* and having formed his own ‘Idea’, of establishing a Queensland organisation, it was done.

The Motor Neurone Society of Queensland, membership automatic and free for MND patients and the persons caring for them, was formed, with the following formal Aims and Objectives (and I believe they are worth recalling in full):

1. To provide MND patients and their families, information about the disease and the research being undertaken.
2. To offer advice on how to cope with the disease and all its complexities.
3. To provide a caring link between patients themselves and to remove the feeling of isolation.
4. To bring MND to the attention of both public and the Government.
5. To be an autonomous Society, but having links with other welfare and medical organisations, and self-help groups.
6. To meet physically as often as possible.

An admirable set of formal goals, as relevant and valid today as they were then, but energised and shaped by two other, less formal, more simple and more emotional guiding precepts - Charlie’s own life mantra - "Never Give Up" - and the Motto that the Society adopted at its first meeting, that I referred to earlier: "Hoping and Helping".

When faced with the grim reality of this devastating condition that has, still today, no clear cause, no cure, and very little treatment, those MUST remain our core goals - never to give up helping and never to give up hoping that we can do more to penetrate - and manage - its puzzling complexities.

The ‘helping’ part remains the Society’s - now the Association’s - first priority, as the Society’s excellent and informative website makes clear: to provide practical support - information, advice, referral services, and equipment loans; and just as vital - emotional support - by establishing social support groups for those with MND, their families and friends, providing, as David said, in his letter to me, a network that can offer “a friendly and understanding ear at the end of a telephone line in times of need”.

I know myself about those times of need, having experienced first-hand the pain of families dealing with MND, initially, a good number of years ago, when my husband’s aunt (who lived here, on the Sunshine Coast) was diagnosed with MND and seeing her sad decline - and people’s bewilderment about its baffling, unexpected assault on all their lives (hers was a classic "sporadic case") and their sense of helplessness as she became increasingly “locked in”; and then more recently, as Governor, when I agreed, in September last year, to conduct a personal investiture ceremony to confer an OAM ceremony on a woman with MND, in her home town of Kilkivan, in the South Burnett region, surrounded by supportive family and friends.

Sadly, I received a message earlier this week, telling me she has lost her battle with MND. In this relatively small community of people diagnosed with MND in Queensland - and even the tenfold numbers of family, carers, friends and colleagues also “living with MND” in a direct way, I expect the names of both these women will be known to many here.

There were interesting similarities - and yet one difference - in their situations, however. Both were strong, vital, energetic women, contributing vigorously to their communities before their diagnosis. Both were lovingly looked after throughout by their families, and both, though eventually unable to talk, were able to communicate to the end: my Aunt Alice by writing on a small note pad and Suzanne using new digital technologies. With that more advanced technology, she and I were able to have a ‘conversation’ after that September ceremony in a much more immediate and satisfying way than my aunt laboriously writing on her pad.

I tell the story to make the point that we ARE living in an age of rapid advances - thirty-three years in calendar time from Charlie Graham’s initial quest for information, but light years on, in terms of technological gains, giving new impetus, surely, to the ‘hope’ part of the equation.

We are not there yet, but MND research has accelerated - quite dramatically in recent years - and here in Queensland, we are especially well placed to contribute to this research. We have an exceptional constellation of medical research institutes, including The Brain Institute at the University of Queensland, established in 2003, one of the largest MND laboratories in the world and now with a decade of development behind it.
I spoke yesterday to its Founding Director, Professor Perry Bartlett, a world leader in neuroscience, about the ‘state of play’ on MND research here. He assured me that there is an ‘enormous amount’ of work being done in Queensland in this area - “probably after dementia, it is the second highest area of focus”, with about 40 people, at the QBI alone, currently working on MND and MND-related areas. Asked where the world’s best centres of research and investigation were located, he felt that we in Queensland could be considered “near the front of the pack” providing probably the largest concentration of research being carried out in Australia on MND. Asked also about funding (always such a key consideration) he said our research capability had been boosted by generous contributions from individual philanthropists, by families affected by MND and by the ‘MND and Me Foundation’, established a couple of years ago in Queensland - adding also that MND Australia’s research arm, represented here today by Speaker Janet Nash, was well-funded (thanks in part, I assume, to the ongoing advocacy and fundraising efforts of the Association Australia-wide and, in accordance with that original set of Aims and Goals of MND Queensland, drawn up under Charlie Graham’s watchful eye.)

While that is both pleasing and encouraging, Professor Bartlett agreed with my comment, however - formed from my perspective as Patron of many not-for-profit organisations, all competing for attention and support - that awareness-raising about MND, within the wider community, beyond the circle of those affected, remains an area of challenge.

I have little doubt that there are many Queenslanders, in 2014, who, like Charlie in 1981, have never heard of Motor Neurone Disease which is why we need the Society to “take a leaf from his book” and resolve at this State Conference (and the national MND conference that Queensland will host in September) to reaffirm and intensify efforts to pursue that vital founding goal of promotion and publicity, honouring not only the memory of Charles Graham but his activism.

In following that path, for those who haven’t read it, there is a small publication that the Association produced about the history of its early years that I commend to you all. Called "From the Beginning", written by John Wearne, its cover in those characteristic cornflower blue and white colours - of those fragile but hardy and tenacious flowers adopted as the global MND symbol - this little book tells a story familiar to anyone who has had anything to do with establishing and trying to ‘grow’ a community organisation; a story of struggle and hard work, of slog and determination, of endless fundraising efforts, of successes and failures - of tenacity and endurance.

And while the book pays particular tribute to Charles Graham - as I have sought to do today - it also makes clear that Charlie’s vision of founding an MND Society in Queensland could not have been realised without the support of many other, equally dedicated and determined people, including his wife, Shirley, who is with us this morning; and has been sustained since, transformed into the sophisticated organisation we know today, only through the deep commitment of hundreds more families and of caring and compassionate individuals who have elected to support and champion the MND cause. I use this Oration today to thank and pay tribute also to this legion of supporters, as I thank the members of the medical and health professions who have chosen to work, to specialise in this complex field of care - and the researchers seeking to unravel those many complexities and the mysteries of MND.

All of them, in their own way, are fulfilling Charles Graham’s belief that we should ‘Never Give up’; all of them are living up to the Society’s founding Motto of ‘Hoping and Helping’ and for this we should feel - all Queenslanders should feel - deeply grateful.

Thank you, again, for the invitation to me to deliver this inaugural Oration and for your kind and patient attention.

Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley
AC Governor of Queensland, Patron,
Motor Neurone Disease Association,
Queensland
Your support throughout the 30th Anniversary year made the year very special and we thank each of you for your contribution and support. Each of us helps others in various ways and together we make a world of difference.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Anne Collett for her stewardship and dedication as our President during this year and to make mention of her wonderful contribution that she has made over many years to the Association. Anne was able to bring others together under her leadership to tackle many difficult decisions and to create the future for the organisation. We wish Anne the very best in her retirement.

We welcome Cheryl Miller as our newly appointed CEO. Cheryl is already making a tremendous difference and will lead the Association during 2014. We will continue Anne’s good work in concentrating on the delivery of services to our clients and their families. This will include an emphasis on the development of supports in Regional Areas, delivering urgent and vital equipment, and strengthening our local and regional Support Groups.

Our achievements in 2013 were many and your kindness enabled the Association to reach out to clients and families in need. Together we:

- Established the Regional Advisory Service that has reached 95 families.
- Celebrated 30 years of service to the MND Community.
- Launched in partnership with MND Australia our new interactive website.
- Delivered over 320 pieces of vital equipment to over 100 clients.
- At an estimated value of over $200,000, our Client Equipment Library contains more than 400 pieces.
- Set up the Development of Regional Supports Program.
- Helped our Support groups hold over 50 meetings throughout the State and connect with over 200 volunteers and local authorities.
- Supported our researchers and scientists at the MNDRIA with a grant from the Charles Graham Memorial Medical Research Fund.
- Helped the MND Community to conduct many fun and local fundraising events including “Drink Tea for MND”, “Walk to D-Feet”, “High Teas”, as well as collections at the Judith Durham concerts and the Annual Raffle of a most beautiful Quilt.
- Developed links with the local communities around the State that enabled many families to receive support when they needed it most.
- Helped our carers to meet and share local service knowledge and to discuss the daily strain of caring and other matters of interest.
- Liaised and worked in partnership with other State MND Associations, The MND and Me Foundation Limited, and MND Australia.

Today our services include the newly established Regional Advisory Service, the important Information and Referral Service, Equipment and Health Aids Service, and Education and Member Services. Our wonderful staff, suppliers, partners, agencies along with the State Government Health and Disability Departments deliver these key services.

The Country Women’s Association of Queensland is providing fundraising support and we thank them for their kindness and dedication to our Association in this time of need. We also thank our Premier Campbell Newman MP and the Government of Queensland for their ongoing support to our Association. The State Government provide vital funds for the delivery of the Client Information and Referral Service and the Quality Management System.

Our Patron Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley, AC., The Governor of Queensland delivered the Inaugural Charles Graham Oration at our State Conference on the 22 February 2014 and we thank her sincerely for her kindness and support throughout her term as Governor of Queensland. We also thank Mrs Shirley Graham for her vote of thanks to our Patron as she is always a great inspiration to us all.

The future is very bright for MND Medical Research and the MNDRIA based in Sydney is closing the gaps on the many unknown causes of the disease. Our National President David Ali and the National CEO Carol Birks continue to support and assist us. Their involvement in MND Australia provides us with up to date information on all aspects of the disease and we thank them for their dedication and taking time to visit us.

Your financial generosity has enabled all our services to families and clients to continue without a break. We count our blessings as we are an Association who owns our State Office in Inala, we have no debt, and our outlook for the future is promising. We will continue to fundraise and promote MND to further expand our services to clients and their families.

The future of the Association relies upon your membership as we are a member-based organisation and we urge you to participate and help us to find new members to secure the future. There are certainly challenges ahead and we want to work with you to keep our Association strong and focused on the important work of helping others. A strong and enthusiastic membership means a strong Association.

We look forward to your continued support and in the words of our founder Charles Graham “Never Give Up “

Peter Denham
President
TREASURER’S REPORT

Introduction

I am pleased to advise that, starting with the reporting of these 2013 financial statements, the Association has made a small but important improvement to the way in which our ongoing expenses are recorded and reported. You will all be aware that the Association’s Constitution, in its Objects, (as outlined on page 12) stipulates the activities that the Association is to undertake, and thereby the nature of its outlays. A listing of those eight Objects is attached to this report for ease of reference.

The financial accounts for 2013 that are presented herewith now include classifications of our expenses that correspond to the Objects of the Association. By way of example, contributing to Research into MND is an activity of MNDAQ called for under the Objects of the Constitution, and there is now a major and separate expenditure classification in the financial accounts for 2013 related to our Research contributions.

The major expenditure headings in our audited financial statements now comprise:

a) Client Support Services (covering Objects 1 and 3)
b) Fundraising and Awareness Services (covering Objects 2, 5 and 7)
c) Relationship Expenses (covering Object 4)
d) Research (covering Object 6) and
e) Core Operating Expenses (covering Object 8).

For comparison purposes, this same approach to expenditure classifications has been applied to our 2012 accounts and these also appear in the 2013 financial statements.

Members will recall that in 2012, the Association was able to achieve a surplus of $116,684. Between 2012 and 2013, the Association witnessed a decline in income from our historically high 2012 levels, and an increase in expenses relative to 2012 levels, leading to a loss for the 2013 year of $160,810. Of this, approx. $75,838 reflected depreciation i.e. we incurred a cash loss of $84,972.

Services and Expenses

During 2013, there was a small increase in the number of Members of the Association (increasing to 228) and an increase in the overall level of services offered by the Association to our Members. Amongst other things, the year saw the introduction of a Regional Advisor service, as well as a continued increase in the use of our equipment pool by Members. Overall, the level of expenditure on Client Support Services in 2013 reached $273,396, an increase of $63,890 over the 2012 level of $209,506. During 2013, the Association’s investment into our Regional Advisor service amounted to $78,945.

It needs to be noted that, at the outset of the 2013 year, your Board took the decision to implement a Regional Advisor Service, and allocated a budget for this service in excess of $100,000. At the time, it was understood that, in the event that contributions towards the service could not be obtained from any other organisation, the result would be a loss in 2013. No such contributions towards the Service were received in 2013, and the expected loss has eventuated.

From a positive viewpoint, some examples of specific service levels provided by the Association during 2013 are as follows:

a) the number of equipment loans to Members and Clients was 320 (having steadily increased from 100 in 2009);
b) the value of additional equipment purchased by the Association for its equipment pool was $42,665;
c) The number of hours of Client Support provided has been estimated to be 3000, including time involved in direct client advice, family support, fostering local community support and in handling delivery of equipment as well as its maintenance.

During 2013, other expenditure movements were as follows:

a) Fundraising and Awareness Services increased in value from $95,696 to $131,311;
b) Relationship Expenses fell slightly in value from $26,262 to $23,710;
c) Our contribution to Research remained fairly constant ($25,500 in 2012 and $25,000 in 2013); and
d) Core Operating Expenses decreased from $252,217 to $199,203.
The most significant factor behind the increase in Fundraising and Awareness Services was related to salaries and wages (the 2012 figure did not represent a full year’s employment for our fundraiser) and the use of external contractors to print, compile and mail newsletters and large mail outs. That practice has now been discontinued.

The main factors behind the decrease in Core Operating Expenses were:

a) A decrease in Operating Salaries and Wages (from $137,699 in 2012 to $104,198 in 2013),

b) a reduction in Repairs and Maintenance (from $9,949 to $3,472) and

c) a reduction in Computer Expenses (from $9,271 to $5,771).

Overall, total outlays in 2013 increased from $617,138 in 2012, to $664,236. The 2013 total expenses figure includes $75,838 in depreciation, of which $65,240 reflected Depreciation of Patient Aids in the equipment pool. The value of Patient Aids written off during the year was $43,817.

**Income**

Unfortunately, Association income during 2013 fell compared with our historically high 2012 levels. Total Income in 2013 was $503,426, well down from the 2012 level of $733,822. (Total Income in 2011 was $508,478, and in 2010 was $339,868).

It is apparent from the accounts that this decline in income can be largely associated with two aspects of our 2013 fundraising activities, i.e.:

a) the decline in the receipt of non-recurring grants, (falling from $169,300 to $47,411) and

b) the decline in the receipt of funds from larger fundraising activities i.e. not including events such as Drink Tea for MND, Walk to De-feet, Third Party Fundraising, and Online Fundraising. The fall in this ‘Other Fundraising’ category was from $141,655 to $1,102. (See Note 5 in the Financial Statement).

In relation to a), it should be noted that the bulk of these grants are available only for equipment/patient aid purchases.

In relation to b), it should be noted that the 2012 figure for Other Fundraising included a large once-off event-based donation from the Steadfast Group.

The bright spots in our 2013 Income stream were associated with our Third Party Fundraising and Online Fundraising. During 2013, more than 30 organisations and individuals across Queensland ran small community-based fundraising events and their efforts are greatly appreciated. In 2013, funds raised through this type of Third Party Fundraising increased by approx. 46% over 2012. Similarly, the Association’s Online Fundraising has also been more successful during 2013, with income also increasing by approx. 46% over 2012 figures.

**Net Position**

As at the end of 2013, the Association had Net Assets valued at $930,757, including Current Assets of $390,347. The bulk of these Current Assets were held in cash ($381,274).

**The Future**

Forecasts for 2014 are such that the Association is targeting a Total Income for the year of at least $550,000, i.e. returning to a level greater than the 2011 Income, but not as great as the record 2012 level. On that basis, and on the basis of our budget for 2014, we are targeting to break even during the 2014 year.

So as to allow for a review of the future strategic directions of the Association, including the direction of our fundraising activities, input has been sought and has recently been received from a number of external organisations, on a pro-bono basis. Consideration of these options may well constitute a key activity for the incoming Board of the Association.

Allan Morrison
Treasurer
OBJECTS

3. The objects for which the Association is established are:-

(1) To provide a range of services and support to benefit and assist all people living with motor neurone disease, their families and carers in Queensland.

(2) To undertake and promote fundraising activities to fund the provision of services and support by the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland Inc to people living with motor neurone disease, their families and carers in Queensland.

(3) To provide information, education and resources about motor neurone disease to people living with motor neurone disease, their families and carers, health care professionals, and the public.

(4) To foster relationships and connections between the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland Inc and its members, other organisations and service providers to help to reduce the impact of motor neurone disease on people living with MND, their families and carers.

(5) To raise community awareness of motor neurone disease and its impact on the lives of people living with MND, their families and carers.

(6) To support research efforts by raising awareness of research into motor neurone disease, encouraging and contributing to fundraising activities, and informing members and the public about research being undertaken in Australia and overseas.

(7) To encourage people living with motor neurone disease, their families and carers, health professionals, community supporters and members of the public to become members of the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland Inc.

(8) To do all other things as may be necessary or desirable to achieve the above mentioned Objects.

In this Rule 3, “people living with motor neurone disease” includes those diagnosed, and those yet to be diagnosed having symptoms consistent with motor neurone disease as well as, where the context permits, any person whose life is affected by a diagnosis of motor neurone disease.
FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Our aim is to ensure that no person living with MND has a high level of unmet need created by the disease.

We do this through the 3 E’s of MND:
• Education and Raising awareness
• Equipment Services
• Emotional Support

Family Support works closely with health care professionals and service providers to discuss the care and management of people living with MND. This helps to ensure a seamless service for people with MND and their carer and minimises duplication of service.

In 2013, a Member Satisfaction Survey was conducted to provide MND Qld with information about members experiences of our services.

Overall satisfaction was high and it was good to see that the majority of respondents would definitely recommend our services to others living with MND and others would probably recommend MND Qld.

We often find our highest ranked activity was through the information was provided over the telephone, regular newsletters, our website, Facebook page and information and referral brochures.

Regional Advisors
Regional advisors are professionals with specific knowledge and experience of MND and are at the forefront in supporting people living with MND. Their objective is that all people living with MND and their families are well supported throughout their journey with MND and have access to relevant information to help guide their decision making. The regional advisors aim to ensure that no person living with MND has a high level of unmet need. This usually means that people whose needs are high and changing rapidly have regular contact from their regional advisor. Others who are relatively stable and linked in to appropriate services, have less frequent contact.

Regional advisors support rural and regional people through field trips, telephone calls and emails to ensure the best possible care wherever people are living.

We presently maintain a regional advisory presence in Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Information
Good quality information is essential for people to self manage the progression of MND. It is also important for health and community care providers, many of whom may not have had experience of MND, to have information to assist them to provide best practice care and support.

A wide range of quality information is constantly researched, developed and disseminated covering a wide variety of relevant topics. Information is sourced from people working in relevant areas, peer reviewed literature, conferences and other MND organisations from around the world. Gathering and reviewing the information and making this available to people living with MND helps empower them to seek information as and when the need arises.

For many people recently diagnosed with MND, their families and friends the first contact with the Association is by phone. At this stage the provision of accurate information and support is vital. The phone is also a convenient and quick way for people living with MND, family members, friends and service to obtain ongoing information.

Our Information and Referral Services position is funded through a service agreement with the Department of Communities (Disability Services). This is the only source of regular operational government funding MND Queensland receives.

Information distribution and dissemination has continued to be a focus of our work and calls to our office continue to demonstrate the importance of this vital service.

Equipment Services
The equipment service is essential for people living with MND to maintain their independence and communication for as long as possible and enhance their comfort and quality of life.

This service encompasses sourcing and purchasing new equipment, liaison with therapists prescribing the equipment, loans, arranging equipment hire, delivery and pick up, developing relationships with equipment hire companies and couriers, maintenance and cleaning.
REGIONAL ADVISOR’S REPORT

The Regional Advisor role on the Gold Coast continues to be challenging and rewarding. During 2013 families living with MND have been supported in a variety of ways. This includes home visits, meeting people in hospital, residential care facilities, referrals, in-service for health professionals and our Carer Support Group which meets bi-monthly. Phone support and email have become popular as the number of people registered with the association continues to increase. I think this is mostly due to the fact that the allied health professionals have become more aware of the services provided by the MND Association and therefore referring clients to us.

I have been working closely with Jenny Stofmeel, a nurse practitioner at the Gold Coast Hospital Neurology Department. We identified that families would be better supported with the implementation of multi-disciplinary team meetings. Our first meeting was in November with health professionals from many different services attending. The aim is to ensure that families are linked with all the supports possible in a timely fashion.

Natalie Setz from Carers QLD is a fantastic support with our Carer Group that meets at the Italian Club. Twice a year families are invited to attend this group. Guest speakers are very informative, covering a variety of topics. Our December Support Group had a jolly 37 people attend; it was a terrific few hours.

In my role I also support people living with MND as far south as Woolgoolga in NSW in this 3 day per week position. Families have travelled from as far as Lismore to participate in the Gold Coast Carer support group. This year the Murwillumbah Hospital Rehab Unit has started a MND clinic.

I would like to thank the dedicated teams at MNDNSW and MND QLD who support me in my work. As always it is the families I wish to thank most sincerely for welcoming me into their homes to ensure that together we can locate the best supports possible.

Chris Carroll, Regional Advisor, FNCNSW & GC QLD

CLIENT SERVICES REPORT

Another year has passed in a blur, the words of a verse I was reading came to mind when putting this report together and how travelling with MND is for all involved in life’s journey.

“Life is sometimes like sailing in Stormy waters
But Truth provides the strongest sail
Courage the best steering wheel
Friendship the most secure harbour
Trust the thickest rope
Love the strongest anchor”

When reflecting back on 2013 I see many advances. The employment of Kate Hudson as a dedicated Regional Advisor was a huge step forward and very much needed role for the association to put in place. She worked tirelessly in supporting clients with home visits, and social groups bring clients and their carers together to share their journeys. These groups were well received and benefited from sharing information and learning from each other.

Sadly, this year we have lost 88 clients. This number represents 88 families and countless friends who have been touched by this hideous disease. While here in Queensland we have 220 people living with this disease, we are aware of at least 40 families who have not made contact and could be in need of support and information. These numbers are representative of the last few years. It is always saddens me when I take those calls from those newly
diagnosed as you all would be aware how hard it is to tackle the MND problem head on, they are so brave and in a very cloudy state of confusion. To be able to give them a shoulder to lean on and up to date information is rewarding and when you see someone come out of that cloud of confusion and move forward it adds to those rewards.

February saw the completion of a successful audit through SAI Global. This 2 day audit measures our client services against the new framework by Disabilities Queensland regarding the quality of our information and our interaction with clients. These are a new set of standards developed over the past year. We will be adjusting our standards over the next few years to come into line with the national standard under the National Disability Scheme. We are following the trial sites feedback from NSW and Victoria as both states have MND clients in the areas. Any discrepancies that arise will allow us to make the necessary adjustments to improve our services and come into line with the other states.

Hedley and I flew to Rockhampton in April for the inaugural support group meeting, which was well attended and covered by the local radio station.

June saw clients given the opportunity to come together in groups e.g. North side at Kedron Wavell and South side at Greenbank RSL to talk with Kate and the services team about issues that were concerning them, it gave our clients and carers a forum to meet others currently going through their own journey. It was a great opportunity to pool information where we could offer further assistance to each other as well as being a pleasant social occasion. I think Kedron Wavell won the best morning tea with the scones, jam and cream. These events also provided the opening for new clients to gain much needed information and gave help at a time when they were in that cloudy confused place.

Kate Hudson attended an Carers Education and Support meeting in September which aimed to give carers practical information and emotional support in their role as carers for those with MND. As our Regional Advisor she was able to impart support and information to those who attended. People were also made aware of the support and services we at MND are able to offer clients and families.

In October Kate and I attended the annual Family Support Services education days. It was held in Melbourne and gave us both a chance to catch up with our peers from across Australia. The focus was on taking care of ourselves in a stressful work place, and ‘who drove our bus’, meaning which of our inner voices we listened too. The fun of the day in coming to our own conclusions was certainly well heeded and now I know how to listen to those voices ‘driving my bus’. I have a reminder at the office when it becomes confusing. Because we are a small team it is easy not to listen and burn ourselves out trying to do everything, which is not possible.

The equipment side of the job is always busy. Equipment goes out to clients throughout the state to the cost of $150,000 per year. Transport and maintenance are a large percentage of this and is not supported by any outside funding. This year saw us support 161 clients with over 400 pieces of equipment from small items such as a slide sheet to larger items such as beds, hoists, electric wheelchairs, Tilt in space shower commodes and communication technology items. Equipment purchases are supported through donations or through specific grants. The past 12 months we have received a grant which bought 5 electric wheelchairs. A $2,000 donation from the QUT Staff Benefit Fund went towards a tilt in space manual wheelchair, and a variety of Rotary and Lions clubs enabled us to purchase manual wheelchairs, RoHo cushions, Gel cushions, hoist slings and various smaller pieces of equipment through their generosity. Many families selflessly donate thousands of dollars worth of equipment they no longer require after losing a loved one e.g. eye gaze communication devices, raiser recliners and electric wheelchairs, walkers and other smaller items. We greatly appreciate all of these items and are able to use them to enhance the quality of life for others living with MND.

Again my thoughts return to the verse I mentioned at the start, and my analogy— “Life is sometimes like sailing in Stormy waters, but Truth provides the strongest sail, Courage the best steering wheel, Friendship the most secure harbour, Trust the thickest rope and Love the strongest anchor.”

This is what we go through in providing the best for our clients and families. Until next year ‘Never Give Up’.

Denise Plunkett-Mansell, Information & Referral Officer/Equipment Services
Support Groups

Support groups continue to thrive throughout Queensland and are the “face” of the Association in local communities, raising awareness about the disease and supporting people with MND.

Volunteers coordinate the majority of groups and there are 10 support groups meeting monthly throughout Queensland. These groups are often actively involved in fundraising as well as providing support and information to those with MND, their families and carers in their own communities.

Their support and tireless efforts are invaluable to MND Queensland.

A Support Group Manual has been developed to assist members in establishing and maintaining a strong support group while abiding by the Association Regulations. It is an invaluable resource in strengthening our support groups.

Gold Coast
Meet monthly, 2nd Saturday, 2pm
Italo Australian Club,
18 Fairway Drive
Clear Island Waters
Contact Lorraine Lovatt
Phone 0408 661 212

Darling Downs
Meet monthly, 2nd Saturday, 10am,
Jacakanda Room,
Grand Central Shopping Centre
(next to the Cinemas)
Contact Judy Maker-Field
Phone 0479 153 247

North Brisbane & Caboolture
Meet monthly 4th Saturday, 9.30am
Pine Rivers Community Health Centre,
568 Gympie Road, Strathpine
Contact Graeme Holyer
Phone 07 3888 1783

Cairns
Contact Anne Kavanagh
Phone 0400 739 674
Anne_Kavanagh@health.qld.gov.au

Maryborough
Contact Evelyn Jacobs
Phone 07 4122 2575

Sunshine Coast
Contact Rod Downes
Phone 0417 043 095

Gympie/Tin Can Bay
Contact Pam Leslie
Phone 07 5486 4022
pleslie@bigpond.net.au

Rockhampton
Contact Anne Thompson
Phone 0407 116 387
Or Gillian Truelson
Phone 4934 0493

Volunteers

Volunteers are at the core of the Association. Volunteers started the Association, created its vision and mission and developed the underlying belief that we can all make a difference in the fight against MND. No matter what the task, or what the event, volunteers are at the forefront.

Volunteers help to fulfil our commitment to people with MND, their families and carers and they come from all walks of life.

Some serve as members of the Board, some help by assisting in the office, some help by selling merchandise through their work place.

Fundraising events such as Drink Tea for MND and Walk to D-Feet are successful thanks to the involvement, contribution and dedication of our volunteers.

Our bi-monthly newsletter has been mailed in a timely fashion, thanks to our volunteers who often tirelessly fold, collate and label it.

The common thread with our volunteers is their willingness to give up their time to help the Association either with their special skills or to do just whatever needs to be done—they Never Give Up.
Already we are well into the new year of 2014, and the year of 2013 went so quick! We enjoy our time together, and it is the commitment of our members and sincere friendship displayed by all at our meetings that makes it such a special support group.

At the MND Queensland 2013 AGM, Elizabeth and I were both nominated and elected to the board on MND Qld. as directors. It’s a great honour to serve in this role with such a hard working, committed and friendly group, although life as a result is busy and never boring!!

One of the great values of support groups is to help people with MND and their carers. Sadly, we said farewell to two of our members in 2013. Glen Jackson was a victim of MND, and we feel the pain and loss of Kay and Rod on the passing of their beloved son. Also our Past President and Life Member, Lyn Sharp passed away from a heart condition she had been battling for many years. Lyn was a well loved member of our group and MND QLD, we will always miss her.

We have had several ‘referrals’ of people who have been diagnosed with MND, this emphasizes that the continuing importance of support groups is undiminished. We believe they fill a vital role and we all look forward to the day when a cure is found for this dreadful disease.

We were again supported financially by our group patron Councillor Allan Sutherland, Mayor of Moreton Bay Regional Council, and we wish to thank him for this. We also again supported the Peter Barwick Memorial Sports Award, which is presented to students by the Lakes College, North Lake’s. I had the honour to attend their presentation evening with Sue Barwick and present the awards on behalf of MND QLD. and our support group.

We have enjoyed the company of a number of special people at our meetings, including (then) State President Anne Collette, Peter Denham, Denise Mansell and our local State MP, Trevor Ruthenberg. Thank you all for giving some of your time to visit our meetings and have morning tea with us. We look forward to welcoming you at our meetings whenever you are able spare some of your valuable time.

I am again very happy to acknowledge the wonderful support of the Latown Dance Group in Victoria. They have supported us over a number of years with fund raising and the sale of their dance DVD’s. Thank you to these great people who have now raised over $10,000 in support of research funding. Without such support the battle to find a cure for MND would be more difficult. Thanks also to Dawn and Bill Noy for keeping us in touch with their dance group. Dawn and Bill are very special to us and contribute in large part to the spirit that makes our support group very special.

We took part in the ‘Walk to D-Feet’ at the Roma Street parklands, where we were represented by the Dwyer and Jackson walking groups - it was a very enjoyable evening for all and a great fund raiser.

I was invited to a fund raising event at Caboolture, and to a meeting of the Ladies auxiliary of the Chermside/Wavell Heights RSL to give talks about MND. We also assisted at the Governor’s ‘Open day’ at Government House to help raise MND awareness. We were also well represented at the Judith Durham concert at the Brisbane Convention Centre. The response from the public at these concerts is always wonderful and a bit humbling.

We again had the opportunity to raise funds by doing five days of gift wrapping at Northlakes Shopping Centre in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Funds raised were in the order of $1,300 and I have asked the Co-ordinator at the shopping centre to keep us in mind again in the lead-up to Christmas 2014. This is sometimes a very busy way of fundraising, but we get some spare time and can get a coffee now and then. All in all we get a good response, we all enjoy it and look forward to next Christmas. Thank you to our loyal members and helpers for your time and effort.

Thank you to our Secretary Karan Cavanagh, and to my wife Elizabeth for your support during 2013. It was a busy year, and there were many occasions when I was grateful for your help to keep me on track. Thank you to all the members of the North Brisbane and Caboolture Support for the opportunity to again serve as President. It has been a challenging and rewarding year for the group and for myself. The successes we have achieved were due to your hard work and efforts, and to the friendship and support you have given each other and myself.

Graeme Holyer
President
**TOWNSVILLE SUPPORT GROUP**

Our support group formally met every second month at Kirwan Health campus. The program was decided by members and evolved as the year progressed. The changes in Queensland Health have enabled us to make stronger ties with the Allied Health team who work from Kirwan Health. We met with the whole team in March and discussed ways to integrate them into the needs of our members. A member of the Allied Health Team now visits our support group every second month and members are able to consult Allied Health staff as needed on the day.

We celebrated MND Week with a display, merchandise and a raffle outside Bunnings at Fairfield Waters. We are most grateful to the manager of the store for accommodating us in the sheltered area and donating one of the large prizes. We also thank Gwen and Steve our star organizers.

Some of the topics we discussed in 2013 included Communication techniques, safe mobilization, eating interesting food, planning holidays and outings – which venues work.

At the September meeting we began planning for 2014 deciding to meet monthly, supplementing the formal meeting at Kirwan with informal coffee and chat times in between. The year ended with a Christmas raffle and flagging energy for fundraising.

Robin Ray
President

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**GOLD COAST SUPPORT GROUP**

The Gold Coast MND Support Group / Cornflower Social Group continued to meet on a monthly basis at the Italian-Australian Club who make available their meeting rooms and offer a friendly and easy accessible place to meet, and we give our sincere thanks, I would also like to take this opportunity to thanks all our volunteers, friends and family members for their assistance during the year.

Our main focus over the last 12 months has been to our support group meeting. We offer a friendly place to get together each month for not only a chat and catch up but for social and emotional support. We are very pleased to say our meetings have now extended through to quite a few of our members, friends and family catching up for lunch or a coffee before our official meeting time of 2pm to 4pm. We had a fabulous turnout for our Christmas get together with members and their family and friends.

We have found in the last 12 months our group get togethers have been mainly attended by those who have lost a loved one or those who have a loved one with MND.

We have a strong commitment to continue to offer our assistance to those who are or have been affected by Motor Neurone Disease including their family members and/or friends, we will continue to offer a friendly welcome as well as to those who too have been personally touched by the loss of someone precious and very dear.

2014 will see the 25th Anniversary of the Gold Coast Support Group, the Gold Coast being the longest running Support Group for Motor Neuron Disease Association in Queensland. The Gold Coast group was first established by MNDAQ in October 1989 and continues to offer valuable assistance to the community on the Gold Coast.

The Gold Coast Support group is run entirely by volunteers who have a very personal experience with MND.

Lorraine Lovatt
President
Government, Trust and Foundation Grants
Successful funding for specific programs was received from Queensland Community Fund who approved a grant for over $18,000 for our website development; the Gaming Machines Community Benefit Fund (for wheelchairs) and the Department of Health and Aging (Palliative Care) and recurrent Department of Communities funding for the Information & Referral Service position. We are appreciative of the funding support received in 2013, and the current and future expansion of our service provision it has facilitated. Funding applications for specific projects will continue to be sought in 2014.

Donor Development
We currently run two annual direct mail donor renewal campaigns at Christmas and around Tax time between MND Awareness Week in May & Global Day 21st June to established donors. The Association also has a regular giving program through our website and the support of Give Now online, whereby donors are able to establish a regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly giving program. This regular commitment and dedication by donors is truly appreciated and beneficial to the MND community we support.

Results for the donor development program are encouraging and we thank all who have donated to MND Queensland in this way during this time. Our expectation is we will see this continue to improve as we build a stronger and more sustainable database to provide a regular source of income for MND Queensland and the MND community.

General Donations, In Memoriam and Tribute Gifts
Throughout the year, MND Queensland receives unsolicited donations from current and new donors. These donations come from many sources including tribute gifts (donations in lieu of gifts) to recognize a birthday, anniversary or personal celebratory event as well as in-memoriam donations and in lieu of flowers at funerals. The generosity of people at these times knows no bounds and is always greatly appreciated with over $202,000 being donated in 2013.

Some of the highlights for 2013 include—Bean 2 Bead Bazaar chose MND Queensland to be the charity of the month; the Seekers enabled us to collect donations at both the Brisbane and Toowoomba concerts; the Centenary Quilters raised funds through a quilt raffle to celebrate their own 30 years and we held an Ecumenical Memorial Service at the Cathedral of St Stephen on Global MND day where we had the opportunity to share an afternoon tea with guests.

Bequests
The Association has a very low profile bequest program aimed at assisting people recognize the importance of the Association’s work by leaving a gift in their Will. In particular, the Association wishes to recognise this year, the Estate of Malcolm Saffron for their generosity, foresight and commitment to the fight against MND.

We sincerely appreciate and acknowledge all those who nominate MND Queensland in their Will and wish to continue benefitting the MND community even after their own death. Regardless of the size of the bequest it is a reflection of how deeply people care about the need to find a cure and to continue supporting people living with MND until a cure is found.
Community / Third Party Fundraising – Independently run events
Since the Association commenced in 1983, there has always been (thankfully!) volunteer fundraisers conducting a number of events and activities to raise awareness and funds in support of the Association. In 2013 these activities included participation in athletic events, golf days, bowls days, Harley Davidson motorcycle rides, morning teas, sausage sizzles and raffles to name but a few.

A great Grandmother, June Kearsley, accomplished her first (and only) skydive in memory of her daughter, Suzanne Higgs and raised over $8,000. Thanks so much to the boys out at Isaac Plains who raised over $5,000 for MND Qld. The Big Bazaar was held in Wynnum and gathered together over 50 stalls of retro and crafty treats raising in excess of . The ‘Miles for Mal’ team raised over $15,000 through a special Motorcycle event and online fundraising. Gaythorne Bowls Club held a ‘Bowl to fight MND’ with proceeds being donated to MND. Murgon Golf Club held their annual ‘Brian Mobbs Memorial Golf Day’ to support his family and MND.

Too numerous to mention but who stand out with our respect and esteem are the individual ‘unsung heroes’ of Noosa Ultimate Sports, the Gold Coast Airport Marathon, Bridge to Brisbane and the City2South. We had participants in these community sporting events who trained hard, fundraised incredibly and donated the proceeds in support of those with MND. We acknowledge their commitment and support of MND, knowing most of them have travelled or are travelling a personal journey with their loved ones as they navigate the various stages of MND.

On line
E-Connect: an email newsletter was established to coincide with the Members and Clients newsletter. The new MND QLD Website was launched and we were able to install modules between our Donman database and EveryDay Hero to assist with donor transaction processing. We have ongoing communication between supporters, clients and the community through www.facebook.com/mndaq Twitter: @MNDQueensland and our website www.mndaq.org.au providing updates on events, information, raising awareness and offering opportunities to support MND financially or through volunteering.

Walk to D-Feet
Our inaugural Walk to D-Feet took place in Roma Street Parklands and raised over $25,000 for Research. This event met with great enthusiasm in the community so plans are in place to make it an annual event. Similar events are planned for the Gold Coast and Toowoomba in 2014.
Drink Tea for MND

‘Drink Tea for MND’ continues to be a wonderful social setting that enables people to get together for an enjoyable time over a cuppa while raising awareness and support of MND. In 2013 these events raised almost $5,000.

Club / Corporate Sponsorship

Many thanks to Lumley Finance and AIB Insurance Brokers who each gave $5,000 to MND Queensland. MTQ Engine Systems blitzed their goal by raising $10,000 for MND Queensland, through their ‘Grow the Moe’ event held online. The Harley Davidson Owners group supported us throughout the year with an awareness ride, support at Walk to D-Feet and a generous cheque presentation at Christmas. The Rotary Gold Coast 100 Cycle race chose MND Queensland to be a beneficiary of their event.

Sunday Mail Ads

We appreciate the support of the Sunday Mail for running these advertisements in their newspaper.

Support Groups

Olympic Swimmer Brittany Elmslie became the MND Australia Young Ambassador and visited one of our Queensland support groups.

Our support Groups often undertake a range of fundraising activities, including selling merchandise, raffles, coordinating events and seeking community support of the Association.

A more comprehensive report on Support Groups and their activities and outcomes can be found on pages 17-18.

Volunteers

Volunteers are at the core of the Association. Volunteers started the Association, created its vision and mission and developed the underlying belief that we can all make a difference in the fight against MND. No matter what the task, or what the event, volunteers are at the forefront.

Volunteers help to fulfil our commitment to people with MND, their families and carers and they come from all walks of life. Some serve as members of the Board, some help by assisting in the office, some help by selling merchandise through their work place. Fundraising events such as Drink Tea for MND and Walk to D-Feet are successful thanks to the involvement, contribution and dedication of our volunteers.
The common thread with our volunteers is their willingness to give up their time to help the Association either with their special skills or to do just whatever needs to be done—they ‘Never Give Up.’

Merchandise sales, Money Box and Wombat Collections

At every community event and fundraising opportunity we are able to provide a variety of MND merchandise for sale. Each item sold, whether it’s a pen, socks, cuddly toy or badge, it highlights awareness in the community of MND and raises much needed funds for MNDAQ. We are then able to continue to provide information, services and equipment to our clients, their carers and their families with this support.

Unfortunately this year is the final year of Wombat Money Box Collections as our faithful volunteer, Joy is unable to continue with the demanding travel required. Thank you, Joy for your many years of support to MNDAQ. In 2013, Wombat collection tins raised over $3,000.

Conclusion

MND Queensland is only able to deliver its services and support for people living with MND because of the generosity of our donors, supporters and members. As highlighted on the introduction of this report, they contribute the major portion of the Association’s total operating budget. It goes without saying that without them, the Association would not be able to carry out its service delivery mission and achieve the ultimate objective, support and a better quality of life for Queenslanders living with MND.

Your support in the past is so much appreciated but now more than ever, as we continue to extend our service delivery via our Regional Advisor service. We endeavour to raise further awareness in the community of Motor Neurone Disease so your support means so much in meeting not only our objective, but our responsibility to our clients, their families and their carers.

To support Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland with our fundraising efforts contact fundraising@mndaq.org.au

Your support is vital to enable us to continue to raise awareness of MND in the community and in providing information, equipment and services to those living with MND, their families, carers & support workers.
### Foundation Members
- Charles Graham
- Shirley Graham
- John Wearne
- Margaret Wearne
- David Taylor
- Lesley Taylor
- Anne Martin
- Frank Soos
- Vera Stevens
- Evelyn Moore
- Stan Douglas
- Barbara Douglas
- Eddie Kudzius
- Vida Kudzius
- Peg Herbert
- Mr F Herbert
- Mrs F Herbert
- Desley Atkinson
- Mrs D V Atkinson
- Ray Underwood
- Alex Underwood

### Life Members
- 1987 Shirley Graham
- 1990 John Wearne
- 1991 Evelyn Jacobs
- 1991 Violet Leggat
- 1993 Norman Isdale
- 1993 Patricia Fahey
- 1994 Margaret Wearne
- 1994 Lesley Taylor
- 1995 Frank Rough
- 1996 James Lawson
- 1996 Dawn Mahoney
- 1996 Muriel Rosser
- 2001 Bill Dixon
- 2004 Judy Maker – Field
- 2005 Fr Malcolm Bell
- 2006 Keith Brown
- 2008 Rod Downes
- 2008 George Taylor
- 2009 Dianna Robinson
- 2009 Beris Milburn
- 2010 Johanna Dinon
- 2011 Lyn Sharp

### Honorary Members
- 1987 Dr Jack Schlink
- 1995 Roy Colquhoun
- 1995 Dr Kerry Larkin
- 1998 Fr Malcolm Bell
- 2006 Yvonne Herbert
- 2008 Paul Coogan

### Charles Graham Honour Award
- 1998 Shirley Graham
- 1998 Vi Leggat
- 1998 Evelyn Jacobs
- 1998 Howard Jacobs
- 1998 Joy Mort
- 1998 Judy Maker-Field
- 1998 Muriel Rosser
- 2012 Gladys Peardon