



Thalassaemia AUSTRALIA

Unifying support and genetics

CHRISTMAS EDITION, 2010

Giving Blood over the Christmas Break!



Friends of Thalassaemia Australia will know that we have recently had Kitty Cho working along side us, as part of her Master of Genetics Counselling program. Kitty, whilst with us at TA, experienced first hand just how important the role of blood donors is in the lives of thalassaemia patients. So much so, that Kitty decided it was time to donate blood herself, for the very first time, and invite some of her fellow students and friends along to join her! Their blood donation could potentially enrich a number of our member's lives!



It was with great pleasure that Sarah and Maria were present at the Burke Street Donor Centre to hold Kitty's hand and say 'thank you' to Kitty and her friends.

With the Christmas holidays upon us, and blood stores being low, Thalassaemia Australia would like to encourage everyone to donate blood. Please contact the Australian Red Cross Blood Service on 13 14 95 to make an appointment.

***Congratulations to
Solirios Katakouzinis & Anastasia
on their recent marriage.
We wish them a long and happy life together!***



Congratulations also to MTU's Nurse Unit Manager, Libby Reid on behalf of Thalassaemia Australia and its members, for her nomination in this years 2010 HESTA Nurse of the Year Awards.

Congratulations!



Thalassaemia Australia's Annual General Meeting was held on the 21st of October, 2010 at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute.

It was great to see our members, guests and patients attending this important Liver information session and special evening for our organisation. Guest speakers, Dr Stephen Pianko—Gastroenterologist and hepatologist, Garry Sattell –Community Participation Co-ordinator Hep C Victoria, and Dr Jim Vadolas— Cell and Gene Therapy, MCRI ensured that those present received up to date information on liver health, Hepatitis C, new treatments for Hepatitis C and the additional support/information for those contemplating treatment, available from Hep C Victoria. We also heard about the recent advances in thalassaemia research in Australia and around the world. If you would like further information regarding these topics, please call our office on 9888-2211.

The formal part of the evening included the President's, Treasurers' and Staff report highlighting aspects of the 2009-2010 financial year. Please call the TA office or go to our website www.thalassaemia.org.au for your copy of the 2009-2010 Annual Report.

The 2010-2011 Committee of Management was elected and is as follows:

Executive

Mr Sotirios Katakouzinou
Mrs Maria Triantafillou
Ms Mary Konstantopoulos
Mr George Ambatzidis

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Committee Members

Mrs Bessy Mougos
Mr John Wilson
Ms Lien Sam
Mr Diva Duvaroren
Dr Jim Vadolas



Dr. Jim Vadolas—JW Photography

On behalf of Thalassaemia Australia, we would like to thank the 2009-2010 committee of management and staff for their time and efforts over the last year. We look forward to an exciting and successful 2011. Please note: All members are welcome to attend our committee meetings, please see website and newsletter for the upcoming dates.

Thalassaemia Australia would not be able to continue to raise awareness and support our members without the in-kind support and sponsorship from the following organisations and individuals. Again, we acknowledge their contribution to our organisation, and wish them a successful 2011.

AHEPChapter Athena No. 2
Bakers Delight, Mt Waverley
Bessy Mougos
Bill Tsaptsalis - Jim's Computers,
Malvern
Brady Road Cellars
CAF – Charities Aid Foundation
Charcoal Chicken, Mt Waverley
Department of Health
Fronditha Care - Helen Giannetakis
Genetics Support Council of WA
George Ambatzidis – Harcourts
Gino Fulco and Family
Gregorios Lodge No.865
Jenny Violentis
Josh Khuu - Skymedia Web Design
Katakouzinou family

Kiwanis Club of Moorabbin
Kondias Lemnos Senior Citizens Club
La Camera - Southgate
La Manna Plant and Tree Farm
Laiki Bank
Limnian Community of Victoria
Lions Club of Melbourne Markets
Lions Club of Preston
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
Lorraine Fulco & Family
Marina Theo - Grecian Tours
Mr. C. Lolis
Nickolaos Bolderanes
Novartis Oncology
Oakleigh Gourmet Deli
Pantazis Family
Premier Fruits Group

Society of Kondias Lemnos
Sydney's Lounges
TA Members
Thalassaemia International Federation
The Greek Conference
Victorian Multicultural Commission
Zouki – Monash Medical Centre

**Please note: Thalassaemia Australia office will be closed from
17 December, 2010 to 17 January, 2011.**

**All enquiries should be sent to info@thalassaemia.org.au during this time
Or call the Medical Therapy Unit 9594 2756**



News from NSW

Hello everyone,

Well it is almost time for the silly season again and boy this year has come and gone by so quick. The Thalassaemia Centre of NSW has had another fantastic and successful year in spreading awareness amongst the community, networking and forming great connections with organisations this will ensure another productive and jam packed year next year!

*Our bi-annual camp was held over the weekend 12-14 November, again lots of fun had by all, a short story and pictures will feature in our first newsletter for 2011. **Please keep the 12th of December free for our annual Christmas Picnic - please contact the office for more details. We hope to see you all there.***

A special thank you to all our members and sponsors for the support you have given us throughout the year, thank you to everyone who has made donations to the Society in any way your support is very much appreciated.

Thank you to Australia Red Cross Blood Service for your ongoing support and supply for our patients. A BIG BIG Thank you to all the Blood Donors! Keep up the great work "Your Blood is our Life".

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Safe holidays!

Warm regards,

Nancy Lucich, Coordinator

NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009-2010

The Thalassaemia Society of NSW held their Annual General Meeting and information session on Wed 29th September 2010.

Another very informative evening with guest speakers – a Scientist from Sydney IVF who spoke on PGD and an educator from Osteoporosis NSW who gave us lots of information and tips on how to look after our bones and keep them strong! If anyone would like information on either presentation please contact the Centre Coordinator as lots of information was left for those who missed out or would like extra information.

At the AGM the Chairperson, Treasurer and Coordinator gave their reports if anyone would like a copy please contact the Coordinator and a copy will be sent out or emailed to you.

Thank you to the outgoing Committee for volunteering your time and your efforts throughout the year.

We would like to welcome the new Committee for 2010/2011:

Martha Gerolemou	President
Marianne Dimitrakas	Vice President
Rosa Dimitrakas	Chairperson
Maria Aravantinos	Treasurer
Theodora Michalopoulos	Assistant Treasurer
Penny Volvozidis	Secretary
MD Faisal	Assistant Secretary
Maria Santos	Press Secretary
Committee Members	
Lela Dallas	Glena Hughes
Nicholas Kotrotsos	Aris Volvozidis
Jimmy Vrontzos	



Thal NSW Committee & Staff 2010 –2011

Please note: Thalassaemia Society of New South Wales office will be closed from 22 December, 2010 to 19 January, 2011.

All enquiries should be directed to Mobile: 0400 116 393 or Email: coordinator@thalnsw.org.au during this time



News from WA

Hi to all the Thalassaemia Society's across Australia from WA.

The Thalassaemia Association of WA we are proud to announce that our secretary Antonella Alvaro was married on the 29th of August 2010 to Paul Lenny. Our Society would also like to congratulate Antonella Alvaro & Paul Lenny on their Wedding. We wish the all the very best. It was a beautiful day full of celebrations. We wish the happy couple a long life together full of love & prosperity & good health.

We would also like wish our Treasure Vince Rashcilla and his Wife Barbara all the very best on the up coming birth of their baby (which is due in a couple of days!), all the very best to you both. They are already proud parents of Antonella & Matilda, who were recently both featured in the local newspaper to promote blood donors in WA, for the red cross. Well done to Barbara and the girls for sharing their story and having such a positive and powerful impact on the community. We will be looking forward to sharing the new baby photo's with you all on the next edition of the Thalassaemia Australia newsletter!

The Thalassaemia Association of WA wishes all the Thalassaemia Society around Australia, their members, family and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May everyone have a peaceful & happy festive season, and may the new year bring joy and prosperity for everyone.

Warm regards

Teresa Alvaro
President
Thalassaemia Association of WA



Photos

Top: Antonella & Paul Lenny

Middle: Matt & Josie Stockden

Bottom: Teresa Alvaro & John Wilson

Photographs courtesy of John Wilson Photography



Wishing all our members, friends and community a happy, healthy and fun Christmas