

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – CMT AUSTRALIA AGM 2022

I took over as your President at the 2021 AGM having served as Treasurer for a number of years. In doing so I retained the Treasurer position to maintain continuity in this important component of our Association. I was fortunate that at the same AGM we attracted a pro-active group as my fellow committee members. My report today is a reflection of the efforts of the whole committee including Helen Burnie (VP), Janelle Ward (Sec), and committee members Lisa Moore, Shaana Dekker, Darryl Beitsch and Jillian Critchley. It is also testament to the support we have had from our State and support group coordinators, and Sustaining Partners.

It's my belief that any association established to serve the needs of its community, should be guided by its goals, as these form the basis for its existence. In 2017 we published our first strategic plan with our goals as the foundation. We adopted 7 goals which collectively focus on people with CMT and those who support them; the identification and promotion of support facilities and services for those impacted by CMT; promoting awareness and research related to CMT; and establishing alliances and partnerships with like groupings.

Collectively these coalesce into our mission statement.

**'To unite all those in Australia who are impacted by CMT, the most common inherited neuropathy; empower those with CMT to live their lives to the fullest; and to encourage our community to support CMT Australia in its goals.'**

So how did we meet these challenges over the last year?

- We maximised the capacity of our limited volunteer base by allocating specific responsibilities across our goals and market segments.
- We continued to implement our 2017 strategic plan to steer us towards targeted outcomes based on our goals.
- We retained and enhanced our strengths, including activities such as the CMT Aussie Kids program, our CMT Community newsletter, our website, our online seminars, our support of our researchers, our social media interfaces, our sustaining partner support, our member communications, our nationally distributed network of supporters, and our sympathetic ear when required.
- We branched out to other groups and programs which offered support to us, as a patient support organisation.
- We enhanced our capacity to operate nationally and efficiently by taking advantage of government support for digital conversion and marketing.
- We granted over \$50,000 dollars in research funding provided by you, our biggest supporters.
- We have provided our members with 'stress balls' with multiple uses.
- We have expanded our administration support by employing Anna Siddell as our part-time Administration Assistant to enable our volunteer committee to focus on our core business.

Whilst these initiatives have been driven by our extraordinary committee, we could not have undertaken these without your support, both financial and participation. It is your encouragement and involvement which keeps us actively implementing our mission.

Thank you. I have been proud to lead CMT Australia over the past 12 months.

Robert Twin - President