

2007 Presidents Report

Thank you for taking an active interest in the Coeliac Society and attending the 2007 Annual General Meeting.

The Coeliac Society of South Australia/Northern Territory is a not for profit charitable organisation run entirely by volunteers. Considerable work goes on to manage the operation of the Coeliac Society, which including the support group functions, managing the shop, membership, magazines, finances, Coeliac Awareness programs and Mentor scheme.

A lot has been achieved and there is a lot more to be done. Some of the items that have been completed are:

- We received \$24,000 in grants. \$10,000 from Community Benefits and \$14,000 from the Commonwealth Regional Partnerships Program.
- Using the Grant money we completed the acquisition and fitout of the new Coeliac Office at Glynburn Road, adjacent to the Coeliac Shop.
- We conducted an extremely successful Greenhills Christmas Family bus trip, with approximately 70 people in attendance. We look forward to another successful event this year, with an area for up 300 people, and you are most welcome to join us. Bring your family and friends.
- We started a new members meeting Night every 3 months for the Metropolitan and Southern areas, which include free samples of gluten free products. The new member Nights provide an ideal opportunity for new members to ask questions and find out more about living with Coeliac Disease.
- We have committed to a change in focus for Coeliac Awareness strategy, from a once a year event to a all year program with a new Coeliac Awareness Committee.

I wish to congratulate and publicly acknowledge the dedication of the volunteers who make the Coeliac Society the success it is today. In particular the past and present members of the management committee, the shop volunteers, volunteers who help with the mail-outs of magazines, volunteers that help on special occasions such as manning public stands at shows and conferences and all the other volunteers.

In 2008 we plan to provide more structure and support for volunteers. To assist with this a new Mission statement and Plan will be prepared in the new year. In closing, in order to continue the work of the Society, we hope that more members will become volunteers.

Richard Twisk
President