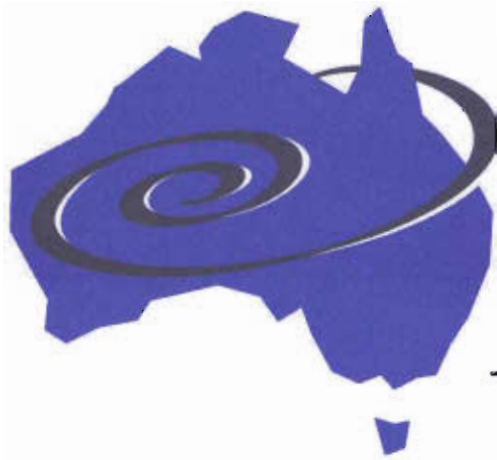


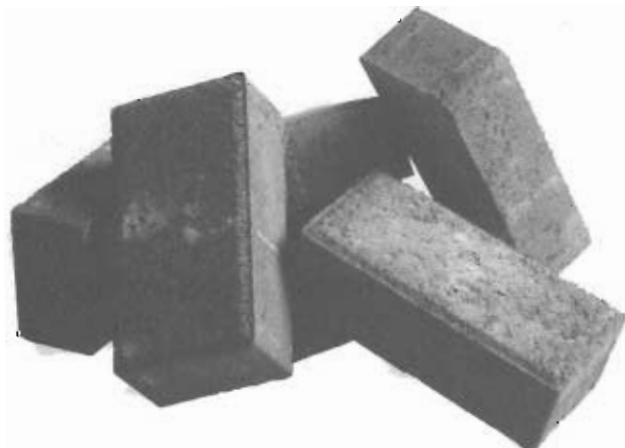
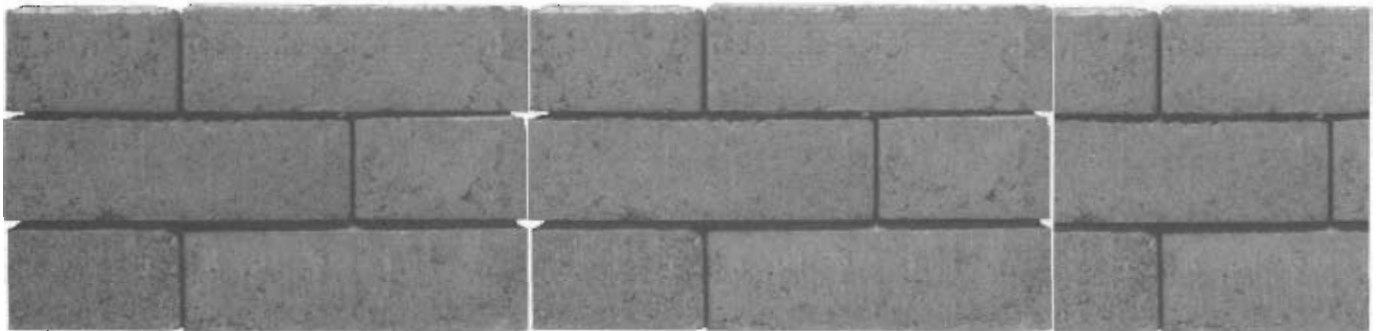
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*Meniere's
Australia*

Annual Report 2008-2009

Laying the Foundations



Meniere's Australia Inc.

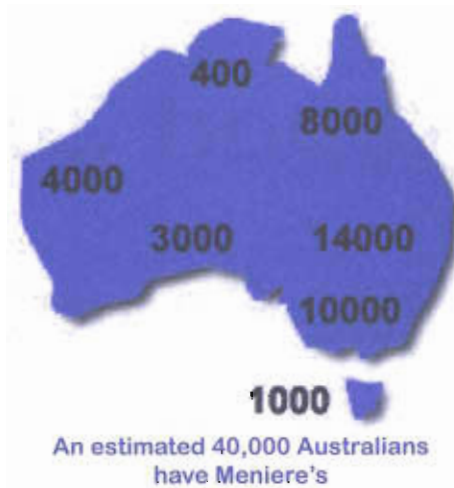
ABN 30 128 195 371

Meniere's Vision

All Australians with Meniere's disease and other vestibular conditions will receive and have equal access to support services, information and personal support, irrespective of geographical location.

At MA we aim to provide a high level of community support for people who have Meniere's disease and other vestibular conditions by:

- Collecting and distributing information
- Raising the awareness of doctors and other medical professionals to the problems experienced by people with Meniere's
- Providing counselling
- Increasing public awareness of Meniere's
- Encouraging research into more effective treatment and a cure
- Providing the opportunity for members, their families and friends to meet in a supportive atmosphere



Meniere's Objectives

The Objects of the Society are to:

- Actively assist sufferers of Meniere's disease and their families
- Actively assist health professionals to understand the effects of Meniere's disease on the individual and the family
- Facilitate the circulation, development, sharing and exchange of relevant research and resources about Meniere's disease
- Access sources of national funding to which State Meniere's Support Groups have limited recourse
- Cooperate and provide support to existing Meniere's Support Groups in States and Territories throughout Australia
- Create a conduit for regular cooperation and mutual encouragement of a larger group of people than is possible with single State or Territory bodies
- Create an attractive national body for both professional and educational organisations
- Establish a national profile for Meniere's disease
- Increase the profile and knowledge of Meniere's disease throughout Australia
- Raise public awareness of Meniere's disease and its effects on people's lives

President's Report

Laying the Foundations

2008-09 saw important foundations laid for the future development of Meniere's Australia (MA).

Meniere's National Development

October 17th 2008: the MA committee, along with the representatives of the Meniere's Support Group of Victoria and NSW, met and agreed to work together to develop a proposal where State groups refocused activities on providing local member support and Meniere's Australia focused on providing national services to eliminate duplication of services and achieve more efficient use of human and financial resources.



MSGV committee, staff and volunteers meeting with MSGNSW representatives. From left to right: Carmelo, Denise, May, Else, Micky, Maureen, Paul, John and Lynn

At the Meniere's Summit on 31st January 2009 the proposal was discussed and an implementation plan developed with several steps and an ambitious timetable of achieving an outcome by 30th June 2009.



Meniere's Summit

First: the legal framework underpinning MA was laid with the outstanding help of Mallesons Stephens and Jacques. This involved many hours of *pro bono* legal work for which we are very grateful.

Second: Members of the Meniere's Support Group of NSW voted on 19th May 2009 to wind up and join as members of MA. This was a significant step, as MSGNSW had for over 15 years provided excellent services to their members. We record our appreciation to the committee members of MSGNSW for their cooperation and leadership in facilitating this major step.

Third: Members of the Meniere's Support Group of Victoria (MSGV) voted on 28th June 2009 to become members of MA.

Fourth: MSGV members also voted to change their Constitution to allow the staff and resources of the Meniere's Resource Centre to transfer across to MA, thereby facilitating MA continuing and developing services nationally.



Signing the MA/MSGV Service Agreement
From left to right, Peter Clarke, Treasurer; Paul Jenkins, MSGV President; John Cook, MA President

These important steps, completed within our timeline of 30th June 2009, provide the foundation for future services and support to be provided to all Australians living with the consequences of Meniere's disease.

MA Governance

Committee

MA Committee Meetings

17th October 2008

31st January 2009
(Meniere's Summit)

12th March 2009

30th March 2009

27th April 2009

25th May 2009

16th June 2009

The Committee has met regularly and engaged in forward planning and regular review of operations.

It is intended that a Sub-Committee structure will be developed in the next 12 months to recruit additional people who can focus on particular areas of MA operations and provide policy and operation advice to the Committee.

It is anticipated members will represent all areas of the Commonwealth.

During the year we welcomed the following people to the MA Committee: In March 2009, Trudi Sampson; In April 2009, Peter Harrison, Neil Wingrave, Rick Osborn, Audiologist (2008 Libby Harris Orator).

Regional Coordinators

We were delighted to appoint two new regional coordinators in NSW and WA. Thank you to Tricia Young in Perth and Anne Stewart in Coffs Harbour for volunteering to run local Meniere's peer support groups. We look forward to more groups being established across Australia in the future.

On behalf of all members, I thank all committee members and regional coordinators who give freely of their time as well as their advice, hard work and support over the past twelve months.

Meniere's Resource Team

Ancillary steps to the above also involved a lot of hard work, especially for the Meniere's Information and Resource Centre staff led by Lynn Polson. On your behalf, I extend our congratulations and thanks for a job well done.

There was a lot of administrative detail to attend to:

- Policy and procedures of MSGV and MSGNSW were consolidated and integrated
- A new membership data base was developed, eliminating duplication and allowing for greater information collection and ease of access
- A new website with improved content integrating the three previous sites had to be developed, ensuring ease of management
- Consideration of staffing positions and new appointments to handle the increased workload was undertaken
- Invitations were issued to leading health professionals to join MA's medical advisory panel



At the Meniere's Information & Resource Centre
From left to right, Micky, Lynn, Marie and Sonia

And whilst all the above was happening, our key priority was ensuring services and support to members were maintained!

Since the close of the financial year on 30th June 2009, considerable progress has been made. Chief of these was the launch of a rollout of State launches of MA, which will be progressively implemented over the next 12 months.

We are also focussing on developing local member support services nationally through the Meniere's Resource Centre and on a State by State basis.

Your Committee has continued to plan and implement development strategies for MA as we move into the future. We are confident much will be achieved over the next 12 months.

Administration

Resource Centre Coordinator
Lynn Polson OAM

Administration Officer
Micky Sinopoli

Administration Assistant
Marie Belcourt

Finance Officer
Bruce Moffatt

Office Assistant
Sonia Taylor

2008-2009 Committee of Management

President
John Cook

Secretary
Paul Jenkins

Treasurer
Peter Clarke

VIC Rep
Lynn Polson OAM

NSW Rep
Denise Venturini

Members
Trudi Sampson
Peter Harrison
Neil Wingrave
Rick Osborn

Regional Coordinators

Anne Stewart
Tricia Young
Christine Kelly

Membership

After the successful voting for the special resolutions enabling the MSGV and MSGNSW members to join MA, our membership jumped from 8 to approximately 2000! We are now engaged on an active campaign to recruit new members from the various categories and are confident membership numbers will steadily grow.

Equilibrium

Our new national newsletter, replacing previous state newsletters, *The Balancer* and *Whirligig*, has met with excellent reader feedback. Having a national newsletter enables us to disseminate the best possible articles on management, research developments, treatment options, personal stories, low salt food options, drawing on the expertise of the health professionals and members across Australia and internationally. It also reduces our costs, enabling our services to be extended.

The high quality of the articles is evidenced by the number of requests we have received from overseas organisations to reprint articles.

On behalf of all Equilibrium readers, I congratulate and extend our grateful thanks to the Editorial Committee, the people who contribute and the Resource Centre volunteer team who collate and envelope 2000 copies every three months.

Research

Your Committee sees encouragement of research into Meniere's disease and its consequences as a key focus of MA.

Negotiations have been entered into with the Meniere's Research Fund (MRF) to clarify relationships and focus of activities and how best to support MRF and other research efforts. Previously MRF was a sub-committee of MSGNSW.

A Meniere's Scientific Panel is in the process of being developed and aims to promote research across Australia as well as increasing greater understanding of Meniere's disease amongst health professionals and researchers.

Financial Report

As expected MA had limited expenditure in 2008-2009 while the foundations for the future were being laid.

Income received a substantial boost in late June when MSGV entered into a Service Agreement with MA for services to be delivered on its behalf in the following 12 months. Thus the financial surplus of \$87,090 in the financial accounts really relates to a pre-payment of commitments to deliver services in 2009-2010.

Meniere's Australia does not receive any ongoing Government or other funding for running the Meniere's Information and Resource Centre, nor for providing services, support and information to Australians with Meniere's and other vestibular disorders.

This is a key area that your Committee will focus on next year.

Membership subscriptions, donations and fundraising projects generate the majority of our income and we offer sincere thanks to those members and friends who have generously donated. We value your support and ensure donated funds are used to benefit our members and others with Meniere's.

Funding Grants

A great deal of time and effort is spent on identifying and applying for grants for specific projects and I am pleased to report that MA was successful in obtaining funding to create and distribute the Meniere's Australia 'Help Starts Here' information pack.

Office of Hearing Services

Grant \$5,264

On 29th July 2008 Meniere's Australia and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing signed a funding agreement to design and develop Meniere's Australia's pack of information leaflets titled 'Help Starts Here'.

Deafness Foundation Trust

In February 2009 we were delighted to receive a grant of \$2,500 from the Deafness Foundation Trust to distribute the 'Help Starts Here' wallet pack to approximately 2500 Audiologists across Australia.

Volunteers

According to the ABS, volunteers contributed over 600 million hours to non-profit organisations in 2006-2007, equivalent to 317,200 full-time jobs worth over \$14 billion!

Volunteers are the life blood of our organisation and we thank all the members who accepted our invitation to contribute in a variety of roles, from proof reading articles to packing envelopes; holding fund raising events or generating publicity; providing expertise or joining the committee or working group.

Thanks to one and all!



John Cook - MA President

Financial Report

MENIERE'S AUSTRALIA INC.

A.B.N. 30 128 195 371

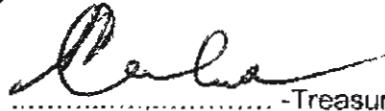
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2009

<u>2008</u>	<i>INCOME</i>	<u>2009</u>	
455	Joining Fees	318	
227	Subscriptions	423	
0	Donations	27	
0	Interest Income	27	
0	Other Grants	7,422	
0	Financial Support	10,000	
0	Sundries	9	
0	Service Agreement	75,000	
<u>682</u>	Total Income		93,226
	 <i>EXPENDITURE</i>		
0	Accounting & Legal Fees	108	
0	Bank & Merchant Charges	135	
0	Insurances	1,362	
0	MA Set-Up Costs	486	
0	Membership & Subscriptions	116	
0	Postage & Shipping	68	
0	Salaries	2,948	
0	Superannuation	265	
0	Telephone	648	
<u>0</u>	Total Expenditure		6,136
<u>682</u>	Surplus/Deficit for year		<u>87,090</u>
	 <i>BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS</i>		
0	Retained Earnings	682	
682	Surplus/Deficit for year	87,090	
<u>682</u>	Balance 30th June 2009		<u>87,771</u>
	 <i>FUNDS ON HAND</i>		
750	Cash at Bank & on Hand	12,957	
- 68	Sundry Debtor/Creditor	74814	
<u>682</u>	TOTAL FUNDS		<u>87,771</u>

Signed:



..... - President.



..... -Treasurer

Auditors' Statement



global reach...local experience



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MENIERE'S AUSTRALIA INC. 30 128 195 371

Scope

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Meniere's Australia Inc. for the year ended 30th June 2009, as set out in the Profit and Loss Statement, Balance of Accounts & Funds on Hand. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the entity. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, is appropriate to the needs of the members of the entity. The financial statements have been prepared for use by the members of the entity. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial statements to which it relates to any person other than the members of the entity, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting as defined in AAS 6: Accounting Policies: Determination, Application and Disclosure, applying Australian Accounting Standards (if any) deemed necessary by the entity's management in the circumstances and the provisions of Miscellaneous Professional Statement APS 1 "Conformity with Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus View" relevant to a special purpose financial report, as described in Note 1 to the financial statements. These policies do not require the application of all applicable Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

As it is common for organisations of this nature much of the income is derived from donations and fund raising activities. Accordingly, our audit in relation to such donations and fund raising was limited to the amounts as recorded in the accounting records.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion except for the effects of the matter referred to in the qualified paragraph, the financial statements of the entity present fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of the entity as at 30th June 2009 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Name of Firm: **ROCG BLACKFORD DAVEY STEVENS**
Accountants & Business Developers

Name of Partner: **Ian E Davey FCA**

Address: **358 Main Street, Mornington Vic 3931**

Dated this 1st day of October 2009

Members signed by a chartered
approved member of the Institute of
Chartered Accountants in Australia

Asia Pacific

Americas

Europe

Auckland • Brisbane • Canberra • Darwin • Hobart • Melbourne • Perth • Sydney

What MA Offers

Communications with Members:

- Equilibrium
- E-Newsletter
- Resource Centre advice line
- Website
- Meniere's Resource Centre open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday for general enquiries and support

Counselling Service via:

- Email
- Telephone
- In person

Peer Support:

- Local support groups providing meetings and social activities
- Confidential membership contact list

Resources:

- Library service via mail order or in person at the Resource Centre
- Low salt diet resources and information
- Low salt cooking products available by mail order

MA Membership Categories

Individual Member means:

- an ordinary citizen suffering from Meniere's disease
- someone who has in some way been affected by the disease through a friend or family member
- any other person or entity with an interest in the Objects of Meniere's Australia

Professional Member means:

- a member of a registered professional organisation who is qualified to deal with any aspect of Meniere's disease

Sponsoring Member means:

- a Meniere's Support Group incorporated in a State or Territory throughout Australia

Supporting Member means:

- a registered professional organisation with an interest in the Objects of Meniere's Australia

Meniere's Australia

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