



6 Lewalan Street, Grovedale 3216

(P.O. Box 1069, Grovedale 3216)

Ph: 03 5243 3664

November 2023 Update

Welcome to the newsletter offered by your new Committee.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on October 25th with a good turnout. For your information various reports tabled at the meeting, including the Annual Report, are on the Geelong Ostomy (GO) website in the documents section for download - www.geelongostomy.com.au/documents.

Committee Elections

The new committee was duly elected with the following positions put forward and declared appointed as only one nomination for each position was received:

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|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. President | Garry Wall |
| 2. Vice President | Elaine Scott |
| 3. Treasurer | Pam Freeman |
| 4. Secretary | Rob Clark |

Membership Fees 2024-25

The combined Membership and Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS) access fees for 2024 – 25 (due prior to 30 June 2024), were set at \$85 for Full members and \$75 for Pensioner members by unanimous vote at the AGM.

Restructure of Geelong Ostomy

The committee of GO has taken the decision to move to a business model based entirely on volunteers to enable Membership fees to be kept to a minimum. Unfortunately GO has operated at a loss for the past three financial years and in order to turn this situation around all paid positions have been made redundant and all costs are being reviewed.

We thank you for your patience during these changes.

This business model is similar to the Colostomy Association of Victoria (CAV) which has a membership of over 3,000 members, and has been running very successfully as a total volunteer organisation for many years. GO can leverage the experience and knowledge from CAV for future operations and long term viability.

Postal Charges

For the time being postal charges will remain at the current rate of \$15 for parcels not exceeding 3kg. Parcels over 3kg however, will attract a higher fee of \$22 due to increased charges from Australia Post. These charges will be reviewed in response to any changes in Australia Post rates.

Postal charges for a combined two month order will attract a fee of \$22, rather than two individual charges of \$15 if they were ordered as separate month orders.

Member Communications

We are asking all members to supply GO with a contact email address and phone number to enable timely communication in relation to matters such as supply interruptions, product deletions, and Scheme changes. Without this information you risk your order being delayed. With over 850 members GO will use email rather than paper communications in the future, this will also assist in reducing costs. For members in a residential care facility, the email address and phone number of the facility can be used.

Please take a moment to send an email to contactus@geelongostomy.com.au if you have not received an email from GO in relation to the 2023 AGM. If the email address or phone number recorded on your picking slip is incorrect or missing, please send an email so we are able to update your records.

Details to be included in your email are as follows:

Member name:

Email address:

Mobile phone number:

We are required by law to protect your personal information. GO does not sell, forward or allow access to any unauthorised organisation or business. Our privacy policy can be found on our website www.geelongostomy.com.au/documents.

Raffle

Raffle tickets for the GO Christmas Raffle have been distributed with your ostomy packages. Additional Raffle tickets can be obtained over the counter at GO.

ALL unsold tickets, sold ticket stubs and any cash from ticket sales need to be returned to GO before 15 December 2023.

Raffle prizes will be drawn at the GO Christmas Breakup BBQ, commencing at 12:00 noon on Wednesday 20 December at the GO premises at 6 Lewalan Street.

Minute steak, sausages, hamburgers, salad and bread will be provided. It would be appreciated if Members attending could bring a plate to share. RSVP to contactus@geelongostomy.com.au before 15 December for catering purposes.

Additional raffle enquiries should be directed to our Raffle Coordinator, Ross Price, through contactus@geelongostomy.com.au

Rob Clark
Secretary>