



May 2024

Newsletter



**See Where We Work & Live P19 - Next Month**  
 Vietnam War 1962-75 | <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/resources/arthur-law-australian-army-partners-allies>

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/REDCLIFFEANDDISTRICTMEDICALASSOCIATION/](https://www.facebook.com/redcliffeanddistrictmedicalassociation/)

## RDMA's President Report Dr Kimberley Bondeson

RDMA has a new Treasurer, Dr Eugene Lim. Congratulations Eugene, and thank you so much for putting your hand up for this position and to help the committee.



We have some sad news with the passing of Dr Peter Marendy, who died peacefully at Redcliffe Hospital earlier this month. He was surrounded by his wife, Mary, and family.

His funeral was held at the Greek Orthodox Church in Taigum, which I understand he helped to build when he first arrived in the Peninsular. His service was live streamed, and I was, among many others, able to watch some of it (most of it was in Greek).

Dr Maxim Wilson attended his funeral, formally representing RDMA for those of us who could not attend, thank you very much Maxim.

With Dr Peter Marendy's passing, it is the end of an era. He was a good, old fashioned hard working General Practitioner, who really cared for his patients, and had only formally retired within the last 2 years.

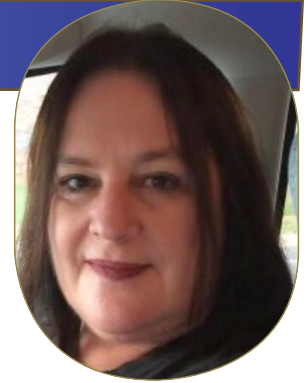
He told me he was bored at home, and each day, right up until very shortly before he died, would go down to his old surgery in the morning to check on things and attend to other business matters.

This is stark contrast to a recent article



*The Redcliffe & District Local Medical Association sincerely thanks QML Pathology for the distribution of the monthly newsletter.*

in AusDoc (10th May, 2024), which states; "A fifth of patients say that they are using online telehealth service to obtain prescriptions as a cheaper alternative to seeing their doctor..."



"The finding comes from the latest Patient Experience insights Report produced by CommBank, and is based on a survey of 1130 patients last October - "amongst the age group of 16-24yo."

I find this change fascinating, and it is definitely changing how we practice medicine. It prevents a long term relationships developing between a patient and a GP, and even between patients and Specialists, as it is also very simple to get a specialist referral online.

The Dinner for the Profession was held on Friday 24th May, 2024, and it lived up to its promise to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening, where we farewelled Dr Maria Bolton, and welcomed Dr Nick Yim as our new AMAQ President.

Many thanks to Dr Bolton for her hard work and advocacy, and congratulations to Dr Nick Yim.

Kimberley Bondeson

**Free RDMA Membership For Doctors in Training**  
**RDMA Meeting Dates Page 2.**

## RDMA 2024 MEETING DATES:

For all queries contact our Meeting Convener:  
Phone: (07) 3049 4444

CPD Points Attendance Certificate Available

Venue: **The Komo, WaterView Room 1, 99 Marine Parade Redcliffe**

Time: **7.00 pm for 7.30 pm**

Next meeting date is

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>27th</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>27th</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>30th</b>
<b>NEXT Wednesday</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>29th</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>25th</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>31st</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>20th</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>25th</b>
<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>		
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>29th</b>
<b>NETWORKING MEETING</b>		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>29th TBC</b>

Newsletter Publisher.  
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Advertising information listed in  
the right column and on RDMA's  
website

[www.redcliffedoctorsmedicalassociation.org/](http://www.redcliffedoctorsmedicalassociation.org/)

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Advertising & Contribution

Due 15th of each Month 2023

Email: [RDMAnews@gmail.com](mailto:RDMAnews@gmail.com)

W: [www.redcliffedoctorsmedicalassociation.org](http://www.redcliffedoctorsmedicalassociation.org)

### Competitive Advertising Rates:

Full page A4: \$560.00

Half page A5: \$330.00

Qtr page A6: \$260.00

Business Card size (new): \$70.00

Advertorials: \$260.00

Inserts: \$260.00

The preferred A5 size is Landscape Format and A4 size is in Portrait Format.

Please note the following discounts:

- ▶ 10% discount for 3 or more placements
- ▶ 20% discount for 11 placements (1 year)
- ▶ Payments required within 10 working days or discounts will be removed unless a payment plan is outlined at the outset.

### CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds subject to the Editor's discretion.

- ▶ No charge to current RDMA members.
- ▶ Non-members \$55.00

If you would like to advertise in the next month's newsletter please email [RDMAnews@gmail.com](mailto:RDMAnews@gmail.com) in one of the preferred formats (either a pdf or jpeg). Advertisers' complimentary articles must be in the same size as adverts. Members Articles are limited to an A4 page in Word with approximately 800 words.

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# Lumus Imaging North Lakes has exciting news!

Our new Siemens MRI  
will be operational  
from the end of October.

For Bookings  
please call our lovely staff on  
07 3142 1611  
[lumusimaging.com.au](http://lumusimaging.com.au)

The Lumus Imaging logo features a stylized 'L' icon followed by the word 'lumus' in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font, with 'imaging' in a smaller, lowercase sans-serif font below it.

## RDMA Executive Contacts:

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VALD

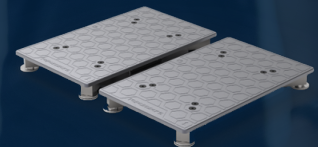
## SPORTS & SPINAL AND VALD TECHNOLOGY

Sports & Spinal have partnered with **VALD Technology** to bring cutting edge technology that presents objective human measurement to patients in our Allied Health clinics.

By combining **precision sensors, intuitive data collection and actionable insights**, VALD's systems help practitioners to objectively view patient patient's progress, leading to more accurate, data informed treatment decisions.

**VALD** Provides a highly engaging experience for patients within their own assessments, being able to view in real time biofeedback and easy to understand results. Our Sports & Spinal clinics are integrating VALD technology through ForceDecks and DynaMo Plus.

- **ForceDecks** automatically detects and assesses over 20 different movements, from squats to jumps and from isometric strength to functional tests such as sit-to-stand and balance assessments. There's a test for almost any patient or musculoskeletal pathology. Helps to detect left to right differences as well as centre of mass during balance.
- **DynaMo** allows you to assess your patients' strength and range of motion (ROM) in hundreds of tests across every major joint in the body. Combining tension and compression force measurement, dedicated grip measurement and inertial measurement into one system, DynaMo is capable of performing almost any test imaginable.



All Sports & Spinal Physiotherapists and Exercise Physiologists are trained to use this technology and interpret the results.

**Scan the QR code for more information.**



# RDMA MEETING 29TH MAY 2024



## Dinner of the Profession

1. Dr Maria Bolton Immediate Past President,
2. Dr Nick Yim New President
3. Prof Chris Perry, OAM
4. Alka Kothari & Kimberley Bondeson RDMA Executives.

### Monthly Meeting

<b>Date</b>	<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Time</b>	7pm for a 7:30pm start
<b>Venue</b>	Waterview Room, The Komo 99 Marine Pd Redcliffe
<b>Cost</b>	Financial members, interns, doctors in training and medical students FREE. Non-Financial members – \$30 payable at the door (Membership applications available).



**7:00pm** Arrival & Registration

Be seated – Entrée served.  
Welcome by Dr Kimberley Bondeson –  
President RDMA Inc  
**Sponsors: Viatris**  
**Represented by: Melinda Toraya**

**7:30pm**

### Agenda

**7:40pm**

**Speaker:** Dr Adrian Swaine (MBBS(Hons), FRACP)  
– Gastroenterologist – Staff Specialist Redcliffe  
Hospital  
**Topic:** Iron Deficiency and Pancreatic Exocrine  
Insufficiency – A General Practice Perspective  
**Main Meal served (during presentation)**

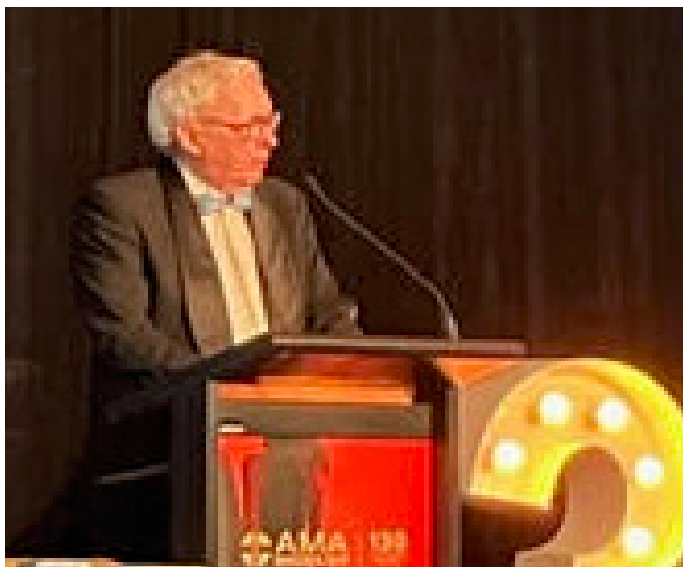
**8:20pm** Q&A

**8:30pm** General Business - Dessert served.  
Tea & Coffee served.

**RSVP**

**By Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

**[RDMA@qml.com.au](mailto:RDMA@qml.com.au) or 0466 453 806**





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## AMA QUEENSLAND UPDATE MAY 2024

May is an important month for AMA Queensland. We have released our *Budget Submission 2024-25*, we turn 130 on May 30, and Dr Maria Boulton’s term as President ends at our AGM on 24 May, with Dr Nick Yim succeeding her and Dr Emilia Dauway elected Vice President. While the leadership changes, our focus will not. Dr Yim has been Vice President and Chair of Council for the past two years and will continue to advocate for necessary boosts to the regional workforce, better support for general practice, and sustainable initiatives in hospitals and general practice.



Dr Maria Boulton and Dr Brett Dale

Our *Budget Submission* proposes sensible, affordable and achievable recommendations to the Queensland Government that will help address our healthcare crisis. The submission identifies 14 priority areas for attention including workforce, wellbeing, preventative health, climate and sustainability, and women’s and First Nations health. In the lead up to the Queensland budget release in June, we will continue to promote these priority recommendations.

### GP TRAINEES NEED ASSISTANCE

Our *Budget Submission* includes an urgent call for Queensland to follow the lead of Tasmania and Victoria and offer financial incentives for doctors to choose general practice as their specialty.

Despite the growing demand for GPs, the number of medical school graduates choosing general practice has decreased from about 50 per cent to less than 15 per cent over the past 40 years.



The Victorian Government has offered \$40,000 grants to trainee doctors who enrol in a general practice training course, and the Tasmanian Government has promised to pick up HECS/HELP debt of up to \$100,000 to attract 40 new GPs to work in rural and regional areas.

Read more



To head off the looming workforce crisis we need the Queensland Government to do the same and compensate junior doctors who make a huge financial sacrifice to train as GPs.

### HOSPITAL SAFETY

Also included in our *Budget Submission* is an action plan for hospitals to be made safer for staff and patients.

Far too many hospital workers are experiencing assault, bullying and threats of violence on the job, yet remain concerned about the ramifications of speaking up.

Doctors and nurses are also being overworked to the point of exhaustion in our hospitals, leading to early career burnout and further contributing to our workforce problem.

The government must take urgent action to protect our hardworking healthcare workforce and attract and retain more staff. It is their responsibility to address the current workforce shortages, excessive workloads and inadequate resources.

Read more



Our recommendations include clear pathways for career development across all specialties, consistent infection prevention and control measures to prevent hospital workers from getting sick on the job, and closer consultations with individual Hospital and Health Services (HHSs).

## PHARMACY PRESCRIBING PILOT COMMENCES

The Queensland Community Pharmacy Prescribing Pilot Program has commenced in North Queensland without the promised education campaign for patients and doctors.

We are extremely disappointed the government is pushing ahead with this experiment with Queenslanders' health despite criticism from many peak bodies regarding concern for patient safety.

The fact that they did not stick to their promise of delivering communication materials to health workers or patients prior to the pilot's commencement only legitimises these concerns.



Read more

A day prior to the pilot's commencement the Queensland GP Alliance received a letter from Queensland Health detailing the pilots' services and reporting mechanisms.

You can [read this letter on our website](#), and we encourage doctors to report patient harms through the Department's feedback mechanisms and their local State MPs.



## AMA PUBLIC HOSPITAL REPORT CARD

The AMA recently released its 2024 *Public Hospital Report Card* indicating Queensland's performance is slipping in many key areas, further impacting under-served communities.

On the surface, the data shows slight improvements in hospital wait times and elective surgery waiting lists. However, when considering the decentralised nature of our state, it's clear the numbers are not reflective of Queensland as a whole.

We know people are waiting far longer for essential health care services in areas between the Sunshine Coast, Townsville and Western Queensland. In many of these areas, only 23 per cent of people are having their category three elective surgery within the clinical recommended time.



It remains clear that our regional and rural areas are suffering from a lack of support they so clearly need.

Read more



The lack of workforce in all healthcare areas, from doctors, nurses to allied health, is a particular issue outside of metro areas. We need the State Government to better fund our workforce to retain existing staff, and provide clearer training pathways and incentives to encourage our doctors to work in the area where we need them most.



## HELP MAKE HEALTHCARE SUSTAINABLE

We have also called on the government to better fund practices to become more environmentally sustainable, reducing running costs and allowing precious health dollars to be used where they are most needed.



We know that hospitals and general practices are vital community resources during natural disasters and emergencies, yet most private practices cannot afford generators, solar panels or battery storage necessary to function during many weather emergencies.

This means practices are far too often left with no refrigeration for vaccines, no immediate access to patient records and closed clinics at a time when people are wading through floodwaters or clearing debris, risking infection and injury.

On a day to day note, it is clear practices want to do more when it comes to environmental sustainability. However, practices simply cannot wear more costs at a time when they already have to subsidise patient care so much.

To address the impact of climate change on healthcare, we have called on the government to include pilot programs in environmental sustainability in six hospitals and 10 general practices across the state, and to fund sustainability initiatives for private practices.

Read more



## RSV IMMUNISATION PROGRAM COMMENCES

AMA Queensland welcomed the news of the free Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) immunisation program and is pleased to see its commencement in mid-April guarantee the safety of all newborns and infants under eight months.

In the first four months of this year, we have already seen over 13,000 cases of RSV, which is nearly double the number of cases from the same period in 2023.

Providing free access to this immunisation for those at highest risk of severe disease from RSV will change the trajectory of the overwhelming number of hospitalisations and protect our most vulnerable.

Newborns are now able to receive the immunisation prior to discharge from hospital, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants and infants with certain complex medical conditions less than eight months

Read more



are also eligible to receive the vaccination.

We understand the vaccine remains in very limited supply, and encourage all primary care providers to familiarise themselves with the clinical guidance outlines in the [QPRSV Program webpage](#).



## WORKPLACE MISTREATMENT

The Medical Board of Australia recently released a further breakdown of AHPRA's Medical Training Survey data, revealing telling experiences of workplace bullying and discrimination of non-binary and female trainees.

Of the more than 23,000 doctors in training surveyed, trainees who identified as non-binary reported the highest rates of experiencing bullying, harassment, discrimination, and/or racism, with female trainees also experiencing this mistreatment at a much higher rate than male trainees.

Our annual *Resident Hospital Health Check* (RHHC) that surveys junior doctors found similar results, with incidents of bullying and harassment remaining unacceptably high.

AMA Queensland established a LGBTQIASB+ Working Group in response to the issue where we continue to raise awareness and present practical solutions to government to stop these harms continuing.



Read more



## WEIPA OBSTETRIC SERVICE

The announcement that obstetric services will commence in Weipa next month was a welcome surprise and great news for families in the Cape York region.

The unit will be under the experienced guidance of Dr John Hall, a Rural Generalist in obstetrics, giving families the option to deliver their babies safely and close to home.

Queensland's maternity crisis has been heavily impacting communities for many years now, with so many regional hospitals forced to close their maternity wards or go on bypass due to specialist shortages.



This announcement is a great example of how working with Rural Generalists and GP Obstetricians to provide the best care in our regions can address this issue at its core.

As we know the issue is yet another symptom of our workforce crisis, we remain focussed on advocating for

more support and better workforce incentives to attract and retain GPs, other specialists, nurses, midwives and healthcare professionals to our regions, so all Queenslanders get the quality healthcare they deserve.

Read more



## MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

AMA Queensland Foundation has awarded scholarships to three medical students to assist them to complete their medical studies and achieve their ambition to become doctors and serve the Queensland community.

From this year's 84 applicants, Wylie Leeson, Taylor Edgley and Goachagorn Darathai were selected for the \$10,000 grants.

The cost of living and study are hitting medical students harder than ever, and the Foundation is grateful to be able to help even a handful of individuals.

Read more



## Three medical students awarded scholarships

Read more



## JOIN AMA QUEENSLAND

As the peak medical professional body, AMA Queensland represents all doctors no matter your craft group or career stage. We support you and your colleagues in advocating for the strongest health system in Queensland while also offering exclusive member benefits, expert workplace relations support and representation on issues that affect you in the workplace.

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renew now



## Cutting Student Debt for More Than Three Million Australians

The Albanese Government will cut the student debt of more than three million Australians in this month's Budget. This action will wipe out around three billion dollars of student debt, with the aim of easing pressure on workers and students across the country.

The Government has announced that the 2024-25 Budget will include a measure capping the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) indexation rate at the lower of either the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the Wage Price Index (WPI), effective 1 June 2023.

It will provide significant relief for students while continuing to protect the integrity and value of HELP and other student loan systems, which have expanded tertiary access for more Australians.

### Australian Universities Accord

The Australian Universities Accord was a twelve-month review of Australia's higher education system led by a panel of eminent Australians (the Panel).

The objective of the Accord was to devise recommendations and performance targets to improve the quality, accessibility, affordability and sustainability of higher education in order to achieve long-term security and prosperity for the sector and the nation.

The Australian Government Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) engaged with and supported the Panel's work before the final report was issued on 25 February 2024. TEQSA was also a member of the Accord, which was chaired by the Minister of Education. The group included representatives of higher education institutions, business, staff, students and other experts.

### Government Response to the Accord

Subject to the legislation's passage, the measure will be backdated for all HELP, Vocational and Employment Training (VET) Student Loan, Australian Apprenticeship Support Loan, and other student support loan accounts that existed on 1 June 2023.

This will benefit all Australians with HELP debt, fixing last year's spike in the CPI indexation rate of 7.1 per cent and preventing debt growth from outpacing wages in the future. The 2023 indexation rate based on WPI would only have been 3.2 per cent.

### Estimated Indexation Credit for HELP Debtors

HELP Debt at 30 June 2023	Total Estimated Credit for 2023 and 2024*
\$15,000	\$670
\$25,000	\$1,120
\$30,000	\$1,345
\$40,000	\$1,795
\$50,000	\$2,020
\$60,000	\$2,690
\$100,000	\$4,485
\$130,000	\$5,835

*\*The actual credit amount will vary depending on individual circumstances, including repayments made during the year. All HELP debts that were indexed in 2023 and are subject to indexation on 1 June 2024 will receive an indexation credit.*

Australians with a HELP debt can find out how much this is estimated to benefit them using the HELP Indexation Credit Estimator at <https://www.education.gov.au/help estimator>

If you require accounting, wealth and advisory assistance, please contact our experienced accountants at Poole Group on 07 5437 9900 or [poole@poolegroup.com.au](mailto:poole@poolegroup.com.au)



# Dr Marendy- Charles Peter OAM Obituary.

Passed away peacefully, 8th May 2024  
Aged 91 years.

Peter was one of the founding members of the Redcliffe and District Medical Association (RDMA) and eventually awarded Life Membership. In those days, he was the only GP anaesthetist on the Redcliffe Peninsula. He certainly worked hard and at all hours.

I got to know him just as a member when I joined in 1977, but when I moved to the Peninsula, he also became my GP.

Before that though, he was the medical examiner for my pilot's licence as I learnt to fly at the Redcliffe Aero Club in the early eighties. I took him up in my motor glider in his late eighties as he had never had a pilot's licence. Consults were never in and out! He always had an opinion on all things. He was the classic type of GP that I have always aspired to be.

He looked after many drug dependent people and was upset when he was not able to do it anymore.

Recently his retirement was discussed and he always said: "I go to work to see my friends and get paid for catching up with them! Why do I want to retire?"

He eventually did retire a year ago and my last contact with him was by phone. He rang me requesting some scripts as being retired stops all that, but unfortunately, I was in Japan starting my 5-month long vacation. When I got back, he did not respond to my phone calls, texts or messages, no doubt because of his terminal illness.

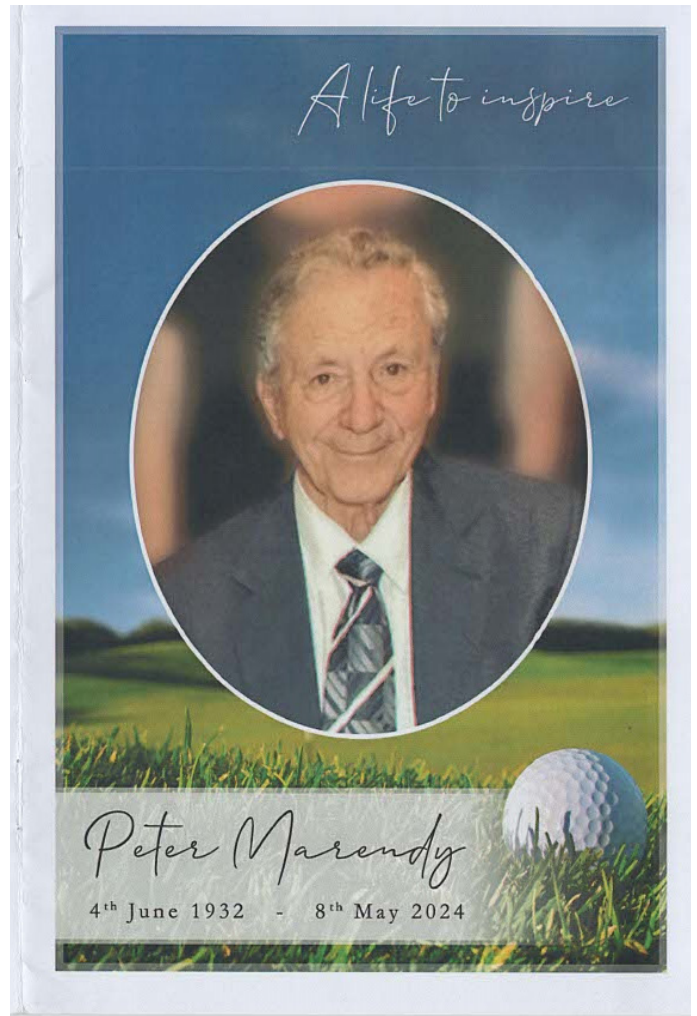
He was a pillar of the Redcliffe Greek Community and was the Redcliffe & District Local Medical Association's (RDMA) President for many years and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia.

He was very generous and supported the owners of the best restaurant in Redcliffe's relocation to Margate. When he heard that RDMA needed a new computer for the Association, he immediately offered to purchase it.

We shall miss him.

Peter Stephenson  
Ex-treasurer RDMA

***Pictured right: Peter's beloved Greek Orthodox Church of St Paraskevi at Taigum which he fundraised for and was the Parish President for 35 years. He further expanded the buildings with disability and community care services***



## *A lover of life, and a life of service*

Peter Charles Marendy was a man of service to the Church, his patients, the medical profession, and the local community. He dedicated his life to serving and helping others. He was constantly involved in charitable works and fundraising. He poured himself into looking after his patients throughout his 61 years of private practice. His heart was always to heal and help them in any way possible, often going over and above. Peter loved his work and considered his patients his friends. His motto was always "life is short-you need to do the best you can, and make the most of every day."

In 2023, Peter retired from medicine at 91 years of age, being the second oldest practicing doctor in Queensland at the time. The longevity of his career and achievements could not have been possible without the unwavering support and sacrifice of his wife Mary and children, and the tremendous hard work and support of his dedicated staff – Amanda, Nancy, Gabrielle, Shannon, Vivienne, Angela, Tanya and others - Amanda being by his side for the last 20 years.



*"I feel a sincere and compelling need to be of service to the community in any way that I can and enjoy sharing my medical knowledge that I have accumulated over many years of practice and study." - Peter Marendy*

## *Early Years in Townsville*

Peter Marendy began his life in Innisfail, Qld, on 4th of June 1932, the firstborn son of Kosmas and Elessa Marendy. When he was very young, he fell ill with pneumonia and his parents feared they would lose him. Peter remembered his parents anxiously looking down at him in his cot.

His mother recalled that the icon of the Virgin Mary above his cot was shaking. By the grace of God, their fervent prayers were answered and Peter recovered to live and enjoy many more years, making each day count.

In 1938, Peter's parents settled in Townsville and with others established the Blue Bird Café in Flinders Street, a Townsville icon in its heyday.

The family residence at 27 Walker Street was always brimming with guests as his parents were renowned for their generous hospitality. Peter's memories of the café were associated with hard work. As a 5 year old he would clean out the pie tins in the café's bakery.

There were 5 children in the family – Peter the oldest, was followed by Vergie, Emmanuel, Gloria and Jimmy. His siblings will say that he pulled rank often and teased them relentlessly but he loved them dearly!

Playing cards was a favoured activity of the Mareudy family. A Mareudy get together always involved a very heated and intense game of Yiftiko. Playing by his rules though was a prerequisite!

A special holiday destination was the Mylonas cane farm outside of Tully. It was here Peter's lifelong close friendship with George Castrisos and the Castrisos family began.

During the war years, Peter stayed with his cousins, the Hellens, at their farm in the Boyne Valley. Peter often reminisced about these days and regarded them as some of the happiest days of his life.

## *University Years*

When Peter was asked as a young boy what he wanted to do with his life, he only had one answer – to be a Doctor! Aged 18 he left Townsville behind to pursue his dream. Peter stayed at King's College whilst beginning his studies at the University of Queensland. It was a golden time in his life and along with the hard work of study, he enjoyed many fun times with his friends, Peter Barnes (Barnesy), Alan Frost (Frosty), Alan Lawther, and George Castrisos.

Peter could describe in great detail his Triumph Tiger 500cc motorbike. His daring escapades included riding his motorbike, free ascent mountain climbing even at night (Kangaroo Point cliffs were a practice ground – without ropes!). Peter and Barnesy were the first recorded to climb barehanded the west face of Mt Crookneck.

On his weekends, Peter would often visit his relatives the Londy family in Ipswich. His cousins, George and Peter were excellent photographers and they would spend many hours perfecting their skills.

During university holidays he would return to Townsville and continue to work in the Café for long hours. This kept Peter grounded throughout his life – he never forgot where he came from.

Despite finding his medical studies difficult, Peter persevered and fulfilled his childhood dream and graduated in 1959. His strong self-discipline underpinned all his endeavours throughout his life. He loved learning and always strived to excel at everything he put his mind to.

grad 1959  
bought practice 1965. Life in Redcliffe

Peter met Mary Cassimatis in Ipswich and they married in 1961. He was blessed to have a devoted and supportive wife in Mary, ever by his side for 63 years. They had four children— Elessa, Charles, Stephanie and Anthony.

Peter's medical placements took him and his family from Brisbane to Ipswich then Townsville, finally settling in Redcliffe in 1965 to establish his own practice. At that time, there were no local specialist anaesthetists, and at the invitation of the Superintendent of the newly opened Redcliffe Hospital, Peter assisted as he had prior experience. Over 25 years, Peter performed more than 20,000 anaesthetics at the Redcliffe Hospital whilst managing a busy general practice.

Peter had enormous energy and worked very very hard. A typical day involved 7am starts at the hospital giving anaesthetics, then morning afternoon and night sessions at the surgery, house calls in between, and on call through the night and rostered weekends. Cat naps, copious cups of tea with honey and the odd Star Trek episode sustained him!

He found time to pursue his hobbies including photography, golf, tennis, squash, woodwork, boating, and fishing. Peter enjoyed taking his children with him and it was fun for everyone. He looked forward to card nights at the Marmysz's home, and fishing holidays at Fraser Island with friends and family. He loved to fish with his friend, John Joseph McMahon, with worms supplied by Bungler Johnson. Golf trips with the Hellenic Golfers were the most anticipated highlight of his year.

Peter derived the most happiness from seeing his family enlarge to include his son-in-law Bill and daughters-in-law, Sue and Barbara. His grandchildren Dominique and Nicholas, Marko and Sam, Peter, Daniel and Timothy were his pride and joy. He loved watching them grow up and was very interested in all their individual activities and achievements. Playing Yiftiko with them was a treasured pastime.





## Notable Achievements

A life lived well, in service to others...

Peter's contributions will always be remembered and has been recognised with the following awards:

**2003** Cross of Saint Andrew awarded by His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos for services to the Greek Orthodox Church

**2013** The George Pippas Award (awarded by the Greek Orthodox Community of St George Brisbane) in recognition of his significant contributions to the Greek Community

**2019** Order of Australia (OAM) recipient for services to the community and medicine

**2023** Honorary Diploma of the Order of "The Christ - Loving" awarded by His Eminence, Archbishop Makarios

## Service to the Medical Community

**1968** Designated Aviation Medical Examiner (D.A.M.E) - the second in Queensland to be appointed

**1969** Peter was a key figure in establishing the Queensland branch of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and was a Life Member.

**1970s** Peter founded the Redcliffe and District Local Medical Association - was the first President and later was made an Honorary Life Member.

**1985** Government Medical Officer until retirement (duties included serving the needs of the Redcliffe Watch House at all hours)

**Early 2000s** Appointed as a Government authorised Opioid Prescriber - ran a methadone program for many years with over 90 patients at his practice. He felt strongly to help patients suffering with addiction as he saw there was a gap in services in the local area.

**2008** Certificate in Skin Cancer Medicine (continued study in this area until he was 83 years old!)

Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners and appointed as an Examiner for the College and later a Quality Assurance Examiner

## Service to the Community

Life member of the Redcliffe Golf Club and a proud Patron of the Junior Golfers.

Longstanding Board member of the Kytherian Brotherhood of Queensland & PM Aged Care (He was particularly proud of their many charitable works including assisting the elderly through the establishment of highly accredited PM Aged Care in Brisbane and also through contributions to the nursing home on Kythera)

Life member and Patron of the Peninsula Camera Club

President of Redcliffe South Rotary Club - served 3 terms and awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship for services to Rotary

Instrumental in establishing the Redcliffe Probus Club (1982)  
Photography

Received a Licentiate of the Royal Photographic Society of London (LRPS)

An Associate of the Australian Photographic Society (AAPS)

Member of the Federation of International Photographic Art (AFIP) exhibiting internationally

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## Brisbane North GP Liaison Officer Update – 17 May 2024

We encourage you read the [RDMA electronic newsletter](#) so you can click on resource links in this article.

The Brisbane North PHN and Metro North Health's [GP Liaison Officer \(GPLO\) Team](#) would like to remind our local GPs of a range of programs the GPLO program has helped support establish based on feedback from GPs.

- Our [Metro North Refer Your Patient](#) is the one page to find the services and latest updates from the Metro North Health service. It supports the [Brisbane North Health Pathways](#) site.
- [Metro North Clinical Advice Line](#) - Local Specialist advice line for GPs
- [Rapid Access Clinics](#) - Access to urgent clinics to prevent avoidable ED presentations, patients are generally seen the next day.
- [Metro North Virtual Ward](#) - Virtual Ward provides GPs with access to a Virtual Hospital ward for patients if they need surveillance at home to prevent hospital admission
- [Virtual ED](#) – Clinical advice from ED Physicians for local GPs and can see patients across Queensland
- [GP Smart Referrals](#) – the preferred way to send outpatient referrals to public hospitals in Queensland. For further training & onboarding support please contact Digital Health Support Officer at the PHN [gpsr@brisbanenorth.org.au](mailto:gpsr@brisbanenorth.org.au)
- [Free Mental Health Services](#) - PHN commissioned mental health services that patients can self-refer themselves to for free.

We continue to run GP education events again based on feedback from GPs who have attended our previous events. We always encourage feedback to the GPLO team at [mngplo@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:mngplo@health.qld.gov.au)

### Register for GP Education 1 Day event - Championing Generalism – 8 June 2024

Join your GP colleagues at this 1 Day interactive workshop covering a range of different specialties!

The Brisbane North PHN and Metro North Health GPLO program are bringing together a range of local experts for a day of collaborative learning. This will feature multidisciplinary, GP-led, case-based discussions across a wide range of healthcare topics relevant to primary care.

Topics include the **breathless patient, adult ADHD, concussion, rheumatology, Chronic Kidney Disease, OSA, radiology's butterfly effect** and many more – [see the full program here](#).  
[Promotion video](#)

Take this chance to:

- Meet hospital specialists and a chance to network with fellow colleagues
- Learn about new local hospital and community services
- Discover resources to support GPs and their practices
- Earn CPD points and have some fun for free!

**Date:** Saturday 8 June 2024

**Time:** 8.00 am – 4.30 pm

**Venue:** Clinical Skills Development Service, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston  
Places are limited - [Register now](#).

Previous GP education event slides and videos plus [Upcoming Metro North Health GP education events](#) can be found via the link.

## Urology, Orthopaedic & Neurosurgery Referral Guideline changes

The Urology, Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery referral guidelines have now been updated and are now reflected in Smart Referrals, [Health Pathways](#) and the referral guidelines pages in [Urology](#), [Neurosurgery](#) and [Orthopaedics](#) in Refer Your Patient.

We would like to bring your attention to the following referral condition changes:

### 1. Urology

a) **Prostate - suspected cancer** (including elevated PSA) the essential information now includes:

- **Serial PSA - Elevated PSA on two samples**, 1-3 months apart, with one instance having a free/total PSA ratio performed as well (for men <70 years of age abnormal PSA >3.0; for men >70 years of age abnormal PSA >5.5)

b) **Renal Mass (tumours/cysts)** the essential information now includes: -

- **USS urinary tract** (simple renal cyst Bosniak 1 and minimally complex cyst Bosniak 2) or
- **CT/CT triple phase** (complex renal cysts Bosniak 2F, 3, 4 and solid lesions)  
(If eGFR >42 mg/mmol arrange for triple phase CT renal, If eGFR <42mg/mmol arrange for non-contrast CT)

c) **Haematuria** the essential information now includes: -

1. **USS urinary tract** (Preferred for Microscopic Haematuria) or **CT IVP results** (Preferred for Macroscopic Haematuria)

### 2. Neurosurgery

1. A new referral guideline has been introduced for **Other Neurosurgical conditions** including Chiari malformation, Colloid cyst, arachnoid cyst, referral for epilepsy surgery and neurological conditions requiring muscle biopsy.
2. **Neurovascular disorders (aneurysm, AVMs, other)** - essential referral criteria now includes cerebral &/or cerebrovascular imaging: CT/CTA, or MRI/MRA or DSA

### 3. Orthopaedics

New referral guidelines introduced for:

- Shoulder conditions
- elbow conditions
- Bone and Soft tissue Tumour (Sarcoma) – please send all referrals to Princess Alexandra Hospital
- Arthritis of the hand and/or wrist
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome/Cubital Tunnel Syndrome
- Foot and ankle pain and/deformity (non-diabetic)
- Foot and ankle conditions associated with diabetic foot disease

## GPs can support the Free Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Immunisation Program roll out

Eligible Queensland infants and children (including those Medicare ineligible) will be able to receive the new RSV immunisation Nirsevimab (brand name Beyfortus®) from their GP.

For more information on the **RSV immunisation program, dosing recommendations, and how to order Nirsevimab** from Queensland Health Immunisation Program via a special order process:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/immunisation/paediatric-rsv-prevention-program>

[QLD RSV Prevention Program - Clinical guidance for for immunisation providers](#)

A video of a [Queensland RSV immunisation update for primary care providers - 18 April 2024](#) is also available

# Are You A Member? Why Aren't You? Look At The Benefits!



**Get Your RDMA Membership Benefits! Socialise! Broaden Your Knowledge!**



**CPD Points Certificate Available**

Dear Doctors

The Redcliffe and District Medical Association Inc. have had another successful year of interesting and educative meetings on a wide variety of medical topics. Show your support for your Local Medical Association to continue the only local convocation for general practitioners and specialists to socialise and to discuss local and national medico-political issues.

This **membership subscription** entitles you to ten (10) dinner meetings, a **monthly magazine (11)**, an informal **end of the year Networking Meeting** to reconnect with colleagues. Suggestions on topics and/ or speakers are most welcome. **Doctors in Training** are invited to join at **no cost**. Please complete the annual memberships subscription below and enjoy the benefits your membership brings you and your colleagues.

## RDMA SUBSCRIPTION FORM - INTERNET PAYMENT PREFERRED

Email; [rdma.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:rdma.treasurer@gmail.com)

ABN 88 637 858 491

1. One Membership Fee (July-June) \$120.00; October-June \$90.00, Jan-June \$60.00, April-June \$30.00
2. Two Family Membership Fee Per Annum \$180.00 prorata (Please include each person's details), - 50% Discount for Part Time Doctors working 10 hours or less per week
3. Retired Doctors Membership Fee Per Annum: \$60.00
4. Doctors in Training FREE

1. Dr

(First Name)

(Surname)

Email Address:

2. Dr

(First Name)

(Surname)

Email Address:

Practice Address:

Postcode:

Phone:

Fax:

**CBA BANK DETAILS : Redcliffe & District Medical Assoc Inc: BSB 064122 AC: 00902422**

**1. PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD: INTERNET BANKING**

**2. PAYMENT BY DEPOSIT SLIP: INCLUDE your name: ie: Dr F Bloggs, RDMA A/C and Date**

**3. ENCLOSED PAYMENT: (Subscription Form on website, type directly into it and email)**

**Completed Form Return by Emailing to [rdma.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:rdma.treasurer@gmail.com)**