KURING-GAI DISTRICT MEDICAL ASSOCIATION INC NEWSLETTER

KURING-GAI DISTRICT MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

June, 2026

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A Message from the President

Dear Friends

This year's First *Looong* Weekend at the Gold Coast Seaworld Resort was a great success with excellent conference sessions and great opportunities for family activities at the Gold Coast and Seaworld.

Our next meeting is at The Epping Club on June 16.

We have other weeknight educational dinner meetings on 11th August and the AGM and General Meeting on 17th November.

Come to Launceston 2nd to 4th October for our second *Looong* Weekend Meeting this year at Silos.

Next year, Jordan Sandral, our incoming President will take us to Canberra and Queenstown, New Zealand. He has more details to come very soon.

Karl

KDMA President 2026

2026 Committee

President - Dr Karl Baumgart

Vice President - Dr Pecky De Silva

Secretary/President Elect - Dr Jordan Sandral

Treasurer - Dr John Beattie, OAM

General Committee - Drs Leonard Bank, Ross Bradbury, Deepak Chhabra, Maria Da Costa, Geoff Heise, Michael Hooper-AM, Peter Loder, Anthony O'Halloran, Karen Oswald and Dhan Thiruchelvam

2026 KDMA Award for Research Excellence Winner



1 - Prof Patrick McNeil - Deputy Vice-Chancellor Medicine and Health Macquarie University

Jacquelyn Yazdani - 2026 Prize Winner

Dr Jordan Sandral - KDMA Secretary/President Elect

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Macquarie University Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences Student Presentation Awards Evening. Presided over by Professor Patrick McNeil, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Medicine and Health), the event celebrated the outstanding achievements of students across a diverse range of medical and allied health disciplines.

On behalf of the Ku-ring-gai District Medical Association, I was honoured to present the KDMA Award for Research Excellence to Dr Jacquelyn Yazdani, currently an intern at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Dr Yazdani has continued her involvement in research and has set her sights on pursuing a career in the highly competitive field of oculoplastic surgery.

The KDMA Award was one of several presented during the evening, where more than 30 students showcased excellence in research, innovation, and clinical scholarship. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Scott Barnes, a speech pathologist by background, who provided a thoughtful and inspiring reflection on how his own experiences have reinforced the importance of research in improving the care that clinicians deliver every day.

The evening highlighted the exceptional calibre of students emerging from Macquarie University and the vital role that research plays in advancing healthcare outcomes. KDMA is proud to support and recognise future clinician-researchers and looks forward to continuing its strong relationship with Macquarie University and its Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences over the years to come.

Dr. Jordan Sandral

Sea World Conference



The Gold Coast turned on perfect weather for the KDMA Conference which was held from 16th to 19th April at Sea World Resort.

Our delegates and their families got together for our Tastes of Asia Street Feast Welcome Dinner held on the Sunset Deck. Kids met new friends and adults caught up with their like minded peers.

Day 1, with two morning learning sessions, dawned bright and sunny. I have to admit it was a bit hard to not just gaze at the view outside our conference room! Dr Pecky De Silva, Vascular and Endovascular Surgeon (and KDMA Committee Member) gave a great up to the minute talk on Pelvic Venous Congestion Syndrome; A/Prof Ian Francis, Ophthalmologist, advised on Lues Disease; Dr Jessica Borbasi, Conjoint Lecturer Faculty of Medicine UNSW, gave a talk from the heart on Palliative Care; Dr Oliver Walsh, Intensive Care and Retrieval Specialist from Canberra, talked about looking for the signs when diagnosing complicated cases; and Dr Anna Watson, Hand Surgeon (and former Gold Coast girl!) gave us some interesting information about hand fractures.

After lunch in the conference area, the rest of the afternoon and evening was free to enjoy the many activities at Sea World.

We started Day 2 with free time to also enjoy Sea World so that no one missed out on the various excellent shows and animal adventures. After a delicious individually ordered lunch, we had another two learning sessions. Dr Karl Baumgart, Pathologist and Immunology Specialist (and KDMA President) talked about a personal health journey and his fabulous new building project in Stanley, Tasmania; Dr Ashleigh Dind, Advanced Imaging Cardiologist, updated us on heart imaging; Dr Dhan Thiruchelvam, Upper GI and Obesity Surgeon (and KDMA Committee Member), talked about obesity and management options for reflux; Dr Lianne Bissell, Hand Surgeon, gave an interesting talk on why hand injuries matter; Dr Ian Hargreaves, retired Hand

Surgeon and surgical assistant extraordinaire, talked about Dupuytren's Contracture and then carried on the 'hand' theme with an entertaining quiz on everything hand related.

The KDMA Prize Evaluation Sheets were marked and a gift was presented to Dr Katie Sutton for the most correct questions (100%)! Congratulations Katie.

The venue for our Farewell Dinner was magical – The Boatshed at Sea World Resort, where we enjoyed an Aussie BBQ meal with plenty of room for the kids to continue their acquaintances with their new found friends.

I received lots of feedback on the calibre of the presentations and the experience at the venue which was just magical for all the kids (and the adults!) that attended.

Another successful conference under our belt and now looking forward to our next LWE Conference to be held in Launceston, Tasmania. Preparation has already started on next year's conferences and I think you will be very pleased with the selection and look forward to greeting you in 2027.

Lynne O'Halloran



2 - Asian Street Feast Welcome Dinner















3 - View from our Conference Room









4 - Kids enjoying conference session



5 - Congratulations Dr Katie Sutton



6 - Farewell Dinner







Bintan Conference



The KDMA 49th Annual Conference which was to be held on Bintan Island at the very beautiful Banyan Tree Resort from 10th to 15th July, 2026 has, unfortunately, been cancelled.

Launceston Conference



The KDMA 21st *Looong* Weekend is to be held at Peppers Silo Launceston from 2nd to 5th October, 2026. Registration includes a Welcome Dinner at Grain of the Silos Restaurant, 2 half day conference sessions including morning teas and lunches - also at Peppers Silo, and a Farewell Dinner in a local restaurant.

There is so much to do in and around Launceston for young and old. The Riverbend Park next to Silos is a fantastic all abilities park with amazing zones to explore. Cataract Gorge is not far away where you can ride a chairlift through the centre of the Gorge. Explore the boardwalk along the Tamar River, visit the Art Gallery and Museum or perhaps James Boag's brewery or the many vineyards are more to your taste!

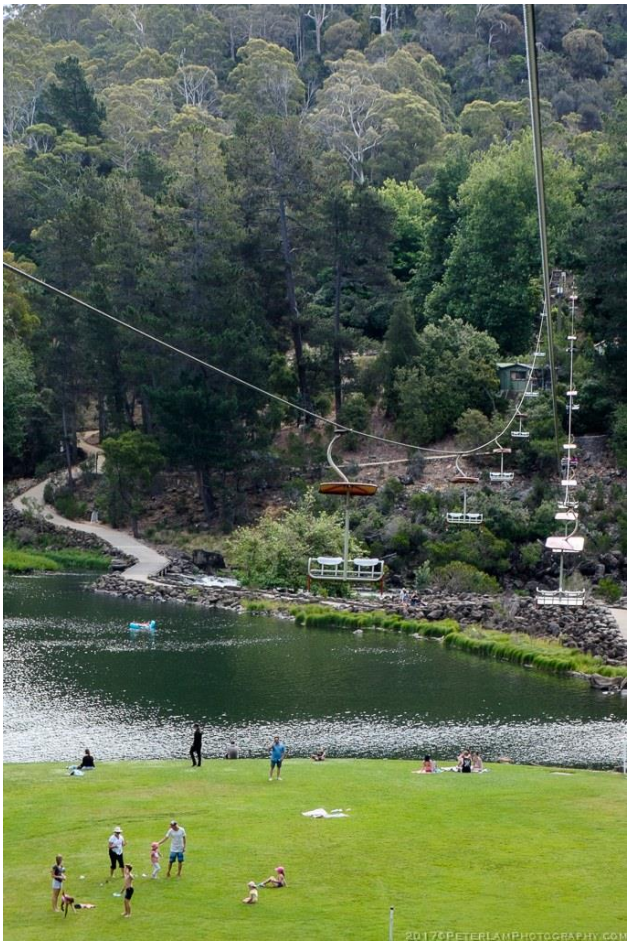
Please send your registration forms through as soon as possible to secure your place.

There is an open invitation to those who would like to visit Dr Karl Baumgart's building project in the historic town of Stanley. He is renovating the Old School House which holds a lot of fascinating history. Please contact Karl if you would like to pay him a visit.

THE TIME TO REGISTER IS NOW!



7 - Riverbend Park



8 - Cataract Gorge



9 - The Old School House, Stanley, Tasmania

Renew your membership or Become a Member

Please see our new website links to Renew your Membership or Become a New Member . Pay your subscription directly to the KDMA bank account. Cheques made out to KDMA will also be accepted.

Welcome to our new Member



10 - Dr Pooja Sarangam

Welcome Dr Pooja Sarangam

Dr. Pooja Sarangam is from India and has worked in various hospitals across Australia since 2015 and has exposure to a wide variety of specialities.

Dr. Sarangam has been working as a GP in the Illawarra since 2022. She has an interest in all aspects of General Practice and believes in a holistic approach to patient care.

In her free time Dr. Sarangam enjoys a good book, playing with her dog Bobo and spending time with family and friends.

She speaks fluent English, Telugu and Hindi.

Next Dinner Meeting: 16 June, 2026

Tuesday 16 June - Sponsored by CareScan will be held at The Epping Club Rawson St Epping starting 6:45pm



11 - Dr Amit Chakraborty

Dr Chakraborty will be speaking on the topic: Imaging Pathway and Decision Making

31st March Educational Dinner Meeting

Our March educational dinner meeting was held in the newly renovated Epping Club Grand salon. The enlarged venue room was very comfortable and having two screens for the presentation by our speakers, made it so much easier for all to see. This event was kindly sponsored by ICON Cancer Centre and we had three very informative speakers, Professor Gerald Fogarty, Dr Dina Saks and Dr Charles Ayesa.

The lucky door prize was drawn by Ashleigh Dind and the prize was won by Lavier Gomes.

We would like to point out that our educational dinner meetings are for financial members, but please feel free to invite a non-member to come along. They then may want to join! Please also note that RSVPs are essential so that you (and any invited colleagues) can be catered for.

Angelique Jefferies



12 - Professor Gerald Fogarty



13 - Dr Dina Saks



14 - Dr Charles Ayesa

















Acknowledgement of Country

KDMA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we gather. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.