

## Farewell Message

In my AGM report I spoke of the need to move with the times. It is now my time to move on and step down from the role of President. I have been a member of TSA Victoria for the past fifteen years. I joined the committee in 1996, I accepted the position of Vice President in 1999, then in 2003 was elected President. It has been an honour and privilege to have served as the President of such a worthwhile and important group as the Tourette Syndrome Association of Victoria. It's been a fulfilling, educational, sometimes challenging, but the most rewarding 4 years that I have experienced (apart from raising my children).

When I accepted the leadership role I was genuinely concerned about whether I was the right choice.... I prefer to be the person in the background busy behind the scenes, not the one out front and centre stage. I hope that I have served you and this association well and assisted in continuing to spread our message of tolerance, acceptance and understanding throughout the community both in the educational arena and public

domain.

I do believe that there is a better understanding about Tourette Syndrome in the medical and educational fields as well as society today than when I first heard those 2 words 'Tourette Syndrome' being the diagnosis for my eldest son's unusual movements some 16 years ago.

My time as President has been made all the more enjoyable and memorable with the wonderful assistance I have from your committee those current today and committee members from years gone by. Without them I am nothing. I have gained so much from all of them, their wealth of knowledge, compassion, courage, their understanding, encouragement and friendship is something I will treasure always.

I am stepping down very confident in the path that the TSA is traveling along. Our new President Scott Coward and continuing Vice President Dr Jeni Wilson will steer us on strongly and confidently into the future but we still need your

support. The committee can only do so much for the association. It is up to you, our members, to become involved and participate, to be a part of valuable and worthwhile association that has assisted many hundreds of families and children over the years and will hopefully continue to be there for those families facing the journey with Tourette Syndrome in the future.

In closing I would like to say thank you so very much to the Committee for their very kind words and beautiful gift and flowers that were presented to me at the AGM. It was an emotional day for me, I thought I could get through it without any tears but they surfaced eventually. The tears were not of sadness, but of happiness and hope for this association.

This is not goodbye from me as I will still be involved in the general committee so I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

*Manuela Jovanovic,  
Outgoing President*

## New President's acceptance Speech

Thank you all for attending today's AGM and showing your support for the TSAV. I feel very honored to be able to take on the role as President. Some people may know me from the family activity days that I help organize or from the Northern suburbs support group. I am taking on this position because I feel strongly for the need to keep the Association available to people that are impacted on by TS.

The Association plays an important role in assisting families to better cope with the impact of TS. It is important that new people take on these positions and become actively involved to help move the association forward. On that note I ask you all to consider how you can contribute to further develop the Association. Whether it be organizing activity days, joining the committee or just making the community more aware of Tourette Syndrome.

From my own family's experience- from being actively involved and committing a small amount our time to the association- it has helped our family to better manage and cope with TS and it has given my family a huge network

of support to tap into. Based on the feedback and results from the member surveys, several changes have been made by the committee this year. All these changes will help to guarantee that the association stays an association and will be available to families for many years to come.

Some great changes have been made to our website, with a more convenient way of navigating through the screens. The layout is brighter and the information is more accessible and updated regularly. The drop down menus are better titled.

I realize I have a challenge ahead of myself to maintain the high standard, commitment and dedication that Manuela has shown during her time as President. Manuela was the first person from the association that I spoke to back in September 2003 when my wife and I worked out our son, Ben may have had TS. I can clearly remember the relief I felt whilst I was speaking to Manuela on the phone, knowing that she had experienced and understood exactly what emotions my family and I were going through.

Manuela explained TS to me and referred our family to a specialist. This support and understanding from Manuela is what laid the foundation for our family to learn how to try to manage and try to cope with TS. On behalf of the committee, all my family and members of the association I would like to thank Manuela for everything you have done for the TSAV and I take on this role with confidence knowing I have your support. Finally I would like to thank the committee for showing their confidence in me to take on this position and I look forward to that support I know I will get.

Most importantly a big thank you to my wife, Jenny and my kids, who are always there giving their full support to everything I do.

Whether it is cooking the sausages at our support group or escorting families at the family days or selling baller bands at all the basketball courts across Victoria.

I know I can always rely on them. Thank you.

*Scott Coward*

