

### **My Journey Part 3 – Bulletin No 6 (4 June 2021)**

My last bulletin was sent out in mid-April, and just when I believed things were settling down there has been further upheaval in my life, which I will expand on during the bulletin.

The really good news was my son Darren from Sydney was able visit me for 4 days over the Anzac weekend, we had not seen him for over 12 months and it was wonderful to catch up and have my lovely family, He has made 3 visits since. Denise, Sue and Darren together again. Unfortunately, during his visit, I was once again a patient in the GCUH, but there is nothing better than to have company as one languishes in hospital. I am back home again and relishing the peace and tranquillity of home life.

#### **Medical Update**

As outlined in my last bulletin I was allowed to go home on Saturday 10 April after 7 days of battling pneumonia. After a week at home I had a relapse and I was admitted again on Saturday 17 April, yes the pneumonia had decided to further ravish my body, after extensive treatment with antibiotics it was under control once again and late on Friday I had the PEG fitted to replace my nose feeding tube. Before I was allowed to go home I had to get a clearance from a nurse who specialises in patients with PEGS, however because of the long week end this did not occur until Tuesday 27 April, spending 10 days in hospital on this occasion.

#### **Team Raward**

As I travel along the many facets of my journey I would like to dwell on Team Raward for without them I do not know I would have coped. First of all, my wonderful partner Carole has been an inspiration for me and has made the recent torturous few weeks an easier road to travel. Without her insistence that she call an ambulance at 9pm on the first Saturday I was admitted to hospital, who knows what would have happened as my oxygen and B P levels were at a very dangerous level. My two beautiful daughters Denise and Sue who live on the Gold Coast and have been there for my every need and endless visits to the hospital. Son Darren who lives in Sydney is always on the coast catching up with me. The health professionals at the GCUH also deserve a special mention, Debbie Farrell who is the Nurse Consultant for H & N Cancer program is a treasure always there for any query you may have. Georgia (dietitian) and Danni (speech pathologist) make up a formidable back up crew. My chemo oncologist Dr Marcin Dzienis has also recently joined the crew.

#### **Feeding with a PEG**

Back to the old routine which ruled my life 2016 for several months. Six 200mls of Resource 2 with hydration either side of the nutrients, not a very exciting schedule, but life must go on.

#### **Further Complications**

Of recent time I have noticed a deterioration in my mobility, getting in and out of chairs, walking etc. Not certain what is causing this however it is a bit of a worrying sign. I had to cancel my immunotherapy visits to the PAH. Update I am no longer on the program and now under care of the GCUH.

#### **First Visit to GCUH**

My first to GCUH to visit Dr Marcin was on Monday 31 May. I will not be going on any programs until my strength improves, currently on course of steroids and antibiotics. My health is going to be monitored for any improvement in general well-being so I look forward to being able to assist with this cause.

#### **General**

Have not been able to play bridge for 6 weeks because of my lack of energy and I am now using a walker to assist with my mobility, otherwise I am in good spirits and look forward to what the future has to bring. Not certain as to when next bulletin will be published as I find it a bit of an effort to concentrate on my computer skills, Don't worry about me as I will pull through this recent spell of issues and get on with life.

#### **Breaking News**

After starting course of steroids I have got a new lease of life. Regained strength, mobility and loss of tiredness I feel a lot better person and hopefully can now get on with the life I once knew.

*Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*

**Neil Raward**