



▲ Dr Phan with the droplet lens

Making *NEWS*

Droplet lens turns smart phones into microscopes

Australian scientists have invented a simple and cheap way of making a high-powered lens that can transform a smartphone into a high-resolution microscope. The lens promises a revolution in science and medicine in developing countries and remote areas. Garvan's Dr Tri Phan collaborated with the inventor of the lens manufacturing technology, Dr Steve Lee from the Australian National University (ANU). They discovered that the lens can reach a magnifying power of up to 160 times, with an imaging resolution of four micrometers.

Slowing the immune system when in overdrive

Garvan scientists believe that a molecule known as Interleukin 21 (IL-21) is a promising therapeutic target in cases of chronic inflammation where the immune system overreacts to 'self' tissue. IL-21 is one of a group of chemical messengers known as 'cytokines', which affect the behaviour of immune cells, and it is already known to play an important role in autoimmune diseases such as Sjögren's syndrome and Type 1 diabetes.

This study shows how much IL-21 contributes to inflammation, and how important it is to remove IL-21 to reduce inflammation, even where there are other severe immune defects present.

Garvan led team wins prestigious prostate cancer award

An international team, led by Garvan's Professor Peter Croucher has received one of two 2014 Movember Revolutionary Team Awards from the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

The Garvan-led team will be investigating the spread of prostate cancer cells to the skeleton, one of the most devastating consequences of advanced prostate cancer. They hope to understand the conditions within the bone microenvironment that trigger activation, and to find ways of delaying or preventing activation.



**GARVAN
INSTITUTE**

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From the CEO

With the new financial year upon us, I would like to take the opportunity to remind all Australians that philanthropy and fundraising are vital to ensure the future of medical research.

The simple fact is that, for every dollar Garvan researchers receive in Government funding, we still need to raise another 70 cents in order to sustain research projects.

Some of the most cutting-edge research to come out of Garvan in the past ten years has only been made possible by philanthropic and individual donations. If donations stopped coming through today, a lot of our researchers would have to pack their bags and abandon some of their most promising work.

It is thanks to the incredible support of our donors that we have been able to sustain research for cancer, immunology, neuroscience, bone biology, diabetes and metabolism.

Philanthropic support not only alleviates some of the financial stress on research teams, it also encourages innovation. It is vital for funding 'novel projects' – that is, a promising project in its very early stages that does not yet have enough basic data behind it to be eligible for Government funding.

Donations are also crucial for the purchase of equipment and technology that is essential to modern day medical research, but not generally eligible for Government funding.

A donation of \$10 can help purchase vital equipment and provide our gifted researchers with the means to continue using innovative approaches to achieve life-changing breakthroughs.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and for helping Garvan's world-class researchers to continue making important breakthroughs that have the potential to improve diagnosis, treatment and patient outcomes for some of the major diseases impacting human health.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Giles
Garvan Research Foundation



Lee MacCormick Edwards with her husband, Michael

Lee MacCormick Edwards 1937 – 2014

We are saddened to report that Dr Lee MacCormick Edwards, a passionate supporter of Garvan's Ovarian Cancer Research Program, passed away recently in Sydney.

Lee's generosity knew no bounds and her support of Garvan's research was both personal and public. Her impassioned advocacy saw her speak most eloquently of her own experience with ovarian cancer at Garvan's 2013 Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day Leaders Lunch and we were privileged to have her attendance again in 2014 despite failing health. Lee, alongside her dear friend, Margaret Rose, provided powerful voice to a disease that is otherwise little understood.

During her fascinating life, Lee divided her time between America and Australia, and in both countries made significant contributions to the cultural and artistic arenas. She was a respected lecturer in art history, and author.

Lee married in 1959, and had a daughter, Alison. However, the marriage ended in 1976. In 1989, Lee met Michael Crane, a Scottish-born artist and they married in 2013.

Michael and Lee shared a passion for the Salzburg Festival, which they attended for 30 years. In 2005, Lee was awarded the Goldene Kreuz of the state of Salzburg for her work as head of the American Friends of the Festival.

Lee also became an accomplished photographer, exhibiting annually. Although much of her life was lived in America, her heart was always in Australia. Her last photographic exhibition in America was entitled *My World*, and featured her native Australia. Lee's last Australian exhibition, held in 2013 and entitled *Capturing the Moment*, raised vital funds for Garvan's ovarian cancer research and the St Vincent's Curran Foundation.

Lee MacCormick Edwards spent her last year in Sydney, with the love and support of her husband Michael, and regular visits from her much adored daughter, Alison.

Lee will be remembered for her vibrancy, her generosity of spirit and her ferocious appetite for life.

The future of medical research is in good hands

Rick Stevens has spent more than 45 years educating a generation of Australians. Now, as a Garvan Partner for the Future, he is leaving a legacy for future generations.

A semi-retired educator and educational author, Rick Stevens is a busy man. He remains active in a number of professional organisations, chairs the Council of a Sydney Anglican school, supervises student teachers and volunteers as a maths and religious teacher. To say he is passionate about education is an understatement.

Mr Stevens first became acquainted with Garvan's work through an association with the late Professor Rob Sutherland's family (head of Garvan's Cancer Program for 27 years, and inaugural Director of The Kinghorn Cancer Centre). The more he learnt about Garvan's work and breakthroughs, the more he wanted to contribute. So, Rick decided to start making an annual donation.

He said, "I was impressed by the way Garvan kept donors informed about its research and discoveries. I also found the seminars to be very informative. I particularly appreciate the way Garvan scientists can speak about their highly complex research, but make it simple and easy to understand."

When the time came for Rick to review his will, he decided to leave a bequest to four charities, of which Garvan is one. Since then he has been impressed by the way Garvan embraces its Partners for the Future (those who have left a lasting legacy to medical research by including a bequest in their will), going above and beyond to show gratitude and keep them informed.

Due to experiences of family, friends and even some of his students, Mr Stevens has an interest in a number



Rick Stevens

of the disease areas researched at Garvan: from cancer, Type 2 diabetes and obesity, to osteoporosis, arthritis, and dementia. Rick is pleased to be playing a role in helping to unlock the secrets to these devastating diseases.

Mr Stevens said, "Every time I visit Garvan, I am reminded of what an amazing place it is. What really strikes me is the age range of the scientists. From those who have recently graduated through to world-class senior scientists like Professor John Shine. It is encouraging to know that the future of medical research will be in good hands, and that I am playing a small part."

If you would like more information about Garvan, or leaving a bequest to Garvan in your will, please contact Carol O'Carroll on 02 9295 8117, or email c.ocarroll@garvan.org.au

Newly established awards support young Garvan scientists



Scott Edmonds from Heliflite with Minister Skinner, Dr Gallego-Ortega and Professor John Mattick

At this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM), Garvan was fortunate to receive financial support from two companies to allow young researchers to travel to key conferences, and also provide the seed funding for some clever ideas with potential research outcomes.

Heliflite, one of Australasia's leading helicopter companies, generously established the inaugural Young Explorer's Award, assisting outstanding early career researchers to attend international conferences or engage in international collaborations.

The inaugural awards of \$5,000 were presented to Dr David Gallego-Ortega and Dr Martin Smith to assist in attending key international conferences.

In June, Dr Gallego-Ortega will attend the Gordon Conference in Mammary Gland Development, to be held in Lucca, Italy, where he has been selected to give an oral presentation. Dr Smith will attend the annual meeting of the RNA Society to be held in Quebec City, Canada, where he has also been selected to give an oral presentation.

The second award introduced at the AGM was established by CHAMP Private Equity, long term supporters of Garvan through Mr Bill Ferris AC and Mr Joseph Skrzynski AO. The CHAMP Young Pioneer Award has been established to assist an outstanding early career researcher in the establishment phase of their career. The \$10,000 award will help a Garvan researcher to initiate early-stage medical research opportunities through an innovative new research project, and this year's inaugural recipient was Dr Nicole Schonrock whose new project will assist to decipher the epitranscriptome (a regulation of gene expression that depends on biochemical modifications of messenger RNA) in brain function using sensitive genome-wide technologies to identify and map RNA modifications.

Congratulations to all recipients and thank you to our generous supporters at Heliflite and CHAMP Private Equity.

Feature story: *Sifting through human history to solve the mysteries of prostate cancer*

Garvan's Human Comparative and Prostate Cancer Genomics laboratory focuses on human diversity and prostate cancer. While these might seem to be two very diverse areas of focus, they are not.

The human comparative side of the work concentrates on discovering where we come from as humans – what dictates who we are, as well as why diseases exist and why we are susceptible to them. The team does this by looking at early human origins – some of the earliest lineages from Africa, traces of which can still be found in modern humans.

Garvan's prostate cancer genomics work aims to shed light on the genetic basis for both risk and development of prostate cancer. Ultimately, the goal is to develop DNA-based markers that can be used to determine how aggressive the disease is in an individual, ie who might die of prostate cancer, as opposed to dying with prostate cancer.

Human Comparative Research

One of the most significant points in history was the invention of agriculture. Most diseases we are fighting today have come about

at this time in history. Humans lived 190,000 years as hunters and gatherers, but today we live in an extremely different world. Professor Hayes and her team are looking at how our genome has changed to adapt to this new environment, when we are coded to exist in a very different environment.

In 2010, Professor Vanessa Hayes led a team that generated the first complete personalised human DNA sequences for Africa, namely South African and Nobel Peace Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu and !Gubi*, a Kalahari Bushman from Namibia. She is now using her understanding of the complexities of the human genome to identify the inherited and acquired genetic events that cause prostate cancer.

One of the biggest problems faced by researchers is that genomics focuses on people living outside of Africa (particularly Europeans and Asians). However, if we want to understand

who we are as modern humans, and accurately represent genetic variances, it is essential that African genomes are examined in databases worldwide.

To date, Hayes has identified the most diverse human genomes within the Southern African Bushman (Khoesan) peoples. In contrast, Europeans and Asians show the least genomic diversity, having gone through a major 'bottleneck' (population reduction) when leaving Africa some 35,000 to 25,000 years ago.

"By sequencing the complete genomes of !Gubi and the Archbishop, we were able to add 1.3 million gene variants to the databases that weren't there previously – simply because people hadn't looked in Africa," says Professor Hayes.

Prostate Cancer Genomics

There is a lot that we don't know about prostate cancer. We do know that three factors influence prostate cancer risk. They are: age, family history and, of particular interest to Garvan's prostate cancer genomics lab, ethnic diversity. The second two tell us there must be a genetic element involved. Again, this takes Professor Hayes and her team's focus back to Africa.

Hayes believes that Africa holds many secrets to understanding human disease that have not been tapped. For example the significant link to prostate cancer and aggressive prostate cancer disease observed in men of African ancestry.

African Americans have the highest incidence and mortality rates of prostate cancer of any population, followed by European Americans, while rates are very low in Asians. This tells us there is a link to genetics, or inherited ancestry. Surprisingly, no one has been investigating this within Africa.



Professor Hayes working in the field. Photo: Chris Bennett - Evolving Picture www.evolvingpicture.com

"Although the Archbishop has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, our current knowledge was unable to predict his disease status based on his DNA sequence," says Hayes.

The team is currently studying African men from rural areas with aggressive prostate cancer who, unlike Australian men, have not been impacted by western trends in prostate cancer management. The team is using this unique resource as a comparative analysis to better understand both the environmental and genetic factors driving prostate cancer within Australia.

In January this year, Professor Hayes assumed the inaugural Petre Foundation Chair of Prostate Cancer Research. This has allowed the team to acquire a new genome mapping technology which, complimentary to Garvan's genome sequencing technology, will allow them to map

large genomic rearrangements that are assumed to be critical drivers of aggressive prostate cancer.

"Most people are looking at small pieces of DNA, and observing small changes," says Professor Hayes. "We want to look at large chromosomal changes that are critical to prostate cancer development.

"This new technology means we can start to understand small and large alterations to the genome and what they mean. We can discover how many genomic changes can safely be carried without getting sick, or what signatures define aggressive disease. Our objective is to guide the development of targeted prostate cancer therapies, perhaps avoiding surgery and the often devastating side-effects."

*Bushman languages include a variety of clicks, which explains the use of characters in their names. The ! is a palatal click, made by pulling a flat tongue sharply down from the roof of the mouth.

Ask Garvan

Q: What is the Garvan Institute Associates program?

A: A Garvan Institute Associate is someone who makes an automatic, monthly donation to the Garvan Institute from their credit card or bank account.

Q: What do funds from the Garvan Institute Associate's program fund?

A: A Garvan Institute Associate contributes to finding the answers to some of the most devastating diseases we face.

These include cancer, diabetes, obesity, hearing loss, asthma, eating disorders, osteoporosis, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, to name just a few.

Supporting Garvan's work in this way means that our scientists can plan their research, secure in the knowledge of ongoing funding.

Q: What do I receive as a Garvan Institute Associate?

A: As a Garvan Institute Associate you will receive:

- updates about Garvan's research work three times a year through this newsletter;
- invitations to be our guest at disease information seminars given by leading researchers and clinicians; and
- invitations to very special Garvan events throughout the year.

Q: How can I become a Garvan Institute Associate?

You can give any amount, and gifts are automatically deducted each month from your preferred credit card or bank account.

To become a Garvan Institute Associate, visit www.garvan.org.au/s/giving or phone the Garvan Research Foundation on 1300 73 66 77.



Professor Hayes working in the field. Photo: Chris Bennett - Evolving Picture www.evolvingpicture.com



Researcher profile Stuart Tangye

What is the current focus of your work?

Our work focuses on the human immune system and determining which genes are critical for the development and function of immune cells. We do this by studying patients with rare diseases called primary immune deficiencies. These are diseases typically caused by a mutation or error in a single gene. Despite there being approximately 30,000 genes in our DNA, the loss of function of this one single gene is sufficient to render patients highly susceptible to infection with different microbes. This also makes the individual unable to respond to vaccination. So overall, they have severe disabilities to generate immune responses that, in normal healthy people, provide protection against all different types of infectious diseases.

The immune system also plays an important role in protecting us from

the development of some types of cancers (such as lymphoma). These immunodeficient patients also have an increased incidence of malignancy.

We study the immune cells in these patients, aiming to identify critical and non-redundant functions of specific genes in the development and function of different subsets of immune cells. From this, we try to understand how these defects directly cause the specific clinical features of these immune deficient conditions. Finally, we hope to identify molecules or pathways that could be targeted, not only in these patients, but also other individuals with immunological diseases, in order to enhance (eg in immune deficiency or vaccines) or inhibit (eg in autoimmunity) the function of immune cells.

What are some recent findings of your work?

We have made some real insights into what makes the human immune system work – from the signals that are required for the generation of diverse populations of immune cells, through to what makes these cells function properly when we either experience infections with viruses, bacteria or fungi, or are vaccinated against different pathogens. We have also shed light on why some types of immune cells are required for protection against only some microbes and not others.

We have collaborated with labs at the National Institute of Health and Rockefeller University in the USA. These groups are at the leading edge

of discovering novel gene mutations that are defining a whole new set of immunological diseases. To be a part of this breakthrough work is very exciting. To report our discoveries regarding the defects in the immune system of these patients, which can lead to advances in treatment or improvements in diagnoses of different conditions, is very exciting and rewarding.

What is the biggest challenge in your area of research?

We work on incredibly rare diseases – some of these affect one in 100,000 to one in one million people; these often only affect males, so that incidence is halved again! After working on these diseases for a long time now, I don't consider an incidence of one in one million to be that rare anymore – some other diseases we have studied literally affect only a few families in the world, or in a recent case, a single individual. So accessing these patients from all corners of the globe is a real challenge. However, we are very lucky to collaborate with some great labs in the US, Europe and Japan – as well as clinicians right across Australia – who are very enthusiastic about our research and are very willing to send us blood samples from their rare, precious and occasionally unique patients.

What do you enjoy doing away from the lab?

I have three young and adorable children, so I spend a lot of time with my family, trying to be a great dad. That's my real job! In between work and family, I enjoy cycling, swimming and surfing – though I haven't made it to the beach in quite a while.

Cancer Foundation. Prior to joining Garvan, I worked for the George Institute for Global Health which provided me with the entrée into the world of medical research, which is very different to a consumer charity, and offers both great opportunities and challenges. Being surrounded by academics and researchers seems to have been a common thread throughout my career.

What does your role at Garvan involve?

Corporate Social Responsibility is a concept that is embraced by organisations, large and small, around the world. This means businesses are extremely conscious about how they interact with, and give back to their local community, and the global community. My role is to introduce the world-class medical research carried out at Garvan to corporations, and to help establish and nurture partnerships that will be mutually beneficial – they provide financial support for Garvan's work, and we are a strong component in the organisation's Corporate Social

Responsibility program. Corporate support could be anything from the company making regular donations; staff contributing through workplace giving; donating a percentage of product sales; or special fundraising events and promotions.

What inspires you about Garvan's work?

I have been fortunate enough to work with several of the breast cancer researchers in my previous life, so I was aware of the world-class research carried out at Garvan. The opportunity to engage, promote and fundraise for the best-of-the-best was the real draw card. This being said, Messina Gelato is located across the road, and was the icing on the ice-cream cake for me!

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I'm in the middle of a property renovation at the moment. So, there is a fine line between what I "enjoy" in my spare time, and what needs to get done before I move onto the next project.

Garvan takes research message on the road

The Garvan Research Foundation has been on a mission to initiate an important conversation about cancer in regional South Australia. In early May, Garvan and corporate partner Ridley AgriProducts joined forces to take the Cancer in the Community Awareness Program to the Murray Bridge, Wasley and Roseworthy townships.

The free forum set about to demystify cancer for the South Australian communities, by educating about the latest in cancer research, suggesting practical ways to reduce individual cancer risk and the best ways to access local resources and cancer support.

According to Ridley AgriProducts' General Manager, Anne-Marie Mooney, the company's partnership with the Garvan Research Foundation and sponsorship of 'Cancer in the Community' is one way Ridley AgriProducts is helping the Murray Bridge, Wasley and Roseworthy communities.

"Unfortunately, regional communities in South Australia are hit pretty hard by cancer. I think everyone knows someone who has been touched by the disease at some point.

For Ridley, it is important that the community has a better understanding of the disease, treatments and progress in cancer research. Events like this give people in regional areas rare access to experts and information," said Ms Mooney.

"The community forum is for everyone and gives locals access to leading experts that they normally would not have, to learn about these important health messages and research."

Dr Darren Saunders, a senior scientist within the Cancer Research Division of the Garvan Institute of Medical Research was joined by Mr Don Piro of the Barossa Valley Prostate Group and Ms Tania Cercone of the Lower Murray Women's Cancer Support Group to continue the cancer conversation and gain a better understanding of the needs of cancer patients in remote areas.

To find out where Garvan's next regional visit will be, please email healthinitiative@garvan.org.au

Garvan Gala supporting world-class scientists

The fourth annual Garvan Gala raised funds for Garvan's Breakthrough Fund – building an endowment from which Garvan can recruit the world's very best researchers. Guests were treated to a menu designed by world famous chefs, Neil Perry AM and Guillaume Brahimi.

MC, ABC News Breakfast presenter, Ms Virginia Trioli kept guests entertained, as did performers Nathan Allgood and Charlotte Rhiane Warriner, both John Brown Youth Foundation scholarship winners.

This year, the locked box contained a stunning Paspaley Australian South Sea Pearl Necklace valued at \$5,560. Guests bid on live auction items including a trip to New York, having their genome sequenced, a Stephen Ormandy sculpture, an afternoon on the super maxi yacht, Perpetual Loyal and a Hong Kong getaway. The silent auction and raffle were also popular.

Sincere thanks to all the generous sponsors and supporters who donated wonderful prizes for the event.



Professor John Mattick, Dr John Schubert and his wife Prue, and NSW Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, The Hon. Jillian Skinner.

Celebrate with Garvan

The following events were recently celebrated, with guests making a donation to Garvan's work in lieu of a gift.

Debbie & Diane for Mothers' Day

Ann Bernfield's 80th Birthday

Susie Blashki's Birthday

Ros Carberry's 50th Birthday

Pamela Catty's Birthday

Lola Craner's 80th Birthday

Brian Goodacre's Birthday

Diane Johnson's Birthday

Jason and Tara Kitzler's Wedding

Mimmo Lubrano's 50th Birthday

Neville Moodie & Kim Yen's Wedding

Alice & Ged's Happy Engagement

Madhavi Parker's 40th Birthday

In Celebration of Rob & Sammy Rogers

Debbie Small's Birthday

Nicholas Stewart & Sarah Shands' Wedding

Richard Sylvester's Birthday

Adrian Wilden's 70th Birthday

If you would like to celebrate your next event with Garvan, contact the Supporter Care team on (02) 9295 8110.



Staff profile Leonie Walton, Head of Corporate Partnerships

Can you give us a brief outline of your recent work history?

I began my career in academic publishing, and then moved into marketing for the Faculty of Commerce and Economics at UNSW. I then decided to transition into the "Third Sector" and managed the marketing and corporate partnerships for the National Breast

Clinical Studies

Pre-diabetes study

We are looking for healthy male volunteers who have close relatives with Type 2 diabetes for a study investigating the role of the autonomic nervous system activity in the development of the disease. The study involves visiting the Garvan Institute in Darlinghurst for one morning during working hours. **If you are willing, aged 50 to 60 years and healthy, please contact Lynne (02) 9295 8231 or Dorit (02) 9295 8309 or email crf@garvan.org.au (St Vincent's HREC Ref 12/102).**

Osteoporosis study

Are you female and over 55? Have you had a vertebral (spinal) fracture due to osteoporosis? We are looking for volunteers to be part of a clinical trial that compares a new osteoporosis treatment to a current medication. Both are designed to stop further fractures. **For further information please contact Dr Yvonne Selecki on (02) 9295 8276 or y.selecki@garvan.org.au, or Vanessa Travers on (02) 9295 8269 or email v.travers@garvan.org.au (Southern Health HREC Ref HREC/12/SHA/6).**

Brown fat and blood pressure study

Brown fat is a special kind of fat which burns fat in the body. We are looking for volunteers who have high blood pressure to participate in a trial investigating the effect of a medication on brown fat. Participants must be aged 18 to 45 years and currently on one blood pressure medication. **For further information please contact Dr Paul Lee (02) 9295 8416 or email p.lee@garvan.org.au (St Vincent's HREC Ref 14/SVH/105).**

Coming Up

Garvan Public Seminars

All seminars are now full for 2014. However, if you missed out on securing a place, you can still watch the seminar online.

To watch past seminars, visit www.garvan.org.au/s/seminarvideos

In Memoriam February to June 2014. Donations have been made in memory of:

Ronnie	Dr Margaret Dunn,	Michael Kinnane	Judy Rankins
David Abbott	Mrs Jenny Dunn &	Genevieve Kirtton	Philip A Rasmus
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Brian Bell	Renzo Franceschini	Tim & Andrew Lynch	Laurel Robinson
Helen Berege	Robert Freckelton	Margherita & Michele Maldarella	Veronica Rodd
Frances Beringer	Beverley A French	Peter Male	Aileen Rogers
Joan Bradley	James Gaffney	John S Mansell	Cric Rusten
Ellen Brewster	John Francis Henry	Rose Matheison	Sue Salter
Jean M Brown	Gale	Catherine M McCarroll	Susanne Salter
Malcolm Burge	Susan Gamble	Trish McCormack	Les (Laslo) Sasi
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Anne Chaffey	Stewart J Graham	Frank Anthony Milazzo	Rosemary Mathieson
Peter Clarke	Roger Hadfield	Maria Mirigliani	Walter Sheldon
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Raeleen Hoskin	Julie Harmer	Chris Moore	Bill Smith
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Suann Croker	Loretta Henson	My Nan	John Stephenson
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Jim Cunningham	Mac Hogarth	Doreen Needs	Ann Stove
Leonie Cunningham	David Hollier	Adrian Notley	Shirley Stuckey
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Janelle K Davis	Stuart J Hoy	Paul A Pace	Tesfaghiorghis
Deceased members	Eunice J Hyslop	William Perry	Danielle L Touma
of the Qantas Retired	Jacinta's Grandfather	Brian Peterson	Jordanis Valageorgiou
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Hilary Donaldson	Catherine Jones	Maria Rafin	Ethel Wieland
Sally Donovan	Peter C Jones	Persefoni Raftopoulou	Clarice Wilson
Sue Dowlan	Maria Jugovic	Annie Ramage	Peter Charles M Wilson
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	Heather King	Karen Ramage	Susan Yeates

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