

Branch News – December 2004.

Executive Musings.

As the Festive Season is fast approaching we can look back and reflect on a busy and interesting year. Some Society issues have moved forward and a lot has been achieved by the many members who contribute to the many projects that are always happening.

Regional Representatives

Our sincerest thanks go to all the outgoing Board members for their contribution to the Society and the support they have given the Executive over the last 2 years. We hope you have enjoyed the experience and look forward to being an 'ordinary' member again!

We are happy to announce and wish to congratulate the following members who have been elected to represent their region on the ANZSRS Board for 2005-2006.

New Zealand	David Robiony-Rogers	Lauren Wallace
New South Wales	Alison Boynton	Debbie Burton
Victoria	Brigitte Borg	Bruce Thompson
Western Australia	Christine Nathan	Sally Young
Queensland	Skye McLennan	Leanne Rodwell
Tasmania	David Johns	
South Australia	Donna Keatley	

In WA and NZ, where elections were held by postal ballot, Christene McLachlan (NZ) and Bill Noffisinger (WA) were unfortunate not to be elected. Voting was very close in both regions. We would like to thank both Christene and Bill for their willingness to represent their region and their commitment to the Society.

Contact details for all the regional representatives will be available on the 'About the Society' pages of the website in the New Year.

ANZSRS awards.

Nominations are called for the prestigious ANZSRS Life Membership/Fellowship. These should be submitted to the Secretary for consideration at the 2005 Board Meeting. These awards recognise a member's contribution to the Society and/or the Field of Respiratory Science. Details are available on the website at <http://www.anzsrs.org.au/specialawards.pdf>

Applications can also be lodged for travel grants to the 2005 Perth ASM. These should be sent to the treasurer by the 7th January 2005

Spirometry Buyers Guide

The Executive gives thanks to all those members who contributed towards the compilation of the Spirometry Buyers Guide and especially to Debbie Burton, David Johns and Maureen Swanney for their considerable effort. Despite what appeared to

be an impossible time frame the task was completed and delivered to the Department of Health and Aging on time.

CRFS 10th Birthday

The CRFS programme has turned 10. I was reminded of this when I recently shifted office, and noticed the award date on my certificate was 25th March, 1995. Stephen West has shown amazing resilience to have developed and maintained the CRFS process for that period of time. Our Society owes a debt to Stephen for the very considerable time and effort he has put in for our benefit. Perhaps the way we can start to repay that debt is to provide relief. During the Sydney ASM several members indicated an interest in helping with or taking on the role of CRFS Coordinator. The Executive will be writing to these people and several others to develop a plan with Stephen for the gradual hand over of Coordinator responsibilities.

As this is the last Executive letter for 2004 we would like to take this opportunity to wish all ANZSRS members and their families a safe and Happy Christmas, a very Happy New Year and a restful holiday period for those taking leave.

David Schembri, President

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Michelle Rozee, Secretary

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Glenn Thomas, Treasurer

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Perth 2005 Local Organising Committee

The Executive is proud to announce the following sponsorships for the Perth ASM:

2005 ASM Presentation Awards.

Sponsorship of the 2005 ASM Presentation awards has been confirmed and the Society is privileged to once again have the support of,

RJ and VK Bird, the Young Investigator Award

Technipro, the Best Presentation Award.

Compumedics, the Best Poster Award.

We gratefully extend our thanks to all three companies for their ongoing commitment to the Society.

Graham Hall

Perth 2005 LOC

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New South Wales

Nothing received

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New Zealand

NZ welcomes a few new members to ANZSRS this month, Avis Williamson (Dunedin), Kyle Reid and Hereni Coffin (Wellington). We hope you get the opportunity to get involved in Society activities over the up-and-coming year and we look forward to your input.

With the Perth meeting advancing quickly, we hope that there will be a good show of NZ members and a good number of NZ abstracts submitted. Remember to register early and get in your applications for travel grants.

Congratulations to Lauren Wallace and David Robiony-Rogers for being elected as NZ board reps for the 2005/2006 season. Lauren continues for another term, which will provide good continuity, and David will bring a fresh outlook to the position. Remember to keep in touch with your board reps and let them know what interesting events are taking place in your areas.

Last words from Josh: “This is my last website update (for this term) so goodbye from me, its been a great experience being part of the ANZSRS board”.

Josh Stanton CRFS

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Lauren Wallace CRFS

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Queensland

An intimate dinner for a dozen QLD members was held earlier this week in Brisbane's South Bank to round out the year and kick off the festive season in fine style. A great Italian feast and wonderful company made for a relaxed and very enjoyable evening. Many thanks to those who were able to attend, especially the Gold Coast contingent who have made such an effort throughout the year to attend the various meetings and functions held in Brisbane.

A big thank you also goes to Sean Rafferty and his predecessor Allan Lawson, from GSK who have supported the QLD branch meetings again this year. Without this support, these meetings would be a lot harder to organise and we look forward to continuing this relationship with GSK. While on the subject of branch meetings, thanks to our speakers who made the time to present such a wide variety of interesting and informative topics throughout the year.

We wish all ANZSRS members and their families a fantastic Christmas, New Year and holiday season. We look forward to seeing everyone again safe and well in the New Year, ready for bigger and better things in 2005.

Debbie Murray and Skye McLennan

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South Australia

Nothing received.

Derek Figurski and David Sharp

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns
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Victoria

By the time you read this report, our last meeting for the year will be well and truly over. I'm sure it will have been an extremely successful meeting, thanks to Danny (I was busy collecting data for an abstract while he was organising the meeting!). We would like to thank Paul (Monash) for agreeing to speak on lung compliance, RJ&VK Bird for sponsoring the meeting and St Vincent's for opening up their laboratory to us.

As you are aware, Danny has chosen to stand down as a Board Rep after providing four years of service to the Society. I would like to thank him, and I'm sure others will agree, for his hard work and dedication over this time. On a personal note – thanks Danny for sharing your skills and helping me find my feet in this role. Fortunately for us, Danny has agreed to chair the local organising committee for the 2006 ASM, so his contribution to the Society endures!

I would also like to welcome Bruce Thompson as the new regional representative for Victoria. Bruce is well versed in Board operations and duties, having been a representative for Victoria and president of the Australasian Sleep Technologists Association in the past. I am looking forward to the challenge of working with him as a fellow regional representative in addition to our daily interactions at work!!!!

Brigitte

So what's on the agenda for next year? The structure of our branch meetings has been well received, so we envisage more of the same. Meeting at different sites has also added value in terms of making the meetings accessible to many members. This is a good thing! We are open to suggestions for speakers/topics for next year – so please nominate some!

The first meeting of the year will be held in late February/ early March for practise and refining of presentations for the ASM in Perth.

Finally, we would like to wish all members the very best for the festive season and a safe and relaxing start to the New Year.

Regards and good wishes,

Danny Brazzale and Brigitte Borg

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Western Australia

2004 seems to have flown past for me. I know every year does, but I seem to have this nagging feeling that I missed a big chunk of the year. Regardless, 2004 was a big year for me, both personally and professionally. The birth of my daughter, Tahlie, in May was much anticipated and very welcome (excepting the sleep loss bit), and at 7 months we have decided to let her stay on for another month or two (to be re-assessed monthly). Professionally our lab finally, with much celebration and relief submitted our accreditation. The efforts of both Jan Oostryck and Maureen Verheggen in the preparation of the manual cannot be commended enough. Of course once the accreditation was out of the way, our minds turned to other aspects of the lab. We had some renovations which (I think) provided us with a more useful lab area. The lab staff are also rapidly increasing our role within research being conducted by the department and have also started a few projects of our own (to be revealed next year).

Graham

Well, here we are in December 2004 and this will be my last Branch report from WA for the time being. I can't believe that it's only been 4 years since we held the inaugural meeting of the WA Branch at SCGH. My hope at that first meeting was to merely provide a regular opportunity for the respiratory scientists in Perth to meet, rather than the ad hoc contacts we had 'enjoyed' in the past. There have certainly been some major changes since then. Little did I realise from that small meeting that by 2005 I would see not only the expansion of our Branch, but also of our Society as a whole. Nor did I think that I would be taking on the somewhat more demanding (and difficult?) role of Secretary by 2005. I hope that I can maintain the standards set by my predecessors, one of whom is here in Perth and I'm sure will keep a close eye on me. In fact, I appreciate all the advice that Kevin has to give and I'm sure I'll be calling on his help on many occasions! So, while my voice may not be heard in the WA Branch reports, I'll still be around...

Ciao, Rob

On a state level, our regular WA Branch meeting was, unfortunately, cancelled in November due to prior commitments by several members. However, we hope to finish off the year with a bang and a party to be held at Pulmonary Physiology, SCGH. One recent development is that the three major Perth hospitals (Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital and Royal Perth Hospital) have developed a spirometry training course to be conducted via the Asthma Foundation (WA) in the hope of promoting good spirometry practices both within Perth, but also in the remote and rural centres of WA. We look forward to this program commencing in 2005.

Of course also occupying us in 2004 was the organising of the 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting. As most people should be aware by now, we are trying several new ideas at the ASM that we hope everyone will find both exciting and stimulating. As well as the usual program, the ASM will feature a series of parallel workshops on Saturday morning followed by a panel discussion with Professors Crapo and Jensen. Two further workshops, on CRFS and Laboratory Accreditation, will be conducted on the Monday following the main meeting. We hope that everyone will find this new format

will offer a broad range of information and result in all delegates going home having found the meeting enjoyable, relevant and mind stretching. We look forward to you **ALL** attending.

Graham Hall & Robert Tagliaferri

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CRFS news

If you haven't as yet gained the CRFS qualification you should seriously consider attending the CRFS Workshop being held in association with the 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting. The workshop will be held on Monday 21 March between 0930 and 1200. Topics covered will include:

- Philosophy behind the CRFS qualification
- Update on the best textbooks and other resources
- Studying techniques
- Determining the depth of knowledge required
- Form of the exam
- Examination techniques
- Practice questions and discussion of answers

The workshop will be facilitated by a team of senior ANZSRS members and will be weighted towards a discussion format. Application to attend the workshop is included in the 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting Registration Brochure.

This month's CRFS questions relate to Instrumentation. These questions, and the answers to last month's questions, are accessed from the Members Only Area of the website.

Stephen West, CRFS

CRFS Coordinator

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