

Branch News – March 2004.

Executive Musings.

Time just flies when you are part of the executive (*and having fun! Ed*). We are only a few short weeks away from our first Board meeting and AGM and the first year of our Executive term is almost completed. What have we been doing?

Writing reports (many), answering emails (hundreds), handling new memberships (42), attending meetings (lots), writing minutes (too many), distributing information (regularly), collecting fees (around \$9,000), updating documentation (often), maintaining records (continuously), making decisions (a few), reviewing and awarding grants (travel and scholarships), visiting Branch meetings (the President), having fun (sometimes) and many more little things. The *to do list* is hardly ever empty as something new always seems to find it's way in as soon as you think you are nearly there.

No doubt the coming year will fly past even quicker; more things will need to be done (urgently), we will probably have a few more gray hairs, a few more fine lines (wrinkles) to worry about and the next Executive will be ready to take all this on! However, the next Executive remains to be elected at the forthcoming [AGM](#) and [nominations](#) should be forwarded to the Secretary before the 5/3/2004. Nominations will be announced on the website after this date.

ANZSRS 2004 Scholarship Awards.

Suzana Trifkovic and Derek Figurski have been awarded the 2004 scholarships to enable them both to continue their Post Graduate studies in Respiratory Science at CSU. Congratulations and good luck for 2004.

ASM

The [ASM program](#) and [abstracts](#) are now available on the Web-site. For those members unable to attend the meeting reading the abstracts is a useful way of staying in touch with the current activities of other Society members.

We look forward to a successful and productive meeting in Sydney and hope to catch up with as many members as possible while there.

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Sydney 2004 News

No updates provided.

New South Wales

No update provided

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New Zealand

A note from Lauren: February has been an eventful one for me as I have just returned from a fabulous trip to Europe. I attended the 3-day ERS school course in Florence, Italy, and the topic of interest was 'exercise-based assessment in respiratory medicine'. We were treated to an array of fabulous speakers including Brian Whipp (USA), Susan Ward (UK) and Charles Gallagher (Ireland). The days ran with lectures in the morning, tutorial sessions before lunch and then a practical session in the afternoon. The course encompassed exercise physiology, exercise testing in lung disease, lung mechanics, lab versus field testing, cardiovascular haemodynamics, exercise in rehabilitation and much more. I enjoyed the course, however, I would have preferred to spend a little more time on the interpretation of incremental exercise tests (this would have taken all 3 days though!) All-up, a pretty good course and a brilliant location! I spent the next two and a half weeks enjoying the sights of Italy (Florence, Rome, Pisa, Siena, Venice) and then made a brief visit to Austria (Vienna and Salzburg) and Germany (Munich). My journey came to an end in Switzerland after a couple of fabulous days up in the Swiss Alps. Perfect!

Back to earth now and back to the realities of life – work. The structure of the NZ Branch meeting is starting to take shape. It sounds like there will be a number of scientists making their way to Christchurch in August for this meeting which will be great. Hopefully all the NZ members will have received a flier in the mail (please contact us if you are not on our mailing list), and shortly there will be another one sent out that has the call for abstracts in it. We will bring some fliers to the meeting in Sydney for anyone interested.

A note from Josh: After a few years on the shelf, the lower North Island is re-establishing the respiratory interest group with the first meeting being held on 5th March in Palmerston North. This is to be a multidisciplinary meeting with scientists, physicians and specialist nursing staff from around the lower North Island region invited to attend and present. The flood waters should have receded in time for people to drive rather than jetboat their way to Palmerston North.

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Queensland

Last week was the first Queensland Branch Meeting for the year and what a meeting it was. We got a sneak preview of the research our members are presenting in Sydney and were educated on the aetiology, assessment and treatment of COPD in horses, a disease similar to asthma in humans. Who would have thought that horses perform pulmonary function tests (oesophageal pressures, forced oscillometry, bronchoprovocation tests) and use nebulisers and spacers? One of the treatments for horses with COPD was to put them out to pasture - in the literal sense of course!

The remaining branch meetings for the year have been scheduled for the last Wednesday of every second month with a variety of presenters lined up. If anyone has any particular areas of interest or topics they would like covered, please contact us so we can arrange this. We also want to encourage members to sit the CRFS examination this year and to facilitate this; it may be possible to structure branch meetings around known study problem areas.

We have been busy writing the Annual Report for the Queensland Branch, to be tabled at the Board Meeting in March. Speaking of Sydney, we are looking forward to the Annual Scientific Meeting, especially the exciting programme on offer and having the opportunity to catch up with interstate and overseas members. If you haven't met us before, please come up and say hello. We'll try and make ourselves look obvious!

Happy blowing!

Debbie Murray and Skye McLennan

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South Australia

The SA Branch met for the first time in 2004 on the 17th of February. Ana Herrero presented her research on oxygen assessment using the alternative step test protocol. This topic stimulated discussion with majority of laboratories offering the standardised 6-minute walk test as their preferred functional assessment. Hopefully, this topic will create some interest when Ana presents it as a poster presentation in Sydney.

On the local scene, the Flinders Medical Centre and Repatriation General Hospital laboratories have employed Richard Parsons to work between the two sites. Good luck Richard with your new career!

With the commencement of the new year the SA Branch feels revitalised (may be physically!) and a discussion was held regarding future presentation topics.

Thank you to Medtechnica for sponsoring the meeting.

We look forward to catching up with the membership in Sydney.

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

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Victoria

Hi All! Well the mornings have become brisk in Melbourne over the last few days. The football has started again – we must be heading for autumn. The season for being able to see the wood for the trees! I suppose that is what Kevin asked of us in his last train of thought. To consider the opportunity for being part of the structure that supports the organisation. To consider the possibility of becoming a member of the executive and participate in the growth of our professional body. Having discussed visions and values at our final meeting for last year and encouraged members to actively participate in the growth of the ANZSRS, we urge all Victorian members to seriously consider the role they play in the organisation. That is, whether or not they are prepared to stand up and nominate themselves for a place on the executive. More discussion about this at our next Branch meeting.

Speaking of branch meetings, our next one is not far away – 6pm, Tuesday 2nd March at the Austin. All Victorian members should have received an invitation by now. If not, please contact us regarding details. Trish (Western Hospital), and Bruce and Brigitte, (Alfred Hospital) will be unveiling their presentations for the ANZSRS ASM in Sydney. An opportunity for those going to get a taste of what is coming and, for those unable to join us in Sydney, a chance to see a selection of the work being presented. We thank Mayo Healthcare for providing us with sponsorship for the meeting.

Are any Victorian members considering sitting the May CRFS exam? Depending on interest, we might hold a workshop prior to the exam. Send us topics you would like covered.

News from around the traps.....

Congratulations to Kim Gooley on her successful application for the Grade 2 Scientist position in the Lung Function Laboratory at the Western.

Kind regards,

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Western Australia

I always get the chills when I get an e-mail from Kevin. I have yet to have him contact me to tell me he has lessened the pressure on my in-tray. This month was no exception, with the added pressure that a March report means a March conference, which means posters to do.

February was our first meeting of 2004 and Rob was lucky (??) enough to volunteer to present his talk to the WA members at our last meeting. He gave a very good run down on where our budding external QA program is at and how it will develop, potentially nationally and internationally.

A large part of the discussion centred on the upcoming conference and the elections of the next executive. A lot of interesting views were put forward. The upshot of these discussions was that the members felt that the WA branch should advance a nomination for the executive team. So a few trees were shaken and we are waiting to see what falls out.

Interestingly, one of the more telling comments regarding the upcoming elections was that one member thought that the Executive rotated with every second conference and therefore that it was merely a formality that the executive would be based in Perth. This was a timely reminder to Rob and myself that we may not be communicating effectively the underlying mechanics of the Society. This applies to us as regional reps and the Society as a whole. The challenge then is how can regional reps, the Board and the Executive better communicate to the members the practical aspects of the Society and increase the general awareness of what the Society can do for us as individuals. Only when this is achieved will people feel a responsibility to volunteer their time to put their expertise back into the Society.

See you all in Sydney

Cheers

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CRFS news

Nothing received.

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