

# **Branch News – September, 2009.**

## ***Executive Musings.....***

Hi all,

As usual there are plenty of things going on in the background of the ANZSRS to keep the Society functioning well. The Executive and the Board have been involved in guiding the large amount of work being done by the Governance committee. Re-writing the constitution is a huge job and the Governance committee should be applauded on the great work they have already done and continue to do. The Executive and the Board are also making plans for a face-to-face meeting in Sydney in early October. This will allow in-depth discussion about many issues important to the Society. The Executive has also been lending some assistance to the Brisbane LOC who are doing a great job in putting together the next Annual Scientific Meeting. Brenton Eckert has done a fantastic job in securing lots of sponsors for the meeting, to ensure it is a financial as well as scientific success.

As Kevin has already mentioned, the Board has approved an ANZSRS Research Grant, which will allow some funding for worthwhile research projects. Please see the website for further details about this grant. It is also exciting to announce that the ANZSRS is currently negotiating a travel grant, which will probably be awarded at the next ASM in Brisbane. This travel grant has been sponsored by none other than Dr Robert Jensen, who was made an honorary member of our Society at this year's meeting in Darwin. This is a very kind and gracious offer from Dr Jensen and the ANZSRS Board and Executive are very excited about this. Stay tuned for further details regarding this grant as they are sorted out in the near future.

Cheers and bye for now,

***Danny, Leigh, and Debbie***

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## ***Board Happenings***

As for last month, most of the issues the Board have been working on recently are of an on-going nature. In particular, we are working with the Governance Subcommittee towards finalising the draft of the new constitution, and associated by-laws, with a view to having these ready for membership consideration and comment by end of this month. Following the vigorous and constructive debate that will no doubt ensue, an on-line vote as to whether or not the new constitution should be adopted will take place. Exact timing of the voting hasn't yet been finalised, however we hope it will be before the end of this year. Watch this space!

The review of Society committees and committee structure, and the work relating to development of a document control system are both proceeding, as is deliberation over the

relationship between ANZSRS and TSANZ, particularly as applicable to the running of the Annual Scientific Meetings. All of these issues, plus others, will be on the agenda for a planned face-to-face meeting (Board plus Executive) to be held in Sydney in early October. Promises to be an interesting day!

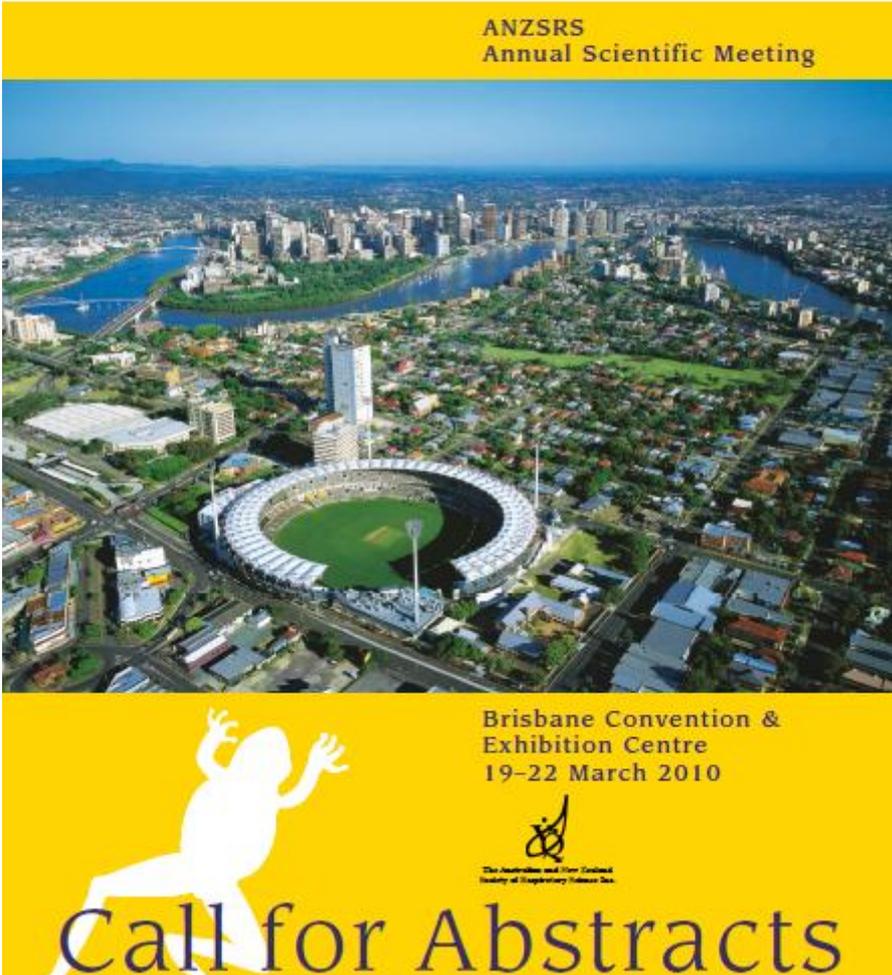
Finally, you'll have noticed the recent announcement of the ANZSRS Research Grant, worth \$15,000, and available to financial Society members only. Applications close on November 6th, so get those projects organised and make sure you don't miss this exciting opportunity to get researching!

**Mike**

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## ***Annual Scientific Meeting News***

  
**Brisbane**2010



ANZSRS  
Annual Scientific Meeting

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre  
19-22 March 2010

  
Call for Abstracts

  
The Australian and New Zealand  
Society of Respiratory Tuberculosis

The call for abstracts has been made and the closing date for submission is 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Time to get going on them!

Brenton Eckert  
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## ***New South Wales / ACT***

Hi All,

On behalf of our group, I want to wish the two men who celebrated **significant** birthdays in August just passed. many happy returns for the year ahead. Hope you both celebrated in style, and soaked up being centre of attention on your day.

Now back to business, and it certainly was great this month to get the chance again for some long awaited membership interaction. Who would have thought that most of us would be out and about two school nights in a row! First up was a night of being wined, dined and enthralled at Niche Medical's launch of their latest technology 'EasyOne Pro- the new standard in DLCO' at the Vibe Hotel North Sydney. Secondly, thanks especially to the efforts of Barbara and Brigitte from SCH/POW, an exceedingly well coordinated ANZSRS branch meeting followed the very next night. Yummy pizza's, soft drink and birthday cake was served thanks to Bob Bird from BirdHealthCare who came to share our night. The presentation by Dr Euan Tovey 'Pigs may Fly' certainly helped to pull a good crowd together despite the distance for some to travel, and our wiry eyes due to the previous night. Thankfully Barbara was cunning and kept us all on the edge of our seat with a quick discussion regarding the hot topic of reference sets and also then produced a pop quiz, complete with electronic voting system, to test our general respiratory knowledge and make sure we were all awake to get the prizes on offer (Choc treats). Cheers again to all that participated.

As yet no specific plans have been set for our next branch meeting- probable time frame though being mid-late October - and then one final Xmas meeting early in Dec. I'd really LOVE to hear any membership feedback / ideas / topics or, best of all, offers to host the next get-together!

Finally a gentle reminder to all members, the application deadline for CRFS exam is fast approaching - 2/10/09. Still some time to get the books out and give it a go and make us proud.

Stay in touch, and I may even see a few of you in Melbourne mid October at ASA.

Regards,

***Dana***

Dana Watson  
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## ***New Zealand***

Well spring has sprung and the All Blacks have won. Yes much to all our amazement and with the return of the best first-five in the world the All Blacks managed to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat and hold onto the Bledisloe Cup. Nothing quite like warm weather and an All Blacks victory to kick us into the new season.

## Branch Meeting

I am still waiting on final confirmation for the venue for our branch meeting. I am hoping to have information out to everyone in the next week or so and will post it on the website. Keep an eye out and hopefully we can all jump onto “grab a seat” and get a cheap flight!

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Geraldine Back and Hamish Collie both from Wellington for completing their Postgraduate Certificate in Respiratory Science.

## Arrivals

Wellington would like to welcome Valerie Wilkinson who has many years experience in neurophysiology, Valerie will be focussing on NIV and sleep patients.

## Births

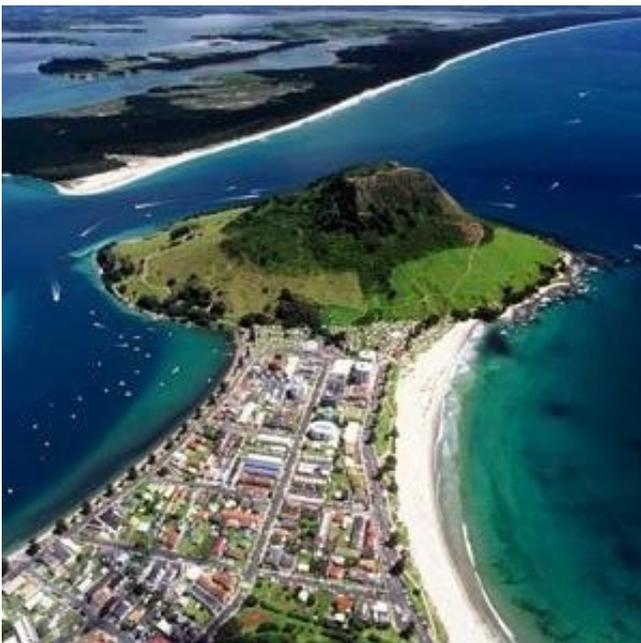
The Christchurch lab would like to congratulate Lauren on the birth of her baby girl Tayla Kate a little sister for Jacob. Both mum and baby are doing well. Congratulations to Lauren.

## Visit by Prof Jensen

Both Auckland and Christchurch were pleased to host Prof Robert Jensen this month. Prof Jensen spoke about the 3 sides of the DLCO. Both meetings were multidisciplinary resulting in a broader knowledge of DLCO, one of our more mysterious tests being spread around the country.

## Lab Profile

After a well earned break the lab profile is continuing the tour around the country with one of our final stops. This time we are heading to the surfing paradise of NZ Tauranga which is located within the Bay of Plenty (east coast of the Nth Island for those of you playing in Aus).



*Tēnā Koutou from Tauranga (meaning safe anchorage).*

*Tauranga Hospital is situated 10 minutes from the city centre and only 20 minutes from one of the best surf beaches in New Zealand - Mt Maunganui.*

*We provide Respiratory testing for the 200,000 people living in the Bay of Plenty district. Our team consists of 5 full time staff and 2 part time staff; our small department is greatly in need of a makeover and expansion due to the population growth in the Bay of Plenty...so as it happens in 3-5 years time we will be moving to a new building!*

*We have just purchased the new Sensormedics VMax Encore system for our main lab and perform Spirometry in*

*a secondary lab using a Sensormedics Spiro-pro hand-held spirometer. We chose this combination due to our confined spaces and we also wanted all Respiratory tests performed stored on the same database. All patients' results are reported by either of our two respiratory Physicians and are then uploaded to our patient management system as PDF files for online access by medical staff.*

*The tests we perform are:*

*Spirometry, Lung Volumes using Plethysmography, DLCO, reversibility testing with Ventolin via spacers. MIPS and MEPS, Minute Ventilation and Bronchoprovocation testing using Hypertonic Saline(4.5%).*

*In the future we hope to provide Methacholine challenge testing and also cardiopulmonary exercise testing. Our lack of space has prevented us from performing these tests in recent years.*

Thanks to Jolene for taking time out of her busy schedule an away from the beach ☺

**Chris**

Christopher O'Dea

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## **Queensland**

### **Queensland**

Well, August has gone by and so have the rains. It's back to drought conditions again!

But the good news is here too –Skye from the Princess Alexandra and her partner Brock have a new baby, Grace Chanel born 16/8. Congratulations from your colleagues Skye! And can you still make the Branch Spirojets running team this year?

Having won the Corporate Team first place last year in the inaugural ALF Corporate RiverRun as the Spirojets, we have again been invited to enter a team. The date is Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 5:30 – 6:30 pm approx! You can register at <http://www.lungfoundation.com.au/content/view/238/266/> and there is a 5k or 10k event again. Andrew (your faithful Rep) might have to decline running this year, unless he can miraculously improve in fitness. I am happy to coordinate it though so get in touch if you would like to be a Spirojet.

There were no Branch meetings last month nor this month. Our next planned meeting is October 21<sup>st</sup>, and we are fortunate to have as our speaker our own Prof David Johns who will present his current research work. The end-of-year dinner is yet to be finalised and we welcome any suggestions for this. Townsville and Cairns have been mentioned!

This editions Lab profile is the Queensland Respiratory Laboratory. Many thanks to Jenni and her team...

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## **Laboratory Profile**

## ***Brisbane: Queensland Respiratory Laboratory***

Respiratory and Sleep Specialists is a private company under which Queensland Respiratory Laboratory operates. The main respiratory laboratory operates from the Wesley hospital and associated medical centre with satellite laboratories in Brisbane CBD, North Coast, Toowoomba, Caboolture and Ipswich.

These laboratories are operated by a number of personnel. The team from left to right: Sonia, Jenni and Alison. Absent: Jen (working at PCH), Rachael (working at T'mba.), Sheree (on maternity leave), Sonia and Lorraine (working at Nth. Coast).



The laboratory is involved in the usual suspect list of testing along with intrabiological testing in the laboratories. Testing for legal firms, defence, police, elite athletes and oncology are some of the areas we service, outside our busy doctors' clinics.

Recently Pharmaxis ran a trial with us on the employment of forcep utilization to minimize the need for inhaler change. Laboratory accreditation is planned for next year, always a challenge to undertake in a private laboratory.

We are looking forward to catching up with everyone, when Brisbane hosts the 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting.

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We have taken the liberty of developing a roster for writing up a profile of your Lab and hope you will all accept where you are placed. Negotiation may be possible if there are problems with your assigned date. You should have received the roster via e-mail by now.

With the CRFS deadline fast approaching and the request for branch workshops or tutorials to be established, if anyone would like to help with putting together 2-3 workshops here in Brisbane, please let me know ASAP. For those who are distant from Brisbane we will probably record these sessions and send you a copy.

Keeping you informed...

Your rep,

**Andrew Coates**  
ably assisted by **Debbie Zagami**

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## ***South Australia***

Firstly, thanks to Andrew Thornton for initiating and co-ordinating the adaptation of a standard predicted value set across all SA labs. The issue has been discussed regularly at our local meetings over the last few years. As a group we have decided to adapt the ERS/ATS recommendations (for adult populations) and use;

1. Spirometry: (FEV1, FVC, FEF25-75, FEV1/FVC) – NHANES 1999
2. Diffusing Capacity: (DLCO, VA, KCO) – ECCS 1993
3. Haemoglobin correction: The equation of Cotes referenced in the ATS/ERS
4. Subdivisions of lung volume: (TLC, RV, FRC and derived measurements) - ECCS 1993.

Recommendations for paediatric populations are currently under review. Information has been sent to all Laboratory Directors for consideration and comments/feedback has been requested by the 20<sup>th</sup> September. Hopefully implementation of the standardisation will occur January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 with some laboratories planing to change a little earlier.

For lab staff, if you have any questions or problems with your laboratory software in regards to changing predicted sets please come along to our Branch meetings and discuss the issues with other members or contact me.

Other important reminders are that we have a meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> September when Alan Crockett will be discussing some interesting issues based on recently collected spirometry data from the SA Metropolitan Fire Fighters and the 2009 Inter-laboratory control will occur in September.

Lastly I would like to welcome Sarah Madigan to our ranks. Sarah has recently begun work at Southern Respiratory Services.

As always please contact me with any ideas, concerns, news or comments and take care,

***Michelle***

Michelle Rozzee  
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## **Victoria / Tasmania**

### **Faizel**

Faizel Hartley, CRFS  
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## **Western Australia**

August was quiet on the meeting front in WA but there has been lots of activity behind the scenes in preparation for our state Annual Scientific Meeting in Mandurah on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year is Clinical Trials and the call for registrations is just around the corner. The education continues back in Perth on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> for what it shaping up to be a really interesting Respiratory Symposium. We will be welcoming Associate Professor Peter Catchside from Adelaide as our invited guest speaker to present at both the local TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM and ANZSRS Respiratory Symposium.

### **September Branch Meeting**

Our next branch meeting is on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September with Graham Hall and Karla Logie, both from Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, giving the Perth members a preliminary view of their ERS presentations. Thanks to Niche Medical for their generous sponsorship.

## **Lab Profile**

### **Respiratory West – Subiaco**

Peter Franchina, from one of our private labs in Perth, has provided some insight into his lab this month.

*Respiratory West is a relatively new private specialty practice based in Wembley established by respiratory and allergy physicans. We have a small laboratory that has been operating for near on one and a half years. There are 3 Respiratory Physicians and 1 Immunologist working from the rooms which usually keeps the lab busy.*

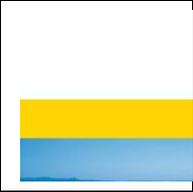
*I am the sole scientist working from the lab at the moment, though we are looking to appoint a new staff member for some assistance in the not too distant future. The range of services offered includes spirometry, lung volumes by plethysmography, gas diffusion, bronchial provocation testing (mannitol), high altitude simulation tests, skin prick tests and 6 minute walk tests.*

*Our comprehensive lung function testing is performed on a Medgraphics Platinum Elite Plethysmograph, while we are also equipped with the portable CPFS/D system for spirometry.*

*Peter Franchina*

### **News around Town**

Jo McLaren has taken off for some well deserved R&R in Europe. We are all completely green with envy and can't wait to here some travel tales.



Maureen, Graham and Karla from PMH are off to the ERS. We hope they enjoy the conference and wish them well with their presentations.

We would also like to take the opportunity to welcome back Vaska who rejoins the PMH team following maternity leave. Where are all the pics Vaska?

### **Diary reminders**

12 - 16	September	2009	ERS	Vienna, Austria
17 - 18	October	2009	WA TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM	Mandurah, WA
19	October	2009	ANZSRS Respiratory Symposium	Perth,WA
30	October	2009	CRFS Exam	Perth,WA
14 - 18	November	2009	APSR 14 <sup>th</sup> Congress	Seoul,Korea
19 - 24	March	2010	TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM	Brisbane,QLD
1 - 6	April	2011	ANZSRS/TSANZ ASM	Perth, WA

*Sina and Sharon*

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### ***Governance & Vision Sub-committee Report***

The Governance Subcommittee have been busy working towards our deadline of having the proposed constitution and by-laws completed for Board review by the end of September.

We will be meeting in Adelaide on 17th and 18th September as it is a lot easier to tidy up the 'loose ends' of these documents face to face, rather than by email or telephone.

Discussions and consideration surrounding categories, keeping in mind future registration requirements, have been interesting and we thank Danny for his help in supplying general membership information to assist with decision making. In association with the by-law for membership categories, we are also developing templates to assist with drafting of guidelines for awarding particular membership categories.

Other by-laws we are drafting relate to membership fees and regions (currently known as branches) of the Society.

With the Board expecting the proposed constitution to be available to the membership for review by the end of October, and a vote on accepting the new constitution and hence moving to a Company limited by guarantee to follow shortly thereafter, there is plenty of work to keep us busy for the next few months.'

***Brigitte***

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Chair, Governance and Vision Subcommittee  
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