

## *Surf Report... September, 2004*

Welcome back to the Surf Report for September.

If you are like me when it comes to using Microsoft Windows, struggling through menus and submenus, then you may find a Hewlett Packard [webpage](#) very helpful. It shows some great Windows shortcuts that may make life easier for you. An example is CTRL +D which adds the current web page to your favorites. I am in a minority actually having a preference for Mac OS10. It's a pity that lung function equipment never seems to have Mac software options available.

In the news is some Australian research published in [Thorax](#). Our Aussie Aunty ([ABC](#)) has just published, "[Paint fumes may boost asthma risk](#)". [Rumchev et al](#) have reported that exposure to indoor pollutants or VOCs from paint fumes may increase the risk of asthma four-fold. Cold comfort when I am about to contract a painter to paint our newly renovated home.

Speaking of the environment, check out the new [Green Vehicle Guide](#), that the Aussie Federal Govt. has commissioned to show how new model vehicles rate for the environment. It would be good to have a similar website for older model cars. Please let us know if there is one.

[The Australian Adverse Drug Reactions Bulletin](#) is an online document produced by the [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#). Articles that may interest you are "[Corticosteroids should be used with long acting B2 –agonists](#)" and "[Pulmonary toxicity with long-term nitrofurantoin](#)".

Does this [article](#) in the [MJA](#) show a picture of one of our members? Is it our recent [president](#)? The article is important and is titled The COPDX Plan: Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for the management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease 2003.

In the most popular discussion board for us online ([RC World](#)), is talk about a new identified cause of pneumothorax. Namely music! This follows a case report published in [Thorax](#) (Noppen M, et al. Music: a new cause of primary spontaneous pneumothorax. *Thorax* 2004; 59: 722-724) It seems that the subwoofer and woofer base power of amplified music can be detrimental to our lungs. Taking this one step further... are there some music tracks more dangerous than others?

Also on RC\_World was light discussion about an emerging fad in the good ole USA, and what could happen as a result. [AWOL](#) is alcohol Without Liquid. It looks like a nebulizer system. Take a look. After it's first showing it has made the [news](#) and it's pending legal ramifications will be noteworthy.

If anyone out there is involved with architects on designing new labs, then you might find a [webpage](#) at the American Veterans Affairs website of interest. It gives the minimum dimensions needed for lab rooms. This has proven very useful to me in the recent past.

'Tis all for now... happy surfing,

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