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AerospaceMedicine

Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine

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PRESIDENT'S LOG BOOK

Dear ASAM Colleagues,

In my first message as ASAM President, I'd like to start by acknowledging and thanking our outgoing President, Dr Ian Cheng, and departing Board members Dr Greig Chaffey, Dr Tracy Smart and Dr Adrian Smith, for their commitment to the advancement of our organisation. Ian's leadership through our transition to a modern corporate governance structure has been pivotal while Greig, Tracy and Adrian have all made major contributions in the areas of both the governance and the scientific pursuits of the Society respectively.



With these grateful farewells, we also welcome our new Board members. Firstly, Dr Collette Richards. Collette is the current Commanding Officer of the RAAF Institute of Aviation Medicine, as well as being a practicing GP and holding a Masters in Sports Medicine. Rather than reducing her workload on stepping down from her CO AVMED role, Collette has instead elected to join the Board of ASAM. I promise we will be gentle with the workload... to start with, at least! We are also very happy to welcome Dr Jeremy Robertson. Jeremy was a QANTAS pilot before he developed Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus. He has since gone on to graduate from medicine with the University of Sydney and is completing his Internship in Northern Sydney, and has presented his experience and research at our Annual Scientific Meetings. Dr David Fitzgerald will be taking over the Journal role from Dr Smith, and will be delighted to receive your contributions.

The 2016 conference in Townsville was a huge success, with the highest ever attendance for a stand-alone ASAM conference. I'm sure the pictures in this newsletter will remind us of what a great time we all had. I am confident that Queenstown, NZ in 2017 will be able to replicate this success – please put it in your diary now!

You will see that we are expanding our presence in the social media space, with a Facebook page, and a LinkedIn profile. The Facebook page is a particular opportunity to share our experiences and knowledge in a members-only area. This is where we can ask questions and help each other out - find an aviation-focused specialist, what code to use in MRS Online, find a DAME locum... This will be monitored and moderated, but I'm confident that the professionalism of our members will mean that the moderator's duties will be light.

Recent events have focused us on some extraordinary opportunities, and responsibilities, in the world of aerospace medicine. The tragedies with Malaysian Airlines and Germanwings have brought the importance of aeromedical decision-making and the role of the DAME into the spotlight. In this environment, I can see an important role for ASAM to develop the DAME role in aviation safety. I would be delighted to hear from members about how we can achieve this, and any other opportunities for our Society that you, our members, can see on the horizon. Please, stay in touch!

Cheers,

Kate

Kate Manderson
President



AMSNZ & ASAM 2017 CONFERENCE

31 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER 2017, CROWNE PLAZA QUEENSTOWN

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE AGM

Held on Saturday 17 September 2016, Townsville

Welcome to the 2016 AGM.

I don't intend to re-cap the challenges, the highs or the lows over the last 3 years; they have been detailed in my President's Log of the ASAM Newsletter.

Nor will I list the accomplishments because what has been sustained or achieved over my term has been a team effort by the current Board with the support of our members.

What I think is interesting though is that when I commenced my term as President at the 2013 annual conference in Hong Kong, I was the conference convenor. And as I conclude my term at this year's conference I am also its convenor.

In Hong Kong we had our two inaugural student scholarship winners and similarly this year, we have awarded two student scholarships – congratulations to Anita Vandyke (University of Notre Dame Australia) & Matthew Stewart (University of Melbourne).

The 2013 Hong Kong conference would not have been possible without the extensive assistance and support of our colleagues in Cathay Pacific's corporate medical department.

The 2016 Townsville meeting was fortunate to have a conference sub-committee with deep local roots who fruitfully tapped several local doctors to give excellent presentations and successfully negotiated James Cook University to be a sponsor. I wish to acknowledge the significant contributions of Townsville locals John Turner, Jon Hodge, Michael Clements and Peter Leggat, and also Board member Craig Schramm. I would also like to thank those ASAM members who formed part of the conference abstract review group.

The delegate numbers for Townsville are astounding and a fitting reflection of all the hard yards put in by those involved in planning and implementing this conference.

While the delegate numbers were at a record high this year and our membership and finances remains strong, we should not become complacent for there are challenges ahead for the society and its members.

If anyone can negotiate a path forward and build upon the vision laid out by the founding members of this great society, it is the very accomplished Dr Kate Manderson as the new President.

I would like to acknowledge the significant and tireless contributions that retiring Board members Greig Chaffey, Tracy Smart and Adrian Smith have made to the Board and to the society. I warmly welcome Collette Richards and Jeremy Robertson to the Board.

Finally, I would like to publicly acknowledge and praise the tireless efforts of our secretariat, Anne. Thank you for making my performance as President look good or at least passable!

Ian Cheng
Immediate Past President

HIMS AUSTRALIA SEMINAR

During the AOD session of the 2016 ASAM annual conference, DAMEs were invited by the chair of the HIMS Australia Advisory Group, Capt Laurie Shaw to attend the morning session (09.00 to 12.15) of the next HIMS meeting on **Thursday, 17 November 2016**. The meeting will be held at the James Strong Auditorium, Qantas Campus, 10 Bourke Rd., Mascot (there is no readily available parking nearby. However, Mascot train station is about a 300m walk) and there will be no charge to attend.

Capt (ret'd) Lyle Prouse (<http://www.lyleprouse.com/About.html>) and Ms Talitha Cummins (<http://www.abc.net.au/austory/content/2016/s4544240.htm>) have been invited to speak during the morning session, as well as other speakers.

Since the conference will be held inside Qantas grounds, security passes will need to be issued for attendance. **To register your interest in attending, please notify by Wednesday, 2 November 2016 to Jennise Sami at jsami@qantas.com.au**

Ian Cheng



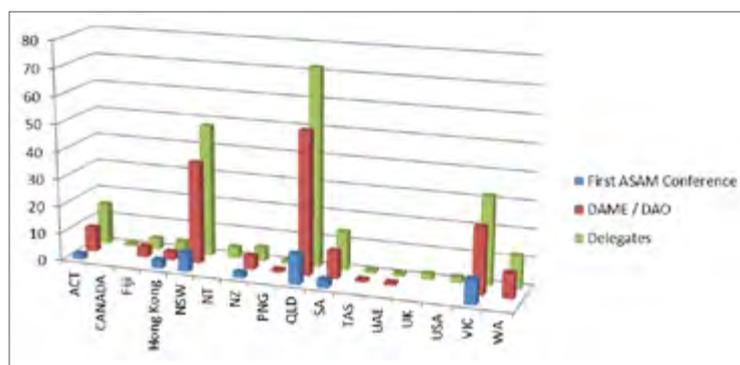
Student scholarship winners Anita Vandyke (University of Notre Dame Australia) & Matthew Stewart (University of Melbourne) with Ian Cheng

**2016 CONFERENCE
PHOTOS ON PAGES
4 & 5**

2016 ASAM ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

This year's ASAM annual conference was attended by the largest number of delegates ever (apart from previous co-branded or joint meetings) with 218 registered delegates. The strong Australian contingent was supported by many from overseas.

State	First ASAM Conference	DAME / DAO	Delegates
ACT	2	9	15
Canada			1
Fiji		4	4
Hong Kong	3	3	4
NSW	7	37	48
NT			4
NZ	2	5	5
PNG		1	1
QLD	11	52	72
SA	3	10	14
TAS		1	1
UAE		1	1
UK			2
USA			2
VIC	9	24	32
WA		9	12
Grand Total	37	156	218



This year's conference theme was **"Aerospace medicine: spanning the globe"**, which reflected the close interaction of public health medicine, retrieval medicine, travel and tropical medicine with aerospace medicine. It was quite fitting that the conference welcome function was held during a balmy FNQ evening on the Victoria Bridge spanning Ross Creek, an estuarine portion of the Ross River (of Ross River virus fame). The Mayor of Townsville, Councillor Jenny Hill officially opened the conference and it was quite apt that having attained a Master of Public Health & Tropical Medicine from James Cook University (JCU) that one of her lecturers from JCU, Professor Ian Wronski, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the Division of Tropical Health and Medicine subsequently spoke to the delegates on behalf of the welcome function sponsor, James Cook University. The student/educator connection was further

heightened when it was revealed later that when Professor Wronski was a Monash University medical student he was taught by honorary member Dr Peter Habersberger!

Following the culinary and alcoholic delights of the welcome function, the conference commenced the following day, somewhat ironically with an alcohol and other drugs (AOD) panel session that included Dr Kevin McCauley delivering the Patterson Trust lecture. Dr McCauley's engaging presentation featured moments of deeply personal insights into addiction that captivated delegates. The Patterson Trust lecture and other presentations that formed part of the AOD session highlighted the public health so relevant to aerospace medicine.

Dr Tony Evans superbly encapsulated the conference theme with his John Lane oration on managing public health events in the aviation sector. With recent events such as the Fukushima nuclear power plant incident and outbreaks of avian influenza, MERs and Zika virus, Dr Evans presented a compelling case as to why public health medicine is an integral part of aviation medicine and why ICAO, as a United Nations specialised aviation agency plays a key coordinating role with public and commercial organisations involved with aviation regulation, public health, airline and airport operations.

Dr Evans also gave a presentation on health promotion in a regulatory environment, an area where he has been a leading advocate and where ICAO has recently adopted new provisions that will make health promotion a mandatory requirement for Licensing Authorities.

There were excellent presentations on aeromedical retrieval, fitness to fly and fitness to travel. The time and effort invested by our members to prepare and deliver their presentations was greatly appreciated.

The conference dinner was held outdoors at the Townsville Quayside Terminal and was a good excuse to go 'troppo' with delegates donning the sartorial splendour of Hawaiian shirts accompanied by the swing and boogie-woogie songs of the Andrew Sisters tribute band. It was a night of smiling faces, revelry and a very long conga line!

CASA's ongoing support of the ASAM annual conference was evident by their continued corporate membership and regular update conference session. Prior to the 2016 annual conference, the ASAM Board wrote to CASA recommending that CASA conduct a comprehensive MRS2 post-implementation survey of DAMEs in order to improve the MRS2 system to best meet the demands of DAMEs, pilots/controllers and CASA Avmed, although we recognised not all stakeholders may be fully satisfied by any one solution. As part of the 2016 annual conference, CASA agreed to an extended MRS2 Q&A session. Credit to CASA management and Avmed for fronting up to hear the frustrations of many DAMEs with MRS2. CASA indicated that further MRS2 enhancements are planned and it was reassuring that constructive suggestions arising from the MRS2 Q&A session were noted by CASA for further consideration.

Conference Prizes

Congratulations to Dr Jeremy Robertson (Eric Stephenson prize winner for the best presentation by an ASAM member) for his paper titled "CASA protocol for pilots requiring insulin – a pilot's perspective" and Dr Justin Dickie (Jeanette Linn prize winner for the best first-time presentation by an ASAM member) for his paper on "Aeromedical evacuation following large deep vein thrombosis".

Ian Cheng
Convenor

2016 ASAM CONFERENCE PHOTOS



15-18 SEPTEMBER 2016, TOWNSVILLE





AMSNZ & ASAM 2017 CONFERENCE

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Kia Ora

The triennial combined AMSNZ and ASAM conference will be held on 31 August – 3 September 2017 at Crowne Plaza Queenstown in the southern hemisphere's premier four season lake and alpine resort, Queenstown New Zealand.

Surrounded by majestic snow-capped mountains and set on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu, the natural beauty and the unique energy of the region create the perfect backdrop for an aviation conference. Free time can be spent on the slopes, exploring local wineries or experiencing any one of the many other activities – there is something here for everyone!

We invite you to join us to learn, share, renew acquaintances and enjoy all that Queenstown has to offer.

Kite koe i reira (see you there)

**Subscribe to event updates at
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ASAM HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Dr Heather Parker

Dr Heather Parker was made an Honorary Life member of the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine at the annual conference in Townsville in September. Heather has been a Designated Aviation Medical Examiner for the Civil Aviation Safety Authority for over 30 years and she has served on its Committee for six years. During her time on the committee she has convened conferences, presented papers, written articles for every newsletter, and actively contributed to the development of ASAM.

She attained a Diploma in Medical Journalism from UQ and has written articles for **JASAM, Airnews, Helinews, Australian Flying, Australian Doctor and Medical Observer**.

Heather is a GP and a private pilot, and passionate about medicine and flying. She learned to fly at Caloundra in 1989 and also joined the Australian Women Pilots' Association (AWPA). Over the years Heather has attained AME status with other authorities: NZ, USA, Canada, UK and Europe, Singapore, South Africa and Moldova.

Heather worked with the Wide Bay/Burnett Regional Health Authority which required her to fly herself to outlying centres including Wondai and Kingaroy to conduct Women's Health clinics. She organised to fly herself to Gayndah or Kingaroy each month to work in private GP practices for 12 years.

With a friend she flew to Mt Isa to raise money for the RFDS, and to the AWPA conferences in Dubbo, Longreach, Echuca and Alice Springs. She flew in the Great Hawaiian Air Race in 2001, raising money for the "Make-a-wish" Foundation. She also served on the Aviation Safety Forum in Canberra.

In 2006 Heather was awarded the Nancy-Bird Walton Award from AWPA for "the most noteworthy contribution to aviation by a woman of Australasia", and in that same year an OAM for "services to aviation and to medicine".

She has recently been appointed as Medical Assessor to QCAT which involves travelling to Brisbane to sit on the Tribunal. She is still working as a GP in Peregian Springs and does about 500 Pilot Medicals a year for various Authorities.

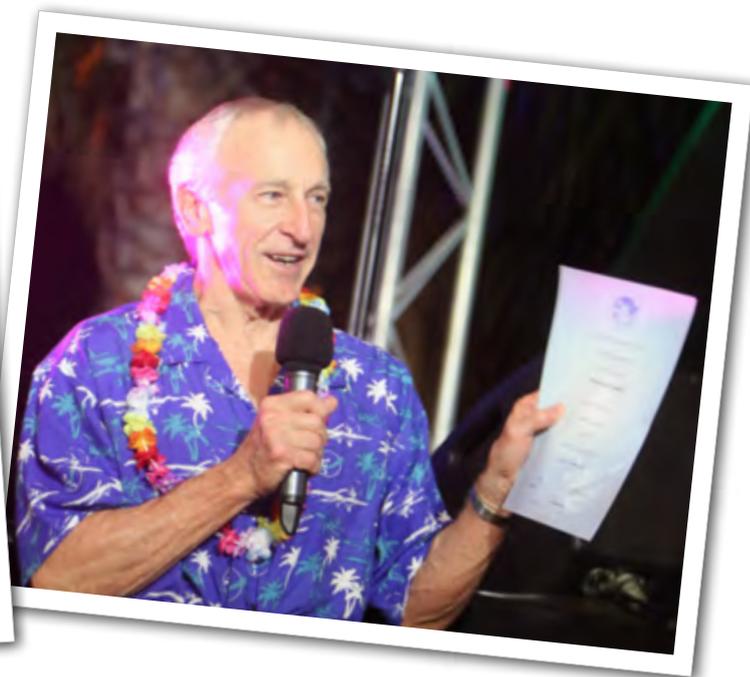
Dr Robert Liddell

Dr Robert Liddell has been awarded Honorary Membership of the ASAM. His Honorary Membership was proposed by Dr Andrew Marsden. Rob Liddell has been a member of ASAM for many years. In the early 1980's he was the Medical Director of the Royal Flying Doctor Service WA Division. He has been the Medical Director of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority Medical Department, and during this time introduced concepts of evidenced based medicine used to make decisions about pilot medical fitness working with the concept of the 1% risk rule. This concept was first applied to risk of sudden failure due to cardiac reasons, and rapidly included concepts applied to neurological issues using the same rule. He has worked for a medical retrieval insurance company, and was involved in the planning and execution of ill patient recovery from all manner of remote situations in the world tourist arena.

He is a fully qualified ATPL pilot, and has flown Boeing 727s with both passengers and on cargo planes as the aircraft captain. In the UK he worked for a number of years as the principal Medical Officer for DanAir, part-time, with the rest of his working week, working as a pilot for the company flying tourist routes from the UK into various European destinations. In this company, he introduced a concept of psychological evaluation of prospective pilots trying to identify possible unstable or possibly threatening psychological personality traits, and this innovative thinking was many years before the German Wings disaster, in which there were clearly psychological issues involving the responsible pilot.

He has been instrumental, since returning to Perth, in maintaining a regular annual programme of scientific meetings in WA, not just in Perth, but also successfully, further afield in Busselton and Mandurah. These meetings are always popular, and well received with a good mix of informative and entertaining sessions, and certainly some which have stirred the controversy pot, unashamedly.

He has always presented as a keen aviation doctor and his Honorary Membership is well deserved.



NEW ASAM MEMBERS

Manit Arora, Notting Hill Vic

Jivesh Choudhary, Figtree Pocket Qld

Georgia Cleary, Fitzroy Vic

Hugh Connolly, Mandurah WA

James Crompton, Essendon Fields Vic

Glenn Gilham, South Townsville Qld

David Hawes, Buderim Qld

Emma Hazelton, Amberley Qld

Bernard Higgins, Richmond NSW

Kennedy Maxwell, Doncaster East Vic

James McAlister, Mount Gravatt Qld

Philip Mutton, Glen Waverley Vic

Andrew Pearce, St Peters SA

George Smith, Hobart Tas

Nicholas Ting, Mt Warren Park Qld

ASAM NEWS?

For member updates and stories, let us know at secretariat@asam.org.au

THE ASAM BOARD

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Dr Jeremy Robertson

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

6-10 November 2016	International Congress of Aviation and Space Medicine , New Delhi, India
3-4 March 2017	AMSVIC Avalon Airshow Meeting , Melbourne, Vic
4-5 March 2017	ASAM WA Regional Meeting , Albany, WA
8 April 2017	ASAM SA Regional Meeting , Adelaide, SA
29 April – 4 May 2017	AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting , Denver, Colorado
27-28 July 2017	Medical Review Officers Course , Sydney, NSW
31 August - 3 September 2017	ASAM + Aviation Medical Society of New Zealand Annual Conference (hosted by AMSNZ) , Queenstown, New Zealand
10-14 September 2017	International Congress of Aviation and Space Medicine , Rome, Italy

Dates may be subject to change, please check the relevant website.