

# ANZBA President's Report



## **ANZBA ASM 2015: Melbourne 20 – 23 October 2015**

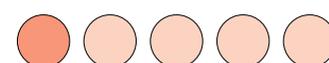
Time moves swiftly and the ANZBA ASM is almost upon us. It's going to be great and we invite you to join us for it in Melbourne between 20 – 23 October 2015. This international forum will connect over 300 burn care leaders and practitioners and provide a setting to meet, learn, share knowledge and experience, and recognise accomplishments in improving burn care.

The theme of this year's meeting "Quality burn care: The art and the science" has led to the development of an innovative program that explores many of the contemporary challenges and advances in burn care. We increasingly recognize the importance of the structures and systems within which we practice in influencing how we practice - what we do - and the outcomes of our treatments, and the conference programme features keynote speakers who will showcase the best of thinking and practice in burn care, quality improvement and registry science. The scientific program will be complemented by high quality poster presentations and a trade exhibition promoting the latest in burns pharmaceuticals, medical, diagnostic and therapeutic equipment and developments.

The ASM will be held at the Crown Convention Centre in South Bank on the banks of the Yarra River, central to the Arts Precinct and a 10 minute walk into the city. October is a delightful time to be in Melbourne with the Melbourne International Festival in full swing, more information about the festival can be found here:

[www.melbournefestival.com.au/](http://www.melbournefestival.com.au/)

We encourage you to make this significant event part of your professional development for 2015 and look forward to welcoming you to the ANZBA ASM in Melbourne this October. Visit the ANZBA conference website for more information: [www.anzbaasm.com](http://www.anzbaasm.com)



## ANZBA Office Bearers

As most members will already be aware, Fiona Wood has stood down from the ANZBA Presidents position and has handed over to Suzanne Rea as the Vice President. Clause 29 of the ANZBA constitution precludes an office bearer being involved in commercial activities related to burn care.

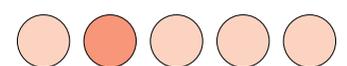
Fiona is a co-founder and now a director of Avitamedical, the company commercialising ReCell. We assure all members that as Fiona signed over her intellectual property to the research foundation she has no personal gain from sales of the device.

This issue was discussed at the recent ANZBA board meeting. The Board is in agreement with this approach and is currently reviewing the constitution and rules of ANZBA. The reviewed constitution will be presented at the next annual general meeting in October. We would like to thank Fiona for her services to the Board of ANZBA and her tireless efforts to promote quality burn care. We hope that she will return to the Board in the very near future.

At this time, we would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Francois Stapelberg, NZ Vice President. Although he has resigned from his position, he will continue to be involved with ANZBA in his capacity of an EMSB key instructor. We appreciate his contribution to our organisation and wish him well for the future.

Furthermore, a number of board positions will be vacant after our next AGM in October. We encourage you to consider these positions:

1. President (currently Suzanne Rea)
2. Aust Vice President (currently vacant)
3. NZ Vice President (currently vacant)
4. Treasurer (currently Anne Darton)
5. Secretary (currently Siobhan Connolly)
6. NZ Representative (currently Tracey Perret)
7. SA Representative (currently Linda Quinn)
8. WA Representative (currently Alwena Willis)



Nomination papers will be distributed with the AGM paperwork in August. If you would like more information on any of these positions, please contact your state representative, or the ANZBA secretariat office.

## **ANZBA's Guest Assistance Program**

ANZBA is pleased to be able to host Dr Jose Joven Cruz and Dr Glenn Angelo Genuino from the Burn Unit at the Philippine General Hospital to attend the ANZBA Annual Scientific Meeting under their Guest Assistance Program.

The Philippine General Hospital is a 1500 bed hospital in Manila, which has a burn unit, which provides burn care for the entire Philippines which has a population of over 100 million.



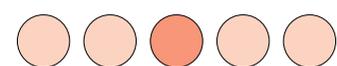
Dr Cruz and Dr Genuino will also spend some time visiting the burn units at the Alfred Hospital and the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne during their stay.

Yvonne Singer was fortunate enough to visit the burn unit at PGH during a recent trip and she was fortunate to be able to meet our guests. We trust you will all make them feel welcome during their stay.

## **Save the date: The 2016 Burn Nursing Seminar**

Plans are well underway for the next Burn Nursing Seminar in 2016. The seminar will be hosted in Hobart in March/April, dates and venue details will be forthcoming. We anticipate details of the seminar will be available by October and registrations will open for the seminar during the time of the ASM in October.

Save the date and watch this space!



## A BRANZ & BQIP Update

A review of the BRANZ Quality Indicators and minimum dataset is currently underway. ANZBA anticipates that we should be able to start reporting on some of the QIs in 2016 and really move forward with the progress of the BQIP. The aim of the BQIP is to use the BRANZ data to understand the effects of treatment variation on patient outcomes to determine best clinical practices. BRANZ data is used by the BQIP to provide:

- 1. Risk adjusted Burn Centre Specific Quality Indicator reports:** Each unit will be provided an annual report and by request, to benchmark individual performance against comparative bi-national QI data and yet to be developed Standards of Care.
- 2. Analysis of variances in treatment and outcomes:** The BRANZ data will be analysed by the BQIP Research Fellow so that the impact of practice variations on outcomes can be distinguished.
- 3. Standards of Care:** Standards of Care for the BRANZ Quality Indicators will be developed.
- 4. Best Practice Guidelines:** Best practice guidelines will be developed.

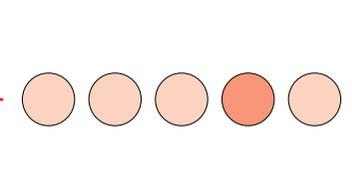
As BRANZ and BQIP continue to grow, resource implications are increasingly significant and need to be addressed to ensure the program's sustainable future. ANZBA has been exploring longterm sustainable funding opportunities and have recently developed a Business proposal regarding sustainable funding options for BRANZ and BQIP with the assistance of KPMG.

There are several publications in press regarding BRANZ data including most recently:

Gabbe B, Watterson D, Singer Y, Darton A (2014). Outpatient presentations to burn centers: Data from the Burns Registry of Australia and New Zealand outpatient pilot project, *Burns*, 41, 3, 446-453.

Additionally, BRANZ and BQIP have been showcased in the 2015 Spring edition of the Australian Hospital + Healthcare Bulletin. More details can be found here:

[www.hospitalhealth.com.au](http://www.hospitalhealth.com.au)



## Emergency Management of Severe Burns Course

The remaining EMSB courses for 2015 are completely full and we are now taking booking for the 2016 courses and we encourage you to register early. Visit the ANZBA website for more details.

## The Annual General Meeting: 21 October at 5pm

The next AGM of ANZBA will be held during the upcoming Scientific Meeting on Wednesday, 21 October at 5pm. Please refer to the ASM conference programme for details. We encourage all members to attend, as we would like you to get involved. A number of board positions will be voted on and we propose some changes to the constitution, which will be of relevance to members.

As always, the Board welcomes feedback and suggestions from members and others on all matters relating to the care of burn injuries and their prevention. Contact us at [info@anzba.org.au](mailto:info@anzba.org.au)

We look forward to seeing everyone in Melbourne.

**Suzanne Rea**  
**ANZBA President**

**Yvonne Singer**  
**ANZBA Victorian Representative**

***Please email any comments or suggestions regarding this report to:***

**[newsletter@awma.com.au](mailto:newsletter@awma.com.au)**

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# AWMA Professional Lead Reports



**AWMA**  
Australian Wound  
Management Association Inc.  
National

## Medical report

### Medicare Changes

Although the heat may have come out of the Medicare changes in the public arena, it is still simmering for the medical profession. The Government has frozen rebates until July 2018 and this applies to all Australians with no exemptions for pensioners, health care holders or children. The last time all MBS items were increased was November 2012. However, GP attendances only were indexed by 2% in July 2014.

Senior Department of Health officials have said the effects of the freeze will be permanent and the current value of rebates will not be restored when the freeze ends in 2018. This is of great concern for the viability of medical practices, especially those that rely upon bulk billing.

The RACGP and AMA continue to act upon this issue. The RACGP is launching this week an "Antifreeze Campaign". This is aimed to stress the impact the freeze will have upon business viability and patient access and to prepare the public they will be facing out of pocket payments to see their GP.

Since the last report, letters were written to the following organisations stating AWMA's position on the planned changes to Medicare:

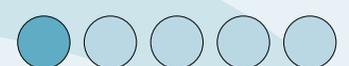
Chair of ACHRA

President AMA - A/Prof Brian Owler

President RACGP - Dr Frank Jones

President RDAA - Dr Dennis Pasha

President ACRRM - A/Prof Lucie Walters



## EWMA

My first EWMA conference was enlightening and fun. Catching up with familiar faces and sharing a few meals makes being part of the wound management fraternity so worthwhile.

My impressions were:

- It is huge.
- More doctors are involved.
- The streaming of particular topics was well done.
- The release of the consensus document on simplifying venous leg ulcer (VLU) management is handy and useful as a teaching tool.

However, I was disappointed in the lack of presentations relating to primary care. Preventing wounds and improving the management of chronic wounds should be core business for primary care and, to my way of thinking, should be as important, or even more important, than any research into new products or other.

To make the point I quote from the consensus document:

*“Despite existing guidance, many patients with a VLU do not receive compression therapy. In the UK, only 20% of patients in a primary care database, who had a VLU were recorded as having received compression therapy. In a French study, only 10.8% of general practitioners followed guidelines for the management of VLUs. In contrast, in specialist centres, compression therapy may be used in up to 88% of VLU patients. In Germany, an insurance company reported that 32-53% of VLU patients received compression therapy.”*

(Harding et al. 2015)

This is a familiar story here in Australia. The same figures are repeated around the world and have been repeated over time with little change.

I was hoping to learn how different countries are addressing this issue and find some answers among the presentations at EWMA but the issue was not addressed anywhere in the program that I could find.

Here at home there has been considerable work by a number of people and institutions in identifying and correcting the barriers to providing best evidenced VLU management.

## References

Harding et al. (2015). Simplifying venous leg ulcer management: Consensus recommendations, *Wounds International*, available from: <http://www.woundsinternational.com/other-resources/view/simplifying-venous-leg-ulcer-management>

## Education

Minimal training and education in wound management of General Practitioners, GP Registrars, general practice nurses and other primary care nurses is one of the barriers to providing best-evidenced VLU management.

It is thus very satisfying to be asked to provide such training and education to these groups. The following is a summary of educational activities myself and my colleague Cheryl Frank, have and will provide:

- Advanced Learning Module of 6 hours for Gold Coast GPs.
- Venous Leg Ulcer workshop for GPs in Toowoomba.
- Lecture to Gold Coast region GP registrars. These are the new graduates who express their dissatisfaction re the minimal education in wound management they received in Medical Schools.
- Lectures to Griffith and Bond University Medical Schools in preparation for their general practice placement.



- Workshop at the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine conference in Adelaide in October.

I know we join many other educators around Australia all doing a wonderful and needed job.

**Dr Stephen Yelland**

**AWMA Medical Representative**

*Please email any comments or suggestions regarding this report to:*

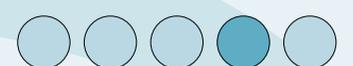
[newsletter@awma.com.au](mailto:newsletter@awma.com.au)

## Nursing Report

Many of the AWMA committee attended the European Wound Management Conference in London in May. It was fantastic to see our colleagues presenting at an international forum and collaborating at this level. We tried to get together for an Aussie photo, but only a few got the message as to where to meet this year. Please see the photo of a few of the attendees at EWMA 2015.



*From left to right: Jan Rice, Terry Swanson, Bill McGuinness, Donna Angel, Katy Melrose, Stephen Yelland*



I was ill prior to attending the EWMA conference, so I was unable to attend the last Council of National Nursing Organisation meeting on 1 May. Therefore, I missed the opportunity to wish our first Chief Nursing Officer Ms Rosemary Bryant a happy retirement. She took up the inaugural position in 2008 and has advocated for nursing at a federal and international level. It was announced several weeks ago that Debra Thoms is the New Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer. We congratulate her and wish her well in the new role.

On 24 July, AWMA hosted its second Corporate Forum. The 2015 forum was held in Sydney with 17 companies attending. This meeting occurred prior to the AWMA committee with delegates attending a face-to-face meeting over the weekend.

I will be flying the flag for the speciality of wound management at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners being held in Melbourne 6-8 September at the Pullman Hotel in Albert Park. <http://www.dconferences.com.au/acnp2015>

The planning meetings for the 2016 AWMA conference is gaining momentum so please mark your calendars and start your projects so that you can present them in November 2016.

Keeping busy for AWMA

**Terry Swanson NPWM,  
AWMA Nursing Representative**

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*Please email any comments or suggestions regarding this report to:*

[newsletter@awma.com.au](mailto:newsletter@awma.com.au)