



24 December 2022



To the ASA membership

To increase our connection with our membership, this is the first end-of-year annual report to be produced by the committee of the Aeromedical Society of Australasia (ASA). We are planning to send this out to everyone as each year draws to a close. This is different to the annual President's report which is presented at our AGM each year. Both can be found on our website.

As we are all now so aware, COVID 19 crippled the world and resulted in the normal flow of life being utterly disrupted. Amongst so many global impacts ASA was not able to hold our annual face-to-face conferences for 2 years.

This year we were delighted to be able to once again return to holding our conferences. We recommenced in August-September in Brisbane with just over 300 attendees. The joy of once again having the opportunity to re-connect with people in person, to be able to converse face-to-face, to laugh with people, to have a meal and some drinks with friends and colleagues was comprehensively evident. We also had a fantastic conference programme with dynamic keynote speakers including high altitude pilot Priya Adhakari who Zoomed in to talk with us in the early hours Nepalese time. Personally, as a flight nurse, it was wonderful to see an increasing number of presentations being delivered by flight nurses.

We were honoured to be able to present two special recognition awards. Margaret Tabone was recognised for services to flight nursing and for her many years of being an ASA committee member which included several years of being Secretary.

Kate Smith was recognized for her many years of working with ASA as our professional conference organiser through Kate Smith Events and latterly via Conference Design.

This conference on so many levels was a success.

The ASA committee were saddened to accept the retirement of Graeme Field but also delighted for Graeme to be moving on to a very deserved retirement. Graeme has an extensive background in paramedicine and the aeromedical industry. He served on the ASA committee for many years holding the positions of President Elect, President, Secretary and general committee member. Graeme's knowledge, expertise, calm demeanour and wise disposition, along with a devilish sense of humour, will be missed.

So how else are we connecting with our ASA membership? James Koens and Cameron Edgar, ASA committee members have taken on producing podcasts with enthusiasm and vigour. With now over 1,600 downloads, 'the boys' have very down to earth conversations with different members of the aeromedical industry. They delve into some history, get to know interviewees on a more personal level discovering their journey of how they got into their particular field of the aeromedical industry. The conversations are honest, interspersed with moments of humour and have emerging key concepts and lessons. The podcasts can be found on Spotify, Google, Buzzsprout and Apple.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and Twitter accounts which in the past month have become invigorated and are now a lot more active.

We have renewed our Memoranda of Understanding with SAMM, EHAC and AMTC. ASA and our signatory partners form the overarching umbrella of the Cairns Accord. We have also renewed our MoU with FNA. These MoUs seal an understanding of collaboration between the signatories.

The ASA scholarship of AUD\$3000 is available every year but is very under utilised. This is a fantastic opportunity to get some financial assistance to, for example, attend aeromedical conferences, to support completing relevant education or assist research projects. The application form can be found on our website: www.aeromedsocaustralia.org.

Finally, put these dates aside in your diaries: ASA conference 2023 is in Adelaide 4th-6th September. Planning is already underway with the continuing theme of Critical Care in the Air. The ASA conference organising committee, along with our professional conference organiser, Conference Design, already have some innovative ideas on how to continue making our conferences exciting and more interactive. We would absolutely love to see you there.

To close, the ASA committee wish everyone a much deserved, happy and relaxing Christmas and New Year, spending time with family and friends. To those of you who will continue to work the day shifts, night shifts, doing the overtime, flying all the missions, and working with people in crisis, "thank you". Please stay safe. Be sure to go home to your family and friends at the end of your shift and know you have made a huge difference to peoples lives and without doubt, having done the best you could. When you do get to have your time off, enjoy it with what makes you happy.

See you all in 2023!

On behalf of the ASA committee

*Di Fuller
ASA President*