



## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2017**

It is my pleasure to present the President's Report to the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

This has been my first year as President and I would like to express my appreciation to the Society for the privilege of holding the office. As with many professional organisations, the Society relies on the efforts of people with already busy full time occupations. I would like to thank this year's committee members for their valuable contributions.

Planning for the 2017 conference in Sydney has taken a lot of effort and I want to especially thank the committee members involved, who with Kate and her team have done a wonderful job. Kate's transition from Kate Smith Events to the organisation Conference Design has not in any way detracted from Kate's personalised service and professionalism.

Again, this is a joint conference in association with Flight Nurses Australia. I would like to acknowledge the ongoing relationship between ASA and FNA and look forward to continuing and enhancing it in to the future.

We continue to make important progress in building stronger international relationships and are fortunate to attract international visitors to our conference. This year we will refresh our agreements with our Accord partners in Europe (EHAC), North America (AAMS) and the Society of Aeromedicine Malaysia (SAMMs). This year also brings the genesis for the development of a similar relationship with our colleagues in China.



In recent years, and during multiple executive meetings, we have concentrated on defining and documenting our strategic purposes. The central theme is to develop as a crucible for ideas, standards and advocacy for the aeromedical industry in our region. With the skills, knowledge and experience ASA has with in its membership it has a vast potential to perform this role which perhaps has been underutilised in the past. Working with the committee and membership, ASA should aim to enhance its role with respect to policy and regulatory development in to the future.

In the last few years, ASA has seen a decline in the number of financial private and corporate members. While attendance at the annual conference remains strong, I would urge the committee and members to promote membership of ASA within their organisations and networks. ASA has worked to maintain the low cost of membership and constantly looks to enhance its benefits. This year has focussed on establishing long term corporate membership relationships. This includes reviewing the structure of corporate membership, providing further benefits to our corporate members at conferences and throughout the year as well as coordinating membership with conference sponsorship. Hopefully some synergies will be realised that help relieve the burdens of securing conference sponsorship every year and presenting a financially viable conference.

The Society's annual scholarship was awarded to Ann-Maree Brady from Queensland's Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. The scholarship was used to attend a conference in Surrey, England - Clinical Considerations in Aeromedical Transport.

The Scholarship is awarded to members of the Society to assist in their professional development and, through reporting back to members, provides benefits to others in the Society. The Scholarship of up to \$A3,000 can be used to attend a relevant international conference or undertake a professional development programme within the region. Further, the successful candidate may be able to take advantage of our reciprocal relationships with our Accord partners, and attend their respective conferences free of charge. I would encourage the promotion of this fantastic facility and for more members to take advantage of the opportunity.



Planning for the 2018 programme has been underway for a number of months and we are expectant of its success. The conference is a wonderful opportunity for the aeromedical community to meet, network, educate and grow. ASA should work hard to grow the society and each years' event, ensuring it remains the preeminent event it has become.

In closing, my sincere thanks to the members of the ASA Committee for their valuable contributions to the Society over the past year:

David Waters, Vice President, NZ  
Chris Webber, Treasurer, New South Wales  
Margaret Tabone, Secretary, New South Wales  
Graeme Field, New South Wales  
Andrew Berry, New South Wales  
Di Fuller, New Zealand  
Paul Gallagher, New South Wales  
Tony Vaughan, South Australia  
Paul Ingram, Western Australia  
Sam Love, NZ

I particularly want to record my appreciation for the Executive committee – Margaret Tabone, Chris Webber and David Waters for their continued contributions to the Society. I have considered it a privilege to work alongside you and thank you sincerely for your often extraordinary contributions.

I would also like to thank Catherine Jones for her often overlooked but diligent administrative support over the last 12 months.



In conclusion, I would like to extend my best wishes to the 2018 Committee and issue the challenge that we frequently and regularly look for opportunities to grow and improve our Society.

Mark Buick  
PRESIDENT  
31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 – Sydney, Australia

Recommendation - that the 2017 President's report be accepted.