



President's Annual Report 2010

Annual Scientific Meetings

The 2009 annual scientific meeting of the International Society of Aeromedical Services, (Australasia) was held in Hobart, Tasmania, in October. The "Remote and Wild" theme fitted well with the work of aeromedical services and particularly with the role Hobart plays as the base for Australia's Antarctica support programme. Congratulations to the organising team, led by Andrew Hughes, for a successful conference.

This year's programme, "Extremes" is also aptly named to reflect the challenging array of work undertaken from Christchurch and throughout the South Island by aeromedical services. Thank you to the organising team, convened by Simon Duncan with support from Bridget Neill and Garry Robinson, for putting together an interesting and stimulating programme.

International Relationships

We have made important progress building stronger international relationships over the past year.

The 2009 AGM concluded with signing a formal memorandum of understanding with the European HEMS and Air Ambulance Committee. We signed a similar agreement with the Association of Air Medical Services later in October in California.

The agreements reflect a commitment to work more closely with our European and North American colleagues. The first meeting of the three regional organisations took place prior to this year's ISAS Scientific to identify common priorities we can progress together. I look forward to seeing this set of relationships flourish in the future and remain firmly focused on the best interests of patients.

ISAS Scholarship

Guidelines for the ISAS Scholarship were finalised early this year and the inaugural scholarship was awarded to Graeme Field the Manager of the NSW air ambulance service.

The Scholarship is awarded to members of the Society to assist their professional development and, through reporting back to members, to provide benefits to other members of the Society.

The Scholarship of up to A\$3,000 can be used to attend a relevant international conference and/or undertake a professional development programme. Establishing the scholarship is an important practical initiative to foster professional development in aeromedicine in the region.

Proposed Name Change

A change of name from the "International Society of Aeromedical Services (Australasia)" to, simply, the "Aeromedical Society of Australasia" is proposed by the Committee for adoption at this year's AGM.

The recommendation follows careful consideration including consultation with members. It is proposed to replace a name that has been overtaken by events – there is no longer an international society for our “chapter” to belong to – and to reflect the fact we have more individuals than aeromedical services as members – and expect to continue to have both types of members in the future.

A set of constitutional changes are also proposed to incorporate changes required by new legislation in NSW for incorporated societies. The changes are based on advice from Baker McKenzie, a law firm that generously reviewed our rules on a pro bono basis.

2009/10 Committee

My thanks go to the members of the ISAS Committee for their contributions to the Society over the past year:

Andrew Berry, Vice President, New South Wales
Graeme Field, Secretary, New South Wales
Christopher Webber, Treasurer, New South Wales
Ian Badham, New South Wales
Janet Baker, Co-editor of the newsletter, New Zealand
Mark Buick, Queensland
Paul Gallagher, New South Wales
Phil Hogan, Victoria
Andrew Hughes, Tasmania
Shane Johnson, Australian Capital Territory
Geri Malone, South Australia
Bridget Neill, New Zealand (Co-opted, 2010 Conference Convenor)
Steve Rashford, Western Australia (Co-opted, 2011 Conference Liaison)
Simon Ronalds, Victoria
Margaret Tabone, Co-editor of the newsletter, New South Wales

Thanks also to Catherine Jones for her administrative support and Kate Smith, our conference organiser over the past two years.

The Perth aeromedical community has generously accepted an invitation to host the 2011 scientific meeting. They are well advanced with their planning already. We look forward to gathering in Western Australia in September next year for the Society’s 23rd scientific meeting.

In conclusion, I extend my best wishes to my successor and next year’s Committee in further progressing the work of ISAS in improving the care of patients transported by air.



Kevin Allan
9th September 2010
Christchurch, New Zealand