

QMWS news

Quarterly Newsletter

February 2009

QMWS Dinner report

We held 4 dinner meetings in 2008. Our last newsletter featured details of our 2008 February dinner/AGM and our May dinner when we were privileged to have as our guest speakers, Katharine Philp and Jeremy Davey respectively.

The Guest Speaker for our August dinner was our QMWS Vice President, Dr Edwina Duhig, an Anatomical Pathologist at The Prince Charles Hospital. Edwina gave an interesting and thought provoking presentation about Asbestos. She outlined the history of where, when and what types were mined and the various diseases thought to be induced by the different types of asbestos. She described the burden of disease caused by asbestos – pleural plaques, pleural effusion, rounded atelectasis, asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. Edwina outlined some frightening statistics: the lifetime risk of mesothelioma in heavily exposed individuals is up to 7-10%, non-smoking asbestos workers have a 5 times increased risk of lung cancer and smoking asbestos workers have a 50-90 times increased risk of lung

cancer. Many countries have banned asbestos imports, including Australia (2007), France (1996), Great Britain (1999), European Union (2007), Japan (2005), USA (2007). China, India, Thailand, Indonesia and other Asian countries continue to import asbestos and Russia, Canada, China, Brazil and Zimbabwe continue to mine asbestos.

At our December dinner for graduating medical students we were again reminded what a wonderful career Medicine is for women. Our panel of guest speakers represented women at different stages of their medical careers and the many and varied fields within Medicine. Their topic was "Developing a Passion". Francesca Arcidiacono, an Intern gave great insight and tips on how to survive the Intern Year. She spoke with great candour and humour about her own experiences. She referred to a book that had entertained her during the year, *Bedside Stories, Confessions of a Junior Doctor* by Michael Foxton. Catherine Prather, a Radiology Registrar spoke of the highs and lows of Specialty

Training. Lydia Pitcher, a Haematology Pathologist at QML and Simone Peacock, a Brisbane GP who also works with the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia spoke about juggling their family life with their work in Australia and overseas.

We look forward to this year's dinner meetings. Dr Stephen Ayre, Executive Director of Medical Services, The Prince Charles Hospital, formerly CEO Launceston General Hospital will be our Guest Speaker at our March Dinner/AGM. He will be speaking on "Beaconsfield and other disasters – tales from a Medical Administrator".

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Left: Members and Guests enjoying our December dinner



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AFMW UPDATE

Dr Desiree Yap is the current President of the Australian Federation of Medical Women. She took over from Dr Susie Close after the AFMW AGM at the MWIA conference in Melbourne in 2008.

She is an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Melbourne's Monash Medical Centre, The Royal Women's Hospital and in private practice in East Melbourne. She is the mother of two young children.

Desiree joined VMWS after attending the Sydney MWIA conference in 2001 to present a paper on Refugee Health, as she found the conference a rather transforming experience. The recent Regional Conference in Melbourne provided a little taste of this for QMWS' Anne Ulcoq and Janet Huang!

During her time as President of AFMW, Desiree would like to improve communication between the State societies by optimising the use of electronic media. Victorian Registrar Dr Jillan Tomlinson recently won a Commonwealth Office for Women Grant of \$89 000 for a Leadership Project and Web Portal for AFMW which should facilitate this. More information on this is available at www.afmw.org.au.

Desiree would also like to increase the sphere of AFMW's influence with respect to issues covered by the charter including issues around Women's and Children's Health and Professional Development for Women Doctors.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2008 was a successful year for QMWS and we look forward to kicking off another successful year with AGM/ Dinner Meeting 4th March.

The student dinner held on the 10th of December 2008 was attended by members and graduating medical students. Generously sponsored by QML and Medfin, we enjoyed an informal night with a BBQ dinner, enabling guests to mingle. We had 4 Guest Speakers, Lydia Pitcher, a Haematology Pathologist with QML, Catherine Prather a Radiology Registrar, Francesca Arcidiacono an Intern and Simone Peacock a Brisbane GP who also works with the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia. Their topic was "Developing a Passion."

In October 2008, Janet Huang and I had the pleasure of attending the MWIA conference in Melbourne. I would encourage anyone interested in attending future MWIA conferences to go, it is a wonderful experience.

QMWS held dinner meetings for 2008 in March incorporating the AGM), May and August. The AGM was very well attended and our guest speaker

Katharine Philp spoke about the interface between Doctors and Lawyers. The May dinner meeting had Jeremy Davey as our speaker and he gave an entertaining but sobering talk on the problem of drugs and alcohol in our society. In August Edwina Duhig gave an interesting talk on Asbestos.

QMWS continues to be a wonderful society to belong to, with interesting speakers, lovely dinners, and members who are active, attending meetings to interact and support each other both professionally and personally. We are hoping to expand on our involvement with AFMW in 2009 and welcome the incoming president Desiree Yap.

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The Queensland Medical Women's Society
Invites you to our

March Dinner Meeting and Annual General Meeting

At

The Victoria Park Golf Club Function Venue
(Opposite the Medical School)

Please check at the entrance which room we are in.

Wednesday 4th March 2009

7pm start

Beaconsfield and Other Disasters - Tales from a Medical Administrator

Dr Stephen Ayre the Executive Director, Medical Services, Prince Charles Hospital, formerly CEO of Launceston General Hospital, will be our guest speaker.

We are asking for a co payment of \$20 (students \$10)- payable on the night

RSVP to Anne Ulcoq on 0417 634 093 or

Email rulcoq@bigpond.net.au RSVP Date: February 25th

***It is very important that we have accurate numbers for catering.*

*If you RSVP, and are then unable to attend, please let us know***

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International Women's Conference

The Medical Women's International Association Western Pacific Regional Conference was held in Melbourne 17th to the 19th of October 2008. Janet Huang and I attended as representatives of QMWS. I attended the Saturday session and dinner. No matter which country you had come from or which field of medicine you worked in, there was something for everyone in the conference program including leadership workshops, conflict coaching, website skills, hospital visits, environment and health, infections and vaccines, innovations in health promotion, health promotion in the media, professional issues for women in medicine, and the impact of war and terrorism on women and children. The conference delegates came from South Africa, Canada, Sweden, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, Korea and Australia.

The highlight of the conference was the Saturday evening dinner. It was

held at the Sofitel Hotel and delegates were encouraged to wear their national dress. I arrived in the foyer to be met by women in national dress from Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Philippines. All the women were welcoming and excited to be part of the conference dinner. A lively bush band set the tone for the evening. We all did a few bush dances that were energetic and fun. This was followed by a series of performances by delegates from different countries. The Taiwanese women performed a traditional dance and song, the Korean women (all 19 of them) sang and did actions to an ancient Korean song, the Japanese women sang led by a doctor who is also an opera singer and she also performed a solo from Madame Butterfly. The women from the Philippines did a fashion parade and between clothing changes one of the women sang a solo. The depth of talent, humour and enthusiasm of these women was inspiring. The Australians performed

"Waltzing Matilda" and "Click Go the Shears". It was a fun night and I will never forget the sight of a room full of female doctors from around the world in national dress doing the chicken dance! It was a wonderful opportunity for networking. The Presidents of AFMW, the ACT, Victoria, Qld and NSW Medical Women's Societies sat down and discussed what we were doing and how we could improve communication between our organizations. We shared aspects of our organizations that were working well and how we could do things differently. It was great to meet these women who previously have only been connected via email. The next conference will be held in Tanzania in 2009 and I would encourage anyone who is interested to attend, as it is an amazing experience.

DR ANNE ULCOQ, PRESIDENT QMWS

Below: Members and Guests enjoying our August Dinner



**SWIM
Update**

THE 2009 SWIM PRESIDENT IS MELINDA STANTON.

SWIM have an exciting calendar of events including the Buddy High Tea in February, a Cocktail Evening raising money for Breast Cancer Research in February and Q&A Nights in April and July. You can contact SWIM for further details on swimuq@gmail.com