

QMWS news

Quarterly Newsletter

May 2009

President's Report

2008 was another successful year for QMWS. We held 4 dinner meetings, February, May, August and December.

At our February meeting and AGM we had, Katharine Philp, a partner with Tress Cox Lawyers as our guest speaker. Katharine is an insurance litigation lawyer specializing in medical negligence. She gave a very informative address about the interface between Doctors and Lawyers.

Our May dinner meeting was successful as we managed to avoid a clash with the state of origin, for the first time in a few years. Associate Professor Jeremy Davey was our guest speaker. Jeremy is an academic in the QUT school of Psychology and Counselling and deputy director of the QUT centre for accident research and road safety. He gave a sobering talk about the problem of alcohol and drugs in our society.

The August dinner meeting was an intimate night for QMWS with our committee member Edwina Duhig anatomical pathologist at PCH being our guest speaker, her topic was asbestos. Edwina covered the history of asbestos, its current use and disease caused by asbestos in a riveting talk that revealed we have all been exposed.

Our December meeting was hosted for the graduating students of the UQ medical school. A casual evening BBQ was held and a panel of guest speakers at different stages of their careers spoke on developing a passion. Francseca Aricidiacono an intern in 2008,

Catherine Prather a radiology registrar and Simone Peacock a GP and flying doctor, entertained our members and the graduating students with reflections on their careers and life choices.

In 2008 Catherine Yelland a longstanding committee member and expresident of QMWS was invited to attend the 2020 Summit in Canberra. She was invited in her capacity as president of the Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine. Catherine's particular interest at the summit was in the 'long term national health strategy'. We felt proud to have one of our QMWS members invited to and attend such an important national event.

In October 2008, Janet Huang and myself along with other members of QMWS attended the International Medical Women's conference in Melbourne. This conference gave me a fresh view on AFMW's role and the important work they are capable of doing. I met with the incoming president Desiree Yap, who is enthusiastic and energetic and seems to be revitalising AFMW. There is an article about Desiree in the February QMWS newsletter and anyone interested in being involved in monthly AFMW skype meetings should contact me.

I have enjoyed my 3 years as President of QMWS, I congratulate the incoming president Edwina Duhig and wish her well. I would like to thank the QMWS committee for all their hard

work, support and friendship over the last 3 years. I would also like to again thank Wyeth for their ongoing financial support and Gary Langham for his loyalty to QMWS. I would also like to thank SWIM for their support of QMWS in encouraging their members to attend our meetings. SWIM members are our future and we will continue to offer financial support for their functions and invite their members to attend our meetings and also encourage any QMWS members to attend any relevant functions hosted by SWIM.

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INQUIRIES

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QMWS DINNER REPORT

Our first dinner meeting for 2009 was held in conjunction with the AGM on 4th March. We were privileged to welcome as our guest speaker, Dr Stephen Ayre, Executive Director of Medical Services at The Prince Charles Hospital and formerly the CEO of Launceston Hospital. His presentation was on "Beaconsfield and Other Disasters, Tales from a Medical Administrator".

Stephen outlined for us the path he had taken to Medical Administration which included work in the fields of Psychiatry, General Practice and Alcohol and Drug Medicine. As a Medical Administrator he worked in Community Health, at Caboolture Hospital and at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital before becoming the CEO of Launceston General Hospital. There, he worked closely with an Emergency Physician and together they coordinated the Medical Retrieval Service for Launceston and surrounds.

All their training and expertise was required when in April 2006 an earthquake triggered a rock fall at the Beaconsfield Gold Mine 40 km northwest of Launceston. Seventeen miners were underground at the time. Fourteen emerged unharmed. Three miners remained trapped in the mine. One, Larry Knight unfortunately was killed. Five days later the other two miners, Brant Webb and Todd Russell were found to be alive and were able to be rescued from the mine after being trapped for 2 weeks. Stephen Ayre was involved not only in the Medical aspects of the retrieval but in the management of the media. Worldwide media attention on the disaster was intense. Coincidentally, Media crews and all their gear were already in place in Tasmania for the Targa Tasmania Rally which had been held earlier that month. Media Teams were stationed at the mine and at the Launceston General Hospital.

While the rescue was taking place Stephen coordinated the plan for the Hospital for the miners' arrival. The Hospital's Plan was enacted early with the unfortunate sudden and unexpected death of journalist, Richard Carleton from a heart attack at Beaconsfield, 2 days before the miners were rescued. On the day of the



miners' rescue, Stephen participated in no less than 25 media interviews including one with Oprah Winfrey!

Life as a Medical Administrator was never dull - as CEO for Launceston, Stephen also had responsibility for the Mersey Hospital in northern Tasmania. In 2007, then Prime Minister, John Howard made an unprecedented announcement that the Federal Government would take over the running of the embattled Mersey Hospital. Mersey Community Hospital had been run by a private operator, Healthscope, but was subsequently returned to State Government control. The Hospital was under Federal Government control from late 2007 until mid 2008 when it was returned back to State Government control.

Stephen's return to Queensland as the Executive Director of Medical Services at The Prince Charles Hospital promises as many challenges as he faced in Tasmania with many new developments in Queensland Health including the building of a single Queensland Children's Hospital, the proposed building of a Children's Emergency Department at The Prince Charles Hospital, to name just two.



Annual General Meeting

The following office bearers were elected

President: Edwina Duhig.

Secretary: Anne Ulcoq

Treasurer: Carmel Simpson,

Committee Members: Catherine Yelland, Lisa Cavaye, Janet Huang, Catherine Browne and Meg Cairns.

It was agreed that QMWS will remain affiliated with AFMW and a proportion of Membership Fees would be forwarded to AFMW. It was noted that AFMW is undergoing a revitalisation under the Presidency of Desiree Yap. Melinda Stanton, SWIM President gave a SWIM Update.

Our Dinner Meeting was generously supported by Wyeth.



The Queensland Medical Women's Society
Invites you to our

May Dinner Meeting

At
The Moreton Room, The United Services Club,
183 Wickham Tce, Spring Hill.

Wednesday 27th May 2009
7pm start

'The Road Less Travelled'

Dr Nikki Blackwell
Senior Staff Specialist in Intensive Care
The Prince Charles Hospital
shares some of her experiences working in complex conflicts
and humanitarian emergencies with
Medecins Sans Frontieres...

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: May 22nd
**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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S.W.I.M Q&A EVENING



On Wednesday the 8th April, the University of Queensland's Supporting Women in Medicine group hosted their annual Q&A evening at the E.S.Meyers Lecture Hall at Herston Medical School.

The evening was attended by 70 medical students, who came to listen to Doctors Anne Ulcoq, Catherine Yelland, Marianne Vonau, Kylie Burns, Agustina Perez-Smith and Alex Markwell speak.

The aim of the evening was for students to have a picture painted by these 6 doctors of what life is like as a woman practicing medicine. Each speaker illustrated their personal path to their current professional standing, and shared stories of successes, challenges and career-making moments.

It was delightful to have such a broad spectrum of specialties represented, and also to hear the different issues highlighted by the six Doctor's at different stages in their careers. Everything from Training programs to Safe Work Hours to Representation to Work-Life balance was discussed, and the depth of experience and advice shared was both inspiring and extremely practical.

Students are very grateful for the generosity shown by these 6 busy women in donating their time to address the group, and we encourage any Doctor with an interesting story or who has wise words to share, to come forth at next years call for volunteers!

A sincere thanks to all the Guest Speakers, from the Students of UQ-SWIM!

D. Perez-Smith

UQMS-SWIM Academic Vice-President.



QMWS committee '09

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