



QMWS news

Queensland Medical Women's Society



Quarterly Newsletter

March 2011

March 2011 President's report

I hope you all survived the floods. It was a great example of bringing together of people in adversity. As someone who had been out of their home for several days, although without great damage, it was cheering to hear from people in Brisbane and from friends elsewhere around the globe. A strange phenomenon was the flood tourist, the sticky beak or rubber necker, depending on your vernacular. It was disappointing to go home to clean out the fridge, to find at least some of the closest parks taken by people there for a look.

Recently at work I had to fill in a "Stakeholder engagement plan". It made me think how do we do we engage those tourists and turn them into volunteers. It is easy when it is the greatest natural disaster to hit the city for 30 odd years. What happens when it is a small organisation run by volunteers?

The March meeting should be momentous because it is our welcome to new medical women dinner in which we will invite the female interns. Our speaker, Victoria Brazil is an emergency physician at the Royal Brisbane and Womens Hospital, and Director of Queensland Medical Education and Training (QMET), the statewide body for coordination of medical education and training activities within QHealth and with other stakeholders in the jurisdiction. Her topic is "I never let my schooling interfere with my education" (Mark Twain)

This interactive session will focus on the things we do everyday as medical teachers - bedside teaching, small group learning, procedural skills teaching - and challenge us to show whether these activities really help our learners.

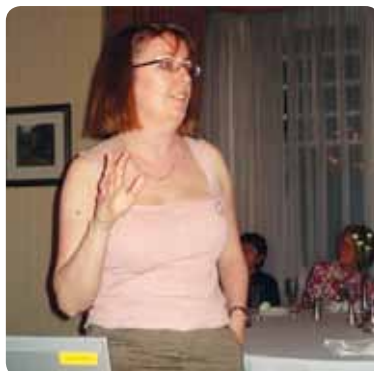
We'll take a close (and somewhat humorous) look at our presentation skills and the uses and abuses of this format. And finally we'll see if any of this fits with what bureaucrats and politicians want us to do in clinical training over the next 5 - 10 years.

Following this, we will hold the annual general meeting. All the positions on the committee are available to be filled. Please consider whether you are just a tourist of want to be part of a team and join the committee. It will be great to see you thee.

Edwina Duhig



QMWS December Dinner



QMWS President, Dr Edwina Duhig, at the December meeting

QMWS COMMITTEE '11

Contact Details

President

Edwina Duhig

E: Edwina_Duhig@health.qld.gov.au

T: 0417 634 093

Secretary

Anne Ulcoq

E: rulcoq@bigpond.net.au

M: 0417 634 093

Treasurer

Carmel Simpson

E: simpson.cm@me.com

Committee Members

Megan Archer

Meg Cairns

Lisa Cavaye

Catherine Yelland

E: Cyelland@optusnet.com.au



INQUIRIES

Dr Anne Ulcoq

QMWS Secretary

PO Box 6476

Fairfield Gardens Qld 4103

(M) 0417 634 093

E: rulcoq@bigpond.net.au

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GREENSLOPES
PRIVATE HOSPITAL

December 2010 meeting

We held our last dinner for the year at the end of November. We departed from our long tradition of an evening for the Graduating Medical Students, as this has become increasingly difficult to organize, with a busy program for them in the week before graduation, and students scattered far and wide in the weeks before and after graduation. So instead we will host a "Welcome to New Interns" as our first meeting for 2011.

So our December meeting included three speakers.

Second Chance

Dale Spender was introduced by one of our committee members. Megan Archer., who was keen for the QMWS to know about the **Second Chance** programme. Dale Spender AM FRSA BA DipEd MA LittB PhD D.University gave us a little of her background She has been a student, teacher, academic, author, editor, publisher, researcher, feminist, consultant, director, chairperson, media and forum contributor, public speaker, independent thinker, fund raiser, intellectual property stirrer, researcher on new technologies and learning and mind-changer (acknowledgements to her website)

Dale came to talk to us about the Second Chance Programme for homeless women, of which she is a member of the Fund Raising Group. It originated when the Anglican Women's Hostel was at risk of closure. The programme has supported over 300 women who would otherwise be homeless, and by the end of 2011, will have helped over 500. Women become homeless for many reasons. Younger women have difficulty earning enough to support themselves if they do not have families. Older women may become homeless through illness or domestic violence, especially if they do not have a support network. Mental health problems are evident in 70%, and at least 10-20% have physical illnesses. They frequently attend hospital emergency departments after sexual assault.

Homeless women are largely unseen, both by necessity and prejudice, and often called bag ladies or prostitutes. There is not enough affordable housing in Brisbane, and hostels offer a maximum of 13 weeks accommodation. Homeless women have difficulty arranging bank accounts, applying for jobs if they do not have an address and

having appropriate clothing to wear to interviews. However, interventions are very effective, with 88% of assisted women not returning to homelessness. The programme may assist with rent, furniture, and assisting with life skills such as housekeeping, and also works with the Brisbane Housing Company, which provides affordable housing. The Second Chance Programme is committed to bridging the Gap for homeless women, to assist in providing homes, which provide security and stability, and a base from which to plan and start anew. QMWS made a donation to the programme.

Our Own Worst Enemies.

We then had two of our members talk on "Our Own Worst Enemies" - how some specialties have "image issues."

Diane Khursandi has long been a supported of the QMWS, and it was good to see her daughter, Isabel, who has been a bit distracted from QMWS meetings by the demands of 3, soon to be 4, small children. Di has had various medical roles, but talked about anaesthetists and their image - the adage that anaesthetists choose their career because their patients are always asleep and therefore they don't have to talk to them, and spend the operation reading the paper. It is a relatively young specialty (now 150 years old!). The public often do not even think that anaesthetists are doctors, or that anyone can "pass gas". They are not in the public gaze and receive very little media attention. They do not wear their own clothes, and the patient does not remember them because the drugs they use cause amnesia for the event. Di emphasized the need for anaesthetists to develop their communication skills, to take a history, do a thorough preoperative assessment, elicit concerns, address safety issues, and do a post operative visit. Anesthetist should also be involved, like any other doctors, in research, audit, and develop teamwork.

Our president, Edwina Duhig, talked about another less visible specialty - Pathology. She discussed diseases she would rather not have, and those for which the prognosis has not improved in many years. There are others in which enormous progress has been made. Her particular interest is lung pathology and cancer, which causes more deaths than breast, prostate and colon cancer

combined. The challenges in pathology include the reluctance of governments (and consumers) to pay appropriately and to fund new technologies, corporatized medicine, changes in medical practice and a shortage of jobs for new fellows.

The evening ended with a Christmas Quiz. One of the questions was "What medical condition was Tiny Tim in Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" thought to have?".



Dale Spender



Dr Di Khursandi



Committee member Dr Megan Archer, introducing speakers

SWIM News

March

With a new executive, some new initiatives and a new year, SWIM has been a busy crew so far. This year the team is comprised of Catherine Macdonald (President), Ashley Jenkin (Academic Vice President), Dora Pelletier (Social Vice President), Yvonne Cheah (Secretary), Justina Dobrolot (Treasurer), Keeri Young (Marketing Officer), David Griffin (Sponsorship), Jessica Page (Liaison and Advocacy) and Janique Dyba (Community and Initiatives). Janique's position is new this year, and she will be bringing us an exercise and running programme, tutorials and many other great activities throughout the year.

Our first event of the year was the Affiliates BBQ, where SWIM got together with the other medical students organizations to welcome the new first year students. With games of twister and delicious food, this afternoon was a great success and attracted a lot of keen first year students to our Buddy Afternoon Tea held a few days later. Here second year students were paired with first year students to help them navigate through their first year of medical school. SWIM members showed their hidden creative talents here in the cupcake competition, and our patron Dr Jenny Schafer welcomed our new friends.

Our academic calendar is also off to a great start, with a new event from Ashley and Janique for first year students. This was a 'crash course' in science for those with a non-science background, and by all reports it was well-received by the students involved.

SWIM has been carefully considering our mission statement and goals recently, and we are excited about the direction the group is taking. It was great to see interest from the male cohort in being members and even being buddies this year, and we look forward supporting all women in medicine in 2011!



SWIM executive for 2011!

PRESIDENT: CAT MACDONALD

SECRETARY: YVONNE CHEAH

VP ACADEMIC: ASHLEY JENKINS

VP SOCIAL: DORA PELLETIER

TREASURER: JUSTYNA DOBROT

ADVOCACY AND LIAISON: JESSICA PAGE

MARKETING: KEERI YOUNG

SPONSORSHIP: DAVID GRIFFIN

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES: JANIQUE DYBA



SWIM BBQ



SWIM Cupcakes



The Queensland Medical Women's Society
Invites you to our

March Dinner Meeting
and
Welcome to New Medical Women

At
The Century Room, The Pavilion,
Allan Border Field,
1 Bogan St,
Breakfast Creek.

Wednesday 23rd March 2011
7pm start

The interns of 2011 are invited to attend as guests of QMWS.

**"I never let my schooling interfere with my education"
(Mark Twain)**

This interactive session will focus on the things we do everyday as medical teachers - bedside teaching, small group learning, procedural skills teaching - and challenge us to show whether these activities really help our learners. We'll take a close (and somewhat humorous) look at our presentation skills and the uses and abuses of this format. And finally we'll see if any of this fits with what bureaucrats and politicians want us to do in clinical training over the next 5 - 10 years.

To be presented by **Dr Victoria Brazil**

Victoria is an emergency physician at the Royal Brisbane and Womens Hospital, and Director of Queensland Medical Education and Training (QMET), the statewide body for coordination of medical education and training activities within QHealth and with other stakeholders in the jurisdiction. She is a previous Fulbright scholar (2002) and received the ACEM Teaching Excellence award in 2008. Dr Brazil is also an Associate Professor within the Discipline of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care at the University of Queensland.

**We are asking for a co payment of members \$30, non-members \$40, students \$10
and interns free- payable on the night**

RSVP to Edwina Duhig on 0418 183 152 or

Email Edwina_Duhig@health.qld.gov.au RSVP Date: March 16th

***It is very important that we have accurate numbers for catering.
If you RSVP, and are then unable to attend, please let us know**