



September 2009

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President's Update

My thanks to Dr Mark Sinclair and his team from Darwin and Adelaide for a very successful 2009 ASA National Scientific Congress. We were privileged to have outstanding local and international speakers including Professors John Sear and Mark Warner. Associate Professor Pam McIntyre as well as Drs Archie Brain, John Loadman and Ken Harrison. The choice of Darwin as a venue was obviously popular with the membership with over a 1000 attending the evening for delegates and their families at Crocosaurus. The *ASA news* will be published next month with photos and reports from the Congress and meetings for your information.

The Annual General Meeting recognised five of our outstanding members. Life Membership was awarded to Dr Wally Thompson and Dr Richard Bailey; and the Gilbert Brown Award was made to Dr Haydn Perndt, Dr John Lauritz and Professor Ross Holland. It was fitting in our 75th anniversary year that the membership recognised these five devoted and exceptional members! The full citations and photographs of the presentation will be published in the *ASA news*.

Council Report

After five years Dr Alan Duncan has stepped down as Chief Editor of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care and Council appointed Dr Neville Gibbs to the position. Congratulations to Neville and my grateful appreciation to Alan. Alan will not be retiring completely just yet! He has agreed to assist with the transition of the intensive care editing to our new editor Dr Michael Corkeron who was appointed in July. Dr Mark Sinclair was also appointed to take over from Dr Andrew Mulcahy as Chair of the Economic Advisory Committee in January 2010. Again, Council expressed its appreciation to Andrew for his devotion and numerous successes in improving the economic conditions for Australian anaesthetists.

New ASA Website

The new ASA website goes 'live' on 1 October. A separate reminder email will be sent to all members and an article will appear in the next *ASA news*. Click [here](#) to review the prototype site and add your suggestions. The new website offers us greater flexibility and capability, and hopefully you will find it considerably easier to navigate. A couple of reminders about the new website; we will be de-commissioning the Locum on Line Service (LOLS) software and offering an alternative registration scheme to match up applications and locum requirements. Second, access to the new website's members only pages will be controlled through your email address and a password. You can choose your own password, but must ensure that you use your email address that you have registered with the

ASA.

Refresher Course Book

The American Society of Anesthesiologists' annual Refresher Course Book is now actually a flash drive. The price has increased to US\$50 and it will be available from October. We have priced the importation, duty and distribution to members and estimate they will cost A\$95 each. If you would like to order one please complete this [form](#) by 30 September. Given the increase in price we will assess the level of interest before placing a bulk order – so please respond.

GP Anaesthetist Locum Scheme (GPALS)

The ASA and the Department of Health and Ageing have now formalised the agreement to roll out the GPALS. Visit our [website](#) to find out more about this scheme and how you can use it.

GASACT Announcement

I am pleased to announce that Dr Luke Wilson has been elected as the Chair of GASACT. Luke has been acting Chair since Dr Amanda Young stepped down to pursue family life. I congratulate him and wish him well in this interesting role.

Upcoming Events

ASA Rural Summit

There are still vacancies to attend the ASA Rural Summit on 26 September 2009 at the ASA Headquarters in Sydney. Please call the ASA on 1800 806 654 and ask for Alex for further information.

The Australasian Symposium on Ultrasound and Regional Anaesthesia (ASURA) 2009

ASURA 2009 will be held between 20 and 23 November 2009 in Brisbane. Registrations are now open and forms are available online [here](#). Workshops are now fully subscribed but places are still available for the scientific program.

Ascott Hotel Deals

Please click [here](#) to access the latest deals offered to ASA members by Ascott Hotels. These deals are for accommodation at their hotels in Melbourne. Please remember to quote "ASA" when booking to access the special rates.

ASA Wine Society

Please click [here](#) for the latest offers from the Wine Society, brought to you by AusCellar Door.

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