



Australian Military Medicine Association

Annual Report
1998-1999

Australian Military Medicine Association

August 1999

Patron

Major General J. Pearn
Surgeon General Australian Defence Force

President

Nader Abou-Seif

Vice-President

Journal Editor and Librarian

Russell Schedlich

Council

Secretary	Fabian Purcell
Treasurer	Andrew Robertson
Public Officer	David Emonson
Member	Graham Boothby
Member	Janet Scott
Member	Beverley Wright

Secretariat

Leishman and Associates

On behalf of Council, I am pleased to present the annual report of the Australian Military Medicine Association together with the Balance Sheet and related Accounts for the year ended 31 July 1999.

Nader Abou-Seif

President's Report

The Australian Military Medicine Association has had a steady rather than spectacular year in 1998-99. A number of new initiatives have been proposed and are in the process of being addressed.

Membership. Council have reviewed our list of members and, after significant efforts to locate those with whom contact had been lost, have developed a more accurate list. This will provide us with a better basis for planning and budgeting. A major membership drive is planned for the next twelve months to consolidate the role of the association in the military medicine community. The benefit of an improved Internet presence by AMMA has already shown positive results in terms of recruiting of new members.

Financial Issues. The associations finances will be dealt with in more detail elsewhere in the annual report, however I must comment on the loss sustained by the association last year. For a large part, this was expected as the second fifteen-month membership year has reduced our income. As we have now completed the transition from a calendar year for membership to a financial year, this loss should not be an issue in the coming year and costs should be covered from within our current budgeted income.

Journal. Three issues of the journal have been produced in the last twelve months. Council considers it a priority to continue to improve the range of articles and maintain a growing level of interest in its content. To this end, Council have instituted a range of incentives to encourage more contributions to the journal. In my President's Messages, I have encouraged our membership to participate in making the journal a better publication. It is planned to maintain a production schedule of three journals a year at this time and every attempt will be made to ensure prompt production and distribution.

Technology. This year has seen an increased AMMA presence on the Internet as discussed at last year's Annual General Meeting. To date this has been a positive move by the association with a number of new members and inquiries coming through this source. It is hoped that this may expand our outreach and provide a resource for our members as well as an administrative benefit for Council.

Research. Council has reviewed our research grant system and has planned a redistribution of grant income to support and encourage wider participation by our membership. As discussed in the journal the award of prizes will be widened to include a prize for the best

journal article, to the best article in a peer review journal by an AMMA member and the best article on a military medicine related subject to be announced at the Annual National Meeting in October. The Research Grant would also continue with its present guidelines but in a reduced amount. AMMA maintains a commitment to encouraging research and original contributions in all fields of Military Medicine. At last years National Conference, the Weary Dunlop Award was won by Dave Newman.

Liaison. Council have been approached by members of the Aviation Medicine Society and have discussed the possibility of co-locating annual meetings. While this is not practical on a regular basis, the possibility of a co-hosted regional meeting or a jointly located national meeting on an occasional basis was considered possible.

Council. As in previous years, Council continue to meet four times per year, twice in person - once at the National Conference - and twice via teleconference. In addition the members of Council are in frequent contact throughout the

year to discuss issues as they arise. Again, I would like to thank all members of Council for their efforts and support throughout the year. This year two new members Beverley Wright and Dave Emonson have joined the Council and made significant contributions to our ongoing growth.

Our year, therefore, has again been one of consolidation with significant planning and groundwork being carried out to form the basis for the future growth and development of the association.

AMMA remains an independent organisation which, I hope will remain a focus for all those with an interest in Military Medicine. Your active participation and contribution in AMMA's activities remain an essential component in our continued growth and strength. In this way our ability to provide for and represent the interests of our membership will be guaranteed. With your support, we can have just cause for confidence as we look forward into the future. Once again, I thank you for your support.

Secretariat

Total membership of AMMA as at 7/10/99 stands at 323. The Association welcomed 19 new members in the last financial year.

Treasurer's Report

Interim financial statements are included in this Annual Report pending final statements becoming available at the Association's Annual General Meeting.

AMMA made a loss of \$4,728.15 in the financial year, principally in the area of membership. Whilst income from this sources was budgeted at \$20,000, actual income was only \$13,455, a fall of \$2,400 from the previous year. Other areas of income and

expenditure were generally within budget, with savings being made in secretarial expenses, postal and telephone costs, and accountancy fees. Modest income increases were made from interest and merchandise sales.

AMMA believes that the current fees remain appropriate, but efforts need to be made to retain and increase membership. A proposed budget for 1999-2000 is attached for consideration by the AGM.

Proposed 1999-2000 Budget

Income		
Merchandise Sales		400
Interest Received		200
Membership		20,000
Total Income		20,600
Expenses		
Bank Charges		1,200
Interest Paid		0
Council Meetings		2,300
Secretarial Expenses		
Journal	530	
Other	5,900	
Total		6,430
Postage, Telephones, Stationery		2,500
Journal		3,100
Miscellaneous		30
Other Seminars		300
Awards		2,500
Accountant		500
Loss on Conference		950
Total Expenses		19,810
Profit		790

Conference Account

Income	
Exhibition Income	21,000
Conference Registrations	34,550
Conference Income	55,550
Expenses	
Secretarial	12,500
Other	44,000
Conference Expenses	56,500
Loss on Conference	950

Journal

Australian Military Medicine, the official journal of the Association, was published three times during the year:

April 1998	Vol 7 No 1	26 pages
August 1998	Vol 7 No 2	24 pages
December 1998	Vol 7 No 3	28 pages

A total of nine articles were published representing original scientific works, scientific reviews and historical pieces, with additional material in the form of editorials, abstracts and a variety of AMMA news and information.

The format of the journal has now stabilised into one that is compact and easy to read. The "AMMA Update" has become a regular feature, providing information on the Association and its members in a consistent format and location. The Assistant Editor, Andy Robertson, compiles this from information from a variety of sources.

More contributions from members in the form of articles and small items are, as always, requested.

1998 Conference

The 7th Scientific Conference of the Australian Military Medicine Association was held from 16 to 18 October 1998 at the Swiss Grand Hotel, by the beach at Bondi, Sydney.

The official opening, by Rear Admiral Peter Briggs AO CSC, Head Strategic Command Division, took place on the Friday evening, and was followed by a paper by Dr Richard Morris on the issues facing him as the medical commander at the site of the 1997 Thredbo landslide disaster. Dr Morris's dissertation was an illuminating insight into the similarities between the medical management of a disaster site and many aspects of operational military medicine.

The first day opened with an Address by the Association's new Patron, and Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force, Major General John Pearn. The Keynote address was given by Captain Art Smith, USNR, and focussed on the challenges unique to military medicine, and in particular naval medicine. Alluding to the logistic challenges facing medicos at sea, he demonstrated clearly the problems and limitations imposed in adequately caring for the large numbers of casualties that are inevitable in war, and occur on a regular basis in peace.

The papers read over the two days of the Conference maintained a very high standard, and covered a wide variety of subjects, including operational support, clinical specialties, occupational and environmental

health, history, psychology and preventive medicine.

The 'Weary' Dunlop Award was won, for the second time, by Squadron Leader Dave Newman RAAF, who spoke on the physiological challenges of supermanoeuvrable flight. This type of flying is the face of the future of military aviation, and solutions to the problems faced by pilots will be demanded.

The Conference proceedings were interspersed with refreshment breaks for social interaction, where delegates had the opportunity to visit the Trade Display led by the Association's principal sponsor, Smith Kline and Beecham.

The Conference Dinner was a great affair, with much conviviality. As a change in format, a military medicine quiz was conducted. With self-assessment, scores ranged from a respectable (and honest) 25 to 253 (there were only 18 questions). Fortunately, any disputation on scores was academic, as there was no prize.

The sponsors of the Conference were:

- Smith Kline Beecham
- Astra
- Roche
- Ego
- CSL Pharmaceuticals
- Defence Health
- Essex Phama
- ParkeDavis
- GMS Marketing
- Uvex Safety

AMMA Incentives Scheme

For some years now the Australian Military Medicine Association (AMMA) has offered research grants totalling \$2,500 annually as an incentive to Association members to engage in research in military medicine and to contribute to the body of scientific literature pertaining to the area. While there have been a number of excellent pieces of work produced under the sponsorship of the Association, the number of research proposals received by the committee for consideration for the grant has been very small.

With this situation in mind, the AMMA Council reviewed the research grant program and agreed that it should be revised and more broadly targeted. As such, from 1st of July 1999, AMMA will offer three prizes to members for original scientific literature on military medicine related topics in addition to offering a research grant (under the current rules but for a reduced stipend). The three prizes to be offered are:

- **The AMMA Journal Editor's Prize (\$750).** This will be awarded for the best original paper published in the AMMA journal in a financial year. The journal editor will be the sole judge and has the right to not award a prize in the event that articles do not meet an adequate standard.
- **The AMMA Patron's Prize (\$250).** This will be awarded for the best original paper on a military medicine related topic written by an AMMA member and published in a peer reviewed journal in a financial year. The Surgeon General of the ADF will judge all papers submitted to the AMMA secretary for consideration for this prize by the 1st of August immediately following the financial year in question.
- **The Australian Military Medicine Prize (\$500).** This will be awarded for an essay written by an AMMA member on a health related subject to be announced at the annual AMMA scientific meeting each year. Essays for consideration for the prize must

be submitted to the AMMA secretary by the end of the financial year. The AMMA Council will judge them. No Council member may enter an essay into this competition.

- **The AMMA Research Grant.** This will continue under its current rules. However, the amount of the stipend for this grant will be

reduced from \$2500 to \$1000 to be offered annually.

The adjudication of the judge's of each prize will be final and no appeal or correspondence questioning such decisions will be entertained. Further information on these prizes and grants is available through members of the AMMA Council.

Summary of AMMA Awards

Award	Amount	Criteria
AMMA Journal Editor's Prize	\$750	Best paper by an AMMA member published each year in the AMMA Journal. Judged by AMMA Journal Editor
Research Grant	\$1,000	To remain in current form. Judged by Council
AMMA Patron's Prize	\$250	Best article published in a peer-reviewed journal by an AMMA member – must be a health-related article. Judged by AMMA Patron (Open to Council Members)
Australian Military Medicine Prize	\$500	Best essay by AMMA member on topic, which will be announced at the annual scientific meeting/conference. Judged by AMMA Council. (Not open to Council members)
Deadline: 30th June For published articles, publication will be in a specified year. Copies of articles published in other journals must be forwarded to Council to be considered.		

"Weary" Dunlop Award

The "Weary" Dunlop award of \$500 is given annually for the best paper presented at the Annual Conference.

At the 1998 Conference, Dave Newman received the award, for the second time, for his paper: "The biodynamic and physiological implications of supermanoeuvrable flight".

Research Grant

Each year, the Association awards one or more Research Grants to a total value of \$2,000 to assist members in undertaking research in the field of military medicine.

In 1998, Council awarded the Grant to: Michael Stone.

Library

The Association's Library is physically located at Maritime Headquarters in Sydney. Loans are available for periods of up to 12 weeks by contacting the Librarian.

AMMA on the Net

AMMA has re-located and significantly improved its Web Home Page. It contains information about the Association, its office bearers and activities, and includes links to other military medical organisations and associations. The Page is located at: <http://amma.trump.net.au/>

New Members

During the year, AMMA welcomed the following new members:

Timothy Wagner	Manja Pertl
Jay Clemens	Lyndon Best
Geoffrey Matthews	Mark Creamer
Lynette Vawser	Christopher Scarff
Adam Kestel	Patrick Liston
Peter Leggat	John Turner
Jey Randhawa	Phillip Newlyn
Ian Young	William O'Regan
Alex Bordujenko	Andrew Ellis
Patrick Weinrauch	

Financial Statements

Financial statements and balance sheet will be presented to the Annual General Meeting in Adelaide. The following are interim statements.

INTERIM PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT - 1998/1999

<i>INCOME</i>	
Merchandise Sales	394.00
Interest Received	170.82
Exhibition Income	21,000.00
Conference Registrations	34,550.00
Membership	13,455.00
TOTAL INCOME	69,569.82

<i>EXPENSES</i>	
Bank Charges	1,156.61
Interest Paid	1.55
Committee Meetings	1,995.53
Annual Conference:	
Secretarial	12,263.20
Other	44,315.84
TOTAL	56,579.04
Face to Face Council Meeting	25.50
Secretarial Expenses:	
Journals	528.40
Other	5,888.40
TOTAL	6,416.80
Postal, Telephones, Stationery	2,502.10
Journal	3,042.84
Miscellaneous	31.00
Council Meeting	277.00
Other Seminars	295.00
Awards	1,500.00
Accountant	475.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	74,297.97

Deficit: \$4,728.15

INTERIM BALANCE SHEET (30 June 1999)

<i>ASSETS</i>	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Australian Defence Credit Union	38.99
Conference Account	812.94
National Australia Bank	4,420.20
Term Deposit	11,000.00
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	16,272.13
Other Assets	
Library	1,901.55
Merchandise	6,927.00
TOTAL Other Assets	8,828.55
TOTAL ASSETS	25,100.68
<i>LIABILITIES & EQUITY</i>	
LIABILITIES	0.00
EQUITY	25,100.68
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	25,100.68

PROPOSED BUDGET - 1998/1999

The following budget for the financial year 1998-99 is proposed for acceptance.

<i>INFLOWS</i>	
Income Suspense	5
Annual Conference	23,500
Merchandise Sales	300
Interest Received	135
Transfer	
Exhibition	
Registrations	30,000
Memberships	20,000
Total Inflows	73,940
<i>OUTFLOWS</i>	
Bank Charges	800
Interest Paid	
Committee Meetings	400
Annual Conference	54,000
Face-to-Face Council Meeting	1,500
Secretarial Expenses	9,000
Postal, Telephone, Stationery	3,200
Journal	700
Miscellaneous	
Merchandise	
Council Meetings	
Registrations	
Awards	2,500
Accountant	500
Suspense	
Total Outflows	72,600
Total Inflows	73,940
Total Outflows	72,600
Total Income over Expenses (surplus)	1,340