



# **Australian Military Medicine Association**

## **Annual Report 2003 - 2004**

### **Patron**

Air Vice-Marshal Bruce Short  
Surgeon General Australian Defence Force

### **President**

Russell Schedlich

### **Vice-President**

Nader Abou-Seif

### **Council**

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

### **Secretariat**

Leishman 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 30 June 2004.

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## **President's Report**

The past twelve months have seen a continuation of the significant contribution of the ADF, and in support its health services, to the various operational efforts to which they have been committed. Foremost among these, at least in the public eye, has been the contribution to the coalition forces in Iraq.

Twelve months ago, I posed the question of whether the actions in Iraq would achieve success in the “War on Terror”. The jury on that remains out, but there is no doubt that the challenge remains – as we have seen with continuing terrorist attacks, including on targets in Europe. Additionally, the continuing events in Iraq have raised many questions, some of which have gone to the heart of the morality and ethics of warfare and its aftermath.

On the domestic front, health news has been dominated by ongoing issues relating to the safety and quality of healthcare, as highlighted by the events in Camden and Campbelltown Hospitals. The aftermath of these events has highlighted the tensions that exist on many fronts, but particularly between individual accountability and the impact of the system on human error. It may be overstating the issue, but it seems that until and unless the community allows the health system to apply the lessons of aviation safety to its way of managing adverse outcomes there is little prospect of significant and sustained improvement in safety and quality.

**Membership.** The Association's membership remains solid at around 360. Unfortunately, over 100 of these members are unfinancial, and while some of these members will have renewed early in the new financial year, I would urge all to renew their membership. Our base fees contribute the majority of the income that supports the activities of the Association and will fundamentally determine what we can achieve in promoting the study of military health.

**Financial Issues.** The Association remains in sound financial health as per the financial reports at the conclusion of this report. At this year's AGM, we will be in a position to regularise our regulatory requirements in relation to certification by the membership of accounts, and for this I acknowledge the hard work of our Treasurer, Graham Boothby.

**Journal.** *Australian Military Medicine* has gone from strength to strength, with complete peer reviewing of all articles that are appropriately subject to this scrutiny. This has clearly had a significant impact on the quality of papers, and this has been complemented by the quality of the presentation.

**Conference.** The Association's Annual Scientific Conference was held in Adelaide, returning to its usual spot of the third weekend in October. While concerns had been held in relation to the impact of both the Defence Health Symposium the previous year and the long “layoff”, these fears were not realised as, once again, an extremely high quality conference was joined by a large number of delegates.

**Technology.** The Association's web site at [www.amma.asn.au](http://www.amma.asn.au) continues to evolve and now exhibits a professionalism which is reflective of the Association. Council will continue to explore ideas for the ongoing improvement and development of the site.

**Council and Secretariat.** At the 2003 Conference, Council was re-elected unchanged. Following its meeting in October, Council endorsed a series of policy and procedural documents that reflect its governance responsibilities as well as outline certain routine activities of the Association. These documents are of value in ensuring the Association's affairs are conducted appropriately and in accordance with our Constitution.

Our Secretariat, Leishman Associates, continues to provide us with high quality support and assistance in the day-to-day running of the Association.

Three members of the Council team have indicated that they will be giving up their responsibilities at this year's AGM.

Fabian Purcell has decided that those demands that are central to life do not give him adequate opportunity to devote the amount of time he would like to his position of Secretary, and will therefore not be standing. Fabian's work in Council, both as a member of the team and as Secretary, has been exemplary.

Dave Emonson has also decided that other demands prevent him from continuing on Council. Dave fulfilled the role of Public Officer whilst he resided in the ACT, and his contribution to the Association both through direct support and his contribution to Council activities has been greatly appreciated. I can well understand that Dave's new role of setting up the Centre for Military and Veteran's Health is making huge demands on his time.

Finally, Andy Robertson has indicated that while he will be renominating for Council, he will be relinquishing the position of Journal Editor. There is no doubt that under his guidance the journal has taken further leaps forward as a quality scientific journal. This has been reflected in the continued improvement in both the general format and the quality of papers submitted for publication.

To these three Council members, I want to particularly record my appreciation for their hard work and support over the last few years. I am sure the membership will support me in applauding their efforts. I know that all three will continue to be a source of advice and wisdom.

Finally, it has been a privilege and pleasure to work with the team of Council and Secretariat, and I thank them for their continuing support.

In closing, I must also record the appreciation of the Council and the Association to our major corporate sponsor, GlaxoSmithKline, who have renewed their sponsorship of the Association for one year, with option to consolidate this relationship for a further three years from October 2005.

The Association continues to grow and develop. We remain the peak organisation committed to the scientific progress of military medicine, and as such are looked to by those who have an interest in military medicine for support and information. We continue to proactively provide this in our many activities.

Any Association is only as good as its Members, and I believe we have the best. This augurs well for our future. Once again, I thank you for your support of the Association.

Russ Schedlich  
President

### **Treasurer's Report**

Attached are the Income and Expense reports for 2003 – 2004 and statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 June 2004.

Your association continues in a sound financial state and had the resources to carry out all the necessary activities for the year. The main activities of the association that have a cost are:

- Annual Conference
- AMMA Journal
- Website
- Award of Prizes and Grants
- Maintenance of Library
- Council costs
- Secretariat Costs

These items are constant from year to year but costs are subject to the usual CPI pressures.

Last year we were only able to present interim 2002 – 2003 figures that had not been audited. It is a requirement of the ACT authorities that we present audited figures that have been ratified by the Annual General Meeting. Those figures have now been audited. The 2003-2004 figures have also been audited. We therefore have the following separate tasks:

Ratification of the 2002-2003 audited figures. (see pages 7-11)

Ratification of the 2003-2004 audited figures. (see pages 12-19)

We had a small CPI linked fee rise last year. This year I propose no increase but I do expect next year a modest fee increase to take account of the CPI effect will again be necessary. This will allow the association to continue to efficiently discharge all its responsibilities.

Graham Boothby  
Treasurer

### **Journal Editor's Report**

*Australian Military Medicine*, the official journal of the Association, was published twice during the year, with the third edition currently with the publishers:

December 2003      Vol 12 No 3    44 pages  
July 2004            Vol 13 No 1    48 pages

A total of 16 scientific articles were published, of which 7 were original work. The remainder of the articles represented historical reviews, editorials, abstracts, opinion pieces and a variety of AMMA news and information. As requested at the Annual Meeting, all new articles are being peer-reviewed. All case studies, and original, historical and review articles so far in 2004 have been peer-reviewed.

The format of the journal has now stabilised into one that is compact and easy to read. Volume 13 has continued to evolve in its new look cover, which has been well-received by members. The “View from the Front” has become a regular feature, providing an opportunity for members to express their views on current and future issues in military medicine. The new section “Ten Years On”, which looks at articles published 10 years ago in the early issues of *Australian Military Medicine*, continues to flourish and has seen the publishing of some interesting articles on the St John Ambulance Field Medical Team and the military wisdom tooth. There has also been continuing interest from the Israeli Defence Force to publish in the Journal, with two articles published and one being reviewed. The journal has maintained its size at between 44-50 pages per issue.

The second issue for 2004, although still at the printers, will be a novel initiative for the Journal. Many of our members, particularly those joining in recent years, would be unaware of some of the excellent articles previously published in *Australian Military Medicine*. To that end, this special issue collects some 24 articles published over the last 12 years, which look at all aspects of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) medical defence. The issue collects up all of Dr Sue Sharpe’s excellent series on biological weapons, a range of articles on chemical and biological issues from the Defence Science and Technology Organisation, some more recent articles on civilian response, and even the odd article from the Editor. This issue will be the first of a series of issues over the next few years, which are designed to capture recent and past articles on a particular theme. The medical effects of conventional weapons, military medical history and the psychological effects of conflict are all potential areas for future issues.

This will also be my last year as Editor. As Journal Editor since 1999 and Assistant Editor for 4 years prior to that, the time has come for me to hand over the reins to somebody else. I have been very pleased with the growth of the Journal, the move to a peer review process and the continued excellent articles. I would encourage any potential authors to support the new Editor and continue to get papers in as early as possible to allow peer review. As always, I am grateful to all the authors and the reviewers, who have volunteered and graciously reviewed various articles so far.

Andy Robertson  
Editor

## Secretariat Report

Total membership of AMMA as at 30 June 2004 stands at 355. The Association welcomed twenty new members in the last financial year. Fourteen resignations were received from 1/7/03 to 30/6/04.

Membership breakdown is:

|                   |     |                          |   |
|-------------------|-----|--------------------------|---|
| NEW SOUTH WALES   | 105 | NORTHERN TERRITORY       | 4 |
| VICTORIA          | 78  | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | 7 |
| QUEENSLAND        | 55  | SAUDI ARABIA             | 1 |
| SOUTH AUSTRALIA   | 34  | NEW ZEALAND              | 1 |
| ACT               | 45  | SAMOA                    | 1 |
| WESTERN AUSTRALIA | 15  | ITALY                    | 1 |
| TASMANIA          | 8   |                          |   |

## New Members

During 1/7/03 – 30/6/04, AMMA welcomed the following new members:

|                          |     |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| CMDR Tim Anderson        | NS  | FLTLT Miriam Koniuszko   | VIC |
| MAJ Franklin Bridgewater | SA  | CAPT Yvonne Marsay       | NSW |
| Dr Barbara Bonecki       | QLD | CDT James McLean         | SA  |
| Dr Geoffrey Boyce        | NSW | LEUT Gisele Mouret       | NSW |
| Mr Alex Doyle-Bogicevic  | ACT | OFFCDT Csongor Oltvolgyi | QLD |
| PTE Philip Fawcett       | NSW | Captain John Parkes      | VIC |
| LCDR John AM Gall        | VIC | Dr Andrew Pearce         | SA  |
| Mrs Joanne Harding       | SA  | Dr Andrew Peters         | VIC |
| LCDR Cameron Hunt        | NSW | Ms Rebecca Shields       | VIC |
| LEUT Graham Jacobs       | WA  | MAJOR Michael Stacy      | NT  |

## Weary Dunlop Award

The 'Weary' Dunlop Award is presented annually for the paper judged the best original work at the AMMA Scientific Conference. The 2003 Award was jointly awarded to SGT David Andrew and Professor Michael Pain at the Annual Conference held in Adelaide.

## Research Grant

Each year, the Association awards one or more Research Grants to a total value of \$1,000 to assist members in undertaking research in the field of military medicine. In 2003, no submissions were received.

## **Library**

The Association's Library is available to AMMA members and currently being relocated. Loans are available for periods of up to 12 weeks by contacting the Librarian, David Andrew on 07 4687 7515 or email on [davidandtheresa@bigpond.com](mailto:davidandtheresa@bigpond.com)

## **AMMA on the Net**

AMMA's Web Page contains information about the Association, its office bearers and activities, and includes links to other military medical organisations and associations. It has been updated this year to include further information on AMMA Prizes, Council Members and Conference Information. The page is located at: <http://www.amma.asn.au>

## **Financial Statements**

Interim financial statements and balance sheet were presented to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2003 at Hilton Hotel, Adelaide. Attached are the audited figures for both 2002 – 2003 and 2003 – 2004.