

## President' Address

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Australian PNG Association newsletter. It only seems like yesterday it was Christmas and New Year. Since then we have seen some tough economic conditions within PNG and Queensland as the low commodity and oil prices have impacted on the resource sector and flowed onto other support businesses.

In March the event sub-committee ran the Associations first evening event, a Health Symposium with three guest speakers sponsored by Abt JTA, ISOS and QMIR Berghofer Medical Research Institute. At the dinner, the guest speakers addressed emerging health issues in PNG and feedback was very positive.

The executive have been busy updating membership records into a new electronic files and moving to a "Trybooking" platform for event bookings and membership renewals. With annual membership fees due, we will aim to get official notification out soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members and supporters for their ongoing support of the Association and look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on the 31<sup>st</sup> May at the United Service Club.

Regards,  
Gayle



Gayle Carrick - President

## APNG Medical Symposium Dinner

United Service Club, Brisbane, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2016



This symposium was the first time the Association has scheduled a dinner event and also "Health" as topic.

Held at the heritage listed United Service Club in Spring Hill, 47 members and guests enjoyed drinks and a two course dinner.

In PNG Health issues are not only rural and urban community concerns but businesses also require a fit and healthy workforce.

The format of the symposium included 3 guest speakers and a Q&A after the talks.

We were fortunate to have 2 very experienced medical PNG based presenters, Dr Jethro Usurup Abt JTA Program Director, and Janelle Dowman, ISOS Port Moresby based Flight Service Manager. The other speaker, Dr Greg Devine is an International recognised entomologist who is the Group Leader, Mosquito Control Laboratory, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane.

Dr Usurup commenced by

presenting information on emerging health trends, lifestyle and wellness. Dr Usurup updated the audience about Abt JTA and the projects they are partnering in PNG to deliver improved rural health outcomes against the National Health Plan. He highlighted the decreasing trend in outpatient visitations which is mainly due to closure of many First Aid and Health Centres and inconsistent reporting. The top 10 causes for outpatient visits include; malaria, skin, pneumonia, cough, diarrhoea, accidents, ear, eye and yaws. The workforce key issues include; communicable diseases (TB, malaria, HIV) and lifestyle diseases (obesity, hypertension and diabetes), occupational hazards and community issues for local workers. Cancer rates between 2009 and 2010 increased with Cervical (+100%), Oral (+41%), breast (+95%) and liver (+38%), many which are directly attributable to change to a western diet, increased salt, sugar and alcohol consumption. Abt JTA is working with

companies like OTML to introduce comprehensive annual employee screening, revised menus at mess to include healthier options and encourage recreational activities.

Dr Devine introduced work he has co-ordinates around the globe and recently in South America on mosquito control to reduce transmission of disease including malaria, dengue and highly published Zika virus. The Zika virus is transmitted by the same mosquito that carries dengue, and is present in PNG. One of the issues is the mosquito that carries the dengue and Zika virus lives in urban areas, especially where litter is discarded on the streets and drains, providing ideal breeding sites. This is common in developing countries where sanitation collection services are not functional. He presented recent work on control strategies being adopted in many countries, including low cost options that can be implemented at a village level.



# APNGA Medical Symposium (Cont)



*Dr. Gregor Devine, Nick Currey, Justin Humphrey, Janelle Dowman, Dr. Jethro Usurup, Robin Cooke*



*Justin Humphrey, Rodo De Boer, Andrew Candelet, Nathan Turner, Scott Trevena*



*Sue Krone, Danielle Lynas, Bernadette Smith, Nicole Alford, Marita Smith*



*Dr Andrew Ebringer, Dr Jethro Usurup, Georgina Dove, Janelle Dowman*



*Lyndal Shelly, Ross Hutton, May Lamont*



*Janelle Dowman, ISOS presenting on medivac aircraft*



## APNGA Medical Symposium (Cont)

Janelle Dowman's presentation gave an overview of the ISOS company which has representation in 92 countries, over 11,000 employees and 1,400 doctors. ISOS's Port Moresby office is located at Jackson's international airport and includes use of dedicated PNG based aeroplanes with full stretcher access for medical evacuations and transfers. In the hanger facilities, ISOS has a medical stabilisation room and lots of equipment and drugs required for patient stabilisation and transfers. Staff include 3 doctors, 2 flight nurses and 2 drivers (with ambulances). As well as medivacs, ISOS undertakes clinics, patient transfers and comprehensive medical training courses.

Following the presentations the speakers answered a wide range of questions in a facilitated panel forum. Feedback from members that the symposium was very informative and the venue allowed good networking. APNG would especially like to thank the sponsoring companies for their support in bring the speakers to Brisbane for the event.

Profits from the evening will be used to fund a new timber and glass display case at UPNG Medical Pathology School to house recently upgraded pathology specimens. The display will assist the medical staff and students in better understanding the role that pathology has in disease diagnosis. This work is being coordinated by APNG member, Professor Robin Cooke.

Nick Currey



Sue Krone, Ray and Fran Leddick



Ian Briggs, Rob Chrzescijanski and Gayle Arena

## APNGA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Association has been scheduled for:



Date: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Time: 6:30pm for 7:00pm start

Venue: Moreton Room,

United Service Club.

Speaker: Sean Dorney

Journalist/ Author/ PNG Stalwart

*Sean Dorney is a non-resident Fellow at the Lowy Institute. After reporting on the Pacific (with a particular focus on Papua New Guinea) for over four decades, Sean left the ABC in August 2014. During his time with the ABC he won a Walkley for his coverage of the Aitape tsunami and was both deported and awarded an MBE by the Papua New Guinean Government. He is the author of Papua New Guinea: People, Politics, and History since 1975 and The Sandline Affair: Politics and mercenaries and the Bougainville crisis.*

This meeting will include a 2 course dinner, drinks, invited guest speaker; and voting for next years Executive Committee.

For Members who renew their membership prior to the AGM, will receive a free ticket for the dinner (value \$60), based on Individuals receiving 1 ticket, Families and Corporates 2 free tickets. Guests and non-member cost will be \$60.

We encourage all members and guests to attend this event and be a part in steering the Association in the future.

RSVP and bookings should be confirmed by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016.

**TRY BOOKING LINK :**

### 2016 Events Calendar

31st May  
Annual General Meeting

July  
Business Breakfast

November  
Business Breakfast



# UPNG Pathology School

In the 1970's a Master of Medicine programme was introduced in the University of Papua New Guinea Medical School to train PNG doctors to become specialist practitioners. Most of the specialist medical officer positions in the Health System in PNG are now graduates from these courses.

Almost all of the first cohort of specialists in Pathology have recently died or retired leaving only very junior specialists to continue the training.

If any doctor wishes to practise Scientific Medicine no matter where they are, he or she needs the backup of a reliable pathology service.

Anatomical pathology is not only useful in 'guiding the surgeon's hand' in the practical day to day treatment of non traumatic conditions, but it is also a demonstration of how three dimensional disease affects the human body. Even though CT and MRI examinations are now very accurate in making diagnoses of disease, the radiologist is still looking at images, and making intelligent guesses about the exact nature of the illnesses that are shown in these images.

For over 200 years doctors have been selecting examples of various disease entities and preserving them in fixative so that they have a 'museum' collection of a range of diseases that can be studied by students. It is not possible to suddenly produce a range of disease conditions to show students unless such collections are made over a considerable time.

In the 1960s I established at UPNG a pathology museum that was used for teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students. Since the late 1980s the specimens have had very little maintenance and they had deteriorated severely. It was suggested by the Dean of the Faculty that an attempt to rejuvenate the specimens should be made before this very valuable and unique collection was lost.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons agreed to provide some funding to have 47 of the specimens repotted. The specimens were transported to James Cook University in Townsville where the repotting was done. A medical laboratory scientist who had been appointed to the job of Curator of the POM collection was sent to JCU to help with the repotting and to learn how to continue the repotting of the remaining specimens in the collection.

During my recent visit I saw the specimens which are now taking pride of place in the Museum in POM. The results have been quite stunning and the exercise has caused a great deal of renewed interest in training, both in the pathology group and in the wider medical community. The Dean and the other staff are now beginning on a refurbishing of the museum itself, and in the addition of new display cabinets to house the specimens.

Professor Robin Cooke



***Martin Ata'o the Med Lab scientist putting specimens into new pots***



***The repotting team very happy with the results of their efforts before the repotted specimens were packed for return to POM.***

Profits from the Medical Symposium will be used to support the UPNG Medical Pathology School. The money donated will be used to fund a new timber and glass display case at the School to house recently upgraded pathology specimens. This work is being coordinated by APNG member, Professor Robin Cooke. If you would like any additional information or feel you can provide support, please let us know.



***An example of the display cabinet to be presented to UPNG***

## Contacts

**Gayle Carrick (APNG Assoc President)**  
Business Facilitation Consultant  
Self Employed  
0409 565 368  
[gayle\\_carrick@bigpond.com](mailto:gayle_carrick@bigpond.com)

**Ian Briggs (APNG Assoc Vice President)**  
Senior Consultant  
Downing Teal  
0401 338 469  
[ianB@downingteal.com](mailto:ianB@downingteal.com)

**Justin Humphrey (APNG Assoc Treasurer)**  
International SOS  
0413 652 371  
[Justin.HUMPHREY@internationalsos.com](mailto:Justin.HUMPHREY@internationalsos.com)

**Sheryl Guthrie (APNG Assoc Secretary)**  
Teacher  
0404 848 908  
[gus1033@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gus1033@optusnet.com.au)