



OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE MATTERS

Welcome to the December 2017 edition of Occupational Hygiene Matters.

A quarterly newsletter from The Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists Inc (AIOH).

Australia's premier professional association representing the interests of occupational hygienists and allied professionals.

Our mission is to promote and preserve the health and wellbeing of Australian workers through application of the knowledge, practice and standing of occupational health and occupational hygiene.

From your 2018 President - Brian Eva

Hello there. By the time this newsletter reaches you, most will be preparing for a well-earned break and revitalisation for 2018!!

For those members that could not attend AIOH2017, your Council for 2018 comprises:

President: Brian Eva from Victoria

President-Elect: Dr Julia Norris from Western Australia

Treasurer: Jeremy Trotman from Victoria

Secretary: Simon Worland from Queensland

Councillors: Gillian Felton from Western Australia

Tracey Bence from Western Australia

Andrew Orfanos from NSW

We have a busy year ahead of us to ensure the strategic vision of the previous Councils is maintained and to plan for the long-term sustainability of the Institute in a rapidly changing environment.

I would also like to publicly acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Administration Team led by Kerrie Doherty our Business Manager and assisted by Andrea Mitchell our Membership Coordinator, Samira Wadhavkar our Conference and Events Manager and Sharon Buffone our bookkeeper. A reminder to all members is to be pleasant when dealing with our office team – they are there to support you.

Conference Wrap

Our annual conference AIOH2017 with the theme ‘Connect2prevent’, has reminded us that times have moved on, as have the means of communication, but the underlying principle remains constant – that by connecting with others, we all can perform our job more effectively; which is to prevent occupational illness and disease. The 2017 Conference Committee, led by Martin Jennings with support from our AIOH Conference & Events Manager Samira Wadhavkar and AIOH office staff, have done a great job and delivered another outstanding AIOH Conference.

Diane Smith-Gander set the scene for the Conference with her opening address. This was followed by a thought-provoking address by Matt Peacock. This address certainly had the Twitter feed active and has served as a “wake up call” to many of us!!!!

John Cherrie, Karen Bufton and Deborah Nelson got the professional stream underway with their presentations that showed the connection between the profession and worker health protection.

A feature of the Conference was dedicated sessions to promote and discuss the current and proposed activities of OHTA, IOHA and ANOH. To consolidate our support of these organisations, such sessions will continue to be included in future conferences.

Without the continued and extraordinarily generous support of our sponsors, the Institute would not be able to host this event in the format that it does, nor provide the range of exciting awards on offer.

- The SEA Group has sponsored an internationally regarded Plenary Speaker as the opening speaker for our Conference for more than 26 years. John Cherrie was another outstanding SEA speaker. Thank you to SEA and John.

- 3M Australia provides generous support to the Institute and we enjoyed their hospitality at the traditional 3M Function held at the Canberra Arboretum. 3M has been supporting the Monday night 3M function since the 1985 Conference. 3M also generously offers a framed apron for auction at the 3M function and provides a donation of equivalent value to the winning bid. This year's winning bid by the group lead by Philip Hibbs, of \$12,500, plus a contribution from 3M will be donated to the AIOH Foundation. Thank you 3M for your ongoing and generous support.
- 3M also sponsor the award for the Best Conference Paper by an AIOH Member.
- Airmet Scientific is the long-term sponsor of the Airmet Professional Development Award. This award provides a mid-career member with support to travel to AIHA Conference.
- Dräger Pacific Australia is the long-term sponsor of the Dräger Professional Development for Young Hygienists Award. This award provides a member aged under 40 with support to travel to the BOHS Conference.
- We enjoyed the generous hospitality of Active Environmental Solutions at the Welcome Function pre-dinner drinks on Sunday night. AES also sponsor the Post Graduate Occupational Hygiene Study Award that provides for post graduate study for an AIOH member.
- Industrial Scientific provide the Conference Package Award for a deserving member who would not normally not be able to attend.
- DuPont support the DuPont Occupational Hygiene Management Skills Award to increase the business and presentation skills of our members. DuPont also support our leadership programme.
- Scott Safety sponsor the Ignite Session that showcases our members' skills in their passionate and inspirational presentations on Occupational Hygiene.
- And finally, a special thanks to Draeger Safety and the AIOH for introducing the inaugural Asian Region Conference Attendance Award.

To our sponsors, we thank you for your continued generous support. A list of this year's winners, and a photo gallery, is included in this newsletter.

The trade exhibition is an integral part of this event and it allows our members to see new technology and operate new equipment. To our Trade Exhibitors, thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Institute and this event. We recognise that it's quite a task to organise and set up a professional trade display; share your expertise with conference delegates, and continue to amaze with technological innovation at a reduced cost.

2018 in Focus

It is the intention of the 2018 Council, to build on the foundation laid down by the previous Councils and to continue to work towards the long-term goals of the Institute.

Council, under the guidance of Andrew Orfanos, is developing a member value proposition statement. This will require input from the members through the members survey which you will receive prior to the end of December 2017. Please complete the survey as this information will be used in the development of the AIOH Strategic Plan for 2019 – 2022 and for member programs in 2018.

In addition to attending to operational matters, Council's agenda for 2018 will be to focus on the following programmes.

The Continued Development of Business Systems

A continuation of the work started by the previous three Councils, to move the AIOH onto a business footing.

The Institute is now of the size that requires Council to operate the Institute with the rigour of a business to ensure:

- That we meet all statutory operating and employer obligations;
- member's funds are used efficiently and effectively; and
- its ongoing sustainability.

Council, in conjunction with the Business Manager, will continue to develop and implement robust policies, procedures, and business systems to ensure the standardised function of the day-to-day operation of the Institute. Our aim is to establish the systems so that the Institute can get to a state of "business as usual". This will minimise the disruption resulting from the all too frequent change of Council. It will also leave future Councils 'clear-air' to focus on governing the Institute and determining high level strategy, without having their time and energy drained away managing its day-to-day affairs.

Maintaining and increasing our surplus

The Institute ran deficit budgets for financial years 2014/2015 & 2015/2016, and although we had a modest surplus for the financial year ended 30 June 2017, we need to find additional sources of income. Accordingly, our existing strategies to maintain an operating surplus must primarily focus on increasing revenue if we are to provide the services members require. Council will continue to work on this crucial area and provide updates in the quarterly newsletters.

In conjunction with developing strategies for increasing revenue, Council will review the Institute's cash reserves and investigate traditional and alternative investment strategies that are consistent with the Strategic Plan and maximise return on investment, including finalisation of a property purchase.

The Evolving Role of the Occupational Hygienist

Caroline Langley and Philip Hibbs have spoken many times about the evolving role of the Hygienist and why the Institute needs to embrace change and broaden our membership base. In 2017, the membership application manual was re-aligned to comply with our Rules & Statement of Purpose, removing unnecessary impediments for membership that had been introduced over many years. Further changes to our membership structure are required to meet our obligations under the Incorporated Associations Act.

As is the situation with many of our kindred societies, the Institute being squeezed from both sides by emerging and the more aggressive societies. The emerging societies are being formed as the "traditional" ones have not provided a home for "their" members; and the AIOH is a culprit here. Persons working in the areas of mould, asbestos, indoor air quality etc are finding a home away from the AIOH and we need to be more inclusive of persons who operate in one of occupational hygiene's specialist fields. Although our Rules and Statement of Purposes have allowed for this since they were drafted, to the detriment of the AIOH, it has not been embraced by many of the previous Council's, M&Q committee or the Certification Board.

The environmental societies are increasingly competing for work traditionally performed by members of the AIOH and other societies are encroaching from the other side with the introduction of certification programmes such as the recently introduced Certified Air Quality Professional from CASANZ and the 4 graded Certification programmes introduced by ALGA and SIA.

Council Restructure and mode of operation

Council will initiate a review of the current Council operating structure and mode of operation to determine the most appropriate model that we need to adopt into the future. It is becoming apparent that the current model is not reflective of current business practices and relies too heavily on “volunteers” who no longer have the time availability to support Institute activities. We also have a large number of committees, many of which are finding it hard to attract members, and some rationalisation may be required.

One area to be critically investigated is the establishment of “Chapters” or “Faculties” of expertise in a similar manner to those being established by the BOHS to cater for specialist areas of expertise.

This review will be considered in the development of the new Strategic Plan.

International Relations

In addition to consolidating and expanding on the solid working relationships we enjoy with the AIHA, BOHS, and IOHA, Council will look to continue nurturing our strong relationships with the Asian Network of Occupational Hygiene (ANOI) and our nearest neighbours.

The Institute has an obligation to support occupational hygiene in our local region of SE Asia. Collaborating and co-operating with kindred societies on a regional level, will enhance and promote the profession, and achieve better health and safety outcomes for workers in the region. It is also beneficial to our members and their companies who have established manufacturing operations in the Asian region. Throughout 2017, the AIOH has connected prospective member employers with local contacts to facilitate a local recruitment program or local project OH/IH support.

So as 2017 nears an end, Council has set itself some important and challenging tasks for 2018. Have a safe end enjoyable Christmas and New Year and I look forward to working with Council on your behalf throughout 2018.

Brian Eva

AIOH President 2018

Your 2018 Council

Brian Eva - President

Julia Norris - President Elect

Jeremy Trotman - Treasurer

Simon Worland - Secretary

Tracey Bence - Councillor

Gillian Felton - Councillor

Andrew Orfanos - Councillor

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P (02) 4296 7999

F (02) 4296 1900

E jeremy@teamcare.com.au

W www.teamcare.com.au (<http://www.teamcare.com.au>)

National Update

Thank You - Editor-in-chief comment

The Editorial team of OH Matters wish to heartily thank Brett Young for his nearly 10 years of contribution as co-editor on the Newsletter Committee. Brett has decided to step down from the Committee owing to his recent move interstate, family commitments and a new role at BHP. Brett has contributed significant writing and reviewing of copy for OH Matters and has been integral in its development and scope over the years. We thank him for his dedicated contribution and wish him all the best in his new endeavour!

Sharyn Gaskin

Editor-in-chief, OH Matters

Surplus occupational and environmental hygiene equipment wanted in Indonesia

Dino Pisaniello

Indonesia, our nearest neighbour, is a developing country facing significant occupational and environmental health challenges. Fortunately, a few universities are now training cohorts of undergraduate and postgraduate OHS students to improve worker health and safety and increase community awareness. Notable among these universities is the University of Indonesia (Central Indonesia) and Hasanuddin University (East Indonesia). I had the pleasure of visiting the Universities, meeting staff and looking at the teaching labs. It is evident that there is a real shortage of occupational and environmental hygiene equipment for teaching. In particular, there is very limited air sampling equipment.

If you have surplus equipment, as an AIOH member or supplier, these institutions would be very grateful to receive them, and put them to good use.

The fledgling Indonesian Industrial Hygiene Association may be a conduit for your donation (Dr Mila Tejamaya, Secretary, mila.tejamaya@gmail.com (<mailto:mila.tejamaya@gmail.com>)) or you can contact Dino Pisaniello (dino.pisaniello@adelaide.edu.au (<mailto:dino.pisaniello@adelaide.edu.au>)).

Caption: Teaching staff in Occupational Hygiene at Hasanuddin University, the largest in East Indonesia.

Congratulations to our newly appointed Fellow Members of the AIOH

(left to right) Terry Elms, Tracey Bence and Jeremy Trotman

AIOH2017 connect2prevent - it's a wrap!

AIOH2017 Connect2Prevent

35th Annual Conference & Exhibition of the AIOH Inc.

2 – 6 December 2017

National Convention Centre Canberra, Australia

Desperate to make Tasmanians, Victorians and the Brits feel at home in the drier climates of Canberra, the conference committee sacrificed burnt offerings to the gods of weather. The rain gods obliged by sending down buckets of the stuff on the Saturday of the conference. Hence, we provided a great welcome to the 35th Annual AIOH Conference to a couple of hundred thoroughly sodden hygienists.

The conference weekend featured 20 continuing education sessions, with Nanoparticles – Exposure and Control (Howard Morris and Peter McGarry) attracting the most attendees. We thank Robson Environmental for generously making their premises available for CESs on Asbestos Counting and Asbestos Identification.

Active Environmental Solutions once again sponsored the Sunday evening drinks function and Aleks Todorovics spoke briefly by way of a welcome and he unveiled the new AES logo. AES also sponsored the Post-graduate Scholarship Award. We are very grateful for their ongoing support.

The conference got off to a rousing start with the Australian Rugby Choir belting out the National Anthem. This was followed by a formal opening by Diane Smith-Gander, Chair of Safe Work Australia, and the Asbestos Safety & Eradication Council. She discussed the importance of business leaders demonstrating and supporting best practice as a lever for both productivity and worker safety. The first keynote address was provided by ABC journalist, Matt Peacock, who provided a far from flattering critique of the AIOH. However, the response to his talk was unanimously positive and many delegates said this was a necessary wake-up call. The other keynote speaker, sponsored by Safety Equipment Australia, was our old friend John Cherrie of the UK Institute of Occupational Medicine. John gave a thoughtful talk, entitled What's the Point of Occupational Exposure Limits?

The remainder of the Scientific Program was of an equally high standard, and credit for this must go to Dr Deb Glass as Chair of the Scientific Committee. It would be invidious to single out any particular papers, but it is difficult to go past the winners of the 3M Award for best conference paper, Bara Drover and Brian Murphy for their paper, Workplace Inhalation Exposure to Ethanol Affecting Road Side Breath Testing. Bara was unable to attend the Gala Dinner as she is expecting a baby, so Brian accepted the award on her behalf.

The social program is always a high point and this year was no exception, with 3M laying on another great function (Thanks guys!), at the National Arboretum where the theme was Where the Wild Things Are. The photos by the honorary paparazzo Garry Gately will no doubt provide some great memories. I think I speak for many who were left somewhat gobsmacked by the auction for the much coveted 3M BBQ apron, which this year went to Phil Hibbs for a staggering \$12,500. 3M will match this with a donation to a charity of the winner's choice – the AIOH Foundation.

This year's conference attracted over 495 delegates from all over the world. We were pleased to welcome delegates from SE Asian countries Malaysia, Indonesia and in recognition of our closer links with the professional bodies in these countries, the AIOH President Philip Hibbs, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with his counterpart from the Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association (MIHA), Norhazlina Mydin. Other MoUs will follow.

The conference exhibition featured over 50 exhibitors, and for the first time, we staged an 'Ignite' session for the exhibitors – the 'Excite' sessions. This concept was well received by both the presenters and the audience, so it may continue as a feature in future conferences.

There will be some follow up work by the Conference Manager, as we send out hard copies of the Proceeding to those who requested them. Electronic copies are on the AIOH website here (</documents/item/201>).

In addition, photographs from the conference will be available from the website. We also want to survey the delegates, to get your feedback on what worked and what didn't. This is vital to the continual improvement of the conference, so if you have a gripe, don't hold back – let us know.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the conference committee: Roy Schmid (Excite, Exhibition); John 'Hendo' Henderson (Golf, Exhibition); Carmen Smith (Sponsorship); Nicola Power (Gifts, Transport and Hospitality); Jackii Shepherd (VIPs, Communications); and of course Deb Glass and the other members of the scientific committee Kerrie Burton, Mahinda Seneviratne and Rob Golec. This was a very difficult conference to organise, due to the small membership base in Canberra, the turnover in Conference & Events Managers and the fact that we never met in person – all meetings were conducted by phone hook-up. Thanks too to Kerrie Doherty, Samira Wadhavkar and Andrea Mitchell for their hard work and support.

We are now looking forward to the 36th Annual Conference, Occupational Hygiene: Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions, and we are very confident that the next committee chaired by Yanel Lara will deliver another great conference.

Martin Jennings,

Chair, 35th AIOH Conference Committee

AIOH2017 Conference Organising Committee (left to right) John Henderson, Jackii Shepherd, Carmen Naylor, Kerrie Burton, Debbie Glass, Nicola Power, Roy Schmid, Rob Golec, Mahinda Seneviratne and Martin Jennings

SAVE THE DATE

AIOH2018, it's never too early to be organised!

Research Bites

3M AIOH2017 connect2prevent Conference Award for best paper

WORKPLACE INHALATION EXPOSURE TO ETHANOL AFFECTING ROAD SIDE BREATH TESTING

Authors: Bara Drover & Brian Murphy

EHS Assess Pty Ltd

This study was undertaken at an industrial facility with a history of personal exposures to solvent mixtures containing ethyl alcohol (further as ethanol). After an employee failed a random road side alcohol breath test while on their way from work, concerns were raised whether this could be due to inhalation exposure at the workplace. [read more... \(/documents/item/203\)](#)

Heat Stress Seminar - Perth - All Burnt Out

Dr Vinod Gopaldasani

With summer around the corner and heat stress being a key issue across most sites, understanding how we identify the severity of the issue and manage it is a key factor in preventing heat related incidents. The AIOH seminar series continued this year with Thermal Environment which ran in Sydney and Perth. Delegates from various industry sectors attended the seminars and included representatives from regulators, government departments, private enterprises and consultancies.

The seminar was run by Dr Vinod Gopaldasani and John Henderson and discussed the theoretical concepts of 'heat stress', 'heat strain' and 'thermal comfort' supported by practical workplace case studies where participants learnt to use Apps and computer programs to help manage working in hot

environments. The interactive nature of the seminar encouraged shared experiences among the participants, contributing to a broad spread of knowledge base that the presenters already brought to the seminar.

From a participant's perspective the opportunity to network amongst industry partners and develop knowledge on latest issues and how we could manage them was critical for the success of this workshop and one-on-one feedback from the subject matter experts assisted many workplaces to gain valuable knowledge on how to manage their specific issues. It's easy to get so caught up in the daily grind that you lose motivation or excitement for your job or interest. In this case the seminar provided a chance to get away and dedicate yourself to the topic for a day. As a result, you return from the seminar with renewed motivation to pursue your goals and find your enthusiasm rekindled. This can lead to higher productivity and fulfilment of professional and academic goals.

There was nothing like being in a room of like-minded people – other people who are willing to take time away from the office to learn something new. Other people who want to “better” themselves. The close interactions with other attendees from differing companies generated conversations and allow the attendees to actively participate in the sharing of powerful information.

Drug & Alcohol Program - Webinar

Andrew Orfanos (National Occupational Health & Hygiene Specialist, CALTEX AUSTRALIA PETROLEUM PTY LTD) has developed a Drug and Alcohol Program Webinar which may be very useful for members who are starting to have to deal with Drug & Alcohol Programs as part of their Health and Hygiene roles.

<https://www.caltex.com.au/webinar-series> (<https://www.caltex.com.au/webinar-series>)

Professional Development

Congratulations to our Award Winners!

clicker here (</documents/item/268>) to see our winners

SLO update

Queensland South

For Queensland south members, 2017 started with a site visit to the BP Bulwer Island Oil Refinery in March. Regrettably the second scheduled event on glove selection and permeation was cancelled due to low registration numbers.

During the year, the Queensland Government's Department of Health contacted the AIOH as part of developing public awareness resources for clandestine laboratory remediation work. Occupational Hygienists are recognised as a lead resource in the area of site assessment and remediation. Queensland

Health has developed information resources to direct members of the public and local authorities alike to the AIOH. AIOH members interested in undertaking work in this area are requested to review and update their status on the AIOH website.

With a view to increasing participation rates for 2018 and beyond, a member survey will be sent out soon to better gauge your preferences for AIOH state-based events. We are keen to hear from you and to include your feedback into the planning process for next year. Keep an eye on your inboxes.

Mark Russell

0435 385 709

Queensland South SLO

PS: our last meeting for the year is on the 20th of December 2017 - click here (</events/category/state-chapter-meetings-36>) to find out more and register.

Western Australia

The WA Chapter finished its 2017 round of sundowners with a great turn-out of 66 at the ChemCentre's function area on November 20. The evening's topic "From Hygiene to Medicine and Beyond....." clearly drew a lot of interest and none would have left disappointed after the engaging presentation delivered by our very own, Dr Julia Norris, CEO of successful occupational health and hygiene consultancy, Occuhealth.

After providing an update of council activities, WA SLO Dr Barry Chesson ran through Julia's impressive bio which reflected not only her qualifications and extensive experience in our field across a range of industries, but also an exemplary record of service to the Institute. This was followed by a warm welcome from an audience eager to hear what Julia could share from that background enhanced through her more recent studies and career experience as a General Practitioner.

Through an initial comparison of definitions and roles, Julia highlighted similarities in the professions and their underlying principles and workflows. She stressed the preventative health focus of both then used interesting case studies to lead the audience to the significant takeaway messages her own "view from within" has afforded.

One is that in collaboration the hygiene and medical professions can achieve so much more - by valuing each other, strengthening relationships and working together as part of an occupational health continuum. Even the best hygienist or physician can't know everything. But with each committing to know what they know well and working together, better outcomes will be achieved where too often we see overlap in roles, blurred lines or missing links.

Equally important was Julia's challenge to the audience that reaping the rewards of those synergies could start immediately, with those listening accepting and implementing related opportunities as they arose in their work.

The WA Chapter of the AIOH would like to thank Julia for sharing her unique insight on this topic and her passion for preventative health with the attendees.

Thanks also to Daniel Cronje, Tanja Koeberle-Troy, Greg Payne and Teresa Smith for keeping things running smoothly at the registration desk and to WA SLO Barry Chesson for organising the event. Finally, a special mention goes to the ChemCentre, who have provided the venue, staff to assist with set-up and AV matters, and financial contributions to help make our Sundowner events a success throughout the year.

South Australia

The SA Chapter met on Friday 15 September at the Safework SA building. The meeting was a get to know you session to re-acquaint with colleagues and meet new ones. Twelve people attended and the cohort was made up of representatives from all levels of membership (Associate through to COH) with a couple of prospective members who were interested in joining the AIOH (or were dragged along by their supervisor...!).

After an introduction and brief history from all attendees, we got down to business. The SA Chapter is relatively small, so after the AIOH formalities we discussed how we can get the most out of the Chapter meetings, and how people would like them to be run. The results of these discussions and recommendations will be put forward at the next meeting where we will democratically decide how SA will move forward. We also put a request out for people to volunteer to present at the Chapter meetings to discuss projects or areas of interest, there should be some really interesting meetings coming up given the positive responses.

Shelley Rowett from Safework SA then gave us a presentation on what is happening in the Regulatory space and some updates relevant to Occupational Hygiene in South Australia and nationally.

There were quite a few questions raised, which have been passed on to the Institute and I am hoping to have responses in time for our next get together scheduled for February 2018.

The meeting was brief, as there were more than a few members who wanted to be home for the footy finals.

Thanks to all who attended, and in particular Shelley Rowett and Sharyn Gaskin who helped me organise the meeting, your help was greatly appreciated.

Andy McCarthy

SA SLO

Committee Update

Mentoring Committee Gerard Tiernan

As a senior member of the AIOH I am hoping I can entice you to become part of the AIOH Mentoring Program.

Are you a COH? And/or a Full Member of the AIOH? Do you have several years of hard experience at the coal face where the Victoria crosses are won? Are you one of the leaders of our profession? Has hygiene been good to you? Have you had a rewarding career and are you well respected for your knowledge and skill? If so then we need you.

Why not share some of that knowledge and skill by becoming a mentor in the AIOH Mentoring Program?

As a mentor you will be paired with a mentee who you will meet with every few weeks to discuss professional issues and personal development. You will not only get an opportunity to share your knowledge and skill but will also learn about yourself and the shadow you cast as a leader. And if you are a COH, certification maintenance points are available.

So if you're keen to give back, to be involved and to share your considerable knowledge and skill gleaned over years of experience – please review the Mentoring Information Package that outlines how the system works and gives some tips on the mentoring process. Upon completion please write back to me indicating that you agree to the Principles and Commitments of the Program.

Come on do it now! We have mentees waiting.

If you have any questions contact the mentoring committee.

RAFQ

RAFQ is continuing with the process of getting members the best possible deal on our property purchase with the Property Selection Group's Terry Elms, fresh from riding his bike around Europe, now productively employed looking at suitable premises for AIOH. Like the good scientist he is, Terry will be recording the data and his observations in a purpose built template for analysis by PSG in the quest to buy well.

Exposure Standards Committee

The Exposure Standards Committee has completed the drafting of a new position paper on coal dust and its potential for occupational health issues. Key messages from the paper are as follows:

- Coal mine dust causes a spectrum of lung diseases collectively termed coal mine dust lung disease. However, there are three commonly accepted health outcomes from exposure to respirable coal dust (RCD): coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP) or 'black lung'; progressive massive fibrosis (PMF); and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- The incidence of lung disease is related to the amount of cumulative exposure (mg/m.years) to RCD. Factors such as increasing age, the rank of the coal and other mineral contaminants influence the prevalence of disease, being higher with higher rank coals and coal dust containing high levels of crystalline silica.

- Predictions from epidemiological studies indicate small numbers of CWP and PMF cases are likely to occur at cumulative RCD exposures less than the cumulative exposures inferred by the current regulatory limits in Australia. In addition, workers who have experienced substantial coal dust exposure are at an ongoing risk of disease occurring or progressing after exposure ceases.
 - AIOH recommends limiting worker RCD exposure to below an 8-hour time weighted average (TWA) guidance exposure value of 1.0 mg/m of the respirable dust fraction, with the approach of applying a TWA value of 0.5 mg/m as an action level which triggers investigation of the sources of exposure and implementation of suitable control strategies.
 - In addition to RCD, the inhalable fraction of coal dust and other dust types such as respirable crystalline silica (RCS) and 'stone dust' are issues of concern in coal mines and at coal handling facilities. Worker exposure to these dusts should be assessed in conjunction with the RCD and the relevant AIOH guidance exposure values and control strategies applied.
 - The AIOH believes that RCD exposure may be adequately controlled by conventional means as published by various authorities. These include methods such as keeping coal damp, providing the cleanest possible air to underground workers, enclosing coal transfer operations, minimising drop distances at stockpiles, and having workers carry out tasks in a manner to avoid high exposure situations commonly found with contemporary mining practices.
 - Further, exposed worker respiratory function testing and radiological assessment should be regularly performed according to evidence-based standards.
 - The AIOH strongly believes that, due to the extent of coal dust generation in the contemporary coal mining industry, a third party or peer review of exposures and dust controls is required.
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Ethics Committee Update

Among the main activities undertaken by the Committee recent work has been updating the AIOH Code of Ethics document and also the Guide for Complaints or Disciplinary Matters and Hearings and these reviews have now been finalized. Additionally the independent 2017 AIOH Council Assessment and Review was conducted by the E&C committee and outcomes shared with the Executive Council.

University News

News from Edith Cowan University

The last 6 months has been busy for both staff and students at ECU. The best news was that the Master of Occupational Hygiene and Toxicology was re-accredited by both the AIOH and BOHS for the next 5 years.

The quality of our students continues to impress the academic staff with a number of great projects completed in the last 6 weeks including:

- Hand-arm vibration exposures in alumina refining: a study into exposure and risk of hand-arm vibration related illness or injury.

- Characterisation of occupational exposures to peracetic acid during isolation cleaning and disinfecting processes in a healthcare setting.
- Implementation and assessment of a foam dust suppression system for a crushing and screening plant.
- Is air movement the solution? Thermal comfort and mould problems in remote mining accommodation located in a hot humid climate.
- An analysis of the effectiveness of audiometric testing on the incidence of noise induced hearing loss in Victoria from 1978 until 2017.
- The impact of being clean shaved on respirator fit and the level of lead in blood.

Next Year is looking very positive especially from a research viewpoint as both the students and staff commence new projects.

Students and staff also presented at AIOH2017 with the following papers:

- *Risks and benefits of Virtual Reality within a multi-site organisation*
- *Is there a synergistic effect of exposure to welding fume and noise on NIHL?*
- *Validation of the LASCAR sensor as a tool to assess heat stress while wearing Chemical Suits*
- *Occupational Hazards in the Emerging Australian Medicinal Cannabis Industry*

It was great to see the turnout at the first ECU event held in Canberra at the annual AIOH conference and we look forward to doing more in 2018.

Finally, ECU would like to wish all students, graduates and members of the AIOH a merry Christmas and a Safe New Year.

(s.reed@ecu.edu.au)

The University of Wollongong Update

By Occupational Hygiene Course Co-ordinator: Jane Whitelaw, CIH, COH, FAIOH

The University of Wollongong is not only known for the high standard of its academic program but also for its "Occupational Hygiene Community". We have over 160 alumni – many of whom again took centre stage at the conference bagging some major awards, and if you were at the conference or following it on social media the #ThisIsUOW badges were everywhere!

So, what is UOW's Occupational Hygiene Community?

Our world is changing so quickly now and the volume of information available can be overwhelming. We have support from AIOH and other professional organisations for knowledge, ethics and standards but it is the development of a shared set of internalized values and beliefs that make a community. Our alumni have such a strong network of like-minded peers, supported by our Social media & UOW get-togethers they organise in many states, and the Annual Alumni dinner held in conjunction with the conference.

Why is it Unique?

At UOW we have a truly multidisciplinary team with a world view to protect worker health and encourage wellbeing. We strive to equip our students to be *critical thinkers* and *problem solvers* as well as *effective communicators*. Hope you didn't miss Linda's CES or the UOW Excite presentation! This photo of our final block week dinner for 2018 Graduating Class, has seven AIOH 2017 conference presenters!

The Flexible Delivery of the course means that there are face-to-face opportunities to develop technical skills and at the same time, build valuable lifelong relationships. One major advantage of belonging to our community is getting access to seasoned professionals who have seen it all and have some great "war stories" to share. We can advise about proven best strategies from our own experience, and we also have a large national and international network that we can connect you to. We help you to **#Findyourwhy**.

If this sounds like something you'd like to be part of, you can find more information here (but hurry as enrolments for 2018 close soon), or contact **Jane_whitelaw@uow.edu.au**

<https://coursefinder.uow.edu.au/information/index.html?course=master-of-work-health-safety-occupational-hygiene> (**<https://coursefinder.uow.edu.au/information/index.html?course=master-of-work-health-safety-occupational-hygiene>**)

Conference Bites:

Once again, UOW had a strong presence in the Scientific Program with 5 Masters student presentations and three by PhD candidates. Alumni Kate Cole gave a great Plenary based on her Churchill Award world wide quest to determine International best practice to prevent silicosis in tunnel construction workers. We believe strongly in sharing our stories to help others in their goal of reducing health risks to workers.

We also like to dress up and have fun, and thanks to 3M, we went on Safari *Where the Wild Things Are* to try and win a 3M apron, but lost out to our clever Alumni – The Troggs.

We strongly encourage and support our students and Alumni to be active members of AIOH and to apply for the wonderful awards to enrich their careers.

RMIT University

Accredited Occupational Hygienist Program at RMIT

Assoc. Prof. Susanne Tepe

The AIOH has accredited the RMIT University Masters in OHS (Occupational Hygiene minor) program as one that provides the core knowledge to be a professional occupational hygienist. This program has been accredited by both the AIOH and the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board (AOHSEB) the accreditation board on behalf of the Safety Institute of Australia. This implies, that with sufficient experience, a graduate can apply for certification both as a member of the AIOH and as Generalist OHS Professional from the SIA. The AIOH has welcomed the arrival of a new course in Victoria since the closure of the Deakin University course in 2015.

Associate Professor Susanne Tepe, the program coordinator, says that RMIT has a particular focus on the application of knowledge and skills. While the program has similar content that is expected in an accredited occupational hygiene program, in most of RMIT's courses, the assessments combine the theory and application this theory in the workplace. Dr Tepe mentions that of particular interest are the assessments in the capstone courses, WHS and the organisation and WHS intervention project, where students comment that not only did they acquire new knowledge but also have the opportunity to use that knowledge to the benefit of their organisation, and to their career development.

Courses are taught in intensive mode over one week at the start of each semester, then supported by tutorials that can be attended face to face in Melbourne or on line in real time.

For further information, see <https://www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us/levels-of-study/postgraduate-study/masters-by-coursework/mc135/program-structure/mc135p13auscy> (<https://www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us/levels-of-study/postgraduate-study/masters-by-coursework/mc135/program-structure/mc135p13auscy>) or drop Susanne Tepe a line on Susanne.tepe@rmit.edu.au (<mailto:Susanne.tepe@rmit.edu.au>) . Enrolments for 2018 close soon for classes that start on 19 Feb.

Welcome...

to our new members and members who have upgrade their membership level.

September 2017

Deborah Van Zanten Full

Sean Walden Full

October 2017

Amanda Slinger Provisional

Ashleigh Simpson Provisional

Ben Haymaker Full

Bronwyn Ferrier Full

Carl Brannan Provisional

Daniel Cronje Full

Gavin Welling Full

Gregory Dean Full

Heidi Scott Full

Jacqueline Shepherd Full

Kelly Johstone Full

Lisa Mills Provisional

Nisarg Cchaya Provisional

Paul Wallace Provisional

Toby Dudman Provisional

November 2017

Kai Suan Wong Provisional

Kerrin Alamango Full

Kieran Brookes Full

Luke Ripper Full

Megan Ireland Provisional

Neil Bartholomew Full

Susanne Tepe Full

New Associate and Student Members 2017

Adam Green Associate Membership

Alana Hansen Associate Membership

Albert Atabila Student Status

Alexander Krajnc Student Status

Anton Smit Associate Membership

Aref Nazary Student Status

Athena Cain Associate Membership

Belinda McNeil Associate Membership

Ben Ashford Associate Membership

Ben Dicton Student Status

Bryce Anderson Associate Membership

Carolyn Moore Associate Membership

Daniel Thomis Student Status

Emma Tuena Student Status

Erin Smith Associate Membership

Gert du Plessis Associate Membership
Gesualdo Lo Presti Student Status
Hannah Menzies Student Status
Heather Little Associate Membership
James Davies Student Status
Jason Marshall Associate Membership
Jill Oldfield Student Status
Jordan Tade Associate Membership
Kirsty Moroney Associate Membership
Kyle Lancaster Associate Membership
Lachlan McPhail Student Status
Lee Brown Associate Membership
Lisa West Associate Membership
Lucinda Guy Associate Membership
Luke Devitt Associate Membership
Marija Srbinoska Associate Membership
Mazen Al-Rousan Student Status
Mihaela Talcevski Associate Membership
Milankumar Patel Associate Membership
Monica Torbol Associate Membership
Monica Torbol Student Status
Myra Law Associate Membership
Neville Williams Associate Membership
Paul Corry Associate Membership

Christmas office hours

The AIOH office will close for the Christmas break at 5pm on Friday the 22nd of December 2017 and will reopen at 8:30am on Monday the 8th of January 2018.

Emails and calls received during this time will be responded to after the 8th of January 2018.

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