



## OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE MATTERS

Welcome to the January 2019 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 PRESIDENT



Brian Eva - AIOH President 2018

Hello there, hope the Christmas break and New Year was enjoyable and restful for you all!  
So many things have happened since the last newsletter!

### **Re-Scheduled AGM**

For a number of reasons, the AGM was postponed from December and will now be held at the AIOH Office on 22nd January 2019, commencing at 12 Noon EST. All information relating to the AGM have been communicated to members and the information is also available from the website. Dial in facilities are available for all members.

Please ensure that your completed Councilor Ballot paper and proxy are received by the Secretary by the nominated due dates.

### **AIOH Council Awards**

It was my pleasure to announce two AIOH Council Award winners at the AIOH2018 Gala Dinner: The Pam de Silva Award was presented to Dr Laurie Glossop; and AIOH Outstanding Service Award 2018 presented to Alan Rogers. Profiles of both members are included in this edition of Occupational Hygiene Matters.

### **AIOH 2018 Conference**

I'm sure that you will all agree that AIOH2018 was an outstanding success. More pleasing for Council, and the Institute was that there were two International Attendees who were recipients of an International Award that allowed them to attend our Conference.

Michael Tate (NZOHS) was the recipient of the New Zealand 3M Young Hygienist Award; Aliff Firdaus bin Mat Yusoff (MIHA) was the recipient of the Malaysian 2018 3M Young Hygienist Award and winner of the ANOH SE Asian Region Conference Attendance Support package, sponsored by Dräger South East Asia. We also had 14 International Colleagues venture to Melbourne representing the: Korean Industrial Hygiene Association (KIHA), Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association (MIHA), Taiwan Occupational Hygiene Association (TOHA), Indonesian Industrial Hygiene Association (IIHA), British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS), New Zealand Occupational Hygiene Society (NZOHS), South African Institute of Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH), Occupational & Environmental Health Society (OEHS) Singapore and the National Occupational Health & Safety Service Fiji. It was also pleasing to host the President of the

International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) Peter John “Jakes” Jacobs and the President of the Asian Network of Occupational Hygiene (ANOH) Prof. Donguk Park.

I hope that many of you seized the opportunity to network with our International colleagues and formed some new and valuable relationships.

It is also pleasing to announce that the AIOH is close to signing an MOU with the South African Institute of Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH).

I would also thank Jackie Sheppard from SafeWork Australia (SWA) for her valuable input to many discussions over the conference period, in particular those held with the IOHA and Asian Network representatives.



**Your 2018 Council at Gala Dinner**



## Alan Rogers recipient of AIOH Outstanding Service Award



**Laurie Glossop - worthy recipient of the Pam de Silva Medal**

### Media

You would be aware that we have released a number of Media Releases with respect to Engineered Stone and silicosis. The Institute has received favorable responses from kindred societies, industry and a number of Federal Ministers, and the Institute will be pursuing all opportunities as “Breathe Freely” pilots in 2019.

### Certification Examinations

Congratulations to the 20 new Certified Occupational Hygienists (COH). To the unsuccessful candidates, please follow up on the feedback that will be provided to you. A mid-year COH examination is planned for 2019.

### Regional Conferences in 2019

As part of our regional collaboration, please mark your diaries for the following events:

IIHA Conference Bali\* 8-11th September 2019

NZOHS Conference Auckland 6-7th May 2019

SAIOH Conference Johannesburg 18-20th September 2019

ANOH Conference Bangkok November 2019

The organisers for the IIHA, NZOHS and ANOH Conferences have all released a call for papers / PDC's. Details are included in this newsletter.

\* rumoured that Jeremy Trotman will have a surfing related heat stress or fatigue PDC and Caroline Langley a PDC on the hazards of scuba diving, both with practical sessions!

For those that are planning to travel further afield, our Tri-Lateral Partners conference dates are:

BOHS OH2019 Brighton UK, 1-4 April 2019

AIHA AIHACE Exp Minneapolis USA, 20-22 May 2019

## Council 2019

I welcome the 2019 Council and I'm sure that they will have a very successful year under the direction, and vision, of President Julia Norris.

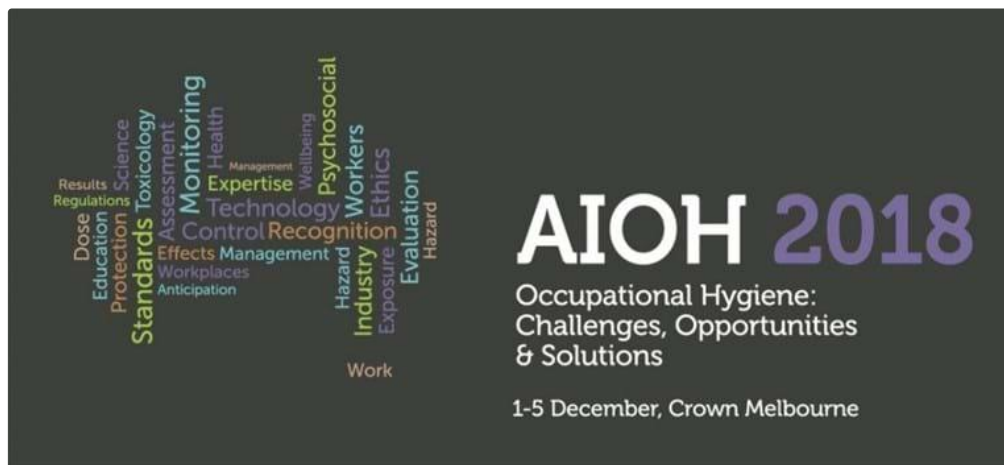
*Brian Eva*

*President 2018*

# NATIONAL UPDATE

## AIOH2018 - it's a wrap!

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Dear AIOH Community,

We trust all AIOH Conference attendees returned home safely to enjoy the festive season. It was certainly a major undertaking for the Committee members to deliver such an important event for the AIOH for over 400 attendees each of the five days. Feedback from the Conference survey thus far indicates that the Conference was a successful one, both on its scientific and social aspects. One of the Committee's aims was to deliver a strong and diverse scientific programme presented by a range of occupational health professionals and we are proud to have done so.

The support and dedication from long standing Sponsors and Exhibitors meant that the Trade Exhibition was a great success with the showcasing of a large variety of products and services. For those first time Sponsors and Exhibitors, thank you for your commitment and we hope that the Exhibition met your expectations and that you will consider returning to future AIOH conferences and events. The combined financial commitment and attendance of both Sponsors and Exhibitors are invaluable to the professional development of the AIOH membership and the Conference's success. Once again, we humbly and graciously thank you.

The world's most liveable city (now second most liveable city after a record 7 times in a row in the top spot!) certainly delivered a wonderful backdrop to the Conference event and we were able to make use of the great facilities around us to provide memorable social interactions.

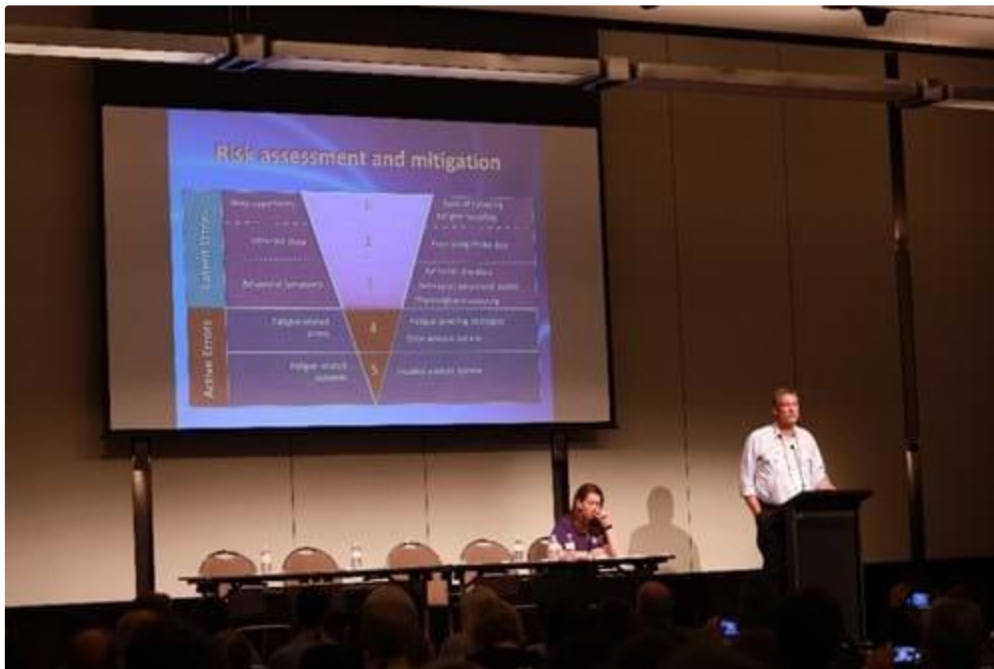
We hope you all had a wonderful time participating in the 2018 AIOH Conference and that you have gained valuable knowledge to face the challenges, identified and enjoyed the opportunities offered in the scientific and social elements and gathered solutions presented during the Conference to apply in ensuring workers' health.

Thank you for being part of the 2018 Conference. As Chair, I am truly appreciative of the hard work and dedication of each volunteer member of the Committee and in particular the Scientific Sub-committee.

See you all in Perth!

### **AIOH 2018 Conference Organising Committee**



















# AIOH2018 CONFERENCE SPONSOR AWARDS



**Ms Meagan Egerton- AMCOSH Best Conference Poster Leveraging technology to control gamma radiation exposure in Uranium mining.**



**Mr Aliff Firdaus Mat Yusoff – Drager-AIOH Asian Region AIOH Conference Attendance**



**Ms Lisa Mills, Ms Melinda Gardner & Ms Ellary Broun- Safe Work Australia Scholars of Worker Protection**



**Ms Corinne Vinkenleugel - Industrial Scientific AIOH Conference Package**





**Ms Morgan Mathers - Active Environmental Solutions Postgraduate Scholarship**



**Mr Jwalit Parikh- AirMet Scientific Professional Development Award**

## AIOH Foundation – 2018 Review

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Brian Eva and Charles Steer sign the MOU

As 2018 draws to a close we are pleased to report that the AIOH Foundation is progressing well. We know that the Foundation still has a low profile within our profession and we are working to raise it. As you know our Purpose of applying occupational hygiene principles in Australian workplaces, to eliminate occupational illness and disease is vitally important. There are probably at least 2000 workers or retired workers who lose their lives prematurely every year due to workplace illness, so it is important that we continue to work towards making workplaces healthy. The sad debacle of engineered stone silicosis cases shows just how far off Australia is in its awareness and regulation of occupational health-affecting agents.

#### **The Conference Booth**

One initiative in 2018 was to have a Booth at the AIOH Conference. This was well attended, and we appreciated chatting to a range of our members over the two days.

#### **Funds at hand**

We are very pleased to report that we now have around \$44,000 in funds as well as nearly \$15,000 further pledged, so we think we are becoming well positioned to start to fund worthwhile projects to promote occupational health. These funds are entirely due to the generosity of our donors as well as 3M who have matched donations pledged at three 3M nights at the last three AIOH Conferences. The aprons were indeed expensive.

#### **AIOH Support**

We have also had strong administrative and moral support from the AIOH. One highlight was resigning our Memorandum of Understanding with the AIOH for a further four years.

#### **Our Board**

Our Board has also enlarged this year with new members Caroline Langley, Philip Hibbs and Andrew

Bennett to add to our current Board members Mel Jensen, Ryk Eksteen and I. The staggered nature of the appointments should mean that we can have a reasonable continuity as members retire following their three-year terms.

**So what of the future? We see the Foundation as an:**

**Advocate** of promoting the cause of prevention and control of workplace disease using the principles of occupational hygiene. We remain concerned that the impact of occupational disease is largely hidden and unreported due to the long-term nature of occupational illness following exposure. The AIOH will take the lead role but we can add to the message as an independent charity;

**Networker** in terms of working with other charities and organisations whose aims align with ours. Our role in prevention and control is different from other kindred charities but is compatible.

**Funder** this is central to what we want to do in terms of funding projects that align with our purpose. These projects will need to be evidence-based, aligned with our purpose and be designed to make a difference and produce results in a reasonable time frame. Our assessments of any projects will of course be based on ethical principles. We may co-opt appropriately qualified people to help us assess these projects. We also don't rule out initiating projects. We will of course be the enablers not the doers.

We look forward to suggestions and proposals coming in. We know that hygienists are creative and dedicated and welcome your input.

Charles Steer

Chair, AIOH Foundation

## Pam de Silva Award 2018 - Dr Laurie Glossop

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*By Brian Eva*

The AIOH offers its very own award to current or past members who have demonstrated commitment to the principles of leadership and scientific integrity in the field of occupational hygiene.

This award known as the Pam de Silva Medal was established to commemorate the leadership and scientific integrity in the field of occupational hygiene by Pamela Elizabeth de Silva (March 11, 1930 - May 1, 1997).

Pam was a person of great principles and strength and her willingness to challenge both orthodox scientific views and those who misrepresented scientific evidence was renowned. She has had an enormous influence on occupational hygiene in Australia, a mentor for many of the current senior occupational hygienists, and a conscience for all in regard to scientific integrity. Pam was a founding member of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH) in 1980 and was its president in 1982, 1986 and 1987 and in 1989 was also the first Australian to become president of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA).

As this is the premier and most prestigious award of the AIOH the three cornerstones of, leadership, ethics and scientific integrity that were reflected in the professional work of the late Pam de Silva have to be proven at a very high level, for the Medal to be awarded. Nominations are raised, determined and requires unanimous support by Council, and given the requirements, the award is not necessarily given every year.

Pam de Silva Award Winner 2018 – Dr Laurie Glossop

Laurie has been a member of the Institute for over 30 years. During this period, he has either chaired or contributed to a number of Committees and publications, including guidance documents addressing important occupational hygiene issues. Laurie is probably best known for his exceptional technical knowledge on asbestos and asbestiform minerals.

The summary of his professional career details a number of significant contributions and achievements which demonstrate his:

- Outstanding Service
- Outstanding Leadership
- Outstanding Scientific Integrity

#### **1. Outstanding Service to the AIOH and its Membership**

- Laurie has been a wonderful servant to both the AIOH and to the profession. He is a very giving person, always ready to share his knowledge and assist others as they develop in the field. He is a popular and regular contributor at Continuing Education Seminars and as a speaker at AIOH national conferences, particularly on topics such as recognition, evaluation and control of asbestiform materials. Laurie is a keen supporter of both national and local AIOH activities. In recent years, he presented a three-part series on asbestos at local (WA) Sundowners – drawing some of the highest attendance numbers ever seen at these events (in the high 80s).
- Laurie has served on the organising committees for three Annual AIOH Conferences (1996, 2004 and 2008), as noted above. Additionally, he provided advice and mentoring support to the 2015 Committee.
- One of Laurie's initiatives was to set up Microanalysis Australia in Victoria Park. This provided Occupational Hygienists with access to privately-owned Scanning Electron Microscope and XRD

technology, and better information for determining mineralogy and asbestiform materials in the mining sector.

- His technical knowledge on minerals combined with health effects has made him the technical expert for the WA mining industry. An example was his central role in responding to the well-publicised, and highly emotive, Magellan Lead Carbonate incident at Esperance in 2007. This issue proved to be a game changer for product stewardship in the mining industry and in the transport of Dangerous Goods.
- In summary, Laurie's service has led to the development of principles and actions that have benefitted the profession and the strategies and aims of the AIOH.

## **2. Outstanding Leadership in the Area of Occupational Hygiene**

### **Innovation and Leadership:**

- It is the lot of the vast majority of Occupational Hygienists in Australia to follow established approaches, prescriptions and protocols in carrying out their recognition, evaluation and control functions to protect the health of employees and contractors at the workplace.
- Some Hygienists take these established materials and adapt or adopt them to produce local procedures and work instructions that suit the workplace circumstances in which they operate.
- A small cohort of Occupational Hygienists in Australia is honoured with the opportunity to draft, input or participate in the tripartite (government, industry, unions) approval process for proposed regulations, codes of practice or guidance materials. A few Hygienists are involved in the processes for refining Australian Standards and similar statements on what needs to be done in Occupational Hygiene practice and to what standard.
- It is extremely rare for an Occupational Hygienist in Australia to go further than the above and pioneer a new way of dealing with a significant workplace health hazard, one with global applications and significance. Laurie Glossop is one such person.
- The Hierarchy of Control Principal is a cornerstone in Workplace Health and Safety practice and is well known to all practicing professionals. However, attractive higher order controls, such as elimination of the hazard, or substitution with a less hazardous alternative process or material, are often difficult to find and implement.
- Laurie Glossop's entrepreneurial and professional skills have been applied to find new substitution controls – to obviate the need for chemical termiticides in the built environment and to deal with mould in buildings and structures. These are highly significant contributions to Occupational Hygiene practice. They represent inspirational, out-of-the-box thinking and the drive necessary to take an idea and convert it into a practical/commercial reality.

### **Coaching and Mentoring:**

Laurie is an obvious leader in the field of Occupational Hygiene. He is widely respected for the depth and width of knowledge that he displays on all matters to do with the profession. He provides inspirational and wonderful support for younger members of the profession. His long-term colleagues have witnessed many examples of him being prepared to pass on his knowledge to early career Hygienists and to young, aspiring Hygienists (including OHS students at local universities).

Here is one example. AIOH Sundowners have been run in Western Australia for about 12 years. Only once in that time did a presenter experience a calendar malfunction and not turn up on the night. That occasion took place in one of the lecture theatres at the School of Public Health at Curtin University. About 40 people were present, including about 20 OHS undergraduate students from the University. There was no speaker, so something had to be done. Laurie immediately volunteered to step into the breach to save the night.

What followed was a wonderful, impromptu and interactive one-hour session on the relationship between mining geology (laterites vs sulphides), chemistry and occupational hygiene exposure scenarios, including odour-related issues. It was an unforgettable master class on the subject.

### **3. Outstanding Scientific Integrity**

- Laurie has always demonstrated high ethical standards and outstanding scientific integrity.
- He is widely recognised as the “go-to” person when difficult OH-related issues crop up at mine sites, factories and other business premises in Western Australia. He is often called in when a situation has soured to the point where industrial relations or government relations issues are threatening business continuity. Laurie is able to relate well to all parties and he is trusted equally by management and the shop floor because of the high level of scientific integrity that he displays.
- While in Government service, Laurie participated in numerous technical committees and was regularly called upon to act as an expert witness when OH-related fatalities occurred in the workplace. On one occasion, he was providing evidence to the court in relation to a fatality at an underground mine in WA. He was under intense pressure from the defendant’s lawyers, as they sought to discredit his evidence by questioning and probing his knowledge of underground mining jargon and practices. He was resolute in dealing with this and stuck to the scientific principles and methodologies that he had applied when investigating the incident.
- His involvement in the Esperance Lead issue, mentioned earlier, led to the development of methodologies and data to challenge the norms of acceptance of risk in the corporation that was central to the problem (Magellan Metals) and to the government agencies that were caught up in the issue. This led to new and elevated levels of what is accepted as best practice in handling the product involved (lead carbonate).
- He is well known outside the ranks of Australia’s Occupational Hygiene community - for example with senior leaders within private industry, State government regulatory bodies and the inspectorate, unions and tertiary institutions. His name comes up often, always in a positive light. He is well known for his problem-solving ability, together with his considerable depth of knowledge in occupational hygiene, chemistry, geology and science in general. In the course of his long career, he has enhanced the public’s understanding of what occupational hygiene is and its role in protecting the health of people at work.

## AIOH Outstanding Service Award 2018 – Alan Rogers

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*By Brian Eva*

The AIOH Outstanding Service Award was established in 2014 to celebrate and recognise the considerable contribution made by a person to the long-term development of the Institute, and to the overall development and advancement of its members.

This Award is managed by the current Council on behalf of the AIOH and its members.

The level of 'outstanding service', must be demonstrated as having been undertaken over at least a decade or more, and at a level above and beyond the duties recognised as being associated with routine Council and or Committee activities. In addition, such actions must have induced considerable influence on the development of the profession and its members.

Overall, the nominee should be seen as being held in high regard by the profession. He or she should have:

- contributed to AIOH Council and Committee activities over a considerable time; and
- influenced the membership by direct or indirect mentoring; and
- been involved in the development of services to members; and
- have provided inspiration to the emerging generation of Occupational Hygienists.

Alan has actively served the AIOH, its members and the occupational hygiene profession for in excess of 35 years. His contribution has been at the highest level in leadership, management and technical roles. Alan has enormous intellectual energy and passion for the science of occupational hygiene. He has continued to vigorously promote both the Institute and the profession, at the same time as championing projects to attract and retain members and, sharing his professional technical knowledge to pass on expertise to the next generation.

Alan was an inaugural member of the AIOH (1980). He has been elected AIOH President on two separate occasions. As the 2015 President, Alan initiated the application of modern business skills to the management of Institute affairs, reinvigorated the AIOH's international relationships, fostered and supported a leadership and management development programme for members.



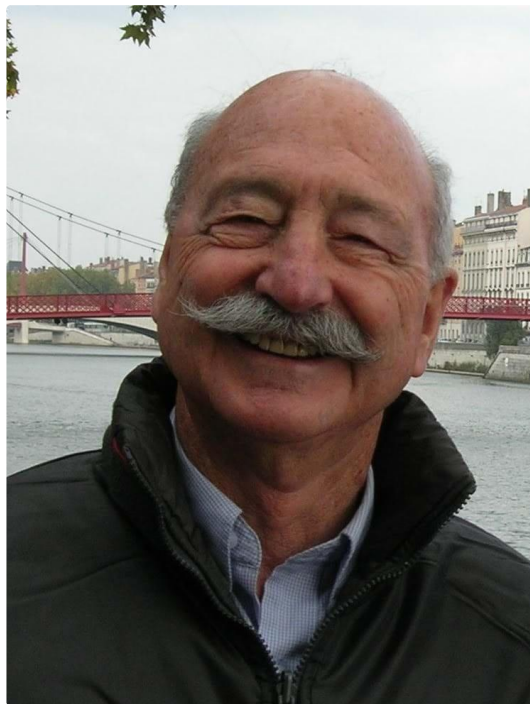
Alan chairs the Awards and Sponsorship Committee and has done so for 22 consecutive years; in itself a significant achievement. Alan has been an active member of RAFQ Committee since its inception in 2014; this is an important governance initiative for the Institute that was championed by Alan as President Elect in 2014.

Alan is an internationally recognised specialist in asbestos and DPM. He is well known for his generosity in sharing information and expertise with AIOH members. Alan's publication record is also very impressive. As well he has presented numerous technical papers at AIOH and other national and international conferences and symposia. Alan has prepared and presented numerous professional development courses for the AIOH, other professional societies and governments on occupational hygiene, asbestos, RCS and DPM.

Locally, Alan has been an active member presenting technical and leadership/mentoring opportunities at NSW Chapter meetings, as well as an Honorary Fellow at the University of Wollongong. Alan is also an active member of the AIOH Exposure Standards Committee and generously shares his technical expertise and resources to enable the development of AIOH Position Papers (especially asbestos, DPM, SMF, DNOS).

## Dr James (Jim) Edwin Hugh Milne 1924 - 2018

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A lot of people in Victoria owe their start in Occupational Hygiene to Dr Jim Milne (Golec and Hibbs included). But he wasn't an occupational hygienist. Jim was a forward-thinking occupational physician that understood the importance of occupational medicos and hygienists working together to ensure worker health protection.

The following are a few thoughts and reminiscences from Jim's family, David Goddard, Robert Golec, and Philip Hibbs.

## **About Dr Jim Milne**

### *Reminiscences from Jim (son)*

James Edwin Hugh Milne was born in 1924 in Townsville, the only child of Dora and James Milne, six years before the Great Depression of the 1930's. He won a scholarship to Brighton Grammar but was unable to accept it because the family couldn't afford to buy the uniform.

Jim eventually attended Melbourne High School in 1939. He was form captain in Year 11 and carried out the role of acting school captain late that year when the 6th form (Year 12) students left after their exams. In his final year, Jim was a Prefect and House Captain.

In 1942, Jim studied Metallurgical Engineering at University. He wanted to join the Royal Australian Air Force on his 18th birthday but had to get permission to leave his course because Engineering was a "Reserved Occupation" due to the war.

Jim joined the RAAF on 1st January 1943 and spent time training in Somers, Benalla, Deniliquin, and Mildura. He absolutely loved flying. In January 1944, he was sent to Darwin for 15 months.

When the war finished, a colleague told Jim that the government would pay the University fees if he studied medicine, which was the course he had wanted to do. Upon completing his medical degree, he worked as a general practitioner and in psychiatric hospitals in Royal Park and Sunbury. Jim had a strong internal drive to question and to continually learn, and he also had a strong curiosity. He:

- Gave up smoking in the mid 1950's when nearly everyone smoked
- Cut out sugar in the 1960's
- In 1966, while working at the State Health Dept, he announced that the family was moving to Sydney for a year while he did a Diploma of Public Health. They all burst into tears and said they didn't want to go
- It was a very different story 5 years later when he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to complete an M.Sc. in Occupational Health at London University
- And different again in 1976-77 while he was working in cancer research for World Health Organisation in Lyon in the South of France
- In 2004, at the age of 80, Jim competed in the swimming competitions at the Alice Springs Masters Games. Jim's record for the 50m breaststroke in the 80-84 age group still stands.

## **Jim's Work in the Victorian Health Department**

### *David Goddard, Robert Golec, and Philip Hibbs*

Jim joined the Industrial Hygiene Division of the Victorian Health Department in the mid-1960s. He shared the organisation's interest in the toxicity of metals and had a special interest in occupational respiratory disorders, particularly those resulting from inhaling asbestos fibres. In 1969, he published an article in the Medical Journal of Australia reporting on fifteen cases of mesothelioma associated with occupational exposure to asbestos in Victoria. This was the first list of multiple mesothelioma cases linked to occupations and asbestos in Australia. He published a second paper in the British Journal of Industrial Medicine in 1976 entitled "Thirty-two cases of mesothelioma in Victoria, Australia: a retrospective survey related to occupational asbestos exposure".

After this second paper, he worked for two years at the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France. He returned to Victoria, and the IHD, in 1978 at a time when the State introduced asbestos regulations and when there was significant action to curtail asbestos use, particularly in construction, and the concept of 'no safe level' was being debated widely.

When Dr Allen Christophers retired as Chief Industrial Hygiene Officer in 1980, Jim became head of the Industrial Hygiene Division. In this role, he was zestful and kind, oversaw expansion of the occupational hygiene scientific staff, and offered scope for professional development. Asbestos had been identified as a significant hazard and, in association with the Department of Labour, he and his staff strove hard to bring changes to work practices where harm from its use was likely. Jim was also a member of the Air Force Reserve and worked on occupational medical matters.

With Jim in charge (continuing Allen's tradition) and with Pam de Silva as Senior Scientific Officer, the Industrial Hygiene Division had at its core, worker health protection and the ideals of scientific integrity, high ethical standards, and most importantly, compassion for the worker. It was a wonderful training ground for young occupational hygienists and occupational physicians alike.

A few months after his 60th birthday Jim decided to retire. He wanted to indulge his artistic desire to paint in the Point Lonsdale area, in his words, "to paint the Point". He maintained his interest in occupational lung disease and membership of the Thoracic Society. For several years he continued as a guest speaker at university fora and in executive roles in the newly-formed Australian College of Occupational Medicine (which later became the Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians). Those that were close to him personally or that knew him in a professional capacity, found him accessible and they liked and respected him. In the words of Philip Hibbs, "Jim was a top bloke".

*To adapt a verse written earlier about Jim:*

*A knowing eye, an eager wit,*

*a love of all the 'foreign bit'.*

*A people's man, James Edwin Hugh,*

*we liked your ways. But now, adieu.*



# RESEARCH BITES

by Sharyn Gaskin

## Attention Researchers!

We invite you to us about what research you are doing in Occupational Hygiene and/or Exposure Science? Send us a list of projects and collaborators at [admin@aioh.org.au](mailto:admin@aioh.org.au) (<mailto:admin@aioh.org.au>)

Be sure to include and celebrate PhD projects!

We would like to begin a database of research and researchers in our field to assist in promotion and collaboration of the great work we do in Australia in OH.

Are you interested in collaborating with others? Let us know!

## Attention Industry!

We are interested in knowing what you want/need researched!

For more information please contact AIOH [admin@aioh.org.au](mailto:admin@aioh.org.au) (<mailto:admin@aioh.org.au>), or Sharyn Gaskin [sharyn.gaskin@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:sharyn.gaskin@adelaide.edu.au) (<mailto:sharyn.gaskin@adelaide.edu.au>)

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# INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

## Report on ANOH-CON

ANOH-CON 2018 was a high energy, diverse event with multidisciplinary interactions from the industry, governmental and private sectors, as well as academic institutes.

Some of the highlights include the speech delivered by the Vice President of Taiwan, Chien-Jen Chen, the 7 fantastic keynote speeches, and a wonderful splash of color at the dinner banquet.

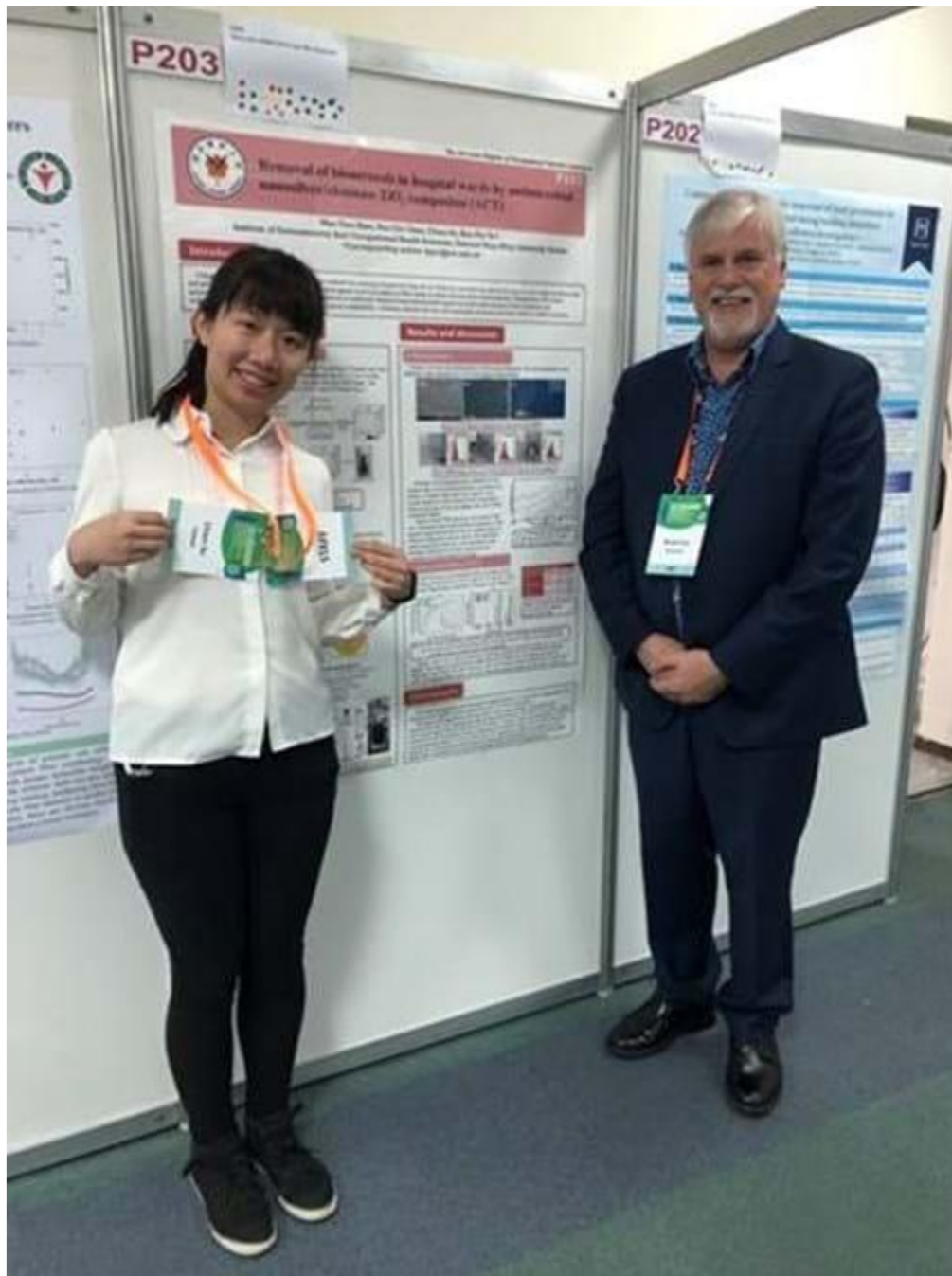
A total of 299 participants from more than 12 countries attended the conference which featured 3 Professional Development Courses and 6 forums to facilitate the empowerment of occupational hygienists. Among the 82 accepted papers, topics covered not only the traditional areas such as chemical (36), physical (8) and biological (3) hazards and ergonomics (3), but also extended the scope to management (11), mental health and socioeconomic development (8), as well as environmental health studies (11).

TOHA and the ANOH organizing committee worked extremely hard to bring together an informative conference. ANOH-CON 2019 will be held in Bangkok, Thailand.

*Brian Eva*

*President 2018*















## OEESC

Occupational and Environmental Exposure of Skin to Chemicals will be held from 16 - 18 September 2019. For more information please go to <https://www.oeesc.com/>  
(<https://www.oeesc.com/>)

## IOHA NEWSLETTER

Global Exposure Manager November issue <https://ioha.net/newsletter/>  
(<https://ioha.net/newsletter/>)

## Call for papers for OEHS 2020 Strengthening Foundation; Breaking New Frontiers



The Occupational and Environmental Health Society of Singapore (OEHS) invites you to share your scientific research, technical expertise and professional experience in applying occupational health & hygiene principles at your workplace and within the industry.

The theme for the conference is “Strengthening Foundation; Breaking New Frontiers” – a focus on the fundamentals of our profession as well as an opportunity to discuss emerging trends in the

practice.

We are seeking potential speakers for a diverse set of education sessions that will meet all career levels and learning styles of occupational health, safety and hygiene professionals; from scientific research presentations to interactive sessions.

The conference welcomes scientific research and technical posters on original on-going or completed projects in the fields of occupational health, safety and hygiene.

1. Noise
2. Heat and health
3. Occupational radiation
4. Occupational chemical exposure
5. Occupational exposure to biological agents
6. Work-related musculoskeletal disorders
7. Emerging issues and challenges in occupational health
8. Health and the matured and maturing workforce
9. Personal health, chronic disease and work
10. Occupational health and hygiene program promotion at the workplace
11. Industrial hygiene general practice – Hazard assessment and control
12. Industrial hygiene general practice – Innovative solutions to industrial hygiene problems
13. Novel Approaches in Industrial Hygiene Sampling and Analysis and Sensor Technology
14. Total Worker Health

If your work fits those criteria or you are aware of a colleague who has a great story to share, please submit an abstract. Don't miss your chance to be an influencer in the industry while equipping occupational health, safety and hygiene professionals with the ideas and practical skills they need to protect worker health!

Closing date for submissions is April 2019

Details for submitting your paper can be found at: <http://www.oehs.org.sg/call-for-paper/>  
(<http://www.oehs.org.sg/call-for-paper/>)

# IIHA CONNECT 2019



# IIHA CONNECT 2019 in conjunction with IOHA BOARD MEETING

Bali-Indonesia, 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

*Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

**IOHA Board Meeting**

*Monday and Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

**Professional Development Courses\***

- PDC-1 Heat Stress Assessment Using TWL Method
- PDC-2 Noise Control
- PDC-3 Industrial Hygiene Data-Statistical Analysis
- PDC-4 Chemical Risk Assessment
- PDC-5 Industrial and Office Ventilation
- PDC-6 Human Factor Engineering
- PDC-7 Fatigue Assessment and Management
- PDC-8 Health Risk Assessment

\*To be confirmed. Class will be opened if number of participant more than 15 people

*Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

**IIHA Conference**

**Abstract  
Submission  
is Opened**

**Prizes for best paper and poster**

For more information, keep an eye of our website [www.iiha.id](http://www.iiha.id) (will be updated soon)

Contact person: Mahmuda Soraya, email.iiha@gmail.com



for more information contact [iiha@gmail.com](mailto:iiha@gmail.com)

## CALL FOR PAPERS - NZOHS 2019



# Work-Related Health CONFERENCE 2019



## SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT

NZOHS would like to **CALL FOR PAPERS** with regards to Work-Related Health.

Submit your abstract by **Thursday 14 February 2019** to [admin@nzohs.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzohs.org.nz).

The NZOHS Work-Related Health Conference 2019 will be hosted in **Auckland, New Zealand.**

The theme for the NZOHS Conference 2019 is **“Bigger. Better. Bolder.”**

We welcome any work-related health topics with the focus on occupational exposures, associated health effects and occupational health research.

Choose from the options below and provide an indication of which type you would prefer.

### Option 1: Platform Presentation (usually 15 or 20 minutes)

Professional practice, scientific research-based presentations or informal talks illustrating real world problems and how they were solved.

### Option 2: Poster

Posters are especially suited to reporting small studies, preliminary findings, or case studies on real world problems. Posters must be on display for the duration of the conference and there will be specific times in the programme for poster viewing and discussion.

### Option 3: Workshop (usually 75-90 minutes)

Workshops are designed to be interactive with a good degree of audience participation. They are the perfect platform to discuss emerging issues and/or to develop participants' skills and knowledge base. Those wishing to facilitate a workshop are encouraged to submit an outline proposal.

*Presenters can attend for **FREE**. T&Cs apply\*.*

### Critical Dates:

- Paper Submission Deadline: Thursday 14 February 2019
- Notification of Acceptance: Thursday 28 February 2019
- Conference Registrations Open: Friday 1 March 2019

*\*Only applicable to the full day conference and not the Continuing Education Sessions.*

SAVE THE DATE

# OSHAfrica 2019 Conference

Emperors Palace Conference Centre  
Johannesburg

**SOUTH AFRICA**

Conference and Exhibition

Emperors Palace, Johannesburg, South Africa

18 - 20 September 2019

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH  
IN AFRICA

CHALLENGES AND ACTIONS

OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH AND  
SAFETY IN AFRICA:  
CHALLENGES AND  
ACTIONS

# SAVE THE DATE

## 18 - 20 September 2019

## [www.oshafrica2019.com](http://www.oshafrica2019.com)

Host:



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Organising Partners:





# Summary of the 2018 AGM of the Occupational Hygiene Training Association

*by Ross Do Corleto*

The annual general meeting of the OHTA was held at The Monument Room, Marriott Marquis Hotel, 901 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001 on Sunday 23 September 2018 at 17.00.

The meeting is a formal requirement and followed a brief agenda with little business discussed.

The general welcome and apologies followed by the approval of minutes of previous meeting occurred without any changes.

The main portion of the meeting was to announce outgoing directors and vote on new board members.

- Noel Tresider (AIOH) and Sara Leeson (BOHS) were the two outgoing directors and were thanked for their service to the OHTA.
- Nancy McClellan (AIHA) and David O'Malley (BOHS) were re-elected to the board of directors of the OHTA with Nancy continuing as co-chair.
- Thomas Fuller (AIHA), Zach Mansdorf (AIHA) and Steven Verpaele (BelgianSOH) were duly elected and formally appointed to the board of the OHTA.
- Continuing board members are:
  - Chris Laszcz-Davis (co-chair) (AIHA)
  - Alan Leibowitz (AIHA)
  - Ross Di Corleto (AIOH)

## Sent on behalf of Andrea Hiddinga - Email to update contributors, endorsers and others about the TB Declaration

Dear Colleagues,

This email is to inform you that the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) participated in the September 26, 2018 United Nations General Assembly Meeting on Tuberculosis (TB) in New York City. Here the World Leaders endorsed the UN Political Declaration on TB "United to End Tuberculosis: An Urgent Global Response to a Global Epidemic".

We are happy to confirm that thanks to an intense year of effort by ICOH, IOHA, many of you, and other partners, our suggested language related to workers is successfully included in this endorsed declaration. Click on the link above and see Paragraph 17, which identifies health care workers, miners and others exposed to silica as high-risk vulnerable groups. Also see Paragraph 31, which says: "Commit to... implementing primary prevention in high-risk occupations by reducing silica dust exposures in mining, construction and other dusty workplaces, and worker tuberculosis surveillance and infection prevention and control in healthcare settings".

Marilyn Fingerhut, Perry Gottesfeld, Sophie Kisting, and Gwen Brachman represented ICOH with Andrea Hiddinga, the IOHA Immediate Past President representing IOHA.

Our next steps will include the development of work plans to facilitate assistance to countries and organizations to implement workplace practices to reduce silica in workplaces and to protect health of workers. These efforts will take place via the ICOH subcommittee - MinOSH TB-Silica subcommittee, co-chaired by Marilyn and Perry, and via the OH Health Workers TB-Health Worker subcommittee which is co-chaired by Gwen and Sophie.

IOHA would like to contribute to these working plans. To streamline these activities, we would like to form two IOHA subcommittees; one specializing in silica (mining & construction) and one specializing in the health care sector.

We are hereby reaching out to you as IOHA member organizations/associations and especially your members who may be specialists in one of these or both areas and who may be interested in joining one of these two subcommittees.

If you would like to join and help, please contact Andrea Hiddinga at [Andrea@hiddinga.net](mailto:Andrea@hiddinga.net) (<mailto:Andrea@hiddinga.net>)

1. The Silica subcommittee
2. The Health care subcommittee

If you have suggestions regarding how we could move forward, please also send them to Andrea.

The Statements and endorsers are located at <http://www.ichweb.org/site/ICOH-TB-Statements.asp> (<http://www.ichweb.org/site/ICOH-TB-Statements.asp>). Please consider inviting your organization to endorse one or both TB Statement if you have not already done so.

Instructions for doing so are located on the website. In case you have difficulty reaching the TB Declaration via the above link, copy and paste the following into your browser:

<http://www.stoptb.org/webadmin/cms/docs/Political-Declaraion-on-the-Fight-against-Tuberculosis.pdf> (<http://www.stoptb.org/webadmin/cms/docs/Political-Declaraion-on-the-Fight-against-Tuberculosis.pdf>) .

Warm regards,

*Andrea Hiddinga*

*Immediate Past President IOHA*

# BOHS Faculty of Asbestos Assessment and Management

Technician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Level 4 - (one of P401 to P404), S301, W504, RSPH L4, or</li><li>• Level 3 - RSPH Level 3 (plus written bridging exam) – <b>OR...</b></li></ul>
Associate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P405 or P407, or</li><li>• Three from P401, P402, P403, P404, S301 or W504</li></ul>
Licentiate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Certificate of Competence (Asbestos)</li></ul>
Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CV, PEP and personal interview</li><li>• Special applications (for the first 2 years) – CV and PEP</li></ul>
Fellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will not be offered initially</li><li>• A significant contribution to the profession</li></ul>

The British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) established its Faculty of Asbestos Assessment and Management (FAAM) a little over 12 months ago. FAAM will provide a professional home for the practise of asbestos assessment and management. Its key objectives are to:

- Pursue excellence for all those who practise in the asbestos assessment and management profession
- Establish, develop and maintain standards of competence in asbestos assessment and management practice for those who are members of FAAM
- Act as the guardian of professional standards and ethics in the profession of asbestos assessment and management

There are five levels of membership to FAAM:

As at 07 November 2018 (i.e. approximately 12 months of operation) there are 278 members in the following grades:

- Member: 42
- Licentiate: 35
- Associate: 141
- Technician: 60

In the new year, Brian Eva and I, in conjunction with Derek Miller NZOHS, will be working earnestly on establishing the Faculty of Asbestos Management of Australia and New Zealand (FAMANZ).

So, watch this space.

*Philip Hibbs*

# Faculty of Asbestos Assessment and Management Conference, Park Inn, Manchester UK, 8 & 9 November 2018



Martin Stear – FAAM Registrar and  
Yvonne Waterman – European Asbestos Forum Foundation

The inaugural FAAM Conference was held at the Park Inn, Manchester on 08 and 09 November 2018. AIOH President Brian Eva and I were very fortunate to attend. We flew to Manchester immediately following the ANOH conference in Taipei. The key topics included:

- Asbestos-related diseases: current understanding and advances in treatment;
- Methods of analysis for asbestos: roles and limitations; and
- Asbestos management and control

The conference brought together researchers, practitioners, regulators and other experts to discuss the latest developments in asbestos assessment, management and control. The event was a great success with over 200 delegates and included presentations on PCM, SEM, TEM, asbestos in talc and children's make-up, other EMPs, proficiency testing schemes, and new developments and technologies. Some of the specific presentations included:

- Dr John Moore-Gillon, Consultant Physician Emeritus, St Bartholomew's Hospital and Royal London Hospital – Asbestos-related diseases and their treatment
- John Addison – Amphiboles and other fibrous minerals: current issues
- Sean Fitzgerald, Scientific Analytical Institute, USA – Global issues, sharing experiences and solutions - Asbestos in the USA today

- Garry Burdett, HSL – Heated fibre and when it is or is not still asbestos
- Jean Prentice, Consultant – Historical perspective on why we use PCM
- Yvonne Waterman, European Asbestos Forum – Asbestos in products, when banning is not enough

Andrew Darnton, HSE and Andrey Korchevskiy, Chemistry & Industrial Hygiene, Inc. ran a workshop entitled 'Asbestos exposure and risk assessment: making sense of the laboratory data'.

Mrs Mavis Nye (Mavis Nye Foundation) discussed her experience of living with mesothelioma and her remarkable survival for many years with this hideous disease.

The trade display included suppliers of the latest sampling equipment and specialised asbestos removal equipment. Presentations from several of the suppliers demonstrated the latest advances in sampling pumps, negative air extraction / ventilation systems, and equipment for monitoring negative pressure differentials and air exchange rates inside removal enclosures.

*Philip Hibbs and Brian Eva*

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# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## University Update

### News from Edith Cowan University



The above photo shows the award winners with ECU academic staff and PhD students.

It was a great to end 2018, with 5 AIOH members who have studied or are studying occupational hygiene at ECU receiving awards at the annual conference.

- Meagan Egerton: AMCOSH Best Conference Poster Award (MOHT graduate and current Grad Dip of OHS student)
- Morgan Mathers: Active Environmental Solutions Post Graduate Scholarship Award (current MOHT student)
- Lisa Mills: Safe Work Australia Scholars of Worker Protection Award (current MOHT student)
- Melinda Gardner: Safe Work Australia Scholars of Worker Protection Award (current MOHT student)
- Corinne Vinkenvleugel: Industrial Scientific AIOH Conference Package Award (past miscellaneous student studying selected occupational hygiene units)

The above photo shows the award winners with ECU academic staff and PhD students. It was also great to see 4 of our students who have completed the Master of Occupational Hygiene and Toxicology present the outcomes of their research, which were:

- Gregor Riese: Assessment of Airborne Contaminant Exposures and Other Workplace Hazards Associated with In-Building Sewage Treatment Systems
- Lauren Pickering: Compost Worker Exposure to Inhalable and Respirable Dusts
- Melinda Gardner: Assessment of worker exposure to occupational organic dust in a hemp processing facility
- Erin Duff (poster paper): Evaluating Noise Exposures and Impacts in the Dog Grooming Industry

We are proud to inform you that ECU continues to be the top public university in Australia for student satisfaction and has received 5-star rating for teaching quality for the 12th year in a row.

More information about studying occupational hygiene at ECU can be found at:

<http://www.ecu.edu.au/degrees/courses/master-of-occupational-hygiene-and-toxicology> (<http://www.ecu.edu.au/degrees/courses/master-of-occupational-hygiene-and-toxicology>), or by contacting A/Prof Sue Reed ([s.reed@ecu.edu.au](mailto:s.reed@ecu.edu.au) (<mailto:s.reed@ecu.edu.au>)) or at 08 6304 2243.

## The University of Wollongong Update



Jen Hines, Jane Whitelaw & Linda Apthorpe at our Exhibition booth featuring our active social media community feed and quotes from UOW alumni making an impact in their workplaces and informing policy makers.

### **Apply Now: 2019 Places closing soon**

#### **New to the field?**

Want to give your knowledge and professional practice a boost?

Looking to become a Full Member then COH?

Applications for 2019 have been very strong and are closing soon. Commonwealth Supported Places are available for domestic applicants – this halves your course fees!

<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>)

#### **AIOH 2018**

We kicked off the conference with our annual Alumni dinner catching up with old friends and incorporating new students into our community. There were almost 100 UOW graduates at AIOH 2018 – you may have noticed them proudly sporting their red UOW badges.

A big congratulations to our alumni and students who received awards:

Catie Redshaw - Drager Professional Development Award, Candice Dix - 3M best paper award, and Corinne Vinkenvleugel - Industrial Scientific Award.

James Davies' "Formaldehyde exposures and mortuary workers: A dead cert project!" and Dean Gleeson's "H<sub>2</sub>O vs LEV: which is best for reducing RCS in rock cutting?" gave strong presentations showcasing evaluation and control of topical Occupational Hygiene issues. Jen Hines informed us with ground-breaking research on control of Diesel Emissions utilising a maintenance-based program, and we reported on recent research into penetration of DPM through PAPRs.

Congratulations also to Kerry Cheung on winning the inaugural HASANZ Scholarship to finish his Masters in WHS-Occupational Hygiene with us at the University of Wollongong.

Please contact [jane\\_whitelaw@uow.edu.au](mailto:jane_whitelaw@uow.edu.au) (mailto:jane\_whitelaw@uow.edu.au) for more information on our UOW study and research programs.

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# REGIONAL UPDATE

## Queensland South Update



Dr. Edwards presenting at the Queensland South meeting 7 November 2018

*By Mark Russell*

November saw not one, but two Queensland South Chapter meetings. Firstly a presentation on accelerated silicosis observed in engineered stone workers was given by Dr. Graeme Edwards, Senior Consulting Physician, Occupational and Environmental Medicine with a supporting presentation from WHSQ Inspectors Zac Du Preez and Brad Geinitz entitled "An enforcement approach for construction and stone bench top fabrication".



Dr. Edwards outlined his experiences with case management of a number of the recently observed cluster and provided us with an estimate of the magnitude of the issue. Bringing a more personal perspective to the epidemiological data sets and aetiology, Dr. Edwards also spoke of dealing with young men (24 & 27 year olds with dependents) who have recently been diagnosed with accelerated silicosis and what this means for their futures. The event was well attended with spirited and passionate engagement from our presenters and attendees alike. Copies of both presentations will soon be available via the AIOH Technical library.

Timely, (and perhaps harnessing some of the passion displayed the week before), Queensland members were proud to host the media event for the launch of the Australian Breathe Freely campaign, adopted from the BOHS version <http://www.breathefreely.org.uk/> (<http://www.breathefreely.org.uk/>). The local version of the program was launched by Ross Di Corletto and Brian Eva, ably supported again by Dr. Edwards. Elements of the launch were included in the ABC's 7.30 report "Deadly Dust" <https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/suppliers-of-stone-benchtops-facing-questions-over/10546526> (<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/suppliers-of-stone-benchtops-facing-questions-over/10546526>). Thank you to all who were able to attend at relatively short notice. The Australian Breathe Freely version will commence with national roadshows in early 2019 – look out for further notifications.

Thanks to a series of great presenters, a city-central venue, the reach of social media platforms and obviously your interest, attendance numbers steadily increased throughout 2018. Planning is now underway for 2019 so if you are of the ilk to "ask not what your Institute can do for you, but what can you do for your Institute" don't be a stranger. If you have a hot topic you would like to learn more about, or present on, if you are keen to host 'A Day in the Life' event at your workplace or you just have a suggestion, please let me know [mark.russell2@ge.com](mailto:mark.russell2@ge.com) (<mailto:mark.russell2@ge.com>) or 0435 385 709 – I'm keen to hear from you.

## NSW Update



*By Carmen Naylor*

David Springer, General Manager provided a tour of Envirolab based in the Sydney Laboratory in October.

During the session he provided a real case study of how an unknown sample could potentially destroy a laboratory.

They discussed the problems the sample caused, the clean-up, the monitoring, the mistakes made and importantly the actions taken to ensure this can never happen again.

It was a great informative session and we thank David Springer for his time, great presentation and venue!

Also there were some AIOH members fortunate enough to attend the FLI program hosted by the AIHA last year in Washington. Kristy Thornton, Holly Fletcher, Mitchel Thompson and Naree Carton really enjoyed the program and came back inspired. Congratulations to them for representing AIOH!

## ACT Update

*By Nicola Power*

Let's begin by all agreeing we won't talk about the lack of events in the ACT for the past two years, yes? Thanks.

Moving forward, I'm aiming for two chapter meetings in 2019, tentatively planned for April and August. The intention is to run these meetings in a similar fashion to a conference concurrent session, with about three speakers each speaking for 15-20 minutes, plus questions.

My hope is that this format will feel accessible for all AIOH members to talk about a wide range of

topics in an informal setting. I would particularly encourage people who are new to occupational hygiene, or who are not confident speakers to see this as an opportunity to give presenting a go in a relatively low-pressure environment.

So if you're in the ACT or surrounding regions and have even the smallest interest in talking about almost any topic imaginable please (please!) contact me on [Nicola@robsonenviro.com.au](mailto:Nicola@robsonenviro.com.au).  
(<mailto:Nicola@robsonenviro.com.au>.)

## Victoria Update



*By Theresa Walsh*

AIOH Vic held a chapter breakfast on 21 November with a special international guest Munaf Khan from NVL Laboratories in the USA, presenting the Californian perspective on sampling and lab techniques for naturally occurring asbestos.

It was an interesting presentation which stimulated discussion around the similarities and differences with our overseas colleagues. It was also great to have a few NATA assessors and Laboratory managers in attendance too. Special thanks Brad Prezant for facilitating this event.

Thanks to all attendees of this event and our others through 2018. Stay tuned for an exciting calendar of events in 2019.

## WA Update



Special Inspector of Mines, Paul Foley (L) with WA SLO Dr Barry Chesson

*By Barry Chesson & Janine McClements*

At the WA Chapter's final sundowner for 2018 held last November, Special Inspector of Mines, Paul Foley, outlined and expanded upon the "Expectations and Requirements for Occupational Hygiene Management on WA Mines". A popular topic given the Department's current initiatives supporting a "Health & Hygiene" focus in its Toward 2020 regulatory strategy, this drew a crowd of 72 to the Chem Centre rooms at Curtin Uni for the evening.

Paul's presentation centred around the requirement for mining operations to have a Health & Hygiene Management Plan (HHMP) and the enhancements to the on-line SRS system to cater for this and support meaningful implementation of those plans at mines in the state. The HHMP structure calls for the identification and risk assessment of all agents that may impact the health of workers – chemical, physical and biological - across all areas of a mine's operations. Exposure controls applied and the methods used to verify they are effective, must also be documented. In this way the HHMP captures the commitment an operation has made to meet its legislative requirement for hazard identification and risk assessment and management in the health and hygiene areas.

A point stressed by Paul was that a HHMP is expected to be a holistic integrated management plan, of which an exposure monitoring plan is just one component. It also provides a specific opportunity for health professionals to highlight risks to the registered manager who, by endorsing the HHMP, commits the organisation to fulfil its obligations. Ongoing compliance is addressed through the minimum expectation for operations to submit an annual summary report, along with a full HHMP review at least each five years.

Meanwhile, DMIRS will continue with updates and enhancements to systems and documentation throughout 2019 to support industry with HHMP expectations. This will include statistical summary of monitoring data in SRS and revised guidance documents for topics including noise and health surveillance. The audience was also reminded of the June 30, 2019 deadline communicated by the State Mining Engineer for mines to submit their HHMP.

Those members who were unable to attend and would like to know more can view the session recording, brought to you by Daniel Cronje - please contact the AIOH Team on [admin@aioh.org.au](mailto:admin@aioh.org.au) (<mailto:admin@aioh.org.au>) for information on when the material will be made available on the website. Alternatively, check the DMIRs website for further information and to access the document "Preparation of a health and hygiene management plan – guide" (DMIRS, October 2018), and to stay up-to-date with related developments, ensure you are subscribed to their Resources Safety news alert.

The WA Chapter extends its sincere thanks to Paul for his informative presentation and for proving, through his zodiac guide, that it is possible to add a little "sparkle" to any subject matter. Thanks also to Tanja Koeberle-Troy and Greg Payne for running the registration desk and to our SLO Dr Barry Chesson for organising the event.

Finally, but very importantly, the ongoing support of the ChemCentre is acknowledged. By providing the venue, AV facilities, staff to help make sure things run smoothly, and financial contributions, the ChemCentre have been instrumental to the success of yet another year of sundowner events.

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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### 2019 Annual AIOH Conference in Perth



**SAVE THE DATE!**

The 2019 AIOH Conference in Perth promises to be an exciting re-evaluation of our discipline leading into 2020. Block out these dates in your calendar:

**30 Nov - 4 Dec 2019**

Join us in beautiful Perth for an entertaining and engaging conference covering three timely key elements across our industry:

- ReCalibrate** Embrace new technology; Adapt to new opportunities; Stretch our boundaries
- ReSynergise** Reinvigorate our networks; Enlist a multidisciplinary approach; Embody a holistic perspective
- ReBrand** Strengthen our reputation; Communicate our contribution; Invest in our brand footprint



United we can harness our collective power to achieve better worker health outcomes



The 37th AIOH Annual Conference will be held at the Crown Perth in Western Australia from 30 November to 4 December 2019. Come along to be part of ‘The Power of Many’ so we can harness our collective power to achieve better worker health outcomes leading into 2020. This theme is a call to action focusing on three timely key elements: **‘Recalibrate’, ‘Resynergise’ and ‘Rebrand’**.

The Perth Conference Organising Committee members are shown below:

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Organising Committee Role</b>
Samira Wadhavkar	Conference and Events Manager
Candice Dix	Conference Chair
Dr Martyn Cross	Scientific Chair
Ruairi Ward	Scientific Sub Committee – Member 1
Janine McClements	Scientific Sub Committee – Member 2
Richard Crafter	Scientific Sub Committee – Member 3
Stuart Rietkerk	Sponsorship Coordinator
Greg Payne	Exhibition Coordinator

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Organising Committee Role</b>
Tanja Koeberle-Troy	Marketing and Promotions Coordinator
Dyanne Christie-Down	Social Functions Coordinator

Join us in beautiful Perth for an entertaining and engaging conference that is sure to be an exciting re-evaluation of our profession.

Check out the 2019 Conference save the date details on the AIOH website and keep an eye out for the call for papers in the coming months.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*Candice Dix*

*2019 Conference Chair*

## RAFQ - Two Years in the RAFQ Chair

*By Jeremy Trotman*

The Risk, Audit, Finance, Quality Committee (RAFQ) Chair comes as an added bonus with the position of Honorary Treasurer. My term as RAFQ Chair and twenty eighth AIOH Treasurer is coming to an end. This, coinciding with 30 years as a consultant in occupational hygiene (commencing Friday 14th September 1988), is possibly a good time to reflect on what we RAFQers have achieved over the past two years against our role description: "to assist the Executive and Council to fulfil governance requirements specifically relating to financial reporting and risk management, internal document and procedure management control systems, business and financial risk management systems, and quality and audit functions. RAFQ provides an independent, informed and expert function to oversee, monitor and report to the Council on AIOH's exposure to various business risks". This role, requiring RAFQ to critique Executive and Council, is made easier by its composition comprising; the Treasurer (Chair), President Elect, Business Manager and two AIOH members experienced in practical business matters. The President may attend (and often does) as an observer but is not a member, weighting RAFQ towards non-Councillor representation. Over the past two years no issue has come to a formal vote, there is robust debate but little serious discord. RAFQs composition potentially offers healthy external review of Council decisions, depending of course on the non Council members' competency and inclination to provide productive comment and constructive criticism. Currently Kerrie Doherty, Alan Rogers and Yanel Lara fill this role and Hollywood Central Casting could not have done a better job. In these people Members can rest assured that they are represented by experienced, thoughtful people, totally committed to AIOH, independent thinkers, confident and capable of advancing their opinions through robust and reasoned argument. Kerry, Yanel and Alan are all staying on for the next term providing stability and continuity to the new Treasurer and President Elect.

The point has been raised this year that financial issues have dominated RAFQs deliberations and recommendations to Council and that Quality and Audit and other risks on our risk register have missed out. This is not, as some might think, because Quality and Audit aren't fascinating subjects; rather and

unfortunately RAFQ has been in reactive mode, responding to the clear and present dangers of rapidly diminishing financial resources, an ageing membership, reduced member participation and other business risks such as increased overheads while members' expectations and demands on AIOH services and the cost of supplying those services progressively increase. These risks have not evaporated over time. However, much the same as the way our (occupational hygiene) exposure assessments gain statistical confidence with repetition, with more effective financial monitoring and recording, we are steadily building a better understanding of the factors effecting our financial ebbs and flows and gaining confidence in our financial predictions and what we need to do to fortify our long term sustainability.

It is becoming apparent that, even with the smoothing of cash flow achieved through better debt recovery and expenditure management by our AIOH team, month on month our cash position can fluctuate over several hundreds of thousands of dollars. These cash high and low tide marks are influenced primarily by income and expenditure associated with the Conference which is our most important source of revenue and expenditure by a country mile. Despite these imposing fluctuations, the data so far indicates a much more sedate cumulative effect over the financial year with the Conference netting around \$100,000 to \$150,000 and our end of year result settling into a relatively narrow profit and loss bandwidth. Based on past performance, in a good year we should make a modest profit, in a bad year we may carry a modest loss.

Three years ago and again last year, after several years of bumper income, AIOH members at the 2015 and 2017 Conferences gaped incredulously as our Presidents Alan Rogers and Phillip Hibbs predicted, based on the best available data, a loss of about \$75,000 and the prospect of an insolvent AIOH looming in the not distant enough future. Council, including a committed and combative Hibbs at the helm, a consultative Brian Eva as 2IC, the capable chronicler Raelene Young and competent Councilors Tracey Bence, Andrew Orfanos and Perdita Dickson; RAFQ including Alan Rodgers, (founding member, past President), Yanel Lara (Conference Committee Chair and past Councillor), and the admirable AIOH Team put their collective shoulder to the financial reform wheel. At the end of the 2016/17 financial year we registered a surplus of \$27,000. The turnaround, put down to a healthy conference result, reigning in expenditure, improved debtor management and efficiencies in services; was achieved in spite of a drop off in membership services revenue. This year we are predicting a loss of about \$20,000 - perhaps we hygienists are naturally conservative in our assumptions. Twenty thousand may be small bananas compared to the tidal flows of our cash position over the year and the million dollar gross revenues of Conferences, but the analysis shows that it represents a significant risk in the context of our narrow P&L bandwidth. And the longer term implications of this narrow P&L bandwidth are more significant: on the dark side, a Conference flop would have devastating financial consequences, particularly if we were stuck with a large share of the costs; on the bright side of the road, modest savings are a significant gain, so for example, the predicted \$30,000 plus p.a. saving associated with the recent purchase of our own premises takes on more substance.

The big risk of a failed conference is no revelation and previous Councils have identified controls, including a five year conference planning cycle. More work is required, no doubt, but we are out of the blocks on this perhaps our most significant financial risk. On the revenue side, RAFQ and Council ably assisted by the AIOH Team shall continue to look for additional income sources and expanding existing income streams. In the context of our modest financial bandwidth, small gains can be celebrated, booking out a Basic Principles Course and expanding website advertising for example, can make a significant contribution to our financial fortunes at years end and Kerry and Samira have been working on these and other



opportunities to reduce our reliance on the Conference for income. Diminishing membership levels and contributions are risks we are addressing with the relevant Committees by introducing measures to retain retired COHs in AIOH and reducing barriers to entering the profession and moving through membership grades. At AIOH we are incredibly fortunate to have Committees that do an enormous amount of pro bono work (conservatively estimated at a value of \$500,000 p.a.) supporting AIOH and the structures that sustain our science, but the dedicated people on our Committees are getting busier, trying to do more with less time and we have been looking at funding opportunities to enable us to pay our members for their work.

So we are all hoping that, like last year, at this financial year's end we post an unexpected surplus. Early signs on the income side are promising. If and when this happens, I shall be gone from Council and RAFQ but I have great confidence in the future with the New and Improved RAFQ and Council getting on top of our finances and having the time to get stuck into the exciting areas of Quality and Audit. Have no fear, our new Council, which includes (carrying over from the soon-to-be run-out model); President Julia Norris, Secretary Simon Worland and Councillor Gillian Felton, will be up to the challenges that lie ahead.

Finally, there are too many people to thank individually for what has been one of the most fulfilling experiences I have had in the 30 plus years as an AIOH member, but it would be disingenuous not to say what a great bunch of people we have looking after the AIOH Council, Committees, Special Interest Groups etc. and what a pleasure it has been to work alongside them for a couple of years. And for anyone contemplating serving on Council, a Committee or other AIOH position: rest assured, it will take some of your time, but the research shows that the experience will be well worth it.

## Exposure Standards Committee

*by Ian Firth*

In the October edition of 'OH Matters', we asked for member comment on the AIOH draft Position Papers for Inorganic Lead and Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS). External to the committee, which had robust debate on a number of aspects of the papers, we had comments from 5 other members for lead and from more than 15 for RCS.

The committee thanks all of the respondents for their comments, which stimulated lively debate among the committee and helped to better shape the position papers. The final version of the papers was agreed at a meeting during the Melbourne conference and both updated papers have since been approved by Council. They should soon be available on the AIOH website. The key messages from each of the updated papers are as follows:

### **Inorganic Lead**

- Lead (Pb) can adversely affect humans of all ages, but the effects of lead are considered most serious in young children due to impacts on neurological and physical development, it may also cause cancer after long-term exposure.
- Lead poisoning may be acute (from exposure to high concentrations of short duration) or chronic (from repeat exposures to lower concentrations over an extended period). Chronic poisoning is

more common and results in a significant body burden that can be released back into the blood from the skeletal system even when there is no further environmental exposure.

- Lead exposure in the workplace can occur due to inhalation or via ingestion from contaminated hands, food or drink containers and food preparation surfaces.
- The AIOH believes that exposure may be adequately controlled by conventional means such as local exhaust ventilation, segregation of workers from areas of high concentration and other means as published by various authorities. Strict enforcement of good personal hygiene standards and practices is critical to prevent ingestion from lead-contaminated surfaces and to stop lead being taken home on contaminated clothing. Controls must be maintained and verified that they are adequately reducing exposure to lead.
- Where it is likely for males (all) / females (not of reproductive capacity) and females (of reproductive capacity) to reach lead in blood levels of  $\geq 20$  micrograms per decilitre ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ) and  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  respectively, a system should be implemented to prevent or significantly reduce exposures.
- A supplementary guidance value of 0.03 mg of Pb in each cubic metre ( $\text{m}^3$ ) of air is recommended for all forms of lead to trigger lead in blood monitoring and the evaluation of the effectiveness of controls for airborne lead.

### **Respirable Crystalline Silica**

- Breathing in respirable crystalline silica (RCS) for many months or years at concentrations above the workplace exposure standard (WES) can cause silicosis, a disease which results in the formation of scar tissue in the lung resulting in loss of lung function and is associated with an increased risk of lung cancer. RCS may also be related to the development of other diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), kidney disease and autoimmune disorders.
- A number of factors are thought to affect the potential for RCS to cause silicosis and there are different types of silicosis (chronic, accelerated and acute) caused by different RCS levels and periods of exposure.
- Information on new cases of silicosis occurring in Australian industries is limited to results from medical surveillance in only a small number of industries, along with determining the number of compensated cases in each state and territory, which does not provide the full extent of cases. The AIOH recommends the development of a centralised Australian register for the reporting of dust-related lung disease.
- It appears that reported new cases are mainly either due to historic poorly controlled long-term exposures or to contemporary acute uncontrolled exposure situations likely to have been above the current exposure limit. The AIOH is most concerned by the emergence of these new cases and the absence of widespread control measures in many industries, particularly with the use of hand-held high speed cutting and grinding tools on silica-containing materials.
- The AIOH believes that most exposures to RCS may be adequately controlled by conventional means such as use of wet methods to suppress dusts, local exhaust ventilation, use of positive pressure cabins and segregation of workers from areas of high concentration as published by

various authorities. Controls must be maintained and verified that they are adequately reducing exposure to RCS.

- The AIOH recommends limiting worker exposure to RCS to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) to be at all times below an 8-hour time weighted average (TWA) guidance exposure value of 0.1 milligram (mg) respirable fraction in each cubic metre (m<sup>3</sup>) of air. In addition, a TWA value of 0.05 mg/m<sup>3</sup> should be applied as an action level which triggers investigation of the sources of exposure and implementation of suitable control strategies as well as health surveillance. When assessing the degree of compliance to this guidance exposure value according to contemporary occupational hygiene assessment and statistical practice, the actual long-term average exposure is often less than 0.05 mg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- There are limitations in measurement technology which restrict the accurate measurement of very low-level exposure below 0.05 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, the AIOH recommends near full-shift monitoring and sample analysis by a laboratory accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA), applying standardised analysis and reporting methods.
- Where worker RCS exposure presents a significant risk to health, health surveillance is legally required. It should be regularly performed according to evidence-based standards to include detailed occupational history and task recording, respiratory function testing and radiological assessment.

*IAN FIRTH (FAIOH, COH)*

*Chair of the Exposure Standards Committee*

## Certification Board

### **COH exams 2018**

In 2018 we facilitated a record number of 33 COH exams in Melbourne from 30 Nov to 2 Dec 2018. This could not have been achieved without the volunteers who committed their personal time and support.

Thank you to all.

### **Ethics training reminder**

From 2019, non-AIOH ethics training will no longer be recognised as part of the ethics training requirement under COH maintenance. Please make sure you sign up for the AIOH-sponsored ethics training during your COH cycle.

### **COH Audits**

Members are reminded to include evidence in their My COH when entering their COH maintenance entries.

The COH Board will be commencing audits from first quarter 2019 for COH members due for recertification on 31-Dec-2018.

***Neil Goulding***

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