



OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE MATTERS

Welcome to the July 2018 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, after what seems like weeks of travelling I'm back in Australia and there is so much happening around the Institute!

- This week Council made an offer on an office suite in West Meadows, approximately 5 minutes from Melbourne Airport. Subject to legal Due Diligence and independent building inspection, we would hope to conclude the purchase in the next month.
- Members will have noted that we launched our new website. Thanks to those who worked behind the scenes over the last month to test and review usability. Some additional functionality will be progressively added over the coming months.
- Council is meeting in July to map out our Strategic Plan for 2018-2019. If there are specific issues that you feel the Council should consider for inclusion, please forward to me at President@aioh.org.au (mailto:President@aioh.org.au).
- The Strategic Advisory Committee are currently working with our legal advisor regarding necessary changes to our Rules and Statement of Purposes. There are a number of significant non-compliances that we are working through and will be subject to a Special General Meeting later in the year.
- Our 2018 Conference registrations opened last week and the early response has been beyond our expectations. Tickets to some of the social events are limited so if you do not book early you may miss out.

- Finally, at the BOHS and AIHA tri-lateral meetings the revised (new) GAP program was discussed. Changes to privacy and communication laws in the US and Europe now requires members to “OPT IN” to receive the GAP benefits. Our understanding is that access to the AIHA programme will be free of charge, however the BOHS programme will include a fee for access to the Annals of Worker Health Protection.

International Conference News

BOHS Stratford upon Avon

The 2018 BOHS conference was held at the home of William Shakespeare -Stratford-upon-Avon. It was a pleasant surprise, wearing T-shirts in England in April!!!

There was a good range of speakers and topics which went from psychosocial through to traditional occupational hygiene, with sessions on safety and environment also included. This gave a broad range of topics, and in my opinion, represented the wide range of areas of work that the modern occupational hygienist is involved with.

Unfortunately, the Conference Dinner ended abruptly when William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway were bumped for the DJ who “rocked the Dinner” with a wall of sound. Everyone promptly left the main venue to move to an adjoining area where you could hear yourself speak! The DJ was not deterred and continued to entertain an empty room for 2 hours!!

The BOHS employ 29 staff, although their membership is not significantly larger than ours. Training and funding through OHTA examinations is a major income stream. Certified Occupational Hygienists under the British Scheme are <200. The Faculty for Asbestos Assessment and Management (FAAM) launched in 2017 and now has over 200 members, many of whom are new to the BOHS. A faculty for Legionella is under development. The Breathe Freely 1 campaign is under review for a re-launch and progress with Breathe Freely 2 (manufacturing) was also provided.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/drfWxK8FnGbmwckg9> (<https://photos.app.goo.gl/drfWxK8FnGbmwckg9>)

IOHA Board Meeting Dublin

The Board meeting was conducted over 1.5 days preceding the ICOH Conference. IOHA has an MOU with ICOH (Occupational Medicos) which has not worked well to date. However, a strategic alliance was forged by the IOHA Executive for the next few years, particularly in the area of advocacy to the WHO and ILO. IOHA supports the statement on Silicosis and TB presented to WHO by ICOH.

Key actions from the meeting were:

- New website development with website advertising (AIOH involved with working group)
- Review of NAR Charter (AIOH on working group)
- Attraction of young hygienists into the profession
- Communications strategy
- Appointment of new NAR Committee Chair (Washington)

- Review of new IOHA member applications
- NAR Scheme review schedule (Australia due September 2018)

As revealed at the BOHS Conference, there are approx. 7576 Certified Hygienists throughout the world. Of these 6506 are CIH located in North America (Noel Tresider et al 2015).

(Note: Attended by IOHA Board Member Philip Hibbs. Brian Eva was an Observer).

ICOH 2018 Dublin

Over 100 Australian delegates in attendance. Conference registrations >1000 for the 5 day program. Broad range of topics of mixed technical and information sessions. Quite apparent the Medicos and Hygienists need to work closer together and perhaps the AIOH should move this way rather than towards the Safety people.

ICOH 2021 will be held in Melbourne and AFOEM will be seeking support from all Australian professional associations for support.

(Note: Attendance at ICOH was privately funded by Brian Eva)

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/SRqKofjjku5V7z4S6> (<https://photos.app.goo.gl/SRqKofjjku5V7z4S6>)

Opening speaker, Philip and I with Andrea Heddinga President of IOHA

IIHA 2018 Depok, Jakarta

A two day conference with over 100 registrants. This was the third conference presented by the IIHA following their formation in 2015. The IIHA has built a reputation with the Government and Regulatory Agencies as being the only professional society in Indonesia that can boast a panel of international speakers at their annual conference. This year, the International Plenary Speakers were Prof Dino Pisaniello (Australia), Brian Eva (Australia), Dr Dooyong Park (President KOSHA) and Norhazlina Mydin (Malaysia). The Plenary sessions were all presented in English with the parallel (afternoon) sessions in Bahasa with English slides. Some of the PDC's were presented in English, with the others in Bahasa with English slides.

The AIOH has worked with the IIHA through their formation and has supported all 3 conferences. The AIOH is also providing a communication link between IIHA and IOHA. It is likely that the 4th IIHA Conference will be held in Bali in September 2019 in conjunction with the IOHA Board Meeting.

President Elsy As Safira thanked the AIOH for our ongoing support, in particular the invitation to the 2018 AIOH Conference where Elsy met with the IOHA President (Andrea Heddinga) and had discussions with Kate Lahey from Drager which resulted in support for the IIHA 2018 conference.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/YwxHkuSHXfhdETJB7> (<https://photos.app.goo.gl/YwxHkuSHXfhdETJB7>)

Conference snaps and the organising committee internationals dinner.

Brian Eva

NATIONAL UPDATE

Congratulations Drew Grace Duddy!



Giulia Savio, Drew Grace Duddy & Melanie Allibon

AIOH member recognised for work on diversity and inclusion

In June this year approximately one hundred members of the Victorian resources industry gathered in Melbourne for the 2018 Minerals Council of Australia/AUSIMM women in resources awards. Amongst them was Drew Grace Duddy, Drew is a member of the AIOH and COH and currently works for Newcrest mining as the principle advisor occupational hygiene.

However, on this night it wasn't her passion for protecting people's health that was being recognised it was her passion for building an inclusive workplace where everyone feels comfortable to be their true authentic self and our diversity and individuality is accepted and embraced.

Drew was named as a finalist for diversity and inclusion for her work supporting the LBGTQI+ community and her work with Newcrest to promote understanding and acceptance within Newcrest's work force around the LBGTQI+ community.

Although Drew wasn't successful in winning her award her statement to the guests after congratulating the winner was a statement of commitment to drive change "I'm just getting started we have so much more work to do and I'm proud to work with Newcrest a company that recognises and promotes an inclusive diverse workplace".

General news on WHS regs amendments

Shelley Rowett (SafeWork SA)

Hazardous substances regulations commence in NZ today

The New Zealand *Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017* (http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2017/0131/latest/DLM7309401.html?search=ta_act%40regulation_H_ac%40rc%40ainf%40anif%40rinf%40rnif_an%40bn%40rri) commenced today.

The instrument forms part of a suite of Regulations underpinning the country's Australian-style *Health and Safety at Work Act 2015*.

Click here (<https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/hazardous-substances/regulations/commencement-and-transitional-arrangements/>) for transitional arrangements and start dates for various provisions of the Hazardous Substances Regulations.

Dangerous goods laws amended in WA

In other Western Australian news, the Government has made about 40 changes to dangerous goods storage and explosives regulations through the *Dangerous Goods Safety Regulations Amendment Regulations 2018*

([https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc_40783.pdf/\\$FILE/Dangerous%20%5B00-00-00%5D.pdf?OpenElement](https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc_40783.pdf/$FILE/Dangerous%20%5B00-00-00%5D.pdf?OpenElement)).

The technical changes include updating references to the Australian Dangerous Goods Code and Australian Standards in the State *Dangerous Goods Safety (Storage and Handling of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007* and *Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007*.

HEALTH MONITORING

A number of new substances are to be released with health monitoring guidance by the end of the year. This includes new guidance for Lead, RCS and cyclophosphamide.

Seeking Old Heat Stress Equipment



Do you have any old unwanted heat stress monitoring equipment gathering dust on a shelf in some storeroom?

Particularly being sought at the moment are any sling psychrometers (the older the better).

Rather than being resigned to the bin I would be happy to provide them with a new home where they may become useful again training the next generation of OH's, (or if beyond help then a retirement home).

If you have something you believe that might be useful or just an interesting curio please drop Ross Di Corleto a line at r.dicorleto@bigpond.com (<mailto:r.dicorleto@bigpond.com>)

Ross Di Corleto (PhD)

Principal Adviser – Health Risk
Rio Tinto Global HSE

RESEARCH BITES

ASHPA H&S Journal

The Australian Safety and Health Professional Associations (ASHPA) is working towards re-launching a peer reviewed journal in conjunction with the Safety Institute of Australia.

To ensure the success of this re-launch, papers / articles will be sought from AIOH members.

If you would be interested in contributing to the journal, please come back to the office at admin@aioh.org.au (<mailto:admin@aioh.org.au?subject=ASHPA%20Journal>) .

Editor's picks

Here's an interesting paper and editorial from the British Medical Journal, suggesting light levels are important, and that natural **light** is more effective than artificial light in slowing the progression of myopia.

Mountjoy, E., Davies, N.M., Plotnikov, D., Smith, G.D., Rodriguez, S., Williams, C.E., Guggenheim, J.A. and Atan, D., 2018. Education and myopia: assessing the direction of causality by mendelian randomisation. *BMJ*, 361, p.k2022. Access: <https://www.bmj.com/content/361/bmj.k2022.full> (<https://www.bmj.com/content/361/bmj.k2022.full>)

Editorial: Intense schooling linked to myopia. BMJ 2018; 361 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.k2248> (https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.k2248) (Published 06 June 2018) Cite this as: BMJ 2018;361:k2248.

Some interesting work on **Silicosis** related to artificial stone:

Hoy, R.F., Baird, T., Hammerschlag, G., Hart, D., Johnson, A.R., King, P., Putt, M. and Yates, D.H., 2018. Artificial stone-associated silicosis: a rapidly emerging occupational lung disease. *Occup Environ Med*, 75(1), pp.3-5. Access: <https://oem.bmj.com/content/75/1/3> (<https://oem.bmj.com/content/75/1/3>)

A NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Report (2016) on Evaluation of Crystalline Silica Exposure during Fabrication of Natural and Engineered Stone Countertops

(<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2014-0215-3250.pdf>

(<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2014-0215-3250.pdf>)

Some local research:

Dobson, J. A., Riddiford-Harland, D. L., Bell, A. F. & Steele, J. R. (2018). Are underground coal miners satisfied with their work boots? *Applied Ergonomics: human factors in technology and society*, 66: 98-104.

Gaskin, S., Thredgold, L., Heath, L., Pisaniello, D., Logan, M., Baxter, C. 2018. Empirical data in support of a **skin** notation for methyl chloride. Accepted to *Journal of Occupational & Environmental Hygiene*. JOEH-18-0037. doi: 10.1080/15459624.2018.1470636.

Johnstone, K. R., Lau, C. & Whitelaw, J. L. (2017). Evaluation of Waste **Isoflurane** Gas **Exposure** During Rodent Surgery in an Australian University. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*, 14(12): 955-964.

Lead, a potted history of OEL values

The following is a potted history of the latest update to occupational exposure limit (OEL) values for lead by Safe Work Australia.

In 2009, the AIOH published its position paper titled '*Inorganic Lead and its Potential for Occupational Health Issues*', available from <https://www.aioh.org.au/resources/aioh-library> (<https://www.aioh.org.au/resources/aioh-library>). This paper recommended that blood lead (PbB) should be used as the primary indicator of exposure from both airborne lead as well as sources based on personal hygiene, air monitoring being considered complementary to evaluate the effectiveness of controls for airborne lead. To reduce potential exposure to airborne lead, an exposure standard of 0.1 mg/m (TWA) was recommended. Where there was a potential for lead in air to exceed 0.05 mg/m, or where a risk assessment indicated a need, a PbB monitoring programme was said to be required.

Regarding PbB monitoring, the AIOH recommended that where there was a likelihood for males / females (not of reductive age) and females of reproductive age to reach PbB levels of $\geq 20 \mu\text{g/dL}$ and $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$ respectively, a system should be implemented to manage and control exposures. A transfer level of $\geq 30 \mu\text{g/dL}$ and $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$ should be implemented to transfer males / females (not of reductive age) and females of reproductive age respectively to a non-lead risk job.

In 2009 Safe Work Australia established a tripartite Lead Working Group in response to the position paper published by the AIOH and evidence published by the National Health and Medical Research Centre (NHMRC) on the health effects of lead exposure and associated PbB levels. In consultation with this group, Safe Work Australia commenced a program of work to review both the PbB removal levels and workplace exposure standard, taking into account current toxicological information, overseas trends and revised classification information for lead.

As published in the '*Decision regulation impact statement (RIS) for managing risks associated with lead in the workplace: Blood lead removal levels and workplace exposure standard*' (<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/decision-regulation-impact-statement-managing-risks-associated-lead-workplace-blood-lead-removal>), this work was further supported in 2011 when Safe Work Australia released the model Work Health and Safety (WHS) Regulations following public consultation. A number of submissions, including from the AIOH, recommended that the PbB levels proposed within the draft model WHS Regulations be reviewed as soon as possible to reflect the latest toxicological information.

In 2014 Safe Work Australia commissioned an independent, evidence-based report, which was peer reviewed by the United States' National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and comment was sought through the Safe Work Australia website. The report recommended reducing both the PbB removal level and the workplace exposure standard to protect workers from the adverse effects of lead exposure.

In December 2015, Safe Work Australia published a Consultation RIS, which proposed several options for decreasing the regulatory thresholds for lead in relation to PbB and workplace air contamination. The AIOH again provided a formal submission to Safe Work Australia in response to this Consultation RIS in February 2016.

A preferred option of lowering the PbB removal levels and maximum permissible airborne concentration of lead in the workplace was presented in the 2017 '*Decision RIS for managing risks associated with lead in the workplace: Blood lead removal levels and workplace exposure standard*' (<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/decision-regulation-impact-statement-managing-risks-associated-lead-workplace-blood-lead-removal>). A majority of state, territory and Commonwealth Ministers responsible for work health and safety supported implementation of the preferred options in the Decision RIS through model work health and safety legislation.

Option 2 for PbB removal levels and the workplace exposure standard (WES) were chosen. They mandated:

- a 20 µg/dL (target level) and 30 µg/dL (removal level) for females not of reproductive capacity and males; and
- 10 µg/dL removal level for females of reproductive capacity, which includes females who are pregnant and/or breastfeeding; and
- A WES of 0.05 mg/m as the inhalable fraction.

The updated WES has been recently added to the HCIS (<http://hcis.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/>) and the '*Workplace exposure standards for airborne contaminants*' (<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/workplace-exposure-standards-airborne-contaminants>)' document. The amendment to the PbB requirements in the WHS regulations are at <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/model-work-health-and-safety-blood-lead-removal-levels-amendment-regulations-2018-model> (<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/model-work-health-and-safety-blood-lead-removal-levels-amendment-regulations-2018-model>).

It is a long road to change workplace exposure standards.

Follow up comment from David Hughes (WorkSafe Vic) - Implementation of the new lead requirements at the State level:

Noting the recently gazetted amendments to the Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 with respect to lead: The Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Regulations 2018 have been made and came into effect on Tuesday 5 June 2018.

There will be a two year transition period to comply with the amended regulations.

The amendments include:

- reduction of the lead exposure standard to 0.05mg/m³ as an 8 hr TWA
- reduction of blood leads.

Some of the changes to blood leads are summarised below:

	Current (2017)		Amended (2020)
	µmol/L	µg/dL	µg/dL
Removal from lead-risk work			
• Woman of reproductive capacity	0.97	20	10
• For all others	2.41	50	30
In definition for lead risk work defined as lead-risk			
• Woman of reproductive capacity	0.48	10	5
• For all others	1.45	30	20

OHS Regulations amended in Vic

The Victorian *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017* have been amended to reduce blood lead thresholds and address "technical errors and inconsistencies".

State Finance Minister Robin Scott flagged the changes for lead-risk work – like foundry work, radiator repairs and sanding and blasting – late last year (see related article (https://www.ohsalert.com.au/nl06_news_selected.php?selkey=54188)), after other states and territories agreed to lower blood lead thresholds and exposure standards in the model WHS Regulations in early 2017 (see related article (https://www.ohsalert.com.au/nl06_news_selected.php?selkey=53509)).

Under the *Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Regulations 2018*

(http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubStatbook.nsf/93eb987ebadd283dca256e9); an employer must ensure, from mid-2020, that "an employee is not exposed to an airborne concentration of

lead dust, lead mist or lead fumes in the employee's breathing zone at a workplace that exceeds 0.05 milligrams [down from 0.15 milligrams] per cubic metre calculated as a time weighted average of the atmospheric concentration of lead over an eight-hour working day and a 40-hour working week".

The Amendment Regulations also redefine lead-risk work as work performed in a lead process that is reasonably likely to cause the blood lead level of the employee to exceed: 0.24 micromoles (down from 0.48 micromoles) per litre for a woman of reproductive capacity; and 0.97 micromoles (down from 1.45 micromoles) per litre in any other case.

They make consequential amendments to clauses on biological monitoring, removal from lead-risk work, post-removal medical examinations and returning to work after medical removal.

The technical changes include minor amendments to clauses for vehicle loading cranes and designers of plant.

The legislative instrument also amends clause 294 (http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/vic/consol_reg/ohasr2017382/s294.html) of the 2017 Regulations to remove the requirement to arrange for an independent visual inspection of a site on the completion of asbestos-removal work if that work only involves the removal of non-friable asbestos-containing materials not exceeding 10 square metres in total.

And further from Shelley Rowett (SafeWork SA):

Blood lead removal levels

SA has proposed to introduce reduced blood lead levels into WHS regulation (<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/model-work-health-and-safety-regulations>), with a 2 year transition period, when South Australia remakes the WHS regulations towards the end of 2018.

- Report of the Australasian Parliamentary Counsel's Committee (https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/sites/g/files/net4331/f/pcc_report_-_model_work_health_and_safety_blood_lead_removal_levels_am_.pdf?v=1529029646)
- Decision regulation impact statement for managing risks associated with lead in the workplace: Blood lead removal levels and workplace exposure standard (<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/decision-regulation-impact-statement-managing-risks-associated-lead-workplace-blood-lead-removal>)
- Model Work Health and Safety (Blood Lead Removal Levels) Amendment Regulations 2018 - Model Provisions (<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/model-work-health-and-safety-blood-lead-removal-levels-amendment-regulations-2018-model>)

The lead paint standard has been redrafted and a lower level of substance content now classifies a job as hazardous paint work – and therefore needs monitoring and controls under the new definitions.

The Chair of the AS4361.1 standards committee suggested that there are a number of potential support actions regulators and professional bodies like AUOH could consider doing to assist industry understanding of the requirements of the standard and promote the reduced lead exposure levels about to be introduced into WHS laws.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

AIHce EXP 2018



Brian Eva, Gandalf , Neil Grace

I attended my second AIHA Conference and Exhibition in May along with our Business Manager Kerrie Doherty. The venue was the Philadelphia Convention Centre where more than 4000 delegates and 200 exhibitors were present for an entertaining and enlightening conference. The conference was also live streamed for participants who were unable to attend the conference in person. For the first 2 days the "Wizard Con" convention was also being held at the Centre with over 20,000 delegates each day!

For those members that have not attended an AIHAceEXP, it is non-stop action from the opening PDC through to the final PDC's which are held on the Thursday following the conference close. There were over 100 PDC's to choose from, early bird sessions at 6.00am and sundown sessions from 8pm -10pm. The breakout area had yoga sessions, healthy eating / cooking sessions, resume writing coaching, job board and a range of other life style activities.

There was a smaller than usual Australian contingent this year, which is in part due to the IOHA Conference being held in Washington later this year, however we managed to have an entertaining time!

The range of topics covered general safety through environmental issues encountered by the occupational hygienist. There was significant emphasis on the psycho-social aspect of the workplace and the impact these issues have on the more traditional occupational hygiene workplace issues. The concept of "Total Exposure Health" (TEH) was also discussed which is a bold solution to capture workplace, environmental and lifestyle exposures to the individual using advances in science, technology and informatics.

If my opinion regarding the evolving role of the occupational hygienist was not already formed, this conference would certainly have confirmed this to any who attended.

The other significant topic that was conducted over a day with a series of Plenary and panel sessions was the opioid epidemic and the health & safety impacts on first responders, law enforcement personnel, medical technicians and crime lab analysts. The CDC's injury centre has reported that there are 115 deaths every day in the US from overdoses involving prescription or illegal opioids (>42,000 deaths per year!) www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose (<http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose>) . Opioid addiction in the US is causing an unprecedented public health crisis and many of the messages echoed during the sessions are what we are experiencing here in Australia.

It was interesting that this topic attracted significant media attention and a closed press conference was held following the plenary and panel sessions to promote the role of the Occupational (Industrial) hygienist in this area.

Another significant area of discussion was asbestos in soil with the US EPA looking to establish a quantitative approach to determine health risk. It was interesting to note that at present they conduct field assessments on contaminated land to determine the level of exposure to persons in the event that the proposed land use is granted i.e. suit up in full protective gear, complete with sampling pumps, and proceed to walk, jog, bike ride, play football, baseball etc in order to generate data on potential use exposures. This is done of course, in various weather conditions and time of the year! Great job apart from having to wear all the gear and a little difficult in some occupied residential areas!!

As always, fantastic hospitality and good discussions with our friends from the AIHA. The International Guests dinner in "the vault" was definitely a highlight, although the Prime Rib meal that Dr Sharyn Gaskin and I experienced was also something special!!!!

I look forward to catching up with our International friends in Washington in September 2018 for the IOHA Conference.

Brian Eva

2018 AIHce Philadelphia, PA May 2



Brian Eva & Neil Grace



Deborah Nelson, Neil Grace, Kerrie Doherty, Larry Sloan, Cynthia Ostrowski (President Elect AIHA) and Brian Eva following the tri-lateral meeting.



Brian Eva (President AIOH), Neil Grace (President BOHS), Deborah Nelson (President AIHA), Kerrie Doherty (AIOH Business Manager) and of course Carter Ficklen.....

ANOH-CON 2018 DATE CHANGE NOW 4TH - 6TH NOVEMBER!



ANOH-Con 2018 is now rescheduled dates to 2 days later than previously planned. The conference will now take place on the 4th - 6th of November, 2018 at National Yang-Ming University. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Information and details for the conference will be available in the coming months.

We look forward to seeing so many of you in Taipei, Taiwan this November!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

(ANOH: anoh.secretary@gmail.com, TOHA: shihweitsai@ntu.edu.tw)

IOHA June 2018 Newsletter Articles:

IOHA 2018 Conference Advance Registration Ends in July!

Don't forget to register early and save! IOHA 2018 Advance Rate Registration closes on July 22, 2018. Attendees can save \$100 on Standard Registration or take advantage of the "Stay and Save" discount to save even more money. Visit [here](#)

(<https://www.aiha.org/events/IOHA2018/Register/Pages/default.aspx>) for full details.

European Commission Proposes New Exposure Limits for Five Carcinogens

The Synergist, Published April 25, 2018

The European Commission announced April 5 that it was proposing new workplace exposure limits for five cancer-causing chemicals. For cadmium and its inorganic compounds, the Commission proposes an eight-hour time-weighted average exposure limit of 0.001 mg/m. Due to potential difficulties achieving this exposure level in workplaces, the Commission's proposal provides for a seven-year transition period during which an exposure limit of 0.004 mg/m would apply. Read more (<https://www.aiha.org/publications-and-resources/TheSynergist/Industry%20News/Pages/European-Commission-Proposes-New-Exposure-Limits-for-Five-Carcinogens.aspx>).

Product Stewardship Releases New Publication

Product Stewardship Society has released their latest publication, *Professional Practices of Product Stewardship*. Product Stewardship is an evolving and expanding area of concern and opportunity for companies and society. There are an ever-increasing number of individuals with "Product Stewardship" in their title and responsibilities within the organizations they support. However, there has not been a concise reference of professional practices for this highly important responsibility in maintaining an organization's "license to operate" with the public. This publication provides deep insight into the core areas of product stewardship, including the fundamentals of product stewardship, product risk management, product life cycle management, management of product compliance and liability, and product stewardship strategy and program management and offers guidance and support to both those new to product stewardship and those who have been involved for many years. Read more.

(https://online.productstewards.org/pssssa/ecssashop.show_product_detail?

[p_product_serno=1472&p_mode=detail&p_cust_id=&p_session_serno=3040741&p_trans_ty=&p_order_se](https://online.productstewards.org/pssssa/ecssashop.show_product_detail?p_product_serno=1472&p_mode=detail&p_cust_id=&p_session_serno=3040741&p_trans_ty=&p_order_se)

The International Mineralogical Association

**XXII MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL
MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION**
13-17 AUGUST 2018 | MELBOURNE



The International Mineralogical Association (IMA) is an umbrella organisation uniting the professional associations from 38 countries. The 22nd meeting of the IMA will be hosted by the Geological Society of Australia, and held in the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, between 13–17 of August, 2018. Further details are available at <https://www.ima2018.com/> (<https://www.ima2018.com/>).

The meeting will feature plenary lectures by eminent speakers and parallel sessions of shorter oral presentations spanning a diverse range of mineralogical topics. Of particular interest to members will be the session on:

Mineral-hazards: The Environmental and Human Health Problem Represented by Raw and Man-processed Mineral Phases with Special Attention to Asbestos Minerals, refer <https://www.ima2018.com/session-mineral-hazards-the/> (<https://www.ima2018.com/session-mineral-hazards-the/>). This current session 4 run on Thursday 16 August 2018.

The full programme is available at https://www.ima2018.com/wp-content/uploads/IMA2018-program-outline_A3.pdf (https://www.ima2018.com/wp-content/uploads/IMA2018-program-outline_A3.pdf).

IOHA Washington DC



**The 11th International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA)
International Scientific Conference**

September 24-26, 2018 | Washington, DC, USA | #IOHA2018USA

Join the Global Community of Occupational Hygienists as we meet at the 11 International Occupational Hygiene Association Conference in Washington, DC on the 24-26 September 2018. The theme of IOHA Washington 2018 is “Bringing Better Health to Workers Worldwide”.

All IOHA Washington 2018 events take place at:

Marriott Marquis Washington DC,
901 Massachusetts Avenue NW,
Washington, District of Columbia 20001 USA

Professional Development Courses will be run on 22, 23, and 27 September 2018.

IOHA Washington 2018 - 24-26 September 2018

Further details for IOHA Washington 2018 can be found at
<https://www.aiha.org/events/IOHA2018/Pages/default.aspx>
(<https://www.aiha.org/events/IOHA2018/Pages/default.aspx>)

Details for the IOHA Washington 2018 programme can be found at
<https://www.aiha.org/events/IOHA2018/Agenda/Pages/Program-at-a-Glance.aspx>
(<https://www.aiha.org/events/IOHA2018/Agenda/Pages/Program-at-a-Glance.aspx>)

MIHA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2018

MAINSTREAM INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE



The growth of Industrial Hygiene across the globe, in particular, Asia, has been very encouraging in the recent years. Research and advancement in the study of exposure science and the increasing trend of occupational diseases across the globe has called for various actions. The theme “Mainstreaming Industrial Hygiene”, is chosen to strengthen the focus of occupational hygienists and ensure the incorporation of occupational health as a crucial element in all business activities.

The primary venue for the MIHA ICE 2018 is:

Hotel Istana Kuala Lumpur,

73, Jalan Raja Chulan,

Kuala Lumpur 50200 Malaysia

MIHA International Conference and Exhibition 2018 and associated Professional Development Courses will be run in Kuala Lumpur on 22nd – 25th October 2018

Further details for MIHA ICE 2018 can be found at <https://mihaice.miha2u.org/>
(<https://mihaice.miha2u.org/>)

Please note the call for papers closes 17 July 2018, further details can be found at <https://mihaice.miha2u.org/conference-program/call-for-papers/>
(<https://mihaice.miha2u.org/conference-program/call-for-papers/>)



EXTENDED DEADLINE!

MIHA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION
"Mainstreaming Industrial Hygiene"

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association (MIHA) will be organizing the above event and would like you to share your expertise and experience in efforts to continuously improve global Industrial Hygiene practices by presenting at this prestigious conference.

Kindly submit your paper and/or poster abstract based on the given topics to technical@mihaice.miha2u.org
#MIHA #MIHAICE18 #mainstreamingIH

CPD CEP Up to **+15 Points!** upon approval

Conference Fees
Revised prices with 0% GST!

Conference Fees	Early Bird	Normal Price
MIHA Members	RM1,038 / USD285	RM1,180 / USD320
Non-MIHA Members	RM1,230 / USD335	RM1,450 / USD395
Presenters		RM945 / USD260
Full-time Students		RM430 / USD115
PDC Full		RM270 / USD65
PDC Half		RM385 / USD90
Exhibition Table		RM2,800 / USD765

*Price includes MIHA 15th Anniversary Dinner (not applicable for full-time students)

MIHA 15th Anniversary Dinner

Organized by: **MIHA** (Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association)

Supported by: **IOHA** (International Organization of Hygiene and Occupational Health), **PERKES** (Perkembangan Kesihatan dan Keselamatan), **Ministry of Health**

Submission deadline
Extended to **14th July 2018**

Registration [now open](#)

Early Bird Delegates
until **31st August 2018**
Become an early bird to enjoy discounted prices

Topics

- General IHD in Industrial Hygiene & OSH Management
- Health Risk Management (CDBA, HIRARC, etc.)
- On-site Exposure Investigation
- Sampling Strategy & Exposure Analysis
- Industrial Ventilation
- Noise Engineering Controls
- Specific Chemical Exposures
- Occupational Health Program / Promotion
- Ergonomics / Human Factors Engineering
- Epidemiology / Toxicology
- Carcinogens, Mutagens & Reproductive Toxicants
- Indoor Environmental Quality
- Occupational Exposure to Nanomaterials / Airborne Particles
- Regulations & Public Policy
- Hazard Communication

22nd - 25th October 2018

Istana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

(+60) 3 6135 2990
(+60) 19 3312 173

technical@mihaice.miha2u.org
www.mihaice.miha2u.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

University Update

News from Edith Cowan University



The first semester of 2018 saw a number of students complete their research projects, which is the capstone unit in the Masters of Occupational Hygiene and Toxicology and the Master of Occupational Health and Safety. Some projects assessed worker exposures in non-typical areas such as:

- Noise exposures of dog groomers.
- Aerosol exposures of workers in a composting facility.
- Cooling walls to reduce occupational heat stress.

During the compulsory on-campus workshops, students were given an opportunity to undertake authentic learning experiences, solving a number of real-world problems. In addition to regular dust monitoring and assessments of a range of other health hazards, students had an opportunity to evaluate a large extraction system in a wood working workshop Mount Lawley campus. The investigation into why the system failed, involved drilling into the ducts to measure velocities so they could see first-hand what happens when a system is inappropriately modified and poorly maintained.

The enthusiasm of the students provides challenges for a stimulating learning environment, challenging both peers and academic staff and empowering students in their learning.

A range of interesting research topics are being conducted by academic staff, and PhD students, including:

- Identification of the exposures to airborne contaminants faced by firefighters during different fire scenarios;
- **An assessment of risks associated with water misting systems used as a cooling intervention in public places in the Pilbara region of Western Australia;**

- Data accuracy in identifying obese patients and the OHS implications for nurses and hospital finances;
- A variety of OHS topics which address industry concerns.

We are proud to inform you that ECU continues to be the top public university in Australia for student satisfaction!

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>)) or at 08 6304 2243.

The University of Wollongong Update



Graduands

Hats off to our first Master WHS Occupational Hygiene graduating class. These students commenced with the first intake of our new course in 2015 and completed their studies in 2018. Although a few were unable to make it; our graduands came from as far away as Fiji, Far North Qld, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia. We had a vibrant celebration dinner the night before celebrating their hard work and success.

Global Teaching Excellence Award

The University of Wollongong (UOW) has become the only Australian university to be listed as a finalist for the prestigious Global Teaching Excellence Award (GTEA) for two consecutive years.

UOW was identified among 17 leading universities from Asia, Europe, North America, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Australia. The award recognises and celebrates institution-wide commitment to the pursuit of teaching excellence.

<https://media.uow.edu.au/releases/UOW247179.html>
(<https://media.uow.edu.au/releases/UOW247179.html>)

Future Leaders Institute 2018

Congratulations go to 5 inspired UOW Alumni and Future Leaders of AIOH:

Naree Carton, Marcella Donnellan, Holly Fletcher, Mitchell Thompson and Kristy Thornton who have all been accepted for the AIHA Future Leaders Institute (FLI) Program which will be held this September prior to the IOHA Conference in Washington, DC.

Research News

Holly Fletcher has just returned from Chile where she is researching “Improving health and safety outcomes in Chilean Miners a lifestyle intervention program to improve wellbeing and decrease musculoskeletal injuries”. This research is funded via an International Grant and the AES postgraduate scholarship.

Research Opportunity – get paid to study:

We have an opportunity coming up for some funded research on Respiratory Health of Metal Workers. If you are interested in a PhD focused on evaluating this current workplace issue and providing solutions to protect workers’ health, then this could be for you.

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

AIRMET PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD REPORT



Dr. Sharyn Gaskin

The Airmet PD Award is an incredibly generous and prestigious honour. It affords the mid-career winner attendance to the AIHce Conference which allows peer review of our work to an international Hygiene audience and invaluable opportunities to network with leading experts in the field. It also generously allows for PD visit/s in your specialist interest area. As this year's awardee I found the trip to be exceptionally useful to obtain a more rounded international experience involving the USA leaders in the field. It also helped to further broaden my skills and knowledge in Occupational Hygiene. I am most grateful to Airmet and the AIOH for the opportunity, and I encourage all eligible members to apply for next year. In particular I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to Peter Shiels (Airmet) who was a very generous and supportive host to me while in the USA for what was a truly memorable experience.

I started my Airmet Award journey in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as a base for my PD visit to NIOSH, Morgantown, WV and SKC site tour. Clustering visits around the AIHce conference location (which was Philadelphia) proved to be the best way to cram the most into a whirlwind itinerary. A walk in the Pittsburgh sunshine ensured that jet lag was brief, and also provided an opportunity to see an historic industrial hub town, at the junction where three rivers meet.

NIOSH facility – Morgantown, WV

A bus trip from Pittsburgh to the university town of Morgantown, West Virginia to visit the NIOSH facility was first on the cards. Occupational Health and Safety research has deep roots in Morgantown, with the first buildings being erected in 1971 at the site and focussing on the prominent problem of "black lung disease" in coal miners. In the mid-1990s the facility expanded and a 167,000 ft state-of-the-art research facility housing the Health Effects Laboratory Division (HELD) was created. It is here I spent my PD visits, focussing on two groups: the **dermal exposure research team** and the **silicosis surveillance team**.

As I indicated in my award acceptance speech, I was very much looking forward to seeing the laboratories at NIOSH and meeting Dr Fred Frasch (nerd crush!). I wasn't disappointed! Sadly no photographs were allowed to be taken inside the building, but I can assure you there was a tear shed at the beauty of their experimental areas! Dr Frasch heads the **dermal exposure research** team at NIOSH(HELD), and is a globally recognised leader in dermal exposure assessment. His research is focused on mechanistic understanding of the dermal absorption process, particularly as it relates to occupational skin exposures. Some of his recent work focuses on contaminants such as PFOA permeation from fire-fighting foams, benzene in gasoline exposure and the potential for fentanyl dermal uptake by emergency personnel in response to the escalating opioid problem in the USA. This visit was invaluable in further developing my specialisation in dermal exposure assessment. Fred was also an incredibly generous and inspiring host which ensured I got the most out of my time in Morgantown (both professionally and socially. Also a big thank you to fellow chemistry-nerd Dr Ray Wells for some inspiring chats about reactive indoor air chemistry and health. I was not left disappointed with NIOSH research, and I left with serious lab-envy! Some very useful resources in this area for members include the NIOSH Finite Dose Skin Permeation Calculator (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/skin/finiteskinpermcalf.html>) (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/skin/finiteskinpermcalf.html>)), IH SkinPerm for estimating skin absorption (<https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/VolunteerGroups/Pages/Exposure-Assessment-Strategies-Committee.aspx>) (<https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/VolunteerGroups/Pages/Exposure-Assessment-Strategies-Committee.aspx>)) and Skin Signs and systemic disease <https://www.dermnetz.org/topics/skin-signs-and-systemic-disease> (<https://www.dermnetz.org/topics/skin-signs-and-systemic-disease>)).

The **silicosis surveillance** team including Dr Jacek Mazurek, Dr Paul Henneberger and Dr Patricia (Patty) Schleiff were also very valuable and inspiring to spend time with. I was particularly interested by their surveillance work around engineered/artificial stone benchtops and respirable crystalline silica (RCS) exposure. This has become an increased area of concern for RCS exposure since the products being supplied are typically higher in silica content compared with traditional stone (some as much as 90% by weight) (source: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3768.pdf>) (<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3768.pdf>)). There has also been suggested links to silicosis in younger fabrication workers than traditionally found in other sectors (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6405a5.htm>) (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6405a5.htm>)). A Health Hazard Evaluation Report (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2014-0215-3250.pdf>) (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2014-0215-3250.pdf>) published by NIOSH describes an USA exposure example, and I am told that Government Hygienists in Australia are currently looking nationally into our exposure perspective on this (for more information contact Mahinda Seneviratne, SafeWork NSW who is coordinating the Australian work in this area). Another notable initiative from the surveillance team was the "Faces of Black Lung" video dialogues, in which sufferers of coal workers' pneumoconiosis share their experiences. Very moving and powerful stuff (see video <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/works/cover-sheet1908.html>) (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/works/cover-sheet1908.html>)).

So following a jam-packed few days in Morgantown, WV it was on to SKC in the rural town of Eighty Four for a site tour hosted by the affable Doug Dowis. An extra treat was having Debbie Dietrich on site, and also representatives from SKC Asia based in Singapore. The family-run history of SKC Inc. was fascinating, as was the revelation that much of the products we know and love (e.g. tedlar bags, sample tubes) are still meticulously assembled by hand. A very enjoyable day in a beautiful part of Pennsylvania. Then it was time to head off to Philadelphia for the AIHce conference, well almost... thanks to the reliably unreliable US airline system, a quick visit to the Andy Warhol Museum and a baseball game at PNC Park was thoroughly enjoyed.

AIHce 2018

On to Philadelphia for the AIHce 2018, and boy what a massive conference that was! Some very thought-provoking plenary sessions including a panel on “Mitigating opioid exposure risks in first responders – What’s been done, what’s left to do and how you can help?” where IH/OH professionals were commended for being integral in identifying and assessing exposure in other related workers at risk e.g. forensic lab analysts, mortuary staff. The breadth of hygiene was massive and I enjoyed sessions on everything from 3D printing technology emissions, to a mock trial with the use of IH testimony in a wrongful termination case, and of course support of our Aussie presenters (e.g. Andy McCarthy, now with Rio Tinto in Mongolia). The closing session on the topical “Total Exposure Health” concept explored the bold suggestion of using advances in individual genomic science, technology and informatics to identify workers’ “adverse genetic proclivity” with a view to tailoring their workplace exposure profile. Food for thought definitely, notably no mention of the ethical considerations in this rapidly expanding area of science. The full program can be found at <https://www.aihce2018.org/Agenda/Pages/default.aspx> (<https://www.aihce2018.org/Agenda/Pages/default.aspx>) .

The enormous Exhibition was also a highlight. I explored the interesting exhibits while in the company of two Presidents. In particular the emerging technologies caught my eye with some interesting exhibitors such as the wearable physiological monitors to assess heat strain (Zephyr™ BioHarness), and intriguing artificial intelligence system designed to detect fibres (and soon moulds) in air using a fully automated microscope system (xRapid). An enjoyable addition to the Exhibition that I hadn’t seen before was also a Health and Wellness section, including morning chair yoga which brushed off the cobwebs and was enjoyed daily. As always the SKC Hat Party hosted by Debbie Dietrich was lots of fun! Finally, a visit to the Rocky statue and taste of the local delicacy Philly Cheesesteak rounded off my Philadelphia experience.

Overall this was an experience of a lifetime and one I will remember for years to come.

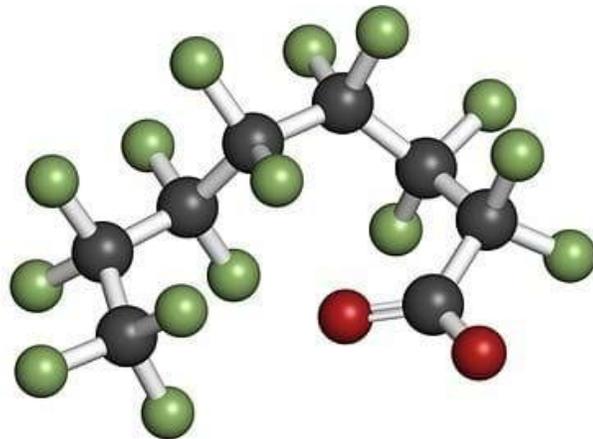
INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR AN AIOH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD?

[click here to find our more \(/aiohwards/professional-development-awards1\)](/aiohwards/professional-development-awards1)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Regional Update

Queensland South Update



AIOH Queensland South Chapter Update

Mark Russell

On 14 June, a total of 24 hygienists, chemists, environmental scientists and occupational physicians attended the Queensland South presentation given by Mr. David Springer, General Manager of the Envirolab Group on "PFAS in Blood – just how contaminated is the population?".

Following a networking session and brief AIOH News segment, David provided us with an overview on per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, (better known as PFAS, but including PFOA, PFOS & PFHxA). They are used in aviation hydraulic fuels, outdoor clothing, semiconductors, pizza boxes (pre-2010) and of course fire-fighting foams. Sadly, David also informed us that PFAS has been detected in beer, chocolate wrappers and Gore-Tex clothing, so I have some lifestyle choices to ponder. Probably over a beer when I go camping next.

The characteristics of the chemical, exposure pathways, toxicokinetics and environmental dispersal models were discussed, with some comparatives for drinking water and ecosystem levels given.

David also put a number of questions to the group around current health and environmental guidelines, spoke about the precision and accuracy of analytical techniques and discussed some of the numerous (potential) pitfalls around collecting environmental samples (although based on testing, the clear and present danger posed by sticky notes may be a tad overstated). He also considered communication and community impacts (what does the number in my blood test actually mean?) and gave us some further information sources.

The field of study seems to be ripe for budding Ph.D candidates or Masters students still to pick a dissertation topic. Congratulations to our two audience-participation winners, each taking home a coveted PFAS molecule model – a great prize for the Thursday-night-hygiene-nerd crowd. After the formal session, networking continued in the Criterion Hotel.

Thank you to David Springer and Envirolab Group as speaker sponsor, to WSP as event sponsor and to our event attendees for their participation and interaction.

For those of you on Facebook, Peter Aspinall has established the Social Hygienists of The Sunshine State closed group. If you would like to join, search Facebook for SHotSS or contact Peter via FB to get an invitation. Please contact me at mark.russell2@ge.com (mailto:mark.russell2@ge.com) or 0435 385 709 for suggestions on the next Queensland South Sundowner.

Scientists call for control on all PFAS compounds ... (<https://chemicalwatch.com/53768/scientists-call-for-control-on-all-pfas-compounds>)

chemicalwatch.com

Scientists call for control on all PFAS compounds. Experts highlight 'intractable, potentially never-ending chemical management issue' 23 February 2017 / Academic studies, Global, Persistent, bioaccumulative & toxic, PFCs, Risk assessment

Victoria Update

AIOH Victorian Chapter Update

Theresa Walsh

Victorian Chapter of AIOH has been busily talking to local members and looking at opportunities to vary the format of how we meet. We are excited to announce our series of '**a day in the life of...**' These events will focus on sharing an insight to real-world challenges and opportunities for Hygienists across the State, via site visits or 'virtual tours' plus discussion of what takes up our valuable time on a day-to-day basis.

Our first scheduled event will look at a day in the life of Catie Redshaw, Manufacturing S&S Manager/Group Occupational Hygienist at Dulux Group Limited. Dulux site visit will focus on how powder coatings (as opposed to liquid coatings) are manufactured and understand a few of the hazards associated with the process.

Catie has been working in Occupational Hygiene and Workplace Health and Safety for 15 years, with industry experience in UK, New Zealand and Australia. Catie has recently completed her Masters in Occupational Hygiene and has been gathering a collection of awards ever since. Catie was the winner of the Industrial Scientific AIOH award at 2017 Conference and more recently awarded the honour of 2018 Top WHS Student from University of Wollongong.

Event Summary:

Date: Wednesday 18th July, 4pm.

Site: Dulux, 1-15 Pound Road West Dandenong South 3175 (<https://maps.google.com/?q=1-15+Pound+Road+West+Dandenong+South+3175&entry=gmail&source=g>)

Cost: \$20 for AIOH members, includes parking onsite

Important information: Please arrive no later than 4:15pm. Site tours to commence 4:30pm prompt. Please wear safety shoes, long sleeves and trousers. We will nominate a venue in the proximity where we would encourage participants to continue the conversation and network with your peers over dinner/drinks.

Capacity: Due to the nature of these events numbers will be limited, please register asap to ensure your attendance.

Other workplaces we hope to have upcoming events at include:

- Worksafe Victoria
- MMG
- RMIT
- Various specialist Consultants across the State

If you would like to provide your AIOH colleagues with an insight to your workplace and have the collective Hygiene brain muse over your day to day challenges, please register your interest to host a 'day in the life of...' with Theresa AIOH State Liaison Officer Vic Theresa.walsh@rmit.edu.au (<mailto:Theresa.walsh@rmit.edu.au>) or 0488 302 161

For more information and to book your attendance please refer to: <https://www.aioh.org.au/events-public/vic-chapter-meeting> (<https://www.aioh.org.au/events-public/vic-chapter-meeting>)



Barry Cheeson and Andrew Chandran

WA Chapter Update

Janine McClements

Another very successful WA Chapter sundowner event was held on Monday, May 28, at the ChemCentre, Curtin University. On this occasion Andrew Chandran, the Australian regional HSE Manager for Jacobs Engineering Group, was welcomed to present “A Twist on Conventional Wellness Programmes – A Mental Health Initiative”.

Creating a mentally healthy workplace is a topical area, and it deserves to be when the concept of “health” is accepted to encompass mental and social well-being along with the physical aspect. Andrew put it to the audience early in his presentation however that conventional workplace wellness programs often fall short of the mark.

Andrew demonstrated his point with a bow-tie concept example. Since stress is related to mental ill health, he had the audience contribute by identifying and fitting elements of their workplace wellness programs into the model with stress at its centre. He then emphasised the opportunity to capture more preventative elements in those programs along with the mitigation controls.

One way to do this, Andrew suggested, is applying a qualitative assessment approach. He explained how he has been involved with this in practice, identifying SEGs and using questionnaires to identify contributors to workplace stress. From this information SMART, prevention focused actions, were identified. In one group, for example, induction processes were examined and improved. This meant new

starters were given a better understanding of the business' procedure and resources rather than learning on the fly. Other prevention based activities had a social focus centred around improving workplace relationships.

The WA Chapter thanks Andrew for sharing his presentation. It was clearly enhanced by his experience in off-shore petroleum risk management and occupational hygiene, and the clever application of familiar processes to ensure the holistic management of mental well-being at work definitely struck a chord with the group. It is hoped that many will answer Andrew's "call to arms" and apply this information in their own workplaces.

Thanks also to WA SLO, Dr Barry Chesson for organising the event and to Greg Payne, Di Corey and Tanja Koeberle-Troy for manning the registration desk. Our members are also reminded to capture the following dates in their schedules and to share the event information with colleagues and friends. Have them come along, join the crowd and enjoy the quality food, drink and company!!

- August 27 – Fatigue Management Part 3 – Dr Nick Mabbott, Beyond Midnight Consulting
- November 19 – Risk Based Health & Hygiene Management Plans – Paul Foley, DMIRS

One final, but very important, acknowledgement goes to the ChemCentre. Their wonderful support for these events, providing the venue and staff to assist with making all things run smoothly, is a significant contributor to the ongoing success of this program.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

PD&E

The PD&E Committee is seeking to provide a broader range of professional development opportunities for members and would appreciate any feedback members have on professional development needs or preferences. Please contact the Chair of the PD&E Committee, Dr Kelly Johnstone: k.johnstone2@uq.edu.au (<mailto:k.johnstone2@uq.edu.au>)

RAFQ

It has been a while with no news on our home hunting project but like a duck paddling on a pond there has been plenty of unseen activity going on. The property purchase group, RAFQ and Council members have looked at a variety of properties with the help of a property advocate and

have found only one which fits our basic needs and budget. Listed at 110 but more like a shade under 100 square metres, the office fronts the block looking over Western Avenue in Westmeadows, an address that rolls readily off the tongue for easy remembrance by our aged members. Not much in the line of meadows in the vicinity but it looks like a good neighbourhood (to be upgraded should they be so lucky as to have AIOH move in) a stone's throw from the airport. Part of a modern, well-appointed office block it boasts ducted heating and cooling, NBN, new carpet and four car spaces at a price allowing a bespoke fit-out. At 100 m it is a compromise on the space we would like, but with canny design it will accommodate current AIOH staff in comfort, provide a meeting room suitable for Council and free us from escalating rental bills. It may not accommodate future staffing growth over the next twenty years (one of our key objectives) but it will allow for some growth in staff numbers. In the last six months or so we have seen nothing larger that we would be able to afford other than factories, low on natural light requiring extensive and expensive fit-outs on top of the purchase price. If at some time we more than double staff numbers we could sell and re-buy with the boosted financial resources such a staffing increase would signify. In reference to our original purchasing brief, this property meets our requirements on all aspects other than possibly allowing for potential growth over a 20 year horizon and comes in well within our budget. So at the time of writing this bulletin council and our advisory committees are in agreement and AIOH are making an offer for the office in Western Avenue, Westmeadows and will buy subject to the normal legal wrangling that goes with a property purchase.

Jeremy Trotman

Hon Treasurer

Exposure Standards Committee

Exposure Standards Committee update

Ian Firth

The Exposure Standards Committee responded to a request from the WA Mining Industry Advisory Committee (MIAC) regarding health effects of Lithium.

They requested contemporary information on the health effects of chronic occupational exposures to Lithium compounds, especially Lithium carbonate, in order that Safety Data Sheets can be updated and standardised across the resources sector.

Western Australia is tipped to produce more than half of the world's Lithium supply by the end of 2018. New mines are coming online and the world's appetite for the materials used to make batteries for electric vehicles grows.

The committee has drafted a position paper on Lithium and its compounds and would appreciate any input from AIOH members with any expertise on measuring and managing Lithium exposures. It is noted that there is a lot of information on the medical use of lithium compounds, but little in the peer reviewed literature on workplace exposure and effects.

The committee also provided a response to New Zealand Worksafe regarding their review of a number of WESs. Comment was provided on the proposed WESs for Beryllium, Manganese, Nickel, Portland Cement, Synthetic Mineral (vitreous) Fibres, Sulphuric Acid and Total Welding Fume.

AIOH Foundation

Its time for an update!

The AIOH Foundation was formed in late 2016 as a registered charity. Our vision is for the universal application of occupational hygiene principles in Australian workplaces, to eliminate occupational illness and disease.

Our approach differs from the AIHA Foundation that provides scholarships and awards, or from the UK BOHS, which combines being a charity and an organisation representing the profession.

The Foundation is advocating for healthy workplaces in a complementary way to the AIOH. Our brief doesn't include the day to day running of a learned society. Instead our aim is to promote the principles of occupational hygiene, but not from any particular worker health protection interest group perspective. We think we can, by our status, provide a long term focus and a powerful independent voice to raise awareness of and promote the use of occupational hygiene principles. In so doing we will realise our vision: healthy Australian workplaces.

The AIOH and the AIOH Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that sets out our mutual commitments including limited administrative and financial assistance from the AIOH. The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the AIOH's financial, administrative and moral support.

The Foundation has been given a great head start over the past two years with generous donations from AIOH members, that will be matched by a promised one for one donation from 3M as part of the famous BBQ apron auctions in 2016 and 2017.

We are thankful to all of our donors for their generosity and support for our vision.

So, what have we been doing?

Two of our objectives are advocating for healthy workplaces with national and local policy makers such as Safe Work Australia, and promotion of occupational health across industry sectors.

We have had high level meetings with Safe Work Australia seeking an increased emphasis on measuring the impact of health affecting agents. Unfortunately progress is slow. The UK HSE and NZ websites are exemplars in highlighting awareness of occupational illness, recognising its long term covert nature, and the fact that it is not generally captured by workers' compensation statistics. The HSE estimates 13,000 (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/> (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/>)) deaths per year in the United Kingdom are directly linked to past exposures at work primarily chemicals or dust. These numbers provided the rationale for the outstanding program 'Breathe Freely' (<http://www.breathefreely.org.uk> (<http://www.breathefreely.org.uk>)) developed by BOHS. New Zealand is also now turning its attention to this silent epidemic (<https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/work-related-health/why-the-focus-on-work-related-health/> (<https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/work-related-health/why-the-focus-on-work-related-health/>)).

But what about Australia, what do our statistics look like? Whether we like it or not the view of Australian boardrooms is that if it's not measured it can't be controlled (or even considered). So it's understandable that there is a prevailing view that worker health protection and occupational disease is not a problem in this country. This is because there is no evidence to the contrary. And that's just the point, there are no reliable Australian numbers. There are areas of awareness and great work on particular issues often due to strong individual efforts but there is a general silence from Australian industry, community leaders and Regulators about the need for better worker health protection. The tragic legacy of workplace disease continues to march on in Australia, safely hidden by ignorance and even complacency. As an example the recent Safe Work Australia industry snapshots for priority industries

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/collection/priority-industry-snapshots-2018> (<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/collection/priority-industry-snapshots-2018>) although very well presented are based on current workers compensation statistics so have no mention of illness in the 'serious claims' pie charts or anywhere else. It's not our intention to understate the importance of traumatic injuries and their immediate impact but rather to recognise there is a hidden epidemic from largely known hazards that we can and should control.

The Foundation is also working towards facilitating occupational hygiene awareness in industry sectors where understanding of the benefits of this approach is not traditionally high; workplaces in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and construction to name a few. There are of course pockets of excellence, some due to the efforts of Occupational Hygienists, but generally awareness is poor particularly in small to medium sized businesses. It is interesting to note that awareness and action in mining is quite high with a workforce of around 200K. Contrast this with occupational hygiene awareness in the construction sector employing 1.2 million workers, in manufacturing with 890K workers, or 325K in agriculture, forestry and fishing. There are also around 1.5 million employed in health care of which a significant portion.

http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp (https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/) may be exposed to health affecting agents. We know that developing and encouraging awareness programs in these areas will take time. We would certainly welcome your ideas and input for work in this area or indeed for any of our activities.

Finally as a charity we must meet, quite rightly, rigorous requirements from the Charities Commission. Behind the scenes we are steadily developing a small core of essential straightforward policies and procedures, and ensuring we meet all of our financial and other reporting requirements. These policies will be available on our web page. We are fortunate in having Board Member, Ryk Eksteen, who has a day job as a chartered accountant in the 'not for profit' sector helping us with financial matters.

Lastly we are pleased to welcome Caroline Langley to our Board. Caroline was instrumental in setting up the AIOH Foundation and will offer great energy and wisdom to our Board.

Please check out our website, the link is AIOH <https://www.aioh.org.au/who-we-are/aioh-foundation> (https://www.aioh.org.au/who-we-are/aioh-foundation) in the Who We Are section of the AIOH website.

Charles Steer

Chair, AIOH Foundation

Certification Board

COH Board Update

Neil Goulding

The 2018 COH Audit

The COH Board has completed their deep-dive audit of members whose COH membership cycle ended December 2017. From this audit, we can share some key lessons and reminders:

- **Ethics** – Members assumed that their corporate ethics training meets the COH ethics requirements. This is not always the case and all ethics courses must be submitted, reviewed and approved prior to claiming non-AIOH sponsored ethics training. Some corporate packages are mainly financial-based with little or no case studies for how to conduct oneself in the field of hygiene or allied professions.
- **Evidence** – Some members only updated their maintenance worksheets and evidence AFTER being told they were subject to audit. Some members assumed that the AIOH retained all copies of their training courses, conference attendance and SLO meetings. Especially problematic for those who changed employment and left their evidence with their previous employer. While most records were acquired, it created an added burden to the AIOH office who had to search the older database to retrieve this information.
- **Maintenance requests** – Some members added activities without submitting a maintenance request for review and correct points allocation.

- **Active occupational hygiene practice** – Some members provided no evidence demonstrating that they were active in the field of occupational hygiene at least 20% of the time.
- **Incorrect entries** – Some members over-allocated points to their activities.

CORPORATE ETHICS TRAINING

The COH Board is phasing out recognition of corporate ethics training as most content provided is not meeting the learning outcomes defined by AIOH. Those who need to complete ethics training by 31-Dec-2018 should book into the AIOH course when it is offered.

2017 COH EXAM FEEDBACK

We have received valuable feedback from past candidates on their COH exam experience. We are taking the feedback very seriously and striving to improve the COH examination process. The aim being candidates are then better prepared on exam day and are assessed in a consistent manner. Key improvements underway include:

- Facilitating virtual sessions ~6-8 weeks before exam day, in addition to the CES run on the Saturday.
- Adding a mid-year exam option (commencing 2019).
- Revising the exam questions to be more balanced.
- Reviewing the assessment criteria for consistent marking by the exam panel.

REMINDERS

- Make sure you attend the AIOH-sponsored ethics training during your maintenance cycle.
- Submit new maintenance requests to the Membership Coordinator for review.
- Upload evidence for each activity you add to your maintenance workbook. Evidence may include meeting invites, signed attendance sheets, transcripts, agendas, conference papers and emails from supervisors or independent peers

2018 COH EXAMS

We are pleased to receive a high number of candidates who are planning to sit their COH exam this year. We are looking to accommodate all submissions but are close to maximum capacity of applications for 2018. As a result, the following changes are being deployed in 2018:

1. Training and preparation for the COH exam will be facilitated via a series of instructor-led virtual sessions from third quarter 2018. The objective of these sessions is to prepare potential candidates for the year-end exams (or beyond) weeks before their assigned exam date. These will be at no cost to the applicants this year.
2. The CES for COH preparation will not be offered at the Melbourne conference on the Saturday afternoon, rather with candidates directed to attend the virtual sessions.
3. Exams will commence from Saturday afternoon and carry through Sunday.

KEY DATES

~**Aug** COH exam preparation (Series 1) - Three by 1 hour sessions presented in a WebEx style format. (Dates and times to be confirmed).

30-Sep Second round COH year-end applications close

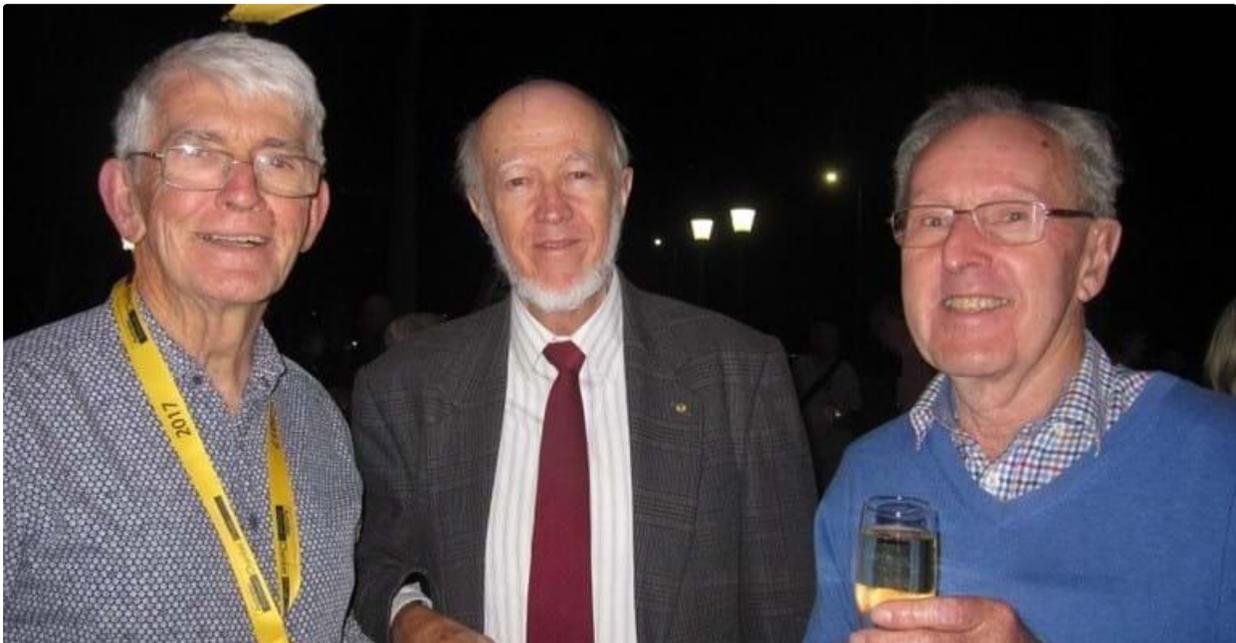
~**Oct** COH exam preparation (Series 2) - Repeat of the August Series for those unable to attend. (Dates and times to be confirmed).

1-2-Dec COH exams (Melbourne)

Need to know more? Contact Andrea Mitchell, AIOH Membership Coordinator (03) 9338 1635 or email membership@aioh.org.au (mailto:membership@aioh.org.au).

Neil Goulding, COH Board Chair

WHEN PASSION TURNS TO DUST



Brian O'Connor (left), David Grantham (centre) and Bernard Jordan (right)

Yes, dear reader, this can happen despite the best intentions of even well-meaning occupational hygienists however in this case, there was a welcome twist in the outcome.

After 20 years without contact, two former Hygiene colleagues, both now well and truly retired, met by chance whilst each following their passion for chamber music at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville during August last year.

It didn't take long to drain the passion for music (about 15 seconds) and get onto the serious topic of respirable silica.

Long standing AIOH members will remember Bernard Jordan from his time lecturing and working in crystallography and silica at Deakin University during the heyday of its Graduate Diploma in Occupational Hygiene. Some may also remember David Grantham (ex-Queensland) from slightly more recent times. We were probably both better then at Hygiene and science than music, but it is now both easier and more enjoyable to carry on, and develop, an interest in music after abandoning the laboratory and all that expensive sampling and testing equipment. All one really requires is a musical instrument, a CD player (on-line demand music if you are younger than 70), some decent music subscriptions and not too much noise induced hearing loss. Not sure, though, which our encounter later this year will involve.

AIOH CONTACTS

AIOH President

Brian Eva

president@aioh.org.au (mailto:president@aioh.org.au)

AIOH President-Elect

Julia Norris

presidentelect@aioh.org.au (mailto:presidentelect@aioh.org.au)

AIOH Treasurer

Jeremy Trotman

treasurer@aioh.org.au (mailto:treasurer@aioh.org.au)

AIOH Secretary

Simon Worland

secretary@aioh.org.au (mailto:secretary@aioh.org.au)

Business Manager

Kerrie Doherty

0498 007 975

kerrie@aioh.org.au (mailto:kerrie@aioh.org.au)

Conference & Events Manager

Samira Wadhavkar

0488 733 814

conference@aioh.org.au (mailto:conference@aioh.org.au)

Membership Coordinator

Andrea Mitchell

03 9338 19635

membership@aioh.org.au (mailto:membership@aioh.org.au)

AIOH Bookkeeper

Sharon Buffone

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03 9338 1635

accounts@aioh.org.au (mailto:accounts@aioh.org.au)