

occupational hygiene MATTERS

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PRESIDENT • ALAN ROGERS • AIOH BUSINESS & INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Council Activities - March to May 2015

There is no helicopter or rafting photos in this issue as it has been a very busy 3 months with the Executive and Council having met separately each on two occasions and my attendance at the IOHA London. As you will see from the activities listed below its about to get even more exciting and busier towards the end of 2015.

Focus has been on the delivery of procedures that are to deliver the four key focus areas that have been identified as priorities for 2015 being:

1. Organisational and Business Development of the AIOH
2. Provision of Better Quality Member Services
3. Member Education and Professional Development
4. Consolidation and Rationalisation of National and International Activities and Relationships

In terms of financial management we have appointed new accountants Collins & Co who are located in Melbourne and they specialise in providing services to not-for-profit organisations such as the AIOH. The improvement in accountancy efficiency and service to RAFQ and Council has been incredible with a complete revision of MYOB account details; more logical and revealing presentation of our financial situation; a review of existing efficacy of our past, present and future accounts; the rectification of long term historical deficiencies in our financial management; but most importantly for Council members, the direct creation of comparisons between budget and actuals month by month and year to date to greatly assist in financial decision making. In conducting this extensive review and upgrade of our financial system there has been some minor one-off costs but this has been necessary to ensure that in 'drawing this line in the sand' and progressing into the future we have a robust, secure and transparent system for managing the AIOH members financial assets. With the change in accountants the annual ongoing costs will remain similar to those from the last few years. At the December AGM we will be putting before the membership a recommendation for change in auditors so as to improve surety in our financial accountability.

Arising out of requests from the membership and more decisively the directions given by the meeting of AIOH Past-Presidents, 2015 Council and our hard working Laura have been working with the Communications Committee to scope, find suitable and cost effective providers, avoid the many pit falls associated with website development, and to structure and provide content, for a new website. By the time you receive this Newsletter a tender will have been let to develop a suitable webpage that will meet member's needs and provides considerable efficiencies to our

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office functions. The timeline is for a 3-4 month completion date. In the interim some items will be updated on the existing webpage, so please be patient as we take this leap forward. If you would like to assist in proving and upgrading content then contact Laura or members of the Communication Committee. This new website comes at considerable cost and Council has taken a very deliberate, detailed and strategic focus in making such a step and will to finance it from the AIOH reserves.

Meanwhile other activities initiated by Council and commencing in 2015 include the development of a professional and diverse area mentoring system for members, the development of an extensive modular AIOH education and training program, along with a program to provide skills of leadership for the members- the first steps of which will occur at the Perth Conference where the legendary presenter Perry Logan will facilitate a one day PDC which will then be further developed as a routine ongoing service to members.

The AIOH President and AIOH Executive Director are part of a group of similar lead representatives from the three societies AIOH, AIHA and BOHS which meet at each of the respective societies conferences to discuss mutual areas of activity, to commit to provide cooperation and exchange of ideas, systems and programs on business and scientific matters and to bring forward each of the societies new initiatives. In 2015 this collaborative society activity has increased in scope and vision and in so doing will provide considerable benefits to the AIOH and its members. The BOHS has launched a program around prevention of lung disease in the construction industry and AIHA is initiating a Career Development Program and AIOH has presented its membership development initiatives that I have listed above. Council is investigating ways by which we can apply these international activities into our local initiatives for the benefit of members.

Australians make their international mark at IOHA London

The 10th IOHA International Scientific Conference in conjunction with BOHS was held in London recently in April. The conference theme of *“Building on Occupational Hygiene Together”* was fitting given the numerous international delegates and speakers providing a multi-disciplined view of worker health protection.

It was pleasing to see the great degree of involvement of our own AIOH members (over 20!) at this international conference, and the mark that Australians provided on delivering a high level professional, diverse and robust view of occupational hygiene to the conference.

Besides representing AIOH at various committee meetings I had the pleasure to perform a number of Presidential duties on behalf of AIOH members,

You may remember at the 2014 AIOH Conference in Melbourne, **Trevor Ogden** was awarded Honorary Fellow status with the AIOH. I had the privilege of presenting Trevor with his certificate at London in front of the IOHA and Annals of Occupational Hygiene Boards and we reminisced over our first meeting back in 1976 at the then newly created HSE laboratories Cricklewood and his later visits to Australia.

In addition I had the fortunate opportunity to personally present the winner of last year’s AIOH Canary to **Alex Wilson** at the IOHA Gala Dinner, the next day Alex was elected as the secretary at the BOHS AGM which is a task I know he will be capable of setting a very high standard.



Gary Rhyder and Alan Rogers presenting Trevor Ogden with his Certificate as Honorary Fellow



AIOH members - Mitchell Thompson, Kate Cole, Kristy Thornton, Alex Wilson, Alan Rogers, Sue Reed, and Holly Fletcher

You will find all of the 2014 AIOH Canary Videos up on our existing website. I encourage you to watch these and share them among your network of colleagues and friends.

Gary Rhyder represented the AIOH as the official representative to IOHA at their Board meeting, the IOHA Board is to meet at our Perth Conference so you will be able to meet first-hand the representatives and Presidents of a considerable number of International occupational hygiene associations.

Noel Tresider was elected to the new Board of OHTA and joins the executive directors of BOHS, AIHA and our own ED Barry Westhorpe. Noel will be presenting the OHTA new strategies at our Perth Conference in December.

Brian Davies was present to recognise the setting up of a new OHTA scholarship fund that was named in honour of Sue Davies who had been instrumental in setting out and facilitating student and presenters notes for OHTA training modules.

Kristy Thornton had entered and won the BOHS 3M Young Hygienist Competition which covered a complimentary trip to the London conference. The award required entrants to create a PPT on *‘Getting your PPE Facts right – 5 facts and 5 myths’*. Her winning presentation is professional, factual in a most practical manner and most of all hard hitting in its message, it is publically available on SlideShare and via Twitter which I encourage you to view.

AIOH members made a number of presentations of their work at the formal sessions and these were warmly received by conference attendees.

Noel Tresider gave a moving and insightful presentation as part of winning the IOHA Lifetime Achievement Award. Noel’s presentation was entitled, *“The Best Job in the World – But have we lost the ‘Art’ in our craft”*. Presenting to a packed auditorium of nearly 700

delegates, Noel talked through his career in occupational hygiene and paid respect to the fellow AIOH members that guided him along his career journey. He provided some mirth when his presentation included historical photos from the late 1970's of AIOH members some of whom were present in the London audience (bell bottom trousers, mutton chops, long hair and moustaches and pigmented beards rather than grey).



Noel Tresider taking us back to the 1980's – just try and name the hygienist!

Martin Jennings presented a paper entitled, “*The effect of light on human health and implications for the work environment*”. Martin stressed that the quality of lighting should be considered as a health factor in the human environment, and that existing standards may not be sufficient for this purpose, and proposed a new approach for such an assessment.

Sue Reed co-facilitated a workshop on, “*Occupational Hygiene in Universities – The Future*”. The workshop discussed different approaches to the delivery of occupational hygiene education in the university environment and explored ideas on ways to encourage more students to study occupational hygiene.

Debbie Glass presented the results of an exposure and risk assessment in the Australian Fire-fighter's Cancer and Mortality Study. The retrospective study assembled from existing fire agency records involved reviewing the records of over 232,000 fire fighters. In summary, a strong healthy worker effect was found, which means in essence that firefighters had lower mortality than the general population but cancer risk was less reduced than other causes of death for paid firefighters. Overall the risk of cancer incidence was increased for full time and part time firefighters, with prostate cancer and melanoma being of particular note. Prostate cancer incidence was also increased for volunteer firefighters although overall cancer was not in excess.

Kevin Hedges was part of a group of passionate members of *Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB)* who helped facilitate a lunchtime session on the value of the work performed by WHWB. In a small engaging gathering, attendees were informed of the many areas of focus of WHWB and encouraged to join and contribute to areas of need.

The Aussies shone through when **Kate Cole** opened a session on Career Development where she presented her view of our role as occupational hygienists in today's modern workplace. Kate spoke about the importance of harnessing the art of our profession and her experiences in overcoming the non-technical challenges of becoming an occupational hygienist. The session then provided in forum style an opportunity to hear from a select group of both

career professionals and young hygienists on their perspectives of career development. I was honoured to be part of the panel of three “older career” professionals, while **Mitchell Thompson**, winner of the 2014 AIOH Draeger Pacific Young Hygienist Award was one of three panel members representing the “younger” hygienists. In a rare informal chat-style session, the panel of somewhat “older” members were encouraged to speak openly of their experiences on what had helped us in our career paths, and conversely, the younger hygienists contributed as what help they felt they needed to expand the depth of their careers. It also provided an opportunity to hear the valued contributions each respective IOHA member society had played in career progression to date. The session was then capped off by **Holly Fletcher**, who presented a case study on how one Australian University (Wollongong) managed career development to support their graduating students. Holly spoke of the three elements of a career in occupational hygiene, being Technical knowledge; Professional judgement; and fostering a Professional network and supporting community. This session approach was so successful that it is planned to be introduced at our Perth Conference around the topic of “Mentoring and Giving Back”.



Samantha Clarke competed in the London Marathon the day before the Conference, and was back on her feet for the first day of proceedings. If that was not impressive enough, Samantha presented an engaging session as part of Ignite on the 3rd day of the Conference entitled, “*Running a Marathon in Occupational Hygiene*”. **Holly Fletcher**, **Michelle Wakelam**, and **Kevin Hedges** also presented at the Ignite session with their talks, “*Healthy Hygienist v's Healthy Worker*”, “*Context in training an anchor, wings or both*” and, “*Workplace Health Without Borders, Together We Will Make A Difference!*” respectively. A group of our younger members in conjunction with their international cohorts had rallied together to produce unique T-shirts for the Ignite presenters. Additional T-shirts were auctioned off at the end of the Ignite session with the proceeds kindly donated to the **OHTA Sue Davies Foundation**, which was pleasing to see.

In addition to the AIOH members who spoke at the conference, I had the pleasure of catching up with other numerous members including Phil Hibbs, Brian Eva, Terry Elms, Charles Steer, Ross DiCorletto, Ian Firth, and Luke Deneys.

A special thank you to Kate Cole and Kristy Thornton for assembling the text and photos on the IOHA London conference.

The BOHS have made the IOHA 2015 presentations freely available on the IOHA website, which I encourage you to view <http://www.ioha2015.org>.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • BARRY WESTHORPE



In May I attended the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame Awards dinner at which a number of winners acknowledged a strong “thank you” to their people based on work cultures that really value people.

How does this evolve in an organisation?

Build trust in the team

Establishing trust with your team takes time, it comes down to encouraging open communication and acknowledging each individual within the group.

Ensure your team trusts you

Your team must trust you as well as each other. As a leader it's important to always lead from the front, set the example and maintain the standard.

From my experience if you can be consistent in your messages and feedback, be open and honest and show trust in others, your team will come to trust you in time.

Know each person's strengths

It's important to clearly define each person's roles and responsibilities, while making sure they understand how each of their roles is interconnected with the rest of the team.

Be genuine

A genuine leader is “emotionally intelligent” and is consistent in their

behaviour, regardless of circumstances. It's important to communicate ideas, thoughts and concerns with real feeling, keeping ego and emotions in check.

This also means being a good listener and addressing any feedback or concerns of team members in the same open and honest way. Some of the best leaders I know believe that their role is to serve and don't let their own personal agendas stand in the way of team success.

Talk about ‘people’, not your staff

More and more organisations are coming to think of their staff as people. While probably obvious, this is really part of a wider cultural shift that businesses around the world are embracing.

Challenge people

Researchers are currently suggesting that what really contributes most to happiness in the workplace are people feeling appropriately challenged— striving to achieve goals that are ambitious but not out of reach.

When we work with people it may help to maintain the focus on some of the points I've mentioned above – being consistent in your behaviour, understanding each person's strengths and having a balance between knowing people professionally and personally will ultimately create both a more trusting team culture... and one that is more productive for all concerned.

member news

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

PROVISIONAL

- Jamen Williams - Alcoa of Australia, WA

ASSOCIATE

- Braydon Briggs - Resilient Safety Systems, WA
- Mark Bush - Boc Limited, SA
- Tim Chao, WA
- Hamish Cruikshank - IPM Safety, TAS
- Peter DalMonte - Department of Defence - Army, NSW
- Renee Dawson - Compass Group - ESS Remote Services, NT
- Anthony Ginn - Dupont, NSW
- Adam Green - Analytical Reference Laboratory, WA
- Chris Harrington - Education Queensland, QLD
- Simon Harrop - Eosh Consulting, WA
- Yvonne Higgins - SIMTARS, Qld
- Sharon Leeder - Raytheon Australia, NSW
- Amanda Mowatt - Rio Tinto, QLD
- Kris Narayan - Getex Pty Ltd, NSW
- Daniel Pearson - 3M Australia, QLD
- Ravi Chandran Rengasamy - Downer Engineering, QLD
- Paul Richardson - Industrial Scientific Corporation, WA
- Erin Smith - YMCA Victoria, Vic

- Timothy Stewart - Hearing @ Work, NSW
- Robert Whitehouse - Healthy Buildings International, NSW

STUDENT

- David Clifton - Oceaneering, WA
- Nathan Howell - Newcastle City Council, NSW
- Anthony Leadbetter, WA
- Shella Ludewick - Oceaneering, WA
- Man Wai Luk, QLD
- Maria Nguyen - Sodexo, WA
- Leanne Nolan, WA
- Warid Nurdiansyah, QLD
- Edward Turo, WA

WELCOME NEW ARRIVAL

Parents Samantha and Adrian Forster, and big sisters Jessica and Hayley and big brother Adrian welcome baby sister Charli Sophie to the household of mayhem!



THIS IS YOUR LIFE • WAYNE POWYS



NAME: Wayne Powys

CURRENT EMPLOYER: Chevron Australia Pty Ltd based in Perth, WA.

POSITION: Lead HES Specialist – Occupational Hygiene

JOB ROLE: Working within Chevron Australia's central Health, Environment and Safety (HES) function, I supervise a small team of occupational hygienists, which provides subject matter expertise to support Chevron Australia's assets and operations.

WHAT GOT YOU INTO OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE: I started my career as an analytical chemist and as a chemist I had always 'dabbled' in Occupational Hygiene. However, when I was in the role of Head of Laboratory at Woodside Energy Ltd's (WEL) Karratha Gas Treatment Plant (KGTP) during the 90's, I became increasingly aware of the need to formalise my knowledge in a raft of health and safety-related areas specific to working in laboratories in Australia. I learned of the Deakin University's post-graduate courses in Occupational Hygiene, which seemed to provide what I was looking for and I enrolled, eventually completing the Graduate Diploma of Occupational Hygiene. I had not been looking for a career change but these studies set me up for one.

FIRST HYGIENE POSITION AND YEAR: In 1996 and whilst still in the role of Head of Laboratory at the KGTP, WEL's corporate Health Safety and Environment (HSE) department approached me regarding an Occupational Hygiene role within their group based in Perth. I decided to take the position, so leading to a career change. This role eventually broadened to include other facets of occupational health with the position title of 'Senior Health Adviser'.

MOST INTERESTING JOB: Apart from a year spent in an administrative position (which nearly bored me to tears!) all of my positions have been interesting. As a chemist I loved my work at WEL's KGTP Laboratory, where I was involved in starting up a 'green field' laboratory and left it as a highly regarded NATA-accredited facility. In Occupational Hygiene, my most interesting job is my current one. It, too, has been very much a 'green field' opportunity where, with the support of a number of very talented people, I have been able to implement Occupational Hygiene successfully within the context of Chevron Australia's existing operations and its Gorgon and Wheatstone LNG developments.

MOST CHALLENGING JOB: All of my technical roles have been challenging in their own way. However, I believe that my job as Senior Health Adviser was the most challenging for a number of reasons. This includes the challenges of all manner of changes associated with moving from a supervisory, technical role in analytical chemistry (with my family based in Karratha), to one that was in essence a corporate but 'one man band' Occupational Hygiene/Health role (with a relocation of my family to Perth). However, the greatest challenge was one all Occupational Hygienists face and that is addressing the 'silent H in OHS' in a predominantly safety-focussed organisation, which saw no real need to change. The essence of this challenge then, was not technical but cultural and cultural change cannot be done quickly and easily. However, by the time I had left WEL I felt that I made significant contributions, including 'cementing in' the requirements for Health Risk Assessments and Human Factors for all projects and operations.

BEST ADVICE THAT YOU HAVE HAD: My wife's sister migrated to Australia in the late 70's and we visited her a few years later. While there, numerous people advised us to migrate, also and my family migrated some years later – the best move I ever made!

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR PEOPLE STARTING A CAREER IN OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE: Strive to build up an effective professional network and the best way to do this is to be as active as you can in the AIOH.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE: I am a great advocate of eliminating hazards at the design stage and I consider that Occupational Hygienists could make a significant contribution in this area as part of the project design teams, traditionally the province of engineers and safety-focussed. Another new opportunity is to develop techniques and methodologies for personal exposure monitoring to furnish results in nearly real time, rather than having to wait for results well after adverse exposures may have occurred.

ACTIVITIES WITH THE AIOH: I am a Fellow of the AIOH, having been privileged and honoured and to have been elected to this status at the 2014 Conference in Melbourne. I have attended all but one annual AIOH conference since 1996 and was the Conference Secretary at the successful 2004 AIOH Conference held in Fremantle. Until the end of last year I was a long-time member of the AIOH Newsletter Committee and am a current member of the Membership and Qualifications (M&Q) Committee, having been in this role for some fourteen or so years.

HOBBIES: I like a wide genre of music and play the guitar and bass guitar (but not at the same time!). I also have a fascination for and interest in history. I like sports in general but not a great participator these days.

FOOTBALL TEAM: It depends what is meant by 'Football'. I was born in Wales in the UK so 'football' there was Rugby Union and almost a tradition. In WA I am a supporting member of the Western Force Super 15 team. I also take an interest in 'Footy' and support the Freo Dockers!

FAVOURITE MOVIE: That's a hard one but 'The King's Speech' stands out for me.

FAVOURITE BAND: Another hard one this but probably 'Queen', followed by 'The Beatles' and 'Cream'.

FAVOURITE RESTAURANT: I am not a fussy eater and am happy in all manner of eateries.

VALE SANDY DEAN



Sandy and Stephen Dean

Sandy Dean, wife of Stephen Dean died on the 22nd of April 2015, some of you would have met as a smiling face at conference functions, they were married 40 years.

Sandy was diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2011 and following surgery, chemo therapy and radiation therapy she lived a very normal life (travel to Turkey & Italy in 2012, doing the UK coast to coast walk in 2013, the Robert Louis Stevenson walk in France in 2014 and our trip this year). She had ongoing treatments till the 22nd of April when secondaries in her liver caused her death. Due to the nature and extent of her initial cancer she was given a 10% chance of surviving 6 months in 2011.

She did everything she could to spend as much time with us as was possible, making diet and life style changes to make her body as anti cancer as possible, until early February she was walking 5/10 kms a day as part of her fitness program; the side effects of the faslodex slowed this down.

Sandy's last travel blog: <https://snstravels.wordpress.com/>

Sandy's travel blog from the c2c: www.c2cats.wordpress.com if you would like to share our experience of the c2c

We celebrated her life with us and her profession in Bendigo on the 1st of May if you wish to share in that celebration you can at:

<http://williamfarmer.com.au/services-offered/video-streaming/> password is 1003

Sandy's greatest professional achievement; which took 14 years, was to establish the minimum foam mattress standard for pressure ulcer prevention in the global document Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers: Clinical Practice Guideline 2014. This from the Australian Wound Management Association tributes to Sandy:

"On Friday 1.5.2015 family, friends & colleagues said good bye to our esteemed and much loved colleague. Sandy has been instrumental in shaping wound care practice not only in Victoria, but Nationally and Internationally as a leader in the field of wound management. Sandy was a past President, Fellow and Life member of Australia Wound Management Association and her commitment and dedication has left a lasting legacy for all health professionals. A truly respected health professional, her sense of humour and down to earth nature will be sorely missed.

Sandy was a very generous soul and much loved colleague. She has placed her hand print on the hearts of many and she will be profoundly missed and always fondly remembered. Her knowledge and commitment to improving wound management practice will live on through all those that she has taught, touched and inspired over her many years. Sandy will be remembered for her willingness to share knowledge and the enthusiasm which went on to compel others to make a difference."

professional development

EDUCATION COORDINATOR • KERRIE BURTON

The Basic Principles Course schedule for 2015 has now been finalised as follows:

- Darwin | 11-15 August
- Sydney | 19-23 October
- Perth | 2-6 December

If you are interested in courses in other states or want to be notified of these, please advise your interest to the Conference & Events Manager at conference@aioh.org.au.

Information on how to register and other details can be found at <http://www.aioh.org.au/events.aspx>.

MASTER OF OH & TOXICOLOGY @ ECU • CON SPICER

Master of Occupational Hygiene & Toxicology student, Constanze Spicer, talks about studying the course with Edith Cowan University (ECU).

To view the video visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DikwMrjF1jA>

BPC PERTH MARCH • ELAINE LINDARS

The Perth Basic Principles Course ran from the 9th to 13th March this year at the IBIS Styles in North Perth. We had a great turn out with regards to suppliers and participants with Simon Sharp, Jacques Oosthuizen and I having a great time teaching the course. Our deepest thanks again go to AirMet and Thermofisher for helping with the practicals on the Monday and Tuesday; Draeger for helping with gas detection on the Tuesday; and NVMS for helping with noise on the Wednesday. Every time they tirelessly volunteer their time and equipment to come and help teach the practicals. The group had diverse backgrounds and brought with it a huge range of experiences to share. It is fair to say it was a ball and I certainly look forward to teaching the next one.



BPC SYDNEY APRIL • SHARON LEEDER

“Other than getting a SME in to assess any potential exposure issues I came into the Basic Principles Course as a complete newbie to Occupational Hygiene. I wish I had completed it a long time ago as it was brilliant! I found the course enlightening on the range of topics within OcCH and the methods and types of tests and equipment used. I have since used the book provided with the course on a work place potential exposure and found it very helpful. I would recommend this course to everyone with an interest in workplace safety. It has left me wanting to work in this very diverse and interesting field.”

The AIOH would like to thank Keith Mottram and Thermofisher Scientific, Kalpesh Shukla and Draeger Safety Pacific as well as Heather Rowsell and 3M for their assistance with the practical activities and the loan of equipment during the course.



BPC BRISBANE MAY • CHRIS NEWMAN

Having gained an interest in Occupational Hygiene through a friend who works in the field, I had wanted to increase my knowledge through some formal education. My friend recommended that I complete the AIOH 5-day Basic Principles course as it would provide the perfect entry point into the world of occupational hygiene.

Life got busy and time went by and soon enough this course had dropped off my radar. Luckily for me it landed back on my radar when my friend emailed me a link to the AIOH list of course dates for 2015. The only issue was the course began in just over a week and there were no other courses being offered in Brisbane this year. This was going to require some quick action and some fast talking to complete my enrolment, get the course fees covered and the time off approved by work.

To cut a long story short, come Monday morning on May 11th I found myself in class at the Brisbane Mantra hotel with 14 other like-minded people from a range of industries and from as far away as Groote Eylandt, Canberra, PNG and even from across the ditch in New Zealand. What came next was 5 full days packed with a great mix of theory, the 4 pillars of Occupational Hygiene, practical sessions, interesting characters (both student and teachers alike), war stories, lengthy discussions and an exam to top the week off.

A week later I can honestly say that both my head and my stomach were bursting at the seams – both for very different reasons. My head because of all the information it had absorbed and my stomach because of the vast amount of food I had consumed. Now we all know that any training course is judged by the quality of the food and the quality here was quite outstanding so a big wrap goes to the caterer.



I have attended quite a number of courses in the last few years, and this was definitely one of the most enjoyable and worthwhile courses I have been involved in. A big thanks must go out to the facilitators - Gavin, Ron, Beno and of course Simon; the support staff that provided the equipment used during practical sessions; the caterers; and lastly to the other participants who made the course what it was. I firmly believe that all who attended would have left the course with invaluable information that will enable them to further positively impact employee health and wellbeing at their workplace.

state liaison officers

QUEENSLAND CHAPTER • CAROLYN TOPPING



Human Vibration Chapter Meeting - April 1, 2015

A Qld chapter meeting and seminar on human vibration was held in Brisbane on 1 April 2015. Bassim Ismail from SVT Engineering Consultants provided an introduction to human vibration, its health effects, sources and control measures. Bassim highlighted the importance of damping in vehicles and understanding the effect of resonance. When carrying out a vibration assessment the magnitude, frequency, direction and duration of the vibration, and the risk factors of individuals need to be considered. Important individual risk factors in whole-body vibration assessment include posture held for the work task, length of time spent sitting, whether the vehicle controls are within easy reach, the ability to see without stretching or twisting and road conditions. Developing a human vibration management plan is a key factor in managing the health risks. An effective management plan should include the identification of sources of high levels of vibration, measures to control vibration considering the as low as reasonably practicable principle, implementation of controls using the hierarchy of controls, buy low (vibration) policy, and awareness and education of workers and health monitoring where exposure is above an action level.

ably practicable principle, implementation of controls using the hierarchy of controls, buy low (vibration) policy, and awareness and education of workers and health monitoring where exposure is above an action level.

Health and Wellbeing Programs at Work - An Introduction - July 14, 2015

Many workplaces are implementing health and wellbeing programs to improve the overall health of workers.

Come along to this month's chapter meeting to learn how a successful health and wellbeing program can improve health outcomes at your workplace.

Diane Schultz, Manager of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland's Healthy Worker Initiative will provide an introduction to the principles, benefits and impacts of a health and wellbeing program. She will also share a case study that highlights what an integrated work health, wellbeing and safety approach looks like in practice.

For further information or to register visit <https://aioh.cvent.com/QldSundownerJuly2015>.

Please contact Carolyn Topping on 07 3874 7595 if you have an idea for a chapter meeting topic or expertise you would like to share.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER • JWALIT PARIKH

Dehydration, heat stress within the Australian mining industry - March 27, 2015

The AIOH SA Chapter meeting for the first quarter of 2015 was held at lunch time on Friday 27th March. Seventeen people representing industry, defence, government, consulting and academia/research attended the chapter meeting.

Ryan Wynch, an occupational hygienist, discussed issues of dehydration, heat stress / heat related illnesses within the Australian mining industry. He then discussed the concept and developmental stages of a device 'hydralert', which is being developed in conjunction with Flinders University. Hydralert is a compact device which can be placed in urinals to analyse a person's hydration level in real time and provide immediate feedback. Hydration data can then be downloaded by occupational hygienists and health professionals to target hydration awareness, promotional programs and analyse hydration level trends among various work groups. The device allows employees to self-test anytime day or night, without the need for a health professional. Hydralert is being developed with an objective to provide an innovative alternative to current approaches utilized in the industry, which may help organisations implement their health and safety policies more effectively. Ryan also opened up the discussion among attendees on some of the pros and cons of the device design (e.g. how to adapt for female employees) and implementation strategies for various industries and workgroups.

Dr. Alana Hansen, Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide, discussed association of heat related illnesses, history of heat waves in South Australia and its effects on ambulance call outs, hospital admissions and emergency admissions in metro Adelaide. Dr Hansen also discussed the published data on heatwaves and renal disease in South Australia, where 10% increase in renal admissions and 26% increase in acute renal failure hospitalizations' was noted. Data suggested that the work-related injuries increased (year 2001-2010) when temperatures were above 37.70C. Vulnerable suburbs and occupations (mainly outdoor work) at higher risk during heat waves were identified from history of ambulance callouts, hospital admissions and workforce surveys.

Informal discussions on heat stress issues and Hydralert product were continued among attendees over lunch. The AIOH SA Chapter would like to thank Ryan Wynch and Dr. Alana Hansen for delivering such informative sessions and we look forward to our next chapter meeting to be held on July 3, 2015.



WEST AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER • JANINE MCCLEMENTS



The AIOH WA Chapter held its second Sundowner meeting for 2015 on Monday 11th May at the ChemCentre Seminar Room, Curtin University, Bentley. The Sundowner topic 'Getting a Taste for Food Safety' drew a large audience with a good show of first timers and students. All enjoyed drinks and tasty treats, along with the opportunity to network, both before and after this interesting and informative presentation.

Dr Barry Chesson (WA SLO) opened the formal session. He provided an update of Council activities, reviewing the Council organisation chart with the group and highlighting key elements of their 2015 focus. These include work on member education and professional development along with improving member services. Barry also reminded attendees of the following key dates for upcoming local events.

- 24th August | WA Chapter Sundowner | Noise topics in support of Hearing Awareness Week
- 16th November | WA Chapter Sundowner | 'Mystery' topic.
- 5th-9th December | AIOH 33rd Annual Conference & Exhibition

Barry then introduced guest speaker Chris Richardson. Chris, a registered Level 4 National Food Safety Auditor and a Regulatory Auditor under both the WA and SA Food Acts, began by outlining his background and experience. This included trade experience as a butcher/slaughterer, work as a meat inspector and an impressive 22 year engagement as a lecturer at Curtin University. Chris, who now operates his own company, Independent Appraisal, demonstrated his lecturing experience by keeping his audience completely engaged throughout his well-structured presentation.

He drew on real-life examples to expand on the opportunity for, and impact of, biological, chemical and physical hazards in food safety. While Chris's work is undertaken in various settings including aged care, prisons and even zoos, a large part of it is for remote minesites where kitchens are tasked with satisfying many hungry miners ... and probably the occasional occupational hygienist ... each day. No doubt, when those hygienists next have an opportunity to explore behind the scenes in their site mess, the meat slicers and bench mounted can openers will be just a few items to receive some close attention!!

However, the take-aways from Chris's presentation were not just related to keeping kitchen utensils clean. He did a wonderful job of demonstrating that practical, simple solutions come from a good understanding of the problem and the desired outcome. For example, he spoke of the advantage offered by stainless steel vessels over plastic to cool food quickly, given the former transfers heat/cold more effectively. He also highlighted the importance of reviewing measurement strategies and scrutinising records closely.

Lastly, Chris expanded on two issues he feels are likely to have increasing impact on the catering sector. The first of these was potential sabotage - for example, in the form of deliberate contamination. Chris mentioned specific events and the importance of being proactive in limiting the opportunity for this to occur, such as restricting access to the food and to potential contaminants. The second issue he raised was related to allergens in food. For affected people, reactions to these allergens can be fatal. Food allergy is more prevalent in children than adults and there are indications the prevalence of food allergy may be increasing. Industries with food preparation and handling components need to provide clear and accurate information to consumers and there is a strong case for eliminating potential allergens where feasible.

The WA Chapter of the AIOH acknowledges and thanks WA SLO Barry Chesson for organising this event along with Chris Richardson for sharing his insights and knowledge and providing attendees with plenty of "food for thought". Thanks also to the team on the registration desk and to the ChemCentre for providing the venue, staff to assist with setting up and AV matters, and for their on-going financial contributions to Sundowner events.



From left; Chris Richardson & Dr Barry Chesson



From left; Catherine North, Dr Michael North, Deep Maru and Dr Barry Chesson



Chris Richardson presenting

VICTORIAN CHAPTER • SIMON THOMAS

Challenges the G.H.S poses for Occupational Hygienists - August 3, 2015

Australian industry is currently transitioning to the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), a new hazard-based communication system. The GHS applies not only to a company's products, but also any chemicals stored and used within the workplace such as cleaning agents, maintenance, fuels and chemicals used in fire suppression and cooling systems.

As much of the system is concerned with health effects, Occupational Hygienists have a critical role in assessing risk of exposure and providing expert guidance based on the new system. With only 18 months remaining, now is the time for companies to refocus their attention on the transition to GHS classification and labelling.

The AIOH is delighted to have Richard Greenwood from Greencap presenting on the challenges and impacts businesses face during this transition, and the opportunities for a change in approach to chemical safety in areas of key concern to Occupational Hygienists. Richard has been working in the area of chemical hazard communication for 20 years. He became involved with the GHS changes in 2001, when New Zealand adopted a prototype of the GHS as its chemical regulatory system., and has followed the development of the system since then to its adoption through Work Health and Safety Regulation and amended Victorian Regulations.

For further information or to register visit <https://aioh.cvent.com/VicSundownerAug2015>

Please contact Simon Thomas on hazkem32@gmail.com if you have an idea for a chapter meeting topic or expertise you would like to share.



Mobil Altona Refinery Site Visit

On the 29th of November 2014 as part of the AIOH Annual Conference, 15 intrepid occupational hygienists were hosted at the Mobil Altona Refinery by myself, Simon Thomas (MAIOH) and Stephen Dean (FAIOH).

The refinery tour was the first of the site visits that were planned and the day started at 7am with a basic induction and then a brief overview of the refinery.

An introduction to the particular health hazards that can be found in an oil refinery were then covered including benzene, noise, asbestos, mercury, PAHs, hydrogen sulphide and the list goes on!

The crowd participation was fantastic as the site visit was aimed at hygienists who had little to no exposure (pardon the pun) in the oil and gas industry.

A multitude of questions were asked which the presenter (myself) thoroughly enjoyed!

Following the 'classroom' part of the visit, the group was released out into a real life working oil refinery (under Stephen's and my supervision of course!).

For most of the group who had never experienced a site like this before, it was a great learning experience.

The walking tour covered the majority of the refinery with various stops along the way where the process units (or metal labyrinth as described by one member of the group) were explained.

The tour concluded just before lunchtime and a mandatory group photo was taken.

Thank you to those hygienists who attended as you all helped to make the day a great success!



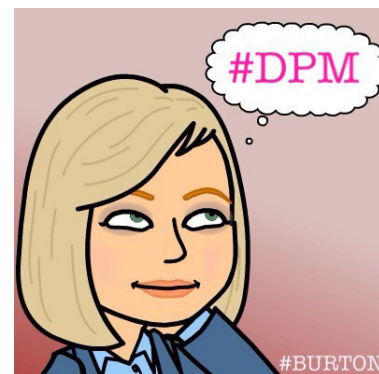
research bites

UoW MASTERS OF SCIENCE • KERRIE BURTON

I have recently submitted my University of Wollongong Masters of Science by Research thesis on “The Filtering Efficiency of Respirators against Diesel Particulate Matter”. The project was conducted under a scholarship provided by the S.E.A. Group, with supervisors Jane Whitelaw and Professor Alison Jones. Going back to study has been a fantastic experience, I have had the opportunity to develop my skills in so many areas, including project management, statistical evaluation, respiratory protection standards, diesel particulate matter exposure, and summarising all of the findings into a thesis submission.

I was also fortunate to present at AIOH2013 and 2014 as well as the International Society for Respiratory Protection Conference (ISRP) in Prague, and am looking forward to my upcoming presentation at the American Industrial Hygiene Association Conference in Salt Lake City – it’s awesome to meet so many of the experts whose literature I have reviewed.

I am extremely grateful to so many for their invaluable support and guidance and would highly recommend that anyone looking for a challenge consider a research project at the University of Wollongong (I hear there’s another scholarship open now!).



31st TRIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Members of the AIOH were represented at the 31st Triennial International Congress on Occupational Health, held in Seoul, South Korea from 31 May–5th June. Prof Dino Pisaniello and HDR student Ismaniza Ismail presented papers.

A highlight of the Congress was Australia’s success in its bid to host this major event in 2021. Another highlight was the award to Ismaniza for the best student poster. 101 Student Posters were accepted for ICOH2015. The process required each Poster to be reviewed separately by 2 judges during a 10 minute interview by each judge.

Ismaniza was delighted to receive the USD\$700 and a framed certificate (pictured with with Dino Pisaniello).

Ismaniza is in the final stages of her PhD at The University of Adelaide, Occupational & Environmental Hygiene group under the supervision of Prof Dino Pisaniello and Dr Sharyn Gaskin. Her area of research is Dermal exposure to organophosphorus pesticides (OPs): informing a predictive dermal risk assessment model. Her winning ICOH2015 poster presentation was titled “The Effects of Temperature, Ultraviolet (UV) light and Abrasion on the Performance of Gloves Used By Agricultural Workers Handling Organophosphate Pesticides (OPs)”.



MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY - WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY (WHS)

The University of Wollongong is a prestigious teaching and research university, and within it the Faculty of Social Sciences has a robust track record in research across a broad range of disciplines. Our leading-edge scholars provide a rich environment for the continued development of theoretical and interdisciplinary research. The School of Health & Society conducts a range of innovative research targeted at understanding and improving human health; living well, living longer.

Within this framework, the WHS program is pleased to announce that we have an exciting opportunity via a Safety Equipment Australia scholarship now available for a candidate to complete a Postgraduate Research Degree: Master of Philosophy. The stipend is \$36,000 (\$1500/month tax free) paid over twenty four months.

The research will focus on evaluation of “Measuring Real Time Workplace Breathing Rates through Respirators” and will include laboratory and industrial field testing of hypotheses. The aim of this research is to inform Australian and international standards, manufacturers and end users of respiratory protection devices of the breathing and metabolic rate of the work of breathing through negative pressure respirators in an industrial setting; and the ramifications on workers of increased metabolic rates.

For further information about this position, please email jane_whitelaw@uow.edu.au or contact Jane Whitelaw on: Tel: +61 2 42 215 232



standards • guides • reports

SNIPPETS FROM GAVIN IRVING

GLYPHOSATE CLASSIFIED BY IARC AS A CATEGORY 2A CARCINOGEN

On the 20 March 2015, IARC classified the widely used herbicide glyphosate better known by its Monsanto-given name, Roundup, as a “probable” or “2A” carcinogen. For more information see <http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/pdf/MonographVolume112.pdf> and <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060016212>.

NHMRC STATEMENT ON THE EFFECTS OF LEAD ON HUMAN HEALTH

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recently issued a statement stating that any person with more than 5 micrograms per decilitre of blood should have the source of their lead exposure “investigated and reduced, particularly if the person is a child or pregnant woman”. The NHMRC considers that a “blood lead level greater than 5 micrograms per decilitre suggests that a person has been, or continues to be, exposed to lead at a level that is above what is considered the average ‘background’ exposure in Australia”. See <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/eh58>.

SNIPPETS FROM DEB GLASS

ANNALS OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE 59(2) 2015

This issue opens with an assessment by HSE and NIOSH scientists of anti-vibration gloves. They present evidence and summarise the findings by saying that they are unreliable as a control measure particularly for low frequency vibration and recommend the use of other control measures. The gloves may also increase the grip force required and reduce manual dexterity.

Other protective clothing considered, are prevention of exposure to hot water, aluminised fabrics used against radiant heat and protection against Ebola for emergency workers. This last is a letter that discussed the need for rest periods when using non-cooled coveralls and the cost of replacement and time taken at each necessary rest break.

There is an article that identified that a mean of 24 % of lead was transferred from hand-to-mouth in experimental situations. As lead in workplace air reduces this becomes a more important route of exposure (although the % absorbed from the gut is lower than from the lung).

Exposure in several industries are investigated e.g. endotoxins etc in a flower greenhouse, bitumen exposure during paving, Aflatoxin exposure in waste handling, dust during wood processing, noise in the Navy.

ANNALS OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE 59(3) 2015

A French group present a statistical tool, TEXAS, for estimating exposure to chemicals. They used COLCHIC, the French state exposure data base, to validate the predictive tool. It uses relatively simple inputs e.g. chemical in use, the product, frequency of use, industry sector, number of workers, occupation, task performed, work rate, control measured used etc. The tool can then predict the level of exposure control so that controls can be implemented, measurement needs can be identified.

Exposure in several industries are investigated e.g. asbestos exposure in automotive workers, heavy metal in gun ranges, vibration in rivet bucketing. Protective measures are also discussed e.g. hearing conservation in an orchestra, glove protection against sprayed isocyanate and vibration and N95 RPE against nanoparticles.

Sampling methods for MDI and for wood are presented.

ANNALS OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE 59(4) 2015.

Hot off the press is the Bedford Prize, awarded to Kate Jones, Mark Piney and John Cocker from HSE for their paper on control of isocyanate exposure in motor vehicle spray painters (published in 2013 in the Annals (57: 200-209). It showed that an HSE campaign in this sector was successful in reducing exposure as measured by biological sampling. One important facet was education in the need to post on the booth and to observe the booth clearance time to avoid exposure to residual fine mist. This was presented at the IOHA meeting in London and was a fine piece of work.

There were two articles about DNELS.

The first paper compared REACH worker DNELS with Finnish (HTP) and European occupational exposure limits (IOELV). In 64/87 the numbers were the same for the DNEL. The numbers were the same or similar for 159 (49%) of HTVs, considerably higher in 69 cases, and considerably lower in 87 cases. The abstract concluded “However, as the DNELS were not systematically lower than the OELs, the default assessment factors suggested by REACH technical guidance had obviously not been used in many of the REACH registrations.”

The second paper was a similar comparison between DNELS and Swedish OELs. On average, industry’s DNELS were the same as the Swedish OELs but there was huge variation (up to 450 times higher, and up to 230 times lower than the corresponding OEL). Nearly a fifth of the DNELS were ≥ 2 times higher and a third were ≥ 2 times less than the OEL. Industry’s DNELS varied widely and were generally higher. They concluded “A major problem is that little advice is given on when and how to depart from default assessment factors”.

The issue also contains articles about back pain epidemiology, chromium and nickel exposure from MMA welding, endotoxins in composting, emissions from medical laser procedures and asbestos in a mechanic’s lungs.

special features

SCOTT SAFETY MEET AND GREET • KRISTY THORNTON

In 2014 Scott Safety sponsored and presented the inaugural AIOH Canary Award at the AIOH Melbourne conference. The award was won by Alex Wilson, while I was lucky enough to be presented with the runner up award. Alex resides in the UK, so lucky for me I was invited to meet and greet the Scott Safety team and put a face to the AIOH Canary Award sponsors.



So on January 20 2015, I attended the Scott Safety Australian headquarters in Guildford NSW to participate in a site visit and interact with the hospitable Scott Safety team members.

The Scott Safety team were exceptionally accommodating during my visit allowing me to learn a lot about the activities and effort behind the design and manufacture of the products we as hygienists select to protect workers from harm. I was surprised with just how large the facility was and the volume of products manufactured by Scott Safety right here in our own backyard. During my visit I was fortunate enough to observe the manufacture of hard hats in a range of amazing colours with logos printed on them.

Did you know that Scott makes approx. 1.2 million hard hats each year?

I also observed team members putting together knee pads, ear muffs and respirators. The whole team (made up of approx 45 workers) were working hard and appeared to really enjoy the work environment at the facility.



I would like to acknowledge and thank Scott Safety for their support of the AIOH and sponsorship of the AIOH Canary Award. I would also like to make a special mention of the AIOH Communications Committee for organising and facilitating the competition and the AIOH Awards and Sponsorship Committee for undertaking the tough task of judging the many Canary Award entries that were received. I look forward to seeing the AIOH Canary Award entries for 2015.



kNOW CANCER RISKS AT WORK FORUM • KATE COLE & KRISTY THORNTON

The Cancer Council of Australia working party on occupational cancer recently held a national forum highlighting prevention and elimination of occupational cancer risks in Australia. Aptly titled, "kNOW cancer risks at work 2015" the forum was well attended by industry, regulators, union bodies, researchers, and consultants alike. It was particularly pleasing to see a number of AIOH members who had turned up to support this forum and to hear from the various national and international speakers.

Terry Slevin, the *Director of Education & Research, Cancer Council WA* kicked off the day and made particular note of the fact that so many people had come to support this cause which showed a keen interest in occupational cancer risks in Australian industries. Terry introduced the newest publication by the Cancer Council, being a monograph on [Occupational exposures to carcinogens in Australia](#). That document states that occupational exposures to carcinogens are estimated to cause over 5,000 new cases of cancer in Australia each year, and it was estimated that approximately 3.6 million Australians could be exposed to one or more carcinogens at work. Those shocking statistics set the scene for the remainder of the forum.

Some will remember Professor John Cherrie who was a plenary speaker at our 2013 Conference in Sydney, who also presented a CES on eliminating occupational cancer. Professor Cherrie was the keynote speaker with his presentation, "*Occupational Cancer in Europe – working towards a solution*". Professor Cherrie was quick to point out that the age-standardised rate of occupational cancer in the UK was 4 per 1,000, while in Australia it was estimated as 5.6 per

1000. Whilst the overall rate of developing cancer due to work was higher in Australia, the overall survival rate was better, with just over half of the UK population still surviving at the 5-year mark in comparison to two-thirds of Australians. Professor Cherrie hypothesised that this could be due to the higher prevalence of lung cancers with a higher mortality rate in the UK. When delving deeper into these statistics, Professor Cherrie noted that approximately 85% of the occupational cancer cases came from the top 10 chemical agents, which therefore allowed a prioritisation of action.

Regardless of the rates and types of cancers however, the focus of Professor Cherrie's presentation remained on the importance of raising awareness and prevention of these cancers in the first place. Whilst Professor Cherrie was supportive of a structured framework to deal with the issue of occupational cancers, he noted that by itself, legislation appeared to be an ineffective instrument for change. Professor Cherrie highlighted two campaigns currently running in the UK by kindred associations, being the "[No Time to Lose](#)" campaign run by the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), and the "[Breathe Freely](#)" campaign run by the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS). Both examples highlighted the impact that volunteer organisations can have on both raising awareness and being instruments for positive change in this arena.

Overall Professor Cherrie supported gathering better information on carcinogens in the workplace to strengthen our knowledge and focus, but stressed that building coalitions and raising awareness was necessary to tackle the problem in a focused way.

Professor Tim Driscoll, from the *School of Public Health at the University of Sydney*, presented “*Constructively dealing with concerns about cancer risks*”. Professor Driscoll spoke of his experiences with the public perception of cancer clusters and the inherent difficulties in determining cause and effect in many cases. In his engaging presentation Professor Driscoll discussed “*Driscoll’s 4 principles for investigating cancer clusters*”. Those being:

1. Cancer clusters investigations are socio-scientific phenomena. They rely both on good science AND good communication and consultation.
2. If there are no concerning exposures found, but there is a high rate of cancer; it is almost certain that the high rate was due to chance. Some methods to further investigate this may be required such as studying another workplace / community with similar exposures.
3. If the rate of cancer is not high, but concerning exposures are found...then fix the exposures!
4. When concerns about exposures arise, the cancers nearly always turn out not to be related to work exposures; but it is still important to investigate.

Professor Driscoll spoke of the importance of focussing on exposures and the concerns of the individuals, and encouraged attendees to focus more on exposure assessment and control, rather than the retrospective assessments sometimes given priority.

Dr Renee Carey, from the *School of Public Health at Curtin University*, presented on “*Lifetime risk of occupational lung cancer*”. Renee spoke about her research in coordinating a nationwide study investigating the prevalence of occupational exposure to carcinogens. This study highlighted lung cancer as the 5th most common cancer in Australia and indicated that it is estimated that up to 2.9 million workers are exposed to carcinogens at work, with industry wide diesel particulate and silica in the construction industry estimated to be the highest contributors to this statistic. Renee’s study reinforced the need to raise awareness of occupational cancers in the workplace and the need for additional resources into this sector.

Jen Hines, MAIOH, COH presented, “*Diesel Particulate Management: Assessing and Controlling Diesel Exhaust in the Workplace*”. In her engaging and informative session, Jen spoke of the importance of a risk-based approach to managing diesel emissions. Jen highlighted the importance of working towards the guideline value currently recommended by the AIOH of 0.1 mg/m³ EC and the importance of exposure monitoring in certain situations. Jen provided an overview of the various tools and methods that can be used to inform the risk assessment, and some practical control measures that can be used to reduce exposure. The importance of having an overall Management Plan and a structured approach was discussed in the context of understanding who the responsible parties were; what could be done; and an action plan. Jen spoke of the importance of emissions-based monitoring and why emissions should be tested in certain environments. Jen also outlined the 3-stage screening process to follow based on such assessments. Overall Jen’s presentation was well received and concluded that controlling exposures at the source is always the best option.

AIOH President Alan Rogers, FAIOH, COH (pictured with Prof John Cherrie) presented, “*Exposure to Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) - the good news on Cancer Risk*”. Alan spoke of the composition and the formation of DPM; the formation of DEE and the structure and composition of DPM. Alan gave us a history of the health effects

published in the literature over the past few decades, and spoke of some of the conflicting conclusions drawn from major epidemiological and toxicological studies on DPM and lung cancer. Alan pointed out that the pragmatic AIOH Exposure Standard has been adopted indirectly into underground Coal and Metalliferous Mining legislation throughout most of Australia, but that no regulatory standard exists outside of the mining industry. Instead of getting hung up too much with the conflicting outcomes in the literature and what is the actual risk value, Alan spoke of the importance of taking a pragmatic approach and using the AIOH Exposure Standard as a yardstick for controlling exposures. Some of the control measures discussed to achieve compliance with the exposure standard included:

1. Engine design in the reduction of emissions;
2. Fuel quality, and using fuels such as low-sulphur diesel, and being aware that the use of biodiesel can increase NOx emissions;
3. Ventilation and providing a sufficient volume of air to dilute the concentration of emissions, in addition to minimising reuse and recirculation of diluted contaminated air;
4. Engine maintenance programs;
5. Exhaust treatment devices.

In conclusion, Alan spoke of the use of a multi-faceted approach required to control DPM exposures, and provided examples from his work that demonstrated the introduction of such measures as part of working to comply with the recommended AIOH Exposure Standard, has ultimately reduced exposures and associated health risks to Australian workers.

Associate Professor Deborah Glass, *Monash University* presented the results of the [Australian Firefighters’ Health Study \(2014\)](#). The retrospective study assembled from existing fire agency records involved reviewing the records of over 232,000 fire fighters. In summary, a strong healthy worker effect was found, which means in essence that firefighters had lower mortality than the general population but cancer risk was less reduced than other causes of death for paid firefighters. Overall the risk of cancer incidence was increased for full time and part time firefighters, with prostate cancer and melanoma being of particular note. Prostate cancer incidence was also increased for volunteer firefighters although overall cancer was not in excess.

For those seeking more information, the presentations at the forum were recorded and the intention is to have them available online soon for public viewing.

Overall, we found the forum to be engaging and informative with a strong call to action to work together to reduce the incidence of occupational cancer in the Australian workforce. As John Cherrie stated “we don’t value the future as much as we should”. It was evident that the continued support and involvement from ever-enthusiastic members of the AIOH can only be beneficial in working towards this goal.



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENISTS INC

AIOH PERTH



iGiene inspire • integrate • inform

CROWN PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

5-9 DECEMBER 2015

33rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

The 2015 AIOH Conference Organising Committee are excited to announce that earlybird registration is now open for the 33rd Annual Conference & Exhibition

The conference will be held at the energised and ever changing Crown Perth, which sits on the banks of the Swan River, less than 1km from the CBD, from the 5th - 9th December, 2015.

The Committee has secured a fantastic line up of **national and international speakers** that include:

- Dr Vincent Covello - Centre for Risk Communication, USA (SEA Keynote Speaker)
- Dr Jimmy Perkins - President, IOHA, USA
- Dr Michael Donoghue - Alcoa of Australia
- Prof Lin Fritschi - Curtin University
- Dr Doug Boreham - Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Canada
- Dr Louise Schaper - Health Informatics Society of Australia
- Dr Andreas Mayer - Technik Thermische Maschinen, Switzerland
- Prof Cas Badenhorst - Anglo American, South Africa
- Mr Andrew Chaplyn - Department of Mines & Petroleum, WA

A wide range of **Continuing Education Sessions** to suit all levels from beginner to advanced have been planned on topics such as:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| • Leadership & Teamwork | • Diesel | • Hazardous Materials |
| • Radiation | • Asbestos | • Exposure Monitoring |
| • Fatigue Management | • Risk Assessments | • App Development |
| • OH Report Writing | • Ethics | • Thermal Environment |
| • Communication | • Noise Control | |

REGISTER AND SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY AT
<https://aioh.cvent.com/AIOH2015>



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Occupational Hygienist / Industrial Hygienist

- Melbourne Based Role
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Medicine and Occupational Health is looking for a highly motivated occupational hygiene professional to join its Melbourne-based team. Working closely with multi-disciplinary teams and key stakeholders, this role will include developing, administering and delivering occupational hygiene systems and services to business operations, with responsibility for:

- Planning and executing programs that identify, assess and control health risks
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- Administering health-based Company safety management systems
- Facilitating compliance with legislation relevant to health hazards at work
- Providing mentoring and facilitating training for local hygiene resources
- Analysing and resolving emerging hygiene issues

Post-graduate qualifications in occupational hygiene are essential. Project management, negotiation and influencing skills are highly desirable. This is a salaried position working Monday to Friday. It will also require working beyond normal business hours from time to time and routine national and intra-state travel.

To be successful in this role, you will need to demonstrate total commitment to Company values including safety, quality, ethics and business controls. An open communicator, your ability to build sound working relationships will enable you to work effectively within a strong team-based culture.

ExxonMobil is an equal opportunity employer as recognizes and values the diversity of its people, and encourages all suitably qualified men and women to apply.

If you wish to apply for this vacancy:

Please send a cover letter and resume to moh.australia@exxonmobil.com

Applications are to be received STRICTLY no later than Monday 6th July 2015, 10am

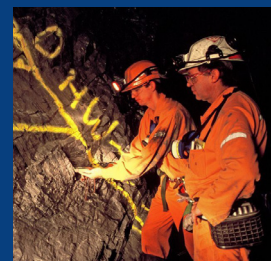
AEST. Applications will be treated in strict confidence.

editor's note

JUNE EDITION • SHARYN GASKIN & GAVIN IRVING

This edition of the newsletter contains a variety of topics which always makes for interesting reading, so on behalf of the newsletter committee, thank you to all of the contributors.

Members are welcome and should feel free to contact the newsletter committee with any ideas you may have for an article.



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NEXT EDITION

The next issue of Occupational Hygiene matters is due out on 15th September 2015 with copy due to the office by 1st September 2015.

All copy should be sent to the AIOH Administration Manager via email at laura@aioh.org.au.

We look forward to your contributions.

admin office

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