



medical women's
society
ACT & REGION

Newsletter Number 44

July 2014

President's Message

It is with great pleasure- and also with a sense of déjà vu that I welcome all of you to this first edition of the MWS ACT and Region Newsletter for 2014.

Those of you who have been around for some years might remember that I have previously served as President for two significant stints. This time, I hope my tenure will be interim and that I will be replaced in twelve months' time by someone more youthful and very enthusiastic. Despite this, I am delighted to still be so involved with an organisation which I believe fulfils a vital role in ensuring women medical students and practitioners in ACT can get dependable support in the complex art and craft of being both a woman and a doctor, in the many and varied roles this can entail. We have many years of accumulated experience between us all.

The Committee has been busy planning and organising the MWS calendar, following a basic structure is of "tried and true" events which have evolved over the years, but we are also keen to know of any events in ACT, or beyond, which might be of interest to our members.

We have already held our welcoming cocktail party, venue courtesy of Vida Vilunas on Thursday 13th March. It was an excellent opportunity to renew old acquaintances, meet other women doctors, and get to know our medical students- and for them to meet the truly amazing and talented women doctors, both practicing and retired, in the Canberra region. We held "the Juggle" in May, specifically for our Medical Students to learn the many ways to negotiate a medical career, and recently held an Educational evening sponsored by Genea. Later in the year we will hold a Presentation evening and a fundraising event to support our selected charities benefitting women and children.

This year we fielded a team in the Mothers' Day Classic and won an award for the largest team!. Please see the reports of these events in the newsletter. We are always looking for newsworthy items for our newsletter. Please be in touch if you have anything to offer. In the past we have run playgroups, book clubs etc. It all depends on interest, so look for likeminded medico women via this newsletter.

To conclude, the Committee is hoping to organise a really exciting MWS program for this year, but the ultimate success depends on the involvement of all of you.

Best wishes,

Sue Packer



Sue Packer

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Diary Dates

Presentation Dinner
The Lobby Restaurant,
18 September

Fundraising Trivia night
Theme 1930's Spring Carnival
Italo Australian Club
24 October

AGM 13 November

MWS Committee 2014

President: Sue Packer

Vice President: Brenda Masters

Secretary: Diana Rubel

Treasurer: Tween Low

Assistant Treasurer: Ann Hosking

Membership Secretary: Julie Hewitt

Public Officer: Sue Packer

Rural GP Rep: Marjorie Cross

Urban GP Rep: Jill Hutton

Specialist Rep: Liz Gallagher

Junior doctor rep: Lucy Bates

Intern rep: Nushin Ahmed

AFMW Rep: Susie Close.

Student Rep:

1st Year— Renata Pajtak, Katie Burkett

2nd Year— Kate Musil

3rd Year— Jessica Hines, Bec Matthews

4th Year— Svetha Rao

Other members: Marjorie Cross, Jenny Bromley, Jane Twin, Linda Welberry

A note from your editor

Welcome to the somewhat belated first edition of our newsletter for 2014. This is my first attempt at compiling the newsletter, and I am grateful to Dr Jane Twin for providing advice and support as well as a great article on page 7! Jane has done an outstanding job in producing the newsletter over many years and we are indebted to her for such a large contribution to the life of our society. Thanks Jane!

There is a link to the Medical Women's International newsletter on page 6 (click on the underlined text or Ctrl + click depending on your browser). It is full of interesting information and worth the read.

I intend to publish another newsletter towards the end of the year, so PLEASE send me snippets of information and reports of interest to your fellow medical women. Photos are always welcome.

If anyone would like to organise a study group or book club or similar, (or already has one running but could do with some new participants) the newsletter would be a great place to advertise.

I also appreciate any feedback on format and content.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Presentation Dinner in September and Charity event in late October. Our Quiz night a few years ago was very popular, and with the Italo-Australian club on board with a fabulous venue this year it promises to be a top night out. Mark your diaries now for Friday 24 October!

Brenda Masters

agil3428@bigpond.net.au

Morning tea for interns!

Orientation week was a great opportunity for us to meet and welcome the newly-qualified doctors to Canberra. Sue Packer spoke briefly about our organisation and how we fit into the medical community and afterwards commented "I think I was fortunate to a speak to them so early in their orientation, before their brains close off in self defence being confronted with so much new information"!

The morning tea was sumptuous and greeted by delight by the interns, who tackled it all valiantly. Sue, Brenda, Tween and Nushin hosted the event with extra food contributed by Lucy and Julie. It all looked (and tasted) wonderful!

We gained a number of new members, and hope that they will enjoy their association with MWS.

There was some useful discussion with some men about the appropriateness of a MWS, and they seemed very interested and accepting if its relevance.

Medfest 2014—film feast!

March saw the John Curtin School, ANU, star as the perfect venue for the first Medfest event to be held in Australia. Medfest, a short film festival that originally began in the UK four years ago, uniquely explores medicine through the power of film. Six films were played over the course of the night and panellists including Canberra International Film Festival director, Lex Lindsay, prompted insightful and thought-provoking discussion about each clip. Co-organisers Nushin Ahmed and Sameer Mathur, both junior doctors here in Canberra were delighted at how the event unfolded and look forward to bringing another night of popcorn, flicks and stimulating discussion to the big screen next year.



Medfest 2014—montage by Dr Zafreen Rahman

Donations were received from a number of organisations to allow this event to be free to attendees. MWS was delighted to sponsor the popcorn machine!

Our Charities

MWS raises funds every year in support of a small number of carefully chosen charities—organisations that make a real difference and do not generally attract funding from the bigger charitable institutions. We are especially interested in those projects that have a slant towards women's health and related issues.

We currently support: Fiji Village project, Women and the Environment Congo, Newpin, and Mummy's Wish

We would be delighted to consider new charities to support and welcome suggestions from our membership.

Letter from Congo Womens' charity

Dear Ann Hosking

I would like to thank you and MWS very much for this second support that your organisation funds us and let you know that we received from the bank receipt statement for this grant. Please see attached the bank receipt and the budget allocation plan. This second grant, we will focus mainly on community health by doing awareness on common health problems and tackling also gender health issues.

Many thanks and warm regards from PFE women
Salomé NTUBUBA

Thanks from Newpin

Dear Ann,

Once again, please pass on our sincere thanks to the ACT Medical Women's Association for their financial support this year. It was a delight to receive your donation of \$1250.

This year Newpin used the donation to pay for the majority of cost associated with attending a music program called Rock, Rhythm and Roll. The program is based on attachment theory and works hand in hand with the aims of Newpin, but achieves these aims through music and song. It had a profound impact on our families and we are hoping to annually incorporate it into our learning program. For you information, we have included our newsletter and reflections on

the Rock, Rhythm and Roll program. Hopefully this will be useful in conveying to your members what their valuable efforts have helped Newpin achieved.

Many of our families continue to be linked into other programs available at Uniting Care Kippax including:

- ☺ Rock, Rythm & Roll – a music program designed to foster stronger bonds between parents and children (FaHCSIA funded)
- ☺ HIPPPY – (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters). A School readiness program that sees the parent tutor their child in basic concepts that they will use in the first years of school. (Funded by DEEWR through the Brotherhood of St Lawrence)
- ☺ Family Support Counsellor
- ☺ Emergency Relief

Please pass on our appreciation to the women of the ACT Medical Women's Society for their invaluable support as we look forward to another great year at Kippax Newpin.

FUNDRAISING EVENT TRIVIA NIGHT



Carefully timed to coincide with the beginning of the Spring Racing Carnival, this year we want you to imagine yourself back in 1930 and about to head off to the races! It should be fun decorating your tables in theme and we encourage you to dress up ... there may be a prize for costume and of course there will be plenty of 30's & racing themed games and quizzes and enough general knowledge to separate the thoroughbreds from the hacks. Start organising your teams of 8-10 for a night of entertainment while we raise funds for our special charities.

Friday 24 October
Italo Australian Club
Forrest

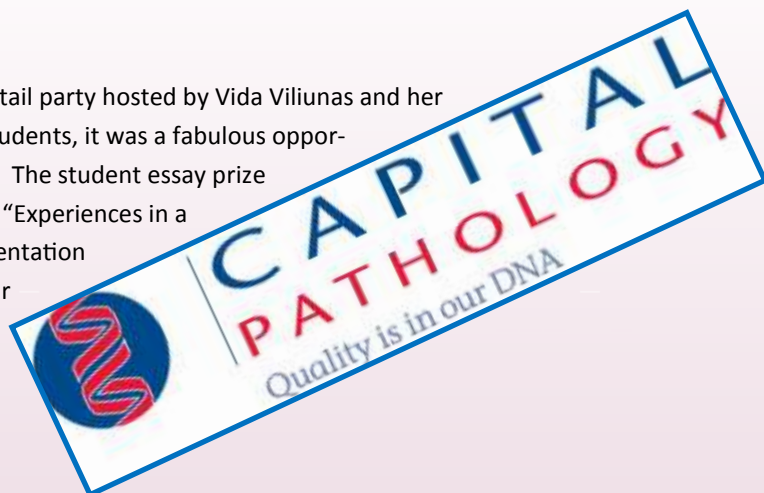
Details will follow soon!



We appreciate the generous contribution of the Italo Australian Club in allowing us the use of their facilities at significantly reduced cost.

Cocktail Party

The MWS social calendar got underway in style with a classic cocktail party hosted by Vida Viliunas and her partner Rod. Well attended by a cross-section of members and students, it was a fabulous opportunity to mix and mingle with other Medical Women in Canberra. The student essay prize winner was announced and presented—Estelle Janz-Robinson for “Experiences in a Bangladeshi Delivery Suite” - we will hear from Estelle at the presentation dinner in September. We are grateful to Capital Pathology for their sponsorship of this event—it helps us to start the year with sparkle !!



Mothers' Day Classic Fun Run

The MWS got together a team to enter the Mothers' Day Classic fun run/walk this year, raising money for breast cancer research. Several of us felt that, as medical women, this was really something we should be supporting; actually it was a member's husband who suggested it in the first place.

So, on what looked like it was going to be a chilly, drizzly May day, 11 financial members, along with medical students, families and friends made up a grand team of 38. And the weather even decided to come to the party after all, with a beautiful sunny morning!

Some of us walked or ran 5Km, some walked or ran 10Km, but together we all raised \$2465 for breast cancer research. Notable achievers were Dominique Ferguson who came 2nd overall in the 5 Km run with a time of 19min 16 sec! And our most senior competitor and beloved president Sue Packer who completed the 5Km.

Next year we will try for an even bigger team and hopefully double our fund-raising effort. We plan to be a bit more organised and have our own T-shirts so that we can at least find each other amongst the thousands of other sweaty bods.

Oh, nearly forgot - we did get the trophy for the largest community team!!! (You can see it at our next function)



The Juggle

Held just for our Medical Students, this annual event has become a widely anticipated feature of the MWS calendar. This year we heard from Linda Welbery, Vanita Parekh, Cath Sansum & Marjorie Cross. Each gave invaluable insights into the many pathways to successful careers in medicine for women. We greatly appreciate the honest assessment of their various experiences and are certain that the many students who attended gained both inspiration and caution in equal measure. We are especially grateful to Liz Gallagher and her husband Anthony who yet again hosted us in their home.

For some insights into the event, read the article by Rebecca Matthews on Page 6

Education evening—Vivaldi Restaurant

Advances in Genetics and pre-natal testing



Our annual education event this year was held in the cosy ambience of Vivaldi Restaurant in ANU. The event featured good food and great company interspersed with two dynamic presentations by experts in the field of genetics and pre-natal testing. Perhaps the cold winter



weather kept a few of our members away, but we had over 30 medical women come to enjoy a lovely meal whilst being enlightened.

There has been an astonishing explosion of capability in genetics in recent years, and this evening was an opportunity to update ourselves on the new possibilities in genetic sequencing and identification of inherited disorders.

Kristi Jones made it look easy, likening the genome to an encyclopaedia where we might want to just check if all of the volumes are present but can choose to

search by the chapter or even get down to each word just be careful that you don't look unnecessarily closely as there are bound to be mistakes somewhere in every genome! We are privileged to have the opportunity to uncover the genetic programming errors and help couples to make informed choices and improve the likelihood of them producing healthy children.

Paul Whiting was unperturbed to be the only male present and gave an enlightening presentation on the merits of available genetic testing methods.

The evening was hosted by Tween Low who ensured that everything ran smoothly. We are grateful for the sponsorship of Genea who brought Kristi Jones to Canberra for the evening and subsidised the cost for attendees.



Detention, Women & Children

Observations by Sue Packer

Official figures show there are currently 1,138 children in locked detention facilities. 424 of those are on Christmas Island and 132 are on Nauru (we know the latter is now more like 160, see point below).

The Government has recently recommenced sending unaccompanied children to indefinite detention on Nauru. This means that guardianship of these children has been passed from Australia's Immigration Minister to the Nauruan Justice Minister. Some operational guardianship duties are delegated to Save The Children employed in the detention facility under a Commonwealth of Australia contract. Last time unaccompanied children were sent to Nauru (November 2013), they were returned to Australia within days and weeks as the risks to their health and safety were deemed to be too great.

There is no formal, Australian curriculum standard education for children detained on Christmas Island or Nauru, they do not leave their detention compounds to attend classes. Space for teaching is incredibly limited (on Nauru tents only), resources are limited and teaching staff at a minimum. Even in mainland centres, access to early childhood education and development is highly questionable.

There are currently around 80 pregnant women detained in Australian mainland centres, on Christmas Island and roughly 15 on Nauru. Women are brought from Nauru and Christmas Is to give birth in Australian public hospitals. Once a baby is 28 days old and receives medical clearance the mother and child are sent back to detention on Christmas Island. We are yet to see at what age it is deemed 'appropriate' to send a baby to detention on Nauru.

The precursors to Manus Island unrest have been identified as lack of information, finally realising / being told that resettlement would not be in Australia, helplessness, boredom, frustration. All of these elements exist in Nauru, where a total of more than 1,012 people are now detained. The only difference there is that 160+ children are involved.

For more information please see www.chilout.org, sign up to our free monthly newsletter. Or, if you are after specific information relating to your work / area of expertise (health, mental health, education, child protection etc) please get in touch with us at team@chilout.org

Stories from wonder women: the ACT MWS “Juggle”

By Rebecca Mathews

3rd year medical student representative on the ACT medical women's society committee

Juggling is a great metaphor for life. We all juggle many “balls” every day: work, family, friends, social activities, more work, exercise, and so on.

I am a third year medical student with the exciting but daunting prospect of becoming a qualified doctor drawing ever closer. Something I think about most weeks is how will I continue to keep all these balls in the air when I am a doctor.

I know that it is possible because I see amazing doctors every day who juggle hospital time, clinic time, research and teaching commitments, committee meetings, families and much more. I would love to hear from them about how they do it and how they got to where they are today. But, I know that this is never going to be the subject of any of our formal teaching. What's more, I know that they may not appreciate this type of questioning on a ward round!

Thanks to the ACT Medical Women's Society's Juggle event hosted in May each year, women medical students have an opportunity to hear from and talk to inspiring women doctors about their career paths and how they have managed the rest of their lives along the way.

Each year, the Juggle features doctors from many different fields of medicine with diverse backgrounds, families and social lives. In the three years I have attended the Juggle, I have heard from orthopaedic surgeons, pathologists, general practitioners, obstetrician gynaecologists, paediatricians, medical administrators, endocrinologists, sexual health physicians, oncologists, and more. Some of these doctors had their kids during medical school, some after specialist training, some had no kids, and some had never had kids but were now caring for aging parents. Some had worked all over Australia, some had worked all over the world including in war torn Africa and Afghanistan, and some had always worked in Canberra.

The Juggle highlights that everyone's journey in medicine is different. Some may have not ended up at the destination they planned or expected at the beginning of their career, but are happy that it turned out that way. Others have had detours and bumps along the way, but have inspiring stories about how they have overcome such hurdles to get to a new destination.

I have been to the Juggle each year since I started medical school and I will continue to do so. I have enjoyed it immensely every time, and every time I have taken away a different perspective that I am certain will help me in my own journey.

Medical Womens International Association

There is a very informative [newsletter](#) online—please take the time to browse through it and be informed about important issues for medical women worldwide

Adventures in Italy

By Jane Twin

In January, this year, Julie Hewitt and I, with our respective partners, attended the Ape Conference in Corvara, Alta Badia, Italy. From the outset, the trip was memorable. We met in the Emirates lounge in Dubai, to fly the final leg together. I was suffering a severe migraine (something I never get), so when the others breakfasted on scrambled eggs and Dom, I pretended I was enjoying it all too.

We arrived in Venice safely but minus one bag, mine! It seems that a little old lady from a different flight, from a different point of origin, picked the wrong bag from the wrong carousel and then took it to the wrong town! It arrived two days later. I had to buy emergency warm clothes, but luckily, my ski boots, skis and outer wear all had arrived in other bags.

Julie and Wayne had stayed in Venice overnight, so it was only Robert and myself making the onward journey that night. We arrived in Alta Badia in a snow storm. More than one meter of snow had fallen, making the mountain passes treacherous. The trip was interesting, to say the least. We changed buses in Cortina, onto a smaller bus with chains. There were only five people on the bus to start with, then three got off after only 15 minutes. It became our private driver service after that, driving along a narrow road with multiple switchbacks. At one stage we passed a snowplough, the bus driver stopped and talked to him. So when we got to a barrier across the road, the driver got Robert to put his foot on the brake while he opened the barrier! We crawled on for several more kilometres, going down and out of the danger area. The driver was very good.

The conference started on Monday, busy time trying to get in as much skiing before the afternoon sessions every day. Corvara is a beautiful Tyrolean town, German speaking in northern Italy!

The ski area is very extensive with more than 400 lifts available on one ski pass. While not super challenging skiing, Julie and I did manage to crash into each other, trying to avoid another (more serious) accident. Luckily, neither of us suffered badly. The scenery in Alta Badia is amazing, the mountains folded out of an ocean floor millions of years ago with diagonal ridge lines catching the snow.



The following Saturday we all drove to Cortina via Passo Falzerego, the route we took in the dark and the snow. In daylight it was even scarier! We stopped and skied there past frozen waterfalls. Sadly we said goodbye to Julie and Wayne who had made the difficult decision to go back to work.

Robert and I spent the next week at Cortina, quite a different type of ski terrain. The town is different, too, Italian speaking and geared to the rich Russians, who seem to make up the majority of skiers there.

Unfortunately, our adventures were not yet over. The following Thursday, it started to snow heavily again, so when we woke up on Friday morning, we were snowed in in Cortina. No ski areas open. We just wandered the streets, watching the snow ploughs trying to find the roadways and people trying to dig out their cars.



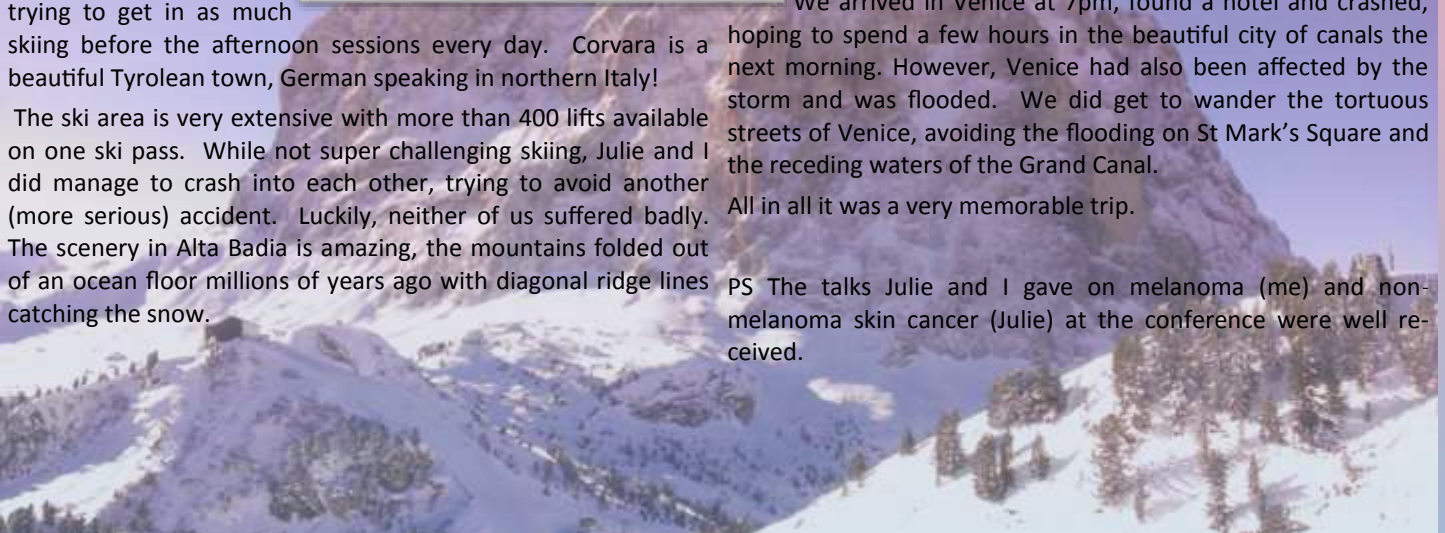
So, it was Friday, and we had to catch a plane back to Australia the next day. No, the road was closed, but it may open later in the day. Would the bus run? No, and probably not the next morning either, as it was still snowing heavily. OK.....? We booked a taxi, just in case the road opened. At 3pm, we heard the road to Venice was probably open; the taxi was waiting, so we might as well try to get out! At least that meant we could spend some time in Venice the next morning before we flew out.

The road was open, but only just. I wouldn't have wanted to be on a bus, on that trip. In some places, the road was only just wide enough for a car. If there was another car coming in the other direction, someone had to back up.

We arrived in Venice at 7pm, found a hotel and crashed, hoping to spend a few hours in the beautiful city of canals the next morning. However, Venice had also been affected by the storm and was flooded. We did get to wander the tortuous streets of Venice, avoiding the flooding on St Mark's Square and the receding waters of the Grand Canal.

All in all it was a very memorable trip.

PS The talks Julie and I gave on melanoma (me) and non-melanoma skin cancer (Julie) at the conference were well received.



Inverbrackie Detention Centre

Report from Sue Packer after visiting in May 2014

In May I went with a group of ten people from the Australian Human Rights Commission to visit Inverbrackie Immigration Detention Centre, as part of **their enquiry into children in immigration detention. This is the “flagship” detention centre, supposedly demonstrating “best practice”.** It is a converted defence housing settlement in beautiful rural surroundings in the Adelaide Hills- but still surrounded by a high security fence, with entry via a guard house.

When I visited, there were 319 people detained there= 163 adults, 112 children from 2-17 and 34 infants under 2 years.

Serco, the security service involved, would state with some justification that they are complying with all the requirements for acceptable living standards in detention, but the devil is in the detail.

The people were in family groups, but although there are enough houses to house each family separately, the policy is to share houses - mostly 2 families, but no say about which house or who to share with - they say this is to reduce disputes. The families buy their food at the store on the campus on a point system and do have some say as to what is available to buy and they then cook it in their own (shared) kitchens.

There is a nurse and a GP at the centre. The drill is to apply to Serco to see the nurse (and quite often they record the wrong house details so the family misses out). The wait for a nurse is usually a few days, then if she agrees there is another wait to see the GP. Interpreting availability for some language groups is scarce and not always available, even for specialist appointments. Telephone Interpreter Service is supposedly available, but often it is the wrong interpreter, or inaudible. Two of the mothers I interviewed had given birth in a nearby hospital without an interpreter. There are separate dental sessions set aside for them in the evenings in nearby towns, but quite a long wait (they are not to compete with locals for facilities).

The school children go to schools in the community, by bus, at least part of the week. However, I heard they are in separate classes at school (maybe language contributes to this). The parents attend parent/ teacher events, which they appreciate. All children have their bags searched each day after school and mostly a body search as well. We did not have access to the

school(s). There is an excellent early childhood facility (very shabby) on the site, run by a truly inspirational early childhood teacher. This is available to all infants and pre-schoolers in the mornings, then in the afternoons she runs smaller “attachment” groups for the very depressed mums and their infants. There is an excellent playground, but children under 12 are not allowed anywhere in the compound without a parent, which limits its use.

The families are taken on excursions, on rotation, once a month - no choice of destination and always accompanied by uniformed guards. The never go to shopping malls, mostly somewhere like the zoo, which frightened some parents and children.

Probably the biggest complaint is that in this “model” facility for “low risk” people, they are roll-called 4 times a day and 2 of these are photo checks, with each person, including babies, matched to their photos. Since the last check is at night - usually after 8.30, the children are often wakened by a torch shone on their faces and the guards do not knock. Some guards are considered polite and respectful. Others cause real distress e.g. a 14 y o found with a lollipop (forbidden) was told that his behaviour would place his family at the bottom of the list.

Everyone I saw was distressed and in despair, with absolutely no control over their lives and anticipating being sent off shore with their infants and little children. All they want is safety and education for their children and **the right to work, none of which was possible in their “home” countries.**

They have some counselling access and language access, but no access to lawyers.

About a month after my visit, some of the families with infants that I interviewed were wakened and taken from Inverbrackie at 3am (it is very cold up in the hills) and sent on their long journey to Christmas Island, to await being moved to Nauru or Manus. These are the mothers now on “suicide watch”.

One of the questions I was to ask was “Why Australia?” They all replied “Because we had heard they were good with human rights”!



Medical Women's Society of ACT and Region

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Held at 6:30pm on Thursday 28th November, 2013, at 30 Sheehan St,
Pearce, ACT

1. **Welcome** and meeting opened by the President, Liz Gallagher, at 6:52pm.

a) **Present:** Jane Twin, Liz Gallagher, Tween Low, Nushin Ahmed, Diana Rubel, Linda Welberry, Sue Packer, Julie Hewitt, Jenny Bromley, Susie Close, Jill Hutton, Brenda Masters

b) **Apologies:** Lucy Bates, Natalie Boulton, Ann Hosking, Hanna Kovats, Marjorie Cross, Anne Bicknell, Joan Kitchin Buchanan, Jenny Ross, Amanda Barnard, Jane Dahlstrom

, Helen Wiles

2. **Acceptance of Minutes** of 2012 AGM:

a) Proposed: Brenda Masters

b) Seconded: Jenny Bromley

3. **Business arising from 2012 AGM:** Nil

4. **President's report:** Full report to be attached. Liz reflected on the previous year, noting many highlights including the cocktail party, very well attended Juggle Event (85 people), and the significant fund raising event- Christmas in July. Both the Forgotten and Stolen Generation Information and Anniversary Presentation Evenings were extremely well attended and informative also. Brenda moved a vote of thanks to Liz for an outstanding three years as president and also to Anthony for his awesome support.

5. **Treasurer's report:** see attached. Also included was a letter by Brian Hewitt, Auditor, mentioning that approval for monies spent on functions needs to be properly minuted in meetings' notes. Auditor's Report was presented and approved.

Proposed by Susie Close and seconded by Brenda.

6. **AFMW Report:** Susie attended the most recent meeting in Korea, where one of the main topics discussed was termination of pregnancy. Many Right to Life supporters from USA were sponsored to attend the meeting and were due to give a presentation, which was later cancelled by the meeting organisers. These supporters then held a press release under the AFMW banner to lodge a protest, which was seen by many other AFMW members and organisers as a provocative and upsetting manoeuvre. However AFMW attendees rallied around the important issues, and have released a statement supporting access to information as a first priority, and then access to safe termination. Susie noted that many people of Christian denomination attended the meeting and supported the tenets of AFMW, and that there has been significant progress amongst Asian countries. AFMW have drafted a Position Statement on disclosure by Medical Practitioners allowing patients full access to information and the right to choice, regardless of whether doctors themselves are conscientious supporters of different choices. General discussion ensued as to the state of affairs in Australia, and Tween Low reported that there have recently been difficulties at The Canberra Hospital with the abrupt cessation of selective foeticide for normal pregnancies, effectively denying this service in the ACT. Tween agreed to develop a submission to TCH on behalf of MWS ACT.

7. **Membership Secretary's report:** Given by Julie. There are currently 71 members, and 67 out of 68 have paid, with three new members proposed for the newyear (yet to pay). 26 members have not renewed from last year. If they do, then our total membership would surpass last year's. Committee members were reminded by Julie that all need to be financial. All attending members were financial. Julie will contact all who have not renewed their membership before Christmas this year. It was noted that there are over 400 female doctors in ACT. It was also confirmed that members who do not pay their subscription for two years will not be on the mailing list after that time. Exceptions can be given for members who move away for work reasons but who request to remain on mailing list eg. Felicity Williams.

Acceptance of report proposed by Diana and seconded by Liz.

8. **Other business:**

a) Jane Twin received an email from a gentleman in Canberra who requested assistance from MWS and AFMW, to sup-

port his setup for a PAP smear / cervical cancer registry in Nepal. Because this meets the tenets of AFMW, Susie offered to draft a letter of support (Jane to forward any correspondence to Susie). This is the first South Asian register so far proposed; cervical cancer rates are very high in Nepal, with no data on immunisation, and a number of issues such as privacy, communication, and literacy to be further explored.

b) Essay Prize Awards. A number of high quality essays from medical students were received. It was unanimously agreed that the Prize be awarded to Estelle Janz-Robinson for “Experiences in a Bangladeshi Delivery Suite” as it was both extremely well-written and relevant to the tenets of MSW and AFMW. Suhaila Kamrani received highly commended for “Can I kiss you”.

c) The venue for future meetings was discussed, and agreed that Liz would enquire whether they can be held at AMA House in Barton.

d) Date for 2014 Cocktail Party – Liz to arrange with Vida (possible dates 13th or 20th March 2014).

9. **News of Births, Deaths, Marriages, Babies, Honours** etc. Most of these were tabled at last meeting (date October 23rd, 2013). Also officially recognised were Sue Packer for ACT Citizen of the Year (until March 2014). Also, this year Susie Close and Deb Colville were added to the AFMW Honorary Membership role - there have been 49 women in 40+ years, 3 of whom have been from Australia.

10. **Appointment of Auditor:** all agreed to reappoint Brian Hewitt as Auditor. Proposed by Sue Packer and seconded by Brenda Masters.

11. **Election of Office Bearers:**

President: Sue Packer

Vice President: Brenda Masters

Secretary: Diana Rubel

Treasurer: Tween Low

Assistant Treasurer: Ann Hosking

Public Officer: Sue Packer

Membership Secretary: Julie Hewitt

Rural GP Rep: Marjorie Cross

Urban GP Rep: Jill Hutton

Specialist Rep: Liz Gallagher

Junior doctor rep: Lucy Bates

Intern rep: Nushin Ahmed

Student Rep: 2 third year reps have offered (Julie to provide details)

AFMW Rep: Susie Close.

Other members: Marjorie Cross, Jenny Bromley

Newsletter Editor: Brenda Masters

General Committee Members: Jane Twin, Linda Welberry.

All office positions were elected unopposed.

The meeting was closed at 8:24pm.

Student Representatives finalised post AGM:

1st Year— Renata Pajtak, Katie Burkett

2nd Year— Kate Musil

3rd Year— Jessica Hines, Bec Matthews

4th Year— Svetha Rao