

MEDICAL WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF THE ACT AND REGION

PO BOX 232
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CONTRIBUTIONS	All contributions welcome!!!!

DIARY

17 th September	Presentation Dinner
17-19 October	Medical Women's International Association Western Pacific Regional conference Melbourne
1 st November	MWS ACT and Region AGM

Presidents Message

This is an excerpt from the President's welcome message from earlier this year. It explains why we are having to charge more for our functions.

“Unfortunately, it has become increasingly hard, if not impossible, to obtain sponsorship, at least from drug companies, due to new, tightened Government legislation. This means that charity is going to rest heavily on our shoulders and that we will largely be asking members to pay a more realistic price to attend functions. I am hoping that this will not affect attendance numbers and that you will view this in a generous light – the more we spend from our funds, the less we have for support where it is needed, whether that be locally or globally.

Julie Hewitt, President”

As a continuation of this we are asking those members who feel able to help sponsor the Med Students to the presentation dinner (See attached invitation). This is entirely voluntary.

Annual Membership Subscriptions are now due!

Annual subscriptions are now due. If you have not received your posted subscription notice, please contact Jane Twin at thetwins@netspeed.com.au.

Please could you supply your updated email addresses as we are having many emails bounce, especially from organizations who restrict personal emails at work!

More about the social functions

17th May – Well being dinner, Hudson's at the Botanical Gardens

This was a very successful dinner with several businesses around Canberra coming along to give us an insight on what is available in the Canberra region. **Bill Giles** from Deaks talked about gluten free eating, **Anthony Young** from Plonk introduced us to Silly Yaks, the gluten free beer, **Derek Zorzit** gave us the info on remedial massage. The event was sponsored by Bayer who brought **Dr Anne Clark** to talk about sperm health and Menavit. It was a very informative evening and fun! And there were sample hand made chocolates from **Lindy at All Thing Chocolate**.....

Unfortunately the **2nd Annual Canberra Medical Ball** co-hosted with the Canberra Medical Society and the AMA, at Old Parliament House which was to be held on 21st June was cancelled due to lack on interest. This resulted in a **\$1000** loss to the society and a lost opportunity to raise funds for our favourite charities. However, a modified version of the combined event will be held on **1st November** at the Great Hall ANU, as a cocktail party followed by a dinner. The aim is that the cocktail party and dinner can be attended as single events or as a combined evening. (See attached flyer). This will be our main fundraising event so please come along and support it. We will have an abbreviated AGM during the Cocktail party.

PLEASE MARK THIS EVENT IN YOUR CALENDAR!

8-10th August - Ski trip to Perisher

Another very successful Ski trip was held at perisher Valley last weekend. The snow was magnificent, all natural and in very good condition. Next year we plan to book at Thredbo for a change.

21st September - Presentation Dinner

The Presentation Dinner will be a month earlier this year as there have been clashes with student exams and other events. We hope this change will make it easier for people to attend. (See attached flyer).

Saturday 1st November - MWS ACT and Region AGM in conjunction with our combined event fundraiser cocktail party and dinner

Fiji Village Project - Photo Exhibition

Date: Friday 22nd August

Time: 5:00-8:00pm

Venue: Fiji High Commission
19 Beale Crescent, Deakin

Admission: Adults \$20; Students \$10

In January 2008 a team of medical students from ANU, the Fiji School of Medicine and the University of Auckland travelled to the Nabukavesi village to undertake the inaugural "Fiji Village Project". The aims of the project were to improve water availability and quality through the installation of water tanks, undertake health screening for the villagers, and provide health and environment education programs for the local school. The Fiji Village Project was one of the first ever trans-national student-based projects in the South Pacific region.

This project was one of the charities sponsored by MWS of ACT and Region in 2008.

The project team would like to invite you to view a selection of the best photos taken during the Nabukavesi Project. The event is the perfect opportunity to support and discover more about the work of ANU medical students in Fiji!

All photos will be available for purchase on the night, with a selection for silent auction. The night will also include a touch of Pacific, with Islander & Bollywood dancers and live music! Light refreshments and drinks will be served.

ALL funds raised go directly to the next project, planned for January 2009.

To purchase tickets or find out more about the project, please contact:

Rhiannon Palmer (0409237783)

Moniza Kumar (0403674681)

Alisha Azmir (0414653564)

OR email fjivillage@gmail.com

ZOPOM Foundation

As you all will be well aware the situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate. The rate of inflation is enormous, it is difficult to understand that if you can buy potatoes at

all, they cost 30 billion per bag! We can only hope that the political leaders can come to some agreement. We would still like to be able to support the Mazuma Orphanage.

In her last communication, Paula has asked for monetary assistance as the goods are taking too long to arrive and there is still uncertainty as to whether they will arrive at all.

Direct donations can be made to ZOPOM:

Donations can be forwarded to Yvonne Wyer, 9 Roebuck Street, Red Hill ACT 2603. Cheques should be made out to: ZOPOM Foundation. For tax receipts please **include your name and address your deposit/transfer slip**; or Money can be deposited in the ZOPOM Foundation bank account:

National Australia Bank BSB 082-902, ZOPOM Account: 791155892

John James Memorial Foundation

The **John James Memorial Foundation** wishes to forge ties with the MWS of the ACT.

This year in late July, two of our members, Liz Gallagher and Janelle McDonald visited the Katherine region as part of an outreach gynaecological clinic. They saw 68 women, thereby decreasing the waiting list for transport to Katherine Darwin for treatment. Liz found the experience fulfilling and is already planning to go again next year as part of the Specialist Volunteer Services Program. If you want to hear more about Liz's experience, come along to the Presentation Dinner.

If anyone else is interested, the JJMF would act as a co-ordinator and all doctors and health care workers under the JJMF banner would be badged as JJMF volunteers. JJMF would make all the necessary arrangements including Medical Board registration and pay for travel and accommodation, etc. There will also be contact with Aboriginal liaison officers in the relevant hospitals to ensure culturally appropriate practice.

The needs are mostly within the fields of ENT, O&G, Orthopaedics, General Surgery, Anaesthetics and Dental.

Further information can be found on the website jjmj.org.au.

MWIA Western Pacific Conference, Melbourne, 17-19 October 2008

The Australian Federation of Medical Women invites doctors and medical students to apply for a **leadership scholarships** which are being provided by AFMW to assist individuals to attend the [Medical Women's International Association Western Pacific Regional Congress](#) at the Sofitel Melbourne on October 17-19, 2008.

Sixteen scholarships of \$750 and six scholarships of \$500 are available. Recipients will receive leadership skills training at the Congress and have options to undertake website skills training. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of need with preference given to applicants from rural and remote regions. Applications close September 1, 2008. For more information please refer to the official application form:

<http://vmws.files.wordpress.com/2008/07/afmw-leadership-scholarships-mwia-wprc1.pdf>

OR:

<http://vmws.files.wordpress.com/2008/07/afmw-leadership-scholarships-mwia-wprc.doc>

Registration Now Open!!!

[Click here](#) to register online today!

Registration for the Medical Women's International Association, Western Pacific Regional Congress is now open! For detailed registration information, please visit the

[Congress website.](#)

Early Bird Rate Register Now for a Discount!

Take advantage of the Early Bird registration rate by registering prior to the **28th August 2008**! For additional information on delegate registration fees and entitlements please [click here](#).

Accommodation

Eliminate the difficulties of arranging your stay in Melbourne by booking your accommodation through the Congress Managers to obtain competitive room rates and flexible terms and conditions.

Special rates have been secured at a range of hotels - book now via the [online form](#) to avoid disappointment. Visit the [Congress website](#) for further information.