



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MEDICINE

June 1999

Volume 8 Number 1



Australian Military Medicine Association

Statement of Objectives

The Australian Military Medicine Association is an independent, professional scientific organisation of health professionals with the objectives of:

- promoting the study of military medicine
- bringing together those with an interest in military medicine
- disseminating knowledge of military medicine
- publishing and distributing a journal in military medicine
- promoting research in military medicine

Membership of the Association is open to doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics and anyone with a professional interest in any of the disciplines of military medicine.

The Association is totally independent of the Australian Defence Force.

President's Message

Nader Abou-Seif

Early this year, the Australian medical community was saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. John Lane after a short illness. John was widely considered to be the founding father of aviation medicine in this country and continued to be active in research until his death. He was also one of the three original Honorary Life Members of the Australian Military Medicine Association (with Sir Edward Dunlop and Sandy Ferguson). His role in the promotion of Aviation Medicine and the development of an Institute of Aviation Medicine in Australia has been a major contribution in the establishment of this speciality in the Australian Defence Force.

As we approach the end of the 20th Century, it is very easy to take for granted the current "State of the Art" and to forget the debt we owe to those in both the recent and not so recent past. Military Medicine is dynamic and we, in whichever discipline we have chosen to practice, are part of a continuing line of practitioners, whose care for those we serve, is both an inheritance from our predecessors and a legacy to those who follow.

Future practitioners of Military Medicine rely on our efforts, standards and commitment to form the basis of theirs. I hope that together we may leave them a legacy as great as that left to us.

AMMA can provide the forum to bring together the knowledge and efforts we bring to our day to day activities; to allow us to share in our experiences and fellowship and to create and re-inforce both for ourselves and our successors a great and growing tradition.

The AMMA Council is currently developing initiatives to encourage the greater contribution and expansion of our association in the development of this tradition. Once again, I encourage you all to be active in your associations, to promote and participate in its activities and to help us grow and develop into the future. I hope that future generations of military medicine practitioners may look back at our efforts, as we look back at John's, and see inspiration to their future.

A full obituary of John Lane is located elsewhere in this issue and I encourage you all to remember him and his contribution. Writing of John also reminds me to encourage you to seek out a book to be released for ANZAC Day called "Ordinary Heroes" by Barry Dickens, which includes a chapter on Vivien Bulwinkel, one of AMMA's other Life Members. Her inspirational presentation at the 3rd National Meeting in Melbourne in 1994 is still quoted by many as one of the best Keynote Addresses heard at an AMMA Conference.

LEST WE FORGET.

Editorial

Is the Defence Health Service Y2K compliant?

Russ Schedlich

One of these days, I must get a guest editorial in ...

As we move towards the next millennium (can I get some controversial letters on when the millennium starts???) it is perhaps pertinent to ask the question: "Is the Defence Health Service Y2K compliant?"

Of course, this is not a question that relates to computers, but rather a challenge to the military medical community to look at the Defence Health Service and honestly assess

whether it is well prepared for the 21st century.

Continuing the computer analogy, we must examine the hardware – the facilities, materiel, and people – and the software – the policies, standards, and procedures.

Hardware

As the 19th century closes, we can look to an ADF that has a variety of high quality health facilities, both deployable and non-