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President's Message

Welcome to the first issue of Australian Military Medicine for 1996. Although the year has only just started to 'kick on' from the holiday season, it already appears to be one which has the potential for changes in Military Medicine in Australia. It is to be hoped that with the change in government, the bipartisan approach to maintaining the profile of all aspects of health support in local and international military and humanitarian projects continues. As discussed in the 50th anniversary year of the end of the Second World War, Australia's contribution has been greater than one would expect from a country of our population and resources.

To assist in ongoing research in the areas of military medicine, I am pleased to announce the proposed establishment of a database of Australian research in military medicine. The cost of establishing the database and the cataloguing software is to come from the prize money donated to AMMA at last year's conference by Steve Rudzski. Once established this resource will be available for the use of all members. On the subject of research, just a quick reminder to those who have a project but are seeking funding assistance, the deadline for this year's AMMA Grant applications is fast approaching. AMMA will endeavour to assist members in worthwhile research projects as stated in the aims of the organisation. Details concerning applications will be found elsewhere in this issue.

The AMMA Council has recently farewelled Chris Maron from Council as he has been

posted to the UK. Chris was one of three councillors who had been members since AMMA was founded, holding the positions of inaugural Treasurer and later Member. His contributions, diligence and sense of humour will be missed. I take this opportunity to publicly thank him for his efforts in the establishment of AMMA.

As the call for nominations for Council membership are included in this issue of the journal and the constitution only specifies the membership of Council being between five and eight members, Council have elected not to declare a casual vacancy at this time because of the proximity to Council elections. If, however, any member wishes to assist Council in any capacity please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the Secretary. I encourage all members who wish to contribute to the organisation of the association to consider nomination to Council. I intend to nominate for one further term as President in order to consolidate some of the administrative changes Council have brought about during this term of office. I hope that the association will allow me to do so and to further develop the association to meet the needs of its membership.

Once again I encourage you all to allow Council to know how we may best meet your needs. Any suggestions on how to improve the association or further develop it are always appreciated.

Nader Abou-Seif