



## **Presidents Chapter Report For 2004 Annual General Meeting**

The year since our last meeting in September, 2003 has been a year of exceptional progress both at Federal and State level with progress in areas of burns training, disaster management and the further development of New South Wales State Severe Burn Injuries Service. ANZBA members sit on all the major Federal and State Committees and ANZBA as an organisation remains active as an advisory body to the initiatives and changes that are taking place. We should congratulate particularly Fiona Wood, Dale Edgar, Sheila Kavanagh and Peter Campbell for their work in developing these initiatives.

### **ANZBA CORPORATE STRUCTURE**

The legal difficulties that surfaced at the last AGM particularly related to ANZBA's responsibility to ASIC have been resolved. The process required ANZBA to retain a firm of Lawyers (Dibbs, Barker & Gosling) who were able to look at our corporate structure and make a number of recommendations to resolve these issues. Minor issues remained outstanding which related to tax deductibility and legal protection for the ANZBA logo, as well as Directors' Insurance. In view of the costs involved the Board decided to pursue the matter of Directors' liability insurance but to leave in abeyance the other recommendations. The cost of the exercise, about \$11,900, is outlined in the Treasurer's Statement and included a generous donation to ANZBA by Dibbs Barker & Gosling of \$2,000 to defray some of the costs. There is no doubt that the review of our legal requirements was vitally necessary to prevent ASIC imposing very large fines.

### **EMSB COURSES IN NEW ZEALAND**

As a result of the legal review the Board was able to get the Auditor's assent for the New Zealand EMSB Co-ordinators to open their own local ANZBA back account. This has made a very large difference to the smooth financial running of EMSB Courses in New Zealand and is a major step forward.

### **FEDERAL AND STATE INITIATIVES IN BURNS CARE**

As a result of the working party set up in November, 2003 (National Burns Planning & Co-ordinating Committee) a National Burns Disaster Response Plan has now been presented to the Australian Health Ministers' Conference and adopted as the AUSBURN PLAN. This plan provides for a nationally coordinated response to a major disaster involving burns when State resources are overwhelmed. This has been developed by David Cooper, the Director of the Counter Disaster Unit in New South Wales with input from ANZBA members, in particular Fiona Wood and Peter Campbell.

Integral to the proper functioning of the Ausburn Plan is the need to develop national standards for service and training. In essence a National Burns Network Committee will be appointed and will consist of a Chairperson, Deputy, ANZBA President, ANZBA surgical, nursing and allied health representatives, and a burns representative from each State and Territory (State elected, ANZBA endorsed), and a representative from the AHD-MPC Australian Health Disaster Committee. The National Burns Network Committee will have the responsibility for the development of a national model of care for burns, the development with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, a programme for accreditation and verification of Burns Units and for the development of a burns surgical training programme and finally the implementation and maintenance of a National Burns Data Base.

Dale Edgar, ANZBA Vice-President, has been co-opted to project manage the development of this plan. Fiona Wood will report during the course of the meeting on the progress of these various committees.

## **NEW SOUTH WALES SEVERE BURN INJURIES SERVICE**

The NSW Severe Burn Injuries Service has progressed considerably with regular Committee meetings chaired by Peter Haertsch. Peter Campbell was appointed to the position of Programme Manager and Anne Darton as Allied Health Co-ordinator. The appointment of Yvonne Burford as Data Manager has allowed the development of a statewide database. The service has now developed a statewide model of care and transfer guidelines have been implemented across the State. At present the development of a model of care for allied health and rehabilitation is underway as well as guidelines for clinical practice. This model of burns care developed by NSW Health is, I believe, a model that should be taken up by other States. The development of a similar structure should make the development of national guidelines, model of care, clinical practice, a more feasible proposition which will make the job of verification and the development of a national training programme easier to develop.

## **OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES**

During the year ANZBA was responsible for organising a visit from Indonesian burns staff from Denpasar and for a group of Burns Surgeons from Kuala Lumpur at the request of the Malaysia Government. Both visits were useful and we have had a request from the Malaysian Burns Association to be involved in the further development of burns training in Malaysia.

Following negotiations with Rotary and with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, I have received an invitation from the Minister of Health in Timor for an ANZBA team to visit the country to assess how burns care can be improved and developed. This is an exciting prospect that I would like to address during the AGM.

I would also like to ask the membership to consider how we might implement a programme to bring overseas burns surgeons to visit our Units and to take part in our Annual Scientific Meeting on a regular basis. We may need to consider a small levy from the membership on a voluntary basis to do this.

## **BURNS TRAINING /EDUCATION**

### **EMSB**

2004 has been another successful year with 9 courses being held in Australia (120 registrations) and 2 in New Zealand (48 registrations). The EMSB continues to be very well subscribed. Instructors and coordinators, under the auspices of the Education committee, undertake continuous evaluation of the course to implement changes which keep up to date with advances in burns care as well as to modify the course as a result of feed back from the participants.

Two EMSB courses were cancelled at the last minute due to lack of registrants leading to some financial loss to ANZBA. This related to poor communication from local organisers. The decision to go ahead with a course (based on the number of registrations and the availability of instructors) must be made in sufficient time to allow maximal benefit from cheap airfares and accommodation. The committee have resolved to improve this aspect of EMSB. I would, in spite of these comments, like to pay tribute to Hugh Martin, Jill Clausen and the many instructors and coordinators who have given up so many weekends to selflessly contribute to the success of the EMSB courses.

Hugh Martin has decided to stand down as Chairman of the Education Committee at the AGM. As everyone is aware Hugh (with a little help from his friends) is responsible for the concept, writing and development of EMSB in this country. This was a massive undertaking,

the success of which is not only evident in the continued popularity of each new course but in the fact that EMSB has been adopted by both the Dutch and by The South African Burn Association as their preferred education program. I believe that Hugh with his energy and tireless enthusiasm for the improvement in Burns care in Paediatrics and more widely through ANZBA has made a very real and lasting change to Burns care in this country. He will remain of course close at hand, dispensing wise council as we have come to expect.

### **SURGICAL TRAINING**

The Surgical Training Committee has made some progress during the course of the year. The Committee have developed a curriculum as a basis for burns training. This will be modified and developed into a modular format with sufficient flexibility to provide appropriate training for Surgeons with varying levels of ultimate involvement in the treatment of Burns, either as part of a General, Plastic or Trauma practice or as a full time Director of a Burns service. Once the curriculum has been further developed discussions will take place with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to develop the best method of implementation of a training programme which will have to be co-ordinated with training in the other disciplines.

### **NURSING**

The Graduate Diploma of Burns Nursing has been developed and implemented by Sheila Kavanagh and Sarah McRae in Adelaide. This is a very important initiative and Sheila and Sarah should be congratulated. The course is well subscribed and I believe will in the future form part of a requirement for Burns unit verification.

### **ANZBA BURNS INFORMATION CARD**

This initiative, funded by C3, Clinical Cell Culture, led to the development of a 'business size' card which carried information on 'The acute management of burns' and the "ANZBA transfer guidelines". It was planned to make the card available to all emergency departments in the country for information and education. Unfortunately the final product contained too many errors and had to be withdrawn. Hopefully we will be able to resurrect this useful concept for 2004.

### **THE SECRETARIAT**

I cannot close this report without special mention of the secretariat. Radical changes took place at AMAQ in 2003 with a complete change of staff responsible for looking after (I use this advisedly) ANZBA. Jillian Custance arrived and slipped into the role with such deft expertise that the organisation continued to function without missing a beat. I am deeply indebted to her and to her colleagues for the masterly and unobtrusive way in which they provide information, good advice and good organisation. I could not do without them.

I would like also to thank members of the Board and the Executive for good sense, wise council and great support during the year. We are masters of delicate decision-making. I look forward to hearing about each of our Burns Unit activities on a clinical and research level at the Annual Scientific Meeting and am very much looking forward to catching up with as many people as possible in Adelaide.

JOHN HARVEY,  
President, ANZBA.