



RURAL DOCTORS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

MEMBER NEWSLETTER March 2010

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE ENCLOSED

Dear RDAQ Member,

This year we have decided to issue membership certificates on a trial basis. We are hoping that these certificates will be a way of thanking members for their support, and acknowledging the importance and value of RDAQ membership. If they are displayed in your office or surgery, these certificates can be an effective way of promoting RDAQ to your colleagues and to the wider community.

We would value your comments on this initiative;

- ⇒ Do you appreciate receiving a certificate, or does it become just another piece of paper to add to the pile, or (heaven forbid!) to be filed in the rubbish bin?
- ⇒ Do you receive so many similar pieces of paper that another just becomes meaningless?
- ⇒ Is this a worthwhile investment for RDAQ, or could the funds be better used for other purposes?
- ⇒ Will you display the certificate in your office or surgery?
- ⇒ Do you have any comments about the style or design?

Please provide your comments to Jenny at the RDAQ office, by phone, fax or email.

Thanks to Registrar member Ashraf Saleh, for the great photograph which provides the background for the certificate.

RDAQ exists to serve its members. A strong membership base enhances our credibility in representing rural doctors and rural communities, and is essential for our ongoing financial viability. A portion of RDAQ membership income is paid to RDAA, so RDAQ membership also sustains our national organisation.

The most effective member recruitment strategy is a recommendation or referral from an existing member, so please mention RDAQ and the benefits that membership can provide to your colleagues.

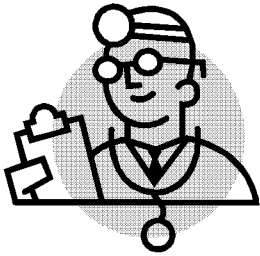
IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE IS NOT ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER, YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2010 IS OUTSTANDING. WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT AND A RENEWAL INVOICE IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

RDAQ VISITS NORTH QUEENSLAND

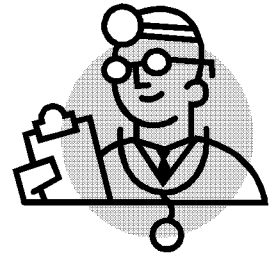
RDAQ President Dr Sheilagh Cronin and President-Elect Dr Dan Halliday are planning to visit North Queensland on March 15-17th. The itinerary has not yet been finalised but could include Atherton, Mareeba, Townsville, and other communities en route to Mackay.

Details will be circulated by e-newsletter when they are confirmed, and members will be contacted to arrange meetings where possible.

Please contact Jenny at the RDAQ office (ph: 3221 4444; email: rdaq@rdaq.com.au) if you would specifically like to meet with Sheilagh and Dan.



RDAQ NOTICEBOARD



RDAQ 2010 CONFERENCE

Coming of Age: Innovations in
Rural Health

MACKAY, JUNE 11-13

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EARLY
BIRD RATES

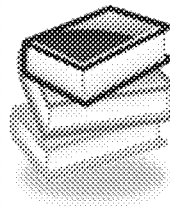
Register on-line at
www.rdaq.com.au/conference

DoctorConnect

(www.doctorconnect.gov.au) has recently included information on its website covering:

- ◆ [OTDs Factsheet](#) – scaling from RA1 to RA5 and the eligibility criteria
- ◆ GPRIP and [GP Component](#), [Registrar Component](#) and [Rural Relocation Incentive Grant](#)
- ◆ [National Rural Locums Program](#)
- ◆ [Rural Locum Education Assistance Program \(Rural LEAP\)](#)
- ◆ [HECS Reimbursement Scheme](#)
- ◆ [Bonded Medical Places \(BMP\)](#) and
- ◆ [Medical Rural Bonded Scholarships](#)

WELCOME



To all new and continuing student members from the University of Queensland; Griffith; James Cook and Bond universities. We look forward to your participation in RDAQ this year and hope to see many of you at our conference!

The Health Quality and Complaints Commission advises that the consultation phase of Stage 3 of the Full Review of Standards Project has commenced.

Discussion papers for the following standards are now available on the website along with submission feedback forms:

- ◆ Credentialing and scope of clinical practice
- ◆ Complaints management
- ◆ Providers duty to improve the quality of health services

<http://www.hqcc.qld.gov.au/home/inner.aspx?pageID=400&snav=127>

DATE CLAIMERS

Mt Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health: 'Are you remotely interested?' conference will be held on August 20-22 in Mt Isa.

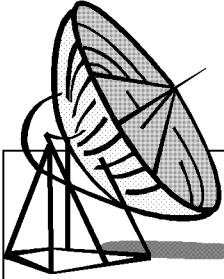
RDAAC/ACRRM Conference: The annual RDAAC/ACRRM conference will now be held over the weekend of 22-25 October 2010 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart, Tasmania. Please note that the venue has changed from Perth as previously notified.

WANTED: GP—BOONAH, SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

Immediate start available for VR General Practitioner with FRACGP or FACRRM qualifications.

- ◆ Boonah Medical Centre is a 5 doctor practice over 2 locations. Procedural skills and hospital involvement are not required (but available if desired).
- ◆ This is an ideal position for a GP with a young family or an overworked GP wishing to scale back to a sustainable lifestyle.
- ◆ Proximity to Brisbane and the Gold Coast is an advantage of the location.
- ◆ The practice is of a high standard with AGPAL and GP training accreditation. After hours on-call is a 1 in 5 roster.

For details please phone Tony Eviston 0439778661
email: tony.eviston@boonahmedical.com.au
www.boonahmedical.com.au



ON RDAQ's RADAR...

Australian Health Ministers have committed to jointly plan through Health Workforce Australia for quality clinical undergraduate training for all future health professionals. The national plan will boost the number of clinical training places available for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. This commitment to meet increased demand is essential, as it is anticipated that the number of commencing domestic medical student numbers alone will increase from 1820 in 2008, to 2912 in 2012.

The Ministers strongly acknowledged their commitment to provide all Australian medical and nursing graduates with an intern place to allow them to complete their training, and States and Territories have all agreed to guarantee to provide high-quality clinical placements and intern training for Commonwealth-funded medical and nursing students.

RDAQ President Dr Sheilagh Cronin, together with Dr Bryan Connor, hosted a visit to their Cloncurry practice by Federal Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, the Hon Warren Snowdon; along with senior staff from the DoHA Brisbane office. The visit included a productive and candid discussion lasting over two hours, covering issues such as the economics of Medicare funding and rural practices; the cutting of immunization funding; negative implications of the new RA policy; and finally the nightmare of trying to get IMGs registered and given Provider Numbers. Lots of notes were taken, and hopefully his new knowledge will translate into better rural and remote health policy.

RDAQ has called for the return of local responsibility for health care needs through the re-introduction of the Hospital Board system. Referring to significant management failures since the Boards were abolished, RDAQ President Dr Sheilagh Cronin said that budget imperatives were now put ahead of the needs of small communities. A Hospital Board system would give communities the opportunity to determine what services were most appropriate for their residents, and how these services should be delivered.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr BRAD MURPHY who has been appointed Inaugural Chair of the RACGP National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. Brad is also RDAQ Treasurer.

MEETING WITH MINISTER: RDAQ representatives will be meeting with the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, the Hon Paul Lucas MP, on March 18th. Association representatives will also be meeting with Executive Director of the Office of Rural Health, Dr Denis Lennox, at the end of March.

Meeting with Mark McArdle MP—RDAQ President Dr Sheilagh Cronin and Executive Officer Jenny Johnson met with State Shadow Health Minister Mark McArdle recently. Issues discussed included priority health services for rural communities; rural hospital facilities; workforce recruitment and retention; and the potential to improve coordination between the public and private sectors in rural areas.

Professor Andrew Wilson, Executive Dean of Health at Queensland University of Technology and formerly Deputy Director-General at Queensland Health, has been appointed to the Board of Health Workforce Australia. This role of this new body will include:

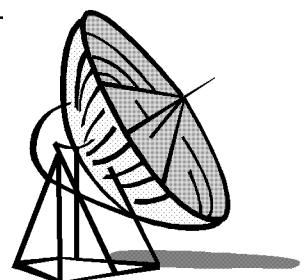
- ⇒ Provision of financial and non-financial support for undergraduate clinical training;
- ⇒ Workforce redesign and reform; and
- ⇒ The provision of advice to health ministers.

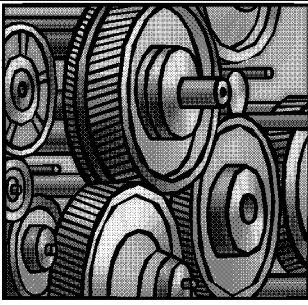
SPECIAL DELIVERIES: The Queensland Centre for Mothers and Babies is inviting all GPs who provide maternity care to participate in an on-line survey. Details of how to access the survey have already been provided by e-newsletter and can be obtained from the RDAQ office. Centre representatives will be visiting various communities in March and April, so please take the opportunity to meet with them if they visit your community. More information on the Centre's activities can be obtained from their website: www.havingababy.org.au

The new General Practitioner Anaesthetists' Locum Scheme (GPALS) is underway. An Australian Government rural health workforce initiative, GPALS is designed to specifically support GP anaesthetists throughout rural and remote Australia and generous subsidies are available.

Managed by the Australian Society of Anaesthetists, GPALS is currently seeking applications from all interested Hosts in Remoteness Areas 2-5 (GP anaesthetist/practice/hospital) and Locums (both GP and specialist anaesthetists).

For more information, please call Dianne on (02) 9327 4022, send an email to gpals@fed.asa.org.au or visit the ASA website at www.asa.org.au.

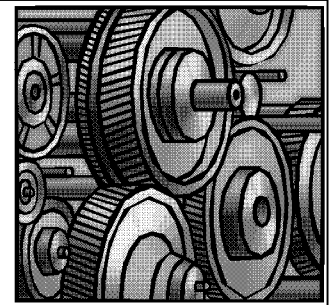




RDAQ CONFERENCE UPDATE

The Cogs are in Motion—and it's full steam ahead with preparations for the RDAQ conference!

www.rdaq.com.au/conference



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



Air Commodore Tracy Smart is currently based in Canberra with Department of Defence Joint Health Command, and is serving as Director-General, Garrison Health Operations and Director-General Air Force Health Services. She has served as Medical Officer and Senior Medical Officer at bases around Australia and overseas, and as Chief Instructor and Commanding Officer of the RAAF Institute of Aviation Medicine.

Tracy was awarded a Chief of Air Force Commendation for her role in investigating a fatal air accident in 1999. She has considerable operation experience, having deployed to Rwanda, Timor Leste, Malaysia, the Middle East and Lebanon. From 2004 to 2008, she served as Officer Commanding Health Services Wing, which is the Air Force's senior operational health commander. During this time she planned and managed deployments to a number of regional disasters and military operations.

Tracey has authored or co-authored 13 published articles and over 50 papers for presentation at scientific meetings in Australia and internationally, primarily in the areas of aviation medicine, aeromedical evacuation, and military medicine.

AVIATION MEDICINE WORKSHOP:

The pre-conference workshops this year will include an Aviation Medicine workshop. Full details will appear on the conference website as they are finalised, but a number of interesting speakers have already been secured, including Air Commodore Tracy Smart. Thanks to CASA and QRME for their support.

The popular musculo-skeletal workshop and Health Workforce Queensland pre-conference workshops are also on offer. Details are included on the registration form and the conference website. Places for workshops are limited, and are allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis, so book early to ensure your participation.

STUDENT NETWORKING FUNCTION:

This year, the social program will begin with a special networking function for students and their sponsoring doctors. This will allow the doctors and students to meet each other at the beginning of the conference and before the rest of the program begins. This function will take place immediately before the Welcome Drinks reception on the Friday evening. **MDA National has generously agreed to sponsor this function.**

MEDICO-POLITICAL FORUM:

Both the Hon Paul Lucas (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health) and Mr Mark McArdle MP (Shadow Minister for Health) have accepted invitations to address the medico-political forum this year. An invitation has also been extended to The Hon Warren Snowdon (Federal Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery) to attend.

FOCUS FOR OVERSEAS TRAINED DOCTORS:

This year one of the conference plenary sessions will focus on issues impacting on Overseas Trained Doctors. This session will be of interest to all rural doctors, especially giving the large number of OTDs in the rural medical workforce.

FAMILY NETWORK and SOCIAL PROGRAM:

Once again we will have a great social program. This is included in the registration fee, which makes the conference great value for money. The Queensland Rural Medical Family Network will once again be organising a partner and family program and more details will be available closer to the conference.

THANKS TO PFIZER (PLATINUM SPONSORS) AND
QUEENSLAND HEALTH (GOLD SPONSORS) FOR THEIR SUPPORT