



AMWA e-news December 2007

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year!

Congratulations to Tina Allen who was re-elected president of AMWA at our annual general meeting held in Sydney at the Professional Development Day on 27 October. See below for the list of our new committee members.

If you would like to contribute to the next AMWA e-newsletter, please email our newsletter editor Rada Rouse at rada_rouse@yahoo.com

AMWA PDP Day

Great feedback has been received from participants in the recent Professional Development Day at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts in Sydney. With more than 50 participants, the day featured workshops covering web writing and medical statistics, as well as a lunchtime seminar with Professor Bruce Armstrong's perspective on risk perception and public health. Here is some feedback we have received from the day:

'Also to pass back to the committee - I thought the meeting was excellent, many thanks to those who organised it. Content and the day itself ran really well. I wish my brain was more sponge-like when it came to medical stats ...' Sian Slade

'I just wanted to say how great I thought the day was. I am writing two websites at the moment, so the first was ideal for me, the risk perception session was fascinating, and the afternoon was just what I needed for the Australian Veterinary Journal. I would really like to get the slides for that when they send them. I think they were the best AMWA PDP workshops that I have been to. Keep up the good work!!!' Anne Jackson

AMWA events



- The annual AMWA conference will be in Brisbane next year! The city was chosen at the AGM with the executive committee to decide on a date in September or October.
- Our president, Tina Allen, attended the National Prescribing Service (NPS) Member Planning Day on Friday 23 November at Australian Technology Park in Sydney on behalf of AMWA. She participated in a planning workshop on how NPS could work with 'Priority Communities' and was chosen to be one of the spokesperson's for her group (see pic below). This is the second Member Planning Day that Tina has attended on behalf of AMWA since AMWA became a member organisation of NPS in 2006.

What's new

- The NSW Centre for Overweight and Obesity, based at the University of Sydney, has produced a guide for journalists reporting on obesity, including ways to broaden the debate. Download it [here](#).
- A new website of interest in the health field – Australia's first dedicated health jobs website <http://www.healthcareer.com.au>.
- SMH journalist Ruth Pollard is running a new international [online resource](#) and forum for journalists covering HIV/AIDS. It's backed by the US National Press Foundation.

Positions vacant

Medical Writer/Drug Information Specialist

National Prescribing Service (NPS) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that promotes the quality use of medicines through delivery of programs and services to health professionals and the community. We are currently seeking an experienced professional to work in our Sydney Office in a team researching and writing evidence-based educational material on medicines and therapeutics.

You will be responsible for producing relevant, accurate, evidence based information for a variety of NPS publications across a number of target audiences. To do this you will undertake rigorous and comprehensive literature searches and identify, critically appraise and synthesize the results of clinical trials.

To be considered for the role you must have:

- Demonstrated ability to write material for health professionals
- Demonstrated ability to undertake comprehensive searches of medical and pharmaceutical literature
- Clinical background or a good understanding of pharmaco-epidemiology and an ability to interpret and appraise clinical trial results
- Excellent attention to detail
- Project management skills, the ability to meet deadlines and to balance competing priorities
- Demonstrated ability to work autonomously and as part of a team
- Sound computer literacy in MS Office suite

The ideal candidate will be self-motivated and an excellent communicator, and will be rewarded with excellent employee benefits including professional development entitlements and additional leave to maintain work-life balance.

Salary: \$75,000 – \$83,000 plus super and excellent employee benefits including annual professional development allowance and additional leave entitlements to help you achieve work-life balance.

Enquiries: Alice Bhasale on 02 82178700 or <mailto:abhasale@nps.org.au>

For a full position description please visit <http://www.nps.org.au>. Applications must address the selection criteria listed in the position description and should be sent to <mailto:apply@nps.org.au> or Human Resources, PO Box 1147 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012.

Applications close Monday, 10 December.

Contract editors and proofreaders required for medical and scientific journal articles

Contract editors and proofreaders in Australia and New Zealand in all fields needed for editing/proofreading of manuscripts intended for submission to English language medical and scientific journals. Information about these positions can be obtained by sending your CV and a brief statement describing relevant experience to <mailto:applicant@forte-science.co.jp>. Selected applicants will be invited to complete a short writing screen and successful candidates will undergo further training, as necessary, appropriate for this type of work. (Forte Science Communications, Tokyo, Japan; www.forte-science.co.jp).

Jean Wheeler

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Getting to know one another

Beejal Vyas-Price, medical writer, Sydney



Beejal is currently Chief Medical Writer at Meditech Media Asia Pacific in Sydney. She moved to Australia from London just over two years ago following a job transfer and hasn't looked back since. Swapping the commute on the tube stuck under someone's armpit for the more sophisticated journey on the 144 bus into Crow's Nest has totally transformed her life!

Beejal entered the world of medical/scientific communications following the completion of her PhD in Immunology from Kings College London. This career transition came about after the realisation that the aspects she enjoyed the most in her 'lab days' were more in tune with writing and communicating. After a brief stint as an editor for Thomson Scientific (formerly Current Drugs), Beejal joined Meditech Media. She has been with the company for six years and thoroughly enjoys the diverse nature of her role.

Beejal is very excited at being a member of the Executive Committee of AMWA (see below) and is looking forward to bringing its members some inspiring and stimulating workshops/seminars next year.

AMWA executive committee

The annual general meeting of the AMWA was held in Sydney on October 27. The following committee members were elected:

President: Tina Allen
Vice President and Treasurer: Katherine Baverstock
Secretary: Andrea Malcolm
Education sub-committee chair: Beejal Vyas Price

Ordinary members: Sophie Scott, Jacinta Miller, Rada Rouse, Serina Stretton, Anne Ring, Rhana Pike, Fiona McKinnon and LE Ohman

Affiliate member: Adrian Dolahenty

New members

The AMWA Executive Committee would like to welcome the following new members and affiliate members: Dr Wendy Morgan, Fiona Mactavish, Sian Slade, Sue Cook, Ruth Pitt, Emily Yorkston, Eve Hurley, Dr Doris Brownlee, Ruth Pitt and Dr Paki Rizakis.

Websites we like

Great for freelancers – <http://www.writejobs.com>. Many of these jobs are telecommute.

To unsubscribe to this newsletter please email treasurer Katherine Baverstock:
treasurer@medicalwriters.org

www.medicalwriters.org

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