



AMWA e-news February 2009

Greetings!

A message from President Katherine Baverstock on the year ahead

I would like to wish all of our members a Happy New Year. As I start my first year as President, 2009 is shaping up to be a very exciting year. We have already held networking events in Canberra, Brisbane and Melbourne and the Sydney event is coming up on February 10 (see below). I am hoping these events might be the beginning of a semi-regular social opportunity for AMWA members. After a very successful conference in Brisbane last year, we will be holding our next conference in Canberra. More details will follow in a few weeks time.

My other interest as AMWA President is to increase access to the Professional Development Program (PDP). At the moment our training is only available face-to-face, which disenfranchises members living in the non-eastern states and in rural and regional areas. I will be working with the executive committee and other experts to develop PDP that can be delivered via an IT or print platform.

Finally, I would like to make a mention of our executive committee, all volunteers, who help AMWA function so efficiently. All the committee members have busy professional and personal lives, but still make time for AMWA. We are still looking for a Treasurer for the 2008-2009 year. It doesn't require a person with accountancy experience (I certainly don't have any). As Treasurer you will be responsible for paying invoices, receipting and banking payments (such as the membership renewals) and keeping the paperwork in some sort of reasonable state for the accountants. You will also be responsible for keeping our membership databases up to date. The constitution restricts this position to an Ordinary member. I have been doing the Treasurer's job for the last three years – if you are interested, please contact me on president@medicalwriters.org for a chat.

Events

Sydney: networking and drinks

Sydney members and their colleagues are invited to a networking and drinks evening in the beer garden at The Oaks, Military Rd, Neutral Bay on Tuesday 10 February from 6pm. No need to RSVP. Further information can be obtained from Andrea Malcolm, secretary@medicalwriters.org or Rhana Pike, webmaster@medicalwriters.org

Melbourne: networking and drinks

The Melbourne meeting on 4 January was a great evening. Thanks to the 25 people who attended. The night included a very interesting talk and there was a very good "buzz" in the room throughout the networking afterwards.

Canberra, last December

The Canberra networking night at the National Press Club on 8 December was a great chance to meet up with fellow AMWA members, some of whom are pictured here.

L – R: Katherine Baverstock (AMWA president), Simren Gill, Andrew Daniels, Carolyn Ng and James Caulfield.



Social secretaries wanted

Medical writing can be a lonely job, and networking events are very important to maintain a sense of connection with each other. We are looking for 'social secretaries' who would be willing to organise and host one or two social events each year for local members, with support from the executive committee. Please contact the President, Katherine Baverstock at president@medicalwriters.org if you are interested in learning more.

What's new?

- The Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases Annual Scientific is holding their conference in the Hunter Valley, NSW from 25-28 March 2009. For further information [click here](#)
- In November 2008 an article published in the BMJ on medicine and the media entitled "Who's watching the watchdogs?" makes for an interesting read: [BMJ article](#)
- The Australasian Cardiovascular Nursing College is holding their 3rd annual conference in Sydney on 27-28 February 2009. If you are interested in finding out more information [click here](#)
- Leading biotechs and pharmaceutical companies will be showcasing how they manage partnerships at the Biopartnerships 2009 conference in Melbourne on Apr 29 – May 1. See this [link](#) to register
- The Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) is currently undertaking a survey of its media profile among media organisations and journalists. If you have 2 minutes and would like to participate, please go to the [link](#).

Getting to know one another

Adrian Dolahenty, PR & Communications Manager



Adrian Dolahenty graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications from the University of Western Sydney and completed a one-year cadetship with Fairfax Community Newspaper's Liverpool Champion in 1992.

He moved to the Parramatta Mercury for two years before becoming a press secretary to Health Minister Ron Phillips in the Fahey Coalition Government in the lead-up to the 1995 NSW election. He was a marketing writer then an editor of Security Australia magazine in the lead-up to and during the Sydney Olympic Games. Adrian was PR manager for a not-for-profit organisation, Northcott Disability Services, after two years as a PR consultant.

In July 2005 he joined Pfizer Australia's corporate affairs department as an associate media affairs manager before being promoted to Media Communications Manager in February 2007.

Adrian is now Media Communications Manager of Bayer Schering Pharma, a specialist pharmaceutical company providing a range of treatments to patients with multiple sclerosis, cancer as well as having the largest market share of oral contraceptives in Australia. In his spare time, Adrian is a captain in the Army Reserve, posted as a public affairs officer to Headquarters 8th Brigade at Timor Barracks in Sydney.

He joined the AMWA committee in 2007 and particularly enjoyed this year's conference. "This year's conference and dinner was fantastic and I hope we can build on it for 2009 with all the new members who are seeing the benefits of belonging to AMWA," Adrian said.

Websites we like

Have you seen the '100 Fun and Useful Search Engines for Writers' website? If not, click on the link to find out which search engines you should be using to gain the most up-to-date information in your field.

[100 fun & useful search engines for writers](#)

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) is a forum for publishers and editors of peer-reviewed journals. It aims to maintain the integrity of the research record, and explores issues like fraudulent publication, conflict of interest, and redundant publication. [COPE](#)

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treasurer@medicalwriters.org

www.medicalwriters.org

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