



AMWA e-news

May 2008

Greetings! AMWA has much pleasure in announcing our 25th annual conference to be held in Brisbane on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th October, 2008. The venue is [The Ship Inn](#), a historic hotel incorporating a function centre. The Ship Inn is owned by Griffith University and is situated on the edge of Brisbane's vibrant riverside South Bank Parklands precinct, within walking distance of accommodation and restaurants. The AMWA conference organising committee is currently developing the program. If you have any ideas for speakers or topics for our conference please forward to rada_rouse@yahoo.com

AMWA events

Brisbane lunch

Queensland AMWA members are invited to a networking lunch on Friday 23 May at 12.30 pm. The lunch will be held at Home Store and Café, Ashgrove in Brisbane, which is close to the city and has nearby free parking. This is just a casual get together with meals or snacks available a la carte. BYO wine if you like. We have a private room for the lunch so it would be helpful if you could let me know if you intend coming – email rada_rouse@yahoo.com. If you have any questions please call Rada on 0407 139 127.

Sydney networking function

Please make a note in your diary that there will be a Sydney AMWA networking function on Thursday 19 June. The function will be held at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts at 280 Pitt St Sydney at 6.30 pm for 7 pm. Drinks and light refreshments will be provided. The speaker will be Karen Pitt, General Counsel from the Copyright Agency Limited. The cost for members will be \$20 and non-members \$25. An email broadcast with booking form will be sent out closer to the function. Enquiries to: president@medicalwriters.org

What's new

The recent Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance freelancers' convention in Brisbane has inspired a group of journalists to get together and form a regular networking group. Sydney and Melbourne already have these groups set up under the auspices of the MEAA. The contact for Brisbane is Sam Walker. To find out more email sam@samwalker.com.au. The first meeting is expected to be in June.

Bicycle Victoria is looking for freelancers to write with authority on health matters affecting cyclists in the bimonthly magazine *Ride On*, which goes to 40,000 members. We would like to hear from specialists who deal with cycling issues: physiotherapists, podiatrists, orthopaedic specialists and others. Contact the Deputy Editor, Bron Willis, at bronwenw@bv.com.au, including a CV, writing samples and information about experience treating or advising cyclists. Ability to write in an easy-to-read, magazine style is essential. Please also let us know if you're a cyclist and what kind of riding you do.

The 17th ARCS Annual Scientific Congress will be held from Wednesday 28 May to Friday 30 May 2008 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. To find out more click here: <https://www.arcs.com.au/eventmanagement.cfm?eventid=114>

The University of Newcastle is looking for journalists to take part in a research project on health news reporting. The study involves a short phone interview about your views on writing health stories and possibly a six-month feedback project which would take about 10 minutes each month to complete. The research is an extension of the Media Doctor website (www.mediadoctor.org.au). If you would like more information please contact Amanda Wilson on amanda.j.wilson@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au or (mob) 0407456642 or Justine Smith on 02 4921 1725.

Medical journalist and blogger Michael Woodhead has started a health and medical writers group on Facebook. Another way to keep in touch ... and even get work! There's a post there from someone in New York looking for web writers. Go to www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4158377682. For more on health forums see Websites We Like, below.

'Viruses in May': Registration closes soon for a conference billing itself as Australia's only meeting focused specifically on the clinical, diagnostic and management aspects of viral infections. www.virusesinmay.com.

The School of Public Health and the Medical Foundation at the University of Sydney has announced its public lecture series for 2008: 'Grand challenges in health & medicine'. These 6 lectures will be held on Wednesday evenings over the next 6 months. The lectures address the question, What are today's greatest health challenges and what impact will they have on you and global health in the future? To register, go to www.health.usyd.edu.au.

Medical journalist Melissa Sweet and colleagues have launched a new edition of *Smart Health Choices* (Hammersmith Press), a layperson's guide to making sense of health advice and evidence.

'Successful science writing and editing': Biotext will run this popular training course in Sydney on 11 June 2008, at the Hotel Mercure, and in Brisbane on 19 June 2008 at Stamford Plaza. The 1-day course is aimed at anyone who writes or edits material dealing with science and technology, for any audience. For further information see www.biotext.com.au/services/training.shtml, or contact Hilary Cadman (hilary.cadman@biotext.com.au).

The next Australian certification examination of the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences will be held in Sydney on 5 July 2008. For information, see www.bels.org or contact Rhana Pike, rhana@australianeditor.com.

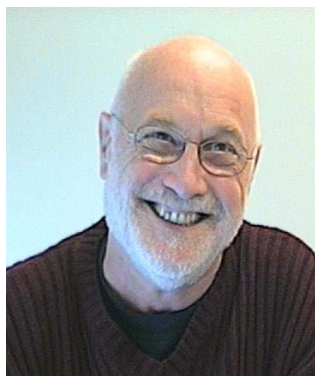
Events

Our president, Tina Allen, was invited to attend a cocktail party in Melbourne to celebrate the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) paying \$500 million to its members — most of it going straight to Australian authors, publisher and creators. The cocktail party was held at The Botanical in South Yarra on Wednesday 27 February.

L to R: Tina Allen, Jim Alexander (CEO of CAL) and Karen Pitt (General Counsel at CAL)



Getting to know one another: Thilo Kober



Smiling all the way...

My interest in medical writing developed while I was the Liaison and Project Officer of the Australian Cancer Society (now The Cancer Council Australia) and the Australian Cancer Network (ACN) from 1992-1997. During that period, I published on cancer management and policy issues in *Australian Health Review*, *Australian Family Physician* and *Cancer Forum*. In 1994, I created *Wongi Yabber*, the ACN newsletter and continued as managing editor and writer until 2006.

In 1999, I was head hunted by the Cochrane Collaboration and moved to Cologne (Germany) where I set up the editorial base of the Cochrane Haematological Malignancies Group, the only Cochrane Collaboration entity concerned with the development, maintenance and dissemination of systematic reviews for haematological malignancies. From 2000 until 2005, I was the German correspondent for *Today's Life Science* (now *Australian Life Scientist*). Following my return to Australia in April 2006, I worked for the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) until recently. It was at DoHA where I was introduced to the finer points of parliamentary writing.

My current business Smiling Press was set up in 1997. I provide manuscript development for peer reviewed biomedical journals and other publications, clinical paper summaries, feature writing, reports and write-ups of conference proceedings, media releases and editing. In addition, I work as a research consultant for systematic reviews on health interventions and health technology assessments (HTA) reports.

I joined AMWA about ten years ago and the German Association of Medical Science Writers (VDMJ) in 2001. VDMJ membership includes a widely recognised press card which opens the doors to many national and international conferences without having to pay the customary registration fee. AMWA should aim to gain the same status for its members.

AMWA executive committee

The committee met by teleconference on 9 April.

Websites we like

Crikey has started a health and medicine forum/blog called Croakey. It's accessible at www.crikey.com.au and you don't have to be a Crikey subscriber to contribute. Croakey is attracting comments from some prominent public health people.

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

www.medicalwriters.org

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