



## AMWA e-news

### September 2008

Greetings!

It's the time of year to dust off those winter blues and plan the year ahead. The AMWA annual conference in sub-tropical Brisbane is a great place for networking, so if you haven't registered, go to [www.medicalwriters.org](http://www.medicalwriters.org). Please let colleagues who are not AMWA members know that the early bird rate has been extended to October 1. We hope you have had time to renew your AMWA membership to gain year-long benefits and take advantage of the member rate for the conference. The renewal form is online.

Contact Rada Rouse ([rada\\_rouse@yahoo.com](mailto:rada_rouse@yahoo.com)) if you any questions about the conference or Andrea Malcolm ([andreamalcolm@gmail.com](mailto:andreamalcolm@gmail.com)) if you have anything to contribute to the next e-newsletter:

#### AMWA annual conference — 17 and 18 October

- It's seven years since the AMWA conference was held in Brisbane so there's a lot of interest locally, including from local journalism students. Thanks to Gold sponsorship from Medical Observer we have been able to offer two postgraduate students from the University of Queensland's medical and science journalism course full registration to the conference. In addition, several students will be permitted to 'sit in' on the New Media presentations on Friday (Session 3).
- It's costly to mount the annual conference so we are most grateful for organisations which are supporting the attendance of speakers, including 6minutes.com.au, the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code Council and Platinum sponsor, the NHMRC.
- Thanks also to Mi-tec Medical Publishing who produced our lovely purple conference brochure and Biotext for sponsoring one of the workshops.
- We are still finalising more conference sponsorship and a full list of these supporters will be in the conference handbook. Don't forget, if your organisation would like to support AMWA and send a message to medical writers and conference delegates, it's only \$500 for Bronze sponsorship to slip a brochure/flyer into the conference satchel. For more information contact Rada Rouse on 0407 139 12
- There are four workshops on offer this year and descriptions can be found on our website at [www.medicalwriters.org](http://www.medicalwriters.org). Please note that Dr Janet Salisbury will be leading 'Evidence-based medicine: the basics' and Helen Darch will be leading 'Writing and designing web content'. We are pleased that Helen can once again lead this popular workshop.
- Over the coming weeks we will be profiling speakers and workshop leaders from the conference. Our first profile is of former investigative journalist, Hedley Thomas who is our keynote speaker and will be talking about 'Patel, Haneef and the pressure'. With all the interest in Dr Jayant Patel in the media lately, this talk should generate lots of questions and a lively discussion.

## Conference speaker profile Hedley Thomas

### General Manager, Communications and External Relations, Queensland Gas Company Limited (QGC)

Hedley Thomas was at the top of his profession as a leading Australian journalist when he joined QGC as General Manager, Communications and External Relations in February 2008. He had just received the Gold Walkley Award, the highest honour in Australian journalism, completing a string of five Walkleys awarded for investigative, news and feature writing. Click [here](#) to read more.



## What's new?

- The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology is holding its Asia-ARVO conference in India on 15–18 January 2009. For more information visit <http://www.asiaarvo2009.org>
- A new postgraduate program which brings together public health resources and media expertise is set to start at the University of Sydney next year. Check it out [here](#).
- The Medical Technology Association of Australia annual conference is on 24–25 Sept 08 at Star City, Sydney. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The WA Health Conference 2008, 'Our Health, Our Future' is on in Oct (15–17) October at Perth convention centre. For further details see [WA health conference](#).
- RANZCR is holding its 59th Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide on 16–19 Oct. See their [website](#) for registration details.
- The community child health conference is on in Brisbane 23–24 Oct. See their [website](#) for more information

## Getting to know one another

### Dr Anne Ring, freelance medical writer

Anne Ring, who is a first time member on the AMWA Executive Committee, comes from a mixed social science and health background, with academic qualifications and professional experience in clinical psychology, medical anthropology and medical sociology. Over the past 20 years she has been a researcher in a number of diverse areas. For 10 years she was Principal Research Officer in what is now the Queensland Medical Education Centre, in the University of Queensland Medical School, working on intern training, rural medical practice needs, and continuing medical education projects. At the same time, she was completing a PhD in medical sociology, examining gender-specific health-related messages in the mass media.



Consequently she developed parallel careers in health research and media analysis (particularly in the areas of health and body image), bringing them together over the past 10 years as a freelance writer and researcher. Currently, she is working on a book arising out of updated aspects of her doctoral thesis, but still has time for some freelance writing, at times blended with one of her other interests, photography; and has just had an illustrated article on Brisbane cycle paths published in the latest edition of *Australian Cyclist*.

### AMWA committee

The committee met by teleconference on 10 September and would like to welcome the following new members: Sol Martina V Garcia, Kathy Kramer, Alexandra Pearce, Tania Truniger, Fransiska Hluschniow, Judith Flanagan, Margaret Richards, Mark Roth, Rosealee Smith, Kit Ming Wong and Patricia Weir.

### Websites we like

Struggling with grammar or punctuation? The blue book of grammar and punctuation can help – see <http://www.grammarbook.com>

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