



WADEM Oceania Chapter
News Letter No 2
August 2010

WELCOME!!!

To this the second issue of the WADEM Oceania Chapter News Letter.

I appreciate the support offered by the editorial team and Liz Noble from Monash University to put the news letter together and to distribute it to you all. The news letters will appear on the WADEM web site under Membership, Chapters, Oceania and then in the body of that page, news letter. The news letter on the web site will be updated 1 week after our distribution to members. We have Andrew Lavelle, the WADEM coordinator, to thank for this support.

As outlined in our first newsletter, this is intended to be a networking tool for our Chapter members to exchange information on events and research of interest. It also gives us contact with others in the disaster and emergency medicine fraternity.

The latter has been to the Chapter's advantage as I am aware of two new members joining and a contribution from a medical student, all from reading the first news letter and becoming aware of our Mission and Objectives. So, please, distribute this newsletter to anyone who might be interested.

A reminder that the sections on Projects/Work Programmes/Research and Problems/help requests are a Chapter initiative to provide support, discussion and advice to members. Items included in these sections are not required to be scientific papers suitable for journals such as Pre-hospital and Disaster Medicine.

I recently holidayed in Samoa and took the opportunity to meet with Dr Limbo FIU, the Clinical Director of the National Hospital in Apia. Dr Fiu filled a key health coordination role during the Tsunami of 2009. The response from the Australian and New Zealand health services was greatly appreciated in Samoa. The only problem mentioned was the 'self volunteers' who arrived and wanted with best intentions to help but weren't needed. From other sources, I am aware that some of these 'volunteers' expected official status and accommodation etc. The recent paper in the PDM journal on Disaster Tourism indicates that such activity is worldwide and is disruptive to the actual response.

All members and interested parties are invited to contribute to our newsletter, we need this encouragement and involvement to keep OUR news letter interesting and worth while.

I also assure you that I am not as serious as my passport type photo in the last issue would indicate.

Cheers *Graeme*

WADEM President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I write this message in order to communicate with you, the members of the Oceania Chapter of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine. Let me convey straight away that collectively you have pushed forward the single most important step in the recent development of our Association, namely the creation of the first WADEM regional chapter! As I keep learning about the Oceania Chapter I am very optimistic about the future of it and I wish to announce our attempts to duplicate your success by the creation of the European Chapter. There are still many steps to be taken in order to be able to reach where you have reached but I believe the first signs are promising.

Regional Chapters as you have indicated in a survey not so long ago is all about networking. So let me share with you a successful networking effort in the South – East corner of Europe with WADEM acting as a catalyst. Following the 3 consecutive earthquakes of 1999 (2 in Turkey and 1 in Greece) and the respective assistance rendered by the two countries to each other a new form of diplomacy emerged in the region and it was termed “earthquake diplomacy”. As a result the two countries established a number of common measures including the Joint Hellenic Turkish Stand by Disaster Response Unit (JHET-SDRU). However the Health Disaster Management aspects of this equation were explored only rather recently with WADEM colleagues presenting and training colleagues from both countries according to the “Guidelines for Evaluation and Research in the Utstein Style”. Furthermore a new book was published jointly about a year and a half ago by the Ministries of Health of the two countries titled: “Health Disaster Management: Hellenic & Turkish Solidarity Building” bearing the WADEM logo at the front cover and a letter by Prof. Marvin Birnbaum as the President of WADEM at that time at the back cover.

It is only through networking that we can achieve great things in our field of expertise and the Oceania Chapter is clearly leading the way.

I would like to invite you to involve even more colleagues in your Chapter in order to have a very strong presence during our next World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine from 31st of May to 4th of June 2011 in Beijing, China.



With personal best regards to all of you,
Demetrios Pyrros, MD, EMDM President, World Association for Disaster and
Emergency Medicine

WADEM Oceania Chapter News Letter Aims

The aims of the WADEM Oceania Chapter news letter are to:

- *provide communication for regional members*
- *encourage a collegiate relationship amongst regional members*
- *update members on news and events such as health issues in the region*
- *provide a forum for discussion on emergency medicine/health issues*
- *give encouragement and support for research papers*
- *allow publication of basic case studies*
- *support exchange of information and work programmes*
- *publicise coming events*
- *support the aims and activities of WADEM within the region*

WADEM Oceania Chapter News Letter Editorial Committee

Graeme McColl Peter Aitken John Coleman Paul Arbon Frank Archer	Graeme_mccoll@moh.govt.nz Peter.aitken@health.qld.gov.au John.coleman@sissal.govt.nz Paul.arbon@flinders.edu.au Frank.archer@med.monash.edu.au
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Introducing Your Council.....

Continued from last issue

Dr Andrew K Bacon, MB, BS, LRCP, MRCS, FRCA, FANZCA.

Andrew is an anaesthetist with special interests in disaster medicine and the training of paramedics who trained in his specialty under the late Dr Peter Baskett in the UK. He a third generation medical practitioner and all three generations have planned and responded to major incidents: civil war (China), air raids (England), and fires (Australia) are all in the family story.

As one of the organisers of the WADEM meeting in 2005 he suggested that there be a forum for Oceania disaster medicine personnel. This slowly gained momentum and thanks to others across the world it became the first chapter to be established under the WADEM constitution.

In 2008 he retired as Chief Medical Coordinator for the Victoria State Emergency Response Plan, but continues in clinical anaesthesia and as a medical director of the Ambulance Victoria - the state wide service. He has been active in the medical planning and response for many large public gatherings, including being involved with events as diverse as the World Economic Forum in 2000, the Commonwealth Games 2006 and Formula One Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne. Over more than 20 years the responses have included bush fires, floods, train and bus crashes, nursing home & hospital fires, and a chairlift collapse.



DR ANDREW ROBERTSON, CSC

Dr Andrew (Andy) Robertson is the Deputy Chief Health Officer and Director, Disaster Management, Regulation and Planning within the Public Health Division in the Western Australia Department of Health (WA Health). He was previously the Divisional Director, Health Protection Group and Chief Health Officer within WA Health from July 2005 until February 2008. With specialist qualifications in Public Health Medicine and Medical Administration, he served with the Royal Australian Navy from 1984 until 2003, including completing three tours to Iraq as a Biological Weapons Chief Inspector with the United Nations Special Commission in 1996 and 1997.

In October 2003, he took up the position of the Director, Disaster Preparedness and Management in WA Health, a position that was integrated into his Divisional Director's role prior to his current role. In December 2004, he led the Australian Medical Relief team into the Maldives post tsunami, managed WA Health's response to the 2005 Bali Bombing, and led the WA Health team into Indonesia after the Yogyakarta earthquakes in June 2006. Since 2007, he has coordinated the WA Health responses to Cyclone George, the Varanus Island gas explosion, the Learmonth air incident, the Manjimup bus crash, the Mumbai terrorist attack, the Ashmore Reef incident and the public health system aspects of the current H1N1 2009 pandemic.



Dr Erin Smith is the Course Coordinator for the Master of Emergency Health (Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Health) at Monash University. In 2009 she completed a PhD which investigated paramedic perception of risk and willingness to work during disaster. This research involved both a qualitative and quantitative analysis of barriers to willingness to work along with an exploration of which types of disasters paramedics were more likely to be willing to respond to. The results of this PhD have been published in numerous journals and have been presented at conferences around the world. With a Master of Clinical Epidemiology completed and a Master of Public Health almost finished, Erin's post-doctoral research interests include post-disaster evaluation and ethical standards of medical care during disasters. When not working or studying, Erin will often be found at the football cheering on her beloved AFL team, the Cats, or indulging in her hobbies of interior design and black and white photography.



Liz Cloughessy is currently the Nursing Manger of the Emergency Department of Concord Repatriation General Hospital in Sydney. She was the first Disaster Nurse Commander appointed in Australia and has had extensive experience in responding with Disaster teams. including r the first Australian Civilian Disaster Medical Team which responded to Bande Aceh. Liz was awarded a NSW



<p>Meritorious Service Award for her work. .</p> <p>Liz completed General Nursing Training at Balmain Hospital and has a Masters degree in Health Management. She has been an emergency nurse for over 35 years and her expertise in emergency medicine and management has led to senior management and consultant roles in the fields of emergency disaster and trauma management. Liz was Chief Nurse for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Medical Manager for the Australian Paralympic team in the Athens Olympic Games.</p> <p>Liz established the Emergency Nurses Association of NSW, and the Australian College of Emergency Nursing - of which she is currently Executive Director. Liz represents Emergency Nurses at local, state, national and international committees and maintains a strong involvement and interest in the areas of Emergency, Disaster, and Trauma nursing.</p> <p>In 2004, Liz was awarded an AM for services to nursing in the fields of emergency, disaster and trauma.</p>	
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PROJECTS / PROGRAMMES / RESEARCH

Recovery Management & Hospital Evacuation Guides

Recovery Advice from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

The “Hospital Evacuation Decision Guide” <http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/hospevacguide/> helps decision makers better understand what factors to consider when making the decision to evacuate, shelter in place, or defer the decision to evacuate and reassess as the situation evolves. Its companion,

“Hospital Assessment and Recovery Guide,” <http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/hosprecovery/> includes a checklist to facilitate the assessment of infrastructure components critical to ensuring that staff and patients can safely return to the hospital following a disaster. These new guides supplement existing hospital emergency plans, which often do not include such decision making guidance.

NSW Projects/Programs/Research

Education

- Contract with AFAC now finalised for the enterprise rights to teach the Australasian Inter-agency Incident Management System (AIIMS).
- The AIIMS course now accredited with NSW VETAB and added to the ASNSW scope of training as a RTO
- MIMMS & Emergo Train System courses continue to be run for Health & Ambulance participants.

Exercises

- Working with the Commonwealth Department of Health & Aging to run the

National Counter Terrorism Committee Multi-Jurisdictional Exercise (MJEX) Mercury 10, in August using the Emergo Train System.

Projects – Vulnerable Communities Identification and Mapping

- Vulnerable Communities Identification and Mapping project aims to create a state wide database of vulnerable individuals. The Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA) NSW will use their Geo-Spatial Information Systems to map the geographic locations of these individuals.
- In times of a natural disaster, emergency managers can then use this data to prioritise resources for those who may need assistance. Phase 1 of the project will focus on: patients receiving dialysis at home, patients at home on oxygen concentrators and ventilators.
- Agreement in the form of an MOU has proceeded with the Land & Property Management Authority NSW to provide Geo-Spatial Information (GIS) through direct connection with ASNSW/Health networks to ensure real time access to data around vulnerable communities in times of natural disasters.

Contact: Linda Winn, Deputy Director NSW Health Counter Disaster Unit at lwinn@ambulance.nsw.gov.au

REPORTS

Outline of a PhD research project from Sultan Al-Shaqsi a Medical Student from the Otago School of Medicine in New Zealand.

Are we ready when it comes?

The heart-wrenching images of the devastation from the Haitian Earthquake on January 12th 2010, are still fresh in our minds. We cannot forget last year's Pacific Tsunami. We will always remember our own Napier Earthquake in 1931 and Wahine disaster in 1968. Such events are continuous reminders that no one is immune to the power of nature and the impact of human acts.

When a disaster strikes, health care facilities are viewed as a "safe haven" for victims. Paramedics, doctors and nurses are the health care first responders to disasters. Therefore, there is a need for health care providers to be prepared to effectively participate in disaster responses..

How prepared is our acute health care system to deal with Mass Casualty Incidents? How confident our frontline personnel in handling Mass Casualty victims? What is the surge capability of pre-hospital services, Emergency Departments, Surgical Units and Intensive Care Units in New Zealand? What are the gaps in Mass Casualty preparedness in acute care services in New Zealand?

These questions are addressed by a PhD project currently conducted by Dunedin School of Medicine, University of Otago.

Objective: to understand the current preparedness status of acute health care personnel (ie: ambulance officers, doctors, and nurses) to deal with Mass Casualty Incidents in New Zealand.

Method: the research has mixed methodology. The qualitative method involves semi-structured interviews with emergency planners from all District Health Boards. This method aims at understanding various components of the overall preparedness planning on a DHB level. The qualitative method utilizes a newly formulated national survey of health care providers' perceptions about mass casualty preparedness in New Zealand. The target participants are ambulance officers, doctors in Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Intensive care and Anaesthesia, and nurses from different acute care areas of medicine. The survey is currently being conducted.

For any comments or questions please feel free to contact:

Sultan Al-Shaqsi.

MBChB / PhD student

Email: alssu455@student.otago.ac.nz

Telephone: 03 479 7238

Preventive and Social medicine - Dunedin School of Medicine
University of Otago. P.B.Box 913 , Dunedin 9054

Let us all prepare and get ready. Your opinion will be appreciated.
Remember "It is better be prepared than sorry"

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Auckland University of Technology (AUT)

AUT offers a pathway of emergency management qualifications both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels;

These include:

Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management (GradCertEmMgmt)

Core papers include: Risk Management; Disaster Theory; Emergency Planning; and a Emergency Management research topic. These papers also are included in BHSc(Paramedic)

Postgraduate Certificate in Emergency Management (PgCertEmMgmt)

Core papers include: Building Resilient Communities; Leading in Emergency Situations; Business Continuity and Crisis Management

Masters of Emergency Management (MEmMgmt)

Papers include those for the PgCertEmMgmt as well as Emergency Risk Communication; Psychosocial Aspects of Emergencies; Research paper; Practice Project; and a Dissertation

AUT also offers Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (PgDipPH) which contains some of the emergency management papers listed above as options of study.

Further information is available from the website at:

<http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/health-sciences/paramedic-and-emergency-management>

Monash Disaster Health Forum: Seminar Series

Contact; www.med.monash.edu.au/cehpp or
Caroline.spencer@monash.edu

23 September; Challenges in Mass Gathering Healthcare.

30 September: Victorian Bushfires report: Implications for Health Emergency Managers

6-8 October: Health Disaster Evaluation Developing a Research Agenda

28 October: Disaster Risk Reduction; Best practice & lessons learnt.

1-2 November: Primary Health Care in Disasters

3-5 November: Disaster Epidemiology

8-12 November: Introduction to Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Health. 6th Annual short course Intensive.

18 November: Community Behaviour & Disaster Risk Communication.

HELP WANTED

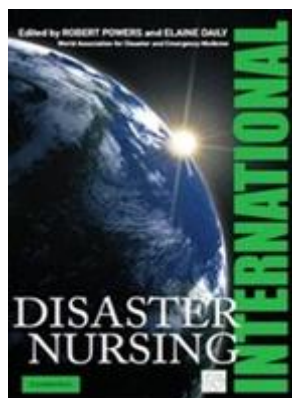
In this case help given.

The WADEM Oceania chapter Council members combined to make submissions on a consultation paper for the Australian National Disaster Resilience Strategy. With coordination and collation from Frank Archer all members each answered 2 questions in the consultation paper. Frank and Liz then combined the answers and submitted the paper.

This was a first for our organisation and resulted in a comprehensive paper based on the wide experiences of members.

PUBLICATION & EVENT NEWS

International Disaster Nursing is Now Available!



International Disaster Nursing is an accessible, comprehensive resource that addresses a multitude of scenarios and highlights the diversity of issues that nurses, and indeed all health professionals, may face during a disaster event. This text identifies and defines the many roles of the nurse and aids the implementation of the community's disaster plans in a crisis.

Australasian Health Disaster Coordinators Conference

NSW Health and Ambulance Service of NSW supported by ACT Health Protection Services, Ballarat Health Services Victoria, National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre, Northern Sydney Central Coast Health Service NSW, Queensland Health Emergency Management Unit, South Australian Department of Health, Southern Health Victoria, St John New Zealand, and Western Australian Department of Health Disaster Preparedness and Management Unit are proud to present the Australian Health Emergency Coordinators Conference to be held on **Thursday 16th & Friday 17th September 2010**.

The conference will be themed “**Resilience – in the face of adversity**” and will be focused on health services preparedness for disaster response. Resilience is a word that is used often in multiple contexts to describe a corporate, business, enterprise, emotional, individual, organizational and/or societal capacity to cope, but only recently has it found purchase within the emergency management environment. Resilience is derived from the Latin word *resilio*, meaning to “jump back”, and in this context, from the impact of an adverse event, but more truly, perhaps as forward thinking organizations attempting to manage an increasingly uncertain and challenging environment, we should be seeking to develop the capability to also ‘jump forward’ in a way that contributes to our society.

It is widely acknowledged that the capacity of communities to be resilient in the face of adversity is more than ever reliant upon organizational resilience. Current research identifies that the challenge for organizations is to translate this concept into a tangible framework of activity that integrates day-to-day operations with emergency management planning. Some key questions with regard to this challenge are:

- How do we gauge the resilience of an organisation?
- How do we integrate whole-of-business resilience operations with that of emergency management response and recovery?
- How do we employ resilience as a proactive rather than reactive strategy?
- Do we need to do anything differently?
- Contemporary emergency management practitioners and researchers have highlighted the principal attributes of organizational resilience being:
- Situational awareness – a greater understanding of risk and potential problems associated with the risk(s)
- Identification and management of key organizational vulnerabilities
- Interdependency – integrated planning and strong communication networks
- Adaptation/agility – incorporating vision, flexibility and innovation to learn from and adapt to an increasingly dynamic environment
- People – the commitment to provide strong leadership that motivates and empowers the workforce to engage with, build and support a culture of resilience.

Delegates will comprise of attendees from across Australia including emergency management or procedures officers/coordinators/managers, fire safety officers, emergency procedures committee members/chairs or any person with an interest in or responsibility for health emergency procedures and responses. This will be an opportunity for those involved with health emergency procedures to congregate together, to hear what our colleagues from around the country are doing, and the successes they have achieved.

Cost: Full registration: \$385 inc GST (closes 8th Sept).

For further information and registration:

www.eventoffice.com.au/AHECC10

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2010	
September 8 to 11	International Society of Aero-medical Services, 22 nd Scientific Meeting. Christchurch NZ. www.isas2010.co.nz
September 16 & 17	Australasian Health Emergency Coordinators Conference, Eveleigh, Sydney, NSW, Australia. Http://hssevents.health.nsw.gov.au/ahecc10
October 10 & 11	NZ National Emergency Dept Conference Taupo NZ www.ecct.govt.nz Check Conference page.
November 21 to 25	Australian College for Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting. Canberra, ACT, Australia. http://www.em2010.consec.com.au
2011	
May 31 to June 4	17 th WCDEM. Beijing, China. http://www.wcdem2011.org SAVE THE DATE!!!

A COFFEE WITH

In this section members are invited to introduce themselves to other members in an informal manner.

In this issue still gloating from the 'Cane Toads' State of Origin league clean sweep **Peter Aitken.**

Q. Do you have a nick name?

A. Bugs – a long story, I have had it since I was Grade 6 at school!!

Q. Where are you working currently?

A. I spend my time wearing a few different hats. I work 0.6 FTE as an Emergency Physician in Townsville; 0.4 FTE with the Emergency Management Unit in Queensland Health and 0.2 FTE with the Anton Breinl Centre at James Cook University. Yes, that adds up to more than 1 but don't tell my wife.

Q. What 3 words best describe you?

A. My children would probably say "fat, hairy and stupid" but I am sure they mean "tall, dark and handsome – not"

Q. What was your best disaster experience?

A. The one that never happens.

Q. And what about your worst disaster experience?

A. The one that is on now – Pakistan floods.

Q. Which 3 people would you most like to share your ration pack, cold pizza and instant coffee with?

A. My wife and 2 children (now that I have the big 'suck up' out of the way) perhapswell no, actually it is still my wife and 2 children because they don't do ration packs, cold pizza or instant coffee and that would leave more for me.

PROFILES: Brief details of some of our members.

Liz Noble aka Frank Archer's minder and our membership secretary.
I am the WADEM Administrative Officer for the International Secretariat, based at the Department of Community Emergency Health & Paramedic Practice (DCEHPP) at the Peninsula Campus of Monash University, Melbourne. In addition to my WADEM role, I also assist with DCEHPP's Monash Disaster Health and Monash Emergency Management Forums. My interests include reading and gardening."



Gerard Clerc: Emergency Management Advisor Ministry of Health NZ

Before settling in New Zealand, Swiss-born Gerard spent seven years working for the International Committee of the Red Cross. During his last overseas assignment he was based in Russia for one year, where he was in charge of a programme in Moscow which saw him travelling and working in places such as Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Republic. Before that, he was in Burma for one year, and prior to that he spent two years in Ethiopia, after a stint in Afghanistan.

He was in Afghanistan in 2000 and 2001, which meant he was there during the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Contact: Gerard_clerc@moh.govt.nz

CALL FOR MATERIAL

Material is required for any of the sections listed or under a new category if that is appropriate. Personal experiences, case and research reports are especially welcome and we ask that these are limited to no more than 1,000 words. The subject matter can be aspects of a disaster or response that is unusual because of its type, location or effects.

Any suggestions regarding material for content, or suggestions to improve this news letter are welcome.

Volunteers (?) for our coffee with and profile sections are required.

Please forward contributions to, Graeme_mccoll@moh.govt.nz
(There is a _ between Graeme & McColl)