



WADEM Oceania Chapter *News Letter* *June 2010*

WELCOME ABOARD !!!

Welcome to Issue 1 of the WADEM Oceania Chapter News Letter.

We intend this news letter to be a networking tool for members of the WADEM Oceania Chapter to exchange information on events and research of interest. It will also give us another way to make contact with others in the disaster and emergency medicine fraternity in our region.

This edition is lengthy as it backgrounds the Oceania Chapter, provides details of key members and outlines the format and aims of the news letter. You may wish to retain it for these reference details.

In this first edition we will explain the purpose of this newsletter, introduce our editorial staff; remind everyone on the purpose of the WADEM Oceania Chapter; introduce what we hope will be our regular features and ask you for suggestions on a number of issues.

The sections on Projects/Work Programmes/Research and Problems/Help Requests are a new WADEM activity. They will provide a forum for discussion on projects, research or news items that may not necessarily be intended for inclusion in a scientific journal such as Prehospital and Disaster Medicine.

All WADEM members are invited to contribute. Any organisation is only as good as its members – we need your involvement. Contributions are also not solely restricted to Oceania members. If you know of activities or items of interest don't hesitate to forward them on.

Any contributions and ideas for future issues can be forwarded to myself as the Editor

Cheers

Graeme

WADEM Oceania Chapter Newsletter 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

WADEM Oceania Chapter Newsletter Aims

The aims of the WADEM Oceania Chapter newsletter 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 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 with the region.*

WADEM President Elect Message

Welcome to the first WADEM Oceania Chapter Newsletter. WADEM is an international, multi-disciplinary, humanitarian association dedicated to the improvement of disaster and emergency medicine. Our principal purposes are fostering, promoting and supporting the development of global consensus and action on disaster terminology; building disaster, emergency, and public health science and research; creating standards, benchmarks, credentialing, and accreditation for disaster and emergency health; offering regional and culturally specific education and training; transferring the science of disaster health into operational realities; establishing "evaluation teams"; providing professional support to operational organizations; and international representation of the Chapters members on WADEM standing committees and task forces.

The WADEM Oceania Regional Chapter is the first WADEM Chapter to be established. As an organisation, WADEM is still learning about the establishment and operation of Chapters. The intent is for Regional Chapters to establish communication amongst members and to foster collaboration with organisations, researchers and other partners that are suitable and responsive to the special needs of the region. In our case the Oceania Chapter brings together WADEM members from across the western pacific area and we hope to build strong and effective cooperation among our members to achieve the goals of the organisation as a whole and to provide a regional focus for WADEM.

Much work and time has been devoted to establishing the Chapter as an entity within the WADEM. Our challenge now is to utilise this structure to benefit our members and disaster and emergency medicine in our region. We thank you for your support.

Regards

Paul Arbon

The WADEM Oceania Chapter – What Is It ?

What is the mission?

As a multi-disciplinary organisation, to advocate and promote the development and improvement of disaster and emergency health through research, development and application of standards and guidelines to influence emergency management and health care policy, education and practice. The Chapter will foster WADEM regionally providing regional co-ordination and a regional influence. The aims of the Chapter are to implement the objectives of WADEM within the Oceania Region as applicable to the resources and needs of the Region. Members of the Chapter possess a region-specific knowledge base of disasters and their prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery requirements. The Chapter provides a means to advocate for ensuring that region-specific disaster requirements are being properly understood and addressed.

What are the objectives?

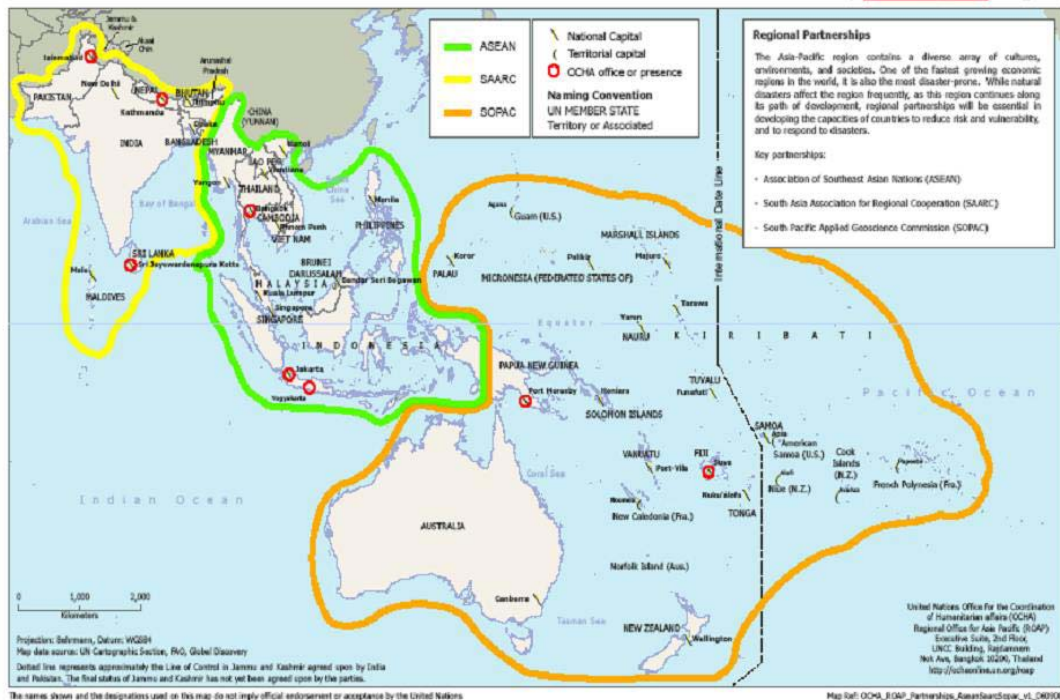
To achieve this mission, the objectives of the Chapter are to promote:

- a.** Education and training opportunities to advance the professionalism of the humanitarian workforce.
- b.** Interpretation and exchange of information through a network of members and publications.
- c.** Development and maintenance of evidence-based standards of emergency and disaster health care and provision of leadership for integration into practice.
- d.** Co-ordination of data collection and provision of direction in the development of standardized disaster assessment and research/evaluation methodologies.
- e.** Encouragement of publications and presentation of evidence-based research findings in scientific publications, national, regional, and international conferences and congresses.
- f.** Increased credibility for the members of the organization on a global, national and local level.
- g.** Increased membership and promotion of WADEM.
- h.** Ongoing development and improvement of emergency and disaster health management in the community.

In pursuing these objectives, the Chapter shall function, in consultation with the WADEM Board, as a source of advice to regional government and non-governmental organisations, including professional organisations and shall promote professional issues relating to disaster and emergency health.

What area is covered?

The WADEM Oceania Region generally corresponds to that area covered by SOPAC, which includes the area supported by AusAID and NZAID on the map shown on the following page, i.e. Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Island Nations, and Papua New Guinea. Flexibility is required at this stage of the evolution of WADEM Chapters. Members located in adjacent nations or islands, e.g. East Timor, Indonesia, and the Hawaiian Islands, may choose to be included in the Oceania Regional Chapter.



Who is on the Council?

a. The Officers of the Chapter.

President: Prof. Frank Archer (Victoria)
 Vice President: Prof. Paul Arbon (South Australia)
 Secretary/Treasurer: Dr Rowena Christiansen (Victoria)

b. Councillors – Five (5) members of the Chapter, elected by the Chapter Members.

These are

Councillors: Graeme McColl (New Zealand)
 John Coleman (New Zealand)
 Erin Smith (Victoria)
 Dr Jane Canestra (Victoria)
 Gillian O'Malley (New South Wales)

c. Specialty Councillors – Three (3) members as follows:

One (1) member with a current appointment in a National/State Department with the responsibility for disaster and emergency health.

This is Dr Andrew Robertson (Western Australia)

One (1) member with a current academic appointment in a university with an active research/education program in the field of disaster and emergency health.

This is Dr Peter Aitken (Queensland)

One (1) member, a resident of a Pacific Island Nation, with an active involvement in research/education/operations in disaster and emergency health in the Pacific, nominated by the Fiji School of Medicine, through its Regional mandate.

This is Dr Roman Chute (Fiji)

d. Committee Chairs - The Chair of any Committee appointed by the Chapter Council.

e. Co-opted Councillors – The Chapter Council may co-opt members to the Chapter Council for specific functions and duration of appointments. Specifically, the Chapter President, after consultation with the Chapter Council, shall invite co-opted members to ensure geographical representation of at least one member of Council from each of Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Island Nations respectively.

They are Prof. Skip Burkle (Honolulu)
Liz Cloughessy (ACEN New South Wales)
Denese Unicombe (Red Cross, Victoria)
Andrew Bacon (Victoria)

INTRODUCING YOUR COUNCIL

More introductions will appear in the next issue.

Rowena Christiansen

Currently an Anaesthetics Registrar in country Victoria and also actively involved with education, training and medical standards for the Australian Ski Patrol Association.



Frank Archer

Department of Community Health and Paramedic Practice
Monash University
Melbourne
Victoria



Paul Arbon

School of Nursing and Midwifery
Flinders University
Adelaide
South Australia



Frederick 'Skip' Burkle

Hawaii
Senior Fellow & Scientist Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
Senior Public Policy Scholar Woodrow Wilson International
Center for Scholars.



Graeme McColl

*Regional Emergency Management Advisor (Southern)
Ministry of Health
NZ representative WADEM Oceania Chapter*



John Coleman

*South Island PHO Emergency Planning Coordinator
NZ Representative WADEM Oceania*



Associate Professor Peter Aitken

*Senior Staff Specialist, Emergency Department, The Townsville
Hospital
Associate Professor, Anton Breinl Centre, James Cook
University
Senior Medical Coordinator – Disaster Management,
Emergency Management Unit, Qld Health*



PROJECTS / PROGRAMS / RESEARCH

The aim of this section is to identify any current projects, programs or research that may be of interest to others.

New Zealand

Health Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training package.

3 Hour training session for Hospital/Health staff likely to fill key response roles in their organisations EOC. Completed and available.

Contact: Graeme McColl at Graeme_mccoll@moh.govt.nz

Recovery Workshop training package.

Education and exercise on managing the recovery of health services after a major event. Under development.

Contact: Graeme McColl at Graeme_mccoll@moh.govt.nz

Medical Assistance Team(s) for New Zealand.

Project to establish such teams for New Zealand based on AUSMAT approach. Under development.

Contact: Graeme McColl at Graeme_mccoll@moh.govt.nz

General Practice

Health Emergency and Business Continuity Planning

Templates and Workshops under development.

Contact: John Coleman at john.coleman@sissal.govt.nz

Queensland

Queensland has a number of initiatives under way. These include Work Groups looking at the following:

- AusMAT-Qld (Formal development of Qld Disaster Medical Assistance Teams)
- State Mass Casualty Sub Plan
- Emergency Incident Education Framework
- Health Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training package.
- MIMMS introduction to Qld

For further information contact Peter Aitken at Peter_Aitken@health.qld.gov.au

Send all items for future inclusion in this section to the Editor. Items must include a current contact address (email preferred) or accessible website

HELP WANTED

No, this is not the job ads in your local paper

The aim of this section is to provide a forum for those seeking assistance with specific aspects of work or research projects.

This might include:

- Requests for contacts
- Requests for advice
- Requests for solutions to specific problems that others may have faced already. This is meant to promote sharing of solutions.
- Requests for help with research ideas.

Send all requests to the Editor.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2010

August 26 to 28 10th Asia Pacific Conference on Disaster Medicine (APCDM)
Sapporo, Japan.
<http://apcdm10.jp>

September 16 & 17 Australian Health Emergency Coordinators Conference,
Eveleigh, Sydney NSW, Australia.
<http://www.hssevents.health.nsw.gov.au/ahecc10>

November 21-25 Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific
Meeting. Canberra, ACT, Australia
<http://www.em2010.consec.com.au>

2011

May 31 to June 4 17th WCDEM
Beijing, China.
SAVE THE DATE!!!

Send all items for future inclusion in the Calendar to the Editor.

A COFFEE WITH

(or in deployed team or HEOC member language - ration packs, cold pizza & instant coffee)

As with all newsletters we would like to use this as a means of introducing people to each other and fostering collaboration between not just disciplines but regions. To help achieve this (in its own small way) we will spend 5 minutes each edition getting to know one selected individual. So go ondob your mates in!!

To start the ball rolling I'll humiliate myself - Graeme

Q. Do you have a nick name?

A. Graemey (By Grandchildren)

Q. Where are you working currently?

A. Regional Emergency Management Advisor (REMA) New Zealand Ministry of Health (MoH), based in Christchurch, covering the South Island.

Q. What 3 words best describe you?

A. Ridiculous (Sense of) = Stupid at times
Creative = Invents crafty excuses
Achiever = Does complete tasks when supervised
(Contributed by my wife Angela)

Q. What was your best disaster experience?

A. Response manager at the New Zealand end coordinating the NZ health response to the Samoan tsunami of 2009.

Q. And what about your worst disaster experience?

A. During my 28 year Police career, overseeing the protection operation for a minor royal, when a known anti royalist managed to get close enough to score a direct hit with horse manure.

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

A. Angela (Of course)
'Skip' Burkle (To discuss why we are in this situation and the way out)
Chef Rick Stein (To, at least, speak of good food and wine)

CALL FOR MATERIAL

We would like to include the following:

- Items about Projects, Programs, Research underway.
- Education and Training Opportunities
- "Help Wanted" requests
- Items for the Calendar
- "5 Minutes With ..."

We are also interested in publishing short case reports or interesting accounts of disaster experiences. This should represent a particular aspect of the disaster that is unusual either because of the type of disaster, location of disaster, effects of the disaster or response to it. It should also:

- Be from the perspective of either the relief agency on the ground or coordinating body.
- Be related to a recent disaster.
- Have a word limit of 1,000 words

If there are other suggestions about material for inclusion we would also be delighted to hear from you. Please send all suggestions and items for future inclusion to the Editor at Graeme_mccoll@moh.govt.nz.