

# Australasian Military Medicine Association Inc.

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Annual Report to Members  
2015/16



## Council Members

**President:** Dr Greg Mahoney

**Vice President:** Dr Nader Abou-Seif

**Secretary:** Dr Janet Scott

**Treasurer:** Mr Geoff Robinson

**Council Members:** Dr Peter Hurly, Mr Peter Peters, Dr Andrew Robertson, Miss Rachelle Warner

**Public Officer:** Ms Paula Leishman

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## President's Report

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Australasian Military Medicine Association for the year ended 30th June 2016. The Association is now in its 26th year and it gratifying to note that it has matured into an association that is internationally recognised and financially sound.

The Association Council and secretariat are working hard to ensure our future by encouraging membership by responding to their needs, providing a quality conference, expanding our services and, by continuing to improve the journal publication.

### Membership

As will be reported by the Secretary, our membership has grown marginally over the last year and while growth is not stellar, it is at least moving in the right direction. The Association continues to broaden its membership base by increasing its profile in the community and widening its scope of services.

### Journal

As always *The Journal of Military and Veterans' Health* presents as the major challenge to the Association in improving the quality of articles and presentation. It is part of our core business and as such we are obligated to provide the membership a journal that is both informative and uniquely Australian perspective on Military Health.

The Journal is an increasingly important source of information and learning both within the Australasian sphere and the wider international community. As the Journal improves both the quality of the articles, its standing in the wider health community will be established.

It should also be recognised that our editor Dr Andrew Robertson is the Director General of Naval Health Reserves who has worked tirelessly to fulfil the aims and ambitions of the membership. Last year Dr Peter Peters was appointed as the sub editor of the Journal and it is hoped that, as his knowledge of the Journal's workings expands, that he will be able to lighten the burden on our editor.

I would like to express my appreciation of Andrew and the Editorial Board for their tireless efforts over a number of years.

### Conference

Our annual conference in Hobart was a resounding success with a large number delegates and exhibitors. This is particularly gratifying as it is difficult to attract exhibitors across the Strait. The success of the conference was due to the tremendous efforts of our Vice President, Nader Abou-Seif and, the staff of our secretariat and in particular Naomi Searle. Their steady hand, financial prudence, and negotiating skills has meant that the Association has continued to provide a recognised world class conference attracting speaker of high quality from around the world. I think

that the Association is indeed fortunate to have a committee which is so dedicated and hard working as Nader and his team.

## **Workshops**

As Association continues to look for opportunities to expand services to its membership. This year we held workshops in June in Christchurch, New Zealand on Tropical medicine. The well attended workshop was appreciated by all those who attended and has encourage the Association to continue in providing workshop in New Zealand and seek to expand our offerings to other centre around Australia.

## **Financial**

A detailed Financial Report is separately presented.

The Association's result for FY 201/16 continues to reflect the impact of the conference has on our overall position. Profitable conferences are essential to our Association as they help fund the Journal and member services. Furthermore, they assist in keeping our membership fees low. While the Council would like rotate conference venues to include all of Australia, the financial reality is that we are confined to those venues which can attract delegates and contain costs. Having said this, our financial position remains healthy and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our treasurer, Geoff Robinson, in overseeing the Association's accounts.

Finally, I am pleased to see that our financial position is such that we can now look to expand and improve members' services without the fear of an event devastating our financial situation.

## **Conclusion**

I believe that the Association and its activities remains as source for like-minded health practitioners to learn and exchange information for the good of our servicing members.

I would like to thank Council for their hard work and support over the year. Each member has been important to the continued success of the Association. Finally, I would like to thank our secretariat, Paula Leishman and Associates, and in particular Paula, Naomi, Mary and Michelle. They have been with us for most of existence and I am sure that my fellow past and present Council members would agree that the relationship has been more than symbiotic business arrangement.

I, along with Council, also wish to thank you, our members, for your continued support and encouragement throughout the year.

Greg Mahoney

**President**

## **Secretary's Report**

Since the last AGM in Hobart, AMMA Council has had two face to face meetings, the first combined with a site inspection of Crown Promenade facilities, and the second on the evening of the conference's opening.

In addition, there have been three teleconferences and several email chains discussing various issues. All meetings have been well attended.

Additionally, for the first time in its 25 year history, a ballot was necessary for the position of President. Nader and I were the scrutineers for this.

### **Membership**

At 30 Sep 16, there are 201 financial members, and 93 unfinancial members. This is a decrease of 23 financial members from last year.

Members are sent renewal notices in May and reminders in July.

JF Scott

Secretary

September 2016

## Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Financial Report of the Australasian Military Medicine Association (AMMA) for FY 2015-16.

The Association's accounts have been audited and the Auditor has formed the opinion that the financial statements of the Association fairly represent the financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of the financial performance for the year.

### Financial Management

The Association continues to operate within an established accrual accounting system that allows for an accurate forecasting of how the Association's finances are tracking against the budget. The current format of reports provided give good visibility of the income and expenses. The Accountant's financial audit reports perfectly match our management reports which enables the Council to monitor and track progress against budgets on a monthly and/or quarterly basis.

### Accounts

We continue to operate a number of accounts with the now Australian Military Bank (formerly the ADCU) to ensure the efficient management of the Association. These are:

- ADCU S1 account (cheque account) for day to day activities,
- ADCU S20.1 account, which provides us with the best interest rate,
- ADCU I6 investment account, and
- LA 17 Gateway account used for online payments.

Council continues to monitor market interest rates to ensure best possible return on monies invested. The above account continues to provide a good rate by comparison for the amount invested and no value would be gained by moving it elsewhere at this time.

### Audited Report

The Financial Report for the Association is attachment to this Annual Report. This includes the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of the Financial Position and the Independent Audit Report.

### To summarise:

- 2015 Conference. Last year's conference in Hobart derived an income of \$357,189.62 and expenses totalled \$294,188.58, giving a surplus of \$63,001.04 which is an improvement on the previous year by \$13,000.00. The main income variations were from a reduction in Conference and Events income of \$5,749.05, and an increase in Sponsorship & Exhibition income of \$5,404.99. Overall there was only a slight decrease in the overall expenses for this conference when compared to the previous year even though the venue and location offered savings in some areas. Other costs increased.

- **Executive Expenses.** The reported executive expenses for the FY totalled \$4,625.00, which was down significantly from the previous year of \$9,590.14. Executive expenses come mainly from the 'face-to-face' meeting held in the second half of the FY at the upcoming conference venue and they remain dependent on the venue and where the Council members are travelling from.
- **Secretariat Expenses.** Secretariat expenses were \$68,783.90 which were similar to previous years. The two major expenses remain Leishman Associates Secretariat fees and accounting.
- **Website, Online and IT.** Overall this expense was significantly less than the previous year which had included the redevelopment of the website. The reported amount does not include the Journal website.
- **Accounting Expenses.** This has again increased from the previous year to \$15,732.76 reflecting the increasing cost of providing this service to the association although the external Accountants fees were significantly less than the previous year.
- **Memberships.** Membership fees again seem to reflect the timing of membership renewals although the income from memberships this last year has seen a reduction of \$12,354 from the previous year to \$25,035.99. So far member numbers have not seen a decline that would explain this decrease so it likely remains that many members renew their membership at the time they register for the annual conference, or after the end of the financial year.
- **JMVH.** The journal continues to be heavily subsidised and still runs at a loss. FY 15/16 loss was \$37,959.99, however, this is still only slightly more than the previous year's loss of \$25,749 when the additional increase of \$8,000 in professional fee is taken into account. Income did not cover the cost of sales with no sponsorship monies received and a decrease of \$4,500 in copyright agency income. Taking out the professional fee of \$18,333.33 that will not occur in this upcoming year, losses incurred by the journal will improve.
- **NZ Regional Seminar.** The regional seminar was again held in the last quarter. It resulted in a modest income over expenses of \$641.00. Income did not meet the expected budget and expenses incurred were more than budgeted for to realise a similar profit to the previous year. This seminar did not receive similar support of the NZDF and key members due to the conference location that was previously received. Whilst this event continues to either break even or realise a profit, it is a worthy event to ensure regional engagement.
- **Balance Sheet.** The Association had a net deficit of \$16,693.40 compared to the previous years deficit of \$10,881.63. This increase was largely as a result of an increase in secretariat costs and journal expenses. Looking ahead, and taking into account likely increases in supplier costs and a static membership, the association may see a modest surplus in the following year given that the journal will not incur the professional fee reported this year.

## Conclusion

As with previous years, the Association had a net deficit of income over expenditure for the last year although it continues to operate within budget. The Association's income is still largely dependent on the annual conference and membership. Supplier expenses have increased and despite some savings through reduced expenses, income was insufficient to prevent an operating deficit. To

prevent the Association from further eroding the asset base, another membership increase will be warranted in the near future.

I would particularly like to thank Mary Coulson from Leishman Associates who continues to carry out the day-to-day management of the Association's accounts.

Geoff Robinson

Treasurer



## **Editor's Report - Journal of Military and Veterans' Health**

The Journal continues to go from strength to strength and continues to attract articles from national and international authors. Achievements this year have included the following:

- 4 issues published
- 21 articles published, including 12 original articles, 4 history articles, and 5 reprinted articles.
- Continue to have good submission rates, particularly of mental health and military history articles. We continue to get a range of American and European submissions.
- Continue to refine JMVH website, making all articles available from the last 25 years, enhancing the categorisation of the articles, highlighting our most cited articles and continuing work on indexing and Impact Factor.
- Continue to increase social media presence, through Forcenet, LinkedIn and Facebook.
- Further work in the coming year on getting more operational articles, developing links with other militaries and developing further indices of performance.

**Dr Andy Robertson CSC, PSM**

**Captain RANR**

**Editor-in-Chief JMVH**