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**MEMBER COMMUNIQUE**

**SEPTEMBER 2016**

The AHPA® branches, Board and its committees work hard throughout the year to support and promote the health promotion profession and advocate for good health promotion policy, research and practice. This Communiqué provides an opportunity to keep you informed about what's been happening over the past couple of months.

## ***A highly skilled & sustainable health promotion workforce***

### **Connecting the Dots: Tradition to Innovation, Making it Matter 2016**

The AHPA national conference was held in June with more than 300 delegates attending the event in Perth.

### **Awards and Oration**

The Inaugural Oration Chris also a REET Committee member presented the Eberhard Wenzel Oration at the AHPA Conference in Perth in June. The Ray James Award was presented to Annabel Axford and Drew Carter. Thank-you to REET Committee members and Associate Professor Janette Young for their contribution selecting the award recipient from 13 potential winners.

### **Thanks**

As with all events of this magnitude, they don't organise themselves. Our sincere thanks go to the Conference Co-Convenors Melinda Edmunds and Dr Melissa Stoneham and the other organising Local Organising Committee members-Lisa Rooke, Asha Singh, Linda Portsmouth and Laura Hunter, as well as all of the members of the subcommittees and our key sponsors, Healthway, Vic Health and WA Health who helped make the event a success.

### **More Information**

More information on the program can be found here: <http://ahpa2016.com.au/program/>

### **Scholarship reflections can be found towards the back of this edition of the Member Communiqué**

### **World Public Health Congress 2017**

AHPA® is active in planning for the World Public Health Congress 2017. Board Member Andrew-Jones Roberts is representing the Board on the Conference Organising Committee. AHPA® is also ably represented on the Scientific Committee with Dr Nikki Percival (QLD President), Associate Professor James Smith (NT Branch President), Associate Professor Jonine Jancey (HPJA Editor in Chief) and Professor Li Ming Wen (NSW Branch) all participating. Excitingly, more than 1100 abstracts have been received for the Congress which demonstrates the scope of interest from around the world. Abstracts are currently being reviewed and keynote speakers and workshops and panle discussions being locked in. See the Congress website for more information <http://www.wcph2017.com/>

### **IUHPE 2019**

AHPA is also talking to IUHPE about getting involved in the World Health Promotion Conference in New Zealand in 2019. We are also making final decisions about where and what format the 2018 conference will be in. Watch this space for updates soon!

## ***A strong & responsive professional organisation***

The AGM was held in July a number of Board members were welcomed farewelled.

We thank Dr Florin Oprescu Elisha McGuinness for their time as Board members particularly with the REET, Professionalisation Branch Presidents' Committees.



Welcome Melinda Edmunds and Dagmar Schmitt to the Board. Melinda comes to us from her roles as President of the WA Branch of AHPA and Dagmar has a long history with AHPA as a member of the NT Branch and a member of the Editorial Board of the HPJA. Dagmar is currently the acting Director of the Health Development Branch in the NT Department of Health. Melinda is currently a Project Officer with the Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA. We are also delighted to re-welcome Jenny Philip Harbutt to the Board. Jenny has undertaken a previous term with the Board and once again takes on the role of Company Secretary. Jenny is currently the Manager of State Partnerships with the Country SA Primary Health Network.

The Board will be meeting in Adelaide in November for its annual face-to-face to discuss strategic issues and progress activities from the operational plan.

### ***Membership Fees-LOCK IN 2015 PRICES***

As a one off special in 2016 & to celebrate 30 years of the Ottawa Charter we are offering an Individual membership "two years at the 2015 price, locking in \$380 for 2 years".

**Research, Evaluation and Evidence Translation:** June saw the release of second virtual issue "Looking back, looking forward" introduced by Professor Chris Risell and celebrating 30 years of the Ottawa Charter <http://www.publish.csiro.au/he/content/virtualissues?id=1622> The REET Committee held a face to face meeting in Perth coinciding with AHPA National Conference and discussed the Work Plan for 2016-2017, including increasing the HPJA digital reach to members. The REET Chair and the Editor in Chief Associate Professor Jonine Jancey met with Dr Brietta Pike, Senior Publisher CSIRO and discussed the needs of the journal going forward including a premium membership option for corporate members. An Editorial Board meeting was also held in June. The HPJA 2015 impact factor has been released as is now 1.231.

**Professionalisation:** With AHPA® now approved by IUHPE as the National Accrediting Organisation the process of accrediting health promotion practitioners is moving apace. An online provider has been commissioned and advertising for the five committees attached to the NAO have now been advertised. We look forward to lots of interest from the health promotion community in supporting the accreditation of the workforce. Look out for the advertisements.

**Mentoring:** A national approach to mentoring has now been adopted allowing sharing of resources and access to a larger pool of mentors. Mentoring is now underway with 46 individuals being mentored from around Australia.

### ***Effective advocacy and partnerships for health promotion issues***

AHPA® has established a national Advocacy Committee and is always looking for extra pairs of hands to participate. Some recent initiatives included:

- Re-developing the AHPA election health promotion investment infographics
- Investing in national preventive health research with partners and led by FARE
- Joint media statement with CAHA and DRS Reform Society on Global Health and Coal Statement
- Response to the national Chronic Conditions framework
- Signing on to the the Chronic Disease Prevention in Australia: Statement of Commitment
- Vic President, David Towl attended the AHPC Forum on Chronic diseases in Australia
- Board member Suzanne Gleeson, will attend the Health Leaders Meeting and Roundtable Discussion in Canberra in October regarding Climate Change, Health and Wellbeing

Congratulations to David Templeman, who has been elected as the new President of the Public Health Association of Australia. Our thanks to Professor Heather Yeatman, for her stewardship of PHAA over the past few years. We look forward to working with David and the team over his term.

**DID YOU KNOW? AHPA is a proud partner of the Climate and Health Alliance. Founder & Executive Director, Fiona Armstrong has been recognised as one of the Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence. Congratulations!**

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**<https://www.healthpromotion.org.au/>**

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**@AHPA\_AU**

Thank you to all Board members, Branches and Committee members for their great work thus far in 2016. To our supporters, partners and especially our members- thanks for your ongoing commitment to AHPA®. We can't do it without you!

**Contact Us: [members@healthpromotion.org.au](mailto:members@healthpromotion.org.au)**







## Scholarship Reflections

After reflecting on my experience at the National Conference, one thought stands out in my mind: 'Harness good intentions,' expressed in presentations by both Associate Professor Ted Wilkes and Dr. Rhys Jones. Before attending the conference I thought I would walk away with an experience focused on best practice, evaluation, and current research, which were all represented within sessions. In the end, I walked away with a much deeper experience, connection and appreciation for our line of work and study in health promotion. The conference not only highlighted core health promotion practices, but it also challenged people to draw on a greater sense of self, understanding of cultures and relationships between people and environments. Spreading messages of good will and celebrating Australia's culture were poignantly reiterated from the conference theme of 'Connecting the Dots', to the Dot Song, sung by the Minjiti Moorna Choir, to the impactful presentations by the keynote speakers, making for a symbolic and unique experience.

You would think the act of harnessing good intentions would be so simple to continually implement day-in and day-out, while in actuality, it comes loaded with layers of complexity. A part of harnessing good intentions is to learn from past traditions, such as Indigenous cultures, in order to apply knowledge toward future health and community practice. As described by Dr. Rhys Jones, taking the time to learn from our roots, values and beliefs and reflecting on tradition is a part of continually giving ourselves booster shots to be the best versions of ourselves. Dr. Jones' presentation started my thought process on how I could learn more from other cultures and traditions and self-reflect on my own hidden biases, stereotypes and blind spots. As awareness of oneself is essential for future innovation and building a strong community to tackle inequalities, taking the time to learn from other cultures can help unlock answers to some of society's wicked problems, such as climate change and poor health. This is the basis for harnessing good intentions, reflection, learning from others and applying it to the greater good.

Another aspect of learning from tradition and culture was beautifully narrated by the conference opening speaker, Kathy Burns from the Barkley Arts Centre. Kathy illustrated how traditional art, nature, culture and customs can be connected through song, dance or visual art to positively influence some of the greatest social inequalities. I was inspired by Kathy's work and truly believe that the Barkley Arts Centre highlights the influence we can have on health by stepping outside of the traditional box of health promotion to address greater social determinants of health. In addition to improving the health of remote Australians, the Barkley Arts Centre is striving toward building a community identity and sense of connectedness between current generation of Australians with Aboriginal traditions, teaching about the culture and creating amazing pieces of art in the process.

A final standout message from the conference that made an impact on me was the session on corporate social responsibility, which was opened with reflections by Dr. Gary Fooks and followed with a panel discussion on major food and gambling corporations. This session reiterated how transnational companies can shape the environment and lifestyle choices of society. Companies such as McDonalds and Coca Cola are instrumental in diverting public attention to avoid the health and social harms of their product. This session reinforced how important it is to be an educated consumer and to speak-up and act with intentions to harness good for others. This is particularly the case when we need to be the voice for those that may not be as fortunate to have a strong or influential voice of their own.

In all, this conference dared me to contemplate 'Am I taking the steps to challenge myself, understand my biases and harness good?' At times, this can be an uncomfortable exercise to practice, though through my studies and reflection from the conference, I believe it is essential to be the change we wish to see in the world. As I work toward a career as a health promoter, this conference experience not just expanded my academic skills but reminded me to continually stop and reflect. In doing so, I hope to continually take the steps to harness good intentions for all.

**Catrina Wold-AHPA WA Conference Scholarship Recipient 2016**