



## President's Report

### Assoc. Prof Alison Ritter

I have been reflecting on what it means to be involved with a professional society: it is a way to acknowledge association and membership of a group with shared goals and values; it enhances one's professional connections; it provides stimulus for debate and discussion of important issues and it provides access to important workforce development opportunities such as the journal (*Drug and Alcohol Review*) and the annual conference.

The management and governance of professional societies such as APSAD are based, almost entirely, on the voluntary work of its members. What motivates people to volunteer? Many people who volunteer on boards of management have a strong connection to and value for the organisation or professional society they represent. Volunteering also provides a sense of belonging to a network of people with similar experiences, values and goals. It can provide an opportunity to give something back to an organisation. APSAD relies on a significant number of voluntary contributions: all the APSAD Council members give up personal time to fulfil their roles. Likewise the members of the *Drug and Alcohol Review* Editorial Board conduct the work outside of work hours. The annual conference is convened by a volunteer. Our professional society would not exist without these substantial voluntary contributions.

Ingrid van Beek has done an outstanding job, in a voluntary capacity, as our President. She finished

her term last month. During her presidency, APSAD successfully underwent a number of major restructures that have improved the effectiveness and efficiency of the society operations. I am extremely grateful to her for leading us through those processes and look forward to her ongoing contribution as Immediate Past President. I also welcome Adrian Dunlop into the role of Vice President (President-Elect) and look forward to working with him. Craig Rodgers (NSW Rep) and Cecile McKeown (Tas rep) have joined Council as new members. Anne Roche, our Immediate Past President has also now finished her formal association with APSAD Council after many years of voluntary service. We have been very fortunate to have talented people contribute to the society and bring a wealth of expertise to the role.

I encourage you all to volunteer in some way. While it does involve time – a commodity that these days is more and more precious – it brings substantial rewards both personally and

to the professional society for alcohol and drugs.

The annual conference is fast approaching: 4th to 7th November in Auckland New Zealand. Every year the conference demonstrates new and important developments in our field. I look forward to seeing as many APSAD members there as possible.

Once again, my thanks to Ingrid van Beek for her outstanding leadership – she has set the bar high.

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# Convenor Report

Auckland awaits you Tena Koutou Katoa



## Combined APSAD and Cutting Edge Addiction Conference; Two Nations, Ten Cultures?

**Aotea Centre, Auckland, New Zealand.  
4 - 7 November 2007**

This historic Trans-Tasman addiction treatment conference which will combine the best of APSAD and Cutting Edge is now all set to go. Please head to the website [www.twonationstencultures.co.nz](http://www.twonationstencultures.co.nz) and check out what's in store for you.

[www.twonationstencultures.co.nz](http://www.twonationstencultures.co.nz)

### Registration

Now is a good time to get online and confirm your registration – remember early registrations close on the 7th September – so save yourself some dollars AND get yourself into the conference dinner by registering early. Over 200 early adopters have already registered!

While you are at it, don't forget accommodation is tight around the time of the conference so make your bookings immediately by linking onto Corporate Venues also on the site (you can always change them later).

Finally, travel. A very cost-favourable arrangement has been made with Emirates for return air-travel between the eastern seaboard of Australia and Auckland. This deal is for any travel between the 28th October and 18th November 2007. These dates are intended to allow you to extend your stay for pleasure or business and is applicable to direct family members as well.



### Keynotes

The conference will feature keynote addresses about addiction from inspirational Maori, Pacific, and indigenous Australian speakers as well as keynote presentations from a range of eminent colleagues speaking from Western perspectives (see website for details). The role of spirituality in the culture of the modern world gets special attention through the keynote presentation of one of New Zealand's iconic individuals, Emeritus Professor Lloyd Geering. Local tangata whenua will engage the conference with traditional welcome and ending ceremonies.

There were over 300 abstract submissions. All successful presenters for papers, posters and workshops have been notified. The organisers are particularly pleased to announce that there will be two significant poster presentation sessions at prime conference time involving over 120 posters that will allow delegates to interact directly with presenters, in addition to 150+ paper presentations and 10 workshops.

A "meet and greet" of New Zealand politicians is set up for the first afternoon of the conference with what promises to be a heated public debate on alcohol and drug policy kindly sponsored by the New Zealand Drug Foundation.

A Welcome Reception and Conference Dinner have been incorporated into the Registration fee which will bring the whole conference together for fun and relaxation.

As Doug Sellman, Co-chair of the Organising Committee, puts it "This is shaping up to be the most memorable addiction treatment conference of the decade".

If you have any queries about anything to do with the Conference, Lisa and Lindsay of the Conference Secretariat at the National Addiction Centre in Christchurch will be only too happy to help you; just send them an email.

Please go to [www.twonationstencultures.co.nz](http://www.twonationstencultures.co.nz) for a full description of the conference, its sponsors, including the Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand, the principal sponsor, and all your registration (online), travel and accommodation needs.

# APSAD – A JOURNEY



## Prof Ann Roche reminisces

It was with a fond farewell, tinged with a little sadness, that I parted from my official duties at last month's AGM and relinquished my position as Immediate Previous Past President and all official roles on Council. My involvement with APSAD over the past twenty years has paralleled developments in the AOD field at large. In the late 1980's, I began a close working relationship with the Society, known then as AMSAD (the Australian Medical Society on Alcohol and Drugs).

I was co-located with the Society's office in Building 82 at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney and watched, perhaps more with curiosity than interest, the late evening comings and goings of the nearly all male and medical (with some notable exceptions from nursing) contingent of Society members. Clad in dark suits and clutching the ubiquitous manila folder there was much corridor muttering about grants, journals, conferences and the plotting of ministerial ambushes. Not too different from today, except the amounts involved were tiny (it was a bread line existence for many years), the journal little more than sets of printed clinical notes and the conferences just beginning to emerge from being Grand Round look-a-likes.

By the early 1990's, I was lured onto Council to take up the position of Secretary (and no, as I needed to remind some older male medical colleagues, that did not mean booking their travel and accommodation) as it shifted gear to become AMPSAD, with the 'P' representing 'other professionals';

though I was regularly reminded, jokingly of course, that it was a silent 'P'. It was not long after that the 'M' was dropped and the Society's focus became all professionals working in this area (although I think a few still rue the day that the 'M' was dropped and the focus shifted away from its original exclusively medical focus). And so, the Society gradually emerged from being a small and relatively narrow enclave for a handful of dedicated doctors, to embrace the role of health and human services professionals in general.

As the Society was growing and maturing, so too was the AOD field itself. The field was rapidly moving from being a Cinderella-like cottage industry to being a serious discipline in its own right. Recent years have seen a rapid expansion in the knowledge base that underpins our practices and the adoption of the principles of evidence-based practice. In more recent years, I have held various roles on Council including three years as President and then 2 as Immediate Past President. These terms coincided with the period of

probably the greatest change within the field and the Society overall. As we entered the new millennium, we were larger, more complex, and a serious scientific force not to be taken lightly. Such a shift out of adolescence into fully fledged maturity was not without significant growing pains. But suffice to say that the Society has emerged strong and vibrant. Its membership is now vastly different to its early days. Women play notable leadership and governance roles both in the Society and in the AOD field at large. We have forged new partnerships, including those with the Chapter of Addiction Medicine, DANA and our New Zealand colleagues, and have a new and clearly defined *raison d'être*. As a truly multi-disciplinary, gender-balanced, evidence-based organisation with a focus on professional development and best practice I am fully confident that the Society will go from strength to strength. An evolution I will delight in watching from the wings.

# Welcome to APSAD's New Council Members

APSAD Council would like to warmly welcome its two incoming members.



## Vice President (President Elect) Dr Adrian Dunlop MBBS PhD GradDipEpi&Biostat FACHAM

Dr Adrian Dunlop is Area Director, Drug and Alcohol Clinical Services for the

Hunter New England Area Health Service.

He is a Foundation Fellow of the Chapter of Addiction Medicine and Honorary Secretary of the Chapter Committee. He has been

working in the drug and alcohol field for over 13 years and enjoys the roles of clinician, medical educator, researcher and administrator.

Adrian enjoys working with patients and the wide range of professions who work in the drug and alcohol field. He has a particular

interest in the development and provision of services for patient groups with particularly high needs, including pregnant women, indigenous people, youth and people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.



## Tasmanian Representative - Cecile McKeown, B.Soc.Sci (Hon)Eq.Health Science PhD Candidate

Cecile McKeown is a Senior Consultant Population Health, with the

Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania. She has 21 years of experience in alcohol and drug related fields in Queensland and Tasmania in the various roles of state-wide and regional services management, policy and strategy development, formulation of standards and

quality systems for alcohol and drug services, patient care, and training of professionals. Cecile has presented frequently at National and State conferences on a range of alcohol and other drug related issues. She also has experience on numerous National and State Expert Committees, Reference Groups and Boards.

As a former State Manager of Alcohol and Drugs Services in Tasmania and previous member of the Intergovernmental

Committee on Drugs, Cecile now pursues her great passion - that of population approaches to substance related harms. She is the recipient of a number of achievement related awards. Cecile brings in depth knowledge, expertise, and experience in the alcohol and drug policy as well as service delivery areas. Cecile is a PhD candidate at the University of Tasmania in the domain of public alcohol policy.

## 2007 APSAD Awards for excellence in science and research

### Call for nominations

Nominations are now open for the 2007 APSAD Awards. There are two award categories:

1. the Early Career Award for excellence in research and practice relative to career opportunities; and
2. the Senior Scientist Award for making an outstanding contribution to the field.

Both Awards reflect excellence in the application of theory and knowledge to any aspect of drug and alcohol use or misuse.

The prizes for both awards are a plaque and prize money of \$2500 to help subsidise costs of attending an international or national conference of the recipient's choice.

Further information and an application form are available on the APSAD website under the 'Events and News' link in the 'Domestic News' section or through the APSAD Office.

Nominations are due by 5pm, Friday 7th September and the Awards will be presented at the joint APSAD / Cutting Edge Addiction Conference – Two Nations, Ten Cultures?, in Auckland, New Zealand 4 to 7 November 2007.

For further information about the APSAD Awards go to [www.apsad.org.au](http://www.apsad.org.au) or call Liz at the APSAD Office on (02) 9331-7748

For further information about the conference:

[www.twonationstencultures.co.nz](http://www.twonationstencultures.co.nz)

# APSAD SA one-day workshop – update



The second one-day APSAD workshop will be held

in Adelaide, South Australia, on Monday, November 26, 2007.

Venue: Education Development Centre, Milner Street, Hindmarsh, SA.

It will be jointly organised and sponsored by APSAD and DASSA (Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia).

The title: “Research update on current developments in the addictions field: International, National and South Australian perspective.”

It will provide summaries of major national and international drug and alcohol and addiction conferences held this year, including CPDD (College on Problems of Drug Dependence), International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, Australasian Drug Strategy conference, APSAD and DANA (Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia) conferences and others. An update on drug and alcohol research currently conducted in South Australia will be provided by research staff from DASSA and South Australian Universities.

This workshop will be free for APSAD members and non-members.

More details will be posted on the APSAD website as they come to hand.

Dr. Olga Lopatko  
SA Representative



## NSW one-day workshop report – “something for everyone”



### Dr Craig Rodgers – NSW Representative

I would just like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to everyone who participated at the inaugural APSAD one-day, skills-based workshop that was held at the Sydney Masonic Centre in Sydney on 9th August.

I was very excited when we had our first registration so I was overwhelmed when 74 people attended on the day. It was quite a difficult task to devise a program that would encompass the wide range of professions that APSAD has grown to represent; however, feedback from participants seemed to suggest that there was “something for everyone” and hopefully we can organise an equally diverse range of topics for future workshops.

I personally enjoyed the experience of meeting practitioners from other services in NSW who share a commitment to such a challenging area of medicine and felt quite humble and proud in a room full of incredibly experienced professionals.

So, after initial regrets about ever volunteering for this position, I am honoured to have assisted in the initiation of the first workshop and

hope to continue the tradition for at least another year so. If there any further suggestions for topics please email Liz Baxter on [exec.officer@apsad.org.au](mailto:exec.officer@apsad.org.au).

Special thanks to Liz, Colum and Angus in the APSAD office and good luck to all the other states in the preparation of their own workshops – it may seem like a daunting task but I can guarantee it's a very satisfying and fulfilling day.

# Upcoming events 2007

OCTOBER 2007



## 4th Australian Drug Strategy Conference

**22-25 October 2007, Conrad Jupiters, Gold Coast**

The conference is an information sharing forum to develop strategies aimed at reducing the negative effects of alcohol and other drug use. Plenary sessions, panels and a number of concurrent sessions covering diverse topics will be on offer.

REGISTER NOW – [www.police.qld.gov.au/ADSC2007](http://www.police.qld.gov.au/ADSC2007).



NOVEMBER 2007



## Two Nations, Ten Cultures?

**4 - 7 November 2007**

Aotea Centre, Auckland, New Zealand  
"Two Nations, Ten Cultures?"  
[www.twonationstencultures.com.au](http://www.twonationstencultures.com.au)



NOVEMBER 2007



## Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association's 2007 Conference

**14 - 16 November 2007**

Park Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne  
visit our website [www.atca.com.au](http://www.atca.com.au)

OCTOBER 2008



## Viral Hepatitis – 6th Australasian Conference

**20 - 22 October 2008**

**Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre**

Phone: +61 2 8204 0770 Fax: +61 2 9212 4670

Email: [conferenceinfo@hepatitis.org.au](mailto:conferenceinfo@hepatitis.org.au)

[www.hepatitis.org.au](http://www.hepatitis.org.au)