



2023 Australian Paediatric Society AGM, President's report

Our last AGM was held on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at Kingfisher Resort, K'Gari as a combined meeting with face-to-face and videoconference access. WIFI access was patchy but reports and transcripts are available on our APS website.

That was the first face-to-face meeting I attended and caught covid there. Fortunately, mine was a mild illness. It was great to catch up with colleagues. Covid has significantly impacted APS activities. Everyone has been busy and work-life balance has been very difficult. Many colleagues like me have been subject to burnout and have had to reassess their priorities.

Our website has improved resources and communication and the general public continue to make requests particularly about availability of Paediatricians for consultation. This is an Australia wide problem and has been the main focus of the executive and the RACP. There is more that can be done for members without duplicating resources from the college website and Mike South's RCH blog.

I attended the RACP Special Societies Meeting in March which was the Friday before the SCH Annual Paediatric Update. I made good use of my week in Sydney. I noticed that many societies are much more independent in their day-to-day functioning with an Executive Officer presenting their findings and needs from the college. We will discuss this later in the meeting.

Peter Goss continues to be my "Go-to-Man" with his great knowledge of everything rural and regional. His next diabetes meeting is in Adelaide in October. I will be attending even though I no longer treat children and adolescents with diabetes. I hope to catch up with colleagues there. More about that later. Peter has also been

a strong advocate for regional workforce which will culminate in a summit in Canberra next month.

Mike Williams is getting the Journal Club up and running again. Jo McCubbin continues with her representation with the Rural Alliance on our behalf.

Committee-wise we have been quiet. Some members have retired or are winding down. Some fresh faces are needed.

Our role as a special society is so important to continue to address our main aims:

1. Supporting equitable care for all Australian children.
2. Encouraging tertiary skills in regional centres.
3. Enabling modern technology for rural youth.
4. Providing collegiate, educational, and social support.
5. Expand services for rural children through telehealth.

I will be stepping down as President today. I wish to remain involved in the executive committee and to stay active in advocating in regional and rural health issues. I had an extended presidency because of Covid and would have liked to have been able to do more. Thank you to my friends and colleagues for your support. Thank you to Suzanne from Impagination for her webmaster expertise.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the people of Lahaina, Hawaii who are struggling with the aftermath of a tragic firestorm. Our AGM and annual meeting were held in Hawaii in 2019 and some of us stayed on to attend the AAP Meeting in Maui. We stayed in Lahaina at the "Makai Sunset Inn" which unfortunately was destroyed in the fire. Memories of that holiday remain strong.

Dr Tim Warnock

APS President

22.08.2023