Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the newsletter for February 2013.

As noted previously, nominations for Sydney Medical School Alumni Awards close soon (29 March). We are also keen to hear from alumni who would like to become members of the Medical Alumni Association Council, which will hold its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 28 February.

We would appreciate receiving notes from you about our alumni and their activities. Please send any suggestions you have for the content of future monthly newsletters.

The sections are:

1. Alumni news - Australia Day Honours; Sydney Medical School Alumni Awards (nominations close on 29 March); Medical Alumni Association AGM on 28 February; biography of Eddie Hirst (1945)
2. Forthcoming events - visiting speakers from China and Germany; Rare Books exhibition
3. University and Sydney Medical School (SMS) news
4. History of medicine - First Tuesday History of Medicine Club (5 March); Quarantine Station Lecture Series (Sunday, 17 February, and Saturday, 9 March); RACP History of Medicine Lecture Series (11 March)
5. Reunions
7. Updating your University records.

1. Alumni news

1.1 Australia Day Honours

Warm congratulations to all our alumni and academic staff who gained Australia Day awards.

- Professor Sally Redman AO, an Honorary Professor in the School of Public Health, at the University since 2003. "For distinguished service to public health through leadership in the care of women with breast cancer, contributions to research and higher education and the promotion of relationships between researchers, policy makers and practitioners."
- Professor Helen Maria Zorbas AO (1978), a graduate who has served as Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Australia, since 2010. "For distinguished service to public health through leadership in the delivery of improved information and services to cancer patients and their families and contributions to research and clinical trials."
• Dr Brian Michael Boettcher AM (1966), a graduate who has served as forensic psychiatrist; and member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal, 1992-2004 and since 2005. "For significant service to psychiatry as a clinician and educator."

• Associate Professor Stuart Leigh Boland AM (1967), who has been a University lecturer in Clinical Surgery since 1975 and also involved in registrar and resident training at a hospital level. "For significant service to medicine through leadership roles in professional organisations, and as a surgeon and educator."

• Dr David Alistair Lonie AM (GradDipPsychMed, 1966), a graduate who has been a clinician, educator and mentor, particularly in the area of infant and child mental health, for over 40 years. "For significant service to psychiatry, particularly in the field of infant and adolescent mental health."

• Associate Professor Jenó Emil Marosszeky AM (1967), Honorary Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University and Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Westmead Hospital, since 1979. "For significant service to rehabilitation medicine, and through contributions to people with arthritis."

• Professor Jonathan Mark Morris AM (PhD, 1999), Associate Dean, Sydney Medical School at the University and Head and Chair, Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology, since 2008. "For significant service to maternal and infant health as a clinician, educator, patient advocate and researcher."

• Professor David Owen Sillence AM (1970), Foundation Head, Discipline of Genetic Medicine at the University since 2005. "For significant service to medicine in the field of clinical genetics."

• Professor Roger Smith AM (1974), a graduate who has served as Professor of Endocrinology, University of Newcastle, Faculty of Medicine, since 1981. "For significant service to medical research and development in the Hunter region and in the field of maternal health."

• Clinical Professor Graeme Leslie Beardmore OAM (GradDipDermMed, 1968), a graduate and Visiting Dermatologist, Queensland Institute of Dermatology. "For service to medicine in the field of dermatology."

• Dr Geoffrey Vernon Mutton OAM (1967), a graduate and orthopaedic surgeon, Orange Base Hospital, since 1975. "For service to medicine in the field of orthopaedic surgery."

• Dr John Charles Schwarz OAM (1973), a graduate who co-founded the African AIDS Foundation, 2001 and has served as its chairman, since 2001. "For service to international relations, particularly through the African AIDS Foundation."

• Dr Anthony Rodham Wilson OAM (1973), a graduate who founded the Tumut Family Medical Centre and has served as a GP there since 2003. "For service to medicine, and to the community of Tumut."

1.2 Sydney Medical School Alumni Awards

Nominations for the 2013 Alumni Awards close on 29 March. Please read the submission guidelines for the awards and medals so that you can provide the required details and supporting documentation. Applications that provide all documentation are more likely to be successful. (Please note online nominations may not be saved and returned to at a later date.)

The University of Sydney Alumni Awards recognise the following categories:

• Alumni Award for Community Achievement - recognises the personal contributions that alumni have made to the enrichment of Australian Society through their community service.
• Alumni Award for International Achievement - recognises the personal contributions that alumni who reside overseas have made to the enrichment of international society through their community or professional service.
• Alumni Award for Professional Achievement - recognises outstanding achievements of alumni in their professional field.
• Young Alumni Award for Achievement - recognises outstanding achievements made by alumni aged 30 and younger to the University, local, Australian or international communities.

Graduates and postgraduates have made the most extraordinary contributions to the University, to their local communities and on the international stage. The Medical Alumni Association would like to acknowledge these remarkable achievements by introducing Sydney Medical School awards in these categories. The medical alumni awards will complement those awards already established by the University. All medical alumni award recipients will be entered into the nomination process for the University of Sydney Alumni Awards.

Please see all details at the link: http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/alumni/awards/index.php

1.3 Medical Alumni Association Council

The Medical Alumni Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 28 February 2013. We are keen to hear from alumni who would like to become members of the MAA Council.

1.4 Featured alumni of the month - biography of Edmond Hirst (1945)

'Eddie Hirst and his wife Pat Bale were brilliant pathologists and worldly mentors. Eddie from Poland and Pat from Tasmania, both trained in Australia and the USA before they met and were employed at Sydney Hospital. Their expertise and opinions were highly respected by both colleagues and clinicians alike. Many of us became entranced with the exploits of the 'larrikan' who stalked Kensington and Randwick, played breakaway for Randwick Rugby, provided the first frozen section service in NSW and proceeded without fear or favour to demand that physicians, surgeons and others justify their management of patients. Before Eddie's untimely death Pat has perpicaciously recorded many of Eddie's exploits and encounters.'

Professor Stanley W McCarthy (1963)

'Kenso kid': a biography of an Australian immigrant, Dr. Eddie Hirst 1915-1993 by Pat (Hirst) Bale - ISBN: 9780980581638 (paperback)

Many Sydney Hospitallers, pathologists and other colleagues visited the Nightingale Museum on 2 February for the book launch. To order the book ($50), please contact Elinor Wrobel at the Nightingale Museum on (02) 93827427, or after hours on (02) 93322260.

As noted in the January newsletter, Cate Storey (1972), President of the Medical Alumni Association, suggested that we begin to publish interesting stories about our alumni whose lives and achievements are often not widely known. Please send your comments and stories to Paul Lancaster (see email address below).

1.5 University of Sydney records for female graduates
Both Jacqueline Morgan (Jacqueline Muston at her graduation in 1955) and Eleanor Dawson (Eleanor Shiels at her graduation in 1951) have contacted me about what policies exist within the University for recording changes of name, usually after marriage.

Joshua Fry, Alumni Communications Manager, Alumni and Events Office, Division of Alumni and Development, has kindly sent the following edited comments:

'We have a standard procedure in place for recording and updating this information regarding surnames. When a female student graduates, her name at graduation (ie what appears on their testamur) is transferred into our alumni database. This will continue to be used until we are requested or notified by the graduate to change this. No change is made unless we are requested to by the graduate. The University does not delete the former name, instead it has a record of all name changes applied to the database. So if Jane Brown becomes Jane Citizen, and then remarries and changes to Jane Smith, a search on any three names will identify them in the system.'

1.6 Emeritus Professor Robert Pho (1967), National University of Singapore

Robert enjoys reading the monthly newsletters and is grateful that they assist in 'bringing all our medical alumni together'. He notes that the effort of tracking down Ian Johnston on the remote island in Tasmania (see January 2013 newsletter), sharing his happy 'retirement life' with his partner, and pursuing their lifetime passion is a wake-up call to many of us that there is a more meaningful life to look forward to after retirement! Here are some edited comments from Robert:

'I feel very sad to learn of the death of Professor Richard Gye and Dr Bruce Leckie. Both were very outstanding surgeons who contributed enormously and offered their specialised skills in the early development of Liverpool Hospital. You may recall Liverpool Hospital in those days was mainly run by one senior Resident Medical Officer and two Junior RMOs. Both Prof Gye and Dr Leckie actually functioned as registrars taking emergency calls about neurosurgical and cardiothoracic patients. I remember phoning them at very odd hours of the night. They always willingly came down and performed emergency surgery, at the same time teaching and guiding the RMOs. I really treasure the wonderful and happy time of learning and training I spent in Liverpool Hospital.

Regarding Bruce Leckie, there was one incident I always remember. He was a master clinician and unbelievably skilful surgeon performing magic to save the patient's life! We were operating on a patient with multiple injured organs, a fractured pelvis, haemopneumothorax, and a ruptured diaphragm. The patient was ventilated on one lung as his left chest was opened to repair the ruptured diaphragm. The patient suddenly went blue and the anaesthetist was crying for help as he had difficulty performing manual ventilation. I was Dr Leckie's only assistant - I was a very junior resident and completely at loss as what was occurring. Suddenly he shouted "Bob get away". He swiftly moved to my position. With the scalpel dancing in the air, he slashed the right side of the patient's chest wall. There was sudden gust of air rushing out of the patient's chest wall like a punctured balloon. Instantly the patient became pink. The bewildered assistants, nurses, and anaesthetists were shocked but relieved. It was the quick thinking of Dr Leckie and his judgment that the patient had developed tension pneumothorax. His decisive action and his surgical skill saved the patient's life. It is still my most dramatic lifetime surgical instruction!'


1.7 Michael Kleerekoper (1970) has recently been appointed Associate Editor of the Journal Of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism - the leading endocrine journal of the USA. He has joined the faculty at the University of Toledo Medical School where he is
Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and section chief of the Endocrinology Division. The author of numerous journal studies, Dr. Kleerekoper serves on the editorial boards for Endocrine Today, Endocrine Practice, Journal of Clinical Densitometry, Journal of Women’s Health, Osteoporosis International and Calcified Tissue International. Dr. Kleerekoper is also a founding board member of the newly formed Academy of Women’s Health.


1.8 Memorials for medical alumni

In noting the Ken Merten Library at Liverpool Hospital in the January 2013 MAA e-Newsletter, I inadvertently confused some readers as this implied that Ken may have died. In fact, some of us regularly see Ken at the First Tuesday Club meetings and elsewhere.

Jules Black (1964) notes that Ken is the 'son of my godfather, Kurt Merten, an expatriate German who fled Nazi Germany like my own parents. He had a leather business, making handbags and such. We had leather-working at our school, and I would get the leather off-cuts from Kurt so we could make leather bookmarks, purses and the like.....Another example of an immigrant child of European descent who has contributed in spades to the community that took him in.'

Paul Lancaster notes: 'My good friend, Ferry Grunseit (1945), tells me that, as he puts it, he was the first 'refo' doctor to graduate from Sydney Medical School, having come to Sydney from Romania in 1939. Perhaps readers know of others in that era around World War 2. There is scope for researching all this in much more depth.'

2. Forthcoming events

2.1 Modernising health care provider education in China - Monday, 18 February, 6pm to 7.30pm

Professor Yifei Wang, Senior Advisor, School of Medicine, Shanghai Jiao Tong University - a China Studies Centre Distinguished Speaker lecture - see: [http://sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/2013/professor_yifei_wang.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/2013/professor_yifei_wang.shtml)

China is facing an epoch-making revolution of health care service and health care system, symbolised by the paradigm shift from existing disease-management system to a better integrative health care system with the following five transitions:

- Transition from disease-driven medicine to health driven medicine;
- Transition from targeting on illness to targeting on people;
- Transition from hospital-based disease management to community-based integrative health care service;
- Transition from high-tech predominant medical intervention to high-touch, people-centered and community-engaged health care;
- Transition from disease intervention to comprehensive health care package including disease diagnosis & treatment, disease prediction, disease prevention and health promotion


2.2 Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine (VELiM) - public lecture at the Goethe-Institute Australia, Thursday, 7 March, 7 to 8.30pm

A visiting scholar, Professor Jochen Vollmann will be at VELiM from 12 February to 10 March. He has kindly agreed to give a Conversation there on 28 February.

In addition, Professor Vollmann is giving a public lecture on Thursday, 7 March - please see details below:

'Medical treatment at the end of life: current ethical and clinical issues'

Prof Dr med Dr phil Jochen Vollmann, Director, Institute of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, Ruhr-University Bochum (Germany)

Venue: Goethe-Institute Australia, 90 Ocean Street, Woollahra. Wine and chips will be served before this public event. Everybody is welcome!

For more information, email jacqueline.savard@sydney.edu.au or call 02 9036 3427.

2.3 History matters! Fisher Library exhibition - 23 January to 3 May 2013

Painless surgery is a modern phenomenon, but the concept was an ancient one. The exhibition includes many of the pioneering works of 16th to 19th century medical science, which transformed the idea into a reality. Presented by the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and the University of Sydney Library this joint exhibition features rarely seen books from the University Library’s Rare Books and Special Collections and the Richard Bailey Library, in association with retired anaesthetic equipment from the Harry Daly Museum.

Where: Exhibition Space, Level 2, Fisher Library

For further information, see http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/about/whatsnew/exhibitions/, call 9036 6465, or email sara.hilder@sydney.edu.au

2.4 Sydney Ideas

For events in February and March, see http://sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/

3. University and Sydney Medical School news

3.1 The University's cupids

Early arrivals to the University of Sydney's historic Quadrangle on Thursday found that Cupid had been busy preparing for Valentine's Day.

Two love hearts had been mowed into the lawns, bringing a smile to the faces of University students, staff and visitors who walked through the Quadrangle, and hundreds more on social media.

3.2 **For health's sake, time to take on food giants**

A woman dies from a 10-litre a day Coke habit. Children's clothing sports advertisements for Jim Beam bourbon. These are extreme examples, but just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the alcohol and processed food companies using the same tactics as Big Tobacco to increase profits at the same time as increasing sugar and salt in our diets.


3.3 **University of Sydney front-runner for student support and services**

The University of Sydney has topped a National Union of Students league table rating universities on their use of a student fee dedicated to improving campus life and providing student services. The peak representative body for university students, the National Union of Students (NUS), conducted a national study into the implementation of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF).


3.4 **Private health insurance and the illusion of choice**

The number of people with health insurance plummeted in the 1990s, but almost half the Australian population now has private hospital insurance and over half have ancillary or extras cover. But our research on private health insurance websites and interviews with consumers shows that messages about increased choice don't always match reality.

Both Liberal and Labor governments have been encouraging us to purchase private health insurance since 1997. They've claimed that private health insurance promotes choice for the consumer and takes pressure off the public health system.


3.5 **Deadly virus discovered in bats also jumps species**

Four new forms of hantavirus, one of the most virulent pathogens transmitted from animals to humans, have been identified by international research contributed to by the University of Sydney. The existence of these newly described hantaviruses in bats and other insect-eating carnivores has challenged the conventional view that they originated in rodents. It also suggests there may be additional unrecognised hantaviruses circulating in a wide range of animal hosts, particularly bats, and that the hantaviruses frequently jump hosts.


3.6 **University well represented in Cure Cancer grants**

A group of 10 University of Sydney and affiliated medical institute cancer researchers have won a share in a record $3.2 million in grants awarded by the Cure Cancer Australia Foundation. In 2013, the foundation is funding a total of 29 early-career cancer researchers who have received new grants to support their work of finding a cure for cancer. They join nine researchers who are being funded this year in their second year of Cure Cancer’s two-year grants.


3.7 **New Chancellor of the University Of Sydney**
Company director Belinda Hutchinson AM is the new Chancellor of the University of Sydney. She succeeds Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO who concluded her second term as Chancellor in December 2012.

"I feel honoured and privileged to be elected as Chancellor of the University of Sydney which has always been a leader in education and research," said Ms Hutchinson.


3.8 New light shed on cannabis, cigarette and alcohol use of young mentally ill

Around one in 10 young teens with mental health issues also drinks alcohol, smokes cigarettes, and uses cannabis on a weekly basis, said Dr Daniel Hermens from the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Research Institute.

This pattern of substance use becomes more common as teenagers grow into young adults, and is likely to contribute to increased risk of poor physical and mental health outcomes.


3.9 A five-point plan to reduce heart attack deaths in Australia

Out of the 10,021 Australian who died of a heart attack in 2010, 5305 were experiencing their second such event. Systematic national reforms are needed to reduce the alarming number of people having a second heart attack and ensure the health-care system isn't failing those who survive the first time. As well as lives lost, deaths from heart attacks result in enormous costs - over $8.4 billion annually. And this figure doesn't account for the time lost at work, or financial, emotional and other family costs.


3.10 Storks, cabbage patches, and the birds and the bees - our broken sex education system

In the fields of gender, sexuality, and sexual health research, it's a no-brainer that sex education should start early, and that sex should be discussed often - both in schools and at home. But instead we talk about storks, cabbage patches, and the birds and the bees. In fact, we have a million and one ways to avoid teaching or talking about sex and sexuality. The only way to have open, honest dialogues is to give young people information early and often. Age-appropriate talks about body parts and respect should occur as early as preschool; we can then continue to add to that knowledge regularly.


3.11 Australia Day Honours 2013

Whether it be improving the welfare of veterans and medical education in Vietnam, service to the judiciary, improvements to our approaches in medicine or accomplishments on the sporting field University of Sydney staff and alumni have a diverse impact on Australian society.

The University extends warm congratualtions to those who have passed through its doors and those still with us, whose contribution to Australia has been recognised in this year's Australia Day Honours. We offer particular congratulations to University alumnus, The Hon
Tom Uren, who has been named Companion (AC) in the General Division of the Order of Australia, the highest honour bestowed. Uren was named: "For eminent service to the community, particularly through contributions to the welfare of veterans, improved medical education in Vietnam and the preservation of sites of heritage and environmental significance."


3.12 New study calls for society to change the way it refers to shark behaviour

The term "shark attack" is typically used by the media, government officials, researchers and the public to describe almost any kind of human-shark interaction — even those where no contact or injury occurs between humans and sharks. For example, 38 percent of reported shark "attacks" in NSW between 1979 and 2009 did not involve any injuries. Now, Christopher Neff of the University of Sydney, Australia, and Dr Robert Hueter, leader of Mote Marine Laboratory's Center for Shark Research in Sarasota, Fla. — the only Congressionally designated national research centre in the US focused on sharks — propose a new system of classification to support more accurate scientific reporting about shark interactions, along with more accurate public discussion about shark risk to swimmers and divers.


3.13 Previously unknown sleep pattern revealed in University of Sydney research

There's no need to panic if you didn't get a solid eight hours of beauty sleep last night. According to new University of Sydney research, sleep duration naturally waxes and wanes over a period of days regardless of individual lifestyle, timing of sleep or waking, and social and environmental influences.

With further research, the discovery could have important implications for predicting work performance, managing fatigue-related accidents after shift work, and treatment recovery in clinical populations.


3.14 Informing women on breast cancer overdiagnosis

In a study exploring women's responses to being told about overdiagnosis in breast cancer screening, most women felt the information was important and could enable them to make choices. The University of Sydney study, published in the British Medical Journal (24 January), also found that prior awareness of overdiagnosis was minimal and, although it is a complex and unfamiliar topic, most women were able to understand the issue. Providing women with the information may or may not influence their approach to screening, depending on the extent of the overdiagnosis and individual preferences.


3.15 It's a dog's life when man's best friend becomes his fattest

A study published in Nature (24 January) offers further insight into how dogs became domesticated. The comparative analysis of human, canine and wolf genomes suggests that humans and dogs have evolved in parallel as a response to the increasingly starchy diets on offer after the agricultural revolution. Such a wholesale change in diet has not necessarily been benign for either species. As our waistlines have expanded, so have those of our pet animals. In fact, the rising incidence of obesity in humans and dogs seems to be linked;
people at high risk of obesity are more likely to own and care for an overweight canine companion.


3.16 **Social media puts the public in public health information dissemination**

According to new research from the University of Sydney, micro-blog-based services such as Twitter could be a promising medium to spread important information about public health. The research, by Professor Robert Steele and PhD candidate Dan Dumbrell, indicates social media networks such as Twitter have distinct and potentially powerful characteristics that distinguish them from traditional online methods of public health information dissemination, such as search engines. This research is part of Professor Steele's broader investigations on the impacts of emerging technologies on health and health care.


3.17 **Regular aspirin use increases risk of age-related eye disease**

Researchers at the Centre for Vision Research from the Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research (WMI), a close affiliate of the University of Sydney, have found that regular aspirin consumption is associated with an increased risk of neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD) - a leading cause of blindness in older people. The research shows that the risk appears to be independent of a history of smoking, which is also a known preventable risk factor for AMD.


3.18 **ADHD medication can slow growth in teenage boys**

Adolescent boys with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are more likely to be shorter and slimmer than their same-age peers, according to a new study published in the Medical Journal of Australia (21 January). Dr Alison Poulton from the University of Sydney and her coauthors investigated the influence of stimulant medication on the growth and physical development during puberty of adolescent boys with ADHD. The study found that prolonged treatment for more than three years with stimulant medication was associated with a slower rate of physical development during puberty.


3.19 **Sydney alumni and the media**

- Diana Wyndham was interviewed about her biography of Norman Haire (1915) by Phillip Adams on ABC’s Late Night Live on 7 February - http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/norman-haire2c-sexologist/4507368
- Professor Jeffrey M Drazen, Editor-in-Chief of the New England Journal of Medicine and a pulmonary specialist, was recently a guest of the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research. He was interviewed by Margaret Throsby on ABC Classic FM on 29 January. To listen to the podcast audio, go to: http://www.abc.net.au/classic/content/2013/01/29/3676797.htm
4. History of medicine

4.1 First Tuesday History of Medicine Club - Tuesday, 5 March: 4.45 to 7.00pm (please note early start)

The speakers will be Julia Horne, University of Sydney Historian, who will provide details of the aims of the University’s efforts to collect records, and digitise existing records, of the First World War held by the University. The second speaker will be Jane McDonald, an anaesthetist at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead. Her talk will be based on research of her relative, Arthur Todd, who graduated in 1914. The abstract of her presentation at the 8th International Symposium on the History of Anaesthesia, held at the University in January, follows:
**Sinking the Emden. The Surgeons’ Experiences on HMAS Sydney in World War I**

McDonald, J. M. (1) + Todd, E.M. (1) Westmead Hospital (2) Sydney University

In November 1914 the HMAS Sydney was accompanying a large convoy of ships taking Australian soldiers to the Middle East. After an SOS signal was received from the signal station at Cocos Island off Western Australia, the Sydney diverted. It challenged the German Raider Emden as she was trying to escape after destroying this important signal station. The Emden was captained by the notorious Von Mueller and had been responsible for the sinking of many British ships. A gun battle between the Sydney and the Emden ensued and the Emden was sunk. This early victory for Australia in the Great War was seen as a significant contribution by the fledgling Australian Navy and a “glorious baptism” which is still widely celebrated as a great sea duel. The victory made heroes of Captain Glossop and the crew of the Sydney, and has become part of Australian Military history. During the battle there were extensive casualties. Two young Australian Navy surgeons on board the Sydney were faced with the enormous task of managing sailors, both Australian and German, with massive and horrific injuries. The ships medical log book described their experiences and the injuries they treated in both Australian and German sailors. Surgeon Darby gave an account of the difficulties they encountered trying to treat their patients while under enemy fire, and the problems of having many injured and limited facilities and supplies. Some tension is evident between the Sydney’s captain and the medical staff. Darby described collaboration with a German doctor from the Emden and also a doctor from Cocos Islands to anaesthetize and operate on many injured and dying sailors at a time when chloroform was used for anaesthesia, and blood transfusions were not yet available. Later entries in the log as the Sydney continued on its journey hint at the psychological and physical effects on both the sailors and surgeons after their traumatic experience. Signs of mental health problems become evident. These problems were an issue not just for the sailors but for the medical staff themselves and for one the final outcome was a further tragedy. This paper will examine the trials and tribulations of the Naval Surgeons on board the HMAS Sydney through an examination of the surgeons’ logs and later recollections.

**Venue:** Edward Ford Building, University of Sydney

To receive notes of previous meetings or to book, contact Cate Storey - email: cestorey@bigpond.com

4.2 Quarantine Station Lecture Series - Sunday, 17 February, 2-4pm

- **Dumbing down the population from Tasmania to Tibet: how iodine deficiency deprives children of their intelligence:** Cres Eastman
- **Massacres, murders, mutinies, ‘the bends’, malnutrition, infections, and motor vehicles: some causes of death in Broome from the 1880s to the 21st century:** Michael Gracey

**Dumbing down the population from Tasmania to Tibet: how iodine deficiency deprives children of their intelligence**

Professor Creswell Eastman (AM MB BS MD FRACP FRCPA FAFPHM) is one of the world’s leading experts on the elimination of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) which is the commonest global cause of preventable mental disability and affects hundreds of millions of people throughout the world. Cres has been actively involved in the elimination of IDD in China since 1982. At that time IDD was responsible for an estimated 250-300 million people suffering from goitre (25% of population) and many millions suffering from mental retardation and brain damage due to IDD. Between 1982 and 1996, he implemented a huge public
health project providing a sustainable solution to IDD in China. The end result has been an extraordinary public health triumph where goitre rates are down to 5% and no new cretins have been recognized in recent years. Similar results have been achieved in Tibet where IDD damaged the brains of over 10% of Tibetan children reducing the IQ of most Tibetan children. His work in Tibet since 1998 has abolished this scourge and protected the brains of hundreds of thousands of babies born since then. Now he is addressing the problem of the re-emergence of iodine deficiency in Australia.

Massacres, murders, mutinies, ‘the bends’, malnutrition, infections, and motor vehicles: some causes of death in Broome from the 1880s to the 21st century

**Summary.** The colourful history of Broome has a sinister side. Hundreds of mostly Asian pearlers drowned, there were fatal mutinies at sea, murders and riots in town, and clashes between Aborigines and European settlers were often violent. The World Wars had devastating effects on the world-renowned pearling industry and the Japanese bombing in 1942 probably killed about 100 people. The 20th century saw motor vehicles emerge as a killer in the region. After then malnutrition and infections killed many Aboriginal infants and children. Later ‘lifestyle’ changes brought a flood of deaths from diabetes, heart disease, kidney failure, drug abuse, and suicide. Death registers reflect social changes in communities.

**Michael Gracey** (AO MD PhD FRACP FAAP) is a paediatrician with wide experience in many developing countries. For the past 40 years he has worked with Australian Aboriginal people in very remote parts of WA, particularly in the Kimberley. He was the Principal Medical Adviser on Aboriginal Health to the WA Health Department for more than 12 years and became Australia’s first Professor of Aboriginal Health in 1979. Michael has recently returned to Sydney to live but continues to work in the Kimberley through the Unity of First People of Australia, a not-for-profit Indigenous organisation committed to improving the health, well-being and future of Aboriginal people and sharing their cultural heritage with other Australians.

The program for 17 February will be posted on the Q Station website: [http://www.qstation.com.au/events/lecture-series/](http://www.qstation.com.au/events/lecture-series/). You can book online there for the Q Station talks. Otherwise, you can be put on the email list for the monthly lectures by contacting Kelly – Sydney Q Station CR5 H8773-CR5@accor.com, or call her on 02 9466 1551.

**Venue:** Q Station is located at North Head Scenic Drive, Manly. Entry is free but reservations are essential. Complimentary tea, coffee and water will be available. The Visitor Centre at Q Station now has some excellent displays and memorabilia that tell the stories of quarantine, infectious diseases and public health. Additional beverages, snacks or refreshments may be purchased from the Visitor Centre Kiosk.

Please note that there will be an additional program **History and Health: A Morning at the Quarantine Station** on Saturday, 9 March, 9am-1pm (see separate notice). The program has been organised by Professor Alison Bashford, Department of History, University of Sydney. We are delighted that Alison has encouraged all those who are interested in the Q Station Lecture Series to participate in this special event.

**History and Health: A Morning at the Quarantine Station** - Saturday 9 March 2013, 9am-1pm

**Venue:** The Cumpston Room, Quarantine Station, North Head (Manly)
Some of Australia’s leading medical and demographic historians will present their current research projects.

The **Founders and Survivors Project** is a partnership between historians, genealogists, demographers and population health researchers. It seeks to record and study the founding population of 73,000 men women and children who were transported to Tasmania. The records created of our convict founders are the most detailed descriptions of the bodies and lives of men, women and children created anywhere in the world in the 19th century. **Founders & Survivors** will be presented by Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart (University of Tasmania), Professor Janet McCalman (University of Melbourne), and Dr Rebecca Kippen (University of Melbourne).

**Stories from the Sandstone: The Archaeology and History of Quarantine** is a new partnership between the University of Sydney and the Quarantine Station (Mawland Inc.). Professor Alison Bashford and Dr Anne Clarke will discuss the 1000 sandstone inscriptions on North Head that are the focus of this project, and plans to connect the Quarantine Station's history with Angel Island (San Francisco), Ellis Island (New York City), and Grosse Île, Quebec.


Professor Alison Bashford, Department of History, The University of Sydney - see: [http://sydney.edu.au/arts/history/staff/profiles/bashford.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/arts/history/staff/profiles/bashford.shtml)


**4.3 Royal Australasian College of Physicians Library Lecture Series - Monday, 11 March 2013**

All lectures are held on Monday evening at 6.30pm at the RACP Education Centre, Level 8, 52 Phillip Street, Sydney. Entry is $10 at the door and there are refreshments with discussion after the lecture.

**Greg Watters** will give the lecture “**Out You Go John, You and Your Smallpox**”. The lecture will deal with racial aspects of the Sydney smallpox epidemic of the 1880s.

The Sydney smallpox epidemic of 1881 was a relatively minor medical event with less than 200 people cases and 40 deaths. Yet, the outbreak of this most dreaded of diseases produced a public panic in which the city’s growing Chinese community were falsely accused of its introduction and spread. Despite significant evidence that the epidemic had a European origin, the Chinese suffered severe discrimination from other members of the public; Chinese businesses were boycotted and the Chinese were refused passage on public transport. The government of Sir Henry Parkes responded to the panic by introducing legislation to prevent further Chinese immigration; this was a first step towards the White Australia policy. Parkes also sent ships arriving from China to the Quarantine Station where the Chinese passengers were treated particularly harshly. These draconian actions had the support of much of society but they also produced a backlash with several newspapers and prominent politicians coming to the defence of the Chinese community. Parkes was accused of using the Chinese as a scapegoat to hide the colony’s lack of preparation for the epidemic and the deplorable state of its public health system.
This talk looks at the place of the Chinese in nineteenth century Sydney society and the use of racial scapegoats during disease epidemics. The role of the colony’s medical profession in the creation of racial stereotypes is also explored. The various public reactions to the epidemic show the ambiguities of Australia’s engagement with Asia in the late nineteenth century.

**Greg Watters** graduated in medicine in 1979 and specialised in urology. He practised in Western Sydney and the North Coast of New South Wales between 1987 and 2010. In 2010 he completed a PhD on the subject of the Australian medical profession’s role in the creation of the White Australia policy and has since worked as a research fellow at Deakin University and in medical administration in the Sydney Local Health District. His research interests include the history of the racial contextualisation of medicine and disease in Australia. He has recently completed a book chapter on Australia’s fear of contamination from China.

Contact the Librarian, David Russell on (02) 9256 5413 or David.Russell@racp.edu.au for further information and bookings.

### 4.4 International Society for the History of Neurosciences - University of Sydney, 18-22 June 2013

The closing date for abstracts is 1 March. The registration fee for the full conference will be in the order of A$330. Reduced fees will be available for students. A prize will be awarded for the best student platform or poster presentation. There will be excellent arrangements for accompanying persons, who will be invited to attend the excursion to the Quarantine Station. All questions regarding registration and local arrangement should be addressed to Cate Storey (cestorey@bigpond.com).


### 5. Reunions

#### 5.1 Reunions for graduating year of:

- **1978** - (January Graduation), Saturday, 23 February 2013 - contact: Andrew Byrne: ajbyrne@ozemail.com.au
- **1993** - Saturday, 9 March 2013 – contact: Chris Jones: zen343@gmail.com
- **1950** - Tuesday, 12 March 2013 – contact : Brian Pollard
- **1953** – Friday, 15 March 2013 – contact John Cashman: johncash@msn.com.au
- **1963** - Saturday, 16 March 2013 - contact: Diana Lovegrove (diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au)
- **1973** - Saturday, 6 April 2013 - contact: Phil Cocks: pcocks@ozemail.com.au
- **1983** - Saturday, 6 April 2013 - contact: Diana Lovegrove (see email below)
- **1955** - Saturday, 13 April 2013 - contact: John Wright: rebjohj@netspace.net.au
- **1978** - (October Graduation), Saturday, 9 November 2013 – contact: Chris Ingall: cingall@bigpond.com
- **1968** - Saturday, 16 November 2013, contact: Diana Lovegrove (diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au)

Please contact Diana Lovegrove (diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au) if your graduating year is due for a reunion and this has yet to be organised.


6. Death notices and obituaries (year of graduation in brackets)

6.1 Maurice Patrick Cleary OAM (1958) (20 July 1918 - 16 January 2013)

'It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mr Maurice Cleary, General Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer at St Vincent’s Hospital Sydney for 22 years (1961-1983) at the great age of 95 years (20.7.1918 - 16.1.2013). Our condolences go out to all his family and friends.

His son, Mr Phillip Clearly and family, would like to advise friends of MR MAURICE PATRICK CLEARY OAM that his funeral was held on Tuesday, 29 January.

Those who remember Mr Maurice Cleary are sure to recall many memorable conversations that he had with them, especially about his years where he served in the Australian Infantry Forces. Mr Cleary graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy at the University of Sydney in 1938, and in 1939-40 completed years I and II in the Faculty of Medicine. He enlisted in 1940, in Australian Infantry Forces and served as Pharmaceutical Officer on 2/1 Hospital Ship “Manunda” entering numerous War Zones including Darwin, Middle East, New Guinea and the Pacific. He was discharged in 1945 from the Services and resumed pre-war occupation as a self-employed Pharmacist. In 1952, he resumed studies in the Faculty of Medicine, graduating in 1958 and engaging in Hospital and General Practice.

He was appointed General Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer, St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney serving in this capacity for 22 years. This appointment involved responsibility for the Hospital’s Medical Services and other Clinical Services as well as the financial and numerous general supportive services that are essential for the maintenance of a large University Teaching Hospital. It involved also constant liaison with Ministers and Politicians and spirited lobbying to break through the entrenched bureaucracy of the Health Department to ensure improved funding. During this period, the first major building development program since pre World War II years was undertaken and, in the interest of undergraduate Medical Education in Sydney, St Vincent’s acceded to the request from the Commonwealth and State Governments to sever its 40 years allegiance to the Medical School of the University of Sydney and transfer to the University of New South Wales to provide clinical facilities for its fledgling Medical School.

He retired from St Vincent’s in 1983 and undertook part time work as a Medical Officer with Qantas Airways, with the RAAF at Richmond Air Base and the RAN at HMAS Nirimba. In 1985, Mr Cleary was awarded Order of Australia Medal for service to the public hospital system, and he retired from Medical Practice in 2002 at the age of 84 years. Outside of medicine, in 1973 he established and continued an orchard farm property at Somersby on the Central Coast of NSW.

He also published 'The way it was' – a story of my life through eighty years of the twentieth century and thereafter; and 'The way they were' – a story of people, prayers and places at St Vincent’s 1950 – 1980.

I thank Alan Concannon (1966) for sending the St Vincent's Hospital bulletin about Maurice Cleary.

6.2 David John Henderson-Smart AO (1969)

Professor David Henderson-Smart was a neonatal paediatrician at King George V Hospital, then Director of the NSW Centre for Perinatal Health Services Research (1998-2007) and
Foundation Professor of Perinatal Medicine at the University of Sydney (1998-2007). Among his extensive research interests, he was a prolific contributor to the Cochrane Collaboration.

David died on 7 February from complications of multiple myeloma and progressively worsening dementia over the past few years. Multiple myeloma was affecting his spine to the extent that his doctors thought there was an imminent risk of spinal collapse! In recent weeks, his kidneys were failing, then he terminally developed pneumonia. Fortunately there was enough warning that their daughters could also be there with his wife, Cheryl. Not surprisingly after all this, Cheryl said it was a 'real blessing' when he had a calm and peaceful death.

David's family is hoping to arrange a Memorial Service in April. Cheryl Henderson-Smart can be contacted at 60 Meadow Rd, Judbury, Tasmania 7109. Ph 03 62660040

Paul Lancaster

6.3 James Sedman Gibson (1959)

'While I am not from Jim's chosen specialty of Obstetrics and Gynaecology we have been close colleagues and friends for over 30 years since we both started at Westmead Hospital - Jim in 1978 and me in 1979..... His contributions to Westmead Hospital, to the thousands of his patients, and to the training of so many medical students and young doctors are truly remarkable and, in my view, were never adequately appreciated and acknowledged at Westmead and the University of Sydney.

But Jim never sought the limelight - despite strongly held views on many subjects, he was always polite, modest and even self-effacing. He never promoted himself.

Jim's time at Westmead commenced when he delivered the first baby born in Westmead in 1978, then Sydney's newest and largest teaching hospital.'

Excerpts from the eulogy by Cres Eastman (1965)

A tribute – Dr James Gibson – International Urogynecological Association (IUGA)
President's Dinner September, 2012

'Jim Gibson died on the 25th June, 2012 after a long battle with chronic obstructive airways disease. Peggy Gibson and her daughters, Jane and Louise are here tonight as guests of IUGA so it is appropriate that we remember Jim tonight and acknowledge his contribution to IUGA and Urogynaecology. It was 3 years ago in 2009 at the Como meeting that Jim was awarded the IUGA Outstanding Achievement Award for his contributions to IUGA. Jim was President of IUGA in 1994 and served on the Executive for 8 years. IUGA has grown since the late '70s from a small travel club to the major international organisation of the subspecialty of Urogynaecology. Jim, together with the people present in this room tonight has overseen this transition. Jim and Peggy co-chaired the IUGA Scientific Meeting in Sydney in 1991 and in Malaysia in 1995. Many of the pictures that you see displayed behind me tonight are very happy memories of these occasions.

Jim was also Editor of the International Urogynaecology Journal but perhaps Jim's greatest contribution, certainly to us Australians, was the establishment of Urogynaecology as a subspecialty in Australia. Work began in 1987 in developing the subspecialties in the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Jim was the driving force behind making Urogynaecology one of the four subspecialties in the College together with Gynae-Oncology, Perinatal Medicine and Reproductive Medicine. Despite strong resistance from many generalists and the Urology Society this was achieved in 1989 with the five grandfather Urogynaecologists being Jim Gibson, Peter Glenning, Andrew Korda, Ian Tucker and myself. Australia, I believe, was the first country to recognise Urogynaecology as a subspecialty of
Obstetrics and Gynaecology and this would not have happened without Jim Gibson's leadership. However Jim was a team act – the team was Jim and Peggy with Peggy always giving Jim many of his ideas and drive. I can still hear Jim saying “alright Peggy, alright,” as Peggy encouraged and directed him.

I will remember Jim for his dry laconic humour, his humility and his friendship and for being a “top bloke.”

Peter Dwyer (Monash, 1974) FRANZCOG

I thank Peggy Gibson, James' wife, for sending the eulogy and talk given by Cres Eastman and Peter Dwyer, respectively. These will be put on the website: [http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/alumni/news/tributes.php](http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/alumni/news/tributes.php)

### 6.4 Recent obituaries
Published in the Sydney Morning Herald, the Medical Journal of Australia and elsewhere included:


### 6.5 Death notices of alumni

Vale to other medical friends and colleagues. Death notices of medical alumni in the Sydney Morning Herald or elsewhere included (most recent first): Colin Robert Andrew Laverty (1962); David John Henderson-Smart AO (1969); Joy Moncrieff Vautin (1950); Sydney Michael Lewis Nade (1963); William (Bill) Foster Thompson (1962); Joseph Gerard (Gerry) Sertori (1957); Peter Schiller (1962); Russell Linton Millard (1965); Maurice Patrick
Cleary (1958); Ian Rowland Carter DFC (1953); Frank Tsu Chang Hu (1953); Richard Spencer Butler Gye AO (1955); John Joseph Glancy (DDR, 1967); James Broadfoot (1943); Hugh Francis Molloy (DDM, 1970); Brian Tremayne Treloar AO (1954); Peter William Stafford Broughton (1954); Natalie Coolican/Toakley (1950); Peter Torrington Blatchford (1974); Suzanne Louise Korbel (1968); Kevin Joseph Fleming (1971); (Kenneth) David Richardson (1962); Richard John Lewis (1951); James (Jim) Maurice Purchas OAM (1956); Peter Adolph Bolliger (1961); Kevin Edward Geoffrey Byrne (1947); Lloyd Cahill MBE (1939); David George Fox (1964); D'arcy Anthony (Tony) Cutcliffe (1962); John Warwick Newman (1956); Peter John Heery (1947); Philip Leonard Lye (1985); Brian Goodwin Lucas (1953); William (Bill) Andrew Distin Morgan (1952); Denise Margaret McGuigan/Lonergan (MMedEd, 2009); John Egan Moulton (1954); and Gordon Charles Pettitt (1948).

I thank Ian Stewart (1967) for correcting a name in the list of deaths in the January newsletter.

The link to previous MAA e-Newsletters is:

7. Updating your University records

A link has been set up where alumni can make changes to emails and addresses:

Please let me know about alumni news and activities that would be of wider interest. We would much appreciate your efforts in encouraging other alumni who do not receive the newsletters to register their email addresses (see above in section 7).

Paul Lancaster
Medical Alumni Association Council and Alumni Council, University of Sydney
Email: pallancaster@gmail.com Tel. 02 9660 0576

15 February 2013