



Australian Neuroscience Society Newsletter

No. 1

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www.ans.org.au

ANS 2011: See you in Auckland, Jan 31 - Feb 4



President's Perspective

I am deeply honoured to have taken over from **David Vaney** as President of ANS. You will all agree that David did the most remarkable job. His attention to detail, in combination with his uniquely quick wit and wicked sense of humour, ensured a lively tenure and one that both maintained our hallmark of quality as well as saw the Society enriched by a number of programs that benefited both the membership and the region. He oversaw 3 joint IBRO/ANS collaborations, made possible by the success of the 2007 IBRO Congress, namely the Advanced Neuroscience School in Neuroethology at the ANU Kioloa Campus in 2009, sponsorship for 2 students from the Asia-Pacific region to attend the Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN) in 2008 and 2009, and the IBRO/ANS Symposium at ANS/AuPS 2010. He also steered, with the help of our then Treasurer Andy Lawrence, the transfer of ACAN to the Society and in addition promoted support for the Australian Brain Bee. David is an exceedingly hard act to follow, as have been all of our Past Presidents, and at the outset I thank him for all of the time that he has given me to talk through numerous issues and I know that I can continue to rely him as Past President. I also thank the other members of our highly professional Council for welcoming me: our **Secretary Ann Turnley**, for whom nothing is too daunting and has everything at her fingertips, our **Treasurer Jackie Phillips** who has a vice-like understanding and grip on our budget and our **Editor David Small** whose fine attention to detail ensures the highest quality and balance in our neuroscience programming. The full Council itself is also a vibrant group and I am encouraged by the increasing number of exciting and successful State-based initiatives. I am also delighted to be working with **Sally** and **Chris Jay**, who make everything more than possible, as well as seemingly easy.

Both David and our previous President, **Glenda Halliday**, advised that the 2 year Presidency passes in a flash and to hit the ground running as President Elect. As such, I saw 2 broad, interlinked areas, both of which required wide discussion and careful planning and both of which have in common the **issue of funding**.

The first area pertains to the Society itself. Our core business is to run our annual scientific meetings. However, as David pointed out at the AGM, the **Society is on a "cusp"**: Our success and diversification has allowed us to grow to a size that is almost large enough to require the services of an Executive Officer, yet we are too small to be able to afford such an appointment. As such, we rely on the good will and a great deal of time from the Executive. Specifically, ACAN is now part of our Society and if we are to maintain this in perpetuity, we need to double the ACAN endowment to over \$1m. ANS has also supported the Australian Brain Bee Competition (ABBC) and, in addition, the membership raises a

variety of other important initiatives that are put to Council.

One option is to maintain the status quo, but even that requires planning.

Thus, at its annual meeting in January, Council decided to request long term budgets from both ACAN and ABBC and I am working with both to plan a way forward.

Another option is to continue to grow. For example, ANS is developing stronger regional links through its connections with IBRO, the Japanese Neuroscience Society and FAONS and with interest also from China. Either way, we need to put a strategic plan in place.

The second area pertains to funding for neuroscience. I have been concerned about this issue for some time as I am sure you have been. I have undertaken an analysis of neuroscience funding from NHMRC and ARC and at my request, Cliff Abraham kindly did the same for New Zealand. The full documents can be found at <http://www.ans.org.au/news/12/65/NHMRC-funding-for-Neuroscience/>. In brief, as a result of the Wills and Grant Reports (The Virtuous Cycle, 1999; Sustaining the Virtuous Cycle, 2004) total NHMRC funding has risen substantially over the last 5 years. However, as a proportion of the total, funding for Neuroscience and Clinical Neuroscience combined has consistently fallen (2005: Total = \$411m / proportion for Neuroscience and Clinical Neuroscience 10.93%; 2006: \$451m / 9.47%; 2007: \$534m / 8.92%; 2008: \$626m;

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President's Perspective

(continued from front page)

2009: \$707m / 8.25%). There thus seems to be a worrying trend as well as a "disconnect" between public interest regarding neuroscience and neurological conditions and translation into research funding. In addition, NHMRC funding currently represents a 1.3% share of the total Health and Aging budget. If this share is maintained, NHMRC funding should reach \$890m in 2014-15. We need to make sure that we **raise awareness about our falling share of NHMRC funding and work together to increase it.** To look at these issues, over the last year and with David Vaney's help, I have organised a small meeting on Stradbroke Island to coincide with the beginning of ACAN to discuss funding and other issues pertaining to ANS. In May 2009, I was fortunate to meet Dr Sarah Caddick, Principal Neuroscience Advisor to Lord Sainsbury, Gatsby Foundation and invited her to the Stradbroke meeting. Dr Caddick also came to the ANS/AuPS 2010 meeting where some of you will have met her and she is also giving the Peter Goodenough Philanthropy Lecture at QBI just prior to ACAN. I am very grateful to Council for supporting this initiative and will report on its outcomes in due course.

2010 Sydney ANS/AuPs Meeting. The joint meeting with AuPS was an outstanding success organised superbly by the

Local Organising Committee (ANS Chair: Sam Solomon, AuPS Chair: Roger Dampney; LOC: Jane Butler, Anuwat Dinudom, Ann Goodchild, Cathy Leamey, Trevor Lewis, Peregrine Osborne, Jacqueline Phillips, Dario Protti, Atomu Sawatari and Jamie Vandenberg). An exciting program with a well balanced mix of exemplary Plenary Lectures, Symposia, including a joint IBRO/ANS Symposium organised by Elspeth McLachlan, Talks and Posters was on offer to all of us thanks to the Program Committee (David Adams, Anuwat Dinudom, Trevor Lewis, Dario Protti, David Small and David Vaney). Sally and Chris Jay were, as always, in the all important background ensuring the faultless running of yet another highly memorable meeting. Running a meeting of this calibre requires a great deal of energy, vision, persistence to get it right, clear communication and I am sure, at times, patience. I know that I speak on behalf of the members of both Societies in thanking you all for your dedication and time in delivering a meeting of the utmost quality. In addition to the science, the social events were much enjoyed by all and characterised by our renowned hallmark of effervescence and stamina. The Society also formally recognised the Honorary Membership of a number of its Members by presentation of the ANS Medallion. Well done all, and I am sure that we are all looking forward to meeting again in **Auckland, January 31st- February 3rd 2011.** Start planning a New Zealand Holiday!

Sarah Dunlop, March 2010.

2010 Awards and Prizes

Thank you to the judges of the 2010 ANS Awards and Prizes. This was a difficult job, as again there was a good number of highly deserving candidates. For each Award/Prize, ANS officers who do not have conflicts of interest with any of the applicants select three judges who are ANS members. The judges are then each asked to rank the applicants; their identities, rankings and comments are not made available to the applicants or the other judges.

Maarten Kole from the John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU won the AW Campbell Award for best contribution by a member of the society in their first 5 postdoctoral years.

Linda Richards from the Queensland Brain Institute won the Nina Kondelos Prize, which is for a female neuroscientist who has made an outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research.

The Paxinos-Watson Prize is awarded for the most significant neuroscience paper published by a full member of the society in the year prior to submission of the nomination. This year's Prize was awarded to the 2008 paper by **Maarten Kole, Susanne Ilschner, Bjorn Kampa, Stephen Williams, Peter Ruben & Greg Stuart** for their paper "Action potential generation requires a high sodium channel density in the axon initial segment", published in *Nature Neuroscience*, 11: 178-186 (2008).

Student poster and oral prizes

The Istvan Törk Prize is for the best oral presentation by a student member of the Society at the Annual Meeting and was awarded to two students in 2010: **Kimberley Mackenzie** (Flinders University) and **Tim Young** (Bosch Institute, The University of Sydney).

The Sir Grafton Elliot-Smith Award is for the best poster by a student member of the Society at the Annual Meeting and was awarded to five students in 2010: **Ayla Barutchu** (LaTrobe University), **Dana Bradford** (Queensland Brain Institute), **Amelia Edington** (University of Sydney), **Divya Mehra** (University of Newcastle) and **Ben Sivyver** (Queensland Brain Institute).

Thank you to the many members who took time at the Sydney 2010 conference to judge the student presentations. Given the

large number of excellent presentations, this is a difficult but much appreciated task. The judges involved this year, excluding those who requested privacy, were James Bourne, Jane Butler, Aaron Camp, Chris Dayas, Lisa Foa, Rob Gasperini, Anthony Hannan, Julian Heng, Jin Huang, Matthew Kirkcaldie, Cathy Leamey, David Mahns, Toby Merson, Brendan O'Brien, Carl Parsons, William Phillips, Dario Protti, Atomu Sawatari, Doug Smith, Adele Vincent and Rohan Walker.

2010 ANS/AuPS Meeting (see photos opposite):

- (A) LOC Co-Chair Sam Solomon opens meeting at Sydney Convention Centre.
- (B) Overseas Plenary Lecturer Gilles Laurent.
- (C) President-Elect Sarah Dunlop with ANS Plenary Lecturer Herbert Herzog.
- (D) ANS President David Vaney presents Nina Kondelos Prize to Linda Richards and
- (E) AW Campbell Award to Maarten Kole.
- (F) Presentation of ANS Medallions to new Honorary Members, John Rostas, Steve Redman, Elspeth McLachlan and Marcello Costa.
- (G) David Adams, AuPS President and AuPS Invited Lecturer, with David Attwell, UK Physiological Society Exchange Lecturer.
- (H) Andy Lawrence, ANS Treasurer Jackie Phillips, James Bourne and ANS Secretary Ann Turnley.
- (I) IBRO/ANS Symposium featuring young neuroscientists from the Asia-Pacific region: Kenji Doya (Japan), Cathy Stinear (New Zealand), Shubha Tole (India), Elspeth McLachlan (Chair), Tony Hannan (Australia), Jongkyeong Chung (South Korea) and Zhen-Ge Luo (China).
- (J) QBI Director Perry Bartlett presents trophy to Uma Jha (Western Australia), winner of the 2009 Australian Brain Bee Challenge, in front of Vishal Goel (ACT), Celina Chuo (Victoria) and Kate Burgess (NZ North Island).
- (K) Farewell drinks at Sydney Convention Centre.
- (L) David Vaney introduces the winners of the ANS student prizes.

Photos courtesy of David Vaney



IBRO: ANS Symposium:

Current neuroscience research across the Asia-Pacific region

A symposium supported by IBRO and the ANS was held in Sydney during the annual conference, held in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Australian Physiological Society. The aim was to bring together speakers from six countries in the Asia-Pacific region to share their current research with the mainly Australasian audience and each other. The potential is for the development of long-term links between the neuroscience communities in this diverse part of the world.

The symposium was chaired by Elspeth McLachlan (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, Sydney), a previous Chair of the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee. The speakers were Shubha Tole (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India) on the development of the cortex and hippocampus, Zhen-ge Luo (Institute of Neuroscience, Shanghai, China) on the role of caspase-3 in developing neuromuscular junctions, Anthony Hannan (Florey Neuroscience Institutes, Melbourne, Australia) on experience-dependent plasticity in the brain, Jongkyeong Chung (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Daejeon, Korea) on molecular mechanisms of familial Parkinson's disease, Cathy Stinear (University of Auckland, New Zealand) on plasticity and recovery after stroke and



Legend: (from the left) Elspeth McLachlan, J.K. Chung, Tony Hannan, Kenji Doya and Zhen-Ge Luo after an enjoyable seafood dinner at Darling Harbour.

Kenji Doya (Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Japan) on neural mechanisms of reinforcement learning

The session was very well attended and each of the speakers developed or expanded their links with other scientists in the region.

2011

ANS 2011 – Auckland

2011

Planning for the ANS Auckland meeting from 31st January to 3rd February 2011 is proceeding well. The meeting will be held at Sky City Convention Centre. Confirmed Plenary speakers include Tobias Bonhoeffer from the Max Planck Institute, who will give the Overseas Plenary lecture, Seong-Seng Tan from the Florey Neuroscience Institutes will present the ANS Plenary Lecture and Peter Dunkley from the University of Newcastle will present the Lawrie Austin Lecture. The Eccles Lecturer will be announced at a later date.

The Auckland ANS meeting will provide a wonderful opportunity to extend your stay and visit Auckland sites such as the West Coast Beaches, Tiritiri Matangi and the Leigh Marine Reserve (www.AucklandNZ.com) or perhaps visit other parts of New Zealand (www.tourismnewzealand.com). You might even like to do one of the world famous Great Walks (www.newzealand.com/.../great-walks/great-walks_home.cfm)

Note: you will need a valid passport and members who are not Australian citizens or Australian permanent residents may need to obtain a visa to enter New Zealand. See <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/visit/> for further information. If you require a visa you should apply for this by early December.

Call for Symposia

ANS Council would like to receive proposals for symposia for the Auckland 2011 meeting. ANS symposia are chosen from submissions made to council in the year prior to the annual meeting. Symposia will normally have 4 speakers and be arranged in themes of interest to the broad membership of the society. Funding will be available to contribute to costs of one invited overseas speaker per symposium. Overseas

speakers (not from Australia or New Zealand) can receive free registration, social tickets and up to \$2000 to cover costs of travel and accommodation. All financial support will be paid directly to the overseas speaker. No ANS funding will be available to support costs of Australian or New Zealand speakers, chairs or symposium organisers. ANS Council wishes to emphasize that it is not necessary for a symposium to have an overseas speaker, as high quality proposals with all speakers coming from Australia and New Zealand are most welcome. Although proposals will be considered primarily on scientific merit, Council will take into consideration the geographic and gender diversity of the proposed speakers. In general, speakers in each symposium should come from different institutions. Symposium proposals that include early career researchers as the proposer or as speaker are encouraged.

Please submit your proposal on the Symposium Proposal form, available for download from the ANS website <http://www.ans.org.au/ans-annual-conference/ans-symposia/>. Proposals should be submitted by email to the ANS Secretary, Assoc. Prof. Ann Turnley (turnley@unimelb.edu.au) **no later than 4 June, 2010.**

Call for Satellite Meetings

If you are planning to hold a satellite meeting in conjunction with the ANS 2011 meeting in Auckland and want to be included in the program, ANS Council needs to receive proposals by 14th June for consideration at the mid-year council meeting. Proposals can be sent by email to the ANS Secretary, A/Prof. Ann Turnley (turnley@unimelb.edu.au).

Congratulations

The ANS congratulates two members for receiving prestigious awards which recognise the contributions that they have made to medical science and the community.

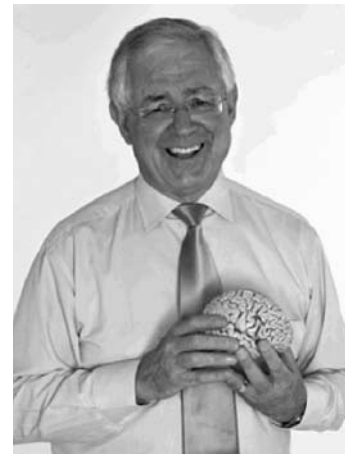
Professor Ralph Martins from Edith Cowan University was awarded West Australian of the Year 2010 and a finalist for Australian of the Year.



Ralph Martins, West Australian of the year 2010.

Professor Richard Faull

from the University of Auckland was named Supreme Winner at the 2010 World Class New Zealand Kea Awards. The World Class New Zealand Awards recognise outstanding individuals who have made major contributions to New Zealand's success on the world stage.



Richard Faull, Supreme Winner, Kea 2010.

Obituary: Geoff Henry

Vale Dr Geoff Henry (1930-2010)

On the 21st November last year, a large group of neuroscientists gathered together at the John Curtin School of Medical Research in Canberra for a conference organized by Professor Ted Maddess. We were all there, from overseas and from all corners of Australia, to attend The Geoffrey Henry International Symposium, in honour of Geoff's 80th birthday and to celebrate his great achievements in the field of visual science. It was therefore with great sadness that only three months later we received this email from Ted: "I'm sorry to say that our good friend Geoff Henry passed away this Sunday 21 February... Although we will miss him, we all know what his contributions to us were, and that we are all in his debt... As usual we can rely on him to pave the way for us, and at the same time Geoff is giving us a chance to show what we can do on our own".

Many messages were sent from around the world in the days after his passing, all full of affection and respect for this great, warm-hearted man. "Many of us will remember Geoff vividly for his sheer depth, and breadth, of knowledge as well as for his unwavering support and kindness to one and all. A gentle giant indeed"; "He was a true mensch – a gentle, cultured, whimsical and generous man who had a positive influence on many lives. Geoff was a model of personal and scientific integrity"; "For forty something years I can say that he was one of the most extraordinary and kindest men I have ever known"; "Geoff was one of the kindest and most generous people I have met, and it was a blessing that I had the opportunity to spend time with him in my life"; "an ideal as a colleague and teacher, a great scientist". We should all be lucky enough to be remembered in such a way!!

Geoff was born in rural Victoria in 1930. His father was a teacher and then headmaster, and after time in Mildura Geoff finished his schooling at Melbourne Boys High. He then went to the University of Melbourne and graduated with a BSc (1st Class Honours in Physiology) in 1950 and

obtained his Licentiate of Optometric Science (LOSc) from the Australian (later Victorian) College of Optometry a year later. He obtained an MAppSci (Thesis title: Inheritance of Colour Vision) and in 1975 a DSc. From 1952 to 1968 he ran a private practice in Camberwell. During that time he was a part time physiology demonstrator and tutor at the University of Melbourne and also taught in the College of Optometry. Geoff was Chair of Council of the Victorian College of Optometry from 1955 to 1967. Under his chairmanship the College obtained a capital grant from the Victorian Government to buy land in Carlton. He helped get a second grant to build the College's building in Cardigan St in 1960. He was a key figure in a very important transformation of optometric education in the late 1950s, and in the early 1960's, with John Nathan and Barry Cole, he established a viable research program within the College.

In 1965 he decided vision research was his great passion and after obtaining a Winston Churchill Fellowship he went to Indiana as a Visiting Research Fellow, working with the Devalois team and then with the great WAH Rushton in Cambridge. In 1968 he began his famous series of studies on the physiology of cat visual cortex at the John Curtin School, working primarily with Peter Bishop FRS, as well as others such as Jack Coombs, Bogdan Dreher and Tony Goodwin. Later he carried out important research with Jean Bullier and many others, eventually after retirement becoming a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Vision Sciences at ANU. Professionally and privately, his was a productive and influential life, a life truly well lived. His paintings adorn many a wall.

Geoff was, in many ways, a father figure to me when I first arrived in Australia to undertake a PhD. I am not sure I would have finished the degree without him! We had some deeply personal conversations the last couple of times we met – treasurable words I will never forget. Those friends and colleagues who were privileged to know Geoffrey Herbert Henry will continue to remember him, and will always honour his memory.

Professor Alan Harvey,
The University of Western Australia, March 2010

New Zealand

Louise Nicholson, NZ Representative

Brain Awareness week in Auckland

Over 2000 members of the public gathered at Auckland Business School on Saturday to learn about the wonders of the brain, making it the biggest event of its kind in New Zealand.

The public open day on March 20th featured neuroscientists and clinicians from the Centre for Brain Research talking about the latest research updates, as well as community groups and science demonstrations.

Brain Day was part of international Brain Awareness Week, aiming to raise understanding of brain health and research. Now in its fourth year, the open day was supported by the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand. Over thirty different brain and sensory charities also championed the event with a community expo, offering help and advice to the public.

Four simultaneous lecture series ran throughout the day, with around 1000 people seated in the venue at any one time. Professor Richard Faull talked about the excitement and challenges of brain research over his career - culminating in his directorship of the Centre for Brain Research. Psychiatrist Professor Rob Kydd gave advice on depression, while clinicians like Dr Phil Wood and Dr David McAuley lectured on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Exciting additions to the programme this year included the latest research updates on stem cells from Associate Professor Bronwen Connor, and updates on music therapy and diet for brain development. Young neuroscientists also demonstrated stimulating experiments to show how our brain works. Optical illusions, movement challenges and psychology tests astounded children and parents alike. Information on the full day of lectures and seminars can be found on the Centre for Brain Research's website. www.cbr.auckland.ac.nz

Brain Day 2010 Dunedin, University of Otago – The Brain through Life!

Neuroscientists from Otago were on hand to help the public learn more about our AMAZING brain during an open day on March 20th as part of International Brain Awareness week. The day featured lectures from leading experts on the brain from the University of Otago who took us on a journey of our brain through life. We explored the changes from conception through to old age, thinking about how alcohol can influence the developing brain, how the brain influences obesity as we age and how, even as we get older, we can keep our brains active, healthy and stimulated through appropriate exercise. A variety of community groups from Otago and surrounds also provided information, advice and support for those living with brain disorders; these included groups focused on Alzheimers, Multiple Sclerosis, Stroke Foundation, Essential Tremor and Parkinsons Disease.

The public also had the opportunity to see (and hold) pieces of a unique collection of plastinated human brain tissue generously loaned for the day from the University of Otago Department of Anatomy Museum. Our EEG stand also attracted a long line of subjects all wanting to get their alpha waves recorded – truly seeing their brain in action. The “Staying Sharp” DVD provided by the Dana Foundation (www.dana.org) proved to be a hit with many of our older visitors who really enjoyed the tips it gives for maintaining a healthy brain. The event was organized and supported by the Brain Health and Repair Research Centre of the University of Otago and the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand and attracted around 350 visitors during the course of the day. A team of volunteer neuroscience students and researchers from the University of Otago as well as the community group volunteers all helped make the day a great success and enjoyed by all.

courtesy of Cliff Abraham

Victoria

Joanne Britto, Victoria Representative

Brain Awareness week Victoria

This year our public health message was the benefits of Stroke Research and we were fortunate to have Prof Geoffrey Donnan, Director of the Florey Neuroscience Institutes as our BAW 2010 speaker. Geoff has published extensively on stroke-related research and has been involved with neuroimaging and clinical trials to improve the outcome for stroke patients. His talk titled Stroke: the Hidden Brain Problem covered a deep insight into the causes of stroke and more importantly why it has become the ‘hidden’ brain problem. I’m sure his inspiring talk has sent some of the audience off to their local MP in request for more Stroke Units to be available throughout Australia. It is important to remember that time is the essence and getting the right treatment quickly can make the difference between a lifetime disability and walking out of the hospital.

Our week started with a special issue of the Triple R radio science program, Einstein A GoGo, dedicating the show to BAW. The RRR presenters interviewed Geoffrey Donnan; Heather Young-Victoria Coordinator for the ABBC and Ramesh Rajan who investigates the mechanisms the brain uses to make sense of the world.

Our intention in 2010 was to expand our school outreach program to country Victoria. During the week, 16 researchers visited schools to showcase research and describe their own career paths in neuroscience. It was great to see that some of the schools embraced the week and were performing “sheep brain dissections during lunchtime”. The Network event this year was designed to exhibit neuroscience research Universities/Institutes across Melbourne. This was a great opportunity for undergraduate students to find out how to get started in research and to meet the people as well. It was also a good chance to catch up with collaborators and unwind from the ‘grant’ season.

I would like to thank the following people for making BAW 2010 a success:

ANS Victoria Committee: Richard Anderson, Nicole Bye, James Duce, Lisa Hutton, Heath Pardoe, Alan Rembach, Juliet Taylor and Michael Williams.

BAW Speaker: Prof Geoffrey Donnan

School outreach: Meeuwis Boelen, Robyn Brown, Emma Burrows, Carolina Chavez, Jodie Duncan, Melina Ellis, David Gonzalez, Marlene Hao, Sarah Hellewell, Ernie Jennings, Heather Madsen, Karina Needham, Sarah Stephenson, Adam Walker, Michael Williams and Heather Young.

“Stimulate the Brain” Trivia Night: Quiz Master Heath Pardoe
Victorian Neuroscience Network Exhibitors: Florey Neuroscience Institutes, Mental Health Research Institute, Monash Neuroscience Network, RMIT Health Innovations Research Institute, SfN Melbourne Chapter and University of Melbourne.

Western Australia

Lindy Fitzgerald, WA Representative

Activities for Brain Awareness Week

On Sunday 21st of March neuroscientists and students from The University of Western Australia and Curtin University conducted an outreach activity at Scitech Discovery Centre as part of Brain Awareness Week. Organised by Dr Jenny Rodger and co-ordinated by Marissa Penrose with media liaison by Lindy Fitzgerald, ten staff and students volunteered their time to discuss displays, conduct games and competitions as well as facilitate activities and crafts. The event was advertised on radio, websites and science newsletters and was well attended by children and their parents, who were particularly fascinated by the comparative brain displays, while younger children were excited by the balloon animal giveaways. The event was supported by the International Brain Research Organisation, Brain Campaign.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Australian and New Zealand Society for Neuropathology Annual Scientific Meeting, Brisbane, Saturday, May 2nd 2010, 8:30am - 5pm. Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Education Centre. This one-day scientific meeting will feature clinical and research presentations of interest to those with a neuropathology focus. Invited speakers include Professor Linda Richards, Head of Cortical development and Axonal Guidance Laboratory, Queensland Brain Institute and Professor Bernd Scheithauer, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA. The meeting also includes a slide seminar and oral research presentations. One session is devoted to student and young investigator presentations competing for the Bill Evans Memorial Award. Deadline for submission of abstracts for research presentations is April 9th, 2010. This will be held in conjunction with a Pathology Queensland and RCPA sponsored "Surgical Pathology of the Central Nervous System" course on 1st May 2010, 8:30am - 6pm at the same venue. For further information, please contact Dr Queenie Lau, Email: queenie_lau@health.qld.gov.au or visit website www.pathology.usyd.edu.au/ANZSNP/anzsnp.html

AREADNE 2010 Research in Encoding and Decoding of Neural Ensembles Nomikos Conference Centre, Santorini, Greece 17-20 June 2010 <http://areadne.org>, info@areadne.org

7th FENS Forum of European Neuroscience, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, July 3-7, 2010. See <http://fens2010.neurosciences.asso.fr/index.html> for more details

Measuring Behavior 2010 The 7th International Conference on Methods and Techniques in Behavioral Research 24-27 August 2010, Eindhoven, The Netherlands. Measuring Behavior is the premier interdisciplinary event for scientists and practitioners concerned with the study of human or animal behavior. This unique conference focuses on methods, techniques, and tools in behavioral research in the widest sense; from neuroscience and zoology to psychology and consumer behavior, and from human factors research to public safety and smart homes. For further information see www.measuringbehavior.org

28th International Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research (AWCBR) 28 August – 1 September 2010, Wanaka, New Zealand. Each year the conference attracts participants from Australia, Europe, Japan, New Zealand and North America. All participants are encouraged to present a paper and we will create symposia to accommodate papers as necessary. Our purpose is to encourage interaction between a wide range of academic and clinical brain research disciplines including anatomy, kinesiology, molecular biology, neural modelling, neurochemistry, neurology, pharmacology, physiology, and psychology. To view the range of topics covered in recent years, visit our website at www.awcbr.org. REGISTRATION DEADLINES AND STUDENT GRANTS The deadline for abstracts, accommodation bookings and Early Bird registration fees is 14 May 2010. The Early Bird standard registration fee is NZ\$315, while the Early Bird student registration fee is NZ\$135. After 14 May, the fees increase to NZ\$450 and NZ\$180, respectively. Email awcbr@psy.otago.ac.nz Website <http://www.awcbr.org>

3rd Brain Plasticity Symposium, Circuits, Synapses, and Behaviour Sept 14-16 2010 Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD, Australia. This conference brings together leading national and international researchers in the field of neural mechanisms and plasticity to share their recent findings with the Australian neuroscience community. Join us for topic specific sessions, a poster session and short talks selected from submitted abstracts. Registration is now open. For more information please contact Prof. Pankaj Sah

on Pankaj.sah@uq.edu.au or Dr. Timothy Bredy t.bredy@uq.edu.au

World Congress on Huntington's Disease 11-14 September 2011, Melbourne, Australia <http://www.worldcongress-hd2011.org/>

11th Biennial Australasian Schizophrenia Conference, Sydney, 22-24 September 2010

The ASC 2010 conference will include plenary sessions, symposia, scientific paper presentations and poster presentations. International plenary speakers will include Prof. Cameron Carter (USA), Prof. Shitij Kapur (UK), Prof. Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg (Germany) and Prof. David Penn (USA). Australian plenary speakers will include Prof. Assen Jablensky, Dr Eoin Killackey, Prof. John McGrath and Prof. Cyndi Shannon Weickert. ASC 2010 will be offering up to six Early Career Investigator Awards in the form of travel grants to early career scientists, to assist with expenses relating to their participation at the Conference. Hosted by the Schizophrenia Research Institute, ASC2010 is proud to be affiliated with the Schizophrenia International Research Society and the Australian Psychosis Research Network. Details of the Conference can be found at: www.asc2010.com

OzBio2010 The Molecules of Life - From Discovery to Biotechnology. Melbourne Convention Centre, Australia Sept 26-Oct 1, 2010. This premier international scientific meeting brings together the 12th IUBMB Conference, the 21st FAOBMB Conference and the ComBio2010 meeting. This unique blend of participating societies will generate an outstanding scientific and technological event, which will be of major interest to biochemists, molecular biologists, cell and developmental biologists, and plant scientists. The world's top speakers in these areas will present their exciting new findings in major plenary sessions and in a wide array of more specialist symposia, including a Molecular Neurobiology program stream, with speakers including Nancy Bonini (USA), James Fawcett (UK), Eric Klann (USA), Ype Elgersma (Netherlands), Nancy Ip (Hong Kong) and Kozo Kaibuchi (Japan).

Abstract and Early Registration Deadline, Friday, 16 April 2010.

The OzBio2010 online registration and abstract submission pages can now be accessed at: <http://www.asbmb.org.au/ozbio2010/registration.html> and <http://www.asbmb.org.au/ozbio2010/abstracts.html> respectively. International Plenary Speaker Biographies and Current Draft Symposium themes, titles and chairs can be downloaded from <http://www.asbmb.org.au/ozbio2010/program.html>

8th Asian & Oceanian Epilepsy Congress (AOEC), Melbourne, Australia, 21st - 24th October 2010. Registration is now open for the Congress: www.epilepsymelbourne2010.org/registration/registration.html#fees.

The main topics of the Congress will be: "Epilepsy Surgery - Who and When?", "Outcome in Newly-diagnosed Epilepsy", "Prevention of Symptomatic Epilepsy" and "Psychological Wellbeing in Epilepsy". In addition, parallel sessions will focus on the pertinent issues of epilepsy practice and research, the Masakazu Seino Memorial Lecture, practical video sessions, lively debates, interactive workshops, and topical satellite symposia. The Asian Epilepsy Academy (ASEPA) will once again organise a series of didactic lectures by world-renowned experts in their respective fields and pre-congress workshops on epilepsy surgery and basic science. Please visit www.epilepsymelbourne2010.org/scientificprog/sciprogram.html to view the scientific activities of the 8th AOEC.

Abstracts are now being accepted: www.epilepsymelbourne2010.org/abstracts/abstracts.html

UPCOMING CONFERENCES (*contin.*)

9th Biennial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Society for Neurochemistry (APSN 2010), Phuket, Thailand October 18-20, 2010

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: May 1, 2010
CHAIR OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Professor Akio Wanaka, Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience 840 Shijo-cho, Kashihara City, Nara 634-8521 Japan E-mail: akiow@naramed-u.ac.jp

Federation of Asian-Oceanian Neuroscience Societies (FAONS): 2010 Congress in India 25-27 November.

The 5th FAONS Congress, organised by FAONS President Professor Prahlad Seth (prahladseth@gmail.com) will be held jointly with the XXVIII Annual Meeting of the Indian Academy of Neurosciences in Lucknow. An IBRO School will also be held at the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC) Manesar, near Delhi. A satellite symposium in Sri Lanka is also proposed before or after the Congress and will be organised by Professor Ranil de Silva, President of the Neuroscience Society of Sri Lanka. FAONS have requested that ANS members support the 2010 FAONS Congress and submit symposium proposals. ANS President Sarah Dunlop will be attending and is happy to organise an ANS Symposium which could cover a diverse range of topics. ANS will not be able to provide any funding. If you are interested in participating, please contact Sarah (sarah.dunlop@uwa.edu.au) for more details as soon as possible (FAONS deadline April 20th, 2010).

International Symposium on ALS/MND, 11-13 December, 2010, Orlando, Florida, USA. For more information see www.mndassociation.org/symposium. Abstract deadline May 3rd, 2010.

IBRO World Congress, Florence, Italy, July 14-19, 2011. Call for Symposia/Workshops is now open on the Congress web site (www.ibro2011.org) and the deadline is April 30, 2010

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Michael J Fox funding

The MJFF offers a unique program -- The Rapid Response Innovation Awards (RRIA). These are one-year, \$75,000 awards open to both principle investigators and postdoctoral fellows (in conjunction with an administrative PI) that support high-risk, high-reward ideas geared towards developing novel therapy for Parkinson's disease. This program is open to proposals focused on basic science, pre-clinical and clinical research. More information for this program can be found here: http://www.michaeljfox.org/research_openFundingPrograms_program.cfm?ID=7

ANS POLICY ON REQUESTS FOR PUBLICITY VIA EMAIL CIRCULATION

The standing policy of the ANS is to minimize email traffic to members. This is done by bundling brief announcements or news which needs to be disseminated between print newsletters into (at most) monthly plain text email circulars. Attachments are not sent with email to members, with very few exceptions (such as our core business of an annual Society meeting). This is to reduce both the risk of virus transmission via attachments received from outside sources, and the volume (ie. cost) of email traffic through University or Institute based servers. Meetings and other significant announcements (such as job vacancies) will also receive Society publicity, via links to appropriate web pages from the ANS web site, and by subsequent inclusion into the next print ANS newsletter when appropriate. Requests for these publicity services should be directed either to the Secretary, or to Sally Jay Conferences.

ANS WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

The ANS website is on-line at <http://www.ans.org.au/>. Members are encouraged to regularly check the website for updated information on positions vacant, travel awards and national and international neuroscience meetings. While announcements and news items cannot always be broadcasted as an email to ANS members, they are promptly loaded on the ANS website and so it is always worth a regular check of the news page. Current and recent newsletters are available to be downloaded in PDF format and information about ANS, including the current list of council members, historical facts and how to apply for ANS Awards and Prizes is readily available. For further information or requests to place announcements on the ANS website, please contact Ann Turnley (email turnley@unimelb.edu.au, phone 03 8344 3981). Similarly, we are very happy to include information or news items in the ANS newsletter. Anticipated copy deadlines are set out below. Material for inclusion can be topics for discussion, meeting announcements, meeting reports, prizes and awards received by ANS members, obituaries, and any other items of potential interest to members of our society.

DONATIONS TO ANS RESEARCH (GIFT) FUND

Members are reminded that donations to the ANS Research (Gift) Fund are tax deductible. If you wish to make a donation, please email the ANS Treasurer, Prof Jackie Phillips at: j.k.phillips@murdoch.edu.au All donations, regardless of amount, are most welcome.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

July 2010	13 th July 2010
October 2010	14 th October 2010
December 2010	2 nd December 2010

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Annual General Meeting

5:30pm, Tuesday 2nd February 2010
Auditorium, Sydney Convention Centre, Sydney, NSW

Minutes

1. Apologies

Max Bennett

2. Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were previously circulated in the April newsletter

Motion: That the minutes of the ANS General meeting held in Canberra on January 29th 2009 are accurate.

Moved: John Rostas; Seconded: Peregrine Osborne; Vote: unanimous

3. President's report

David Vane reported that now that ANS has taken on management of the Australian Brain Bee Competition and ACAN, there was increased work for the Society and many more people involved in running Society business. There are now two new subcommittees, the Brain Bee Committee, chaired by Linda Richards and comprised of State Brain Bee representatives and the ACAN committee, chaired by Alan Finkel, with a lot of input from the course director, John Bekkers. He thanked the committees for their work on behalf of ANS and noted that there was a record number of applicants for ACAN this year, with the majority being of excellent quality. He raised the issue of post-graduate training with FASTS, with a proposal to have professional training courses funded. David then described how the Society is still growing and is at a cusp, it now takes a lot of work to run, and while we have Sally Jay to run the administration, the Society has gotten large enough that it can do more but needs more resources, such as a Project Officer, to do so. This is something that Sarah Dunlop will be pursuing as incoming ANS President. David then thanked the Officers of the Society and the Sydney LOC.

4. Secretary's report

Ann Turnley provided membership details. In 2009 ANS had a total of 907 members; 613 full, 267 student, 15 honorary and 12 retired. She reminded people to visit the ANS website to check for announcements, jobs, upcoming conferences etc. and that all requests to post information on the website should be sent to her.

5. Treasurer's report

Jackie Phillips tabled the Treasurer's reports and presented details of the Society's major financial activities, noting registration with the ATO of ANS as a Tax Concession Charity for donation purposes (Health Promotion Charity), acquisition of ACAN and incorporation of ACAN activities as part of ANS, support of Brain Bee, both as a financial contribution (\$15,000) and in-kind, ongoing support of state activities and a good financial outcome of the ANS Canberra 2009 Meeting and ANS 2010 Sydney meeting. She noted that although ANS funds are in extremely good shape, the membership fees do not cover all of ANS expenses. She also noted that the cash assets were very large compared to 2008 and that this was due to the acquisition of ACAN. However, ACAN assets are set aside to continue the objectives of ACAN and do not enter into ANS operating budgets.

Jackie noted that there were 486 full registrants and 283 student registrants for the Sydney meeting and that 103 student travel grants were provided to attend the meeting, representing 70% of an average airfare from each of the cities.

Motion: That the financial statement be accepted for the year ending September 30th 2009.

Moved: Phil Robinson; Seconded: Andrew Lawrence; Vote: unanimous

Motion: That HLB Mann Judd SA be re-appointed as ANS auditors

Moved: James Brock; Seconded: Phil Robinson; Vote: unanimous

Jackie Phillips then presented the proposal for a membership fee increase. Overall operating costs for ANS now greater than income with a deficit of \$35,207 in 2007-2008 and a deficit of \$51,764 in 2008-2009, due to increases in costs associated with CPI, reduced income at conferences linked to the global financial crisis, increased activities supported by ANS (Brain Bee, ACAN scholarships (IBRO initiatives) and local activities. The balance sheet is healthy due to income from the 2007 IBRO meeting and investments are stable. Spending has been reduced where possible, but Council does not wish to continue operating the Society at an ongoing loss and reducing the accumulated surplus. Full ANS and student membership fees were last increased 7 years ago: Full membership currently \$95.00 (\$104.50 GST inc) and Student membership currently \$45.00 (\$49.50 GST inc). Over 2008-2009, the average membership fee of comparable societies was \$119/\$36, GST inclusive. Overall, money raised from membership fees in 2007-2008 was \$58,000 and in 2008-2009 was \$71,287. ANS Council proposes to increase membership fees to \$115 (\$126.50 GST inc) for Full membership and

to \$55 (\$60.50 GST inc) for Student membership. Based on 600 full/ 250 student members, this will provide approximately \$14,500 in revenue to support the Society's activities (less than the CPI increase since membership fees were last raised). This was discussed by members, with the overall feeling that there should be an annual increase in fees so that the issue did not need to be revisited periodically. Overall, the preference was for it to be linked to CPI but that there should be a cap on increases in student's fees. JP and DV indicated that this will be considered at the mid-year Council meeting and that as a general principle, Council is trying to align all budget increases/requests to CPI.

Motion: That full ANS membership be increased to \$115 + GST (\$126.50) and student membership to \$55+GST (\$60.50).
Moved: Charles Watson; Seconded: George Paxinos; Vote: Majority for, 2 against. Motion carried.

6. Editor's report

David Small reported that for the joint Sydney meeting with AuPS the program committee was a little different to normal and made up of representatives of both societies, as well as the ANS Scientific Program Advisory Group (SPAG). This required programming to meet the interests of members in both Societies. He noted that a lot of abstracts (716) were submitted this year and therefore there were a lot of posters and most people got their preference to have an oral or poster presentation. He then thanked the Program Committee, SPAG, Sam Solomon and the Local Organising committee.

7. 2010 ANS Awards and Prizes

AW Campbell Award for best contribution by a member of the society in their first 5 postdoctoral years was awarded to Maarten Kole from the John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU

Nina Kondelos Prize This was made possible by a donation from George Paxinos and named after his late sister and is for a female neuroscientist who has made an outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research. This was awarded to Linda Richards, from the Queensland Brain Institute.

Paxinos-Watson Prize for the most significant neuroscience paper published in 2008. This award has been made possible by a generous donation to the Society by Professor George Paxinos and Professor Charles Watson, commemorating the new edition of their important key reference text "The Rat Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates". The award was again also supported by Elsevier, who provided a 12 month subscription to their new Brain Navigator program, plus a \$500 book voucher. The Paxinos-Watson prize was awarded to Maarten Kole, Susanne Ilshner, Bjorn Kampa, Stephen Williams, Peter Ruben & Greg Stuart for their paper: Action potential generation requires a high sodium channel density in the axon initial segment, published in Nature Neuroscience, 11: 178-186 (2008).

8. Award of Honorary Membership of the ANS to Max Bennett, Marcello Costa, Elspeth McLachlan, Stephen Redman and John Rostas.

At the 2009 AGM, members voted to award Honorary Membership to Max Bennett, Marcello Costa, Elspeth McLachlan, Stephen Redman and John Rostas. This was recognised in 2010 by presentation of ANS medallions. Max Bennett was unable to attend the AGM and will be presented with the medallion at a later date.

9. Vote on Council nominations for award of Honorary ANS membership to Robert Rush and Bruce Livett

Nominations for Honorary ANS membership for Robert Rush and Bruce Livett were proposed to Council by David Vaney and both motions were put to vote and passed unanimously by Council. Council recommended awarding of Honorary Membership to both of these members.

a) Motion: that Honorary Membership of the Australian Neuroscience Society be awarded to Robert Rush in appreciation of both his outstanding service to the Society, including three terms as ANS Treasurer from 1989-1993, and his sustained contributions to the development of neuroscience in South Australia. The research in Robert's laboratory is focused on how neurotrophic factors can be used to prevent nerve degeneration due to disease or injury and to aid nerve regeneration.

Moved: Phil Beart; Seconded: Glenda Halliday; Vote: unanimous

b) Motion: that Honorary Membership of the Australian Neuroscience Society be awarded to Bruce Livett in appreciation of both his outstanding service to the Society, including two terms as ANS Secretary from 1990-1993, and his commitment to the advancement of neurochemistry in Australia. Bruce's research advanced the fields of chromaffin cell biology and nicotinic receptor function. More recently he worked on a cone snail toxin, ACV1, for the treatment of neuropathic pain associated with diabetes and a range of other conditions.

Moved: Phil Robinson; Seconded: John Rostas; Vote: unanimous

10. Future ANS meetings

The 2011 meeting will be held in Auckland. Tobias Bonhoeffer from the Max Planck Institute has accepted an invitation to be the Overseas Plenary Lecturer. The 2012 meeting will be held at the Gold Coast and the 2013 meeting will be held in Melbourne.

11. Council members for 2010

Sarah Dunlop will be President, David Vaney will be Past-President, Lindy Fitzgerald will become the WA State Representative and The Public Officer will be Clarke Raymond. All other Council positions remain the same.

Office Bearers:

President	Professor Sarah Dunlop
Past-President	Professor David Vaney
Secretary	A/Prof Ann Turnley
Treasurer	Professor Jacqueline Phillips

Editor Professor David Small

State and National Representatives:

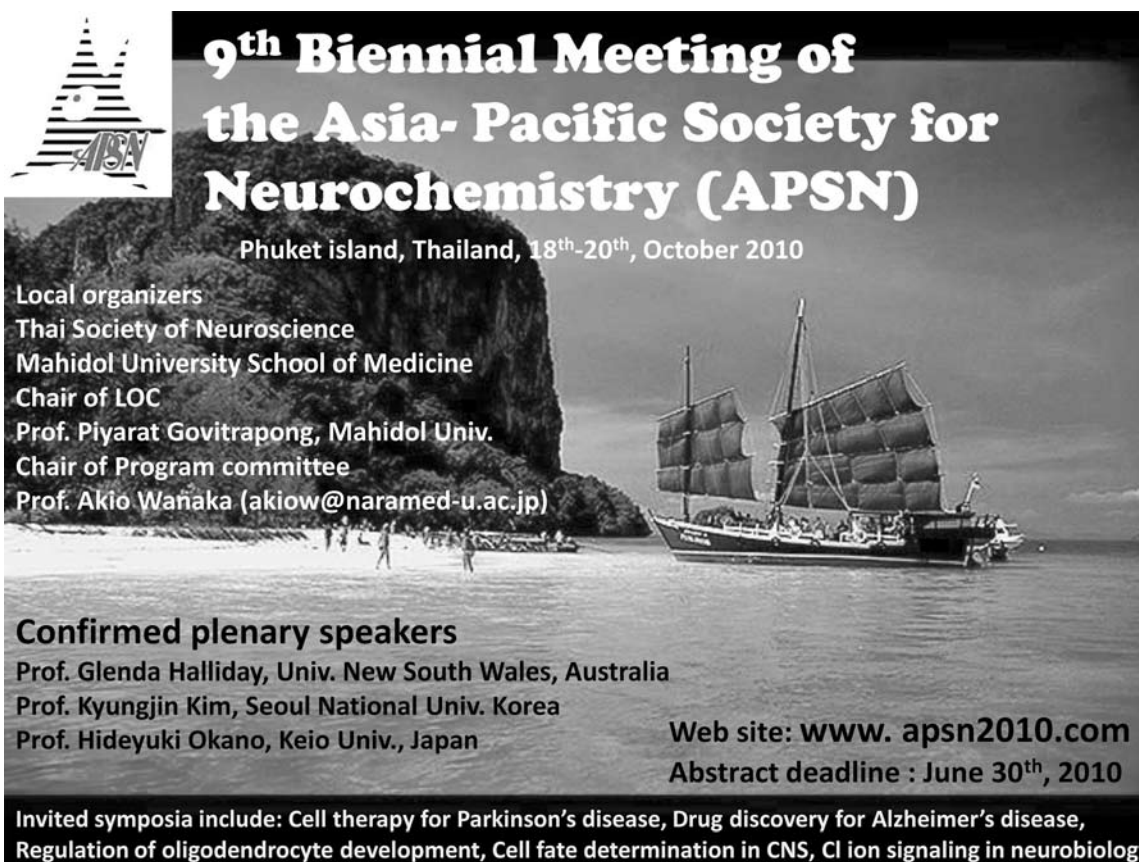
ACT	Dr Clarke Raymond
NSW	Dr Peregrine Osborne
New Zealand	Prof Louise Nicholson
Queensland	Dr Elizabeth Coulson
SA	Dr Nicholas Spencer
Tasmania	Dr Rob Gasperini
Victoria	Dr Joanne Britto
WA	Dr Lindy Fitzgerald


Public Officer Dr Clarke Raymond

12. Other business

There was no other business

The meeting closed at 6:30pm.



**9th Biennial Meeting of
the Asia- Pacific Society for
Neurochemistry (APSN)**
Phuket island, Thailand, 18th-20th, October 2010

Local organizers
Thai Society of Neuroscience
Mahidol University School of Medicine
Chair of LOC
Prof. Piyarat Govitrapong, Mahidol Univ.
Chair of Program committee
Prof. Akio Watanaka (akiow@narmed-u.ac.jp)

Confirmed plenary speakers
Prof. Glenda Halliday, Univ. New South Wales, Australia
Prof. Kyungjin Kim, Seoul National Univ. Korea
Prof. Hideyuki Okano, Keio Univ., Japan

Web site: www.apsn2010.com
Abstract deadline : June 30th, 2010

Invited symposia include: Cell therapy for Parkinson's disease, Drug discovery for Alzheimer's disease, Regulation of oligodendrocyte development, Cell fate determination in CNS, Cl ion signaling in neurobiology

