



Australian Wound Management Association Inc

AWMA News Release, March 2011

Highlights: AWMA Committee Meeting

19 & 20 February

The AWMA committee met in Brisbane for the committee meeting and AWMA AGM. The AGM accompanied a twilight education session at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) which was hosted by the Queensland Wound Care Association (QWCA). The AWMA committee would like to thank the President, Michelle Gibb and the QWCA for organising a very successful event.

Wound Management Innovation Cooperative Research Centre (CRC)

AWMA was successful in gaining a grant from the CRC to promote an awareness of the importance of wound management by increasing public and political awareness of challenges faced by people suffering from venous leg ulceration. The project, "*Increasing awareness about venous leg ulceration*", will undertake a concerted publicity campaign using established media firms and activities of AWMA over a 12 month period with a focus on venous leg ulceration during Wound Awareness Week.

AWMA Conference Sydney, NSW 2012

The planning of the next AWMA conference titled *Harbouring Wound Care* at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre is progressing well. The organising committee are developing the program and confirming both national and international key note speakers. The date of the conference: 18th – 22nd March 2012. More information is available on the AWMA website.

Wound Awareness Week - 2011

The date for WAW - 28th March – 3rd April 2011. The committee have planned a balloon release in participating states/territories on the 28/3/11 at 12md. Carol Baines and her committee FAME have been busy organising media releases, interviews, posters and brochures, approval of a balloon release in each state/territory and selling of the AWMA merchandise.

States and territories have organised a variety of activities during WAW to increase the awareness of "venous leg ulceration". Information is available on the AWMA website – Please encourage signing of the EITR petition.

Fundraising is a major component of WAW and states and territories can continue to purchase merchandise through the AWMA shop online.

AWMA Structure Review

The AWMA Restructure committee continue to meet monthly via teleconference. The AWMA President, Bill McGuiness has completed the *Road Show* to each state/territory association. The comments and feedback were positive to move towards implementing Option Three of the Restructure process.

If members were unable to attend, the presentation can be located on the AWMA website. The members are encouraged to provide feedback throughout the process.

The Restructure committee will be meeting face to face in Melbourne on the 6 May 2011 so each state/territory representative can discuss in more detail, the implementation of a unified name/brand and logo, standardise member benefits, develop a common website and the process of employing a national membership secretariat.

The committee is running a competition to design a new AWMA logo. The competition is open to the public and the logo advert has been distributed widely, including universities, schools and colleges. Entries close on 29 April 2011. We ask you to distribute the advert widely and encourage people to participate. The winning entry will receive \$1,000.

JBI Wound Management Node

AWMA are supporting JBI Wound Management Node with the amount of \$10,000 for a further 12 months. The Wound Management Node is generating excellent evidence summaries on a diverse range of wound related topics. These will certainly assist the clinician in providing evidence based practice in clinical settings. AWMA members are encouraged to access these through the website.

Venous Leg Ulcer Guideline

The consultation period for the VLUG has now closed. The committee received some excellent and valuable feedback which we have been able to incorporate into the guideline. The VLUG has now been submitted to NHMRC and the committee awaits further feedback.

Australian Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel.

The APUAP Practice and Policy, Research and Governing Chairs and the President of AWMA held a teleconference meeting on 21 February to discuss the guideline developments to date and how to advance these developments in regards to publication of the revised and expanded guidelines. New Zealand Wound Care Society participated in this teleconference and a strategy will be formed for engaging the Asian partners.

Emily Haesler who is the research consultant for the VLUG has agreed to be employed in a similar manner in order to finalise the draft writing of the PU Guidelines. We have been in need of someone with dedicated time to do this.

Pan Pacific Pressure Ulcer Forum & Venous Leg Ulcer Forum

The Pan Pacific Pressure Ulcer and Venous Leg Ulcer Guidelines will be launched in Canberra from 15 – 17 October 2011 at The Rydges Lakeside. The guidelines will be a very practical tool and a great resource for health professionals in the clinical setting. Key note speakers include Professor Keith Harding, Professor Donald Maclellan, Dr Greg Schulze, Professor Hugo Partsch, Dr Andrew Jull & Dr David Song. We are also organising a number of social events. Registrations are now open. More information, including the program, is available on a link at the AWMA website and at <http://www.panpacificulcerforums.com.au>.

Education and Professional Development Committee

The Education committee is developing a position paper on Telehealth in collaboration with EWMA. EWMA are aware of Australia's experience and expertise in this area and it is a great opportunity for international collaboration.

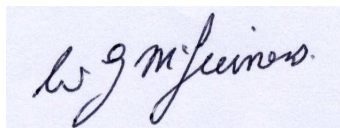
In the next few months the committee will be looking at developing a multidisciplinary credentialing package in wound management. This is an area of focus in other associations, specialties and regulatory boards. More information to follow.

World Union of Wound Healing Societies - bid for 2016/2020

AWMA committee is keen to have the WUWHS return to Australia in either 2016 or 2020. The AWMA committee has selected Brisbane as the successful city to bid for 2016. A/P Michael Woodward is chairing the organising committee and they have had a number of meetings. The AWMA committee met the staff of the BCEC recently; it will be an excellent venue for an international conference.

The next AWMA committee meeting will be held on the 7 & 8 May 2011 in Melbourne.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue rectangular background. The signature appears to read 'Bill McGuinness' in a cursive script.

Bill McGuinness
AWMA President