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ANS Newsletter

No. 4

December, 2007

ANS 2008 HOBART

ANS heads to beautiful Tasmania for the next ANS meeting from 27-30th January 2008.

The final arrangements for ANS 2008 are currently under way and all indications are that this will be an exciting and rewarding meeting. Lisa Foa and her local organizing committee together with Paul Martin, the ANS Scientific Programming Advisory Group and ANS Council have done a wonderful job in choosing plenary speakers and the concurrent symposia.

Four excellent plenary speakers - Carla Shatz, Phil Robinson, Gary Egan and Mac Christie, and 11 exciting concurrent symposia, cover a wide range of topics from consciousness to mathematical modeling and how the hypothalamus controls our hunger. The inaugural Presidential Symposium will be held in a plenary session and will feature four stellar early career researchers to come out of Australian Neuroscience, including the winner of the 2007 AW Campbell Award, Sam Solomon.

While it is too late to submit an abstract it is certainly not too late to register, so for more detailed information on the conference and the scientific program go to <http://www.sallyjayconferences.com.au/ans2008/>

The venue is the Hotel Grand Chancellor, an intimate venue situated on the waterfront in downtown Hobart. From the hotel you merely have to cross the road to see the fishing boats docked in Victoria Wharf, or the racing yachts from the Sydney-Hobart blue water classic in Constitution Dock. There are many restaurants and art galleries within easy strolling distance and if you come a day early you can enjoy the famous Salamanca market, held every Saturday, rain, hail or shine.

Other activities you might enjoy include a trip up Mt Wellington from where you can see Southern Tasmania stretched out before you; a Ferry ride on the Derwent River, a fast catamaran ride down the picturesque D'Entrecasteaux Channel to the award-winning Peppermint Bay Resort, or to the historic site of the Port Arthur convict colony; a tour of the Cadbury

chocolate factory or the oldest brewery in Australia. You can obtain fly-drive packages at very reasonable rates to get you "on-the-road" before or after the Meeting to visit the majestic, world-heritage listed Southern Forests or a leisurely day trip to nearby Bruny Island. For more information visit the Tourism Tasmania website at www.discovertasmania.com.au.

**AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT AND JOIN
THE OTHER 600 OR SO DELEGATES AT
ANS 2008 IN HOBART.**

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• ELECTION INFORMATION INSIDE •

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

My term as president has gone by very fast indeed. For me it does not seem like nearly two years have elapsed since I took office. At the time I accepted nomination for ANS president I did not realise how much work the IBRO 2007 conference would be, or how rewarding having such a successful international meeting in Australia would be. For those who attended the meeting, I hope it lived up to your expectations, it surpassed mine. The IBRO 2007 meeting was successful because of the planning, commitment and hard work of the local organising committee and Sally Jay and associates. I would like to thank them once again for their effort and time, especially to Andrew Laurence who was exceptional as secretary and to George Paxinos who proved his worth as a leader. The Hobart meeting is looking like it will also be an excellent meeting, thanks largely to the efforts of the local organising committee led by Lisa Foa. This continues the ANS tradition of high quality annual scientific meetings where there is active engagement and participation of the membership. I thank those of you who have identified ways we can enhance these meetings further, and look forward to more scientific engagement with you in Tasmania.

Although our annual scientific meetings continue to grow and are strongly supported, it is not clear that funding for neuroscience is as strong as it was five years ago. Assessment of both NHMRC and ARC neuroscience funding has shown worrying trends in terms of the proportion of successful neuroscience applications compared with other similarly strong medical science sectors. For NHMRC this trend has largely occurred since the change to neuroscience-focussed grant review panels. Further assessment of such trends will be important into the future, particularly as there are more changes to both grant assessment procedures and people support programs foreshadowed.

Over the past year I have travelled to each state and met with members to determine if ANS members are satisfied with the

direction and focus of the council. The message was clear that most members continue to want ANS to run excellent scientific meetings, but also want ANS to increase its lobbying capacity to governments and strengthen its role as the representative of Australian Neuroscience. This was with the knowledge that to be successful at these new tasks may take some members funds. More formal associations between the ANS council and state-run neuroscience organisations and institutions were also suggested to enhance such representation, although these organisations differ greatly in each state. ANS council will be considering these and other issues at a special planning meeting prior to the Hobart meeting. For those of you who wish to give more input to this planning process, we would be happy to hear your thoughts.

The society continues to grow steadily with over 1000 members, and it is very pleasing to see many willing to commit to serve on its executive and participate in its elections. It is a good sign of the strength of neuroscience research. ANS council has committed to supporting the Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN) for research training. It also appointed an Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee coordinator for the IBRO 2007 meeting, with coordinators in each state and in New Zealand. This program was very successful and allowed significant public engagement in neuroscience. In addition to holding scientific meetings, ANS council has prioritised professional development and recognised the importance of greater public engagement. I have worked hard to further establish and strengthen ties between ANS and other Australian neuroscience organisations. How to underpin and enhance these developments will be discussed further. I invite and encourage you to assist us and participate in reasserting ANS as your representative voice in all necessary forums.

Glenda Halliday, *ANS President (2006-2007)*

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Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 30 January 2008

Federation Concert Hall, Grand Chancellor Hotel

HOBART TASMANIA

Agenda

1. Attendance and apologies
2. Minutes of the ANS General Meeting - Tuesday 17th July 2007
3. Awarding of Honorary Life Membership to Robert Porter
4. President's report
5. Secretary's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Editor's report
8. 2008 ANS Prizes and Awards
9. Future ANS meetings
10. Council members for 2008
11. Other business

OBITUARY — LYN (SARA) PILOWSKY

Professor Lyn (Sara) Pilowsky, BMBS (Flinders), PhD (U. Lond), MRCPsych, Psychiatrist, was born in Sheffield 8 April 1961 and died in London in 16 July 2007, aged 46, of a brain tumour.

Migrating with the family from Yorkshire in 1966, she spent her formative years in Australia, initially in Sydney and then in Adelaide before finally settling in London where she lived for the past 22 years. Lyn's intellect, personality and warmth were of such magnitude that she excelled in all aspects of her life.

She trained at Flinders Medical Centre following her secondary education at Unley High School. Upon graduation, she followed our father into Psychiatry and assisted him in completing his definitive work on illness behaviour during the period in which he was fighting his own brain tumour. She eventually joined the Maudsley Institute of Psychiatry at Kings College, London, where several weeks before her death, she was honoured by becoming the first female academic to have her portrait hung. At one time consultant psychiatrist to the London Metropolitan Police, she enjoyed remarking that she was the Psychiatrist to 'The Force'.

Influenced by Flinders' well known integration of research within the medical curriculum, Lyn seamlessly incorporated an enviable research career into her clinical work, publishing over 100 articles, including four in the Lancet. Mainly

focused on ligand binding imagery in schizophrenia, her studies were arduous to conduct as well as to analyse. Her ability to keep her un-medicated psychotic patients calm in the confines of a scanner was testament to her reassuring and compassionate manner. As a biological psychiatrist whose work was grounded in neuroscience, her demonstration that brain imaging is an effective tool for psychiatric drug discovery is particularly notable. I feel certain that this will be one of her lasting contributions.

Lyn's talents extended beyond psychiatry and she was well regarded in London as a bluegrass singer where she met her partner Stuart. The daughter they had together, Judith, was, as Lyn would say, the ultimate Prize.

She endured her illness with typical humour and stoicism despite its poor prognosis; her primary concerns were always the people around her, particularly the welfare of her daughter, her close family and her colleagues at the Maudsley Institute. Lyn is survived by her daughter Judith (age 9), her brother Paul, her sisters, Marion and Kathryn, and by our father Issy. Her many colleagues and patients adored her and will miss her deeply: her passing is a keenly felt loss by all.

Paul M. Pilowsky
Marion J. Pilowsky

ANS TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS & COURSES OF INTEREST

National Forum on Education in Biomedical Sciences, Monash University, 11 December 2007. The School of Biomedical Sciences at Monash University is hosting this forum, which will deal with some key issues of Biomedical Science Education in its broadest context. The topics covered will be relevant not only to education in degree courses in biomedical science, as such, but will also encompass tertiary education in science, biotechnology and other areas where the biomedical sciences play a central role. There is no registration fee for the Forum. See: <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/sobs/>

Australian Postgraduate Neuropathology Course, University of Sydney, Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th January 2008. The course will consist of lectures on trauma to the central nervous system (CNS), diseases of nerve and muscle, neurodegenerative diseases, CNS tumours and current research in neuropathology. The course also involves slide sessions, brain dissections and CPCs. For further information and registration forms contact Professor Clive Harper (02) 9351 3663 (cliveh@med.usyd.edu.au) or Dr Roger Stankovic (02) 9351 4159 (rogers@med.usyd.edu.au), Department of Neuropathology, Blackburn Bld. DO6, The University of Sydney NSW 2006, fax (02) 9351 3429. Cost of the course is \$990 and participation is limited to 36. See: http://www.pathology.usyd.edu.au/Neuropathology_Courses/Neuropath_Index.html

5th Australasian Auditory Neuroscience Workshop, Thursday 31st January 2008, 8:30 am – 6:30 pm, Theatre Royal Hotel, Hobart. For further details and to register please contact Bryony Coleman: bcoleman@bionicear.org

ANS RESEARCH FUND

Members are reminded that donations to the ANS Research (Gift) Fund are now tax deductible. If you wish to make a donation, please email the ANS Treasurer, Dr Andrew Lawrence at: andrew.lawrence@florey.edu.au All donations, regardless of amount, are welcome.

ANS WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

See the ANS website: www.ans.org.au for up-to-date listings of forthcoming conferences, job advertisements and information about neuroscience in Australia. If you have any information you want posted on the website, please email Heather Young – h.young@unimelb.edu.au Similarly, we are very happy to include information or news items in the ANS newsletter which is now available on-line as well as in hard copy. 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.

3rd Annual Conference Happiness & Its Causes, 8-9 May 2008, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. What can we learn from science in the quest for happiness? A faculty of world leaders in science, psychology, philosophy and religion will explore new developments in the science of happiness. Bookings and information +61 2 9021 8810 or visit www.happinessanditscauses.com.au

Annual meeting of the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society, June 17-22, 2008, Frenchman's Reef & Morning Star Marriott Beach Resort, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. For more information see: <http://www.ibnshomepage.org/meetings.htm>

ComBio2008 – 21-25 September 2008, National Convention Centre, CANBERRA. Website www.asbmb.org.au/combio

Restauracion Neurologica 2009. Havana Cuba, 9-13 March 2009. Topics will cover the spectrum of Restorative Neurology from Basic Neuroscience, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Nursing, Rehabilitation. Further information: <http://192.168.1.2/ciren/home.htm>

International Society for Autonomic Neuroscience (ISAN), Sydney, 1-4 September 2009. If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive further information about the ISAN2009 meeting, please contact Vaughan Macefield: v.macefield@uws.edu.au

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

April 2008 Newsletter 12th April 2008

Address and contact details for the ANS secretariat
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Web: www.ans.org.au

ANS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

ANS Council positions falling vacant in 2008 were Secretary, Treasurer and Editor and representatives for ACT, SA, VIC, WA and New Zealand.

The following will be elected to Council un-opposed:

Editor: **David Small**
Treasurer: **Jacqueline Phillips**
ACT rep: **Clarke Raymond**
SA rep: **Nicholas Spencer**
NZ rep: **Louise Nicholson**
WA rep: **Donald Robertson**

Nominations for position of Secretary were received from **Vaughan Macefield, Janet Taylor, Peregrine Osborne** and **Anne Turnley** and accordingly a postal ballot will be required to fill this position.

Nominations for the position of Victorian State Representative were received from **Emilio Badoer, Joanne Britto** and **Jennifer Callaway** and accordingly a postal ballot will be required to fill this position.

At the last ANS Council meeting, Michael Ibbotson was appointed by ANS Council to replace Lauren Marotte as the Public Officer on ANS Council in 2008.

ANS Council membership in 2008

David Vaney - *President*
Glenda Halliday - *Past President*
Ballot required - *Secretary*
Jacqueline Phillips - *Treasurer*
David Small - *Editor*
Michael Ibbotson - *Public Officer*
Helen Cooper - *QLD representative*
Peregrine Osborne - *NSW representative*
Clarke Raymond - *ACT representative*
Ballot required - *Victorian representative*
Lisa Foa - *Tasmanian representative*
Nicholas Spencer - *SA representative*
Donald Robertson - *WA representative*
Louise Nicholson - *New Zealand representative*

We thank retiring members of Council: Andrew Lawrence, Paul Martin, Heather Young, Lauren Marotte, Giles Plant, Eugene Nalivaiko, Michael Ibbotson and Steve Kerr for their contributions to the society.



New members of 2008 ANS Council who were elected unopposed (left to right): Jacqueline Phillips (incoming Treasurer), David Small (incoming Editor), Louise Nicholson (incoming NZ rep), Clarke Raymond (incoming ACT rep), Nicholas Spencer (incoming SA rep) and Don Robertson (incoming WA rep).

Postal ballots are required to fill the positions of Secretary and Victorian State Representative. In order to assist members in this process the nominees have been asked to prepare policy statements, which appear on pages 4-5. Also enclosed with this newsletter you will find the following:

- Instructions for completing your ballot paper.
- Voting slips which incorporate voting for the positions of Secretary and the Victorian State Representative. Please note that only members who are resident in Victoria are entitled to vote for the Victorian State Representative.
- A ballot paper envelope
- A mailing envelope.

Please follow the instructions carefully to ensure that your vote is valid.

Ballot papers are enclosed with this newsletter.
Completed ballot papers are to be sent to the Secretariat – Sally Jay Conferences – and must be received by Wednesday 23rd January 2008.
We encourage all members to vote.

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.

POLICY STATEMENTS

ANS SECRETARY

Vaughan Macefield. I am a neurophysiologist and a long-standing member of the Australian Neuroscience Society. A former NHMRC Senior Research Fellow at the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute in Sydney, I am now the Foundation Chair in Physiology at the new School of Medicine, University of Western Sydney. I have served two terms (4 years) as NSW State Representative for ANS and am very familiar with the workings of the ANS Council. I have been involved in organising two ANS conferences in Sydney, and was the Chair of the Local Organising Committee for the 2006 meeting; I am also Chair of the International Society for Autonomic Neuroscience, to be held in Sydney in 2009. I am passionate about promoting neuroscience and am NSW coordinator of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge, a competition promoting understanding of neuroscience among high school students. Indeed, the future of the Australian Neuroscience Society depends on our being able to attract the next generation of scientists: after all, the students of today will be making the discoveries of tomorrow. As Secretary of ANS I will work to serve the interests of neuroscientists in Australia, and strive to increase the public profile of neuroscience here and abroad.

Janet Taylor. I am a NHMRC Senior Research Fellow at the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute and Conjoint Senior Lecturer at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. My research interests are in human motor control and proprioception. As a member of the Australian Neuroscience Society since 1994, I have benefited from the work of former ANS Secretaries and other Council members, and would now like to give back to the Society. I am committed to maintaining ANS as a growing and vital society, and to promoting neuroscience within the scientific and broader community.

Peregrine Osborne. Senior Lecturer (Research only), Pain Management Research Institute, The University of Sydney. In 2007 I had the opportunity to fill a vacancy on ANS Council as NSW representative. The experience of establishing a website and other activities at the state level has given me an even greater appreciation of how important ANS is to local neuroscientists. I am standing for Secretary to make a more significant contribution to the running of the Society and to support the activities of the President and Council on behalf of members. I would bring to this position useful past experience gained as a member of the state executive of ASMR in Queensland, where I was actively involved in fundraising, organising major Medical Research Week activities, and acting as State Treasurer and President. With respect to policy, the annual meeting will continue to be a major focus of ANS. However, past and present Presidents and Councils have worked hard to raise the profile of ANS in the general community. I am committed to this process continuing so that ANS can fulfil its role as the



Candidates for ANS secretary. From left to right: Vaughan Macefield, Peregrine Osborne, Janet Taylor and Ann Turnley.

peak body representing neuroscience to government and the general public. I am also committed to fostering our younger members and the society providing them with more opportunities for networking and career development.

Ann Turnley. Three key roles are performed by the Secretary of the ANS. They are the caretaker of the Society's history, the Society's public interface and they need to ensure that the activities of the Society are carried out in a timely and professional manner. The previous Secretaries have done an excellent job in all of these areas and my goal is to continue in their footsteps, growing the Society and making sure that things run smoothly. When I take something on, I take ownership of it and see it through to completion. I'm not afraid of hard work and have the ability to juggle many tasks at once. I will be happy to be contacted by ANS members as their conduit to ANS council. I endeavour to respond to emails and action them promptly. Another important aspect of the role is to work closely with the ANS Secretariat (Sally Jay Conferences). As a member of the local organising committee for the IBRO/ANS conference this year, I have already established an excellent working relationship with them and know that between us, we get the job done and done well.

FUTURE ANS MEETINGS

- **ANS 2008** will be held from Sun 27 Jan - Wed 30 Jan 2008 at the Grand Chancellor in Hobart. **Carla Shatz to present the ANS Overseas Plenary Lecture, so this will be a meeting not to miss!** Moreover, January is a fantastic time to visit Tasmania, so please start planning your trip to Tasmania in January 2008 now. The chair of the local organizing committee is Lisa Foa.
- **ANS 2009** will be held at the refurbished National Convention Centre in Canberra from Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th January 2009. Michael Ibbotson is Chair of the LOC.
- **ANS 2010** will be held in Sydney from 31 January – 3 February 2010. Roger Dampney and Sam Solomon are Chairs of the LOC.

POLICY STATEMENTS

VICTORIAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Emilio Badoer. Emilio Badoer is currently an Associate Professor in Neuropharmacology at RMIT University, School of Medical Sciences. He is Program co-ordinator for the Pharmaceutical Sciences undergraduate degree. He currently holds NHMRC funding. Emilio has served on NHMRC Grant Review Panels and has been an assessor for several National and International grant funding bodies. He is on the committee for the Melbourne Chapter of SFN. He has been a member of ANS for many years. As a Victorian delegate on Council I will work to ensure that the views of all Victorian members are heard on Council. In particular I believe it is very important to promote Neuroscience in our community and to work towards increased funding for project grants particularly to researchers to help enhance their independent progress.

Joanne Britto. I joined the Howard Florey Institute, University of Melbourne, in 2004 as a post-doctoral fellow and discovered a dynamic and supportive neuroscience community. This sparked my interests in promoting interactions both between fellow scientists, and between neuroscientists and the general public. My first initiative was to become the founding convener of the Post-doctoral Association at Howard Florey Institute (PAHFI). This association is now a platform for establishing collaborative opportunities amongst early career researchers and provides a support network amongst our peers. At the 2008 ANS meeting in Hobart, PAHFI is hosting the Inaugural Early Career Researchers social evening and I hope this becomes a regular event at our national conference. I am an active participant in the promotion of medical research and have displayed a strong commitment towards increasing our scientific profile in the general community. As Victorian Representative on ANS Council, I will bring my passion, motivation, and encouragement to assist ANS members. I see my role as helping to disseminate information on brain awareness week, national brain disorder day/week and other neuroscience activities to the scientific community. This role also includes assisting in raising public awareness of our research.

Jennifer Callaway. I have been an active member of ANS for the last 13 years and have attended every meeting. I am a passionate, early career researcher and I believe that given the current career options that the voice of young neuroscientists needs to be heard by ANS council. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to be more actively involved and gain experience in the organisational aspects of the society. I am currently employed on Victorian Neurotrauma Initiative funded program grant on Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain



Candidates for Victorian representative on ANS Council. From left to right: Emilio Badoer Joanne Britto and Jennifer Callaway.

Injury. My current research interests are in neurotrauma, neuroprotection, neurogenesis with particular emphasis on functional outcomes following stroke, traumatic brain and spinal cord injury. My background is in pharmacology and earlier in psychology. Since my PhD I have worked in stroke research with particular emphasis on neuroprotection. This work has extended into Huntington's disease as well as spinal cord injury and trauma. I am a hard worker, good at organising and take pride in making things happen! I am committed to doing whatever it takes to get recognition for scientists in our community and particularly in furthering the cause of mid career researchers.

