

July 2019



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*A neuron (blue) in *C. elegans* has repaired itself after transection through axonal fusion. Brent Neumann, Monash University and Nick Valmas, The University of Queensland*

Notifications

Become an ANS member or student member!

Please join us by becoming a Member of ANS.

You can join online at any time!

<https://tas.currinda.com/register/organisation/172>.

Check out our new and improved website

www.ans.org.au.

We thank our Society partners



ANS Committee

ANS President

Prof Wickliffe Abraham,
FRSNZ
*Department of Psychology
and Brain Health Research
Centre, Brain Research New
Zealand - Rangahau Roro
Aotearoa, University of Otago*
Dunedin, New Zealand, 9054
T: +64-3-479-7648
cabraham@psy.otago.ac.nz

ANS Secretary

Prof Thomas Fath
*Department of Biomedical
Sciences, Faculty of Medicine
and Health Sciences,
Macquarie University*
Sydney, NSW 2109, Australia
T: +61-4-2457-8120
thomas.fath@mq.edu.au

ANS Treasurer

Prof Brian Dean
*The Florey Institute of
Neuroscience and Mental
Health, The University
of Melbourne*
Parkville, VIC 3052, Australia
T: +61-3-8344-3786
brian.dean@florey.edu.au

ANS Conference

Executive Chair
Prof Helen Cooper
*Queensland Brain Institute,
The University of Queensland*
Brisbane, QLD 4072, Australia
T: +61-7-3346-6354
h.cooper@uq.edu.au

ANS Communication Committee

Newsletter Editors

Dr Brent Neumann
*Biomedicine Discovery
Institute, Monash University*
Clayton, VIC 3800, Australia
brent.neumann@monash.edu.au

A/Prof Kaylene Young
*Menzies Institute for
Medical Research, The
University of Tasmania*
Hobart, TAS 7000, Australia
kaylene.young@utas.edu.au

Authorised by

Prof Thomas Fath
*Dementia Research Centre,
Macquarie University*
Sydney, NSW 2109, Australia
thomas.fath@mq.edu.au

Message from the President

As you will learn from this newsletter, there has been a lot going on in the ANS engine room. Not surprisingly, much of the effort has gone towards preparing for our annual meeting in Adelaide. This is the highlight event of the year, and I warmly encourage you to attend.

The local organising committee has been working tirelessly and will be putting on an outstanding meeting, both scientifically and socially. This year our new Programme Committee has been assisting with the symposium line-up, and in particular working hard to ensure a spread of topics, gender diversity, and of course across-the-board excellence. As part of this I am pleased to be hosting a Presidential Symposium that will include, among other speakers, Prof Graham Collingridge, CBE, FRS and 2016 Brain Prize winner. Other committees are also lining up events that you will not want to miss. Do take note of the July 31st deadline for early bird registrations and submission of abstracts for oral presentations. In the end, the success of the conference comes down to the involvement of our members. We all win when we all work together.

Another upcoming conference is the IBRO meeting in Daegu, South Korea (21-25th September). It is great that a significant cohort of ANS members has registered for the meeting. ANS serves on the Council of IBRO and is committed to the aims of this significant international scientific organisation, and its meeting. More locally, the Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research will be held in beautiful Queenstown, New Zealand

(31st Aug – 4th Sept). It's an informal, but high-quality meeting offering opportunities to connect with colleagues across the spectrum of neuroscience. Note its early bird deadline of July 12th.

I also want to take this opportunity to warmly commend Stephen Williams, and his sidekick Lee Fletcher, on once again putting on an inspirational and as usual (!) excellent ACAN. This is a unique training opportunity and the 14 students and postdocs who took part would have come away totally upskilled in modern electrophysiology and imaging. We are all in awe of the time, effort and sacrifices made by Stephen and his team to bring this course about. Equally, Ramesh Rajan and his Brain Bee committee have been doing an outstanding job running the Brain Bee Challenge, especially working recently with Education Perfect to build materials that are engaging and suitable for teaching high school students about the brain and preparing them for the BBC competitions. The ANS meeting always features the national finals, so please go along to support your state winner. You will be amazed at what these young people know about the brain.

In closing, I note the good but also sad news included in this newsletter. We warmly congratulate Linda Richards on her appointment as an Officer in the Order of Australia. It's very much deserved. On the other side, I note the passing of Jack Pettigrew and Bogdan Dreher, and the newsletter contains wonderful tributes to both. I was influenced early in my career by Jack Pettigrew's work at the time, and so have been personally indebted to him. We mourn their passing but are grateful for their many contributions to neuroscience, nationally and internationally.



Prof Cliff
Abraham

PhD, President, ANS

Prof Linda Richards is an Officer in the Order of Australia

July 2019

It is a great pleasure to note that Professor Linda Richards has been appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia. This accolade is extremely well deserved. As many will know, this award is not so much for her outstanding research achievements, for which there are many, but rather for her meritorious service both nationally and internationally. Linda has certainly fulfilled such criteria many times over.



Here I will highlight three areas of her endeavours. First, she served as Chair of the Australasian Brain Bee Challenge since its inception, only recently stepping down. Hundreds of schools across Australia and New Zealand now participate in the programme, while teachers themselves are getting upskilled in the subject areas. Moreover, many state winners have been invited to the Queensland Brain Institute to gain hands on experience in research, and work side-by-side with undergraduate and postgraduate researchers, which extends the Brain Bee winners' experience of neuroscience in personal and exciting ways. While the ABBC is supported at state levels by many dedicated volunteers, Linda's leadership efforts brought Australasia to the forefront internationally with its highly successful programme.

The second area of outstanding service to note is her role as our ANS President. Under earlier careful management by many of our members, ANS has grown immensely since its inception as a small informal organisation, but I think it is fair to say that it has been under Linda's inspired leadership that ANS transformed into a much more professional Society. Among many

initiatives, a formal secretariat has been contracted, financial procedures have been upgraded, the annual conference has evolved, and several new committees have been established, along with an expanded communications network. Thus, the Society has reach into nearly all aspects of the teaching and research lives of Australasian neuroscientists. On top of these efforts, Linda has brought ANS into the international arena by forming formal links with major international societies such as the Federation of Neuroscience Societies, the American Society for Neuroscience, and the Japanese Neuroscience Society.

In a third service area, she has been leading the Australian Brain Alliance effort, with the fundamental goal of lobbying for a national funding programme in brain science that will be termed the Australian Brain Initiative. If successful, this would clearly be a game-changer for Australian neuroscience.

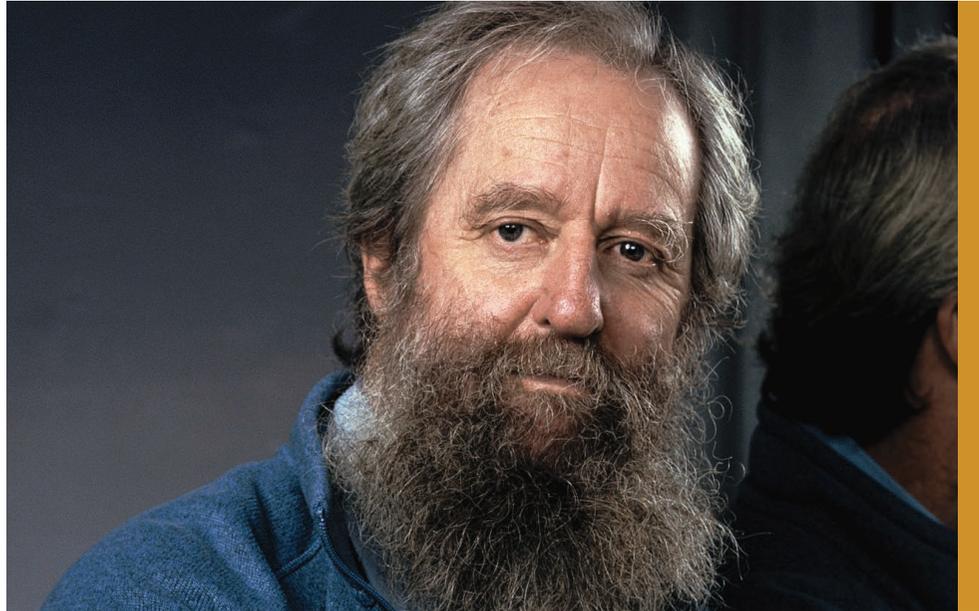
I'm sure we all warmly congratulate Linda on her very well-deserved appointment to the Order of Australia.

Cliff Abraham

President, ANS

John Douglas (Jack) Pettigrew (FRS FAA), Professor Emeritus, The University of Queensland (1944–2019)

July 2019



Portrait of Jack Pettigrew taken by David Vaney in 2011.

Jack Pettigrew died in Tasmania on the 7th of May 2019 following a car accident; he was 75 years old. Jack was one of Australia's most distinctive neuroscientists, both professionally and personally, with an extraordinary enthusiasm for all of his pursuits. He is survived by his beloved children, Galen Greenleaf, Tara Kurrajong and Chloë Callistemon, and his former wife Iluna (Rona) Bluewater.

career, Jack would go on to publish over 200 papers, which have received about 10,000 citations.

In between medical studies and laboratory research, Jack pursued many outdoor activities, which followed naturally from a childhood spent in the Blue Mountains. Jack was an avid and accomplished rock climber; in 1964, Jack made the first ascent of the South-East face of Frenchmans Cap in Tasmania (with Bryden Allen) and, in 1965, he made the first ascent of Ball's Pyramid, the tallest volcanic stack in the world (with Bryden Allen, John Davis and David Witham). Before returning to Sydney after Berkeley, Jack travelled to Italy to climb in the Dolomites; unfortunately, a severe fall resulted in the breakage of both ankles, bringing an end to Jack's technical climbing. But Jack's abiding love of the Australian bush and its animals would remain with him for his whole life, powerfully influencing his future research.

Jack's most influential research was undertaken before he graduated MB BS from the University of Sydney Medical School in 1969, being submitted for a BSc (Med) in 1966 and an MSc in 1968. What a way to start a career! Jack's research established the neurophysiological basis of stereoscopic vision when he described neurons in the visual cortex sensitive to binocular disparity. This research was undertaken first in Peter Bishop's laboratory at the University of Sydney and then, during a short 'predoc', in Horace Barlow's laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley. The research resulted in a series of classic papers that have received over 2000 citations (Pettigrew, Nikara & Bishop, 1967, 1968a,b; Barlow, Blakemore & Pettigrew, 1967). During his 50-year

After his 1969 residency at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Jack returned to Berkeley where he worked with Barlow on single neurons in the developing visual cortex from 1970-1973. In 1974, Jack took up a position as Assistant Professor of Biology at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 1976. Jack was totally in his element at Caltech, and in the 1970s, he and his colleagues in Berkeley and Caltech published 13 papers in *Nature* and *Science*. Many of the papers were concerned with the development and plasticity of the cat visual system, including its pharmacological control. However, in 1976, a *Science* paper co-authored with Mark Konishi on the visual cortex of the barn owl heralded Jack's

*(John Douglas (Jack) Pettigrew
(FRS FAA), Professor Emeritus,
The University of Queensland
(1944–2019)... continued)*

move into comparative neuroscience. This was followed by a series of papers on the visual and auditory systems of owls and raptors, including one awarded the Newcomb Cleveland Prize for the most outstanding paper published in *Science* (Knudsen, Konishi & Pettigrew, 1977). It is no wonder that the owl – such a commanding and knowing bird – became Jack's spirit animal.

Jack and Rona returned to Australia in 1979, with Jack taking a Research Fellowship at the National Vision Research Institute (NVRI) in Melbourne, and becoming Acting Director in 1980. In 1983, he accepted the offer of the Chair of General Physiology at The University of Queensland. Jack was elected Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) in 1987. On the evening before Jack's FRS was announced in London, Jack was attending a formal dinner at the Swedish-Australian Neuroscience Meeting in Melbourne; Jack was attired in his typical garb of shorts, long socks and sandals with his ever-present travel pouch. Jack was unable to disclose his imminent honour beyond a few close friends because the news was embargoed until London time. However, Jack was in an ebullient mood and stood on a table to perform his special party piece for the Swedish visitors: the recitation by heart of Banjo Paterson's classic poem, *The Man from Ironbark*, complete with dramatic gestures.

The FRS no doubt played a role when, in 1988, the Australian Research Council provided substantial funding to Jack for Queensland's first Special Research Centre (Centre of Excellence). The Vision, Touch and Hearing Research Centre (VTHRC) quickly established itself as a sensory neuroscience centre of international renown. Jack created a distinctive logo for VTHRC of an owl landing on a neuron and the centre's mascot was a long-lived Boobook owl named Bertie, who could not be returned to the wild because of a cataract. In Jack's 23 years as Professor at The University of Queensland, he established neuroscience as a major research strength, providing an important foundation for the subsequent formation of the Queensland Brain Institute in 2003.

Jack's research in Queensland was both wide-ranging and eclectic, as has been detailed in a warm biography by Don Mitchell published in 2011 (<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1444-0938.2011.00629.x>). A sustained effort was devoted to characterising interhemispheric switching in humans using binocular rivalry as an assay. Jack and his colleagues showed that the rate of binocular switching is slower in people with bipolar disorder. This project arose out of recognition that Jack himself was bipolar. Jack's openness about his condition – as a patient, a clinician, and a neuroscientist – provide a compelling example of how mental health should be approached.

In the decade following retirement in 2006, Jack became absorbed by the mysterious Bradshaw rock art in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Jack the scientist studied both the fungal composition of the 'pigment' in the paintings

and the genetic relationships between African and Australian baobab trees. Jack the mystic was entranced by a culture that appears to have left no footprint except art – and possibly baobabs. Jack the story teller entertained us all with his novel theories of how the Bradshaw paintings came into being. Jack recently wrote a book on Bradshaw Rock Art and Nature; this final publication may turn out to be his most important (*Pettigrew, Scott-Virtue & Goodgame, in press*).

Over 30 years ago, Jack noted that Peter Bishop's key quality was that he nurtured young scientists, showing respect for, and confidence in their personal autonomy. Jack, in turn, applied these principles in full measure to the scientists that he mentored, many of whom now hold professorships throughout the world. So, when Jack's family and friends farewelled him in Tasmania on May 17th, it was with the knowledge of a life well lived. Following the celebration, the hearse carrying Jack's handmade coffin was led by a lone piper down a bush road into the gathering twilight; a rehabilitated Boobook owl was then released into the night sky. Fly well Jack!

David Vaney

Queensland Brain Institute

Bogdan Dreher, Emeritus Professor of Anatomy University of Sydney (1941–2019)

July 2019

Bogdan Dreher died last month (20th May 2019) after a long affliction with thyroid cancer, borne with grace and courage. His death occurred in Canberra, Australia's capital, in peacetime; he had been born 78 years previously in Warsaw, the capital of Poland, then in the depths of conflict.



Bogdan showing his enjoyment of the absurd things of life (photo courtesy of K.J. Sanderson)

World War 2 had military and geographical dimensions; all wars do. But that war also had a racial/religious dimension and Bogdan's family was decimated by all those forces. His family fled to eastern Poland in 1939, to escape invasion and holocaust; then further east, in 1941, to Russia. His father died fighting, a renowned commander in the Polish resistance, in Warsaw; his grandmother died of malnutrition during their exile in Russia, having yielded her rations that her grandson might survive. These harsh beginnings shaped Bogdan's thinking; he sought understanding of them – always elusive; he grieved for the father he did not know and for his shattered family; and he cherished and returned kindness wherever he found it.

Bogdan was still a small child when his widowed mother returned with him to Warsaw, soon after the end of the European theatre of that war. There he grew up, studied at Warsaw University, served in the student regiment of the Polish Army, married Zofia Wyszomirska and fathered a son – Jakub, now with a family of his own in Canberra – and gained a doctorate at the Nencki Institute of the Polish

Academy of Sciences, before he was driven out of Poland during the anti-Semitic purges of 1968, launched by the Soviet-controlled but nationalistic-communist regime in power at the time. The country for which his father had died expelled him.

After many difficulties of emigration, Bogdan was able to take up a postdoctoral fellowship in Peter Bishop's group at the ANU in 1969 and begin his distinguished 50-year career in Australian neuroscience. In my last conversation with Bogdan, a few days before he slipped into a coma, we talked for the best part of an hour of many things, most of them familiar. As I stood to leave – I had a plane to catch – he added a summing up that I had not heard from him before: "Really, I have been incredibly lucky. Whether it is my naivete, I don't know. I never had a plan for my career; I was genuinely interested in science and current affairs; they were my great interests and somehow, naively, I followed them." This is true of most of us. Members of ANS knew Bogdan as a colleague and scientist, whose work on the physiology of the visual cortex, on parallel processing in the visual pathways and on the development of those pathways (his caecal period concept), done with scores of students and scores more collaborators, earned him a highly respected place in Australian and international neuroscience. Recognition came in many ways, including a lifetime award from the Nencki Institute, in 2013; and, in 2018, a Festschrift occasion at the University of Sydney that elicited dozens of tributes, full of affection and admiration for his achievements, and those of his family.

*(Bogdan Dreher, Emeritus
Professor of Anatomy,
University of Sydney
(1941 – 2019)... continued)*

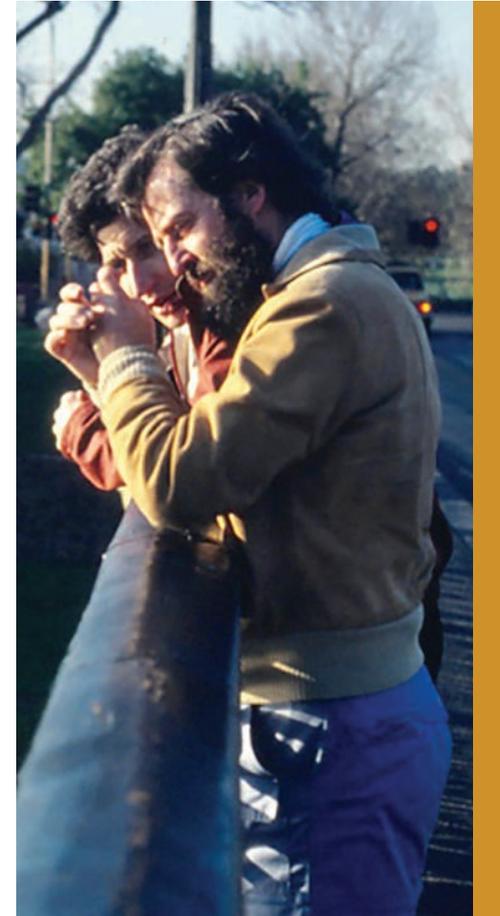
Bogdan's initial Australian mentor was Peter Bishop (his Polish mentor and hero was Nencki Director Jerzy Konorski), whose offer of a fellowship at a critical time made Bogdan's move to the ANU possible. As Bogdan's work progressed, he remained deeply influenced by Bishop the man and by Bishop's ideas, even as those ideas were explored and expanded by those who had shared the same training. Bogdan has been described as the glue that brought coherence to the Bishop group, long after Peter's retirement. Bogdan's enthusiasm for ideas, his generosity and his ability to find the best in his colleagues, brought him that role.

Several years before his death, Bogdan was appointed Emeritus in his Department of Anatomy and Histology at the University of Sydney, and he worked through those later years with still more collaborators. When he and Zofia moved to Canberra in early 2019, to be near Jakub and Susan and their three grandchildren, Bogdan hoped for a working collaboration with the neuroscience group at the John Curtin School of Medical Research; it was there that he had worked, in Bishop's group, for the first two years after his move to Australia. It would have somehow closed a circle for him, but he was already in the grip of illness.

Bogdan always enjoyed the absurdities of life. One of his recent PhD students recalls calling him not long before his death. She gave him news of a new baby daughter; Bogdan asked 'Will she do her Honours with me?' And the longest-remembered of his myriad jokes were those that he attributed to Radio Yerevan, a mythical radio station in the capital of one of the least powerful of the Soviet republics. Radio Yerevan jokes were gentle references to the comedy of life behind the Iron Curtain. (An interviewee on RY might be asked, for example, 'can socialism be established in Switzerland?' 'No' would be the answer 'it is too small a country for such a large disaster'). So he understood that the comic and tragic are intertwined; that one could be a defence against the other. His intellect, his life-long devotion to the ideas and data of experimental science and his humanity taught us all much. We will miss him at seminars, in our corridors, at our scientific meetings; we will miss his constant search for understanding of his chosen field, and of the world at large. We are left with his great contributions to understanding of the visual pathways and his example of humanity and intellectual commitment.

Johnathan Stone

University of Sydney



*Bogdan and Jack on a cool
afternoon in Melbourne in
the 1980s (photo courtesy of
D.H. Rapaport)*

39th Annual ANS Meeting in Adelaide, 2–5 December 2019

July 2019



Key Dates

- *Early Bird Registration* closes on Wednesday 31st July 2019 (<https://www.ans.org.au/ans-2019-conference/registration>).
- *Abstracts for Oral Presentations* close on Wednesday 31st July 2019 and *Abstracts for Poster Presentations* close on Friday 22nd November 2019 (<https://www.ans.org.au/ans-2019-conference/call-for-abstracts>).

Preparations for our Society's 39th Annual Scientific Meeting in December are proceeding smoothly so far (fingers-crossed)! The symposia have been selected by the ANS Programming Committee and the Plenary Speakers and Symposia will be added to the preliminary programme on the ANS website (<https://www.ans.org.au/ans-2019-conference/preliminary-program>). The deadline for early-bird registration and the submission of abstracts, for possible oral presentations, is 31st July 2019.

Please don't delay in registering and submitting your abstract(s) – the deadline will not be extended because our team will select speakers in August!

We expect to choose around 100 abstracts in total for the oral sessions based, of course, primarily on scientific interest. We will ensure a good spread across all areas of neuroscience, a proportionate gender distribution, and ensure "institute" diversity.

I look forward to seeing the hundreds of poster abstracts describing research at all stages of development, from the most preliminary of results to comprehensive project outputs. We will do our best to group posters thematically to promote conversations between the poster presenters and to make life easier for those looking for research stories matching their interests.

Seb of the Association Specialists has been doing a wonderful job attracting commercial support for the December meeting. We already have a number of major companies / organisations who will sponsor and exhibit at the meeting and are well on the way to meeting our sponsorship target. You can be certain there will be some amazing technologies to discover in Adelaide, and ample supplies of pens, magnets and stress-balls.

I am constantly impressed by the generosity of the volunteers on our Local Organising Committee. They make major contributions of their time despite the research pressures all scientists are under. Is it just Adelaideans, or is it ANS members in general? (Parochially, I choose to believe it's a bit of both).

LOC members such as Pirjo Apaja, Lyndsey Collins-Praino and Brenton Hordacre are organising satellite meetings and workshops for December (<https://www.ans.org.au/ans-2019-conference/satellite-and-associated-meetings-and-workshops>), and Tim Sargeant put in a lot of time and effort to initiate, and then help organise, this year's childcare initiative (<https://www.ans.org.au/ans-2019-conference/kids-club>).

Remember that your personal recommendation is the most successful way to encourage people to join ANS and attend our annual meeting. So please encourage your colleagues and collaborators to register before July 31st!

**Michael
Lardelli**

*On behalf of the ANS2019
Local Organising Committee*



ANS 2019 Satellite Meeting Partnership Subsidy

ANS has introduced the ANS Satellite Meeting Partnership Subsidy to encourage members to hold satellite meetings or workshops in association with the ANS annual scientific meeting. The goal of this new initiative is to broaden the scientific scope of the annual meeting and to enhance networking opportunities for our membership.

ANS will provide a subsidy of \$20 per satellite meeting registrant (ANS members and non-members) up to a maximum of \$1000 for the purpose of reducing satellite meeting registration fees, for example by helping cover the costs of room hire, catering or speaker travel expenses.

To receive the subsidy the organiser must submit an application online (www.ans.org.au) as early as possible but no later than 2 weeks prior to the satellite meeting.

The following information needs to be included in a single pdf:

- (i) an abstract describing the research theme and aims of the meeting,
- (ii) the proposed program and key speakers,
- (iii) current list of registrants,
- (iv) venue,
- (v) any confirmed or potential sponsorship,
- (vi) a statement confirming that all ANS requirements have been met (see policy document).

Note: the organisers must receive written confirmation of support from the ANS Conference Executive Chair (CEC) or Treasurer before the satellite meeting commences.

Immediately after the meeting the organisers must submit a pdf online (www.ans.org.au) containing a detailed meeting report including:

- (i) an itemised financial statement with receipts/ invoices up to the amount of subsidy being requested,
- (ii) an invoice for the subsidy being requested,
- (iii) a summary of the scientific content and the final program,
- (iv) a list of registrants and sponsors.

Subsidies will be granted subject to the conditions detailed in the policy document which can be found on the ANS website (www.ans.org.au).

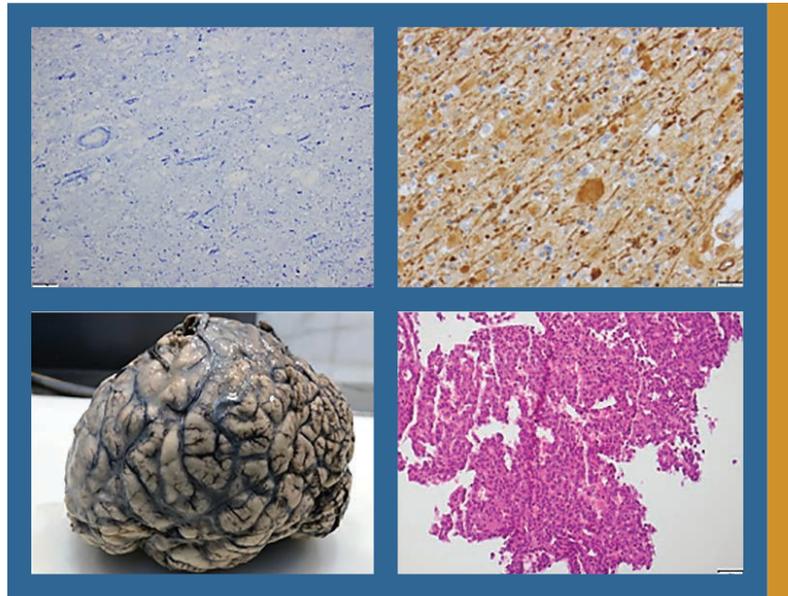
Please contact me if you have any questions.

Helen Cooper

*Conference Executive Chair
h.cooper@uq.edu.au*

ANS Satellite Meeting in Adelaide 1st December 2019

July 2019



Neuropathology for Neuroscience

Content to include:

- **Macroscopic Brain Dissection:** View active brain cuts and live discussion of pathology and anatomy.
- **Microscopic Brain:** Live discussion of various neuropathology with televiewing of digital slides, including discussion on quality control issues.

Please register if intending to attend via email to Jim Manavis:
jim.manavis@adelaide.edu.au

Convenor:	Professor Catriona McLean AO, FAHMS
Co-convenor:	Jim Manavis ARCPA
Location:	<i>Macroscopic Brain Dissection</i> Ray Last laboratory, Helen Mayo South <i>Microscopic Brain</i> Room S127, Helen Mayo South
Time:	9:00pm - 1:00pm
Cost:	\$20

Please note as the room is of limited capacity only the first 50 registrants will be accepted.

ANS Award Nominations

The deadline for submission of nominations for ANS Awards has now been extended to 24th July 2019. Each year ANS grants a number of prestigious Awards to members at various levels for achievements in research. Don't miss out on the opportunity to submit a nomination (self-nomination or nomination of peers with their approval). All nominees must be a current financial member of ANS. All winners will be awarded the Prize at this year's ANS meeting in Adelaide.



The awards include:

The **Mark Rowe Award** for the best publication published in 2018 by an early career researcher member of the Society (PhD student or up to 3 years postdoc) is accompanied by a prize of \$1000.

The **A.W. Campbell Award** recognises the best contribution by a member of the Society in their first five postdoctoral years and is accompanied by a prize of \$500. The winner will be awarded the Prize at this year's ANS meeting in Adelaide and will be invited to present the A.W. Campbell Award Lecture during the 2020 Perth ANS meeting.

The **Nina Kondelos Prize** is awarded to a female neuroscientist for an outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research and is accompanied by a prize of \$500. The winner will be awarded the Prize at this year's ANS meeting in Adelaide and will be invited to present the Nina Kondelos Award Lecture during the 2020 Perth ANS meeting.

The **Paxinos-Watson Award** recognises the most significant neuroscience paper published by any Member of the Society during 2018 and is accompanied by a prize of \$500 to the nominating author.

For further details of these awards, and how to apply, please see the ANS website (<https://www.ans.org.au/awards>).

All applications must be sent to the ANS Secretariat by COB Wednesday 24th July 2019. Any questions regarding these Awards, should be directed to the Secretary, Prof Thomas Fath at thomas.fath@mq.edu.au.

News from the Student Body & Early-Mid Career Researcher Committees

In preparation of the 39th Annual ANS Scientific Meeting in Adelaide, ANS SBC has been working closely with the ANS EMCR Committee organising the ANS EMCR-Student Networking Event.

The networking event will be held at Regattas Bar & Kitchen on the evening of Tuesday 3rd of December. This venue has stunning views of the River Torrens and is conveniently located right next to the conference venue. Based on the positive feedback from last year, we will once again be providing a 'speed-dating' style networking event where both students and EMCRs will have an opportunity to engage in small group discussions with senior academics on various topics of neuroscience as well as general career advice.

Date:	3rd December 2019 8:00pm - 10:00pm
Venue:	Regattas Bar & Kitchen
Cost:	Free for ANS student members and \$15 for other registrants
Food:	Canapes provided

Based on feedback from previous years, topics will cover more specific neuroscience interests as well as career prospects and opportunities. These are some example discussion points for the event:

- Developing communication skills in science and the role of social media
- Engaging with consumers and the general public
- Alternative avenues for career pathways and experiences with moving to industry post PhD
- Conflict resolution for toxic behaviour and lab culture
- Balancing teaching and research academic positions
- Work life balance as an ECR/student with family commitments
- Drug development in Alzheimer's disease
- Mechanisms of synaptic plasticity with a focus on neurodegeneration and neurological conditions
- Cholinergic system and neuroinflammation

Have your say! Please email us with topics and questions that you would like answered by one of our speakers. If you are interested in joining our list of excellent speakers at this event, please don't hesitate to get in contact with our ANS Student Body and EMCR representatives.

Brenton Hordacre

brenton.hordacre@unsia.edu.au

Karissa Barthelson

karissa.barthelson@adelaide.edu.au



Alex Guérin, Victoria State Representative (left), and Isabella Bower, SOBR President (right) at the 2019 SOBR Dinner.

July 2019

*(News from the Student Body
or Early-Mid Career Researcher
Committees... continued)*

The submission portal for our *Images of Neuroscience* photo competition is now open for all ANS student members.

Follow this link (<http://bit.ly/2019-anspc>) to access the submission portal, and the winners will be announced at the Adelaide conference.

In addition to work towards the annual meeting, The ANS SBC was a Gold Sponsor of the Students of Brain Research (SOBR) annual Professional Development and Networking Dinner. The dinner took place on June 14th at the Arts Centre Melbourne, and the night revolved around the theme: The Plasticity of Neuroscience in the

Digital Age. Guided by the keynote speaker and panel of guests, neuroscience students from all across Victoria had a chance to envision the future possibilities afforded by technological innovation, while taking into consideration the ethical challenges we may encounter along the way. It was also a great opportunity for students to network with their peers and researchers from all career levels.

Barbora Fulopova

*University of Tasmania,
ANS Council, Student
Representative - On behalf of
the SBC [barbora.fulopova@
utas.edu.au](mailto:barbora.fulopova@utas.edu.au)*

Dr Ann-Maree Valence

*ANS Council, WA State
Representative - On behalf
of the EMCR Committee
[ann-maree.valence@
murdoch.edu.au](mailto:ann-maree.valence@murdoch.edu.au)*

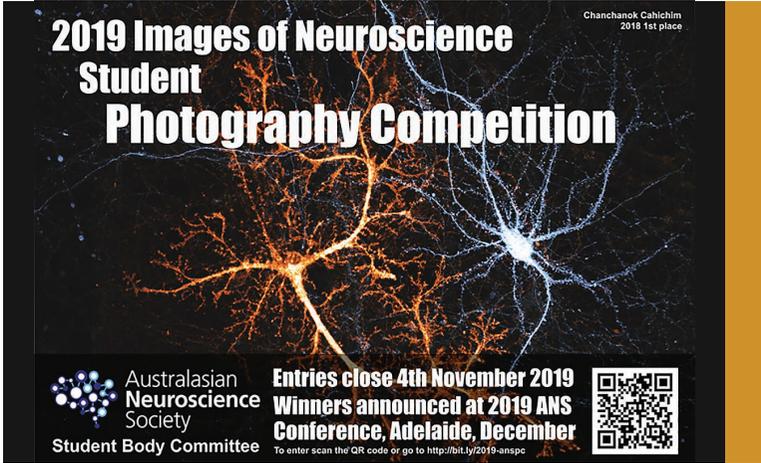
Update from the Equity and Diversity Committee

The Equity and Diversity Committee has focussed on initiatives to improve gender representation and diversity in general at our annual meeting.

Starting with the 2019 Adelaide meeting, ANS will post its gender balance numbers for invited and selected talks on the biaswatchneuro website. This will serve as a public record for gender balance at the annual conference, and will allow us to benchmark against other similar organisations. With registration for the Adelaide meeting currently open, we would also like to remind would-be delegates about our Carer's Grants, which provide up to \$500 to support delegates with childcare or other carer's responsibilities, and the on-site childcare facility that will be available at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Both can be accessed through the ANS 2019 registration site.

Ethan Scott

*with input from the ANS
EGD Committee Chair of
the Equity and Diversity
Committee*



2019 Images of Neuroscience Student Photography Competition

Chanchanok Cahichim
2019 1st place

Australasian Neuroscience Society
Student Body Committee

Entries close 4th November 2019
Winners announced at 2019 ANS Conference, Adelaide, December

To enter scan the QR code or go to <http://bit.ly/2019-anspc>

QR code

News from the State Committees

An ACT update



On the 25th and 26th of May neuroscientists from institutes in Canberra, Sydney and Newcastle met for the annual Kioloa Neuroscience Colloquium, held this year at the ANU coastal campus at Kioloa. Despite the approach of winter, the weather promised to be bright and sunny, perfect for the stimulating discussions that were to come over the course of the weekend. Early risers on the first morning were able to appreciate the picturesque sunrise from the nearby beach. With our moods brightened, stomachs full of breakfast and feeling

at one with nature, the conference got under way. The first plenary lecture was presented by Professor Michael Häusser (UCL) who spoke about new all-optical methods for investigating neural circuits during behaviour, and about exciting new global neuroscience collaborations. Then began the oral sessions, with a rich diversity of topics and techniques, ranging from sensory processing to the molecular regulation of neurons.

During the breaks, we rushed to make the best of the location and the sunshine. Sunbaking neuroscientists aren't a wholly common sight, with our preference for darkened labs and enclosed office spaces, but I was able to bond with some of my fellow PhD students as we tried to soak up some sun. The beach was also a key attraction, with swimming and volleyball matches during the day, and stargazing and hunting for bioluminescent algae at night. As a first year PhD student trying to make a good impression, there is nothing more mortifying than running headfirst into a PI during a beach volleyball match. But in brushing off bruised egos and actual bruises, you learn that group leaders are people too.

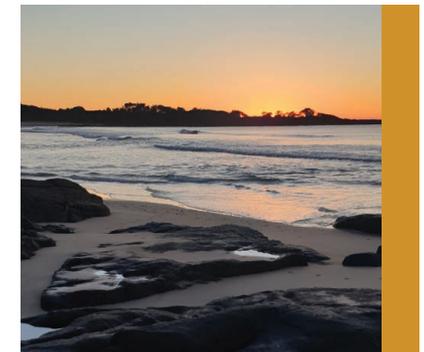
At the poster session on Saturday evening we were able to see some more excellent research presentations. Naturally, many of us were late to dinner, with the poster discussions far too interesting for us to realise that we were missing out. Saturday evening continued into vibrant conversations about life as neuroscientists, which soon devolved into debates about life in general, on the beach or around the campfire.

Sunday began with the second plenary lecture from Dr J Bertran-Gonzales (UNSW) on the segregation of striatal projection systems and their roles in behaviour. The conference continued with more talks, then was rounded out with the award of a prize for best student talk to Alastair Loutit (UNSW), who spoke about temporal changes in feature learnability of mechanically evoked dorsal column nuclei signals. Finally, we bid each other farewell and headed back to our darkened labs and office spaces.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Kioloa Neuroscience Colloquium. I believe that local conferences such as this one are important for researchers to get to know one another and talk about their work in settings other than the purely professional... and you get the chance to valiantly try to spike a volleyball at your boss.

Noorya Ahmed

PhD student, ANU



(News from the State
Representatives... continued)

A New South Wales update

Launch of the new Dementia Research Centre by Macquarie University

The Dementia Research Centre was officially opened on the 15th May by Professor Patrick McNeil, Macquarie University's Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. The grand opening was held at the Incubator building on Macquarie campus. The opening of the Dementia Research Centre was endorsed on the night by distinguished guest speakers; Janice Besch, Director of the NHMRC National Institute of Dementia Research and Professor Jillian Kril, an internationally recognised neuropathologist. Professor and Centre Director, Lars Ittner, detailed the Centre's vision, values and ambition. To learn more about the centre, please visit (<https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-centres-groups-and-facilities/healthy-people/centres/dementia-research-centre>).

ABBC NSW 2019

Round 2 of the ABBC NSW Finals took place on Thursday 30th May in the School of Medical Sciences (SoMS) at the UNSW Sydney. The event was sponsored by SoMS and the School of Psychology, with Professor Simon Killcross from the School of Psychology officially opening the competition. 77 students from 23 High Schools



Contributed by Jennie Cederholm, NSW Finals ABBC Coordinator

sat the Individual Quiz while the teachers and parents had a guided tour around SoMS. Everyone then listened to 3 PhD students presenting their neuroscience research projects, followed by a presentation from Youth Neuro Australia. This was followed by the Team Competition, with 8 teams battling it out for the top spot, which was won by Baulkham Hills High School. Beverly Hills Girls' High School came second, with James Ruse Agricultural High School coming third. Before the final round of the Individual Quiz, the students attended a workshop where they got to explore proprioception and the vestibular system. The first experiment involved the students stimulating the Achilles tendon or the triceps brachii using vibrators to investigate the role of spindle afferents in posture or how the spindle afferents can tell us where our limbs are in space. Using a Barany chair the students could then

investigate the effect on posture by stimulating the semicircular canals. This was very popular amongst the students! A visit to the Museum of Human Disease on campus was also on the agenda. We then had the top 8 students from the morning Quiz battling it out for the title of NSW Champion, which was won by Jacob Lee from Carlingford High School. Congratulations Jacob! Congratulations also to Lior Yoffe from Baulkham Hills High School and Ariel Huang from James Ruse Agricultural High School who came second and third, respectively. Best of luck Jacob for the National Finals in Adelaide!

Upcoming meetings

Macquarie Neurodegeneration Meeting

Friday 19th July 2019, 9:00am – 6:00pm
Australian Hearing Hub Theatre

The Macquarie Neurodegeneration Meeting is an annual event hosted by the Centre for Motor Neuron Disease Research, Macquarie University. The aim of this event is for Australian neuroscientists to showcase their research and to stimulate conversation and foster collaboration o develop treatments for diseases including motor neuron disease, Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal dementia, Parkinson's disease and other degenerative brain disorders.

The program will feature several keynote speakers:

- Professor Ian Blair from Macquarie University
- Professor Tim Karl from Western Sydney University
- Associate Professor Kay Double from The University of Sydney
- Professor Thomas Fath from Macquarie University
- Dr Mary-Louise Rogers from Flinders University
- Professor Michael Breakspear from The University of Newcastle
- Dr Angela Laird from Macquarie University
- Professor Mark Wilson from the University of Wollongong

For more information, please visit (<https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-centres-groups-and-facilities/healthy-people/centres/macquarie-university-centre-for-motor-neuron-disease-research/conference>)

July 2019

*(News from the State
Representatives... continued)*

A South Australian update

The attention of many SA members of ANS is currently focussed on preparations for this year's Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide. However, Lyndsey Collins-Praino, a senior lecturer in the University of Adelaide's Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, did a wonderful job organising and then chairing the Australia-Japan Joint Neurodegenerative Disease Symposium, held on the 19th of June in the new Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences Building, University of Adelaide. Japanese guests, Prof Masahisa Katsuno, Dr Katsunori Yokoi, and Dr Makoto Hattori of Nagoya University, gave fascinating presentations covering ALS/MND, TDP-43, and Parkinson's disease. There were also excellent oral presentations by Adelaide researchers at all career stages, including many Ph.D. students. Prof. Thomas Fath, Dr Sharn Perry, and Dr Adam Walker were guests from Macquarie University, University of Tasmania and The University of Queensland, respectively. Thanks Lyndsey for a great day!

Lyndsey, together with A/Profs Sarah Cohen-Woods and Hannah Keage, also coordinated this year's SA Brain Bee. A/Prof. Hannah Keage and Dr Tobias Loetscher, from the University of South Australia, are also lead organisers for the 2020 Australian Dementia Forum, to be held in Adelaide in June 2020, so please contact them if you are interested in being involved!

A Tasmanian update

In Tasmania, we have a strong focus on Multiple Sclerosis (MS) research. The Menzies Institute for Medical Research, in collaboration with MS Limited and the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, generated and launched a world first "Understanding MS" MOOC (massive open online course). This MOOC blends neuroscience and clinical information with authentic stories from members of the MS community, and is currently ranked #1 in the global health MOOC rankings. We also celebrated World MS Day on the 30th of May by hosting a Research Engagement Workshop and Symposium in the morning, and hosting an afternoon Symposium for people living with MS and the wider MS community.

In June, a three-day NHMRC National Institute for Dementia Research (NNIDR) Australian Dementia Forum was hosted in Hobart. This provided an opportunity for researchers to examine the impact that their research is having, build new collaborations and share their research findings with a broad audience that included clinicians, carers, students, families of people living with dementia and other members of the public. The conference was attended by over 400 registrants and included, for the first time, a debate as well as a very popular public forum focussing on dementia risk factors.

On the 1st of July, The University of Tasmania Medical Sciences Precinct hosted 35 participants for the second round of the ANZ Brain Bee Challenge.



*Ms Angelique Banderas (left)
and Dr Catherine Blizzard (right).*

The finalists participated in the numerous rounds of individual and group competitions, enjoyed presentations from local neuroscientists and visited our research laboratories. Students from St Helens District High School made a clean sweep in the Tasmanian State finals, winning first, second, third and best team. Congratulations to Tasmania's winner, Angelique Banderas, who will go on to compete at the nationals in Adelaide in December. The event was organised by Dr Catherine Blizzard (Menzies Institute for Medical Research) and sponsored by the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre and the School of Medicine. We thank all of the students and staff who donated their time to help run this valuable and fun event.

July 2019

(News from the State
Representatives... continued)

A Victorian update

As many ANS members will be aware, almost a decade ago (in 2011) a group of Melbourne neuroscience students got together (over a drink I assume!) and came up with the concept of Students of Brain Research (SOBR). Since then, SOBR has grown from strength to strength, incorporating all major universities and institutes across Victoria that are involved in any aspect of neuroscience research.

Whilst a quick Wikipedia search identifies 'SOBR' as the 'Special Rapid Response Unit' (and these Victorian students are certainly special, rapid, responsive and unified!), they should not be confused with that Wikipedia-listed 'spetsnaz unit of the National Guard of Russia'! Despite many of these stellar SOBR students 'russian' to complete experiments, manuscripts and theses, they nevertheless find time to organise and attend various annual networking events. The real website (www.sobrnetwork.org) defines SOBR as 'a social and academic network designed to connect brain research students from different institutions and backgrounds across Victoria'. A worthy goal indeed, which has been handsomely achieved over many years via the hard work of the SOBR Committee. In what may be a first for Australasian Neuroscience,



Photo by: Shane Nagle
Instagram: @shanenagle_/
www.shanenagle.com

the hard-working SOBR Committee is currently all female (<http://www.sobrnetwork.org/about/committee/>); come on 'neuro-blokes' of Victoria, SOBR up!

SOBR runs two major annual events. The first is the SOBR Professional Development and Networking Dinner, which this year was held on 14th June in The Pavilion, Arts Centre Melbourne. Having been fortunate enough to attend this dinner, I can report that it was an extremely well organised, enjoyable and productive evening, with EMCR and senior neuroscientists from across Melbourne participating in a lively discussion (hosted by neuroscience students) of 'the plasticity of neuroscience in the digital age'. This provides exceptional networking opportunities for the students, and other members of the Victorian Neuroscience community. The second major annual event is the SOBR Student Symposium, which this year will be held on 12th

November, preceding the annual Melbourne Brain Symposium on 13th November. Further details will be provided in a later ANS Newsletter.

In other Victorian news, the ANS Executive have recently confirmed that ANS 2021 41st Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Melbourne. We look forward to welcoming all of our Australian, New Zealand and international neuroscience colleagues to marvellous Melbourne in 2021!

A Western Australian update

ANS members in Western Australia have just announced the program for their annual Symposium of Western Australian Neuroscience (SWAN) and invite ANS members to join them in Perth on 12th September. Abstracts are due by 15th August 2019.



Symposium of Western Australian Neuroscience

12th September 2019 | 8:30 am
Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research
Abstract submission by 15th August 2019
Registration closes 29th August 2019

NEURODEGENERATION
PROF ROBERTO CAPPAI
The University of Melbourne

COGNITIVE AGING
PROF SHARON NAISMITH
The University of Sydney

SENSORY NEUROSCIENCE
PROF GARY HOUSLEY
The University of New South Wales

CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCE
MS MICHELLE-HARRIS-ALLSOP
Care Partnerships Australia

FREE REGISTRATION – INCLUDES SUNDOWNER
<http://bit.ly/2019swanreg>

ORAL or POSTER PRESENTATION
Abstracts: 300 words, unformatted -
<http://bit.ly/2019swanabstract>

Further information: lindy.fitzgerald@curtin.edu.au



IBRO & the 10th IBRO World Congress of Neuroscience

The 10th International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) World Congress of Neuroscience will be held in Daegu, South Korea from 21-25 September 2019 (www.ibro2019.org).

Standard registration is open until 15th September 2019.

The IBRO World Congress has been held every four (4) years since 1982 and is a prestigious international meeting attended by over 4000 neuroscientists from around the world. The plenary and keynote lectures will include a presentation by Nobel Laureate Professor Erwin Neher and there will be over 40 symposia by nearly two hundred experts in various fields of neuroscience. Multiple satellite sessions and meetings for special topics are also included to bring rich content for all participants. Note that the Federation of Asian-Oceanian Neuroscience Societies (FAONS) will be hosting symposia in conjunction with the IBRO meeting. ANS has a significant interest in these meeting as it intends to bid to host the next FAONS meeting in 2021 and the next IBRO meeting in 2023.

IBRO has also developed 'IBRO & You' (<https://ibro.org/ibroandyou/>), an online feedback form where the global neuroscience community can share ideas, views and comments directly with the IBRO leadership and make a positive impact on IBRO activities in the world of brain and brain-related sciences. A summary report of submissions will be presented to the IBRO Governing Council annually.

Nominations Open for Cajal Club's Krieg Cortical Kudos

These awards recognise scientists focused on cerebral cortical research (structure and/or connections), at three levels:

- (i) the established investigator,
- (ii) the young investigator who has received an advanced professional degree within the ten-year period prior to the time of nomination, and
- (iii) the recent PhD graduate no more than two years beyond obtaining their advanced degree.

See the **Call for Nominations** on the Cajal Club website: (<http://www.cajalclub.org/id21.html>)

The deadline for nominations is August 15th, 2019.

Call for Nominations to ANS Executive & Council

July 2019

Positions on the ANS Executive and Council will become vacant at the 2019 AGM, and nominations (including self-nominations) are now invited from the membership.

The positions that will be available are the following:

- President Elect
- Conference Executive Chair
- Australian Capital Territory Representative
- Western Australia Representative

Details of these roles can be obtained from the Secretary. Should more than one nomination be received per position, a member vote will be held prior to the AGM.

If you are a current member and wish to nominate for any of the above positions, please email the ANS Secretary, Thomas Fath (thomas.fath@mq.edu.au), with your name and contact details, stating the position for which you are nominating.

Deadline for nominations:

COB Monday October 15th, 2019.

Council Members

President:	Cliff Abraham
Past President:	Linda Richards
Secretary:	Thomas Fath
Treasurer:	Brian Dean
Conference Executive Chair (Editor):	Helen Cooper
Public Officer:	John Bekkers
ACT Representative:	John Bekkers
NSW Representative:	Yazi Ke
NZ Representative:	Kristin Hillman
Qld Representative:	Ethan Scott
SA Representative:	Michael Lardelli
Tas Representative:	Alison Canty
Vic Representative:	Anthony (Tony) Hannan
WA Representative:	Ann-Maree Vallence
Neuroscience Research Representative:	Erin McAllum
Student Representative:	Barbora Fulopova

ANS is very grateful for the enormous contributions made by council members who have stepped down in 2019: Gary Egan, Kay Double, Srdjan Vlajkovic, Karin Nordstrom, Matthew Kirkcaldie and Rachele Balez.



July 2019

Communications

Do you have information that you would like included in our ANS newsletter, posted on our website or Facebook page or tweeted?

ANS has a communications committee to help members disseminate information and help the Society publicise its activities to Members and the public. This committee is Co-Chaired by Dr Brent Neumann (Monash University) and A/Prof Kaylene Young (University of Tasmania), and will oversee the production of the newsletter, ensure that current content is posted on the ANS website (<http://www.ans.org.au/>), ANS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AusNeuroSoc>; maintained by Dr Nathalie Dehorter, Australian National University),

LinkedIn page (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8362021/>; maintained by Prof Thomas Fath, Macquarie University) and disseminated through the ANS Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc>; postings by Dr Lila Landowski, University of Tasmania).

If you have content for us, please email Brent Neumann (brent.neumann@monash.edu.au) or Kaylene Young (kaylene.young@utas.edu.au).

The copy deadline for the next Newsletter is Tuesday 1st October 2019.

We encourage everyone to check out the ANS website.

www.ans.org.au



Policy

ANS Policy on Requests for Publicity via Email Circulation

The policy of ANS is to minimise email traffic to members. Advertisements for meetings and other significant announcements such as job vacancies can be added to the website and included in the newsletter if appropriate. Such requests should be directed to the ANS Secretary.