



# Australian Neuroscience Society Newsletter

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[www.ans.org.au](http://www.ans.org.au)

## President, 2008-2009

# DAVID VANEY

I am honoured to have taken over from Glenda Halliday as President of the Australian Neuroscience Society. The transition was accompanied by wholesale change in Council, including all of the Officers and a majority of the State Representatives. Many of the departing Council members also served on the Local Organising Committee of the 2007 IBRO Congress, which left the Society both financially healthy and with 1000+ members for the first time. Fortunately, the Past-President stays on the Council for a year and I am sure that I will benefit from Glenda's experience this year as much as I did last year, while serving as President-Elect.

The ANS Council had been concerned that the 2007 IBRO Congress would cannibalise the 2008 ANS Meeting. Almost 2,300 people attended the Melbourne Meeting only six months before the Hobart Meeting and the question arose whether most members would be 'conferenced-out'. Rather surprisingly, however, the Hobart Meeting attracted over 600 registrants and, while the meeting had a delightful boutique feel, the neuroscience was certainly not small-scale. The meeting was an outstanding success and Lisa Foa and the Local Organising Committee can feel rightly proud of what they achieved in association with Sally and Chris Jay.

At the ANS Council meeting in Hobart, a half-day was put aside as a Forward Planning Meeting, attended by both the out-going and in-coming members of Council. Previous Presidents of the Society have placed a strong emphasis on establishing ties with other countries in our region and Council considered how the Society could build on the considerable momentum of the IBRO Congress to further these ties. The Council resolved to support a diverse range of new initiatives that ANS would like to undertake jointly with the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee of IBRO over the next three years. The Society will help support students from the region to attend the Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience, enabling students who will be future leaders of neuroscience in the region to establish links at an early stage in their careers.

Council also resolved to sponsor an application for an IBRO Advanced School of Neuroscience in 2009. Jochen Zeil and Jan Hemmi from the Australian National University have put together a detailed proposal for a Summer School on Neuroethology. The idea is that 20 young postdocs and PhD



students, divided between Australasia and the rest of the Asia-Pacific Region, would attend the week-long school at the Kioloa Coastal Campus of ANU, before going to the 2009 ANS Meeting in Canberra. Workshops were once commonly held before ANS Meetings but they have become rare over the last decade. It would be marvellous if workshops and/or summer schools were to become a regular feature of the ANS Meeting once again.

While the organisation of the Annual Meeting is the most important function of the Society, Council is also keen to foster state-based activities during the rest of the year. Funds have been allocated for this purpose and several initiatives are now in the pipeline. ANS is funding two guest lecturers at a retreat of ACT neuroscientists in April, and will help sponsor a workshop for young neuroscientists in South Australia. The Treasurer looks forward to hearing proposals from the other State Representatives as to how the rest of the funds might be spent.

*David Vaney*

## *Contents*

1. David Vaney
2. ANS 2008 Hobart
3. 2008 Annual General Meeting
3. Council Elections and 2008 Council
4. ANS Prizes and Awards
5. News of interest to members
6. Science Meets Parliament
7. Brain Awareness Week - highlights
8. Future ANS Meetings
9. Timetable of Meetings and Courses
10. Policy on email circulation
11. ANS website and newsletter items.
12. Deadlines for future ANS newsletters
13. 2008 AGM Minutes

### ANS PRESIDENT:

Professor David Vaney  
Queensland Brain Institute  
University of Queensland  
Queensland 4072

Tel: +61-7-3346-6334  
[d.vaney@uq.edu.au](mailto:d.vaney@uq.edu.au)

### ANS SECRETARY:

Dr Ann Turnley  
Centre for Neuroscience  
University of Melbourne  
Victoria 3010

Tel: +61-3-8344-3981  
[turnley@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:turnley@unimelb.edu.au)

### ANS TREASURER:

Dr Jacqueline Phillips  
Division of Health Sciences  
Murdoch University  
Western Australia 6150

Tel: +61-8-9360-2257  
[j.k.phillips@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:j.k.phillips@murdoch.edu.au)

### ANS EDITOR:

Professor David Small  
Menzies Research Institute  
199 Macquarie Street  
Hobart, Tasmania 7000

Tel: +61-3-6226-7700  
[d.h.small@menzies.utas.edu.au](mailto:d.h.small@menzies.utas.edu.au)

## ANS 2008 HOBART

The ANS 2008 28th annual meeting held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart was a resounding success. There were 639 delegates who registered with 20 Exhibition Booths and Tables making the numbers outstanding in the context that it was held just 6 months after the IBRO Congress in Melbourne. The dedicated work of Lisa Foa and Rob Gasperini and their team provided excellent science, a great variety of social events and the opportunity to experience some of Tasmania's wonderful attractions.

The scientific program was excellent and it this is in a large part due to the efforts of former editor Paul Martin, the LOC and SPAG. Highlights of the program included the wonderful talks from Carla Shatz as she took us through the recent work from her laboratory on how the immune molecule MHC1 regulates synaptic plasticity and Phil Robinson, who took us into his amazing world of the synaptic vesicle. There was a wide range of symposia, with something for everyone and some great local and overseas speakers. The inaugural Presidential Symposium was an exciting new addition to the ANS program and we hope it continues in future years. It is a great opportunity to highlight young stars of Australian Neuroscience and the winner of the AW Campbell award.

The conference dinner held at Henry Jones Art Hotel was a fantastic evening and clearly raised the bar for future LOCs to match the format. We thank Lisa and Rob and all members of the LOC and the many tireless helpers who made things work behind the scenes. Sally Jay and her team again provided a highly professional presence at the meeting, ensuring seamless onsite coordination. Feedback from the Trade Exhibition was very positive with exhibitors being delighted at the level of contact with a very enthusiastic group of attendees. As always the passport competition was a great success with participants vying for an array of excellent prizes.

It was especially pleasing to see many delegates staying on after the conference and enjoying a wide range of activities including sailing, hiking, shopping, sight seeing and the local cultural and culinary attractions.

Council is to be congratulated on making the bold decision to hold the conference in Tasmania so soon after IBRO and for the support it provided to the LOC.

### Plenary Lecturers Hobart 2008



From left to right (with year of award): Anthony Hannan (2004), Greg Stuart (1998), ANS President-Elect David Vaney, Troy Margrie (Speaker; 2005), Marcello Rosa (1996), Colin Clifford (2003), Janet Taylor (1996), Sam Solomon (Speaker; 2007), Jane Butler (2005), ANS President Glenda Halliday (1993), Gila Moalem-Taylor (Speaker), Elizabeth Coulson (2004), Peter Schofield (1990), Kay Double (2000), Jun-Ping Liu (1995), Paul Lockhart (2008), James Bourne (Speaker; 2006)

## Post-doctoral Researchers' Cocktail Party

Post-doctoral researchers from across the national neuroscience community enjoyed a new event on the social calendar of the Annual Meeting of the Australian Neuroscience Society (ANS) in Hobart this year. The Inaugural Early-Career Researcher Cocktail Party held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January at the Hobart Function & Conference Centre, organised and sponsored by the Post-doctoral Association of the Howard Florey Institute (PAHFI), was attended by up to 100 young researchers from across the Society. The event was a great success and is set to become a regular feature on the ANS social calendar with a similar event already in the planning for ANS2009 in Canberra.



Contributed by Toby Merson

## 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2008 AGM was held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January in the Federation Concert Hall of the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart. The Minutes of the AGM are enclosed with this newsletter. It is particularly pleasing to note that over 210 people attended the meeting. This is very much a record when measured as a percentage of the number of delegates attending the conference and is a clear indication of the strength of our Society. The meeting saw the retirements of Glenda Halliday as President, Andy Lawrence as Treasurer, Paul Martin as Editor and Heather Young as Secretary. The contributions of these tireless servants of the Society was acknowledged with the unanimous passing of motions of thanks. The President of ANS, Glenda Halliday, announced that Ann Turnley had won the election for the position of Secretary and thanked Vaughan Macefield, Janet Taylor and Peregrine Osborne for contesting the election. The postal ballot for the position of Victorian State Representative was won by Joanne Britto and the other contestants, Jennifer Callaway and Emilio Badoer were thanked for participating.

## 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 were elected to Council unopposed:

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

The postal ballot for the position of Secretary was won by **Ann Turnley** and the postal ballot for the position of Victorian State Representative was won by **Joanne Britto**.

## ANS Council membership in 2008

David Vaney – *President* d.vaney@uq.edu.au  
Glenda Halliday – *Past President* g.halliday@powmri.edu.au  
Ann Turnley – *Secretary* turnley@unimelb.edu.au  
Jacqueline Phillips – *Treasurer* j.k.phillips@murdoch.edu.au  
David Small – *Editor* d.h.small@menzies.utas.edu.au  
Michael Ibbotson – *Public Officer* michael.ibbotson@anu.edu.au  
Helen Cooper – *QLD representative* h.cooper@uq.edu.au  
Peregrine Osborne – *NSW representative* p.osborne@usyd.edu.au  
Clarke Raymond – *ACT representative* clarke.raymond@anu.edu.au  
Joanne Britto – *Victorian representative* joanne.britto@florey.edu.au  
Lisa Foa – *Tasmanian representative* lisa.foa@utas.edu.au  
Nicholas Spencer – *SA representative* nicholas.spencer@flinders.edu.au  
Donald Robertson – *WA representative* drobed@cyllene.uwa.edu.au  
Louise Nicholson – *New Zealand representative* lfb.nicholson@auckland.ac.nz

## THANKS TO RETIRING ANS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

### Andy Lawrence - Treasurer 2002-2007

After 6 years in the role of Treasurer, Andy Lawrence retired from the position and from ANS Council at the last AGM. During his time as Treasurer the capital base of the society has grown by more than 300% to nearly \$630,000, which will no doubt enable future councils to expand their activities and enhance the benefits of ANS membership. He single handedly secured tax deductible status for donations to the society, a process which involved many hours of research and negotiation with the Australian Taxation Office. He also rewrote sections of the constitution, tasks that would normally be assigned to legal and accounting professionals. Quite apart from the demands of Treasury, Andy also filled the position of Executive Secretary of the Local Organising Committee of IBRO, which was an almost full-time job in itself. The ANS has been very fortunate to have had Andy Lawrence as a dedicated servant of the society. We thank him and wish him the very best for the future.

### Paul Martin - Editor 2002-2007

Many thanks to Paul for doing a brilliant job over the last 6 years organising the abstracts into conference programs, organising the programming of symposia and for getting some consistency in the formatting of abstracts that were submitted. Given Paul's penchant for "verse", his contribution may best be summed up as follows: ANS editor extraordinaire, Paul Martin programmed conferences with flair, With abstract requirements precise, you had to proof-read at least twice, as to submit no results you'd not dare!

### Heather Young - Secretary 2006-2007

The Society has been fortunate to have a Secretary of Heather Young's calibre during the last two years. Heather's outstanding organisational abilities have been essential to the efficient functioning of the Executive and Council. Much of the Society's business passes through the hands of the Secretary, as witnessed by the fact that Heather's ANS files contained 3,800 emails from her time in office. When Heather was asked why she was not standing for re-election as Secretary, she told friends she feared a blow-out in the entertainment allowance of the incoming President. In truth, however, Heather wanted more time for her research, about which she has always been passionate.

## ANS PRIZES AND AWARDS

The **2008 AW Campbell Award**, for the best contribution by a member of the society in their first 5 post-doctoral years, was awarded to **Dr Paul Lockhart** from the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute in Melbourne.

The **2008 Neurochemistry Funds** had been awarded to **Dr Cherie Ma** from the Howard Florey Institute to attend the 2008 Society for Neuroscience meeting and to visit a laboratory for 2 weeks.

The **Sir Grafton Elliot-Smith Prize** was not awarded in 2008. **Istvan Törk Prizes** for the best oral presentations by student members were won by **Peter Burke** (Macquarie University) and **Caroline Ng** (University of Melbourne).

**Student Poster Prizes** were awarded to: **Claire Foldi** (University of Queensland), **David Gonsalvez** (University of Melbourne), **Dusan Matusica** (Flinders), **Rob Weston** (Howard Florey Institute), **Melissa Walsh** (University of Newcastle) and **Nuwan Dharmaratne** (University of Sydney).

The **2008 Paxinos-Watson Prize**, for the most significant neu-

roscience paper published in 2006, was won jointly by:

“Layer positioning of late-born cortical interneurons is dependent on Reelin but not p35 signaling”, *Journal of Neuroscience* 26:1646-1655, 2006. Vicki Hammond, Eva So, Jenny Gunnersen, Helen Valcanis, Michael Kalloniatis and Seong-Seng Tan. and

“The Wnt receptor Ryk is required for Wnt5a-mediated axon guidance on the contralateral side of the corpus callosum”, *Journal of Neuroscience* 26:5840-5848, 2006. Thomas Keeble, Michael Halford, Clare Seaman, Nigel Kee, Maria Macheda, Richard Anderson, Steven Stacker and Helen Cooper.

The **2008 Nina Kondelos Prize**, for a female neuroscientist who has made an outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research, was awarded to **Professor Sandra Rees** of the University of Melbourne. The Nina Kondelos Prize was made possible by a donation to the Society by Professor George Paxinos and it is named after his late sister.



*AW Campbell Prize winner Paul Lockhart (right) receiving his award from ANS President-Elect David Vaney*



*Paxinos-Watson Prize joint winners Vicki Hammond and Richard Anderson receiving their awards from ANS President-Elect David Vaney*



*Nina Kondelos Prize winner Sandra Rees with George Paxinos*

## NEWS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

### *Congratulations to ANS members . . .*

#### *NHMRC Achievement Awards*

Congratulations to Iain McGregor of the University of Sydney and James Bourne from Monash University for being awarded inaugural NHMRC Achievement Awards at the end of 2007.

#### *Scientist of the Year Awards to New Zealand Neuroscientists*

At the end of 2007 Richard Faull of The University of Auckland was awarded the Rutherford Medal, the highest honour for New Zealand scientists, for his contributions to brain research. His PhD student, Jessie Jacobsen, was named as New Zealand's MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the year for her work on Huntington's disease.

#### *ANS Past Presidents on IBRO Central Committees*

Congratulations to Elspeth McLachlan from the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute who was recently appointed Chair of IBRO's Public Education Programme, incorporating the Brain Campaign. The Public Education Programme aims to increase public awareness of brain research and its applications to human diseases through public scientific events staged around the world. In addition, George Paxinos, also from POWMRI, was elected Chair of the IBRO Congresses & Meetings Committee and Steve Redman from the ANU was re-elected Treasurer of IBRO in 2007 for a second term.

### *Funding Opportunities*

**Brain Foundation Grants 2008.** The aim of these grants is to support individual researchers and research teams to conduct

the highest quality research in brain illnesses and neurological disorders as well as brain and spinal injuries. A subsidiary objective is to provide opportunities for early career researchers to gain initiating funding for projects with potential. Applications close 27 June 2008. See website for details: [http://www.brainaustralia.org.au/research/2008\\_research\\_grants](http://www.brainaustralia.org.au/research/2008_research_grants)

### *SPAG - Scientific Programme Advisory Group*

Individuals who would like to contribute their expertise on the ANS Scientific Programme Advisory Group should contact the ANS Editor (Prof. David Small at [d.h.small@menzies.utas.edu.au](mailto:d.h.small@menzies.utas.edu.au)).

### *New Publication*

#### *– Understanding Younger Onset Dementia*

Lack of awareness of younger onset dementia among doctors and other health professionals is a major problem and greatly contributes to diagnosis in younger people often being even longer and more protracted than for older people. Diagnosis can take several years, causing individuals, their families and carers a great deal of anxiety. To help change this situation Alzheimer's Australia commissioned the Melbourne Neuropsychiatry Centre to prepare the publication *Understanding Younger Onset Dementia*.

In younger people, where dementia is less common, symptoms such as social withdrawal, memory loss, personality changes and mood swings are often initially attributed to stress, marital breakdown, menopause, depression or another mental health disorder. Delays in diagnosis may delay treatment, affect disease progression and reduce time available for legal, financial and care planning.

## NEWS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

### ***New Publication (contin.)***

The aim of this new publication is to improve awareness of younger onset dementia among doctors and other health professionals, and reduce serious delays in obtaining an accurate diagnosis. The publication provides complex information about younger onset dementia in an accessible form, which summarises aspects of the various dementias that occur in adults under 65 years of age.

**The publication is available for free download from [www.alzheimers.org.au](http://www.alzheimers.org.au) Hard copies can also be purchased for \$7.50 each by calling (02) 6254 4233, emailing [admin@alzheimers.org.au](mailto:admin@alzheimers.org.au) or downloading an order form from the website.**

### ***Science Meets Parliament***

Science meets Parliament is an annual event organized by FASTS to enable face-to-face meetings between scientists and politicians in Canberra. It has several aims: to establish links between scientists, politicians and policy makers, to stimulate discussion of scientific issues in Parliament and to provide scientists with an avenue for providing scientific input into various areas should the opportunity arise. This year, the topic in Science meets Parliament most closely related to Neuroscience research was obesity and ANS was represented by two researchers working in this field, Dr Hui Chen from the University of NSW and Dr. Chris Dayas from the University of Newcastle. They have kindly provided a summary of their experiences of the event.

**Hui Chen.** It was an extraordinary experience for me. FASTS organized several events ahead of the informal meetings with the members of Parliament. These included networking with fellow scientists from a variety of research areas, presentations on government research funding policy and tips on how to present opinions, write press releases, as well as casual conversation with members of the House over the dinner table.

I was fortunate to attend two meetings, with Ms Julie Owens from Parramatta NSW, and Senator Guy Barnett from Tasmania. Both of them have a strong interest in public health. We addressed three issues in both meetings. Firstly, to address the importance of basic neuroscience, since it is the basis for much medical research. An understanding of the mechanism of a disease is essential for the development of novel therapeutic strategies and innovation and this is fundamental to improve public health. Senator Barnett has devoted a great deal of time and energy to obesity prevention. He has launched a guideline of healthy lifestyle for children to prevent obesity. The second issue we addressed was the nexus between research results and outcome. Governments can help to deliver some simple messages from basic science to educate the community and change people's lifestyles to improve public health. Another is to promote the results from clinical trials towards improving clinical practice. This was agreed by both Senator Barnett and Ms Owens. The third issue we carefully addressed was support of the early career researcher, such as changing the criteria for offering funding and prolonging fellowship terms. Unfortunately, this matter was outside of their sphere of interest.

Finally, I would like to thank the ANS for sponsoring me to speak with politicians in the Parliament about basic neuroscience and obesity.

**Chris Dayas.** Science Meets Parliament (SMP) was an extremely interesting experience and one that I highly recommend. I thank the ANS for giving me the opportunity. The first day included a highly informative 'course' on science communication particularly aimed at talking to politicians. I found these sessions to be extremely useful and it highlighted the importance and challenge of communicating our findings to lay people and politicians. There were also presentations

by Mr Bob McMullan (MP) and Senator Kim Carr (Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research) who both indicated that re-investment in science and technology is a priority issue for the Rudd government. Interestingly, a talk by the Shadow Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Mr Eric Abetz, suggests that the opposition have also realized that this area needs reinvestment and focus! I had the opportunity to meet and discuss various issues with Mr Luke Simpkins Liberal Party Member for Cowan, WA and Senator Jan McLucas (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Aging). During these discussions I was able to outline my area of research and raised the importance of encouraging students back to sciences. I reflected on my own experience of being encouraged by my high school biology teacher to study science at a tertiary level, indeed his enthusiasm for biology encouraged a number of students to go onto pursue careers in biology and medicine. The issue of basic versus translation research and the importance of multidisciplinary approaches to health-related issues such as obesity was raised. I was actually quite surprised by the level of interest shown by politicians on both sides of parliament. An interesting point was made by those who work closely with politicians that you can achieve just as much, in-terms-of raising relevant issues in parliament, by lobbying the political party in opposition. For example, the opposition can highlight issues in question time which may help to ensure that commitments to election promises are held e.g. increased mid-career fellowships! The point being that even if your local member is an opposition or minor party member chatting to them about your science and concerns can still achieve something. Overall this was a highly worthwhile experience and I made a number of interesting contacts with people from a variety of fields with shared interests and concerns.

### ***Brain Awareness Week***

#### **10th – 16th March - Highlights**

##### **March 12**

Round 1 of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge saw more than 9000 student across Australia and New Zealand take part in the multiple choice section. There has been an explosion of interest around this event, with more than a 10 fold increase in the number of students participating this year compared to 2007.

**New Zealand:** Public lecture *Can molecules explain minds?* This lecture, presented by Hood Fellow Professor Andrew Matus, visiting from the Friedrich Miescher Institute in Basel Switzerland talked about how senses and behaviour depend on the pattern of connections in the enormously complex circuits of the brain. Professor Matus discussed recent research that has uncovered a molecular mechanism that produces rapid changes in the structure of synaptic connections between nerve cells, leading to new perspectives on the extent molecular events in the brain can explain mental phenomena such as consciousness.

##### **March 13**

**Queensland:** Toshiya Yamada memorial lecture, presented as a joint initiative of the Queensland Brain Institute and the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at UQ. Dr Toshiya Yamada was a neuroscientist with the IMB until his sudden death in 2001. The 2008 memorial lecture was given by A/Prof. Jozef Gecz, Head, Neurogenetics Research Program at the University of Adelaide. The title of his talk was "The genetic landscape of learning and memory: What do we learn from naturally occurring mutations".

##### **March 15**

**New Zealand:** The University of Auckland's Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences hosted the annual Neurological Open Day. Around 2000 people visited the event during the day,

## NEWS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

which featured lectures from active neurological researchers, presentations by support groups and hands-on activities by members of the Auckland Neuroscience Network. The day, supported by the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand, and The Guardian Trust, culminated in a second public lecture by Professor Matus with a keen audience of around 240.

### **Australian Brain Bee Challenge**

Australian Neuroscience Society members helped to coordinate the first round of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge (ABBC) neuroscience quiz for high school students that took place during Brain Awareness Week in Australia and New Zealand in March. This year's event attracted a spectacular increase in numbers, with more than 9000 students from Australia and New Zealand registering to participate in the multiple choice neuroscience quiz. ABBC coordinator, Queensland Brain Institute neuroscientist Associate Professor Linda Richards said the startling increase in participants was a tribute to the event's growing popularity among high school students and their teachers.

"Year ten is a crucial time for a young student's future, and we want to open their eyes to the possibility of a career in neuroscience," Dr Richards said. "It's exciting how this competition has really taken off. We now have an ANS member in almost every state and territory in Australia participating, helping to coordinate more than 3500 students from New South Wales, over 2000 Queensland students and more than 1300 students from New Zealand."

Organisers worked to make enrolment procedures easier for teachers this year, which has been reflected in the massive increase in participants. With thousands of quiz books and instructions to deliver across a region that stretches more than 5200 km from Dunedin (New Zealand) to Darwin, ABBC administrative officer Rhonda Lyons had to call in volunteers to help prepare the necessary satchels.

"The sheer volume of the satchels stacked three feet high across the room emphasised to us just how many schools were participating," Mrs Lyons said. "It was exciting to think that more than 9000 young people were talking about neuroscience around the family table both before and after the quiz. I've since had dozens of emails from students telling me how much they enjoyed learning about the brain, and from teachers saying thanks for the 'great experience' of being involved," she said.

The Australasian competition progresses to round two on 24 June, when the top students from each state and territory compete for the right to participate in the national final on 3 - 4 August. Last year's national ABBC champion, Quinn McGenniskin from Traralgon, Victoria will travel to Montreal in May to compete in the International Brain Bee Competition, which coincides with the Second Annual Canadian Neuroscience Meeting on 25 - 28 May. *Provided by Linda Richards and written by Ron Hohenhaus*

### **FUTURE ANS MEETINGS**

**ANS 2009** is to be held at the refurbished National Convention Centre in Canberra ACT, Tuesday 27 to Friday 30 January 2009. The LOC, chaired by Michael Ibbotson, is currently putting together exciting scientific and social programs for what promises to be a rewarding and enlightening meeting. Members are reminded that quite apart from its many historic and cultural attractions there are excellent Australia Day activities in Canberra (Australia Day being the day before ANS2009 starts) and the LOC will inform registrants of these in due course.

### **Plenary Lectures**

ANS Plenary Lecturer

**Greg Stuart**, Australian National University, Canberra  
ANS Overseas Lecturer

**Richard Morris**, University of Edinburgh, Scotland  
ANS Lawrie Austin Lecturer

**Phil Beart**, Howard Florey Institute, Melbourne  
Eccles Lecturer - not known at this stage

### **Call for Symposia**

The ANS is now calling for symposium proposals for ANS 2009. If you would like to suggest a symposium, please forward your proposal to the ANS Secretary, Dr. Ann Turnley (turnley@unimelb.edu.au) no later than Wednesday, April 30.

### **Symposium Guidelines for Organisers and Invited Speakers**

Symposia normally comprise 4 invited speakers (up to 30 min per speaker) and are centred around a single theme. Each symposium should have at least one overseas speaker. Proposals should give the symposium title and detail what area of research the symposium will cover and why this area is important. In addition, a brief (e.g. half page) CV for each speaker will assist the Program Committee in making their selections.

The ANS offers up to \$2,500 to each Symposium as a contribution towards airfare, accommodation and out of pocket expenses for one overseas speaker, plus honorary conference registration and one dinner ticket. If more than one overseas speaker is invited in a Symposium, it is the organiser's responsibility to raise sponsorship for this speaker but the ANS will offer a further honorary registration and dinner ticket for this speaker. All other invited symposia speakers, organizers and chairs are expected to pay a registration fee and for all of their own expenses to attend the meeting.

**ANS 2010** at the Sydney Convention Centre Sydney from Sunday 31 January to Wednesday 3 February 2010. Sam Solomon is Chair of the LOC.

**ANS 2011** to be held in Auckland, New Zealand from 31 January to 3 February. Louise Nicholson is the Chair of the LOC.

**ANS 2012** to be held in Queensland at either Brisbane or on the Gold Coast with the dates to be confirmed.

### **TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS AND COURSES OF INTEREST TO ANS MEMBERS**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.happinessanditscauses.com.au)

**ISDN 2008 – the 17th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Developmental Neuroscience** - which will take place June 1-4, 2008 in Asilomar, CA, USA. Details on the conference are available at [www.isdn-conference.elsevier.com](http://www.isdn-conference.elsevier.com)

**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>

**Novel Strategies to Dissect Pathomechanisms in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease with a Focus on Imaging Techniques**, Saturday 21 June 2008, the Brain & Mind Research Institute, 100 Mallett Street, Camperdown, NSW, Australia. Contact Professor Juergen Goetz (jgoetz@med.usyd.edu.au) for further information and registration brochure.

## NEWS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

**Neuroscience 2008, The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Japan Neuroscience Society**, 9-11 July 2008. See: <http://www.congre.co.jp/neurosci2008/english/index.html>

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the International College of Geriatric Psychoneuropharmacology, UNSW Scientia**, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2008. This landmark meeting serves to foster cross-fertilisation of scientific knowledge among clinical and preclinical scientists from different related disciplines. The theme for the 2008 meeting is "Protecting and Repairing the Ageing Brain". The program will include healthy brain ageing and the full range of neuropsychiatric disorders in the elderly, including dementias, MCI, late onset schizophrenia, mood and anxiety disorders of late life, sleep disorders, Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders, stroke and cerebrovascular disease. For further information please email: [icgp2008@unsw.edu.au](mailto:icgp2008@unsw.edu.au) Lauren Norton: 02 9382 2094 [www.icgp.org](http://www.icgp.org)

**Second Brain Plasticity Symposium**, September: 9 – 12, 2008, Queensland Brain Institute, University of Queensland. The aim of this symposium is to bring together world experts in general areas of brain plasticity ranging from cellular and molecular through to systems neuroscience with an overall focus on the understanding of neural function in development, health and disease. Confirmed Speakers include – Robert Malenka (Stanford University), Mriganka Sur (MIT), John Kessler (Northwestern University), Thomas Sudhof (University of Texas Southwestern), Hongjun Song (John Hopkins University), Alun Davies (Cardiff University), Aike Guo (Institute of Neuroscience, Shanghai) and Steve Moss (University of Pennsylvania), Jason Mattingley (Queensland Brain Institute). There is a poster session and three posters will be selected to give short talks. For details and registration contact: Pankaj Sah [Pankaj.sah@uq.edu.au](mailto:Pankaj.sah@uq.edu.au)

**Infectious Diseases of the Nervous System: Pathogenesis and worldwide impact**, Pasteur Institute, Paris, 10-13 September 2008. Further information: Dr Roberto Bruzzone, [bruzzone@hku.hk](mailto:bruzzone@hku.hk)

**ComBio2008 – 21-25 September 2008, National Convention Centre, CANBERRA.** Website [www.asbmb.org.au/combio](http://www.asbmb.org.au/combio)

**Medical Bionics - A New Paradigm for Human Health**, 16-19 November 2008, Lorne, Victoria, Australia. Further information: <http://www.medicalbionics.consec.com.au/> or contact Kristal Smith ([ksmith@bionicear.org](mailto:ksmith@bionicear.org))

**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>

**10<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Stereology and Image Analysis<sup>®</sup> (Ecs10)** June 22-June 29, 2009; Università Degli Studi Di Milani, Milan, Italy <http://ecs10.mat.unimi.it/>

**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](mailto:v.macefield@uws.edu.au)

### 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, Dr Jackie Phillips at: [j.k.phillips@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:j.k.phillips@murdoch.edu.au) All donations, regardless of amount, are most welcome.

### 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](mailto: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.

### DEADLINES FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| August 2008 Newsletter   | 28 July 2008     |
| October 2008 Newsletter  | 6 October 2008   |
| December 2008 Newsletter | 24 November 2008 |

### Address and contact details for the ANS secretariat:

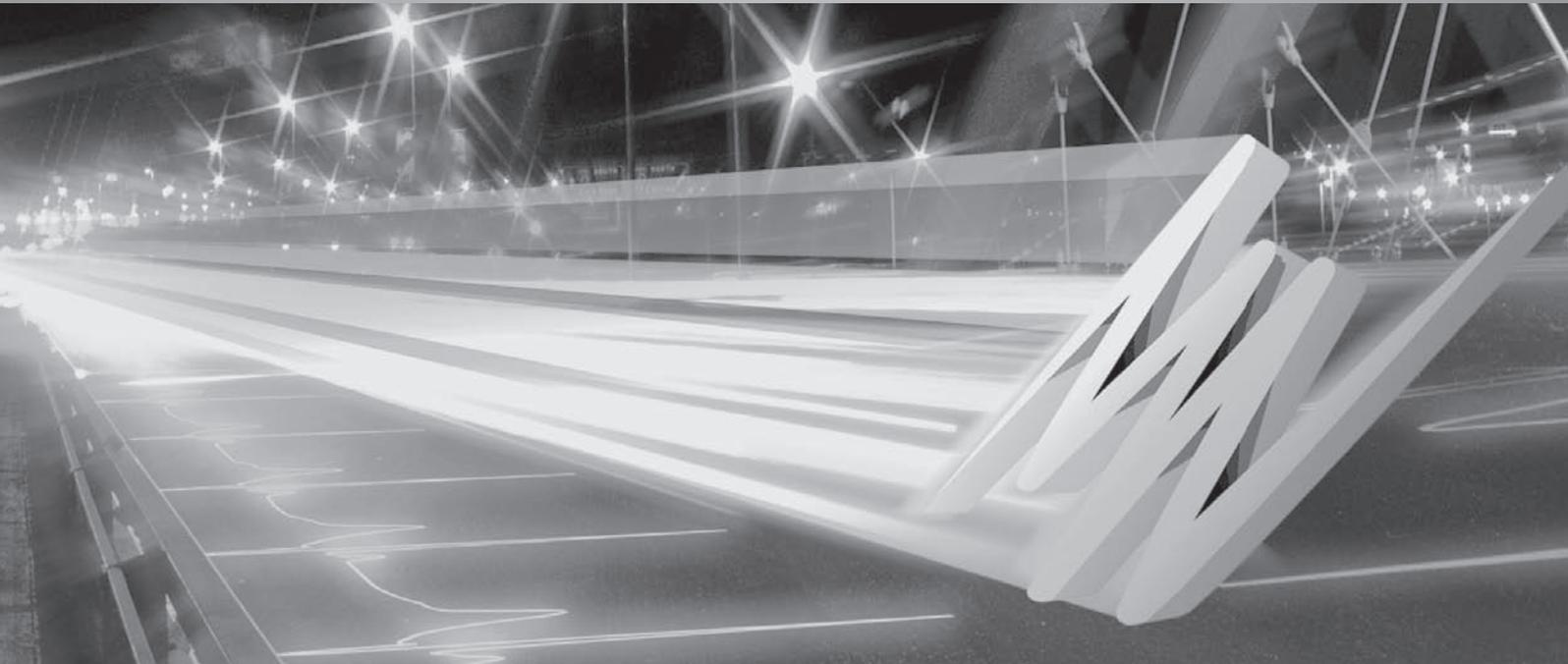
Sally Jay Conferences can be contacted by the following means:-  
Mail: PO Box 2331 KENT TOWN SA 5071  
Phone: (08) 8362 0038  
Fax: (08) 8362 0038 (International – Phone/fax: 618 8362 0038)  
Email: [ans@sallyjayconferences.com.au](mailto:ans@sallyjayconferences.com.au)  
Web: [www.ans.org.au](http://www.ans.org.au)

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### Authorized by Ann Turnley

Secretary – Australian Neuroscience Society Inc  
Centre for Neuroscience  
University of Melbourne  
VICTORIA 3010  
Phone: 61 3 8344 3981  
Fax: 61 3 9347 4432  
Email: [turnley@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:turnley@unimelb.edu.au)

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ANS PRESIDENT:

Professor David Vaney  
Queensland Brain Institute  
The University of Queensland  
Queensland 4072, Australia  
Tel: +61-7-3346-6334  
Fax: +61-7-3346-6301  
Mobile: 0438-144-984  
Email: d.vaney@uq.edu.au

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# Minutes

## Annual General Meeting

### Australian Neuroscience Society AGM

**Federation Concert Hall, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart**

**4:30 pm, 30 January 2008**

#### **1. Attendance**

Signed attendance sheets show that 204 members were in attendance. Apologies were received from Andrew Gundlach, Lauren Marotte, Helen Cooper, Phil Beart, Peter Schofield, Laurie Geffen, Gina Geffen, Tailoi Chang-Ling, Jillian Kril, Jackie Phillips, Pankaj Sah.

#### **2. Minutes of Previous ANS General Meeting**

Motion: The Minutes of the ANS General Meeting held in July 2007 are accurate.

Moved: Paul Pilowsky

Seconded: Lisa Foa

Passed unanimously.

#### **3. Awarding of new Honorary Membership postponed**

The President, Glenda Halliday, reminded members that Robert Porter had been made an honorary member of ANS at the General Meeting in July 2007, and was to be awarded the honorary membership at this meeting. However, Professor Porter was unable to attend the Hobart meeting and will attend the next ANS meeting in 2009 in Canberra to accept his award.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Andrew Lawrence, reported an operating surplus of \$361,312 in 2007. This was the result of the success of IBRO and also because many of the costs associated with running the annual meeting (plenary speaker travel, website etc) were covered by the IBRO budget. ANS now has assets of \$627,729.

Motion: To accept the financial statement for the year ending September 30 2007.

Moved: David Small

Seconded: Ann Turnley

Passed unanimously.

Motion: To re-appoint the Auditor.

Moved: Lisa Foa

Seconded: Ida Llewellyn-Smith

Passed unanimously.

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SECRETARY: Dr Ann Turnley  
Centre for Neuroscience  
The University of Melbourne  
Victoria 3010, Australia  
Tel: +61-3-8344-3981  
Email: turnley@unimelb.edu.au

TREASURER: Dr Jacqueline Phillips  
Division of Health Sciences  
Murdoch University  
Western Australia 6150, Australia  
Tel: +61-8-9360-2257  
Email: j.k.phillips@murdoch.edu.au

EDITOR: Professor David Small  
Menzies Research Institute  
199 Macquarie Street  
Hobart, Tasmania 7000, Australia  
Tel: +61-3-6226-7700  
Email: d.h.small@menzies.utas.edu.au

71 student travel grants, covering 90% of a discount return airfare, had been awarded for the Hobart meeting. The Treasurer reported that he had finished a 6 year term of office, and during this time ANS had undergone substantial growth and employed a national office. Financial control of the annual meeting and ANS investment portfolios had been streamlined, DGR status had been attained and members' funds had been doubled following the successful IBRO meeting. The Treasurer thanked Sally and Chris Jay, Phil Robinson, Andrew Gundlach, members of ANS executive and Council, the IBRO LOC, the Department of Pharmacology at Monash University and the Howard Florey Institute for their help over the past 6 years.

Glenda Halliday proposed a vote of thanks to Andrew, which was seconded by George Paxinos and passed unanimously.

#### 5. Editor's Report

The Editor, Paul Martin, showed a graph of the number of meeting registrations at the ANS annual meeting. Although the number of registrants fluctuates depending on the location of the meeting, there has been a steady increase in the number of registrants overall. The registration fee had also increased, although the registration fee for the Hobart meeting was kept the same as that for the 2006 ANS meeting in Sydney. The total number of presentations at each meeting, apart from IBRO, had not changed very much since 2003. The Editor reported that he had finished a 6 year term of office and during this time he has overseen the introduction of web-based registration and abstract submission, a submission to the National Neuroscience Taskforce in 2003, a joint meeting with IBRO with 2289 registrants in 2007, and sustained growth of the annual meeting. Glenda Halliday proposed a vote of thanks to Paul, which was seconded by John Rostas and passed unanimously.

#### 6. Secretary's report

The secretary, Heather Young, showed a graph of the membership of ANS. In 2007, membership of ANS exceeded 1000 for the first time. Council had discussed the possibility of replacing the printed newsletter with an electronic newsletter. Based on advice from Sally Jay, Council had decided to retain the hardcopy as it is a source of revenue via inserts, and it was felt that more people are likely to read a hardcopy. Members were encouraged to forward news items for the newsletter to the secretary. It was hoped that the ANS website would be the primary source of information about neuroscience in Australia, and members were encouraged to forward meeting information and job advertisements to the secretary. The secretary reported that she had finished her 2 year term of office. Glenda Halliday proposed a vote of thanks to Heather, which was moved by Lisa Foa, seconded by Steve Kerr and passed unanimously.

#### 7. President's report

Glenda Halliday reported that there were 639 registrants at the Hobart meeting, which was excellent considering the meeting was held only 6 months after IBRO and was not held in one of the major cities. She thanked the Hobart LOC for organizing a great meeting, and in particular, recognized the efforts of Lisa Foa and Rob Gasperini. The primary task of ANS is to organize an annual meeting, but Council wished to determine whether members wanted ANS to perform additional roles. During her term of office, the President had visited the states and the state representatives had organized meetings with ANS members and with CEOs and co-ordinators of state-based neuroscience organizations. The feedback from these meetings was that the state-based neuroscience organizations are fulfilling some of the roles of ANS, with a resultant weakening of the state-based structure of ANS. Many members would like ANS to do more than just organize an annual meeting, and to contribute to public awareness, advocacy for neuroscience research, professional development etc.

The President thanked outgoing Council members: Andrew Lawrence, Paul Martin, Heather Young, Lauren Marotte (who started as Public Officer around 1990), Giles Plant, Eugene Nalivaiko, Jenny Callaway and Steve Kerr. Michael Ibbotson would change roles from ACT representative to Public Officer. A motion to thank outgoing Council members was moved by John Rostas, seconded by Ida Llewellyn-Smith and passed unanimously.

#### 8. Prizes and Awards

The **2007 AW Campbell Award**, for the best contribution by a member of the society in their first 5 post-doctoral years, was awarded to **Dr Paul Lockhart** from the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute in Melbourne. The award had been presented to Paul during the Presidential Symposium earlier in the meeting.

The **2008 Neurochemistry Funds** had been awarded to **Dr Cherie Ma** from the Howard Florey Institute to attend the 2008 Society for Neuroscience meeting and to visit a laboratory for 2 weeks.

The **Sir Grafton Elliot-Smith Prize** was not awarded in 2008.

The President thanked Tracey Dickson for co-ordinating the judging of the student orals and thanked the judges: Tracey Dickson, Simon Brookes, Adam Hamlin, Matthew Kirkcaldie, Annabel Sims, Rob Gasperini and Anna King. **Istvan Törk Prizes** for the best oral presentations by student members were won by **Peter Burke** (Macquarie University) and **Caroline Ng** (University of Melbourne).

The President thanked Tracey Dickson for co-ordinating the judging of the student poster prizes and thanked the judges: Tracey Dickson, Toby Merson, Richard Anderson, David Reser, Matthew Kirkcaldie, Rob Gasperini, Anna King, Chandra Malladi, Bridget Southwell, Genevieve Evin, Alison Canty and Roger Chung.

**Student Poster Prizes** were awarded to: **Claire Foldi** (University of Queensland), **David Gonsalvez** (University of Melbourne), **Dusan Matusica** (Flinders), **Rob Weston** (Howard Florey Institute), **Melissa Walsh** (University of Newcastle) and **Nuwan Dharmaratne** (University of Sydney).

The **2008 Paxinos-Watson Prize**, for the most significant neuroscience paper published in 2006, was won jointly by: “Layer positioning of late-born cortical interneurons is dependent on Reelin but not p35 signaling”, *Journal of Neuroscience* 26:1646-1655, 2006. Vicki Hammond, Eva So, Jenny Gunnensen, Helen Valcanis, Michael Kalloniatis and Seong-Seng Tan. **Paper submitted by Dr. Vicki Hammond.**

and

“The Wnt receptor Ryk is required for Wnt5a-mediated axon guidance on the contralateral side of the corpus callosum”, *Journal of Neuroscience* 26:5840-5848, 2006. Thomas Keeble, Michael Halford, Clare Seaman, Nigel Kee, Maria Macheda, Richard Anderson, Steven Stacker and Helen Cooper. **Paper submitted by Dr. Richard Anderson.**

The Nina Kondelos Prize was made possible by a donation to the Society by Professor George Paxinos, and it is named after his late sister. The Prize is for a female neuroscientist for outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research. The **2008 Nina Kondelos Prize** was awarded to **Professor Sandra Rees** of the University of Melbourne.

#### **9. Other business**

There was no other business raised.

#### **10. Council membership in 2009**

David Vaney - *President*

Glenda Halliday - *Past President*

Ann Turnley - *Secretary*

Jacqueline Phillips - *Treasurer*

David Small - *Editor*

Michael Ibbotson - *Public Officer*

Helen Cooper - *QLD representative*

Peregrine Osborne - *NSW representative*

Clarke Raymond - *ACT representative*

Joanne Britto - *Victorian representative*

Lisa Foa - *Tasmanian representative*

Nicholas Spencer - *SA representative*

Donald Robertson - *WA representative*

Louise Nicholson - *New Zealand representative*

The President urged members to communicate their views about ANS to their state members, which in turn would communicate the views to Council. She encouraged members to approach any member of ANS Council with suggestions or with complaints about ANS.

The President then introduced the incoming President, David Vaney.

#### **11. Future Meetings**

David Vaney reminded members that the 2009 ANS meeting would be in Canberra. Greg Stuart will be invited to present the ANS Plenary Lecture and Phil Beart will be invited to present the Lawrie Austin Plenary Lecture. Richard Morris from the University of Edinburgh has accepted an invitation to present the 2009 ANS Overseas Plenary Lecture.

The incoming President thanked Glenda Halliday for her contribution to the Society during her term as President. She had worked extremely hard, in particular, she had gone to a lot of effort to visit the states, to listen to members and talk to other stakeholders.

David proposed a vote of thanks to Glenda, which was moved by Lisa Foa, seconded by Bogdan Dreher and passed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 5:15 pm.



# ANS 2009

Australian Neuroscience Society Inc.

## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Tuesday, 27 January – Friday, 30 January 2009

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**National Convention Centre  
CANBERRA**

•

*Arrangements are already underway for our ANS 2009 Meeting to be held at the newly renovated National Convention Centre in Canberra.*

The conference website address of:  
**<http://www.sallyjayconferences.com.au/ans2009>**  
will have up to date information of ANS 2009 from May 2008.

*Further details:*

**Programme:**

**Michael Ibbotson: [michael.ibbotson@anu.edu.au](mailto:michael.ibbotson@anu.edu.au)**

**Registration/Exhibition:**

**Sally Jay Conferences: [ans@sallyjayconferences.com.au](mailto:ans@sallyjayconferences.com.au)**