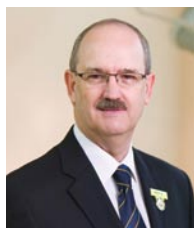


The President's desk



During the last weekend of May, the Board held a three-day face-to-face meeting at the Secretariat in Melbourne. Members will have seen in previous issues that the changes planned under the Board's strategy are now coming to reality and it was pleasing for the Board to be able to see for themselves the roll-out of exciting improvements in communications and learning opportunities.

The Board covered an extensive range of issues during the meeting; from hearing from the Advanced Practice Working Group through to more effective ways to engage students and PDY practitioners in the AIR. All of our panels are working hard on important issues, and the Board received comprehensive reports on matters requiring our attentions from OQAP, PAEB, MIAP1 and MIAP2 and RTAP as well as those mentioned above.

The Board has asked that future issues of *Spectrum* contain articles on all the developments which are taking place, as well as the AIR responses to the various and complex external issues.

We have prepared AIR position papers on National Registration due to be in place by mid 2012 for our profession – we support and welcome this initiative. We are particularly delighted to see that this will bring about registration of practitioners in New South Wales and South Australia.

We are receiving many enquiries about the introduction of practitioner assistants, and have placed on the AIR website a clear policy statement reflecting members' views that the issues is one of the delivery of ionizing radiation. The Board is working more on this issue and closely monitoring developments.

I am pleased to be able to report that membership is growing

steadily and this is a focus of the Board's attention. With renewals just completed I would like to think that the membership has found the web interface intuitive and effective – though I recognise that any new technology may have provided some teething problems for some of you. I ask for understanding if that has been the case and that you recognise the longer term changes and benefits which will accrue to you all from this period of development.

In the August *Spectrum* I hope to be able to report fully on the recent visit the Executive Officer David Collier and I have made to both the Canadian Association (CAMRT), attending CAMRT Annual General Conference in early June and then with the Society of Radiographers (SoR) at the UK – Radiological Congress immediately afterwards. We have both made a number of new friends, and more importantly were able to progress discussions on a range of issues such as a joint journal with the Canadians and continuum of practice with our UK colleagues. It was a very intensive and busy trip for us both.

The Board has taken up the call from members to put more effort into lobbying government. We have commissioned further surveys so as to provide the facts we need to be able to mount solid arguments. As practitioners, conducting the practice of our profession is evidence based, and as such, we must display the same rigour and attention to detail in our submissions. I would thank everyone who responded to these surveys and ask that you to continue to support your professional association in our efforts to present your views effectively and clearly.

Tim Way
President

Would you like an opportunity to attend an international conference or workshop or to undertake a study tour?

It is time to get your applications ready for the AIR International Travel Scholarships. These scholarships provide members with an opportunity to enhance clinical skills, knowledge and to provide international networking opportunities.

Ordinary members of the AIR may apply for one of two scholarship grants of \$A5000.00, one scholarship will awarded in Diagnostic Imaging and one in Radiation Therapy.

Provisional members of the AIR may apply for one of two scholarship grants of \$A3500.00, one scholarship will be awarded in Diagnostic Imaging and one in Radiation Therapy.

All interested members are encouraged to apply; remember you have to be in it to win it.

Successful applicants are encouraged upon their return to Australia to contribute to the profession and share their experiences.

Applications will close on Friday October 30th 2009

Further information and application guidelines are available from the AIR website, visit www.air.asn.au

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