



A2O NEWSLETTER—SPECIAL EDITION

The New Year

Gong Xi Fa Chai, everyone!

(literal meaning: wishing you much wealth, in health and life).

It is coincidence that the new education year began as many of our Chinese colleagues also celebrated the Chinese new year. Our hope is that we may all benefit from this Chinese

'new year' blessing as we embark on the 2008 education year.

All Registrars have now begun their new term and we especially welcome our 2008 cohort to the Adelaide to Outback fraternity. We also warmly welcome three new practices to the training group; namely Ceduna Family Medical Centre, Kangaroo Island Medical Clinic and Central Clinic at Port Pirie.

Our regular newsletters will officially begin in March and will continue to be issued on a bi-monthly basis. This special edition has two key aims; one, to welcome you to the new education year; and two, to inform you of some key personnel changes within A2O and some impending key activities.

Key changes to personnel

Adieus

In the last edition, you may have read Janet Garcia-Souter's precis of her sojourn with Adelaide to Outback, in the role of Medical Education Manager. Soon after this was written Janet found out that she needed to return to Queensland. Her last day was Friday 1 February 2008. We bade her adieu in 'Adelaidean' style at the Lion, which we know she appreciated. Please find below her farewell comments:

'As the year draws to a close it is with a heavy heart and a great sense of disappointment that I have had to make the decision to move back to Queensland due to unforeseen family circumstances. Whilst my time with Adelaide to Outback has been cut short I am extremely conscious of the wealth of dedication, talent and strength that exists within A2O to maintain the excellence in education and training for which it is so well renowned for during this brief period of flux as a direct result of my departure. Thank you to everyone at A2O for taking me into your hearts and under your wing. I have learned so much in such a short period of time, but most of all, that you do outstanding work in the lives of future GPs. I hope you don't mind if I bring your friendships with me in my suitcase.'

Nigel Klein was also fondly farewelled at the Graduands' Dinner late last year. His official last day – after taking annual leave – was also Friday 1 February. This time he IS totally departing from Adelaide to Outback as a salaried employee. Those who have cause to liaise with the Women's and Children's Hospital may have the pleasure of bumping into him as he refreshes his nursing skills.

This 'refresher' training, together with his bible studies and high order education skills will ensure he is well prepared for his intended mission work in 2009. He has also offered to do a little consultancy training work and we certainly intend to take him up on this offer.

Welcomes

We welcome Carolyn Cheah, our Business Manager, back from maternity leave. She is now officially back two days a week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) and will be resuming her four-day work routine in April.

We would also like to welcome the following individuals who have joined the A2O team:

- Roberta Morris, as our new Medical Education Manager. She comes to us with a wealth of General Practice-related and education-related work experience (both urban and rural) and we are pleased to welcome her to the team as of Monday 18 February 2008.
- Victoria Thomasson, as our inaugural Corporate Services Manager, who in her short time with us (since early January 2008) is already successfully underpinning the Business Manager in the conduct of her duties.
- Vanessa Ryan, as our new IMG Program Coordinator, who also comes to us with a diverse and rich mix of GP-related, nursing and academic work experience.

We look forward to providing you with introductory profiles of these new staff members in the first official edition of the newsletter in March.



Impending key activities

AGPT Accreditation of Adelaide to Outback (31 March – 3 April 2008)

Accreditation, of us as a regional training provider, is upon us again. Like me, your first thoughts may be 'didn't we just finish negotiating the new tender ... which came hot on the heels of the last AGPT accreditation process?' The answer would be 'yes!' For those who have not been with us throughout our six year existence, we were last accredited in 2005; succeeded in gaining a further three year contract in an open tender in 2006; actively negotiated the financial

aspects of our tender arrangements in 2007; and now find ourselves in the throes of preparing for full accreditation again in 2008.

The AGPT accreditation process will again involve a four-day comprehensive investigation, by a large group of surveyors made up of GPET, other RTP, RACGP and ACRRM personnel. Some of you have already agreed to be active participants – and for this we thank you. Others are yet to be invited. Please bear with us as we set about the task of seeking your involvement in the conduct of this process. Our aim is to present a full

picture of how the collective 'we' at Adelaide to Outback deliver this very important training program within our region.

Annual Education Weekend (23 May – 25 May 2008)

The AGPT accreditation required us to push back the date of our annual education weekend. In keeping with our rotation of urban and rural venues, this year's weekend will be held in a rural location; at the Clare Country Club, in the Clare Valley (Mid North region). See below for more information.

Education Weekend 2008

23–25 May, Clare Country Club



Enter this date in your diaries now!

The Weekend will be launched on the evening of Friday 23 May, and will run over the following two days. The program is currently in production but is already promising to be another exciting education event combining skills and knowledge acquisition together with networking.

This annual event targets all Registrars and their families completing their Hospital, Basic, or Advanced terms (who are expected to attend) and at least one Supervisor and their family from each of our core Teaching Practices.

Registrars completing their Subsequent terms or an Advanced Rural Skills Posts, Extended Skills Posts or Academic Skills Posts are also welcome to attend, but it is totally optional. Similarly, one Supervisor from each of our supplementary Teaching Practices is also welcome to attend, but again this is optional.

For those involved with our Prevocational GP Placement Program (PGPPP) this year we are also attaching our annual PGPPP collaborative partners' forum to this program. It will be a satellite event held during the day on Friday 23 May 2008 and will allow interested parties the opportunity to stay on and participate in pertinent elements of the education weekend.

If you have queries or concerns about this year's Education Weekend, please contact Jane Griffin on 8366 3130.

Keep an eye out for your personal invitation coming soon!

