

AGM Friday 21.09.2012

President's Report

It is with pleasure that I present this report today.

This year saw a change of Executive from the North Island to the South Island with people living as far apart as Christchurch and Central Otago, and through the use of electronic medium were able to hold regular meetings, while we got use to our new roles.

We found that the Secretary was more suited as Treasurer while the Treasurer became the Secretary and once the role reversals were sorted, we had a highly efficient team.

It has been a steep learning curve, there is so much history to ANZSOM and we have to be careful to learn from the past as well as guide the Society towards the future.

Our concerns have been the loss of skilled Practitioners overseas, particularly to Australia, and the need to encourage our New Zealand GP's to understand Occupational Medicine and its role in Early Return to Work, and the place of Occupational Medicine knowledge with the future concept of "wellness certificates instead of "sickness certificates".

The need for a team approach to the problems facing Health in general, and Occupational Medicine in particular, lead to the "Team Work" theme for this conference.

We recognise that our needs (and hence our direction) may be slightly different to that of our Australian Occupational Medicine colleagues, but we are determined to keep a close liaison with the Australian branch, and the new president of ANZSOM will be at this conference, and sharing thoughts about our future directions with us.

The Australians are developing teaching modules that will meet Professional Development requirements and your executive is looking into the suitability (and cost) of these programmes for New Zealand members.

My thanks go to the hard working Executive, Mary as secretary, John as treasurer, and Simon as Immediate past-president. Their help and support has been greatly appreciated.

Mike Anderson
21/09/2012