

Dear AIPN Members

In case you didn't notice, this newsletter is a month late. We held it up so that we could report on the changes for AIPN following the AGM.

Firstly, as Richard explains below, the Secretariat has resigned effective 26 September 03. There are discussions underway on what kind of service we can afford, given our modest membership fees. In the interim, would you mind directing your queries to one of the members of the Executive, preferably by email. Remember we are all volunteers, and the phone numbers provided are at our workplaces so should only be used in an emergency (contact information on the back page).

Secondly, there are three new Executive Members. Paul Vardon from Queensland was nominated and appointed as Secretary, replacing Aleksandra Natora, and Jenny Blitvitch (NSW) and Lesley Day (Vic) replacing Caroline Finch and Malinda Steencamp.



The handover!!!! Paul and Aleks.

Aleks has been a terrific Secretary since her appointment to the position in September 2001, giving of herself far beyond the call of duty. One example was that she took time out to attend the AIPN Executive planning day in Sydney which was only ONE WEEK before her wedding to take place in Adelaide. Preparation personified, that's Aleks.

Thirdly, we are pleased to welcome Kathleen Clapham to the role of Indigenous Liaison Officer for AIPN. More about Kathy inside...

And lastly, the replacement for Caroline Finch as Public Officer for AIPN is Jan Shield. Jan has held the position previously, and is another dedicated member of the AIPN who is always willing to help out.

Fran McFadzen, Newsletter Editor



## President's Report to AGM for 2003

The past 12 months have continued to see the AIPN grow and improve. The 6<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Injury Prevention and Control held in Perth in March this year saw 332 delegates attend the conference. Of these, at least 92 were from overseas, thanks to the combining of the conference with the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Injury Prevention Conference. The conference would not have been possible without the excellent sponsorship from:

- Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
- Health Department of Western Australia
- World Health Organisation
- UNICEF / TASC
- Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention
- Office of Road Safety

Also thanks go Professor Mark Stevenson as the chair of the organising committee, Professor Robyn Norton as the chair of the scientific committee, the organising committee, the scientific committee and the conference organiser, Congress West.

The conference was followed by a very successful injury research meeting and I am reliably informed that a great deal was learnt over the two and a half days. Thanks go to the Injury Research Centre for their hard work in putting together the program. It was also with great pleasure that two full student bursaries and one conference registration were given to students undertaking studies in injury prevention. It was an extremely competitive field and this to my mind shows that injury prevention over the next few years will go ahead in leaps and bounds. The students found the opportunity to talk to other injury prevention people uplifting and valuable.

Work has commenced on the 7<sup>th</sup> Injury Prevention Conference which will be held in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Safe Communities Conference in Mackay, Queensland from the 15-17 September 2004. Further information can be found at <http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/aipn/conference2004.html>. Mark this date in your diaries as the conference is shaping up to be

another fantastic event. This will also be the first conference that is internally run and funded by the AIPN. This is a huge responsibility and a gamble on part of AIPN. In previous years we have been able to mitigate some of the financial uncertainty of the conference by running it through an external agency. This has meant that even if the conference had not made money the AIPN was protected against loss to a certain extent. It should be noted that of the last three conferences two have broken even and the one in Warrnambool made a profit. With the excellent attendance we have had to the last few conferences, the AIPN feels that the time is right for us to take on this responsibility and hopefully make some money to continue to provide conferences into the future. It will be up to all AIPN members to make this work, by either submitting papers for the conference, by being involved in the scientific committee, by attending the pre and post conference workshops and most of all by attending the conference itself. In the past we have been able to negotiate a substantial reduction in the conference cost for members. This will continue for the next conference as we feel it is important that your membership support is recognised.

## AIPN Website

This year also saw the revamp of the AIPN website <http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/aipn/index.html>. The update of the website included putting all the AIPN material in an electronic format and the newsletter can be accessed at [http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/aipn/Events\\_&\\_news.html](http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/aipn/Events_&_news.html). Also the listserve is being used more often than in previous year, but is still not busy enough. If you have a question you would like answered or are trying to find something don't be shy - use the listserve. For further information on how to sign up please go to [http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/aipn/workforce\\_development.html](http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/aipn/workforce_development.html)

Continued over page

## Inside this edition

- Events in Victoria
- Special Posthumous award to Eric Young
- Intro to Kathie Clapham
- Injury Prevention Journal
- New Website
- What's on
- Offer of help

## AUSTRALIAN INJURY PREVENTION NETWORK

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AIPN Secretariat

(Watch this space!!!)

Phone: See back page for AIPN Executive E-mail addresses.

# President's Report Continued

## AIPN Secretariat Resigns

It is with some sadness that I must report that the AIPN has been informed by the current Secretariat that they would cease services as of 26 September 2003. ICCWA has been a fantastic secretariat and I would like to send my personal thanks to Deb Houston and Chris Costa for their hard work over the last three years. This does mean that the secretariat is up for grabs and if you would like to take on this role please feel free to give me a call.

## National Representation

SIPP has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months. We now have a joint arrangement for chairperson with Associate Professor Rod McClure and Dr John Scott from the Public Health Partnership sharing the chairing responsibilities. There have been three meetings since the last AGM, and these were in Adelaide (Oct 2002), Perth (March 2003) and Brisbane (Sept 2003). There are a couple of issues coming out of the last meeting that will affect the AIPN over the next 12 months. Firstly the National Injury Prevention Plan is to be evaluated and secondly a new plan is to be developed. The AIPN is sitting on both of these subcommittees of SIPP and with the help of members hope to be actively involved in the evaluation and formation of the new plan. As part of this process Sophie Pointer, James Harrison and Clare Bradley from the National Injury Surveillance Unit (NISU) have produced a report called "National Injury plan priorities for 2004 and beyond". This report provides an examination of the areas in injury prevention and provides a rationale about how the next plan should be put together. It is both an interesting read and a valuable document as it will help significantly in the design of the next injury prevention plan. I recommend that you get a copy from NISU and have a read. It is also available on the NISU website at <http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/pubs/reports/2003/injcat55.php>

The heads of Injury Research Centres have formed a loose alliance called Injury Prevention Researchers Institutions of Australasia (IPRIA). Their primary function is to talk about issues affecting the operations of the institutions that they run and they do not see themselves as supplanting the AIPN as the lead agency for injury prevention in Australia. As the AIPN feels that that research and following this the institutions that carry out the research are important for continued improvements in injury prevention we have asked to be an official observer at their meetings so that when the opportunity presents we can help them achieve more funding for injury prevention research. Within the AIPN we have also appointed a person responsible for research and this person will attend these meetings. The AIPN also feels



Above: AIPN Executive Strategic Planning Meeting in Sydney.

Below: AIPN Annual General Meeting 26 September 2003

that this is another way of improving the workforce by providing the opportunity for up and coming researchers to be involved in the deliberations.

## Indigenous Liaison Officer

The AIPN Indigenous representative position has been filled by Ms Marilyn Lyford since the 2002 AGM and in that role she attends ATSIIPAC on our behalf. Also we have now appointed Dr Kathy Clapham, a descendant of the Murawarri people, to the role of Indigenous Liaison Officer. The March conference had an excellent workshop on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander injury prevention, where Mr Tim Agius, Mr Jerry Moller, Dr Kathleen Clapham, Ms Pam Albany and Associate Professor Ted Wilkes presented. In the next 12 months it is anticipated that a draft injury prevention plan will be produced.

The AIPN is a member based organisation and as such if you as a member have an issue where you think the AIPN can help or should be doing something, then please feel free to contact any of the executive and let us know.

*Richard Franklin*

President AIPN



## Recent happenings in Victoria!!!

On 20 October, we had the launch of Injury Prevention Week, the 3<sup>rd</sup> theme week within Community Safety Month in Victoria. Ref [www.communitysafetymonth.com.au](http://www.communitysafetymonth.com.au).

The occasion was also the launch of a new ante-natal safety training resource, the Guide to Baby Safety video/DVD, developed by Hume City Council for statewide use, although there have already been enquiries from as far afield as Mt Isa so the networks must be working well. Enquiries to Lynne Galanti, Children's Safety Promotion Officer at Hume City Council, [lynneg@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:lynneg@hume.vic.gov.au)

Community Safety Month concludes next week with WorkSafe Week, the first time that this week has been linked to community safety month. It was previously a stand alone theme week at a different time of the year. On the final day of community safety month (Friday 31 October), practitioners and others will gather for the First Annual Victorian Safe Communities Conference, on the theme *Ideas and Evidence for Best Practice*. Enquiries to Barbara Minuzzo, [Barbara.Minuzzo@rch.org.au](mailto:Barbara.Minuzzo@rch.org.au). Everyone is looking forward to some pretty lively presentations on a wide range of community safety topics, which have been selected on the basis of their likely usefulness to practitioners.

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## **AIPN confers an Extraordinary Award For Sustained Achievement - Recognition of Significant Contribution to the Injury Prevention Field in Australia**

### **MR ERIC YOUNG**

**- DECEASED 2.8.2003 -**

**FORMERLY OF THE VICTORIAN WORKCOVER AUTHORITY**

Eric Young had a diverse professional life devoted to public service. After spending seven years in Government Administration in Papua New Guinea, he returned to Australia and took up a number of roles in health management before being appointed as the Industrial Liaison Officer with the MMBW. In 1985, Eric was seconded to the then Department of Employment and Industrial Relations for a one year assignment, and was subsequently appointed to a substantive role in 1986. Eric remained with the Department's successor organisations, including ultimately the VWA in a range of senior and strategic roles, until his death.

In 1998, Eric took on a role in VWA dedicated to rural safety. This area had become a passion for him and he worked tirelessly to make a difference to the toll of death and injury in the agricultural sector. He brought his substantial people skills and community networks to bear on the issue and was able to effect real change in community attitudes and farm safety practice.

Among his many contributions in this sector, Eric's role in the reduction of tractor roll-over related deaths in Victoria is particularly noteworthy. In 1997/98, the VWA and the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) implemented a tractor roll-over protection rebate program, prior to the introduction of new regulations which requires roll-over protection on virtually all tractors. Although many people contributed to the development of this program, it would not have happened without Eric's stewardship. His significant communication skills nurtured an excellent working relationship between the VWA and the VFF to the point where there was acceptance of the need for a change in regulation. During this period, Eric had to keep the commitment to the rebate program and regulatory change alive in the VWA. In the evaluation of the rebate program conducted by Monash University, it was estimated that about 2 lives per year would be saved for at least 10 years as a direct result of the 12,129 tractors which were retrofitted during the program. The trends since the end of the program have confirmed this estimate. Inspired by the Victorian experience, other states in Australia are now implementing similar programs, and the Victorian model has also drawn attention from the United States of America, where tractor roll-over deaths remain a significant issue in the agricultural sector. Eric always made himself available to other jurisdictions interested in the Victorian program, including visiting the USA and making presentations at key institutions.

Eric had a broad view of safety and made contributions beyond the traditional bounds of workplace safety in which he was employed. In the mid 1990s, Victoria developed an injury prevention strategy. The process of development drew together many government departments and authorities, as well as other organisations. This developed a spirit of cooperation between the different key stakeholders across the whole field of safety. Eric was prominent in this cooperative effort.

Eric also played a role in developing Community Safety Week, which has now developed into Community Safety Month. He was an active participation in Safe Comm 5, the World Health Organisation's Fifth International Conference on Safe Communities, held in Victoria in 1996. Eric helped initiate community safety programs in the workplace, providing support and encouragement to programs in Hume and Latrobe cities.

Eric was a courageous and tenacious contributor who was always optimistic about what could be achieved and unflinching in his commitment to make a difference. I hereby nominate him for this award in recognition of his important contributions to injury prevention at local, state, national and international levels. Eric's unrivalled communication and networking skills, and his natural collaborative style provided unique opportunities to bring together key players in the agricultural safety. He willingly gave support and guidance to many colleagues with great respect for people's own abilities. His contributions extended well beyond his role in the VWA, extending to injury prevention activities outside the workplace and a contribution to the development of the injury prevention field.

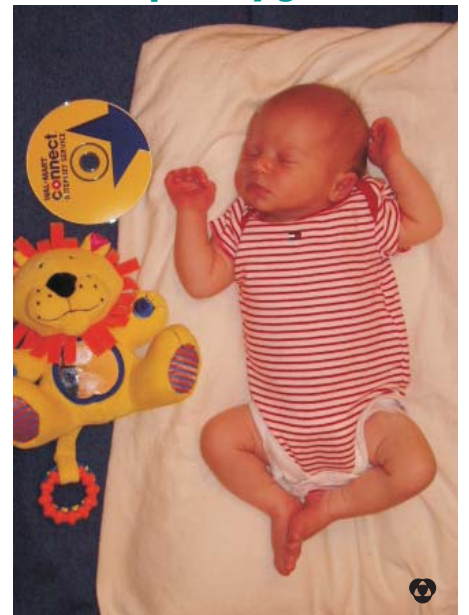
Nominated by Dr Lesley Day  
NHMRC Senior Research Fellow  
Accident Research Centre

## **Introducing Kathie Clapham**



Dr Kathleen Clapham is a descendent of the Murawarri people of North West New South Wales. She has a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Sydney and has been involved in teaching and research in Indigenous health and education for the past ten years. She holds the position of Senior Lecturer and Head of the Yooroang Garang: School of Indigenous Health Studies in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Sydney University's Cumberland Campus. Her academic interests include the Indigenous health education; developing the Indigenous health workforce; inequalities in health; and Indigenous injury prevention. She recently contributed to a national study of injury prevention and safety promotion in the Indigenous communities and is currently investigating safety, injury and the work of Aboriginal health workers in South West Sydney. During 2003, Kathleen is on special studies leave and is currently a visiting scholar at the Institute for International Health.

**Below: Latest addition to the Injury Prevention fraternity - Malinda Steencamp's baby girl - Mieke**



The journal Injury Prevention has gone from strength to strength over the last few years and will be bi-monthly from January 2004. Due to the journal's web presence more people than ever have access to the leading multidisciplinary international journal in our field. The journal will continue to regularly include a News and Notes section and many other special features: program reports, guest editorials, commentaries, fillers, book reviews, and letters. Currently the journal is also encouraging submissions regarding program evaluation which are often featured with commentary about evaluation methods which should be of interest to many practitioners.

From 15th October 2003 the free online trial is coming to an end and access to the website will only be available to subscribers. Features like Editor's Choice and Abstracts will still be available free to all, but to access the full text website you will need an online subscription.

Subscribing to the online version of the website costs only GBP25/US\$38 for a 1 year subscription. Print subscriptions to Injury Prevention include free online access and are GBP81/US\$130 for individuals or GBP159/US\$255 for institutions.

For more information about signing up for an online subscription see <http://ip.bmjournals.com/misc/announcements.shtml>

## New Website

QISU is delighted to announce the launch of the website <http://www.safecommunitiesqld.org>

This site has been developed in response to the growing interest in Safe Communities in Queensland and the need to share each others wins and challenges, and learn what resources, programs and support materials exist out there. There is also a discussion forum. We welcome your participation. It has an opportunity to ask questions of each other and there is also the facility for an interactive real time conferencing if you would like that organised.

Enjoy - looking forward to your contributions and comments.

Dawn Spinks, [Dawns@qisu.org.au](mailto:Dawns@qisu.org.au)

Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit

### DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2003.

1 December.

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## WHAT'S ON

**Kidsafe** are holding the Kidsafe National Playground Conference 2004 ...Creating Future Play! in Sydney on 22-23 March 2004. For further information regarding the conference or to submit an Abstract go to [www.kidsafensw.org](http://www.kidsafensw.org) and click on the conference link.

7th Injury Prevention Conference in Mackay: 15-17 September 2004. Contact <http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/aipn/conference2004.html>

## An offer of help!

Dr Ric Bouvier an AIPN member from Victoria has written to offer support and suggestions as to what should be in a training manual for community safety workers. He has commenced writing such a manual himself, based on the principles and practices of injury causation and injury prevention, and would like to know if there are any other members of the AIPN who are trying to develop a content and system of training who might be interested in discussing or benefitting from his work to date.

Please contact [fran\\_mcfadzen@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:fran_mcfadzen@health.qld.gov.au) for Ric's contact details.

## AIPN Exec Meeting, Sydney.



Left to Right: Stan Bordeaux, Dale Hanson, Rebecca Dennis, Marilyn Lyford, Rebecca Mitchell, Kathie Clapham, Jenny Blitvich, Chris Costa, Aleks Natora, Paul Vardon and Richard Franklin.

## AIPN Executive Committee (Elected 26 September 2003)

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Kathie Clapham	02 9351 0051		<a href="mailto:kclapham@iih.usyd.edu.au">kclapham@iih.usyd.edu.au</a> (Indigenous liaison officer)
Rebecca Mitchell	02 9391 9951	02 9391 9579	<a href="mailto:rmitc@doh.health.nsw.gov.au">rmitc@doh.health.nsw.gov.au</a>
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