

# AvGas

Issue Two : July 2008



I think everyone will be interested in Dave Powell's comments about the 2009 residual school which is going to be in Scotland at the end of May. This will follow on the heels of the superb school that we had in Dubai in April 2008—it seems to be becoming a broken record that “each one is the best so far”. The Scotland school will definitely be quite different from its predecessor and I think its highly varied programme will make it a very exciting challenge for everybody who attends. My deepest thanks to Dave Powell, Nomy Ahmed, and Caitlin Picker who organised the 2008 school, and similar thanks go out to Dave Powell (DPI), David Peat (DP2) and Geoff Helliwell for agreeing to pick up the challenge of organising the 2009 school. I look forward to seeing you there!

The new organisational structure seems to be bedding in well with the course directors assuming a far greater responsibility for the running of their own individual programmes. We are delighted to have Pooshan Navāthé, Michael Haney, Geoff Tothill and Mark Newson-Smith as the course directors for our four major streams of activity.

As our student numbers rise increasingly above 100 to a number close to double that we will need to think about our strategies at a course level, but one of the rich aspects of our programme is the synergy that comes from drawing together occupational medicine, aviation medicine and air ambulance medicine and nursing under the same organisation. There is a considerable amount of cross-over and those who want to specialise in some aspect can always find something of interest to them.

There are a number of new programmes planned; we are doing a review of our technology needs for 2009 and hope to increase the level of connection that students have with both staff and course materials as a result of that review. We are far advanced in our negotiations with agents in India and China over offering our courses there and expect to have a major launch in Delhi in June 2009. The increased complexity of how we operate has meant that a number of processes have tended to become more formalised and if we seem to be becoming more bureaucratic then please forgive us for trying to find a way to develop systems that make sure that we treat everybody fairly and effectively and efficiently while still being as flexible as we were able to be when we were a small organisation and a special one.

I continue to bump into new students in my perambulations around the world and one of the things that strikes me is the wide variety of students we have and the incredible quality of their experience; the value of a course like this rests not on its staff or of its curriculum, but on the people that it trains which is after all what we're about! I think we can be proud of the people who have been associated with us in the past and who are meant to be working with us over the next 10 years. That's what makes this programme so exciting to be part of! I hope you enjoy the second semester and I look forward to working with you.

Kind regards,  
Rob Griffiths



*Rob being treated by the female staff with the sort of respect he feels he deserves!*



Hi there everyone,

This is to give you early information about one of the major highlights of the Occupational and Aviation Medicine Unit's teaching which is the annual combined residential school. The venue changes each year and 2009 will be in Scotland at the end of May—exact date to be confirmed.

The school is our antidote to the loneliness of the distance taught student, our way of bringing the theoretical material to life, and your opportunity to meet your fellow students and build your international network of contacts. While the schools are always fun, they have a busy programme to make the best use of the limited time. One of the benefits is the crossover between the three different teaching streams - occupational medicine, aeromedical retrieval/transport, and aviation medicine. And in all three we have some students doing or planning research, so we build their needs into the programme too.

The 2008 school in Dubai was, based on the feedback we had, a great success and it's my job to ensure that 2009 will be at least as much of a success. Based on the arrangements so far, I'm confident it will be! We have already booked a perfect venue which is the Stirling Management Centre, a conference centre run by the University of Stirling, with excellent accommodation and conference facilities in a very scenic setting. We have a large range of possible visits already underway including a power station, a distillery, a shipyard, an Air Force station, a North Sea helicopter operation, air ambulance operations, and of course some excellent social functions.



*Intrepid organisers of Scotland09—DP1 and DP2*

For those of you who missed Dubai, it's worth giving you a sense of the breadth of experiences we seek to put into residential schools, although this one was at the extreme end of the "action-packed" scale! There are some excellent photos on <http://public.fotki.com/EddieChan/keith/2008-dubai-resident/> password: miniminime

The occupational medicine group visited Dubai Aluminium, Dubai Gas, and Qatar Gas as well as participating in an educational day with local occupational physicians. The other two groups visited the Abu Dhabi Police Air Wing, the Falcon Aviation Air Ambulance, and the Search and Rescue co-ordination centre as well as a visit to the plush air ambulances of Abu Dhabi royal jet. Also in Abu Dhabi there was an excellent day of military aviation medicine at the Aeromedical Centre incorporating a hypoxia experience in the altitude chamber, as well as experience of the night vision training, and disorientation training with a demonstration of ejection seat training. In Dubai there were also visits to Emirates catering, Skycargo, the engineering facility, and an excellent visit to the cabin crew emergency procedures training unit. We visited the Emirates medical clinic, the HMC



air ambulance in Qatar, Qatar Airways Ops Centre and emergency control centre, and tasted how an executive aircraft charter operation works.

*Aviation Medicine and Aeromedical Retrieval and Transport groups outside Qatar Airways*

In addition there were some "extras" - about 20 people got to go in the A380 simulator and many got to fly it. Several people acted as customers on a simulated flight and were waited on by Emirates flight attendants in training. And at the conference dinner we ran a charity auction and managed to raise about US\$4000 for "The Dhaka Project" ([www.dhakaproject.com](http://www.dhakaproject.com)) which is a



*Flying the A380 simulator over Dubai*

wonderful charity started by an Emirates flight attendant, Maria

Conceicao; we

were able to present the money to Maria on our last day in Dubai. One night, a few of the group even managed to get in an evening session on the snow at Ski Dubai!



*Some of the money for the Dhaka Project was raised from extreme haircuts for Eddie Callachan and David Powell—there was spirited bidding both from the Shave Dave and the Save Dave supporters!*

It would be remiss not to mention the social events - an idyllic evening bashing the dunes followed by a desert barbecue with a belly dancer entertaining; a night dinner cruise down the Dubai creek on a dhow; a formal dinner at the Burj AlArab; and a lovely final open air barbecue night at the Jumeirah Beach hotel. It would also be remiss not to again thank the wonderful hosts - particularly two ex-students of Otago, Nomy Ahmed at Emirates, and Caitlin Picker in Abu Dhabi.



*Pillow fight on the flight to Doha*

But behind their efforts were a large number of other people, including many locals, and past/present Otago students like Cliff Webster, Fiona Rennie, and Eddie Callachan. Thanks for all of your great efforts.

So if it isn't clear already, Residential School won't be a holiday, but it will be a great opportunity for lots of practical exposure and experience. I'll keep you updated on plans for 2009 as they progress. If you don't want to be on those emails, please let me know.



*Tired but happy on the last day*

cheers dp

## Farewell to Terry Martin

Terry Martin left the programme after the residential school in April 2008. Terry had bravely coped with significant pain from a back problem during the school, but is now undergoing a complex course of treatment which will mean that he is no longer able to balance his energies at the moment with teaching. Terry, as the author of the book on Aeromedical Evacuation and the organiser of the CCAT course, will be a very hard act to follow, but if anyone can follow this as his successor as course director of Aeromedical Retrieval and Transport courses, Dr Geoff Tohill will be well able to do so. Geoff has been working with Terry for the past three years as the secondary lecturer in the air ambulance medicine programmes and is very familiar with both the students and the curriculum. Terry and he have organised an orderly hand-over of succession planning and we look forward to the new team that Geoff will build and his vision for the future of aeromedical evacuation teaching for Otago University.



## Scientific Research Jargon

by Dyrk Schingman, Oregon State University (provided by Eddie Callachan)

After several years of studying and hard work, I have finally learned scientific jargon.

The following list of phrases and their definitions will help you to understand that mysterious language of science and medicine.

"IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN"... I didn't look up the original reference.

"A DEFINITE TREND IS EVIDENT"... These data are practically meaningless.

"WHILE IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE DEFINITE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS"... An unsuccessful experiment, but I still hope to get it published.

"THREE OF THE SAMPLES WERE CHOSEN FOR DETAILED STUDY"... The other results didn't make any sense.

"TYPICAL RESULTS ARE SHOWN"... This is the prettiest graph.

"THESE RESULTS WILL BE IN A SUBSEQUENT REPORT"... I might get around to this sometime, if pushed/funded.

"THE MOST RELIABLE RESULTS ARE OBTAINED BY JONES"... He was my graduate student; his grade depended on this.

"IN MY EXPERINCE"... once

"IN CASE AFTER CASE"... Twice

"IN A SERIES OF CASES"... Thrice

"IT IS BELIEVED THAT"... I think

"IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT"... A couple of other guys think so too.

"CORRECT WITHIN AN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE"... Wrong.

"ACCORDING TO STATISTICAL ANALYSIS"... Rumor has it.

"A STATISTICALLY ORIENTED PROJETION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE FINDINGS"... A wild guess.

"A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF OBTAINABLE DATA"... Three pages of notes were obliterated when I knocked over a glass of beer.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH ADDITIONAL WORK WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PHENOMENA OCCURS"... I don't understand it.

"AFTER ADDITIONAL STUDY BY MY COLLEAGUES"... They don't understand it either.

"THANKS ARE DUE TO JOE BLOTZ FOR ASSITANCE WITH THE EXPERIMENT AND TO ANDREA SCHAEFFER FOR VALUABLE DISCUSSIONS"... Mr. Boltz did the work and Ms. Shaeffer explained to me what it meant.

"A HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT AREA FOR EXPLORATORY STUDY"... A totally useless topic selected by my committee.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THIS STUDY WILL STIMULATE FURTHER INVESTIGATION IN THIS FIELD"... I quit.

## INTRODUCING GEOFF TOTHILL

### SCOTTISH REVENGE

A man was cupping his hand to scoop water from a Highland burn (stream).

The gamekeeper shouted, "Dinnae drink thon water laddie, it's foo o' coo's shite n pish."

The man replied, "My good fellow, I'm English.... repeat that in clear English."

The gamekeeper replied, "I said use both hands - you get more that way."

Geoff qualified from Guys Hospital in London in 1988 and spent his junior years rotating through trauma related specialities before settling into Emergency Medicine. Quite by accident he was then invited to undertake the aeromedical transfer of a patient from Lagos (in a very elderly Jetstar) and he was completely hooked!

This brought together a range of passions - medicine, travel and aviation and over the subsequent years he wandered around the world, transferring patients hither and yon in almost every conceivable form of vehicle.

It became pretty addictive and it eventually became apparent that he ought to get a proper job at some stage and so after a couple of strange turns of fate he was appointed as the

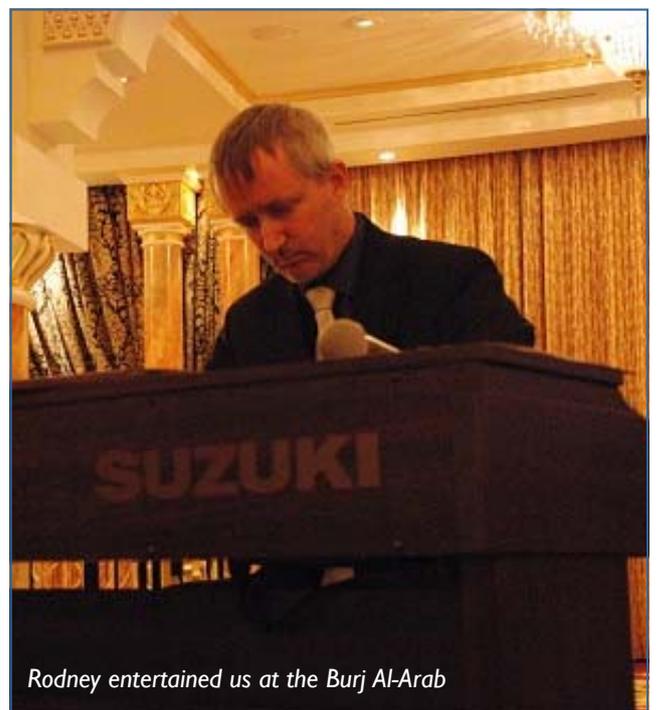
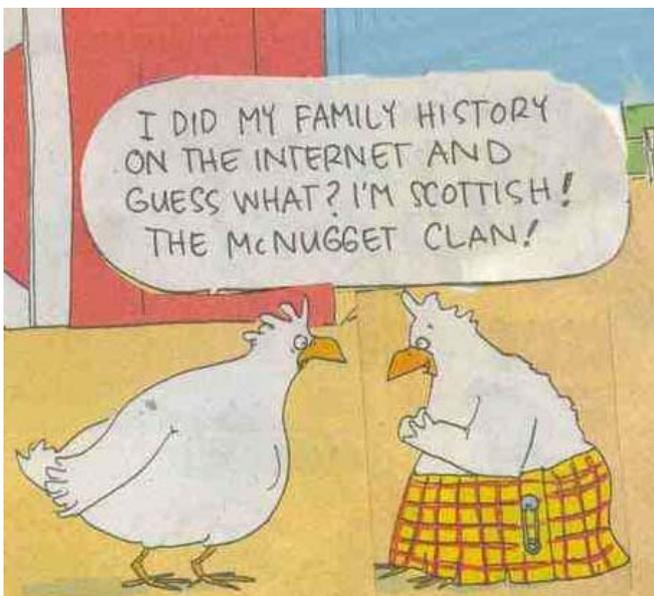
Chief Medical Officer of FirstAssist (a UK based Healthcare Provider) in 2001.



Sign outside Doha Airport—taken by Briar Campbell

Although the company provides a wide range of Healthcare services its roots are as a provider of Worldwide Assistance and Aeromedical services to insurance companies, large corporates and government and non governmental agencies. They deal with approximately 22,000 cases of illness and injury around the world every year and their physicians find themselves dealing with a mixture of travel and tropical medicine, the broad spectrum of general medicine and surgery and retrieval medicine.

Geoff has worked with Terry on the Aeromedical Retrieval and Transport programme over the past few years and has now taken over Terry's role as leader of the programme and we will shortly be announcing the team who will assist him.



Rodney entertained us at the Burj Al-Arab

# “EXTREMES”

Whangarei Aeromedical Symposium

November 8<sup>th</sup> 2008

Whangarei ICU's Flight Team is hosting a one-day Aeromedical Symposium under the auspices of the NZ Flight Nurse Association (NZNO) and in conjunction with the St John Ambulance National 'Traumed' Conference.

The "Extreme" theme includes diverse aeromedical subjects such as High and Low flight issues, Big and Small patient challenges, Hot and Cold weather concerns plus some CRM training and Flight Physiology topics.

The Symposium is aimed at all flight crewmembers – nurses, doctors and paramedics – with concurrent sessions for pilots to address relevant aviation developments.

**Call for Posters** is out now and a **Registration Form** is available on the NZFNA website. (Go to [nzno.org.nz](http://nzno.org.nz) website and follow links to NZFNA section.)

Early Bird Registration \$100 until August 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.

Alternatively contact Whangarei ICU Flight Nurse Janet Barker for more details.

>[janet.barker@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:janet.barker@northlanddhb.org.nz)<

Phone: 09 4304100, ext: ICU / 027 3031977

## CALL FOR POSTERS

**Closing date for Poster Abstracts is October 20th 2008**

**Poster abstracts** are to be submitted in MS Word format, Arial font size 12, double line spaced, justified text.

**Abstract** is to include a short summary of the Poster's content and objectives, along with main title and author/s name/s.

Please **email** abstracts to: -

**JANET BARKER** –

[janet.barker@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:janet.barker@northlanddhb.org.nz) by

**Oct 20th 2008**

No Posters will be considered for presentation after this date.

**Completed Posters** may be mailed at any time to: -

**Janet Barker, "Extremes" Symposium,**

**c/o ICU, Whangarei Hospital, PO Box 742, Whangarei**

by Nov 6th 2008

or delivered to the Registration Desk at the conference by 08.30 hrs, Nov 8th 08 from where they may be collected at the end of the day

**Additional information** may be obtained from:

Janet Barker – Flight Nurse – 09 4304100 / ICU

[janet.barker@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:janet.barker@northlanddhb.org.nz)  
OR

Sarah Pickery – Clinical Nurse Manager – 09 4304100 / ICU

[sarah.pickery@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:sarah.pickery@northlanddhb.org.nz)

AEROMEDICAL “EXTREMES” SYMPOSIUM in WHANGAREI on 08/11/08

### REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

WORK AREA \_\_\_\_\_

NURSE DOCTOR PARAMEDIC PILOT OTHER

Early Bird Registration **BEFORE AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 = \$100 pp**

Late Registration **AFTER AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 = \$120 pp**   
(Includes all meals, academic & social programme, T-shirt & bag)

Please make **CHEQUES** payable to **NORTHLAND FLIGHT TEAM** and post to: -  
“EXTREMES” Conference,  
c/o ICU, Whangarei Hospital, PO Box 742, Whangarei

Indicate T-Shirt size - XS S M L XL

Please detail any special dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

**Helicopter Underwater Evacuation Training** may be available on Sunday morning, November 9<sup>th</sup> 2008. Places are strictly limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Maximum cost will be \$300 pp but we may be able to reduce this depending on numbers and sponsorship. Do you wish to apply for the **HUET** training at an additional maximum cost of \$300?

Y  N

Once the training is organised you will be informed as soon as possible and, once confirmed, it must be paid for by September 30<sup>th</sup> 2008 to secure your booking.

If any further information is required please contact: -

**SARAH PICKERY**, CCN, Whangarei ICU & Flight Team / 09 4304100  
[sarah.pickery@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:sarah.pickery@northlanddhb.org.nz) OR

**JANET BARKER**, FN, Whangarei ICU & Flight Team / 09 4304100  
[janet.barker@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:janet.barker@northlanddhb.org.nz)

Check out the Whangarei Visitor's Centre for great deals on accommodation  
[www.whangareinz.com](http://www.whangareinz.com)

Or see the NZFNA website (via NZNO) for further details

**CALL FOR POSTERS OUT NOW**  
See website & Up & Away Magazine



Mark Newson-Smith—the Unit's rapid response doctor!



## International Society of Aeromedical Services and Flight Nurses Australia 20th Scientific Meeting 2 – 4 October 2008

We invite you to South Australia for what promises to be the most dynamic and exciting Air Medicine Conference in Australasia.

Entitled "Learning from the Past – Looking to the Future", this meeting is being held at the internationally awarded Adelaide Convention Centre, from 2nd – 4th October 2008. It will encompass historical perspectives, where we are now, and what the future holds for our unique air medical industry.

There is an excellent scientific programme involving national and international medical, nursing, paramedical and aviation industry speakers.

Full registration includes a Thursday evening Welcome Reception and interactive Aviation Display at Adelaide Airport, with some of South Australia's finest wines and live music.

The Friday night Conference Dinner will be a themed 'M\*A\*S\*H Bash' – dress as your favourite M\*A\*S\*H character or in army greens, with more wine, music and entertainment promised.

On behalf of the International Society of Aeromedical Services, Flight Nurses Australia and the South Australian organising committee, we look forward to providing you with a professionally satisfying and socially enjoyable experience in our beautiful city.

Discover South Australia's unique mix of world-famous wineries, culinary genius, picturesque boulevards and relaxed lifestyle, and see for yourself why Adelaide is... **\*a brilliant blend\***

Kevin Holliday  
Conference Convenor

Check online via the conference link on the ISAS website for further details and updates [www.isas.org.au](http://www.isas.org.au) or by clicking here

### Call for Abstracts

Abstract submissions are now open!  
Deadline for submissions is Friday 4 July 2008.

Primary topics include

• Medical • Nursing • Aviation • Paramedic •

Submit your abstracts and be eligible for a variety of awards; Best Speaker, Best Innovation, Best Research Paper, Best Young Presenter – Under 35, and the Kaye Melmeth Award

Guidelines and information on how to submit your abstract can be viewed via the conference link at [www.isas.org.au](http://www.isas.org.au) or by clicking here

ISAS08 Conference Managers  
c/- Event Planners Australia  
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E: [isas08@eventplanners.com.au](mailto:isas08@eventplanners.com.au)

W: [www.isas.org.au](http://www.isas.org.au)



COMBINED ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

Aviation Medical  
Society of  
Australia and  
New Zealand  
(NZ Inc.)

Australian and  
New Zealand  
Society of  
Occupational  
Medicine



**"Letting off Steam - a pilot project"**

**Bayview Wairakei Hotel, Taupo**  
**August 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008**



More information is available from <http://www.amsanz.org.nz/conference/confindex.htm>

Letter in the Daily Telegraph 11.07.2008. Subject:- Excess Baggage  
Joe Emery writes...

At an Irish airport I was asked; 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage  
without your knowledge?'

I answered. 'If they had, how would I know?'

The security officer smiled and replied, 'That's why we're asking, Sir.'



Provided by Clive Tedd