



# 2018 ASIA PACIFIC ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) NEWSLETTER



## Members of Management Committee

### Immediate Past President APOA

Prof Edward (Ted) Mah

### Chief Delegate Australia

A/Prof Graham Mercer

### APOA EXCO

Dr John Bartlett (Awards Subcom)

### Delegates & Councillors Australia

Dr Andreas Loeffler (Federation)

Dr Andrew Beischer (Federation)

Dr Tim Whitehead (Aus Chapter)

A/Prof Sue Liew (Aus Chapter)

### Co-opted members

Dr Lawrance Malisano (AOA President)

Prof Richard de Steiger

Dr John North

Prof Bogdon Solomon

Dr Sunil Reddy (Younger fellow)

Dr Mark Blackney (F&A Chair)

### Hon Secretary

Dr Ahmad Bahjau

### Hon Treasurer

Prof Ted Mah

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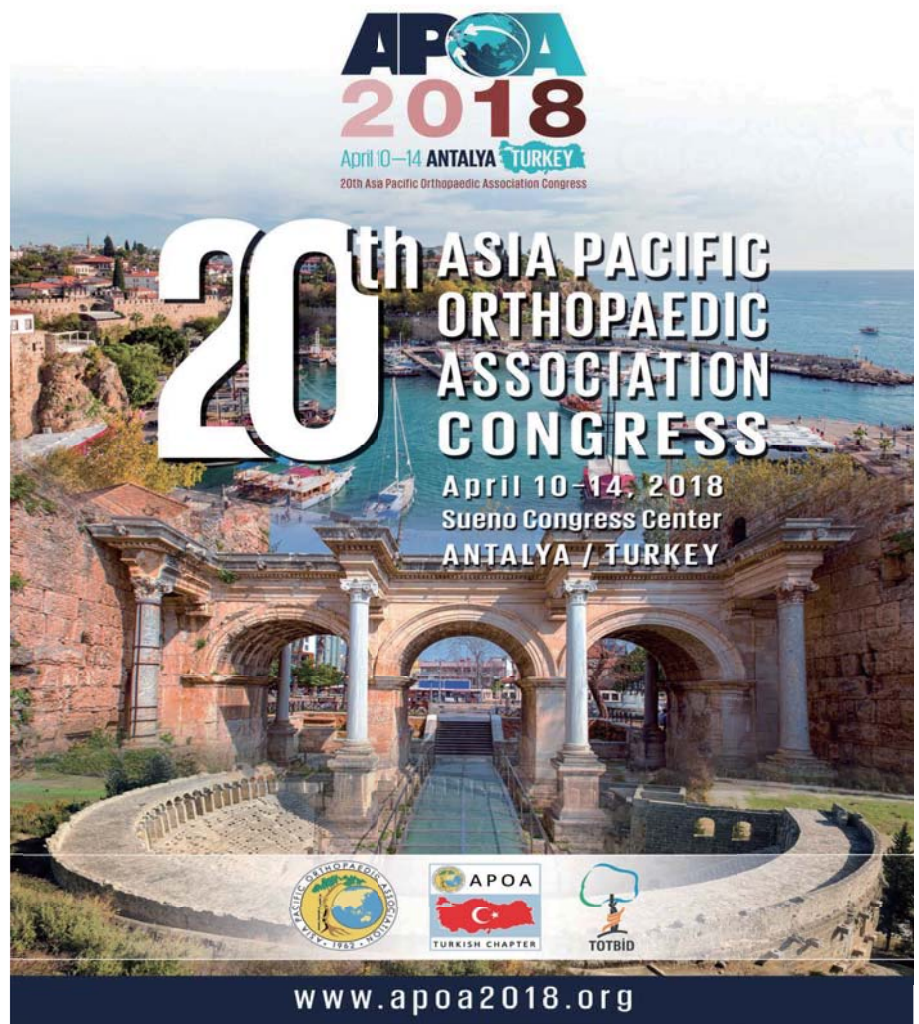
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**APOA (Australia)**



## Report from Immediate Past President



2017 is a more relaxing year for APOA Australia after the frantic 2016 APOA Congress in Melbourne. Indeed APOA Australia took time to review and consolidate many of its activities. Two long time co-opted members have retired. This includes Mr Daryl Teague and Assoc Prof Robert Atkinson. I thank them for their years of service at the Committee. Assoc Prof Graham Mercer, our Chief delegate, will retire after the 2017 AGM but thankfully he is happy to continue for a short time while ushering a replacement, no doubt it will be difficult to fill his big shoe! The Committee congratulated Dr John Batten to take over the rein as President of RACS in 2017! The Committee has recruited Prof Bogdon Solomon as co-opted member and Mr Sunil Reddy as a Younger Surgeons' subcommittee representative from APOA Australia. I welcome Dr Mark Blackney to the Committee as the inaugural Chairman for the APOA Foot & Ankle Section. Mark has already been working on the Constitution for the F&A Section, as well as planned for the 2018 F&A Sectional activities.

I've anticipated the AOA Federation member of APOA will gradually increase their influence at the APOA Australia activities. This includes encouraging many APOA members outside Australia to attend the 2018 APEC meeting in Japan and many other AOA related educational activities.

At the 2017 AOA ASM, APOA Australia has organised a special private tour of the South Australian Parliament for the International OA Presidents, speakers at the APOA Symposium, as well as APOA Committee members. I sincerely thank the Hon. Jing Lee, MLC for making the private parliament tour possible. I have also opened my home for the garden reception immediately after the parliament tour and to encourage international participation of the Australian "reverse" Colombo plan. I have hoped to take this opportunity to discuss the possibility of getting Commonwealth Government financial support to assist Australian Orthopaedic trainee surgeons to visit many centres of excellence in the Asia Pacific Countries. Graham Mercer and David McNicol were formally acknowledged at the APOA/AOA Executive dinner for their extra-ordinary service to APOA. A full report on the 2017 APOA activities in Adelaide is in this newsletter.

APOA President Prof D Choon has provided a discussion paper on the centralisation of future APOA Congress organisation. This is an exciting proposal but will need extensive discussion to fine tune the mechanism and to minimise financial risks to APOA and the

organising country. The APOA website has undergone major update and has been fully operational.

At the recent Council meeting in October 2017, PIOA was approved to be an APOA Federation member. PIOA will be formally acknowledged at the 2018 APOA Congress in Antalya, Turkey. Welcome PIOA and I look forward to the many mutually beneficial interactions between APOA and PIOA!

I look forward to see many Australian orthopaedic surgeons to attend the 2018 APOA Congress in Antalya, Turkey. I fully appreciate members may be worried because of adverse travel advise from the Dept of Foreign Affairs regarding travelling to Turkey. However, we must not be deterred by a few minority groups who have tried to instil fear into us regarding travels.

APOA Australia's finance has remained sound and stable. In 2017 annual ordinary membership has ended while the Life Fellows application remains active. As a result, the Chapter structure of the APOA will remain active, whilst the Federation membership from the Australian Orthopaedic Associations will remain strong.

The 2016 APOA Congress logo was admired by many delegates for its design and beauty. Hence, I have decided to change the wordings but keep the logo and to turn it into APOA Australia logo. The logo will be in use from 2018 and I hope you'll like the new logo. 1964 on the boomerang was the year when Australia joined WPOA, later became APOA.



Finally, I welcome to any constructive comment/ suggestions/ criticism from members of APOA. I thank members of the APOA Australia Committee members for their valuable contribution to the Association.

**Professor Edward (Ted) Mah**  
**Immediate Past President APOA**

## Chief Delegate's Report AOA Federation Member and Australian Chapter of APOA



2017 has been a quiet year in comparison to the somewhat hectic program of 2016.

Since the last AGM, Executive Committee tele-conference Meetings were held on:

- 23rd. November 2016
- 8th. March 2017
- 7th. June, 2017

1. There are now 19 Federation Members from 22 National

Orthopaedic Associations plus the respective Life Fellow Chapters within APOA plus various affiliated members and Associations i.e. interest from outside of the established APOA geographic. This now represents a collective of over 50,000 orthopaedic surgeons.

Signed MOU's with EFORT, SICOT and Pan Arab Orthopaedic Association, with exchange of Fellows, more widespread advertising capabilities and limited 'favoured status' for





registration at their meetings has further significantly broadened options for international exchange and patronage.

Concern was expressed within the Australian Executive that the International APOA Web Page and Administrative Staff would struggle for relevance given the huge communication issues in particular. It was pleasing to note that the Web Page :- [apoaonline.com](http://apoaonline.com) is now very responsive and that there is also an interactive App also available:

## ASIA PACIFIC ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION

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[www.apoaonline.com](http://www.apoaonline.com)



APOA Website



APOA App

Staffing in KL secretariat and financial management have also been significantly upgraded, ensuring that all members can be interactive with available fellowships, workshops and meetings and individual mentors, problem solving chat rooms etc.

Recent Constitutional changes have also meant that representative Councillors can attend APOA Meetings in KL to avoid an overwhelming potentially dysfunctional council forum.

2. New Specialty Groups are also being currently mooted:

The APOA Foot and Ankle Section under the Chairmanship of Australian Mark Blackney is of particular interest and currently forming its Constitution and ambitions. Its size will likely encourage combined meetings initially with the Infection and/or Paediatric Specialty Groups.

The APOA Young Emerging Surgeons Forum under the chairmanship of Dr Gazi from Turkey has been slow to engage. Recent work from Sunil Reddy of Australia will hopefully re-ignite interest at the forthcoming Council Meeting in 2018.

There is also interest in forming a Basic Sciences and Tumour Specialty Groups.

3. The APOA Aus Chapter and AOA Federation Member APOA, have continued engagement with the AOA and its Asia Pacific Committee (APC) to help rationalise investment of additional AOA finances and services within the Asia Pacific Region. AOA through its humanitarian arm , Orthopaedic Outreach , already financially assists in supporting individuals and projects, but was mindful of potential duplication or voiding of existing services. Vietnam, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea have been identified as potential recipients. APOA role will be to ensure these countries have access to the spine, paediatric and pelvic trauma courses run by APOA, exchange of fellows to a few

subspecialties- arthroplasty, spine etc and provision of examiners as requested.

4. The AOA ASM continues to support and encourage overseas Presidents from Orthopaedic Associations within the Asia Pacific region to Australia. 2017 is no exception with an excellent response for attendance. A President's Forum is again proposed and various social engagements and involvement in the scientific program to inform often of their unique experiences. In particular a lecture Forum/ symposium will be held on Tuesday 10th. October, 2017, 1.30-3.00pm on 'Short Term Educational Fellowships'.

5. Personnel changes within Executive of Aus Chapter of APOA. Several, more senior members of Executive have decided to step down from involvement of the Aus Executive , again reflecting the need for younger surgeons to become involved in the organisation and structure of APOA . The AOA as a Federation Member offers this experience to all its members, with now well established fellowships, visitations, courses and a singular camaraderie second to none with our Asia Pacific Colleagues. Many younger surgeons have now been involved in exchange fellowships and experienced first hand this frenetic and unique orthopaedic experience. Many of our colleagues are also already involved in humanitarian work in the region. There remains great opportunity to be involved in the wide spectrum of activities, not able to be readily achieved within our own shores.

Daryl Teague and Rob Atkinson have stepped down from Executive after many years of service to APOA.

David McNicol has previously been recognised for his exemplary work within APOA.

John Bartlett still contributes on the Awards Committee of APOA- a significant step down from his role as Conference Chairman for the APOA Meeting in Melbourne 2016.

Bogdan Soloman has joined the Committee with his experience as Past Chairman of APOA Arthroplasty Section and Sunil Reddy as a young ambassador has also joined the Committee.

Mark Blackney has also joined the Executive as inaugural Chairman of the APOA Foot and Ankle Section.

This will be my last term as Chief Australian Delegate to APOA. It is also time I step down to allow some younger enthusiasm to pervade. I will stay on the Committee for the foreseeable future.

I would like to thank Ted Mah and the other members of the Executive for their support over the past few years.

*A/Prof Graham Mercer*

*Chief Australian Delegate- APOA Aus Chapter and AOA Federation Member of APOA.*



**APOA (Australia)**



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## Federation Committee Chairman Report

At the last council meeting in April 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and Indonesia have joined to become federation members. This has provided massive increase in the membership of APOA, probably just over 50,000 strong, making APOA the biggest international orthopaedic association in the world in membership number!

More recently Pacific Islands Orthopaedic Association has applied to become the 23rd Member of APOA. The details of the application and supporting documentation have been provided to APOA EXCO and council for discussion and endorsement. This was carried at the council meeting. With PIOA joining to become a federation member, APOA coverage will extend much further to the east, significantly broadening the APOA map!

The yearly Federation membership renewal has always remained some issue where the Secretariat has to send reminders for those are yet to pay. I have written to all the relevant Presidents in this regard and pleasingly we have some success.

There are only 3 member countries that are not federation members – Thailand, Vietnam and China. The next Chairman of the Federation Committee with need to go the extra mile to get support from these remaining countries to become federation members. It is important however, not to forget the importance of promoting Life Fellows of APOA in every country / chapter, as these are the backbone of the association.

I'll be stepping down as Chairman of Federation Committee after the 2018 Congress in Antalya and trust the Committee is in good hands under Prof Onder Ardingoz, the incoming Chairman. I thank the EXCO and council for entrusting me the task and providing me with support to make federation membership such a great success in a very short time. I'll continue to urge EXCO and Council to focus on education and fellowships as some of the essential benefits to the new Federation membership. Similarly, it is essential for the EXCO to maintain regular electronic communication with all the federation councillors and their respective associations to ensure the smooth running of such a massive membership based organisation.

*Prof Ted Mah*  
*Immediate Past President, APOA*  
*Chairman, Federation Committee of APOA*





Pacific Islands  
Orthopaedic  
Association

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ABN 85531353101

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Tarragindi  
QLD 4121

Website:  
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## Background information on PIOA Latest APOA Federation member



The Pacific Islands Orthopaedic Association was formed in Honiara, Solomon Islands in 2013. The founding members were Dr. Patrick Houasia and Dr. Silent Tovasias from Solomon Islands, Dr. Herman Oberli from Switzerland, Dr. Paul Hitchen and Dr. Des Soares from Australia. The main object of the association is to develop a training program in Orthopaedics focussed on the small Pacific Island countries in order to provide a stable long term orthopaedic workforce for the region.

In the first year there were 5 students (3 from Solomon Islands, one each from Tonga and Samoa). The Tongan dropped out after the first module. We have now grown to 18 students from 8 countries (Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, American Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Federated States of Micronesia(FSM)). We have had our first student graduate in 2017 having completed all modules and having passed an independent exam run by Australian and New Zealand examiners.

There are already 6 applicants from PNG to commence in 2018. The course is made up of 11 modules each of between 10-14 days duration. Trainees are brought to a central location (so far, most modules have been held in Honiara, Solomon Islands with two held in Apia, Samoa and one in Lautoka Fiji.) for the module and accommodation and a small living allowance is provided. The modules focus on lectures and clinical examination with practical demonstrations on sawbones and using simulators. No live surgery is performed. In addition, trainees are mentored in their home setting by a local or visiting consultants.

The goal is to train between 20-30 orthopaedic surgeons to be the nucleus of a region wide orthopaedic service that can then develop a culturally and technically appropriate orthopaedic surgical service for the Pacific Island countries.

The association is setup as a non-profit organization in Solomon Islands and has a non-profit subsidiary based in Brisbane. It is governed by a President and board and holds an annual general meeting each year. The Association is linked with the International College of Surgeons. It is in discussion with the University of Samoa to obtain recognition of the programme as a Master of Surgery (Orthopaedics). The association is affiliated with the Australian Orthopaedic association, South Pacific Projects (Switzerland), AO Alliance Foundation (Switzerland), Orthopacifix Trust (New Zealand), Orthopaedic Outreach (Australia) and the Pacific Islands Surgeons Association.

*Desmond Soares*  
*Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Training*



**APOA (Australia)**



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## Report on 2017 APOA Functions at Adelaide AOA ASM

At the 2017 AOA ASM in Adelaide, APOA Australia organised four specific unique events for International Presidents, invited guests and APOA members.

The first function is an APOA Education Symposium on “Short Term Fellowship”. Invited speakers from APOA, ASEAN OA, AOA, IOA



and Industry took part in the presentation and discussion on this very interesting topic. It was a very informative session with great discussions.

The second function was the APOA /AOA Executive dinner, which was held at “Hut & Soul” Restaurant. A special Indonesian/Malaysian banquet style dinner was accompanied with selective South Australian wines. Members and invited guests enjoyed the local hospitality and the APOA camaraderie. Two past APOA Vice Presidents, Drs David McNicol and Graham Mercer were awarded for their extraordinary service to APOA at the function.

The third function was a unique private tour of the SA Parliament for the International OA Presidents, speakers at the APOA Symposium, as well as APOA Committee members. APOA is grateful to the Hon. Jing Lee, MLC for taking the time and making this a memorable event for our guests. Everyone attended was very impressed with the historic buildings. Many were even able to take photos sitting on the Speaker’s Chair!

Lastly, Prof Ted Mah hosted a private Garden Reception in his own home immediately after the parliament tour. There was much discussion around the international participation of the Australian “reverse” Colombo plan. The Governor of South Australia, Mr Hieu Van Le was the guest of honour to the garden party and his Excellency met all the International Presidents and members of APOA who attended the function. The party showcased local South Australia food and wine.

All in all it was a very busy few days in Adelaide for the locals and invited guests. Everyone attended enjoyed his / her participation, interactions and the APOA camaraderie. No doubt these events will be remembered by all as highlights of the 2017 APOA activities.





# APOA/AOA Executive Dinner





# APOA Mahjarren Garden Party







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## APOA NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIP / FELLOW APPLICATION

NB: All AOA members are Federation members of APOA, hence no annual membership fee.  
 APOA Life Fellow is a special membership category that entitle certain special privileges and participation in the APOA (Australia) in additional to all other APOA activities.

SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (for correspondence): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PH: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

### Once off Membership Subscription

AUD\$1250 (50 yrs & younger)     AUD\$750 (over 50 yrs)

### Speciality Section Subscription (please apply to individual Section for membership)

Spine     Paediatric     Hip     Knee     Trauma

Sports Medicine     Infection     Foot & Ankle

***Payment by EFT: APOA (Aus Chap) at HSBC bank (345 039) 095229071 Ref: Your initial & Surname. Or make cheques payable to APOA (Aus Chap) (No credit card facility)***

### *New Life Membership Application*

I \_\_\_\_\_ wish to apply to become a Life Fellow of

APOA (Aust Chapter). Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Proposer \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

NB: 1) Need minimal 5 years active Orthopaedic Practice post graduation  
 2) Proposer & Seconder need to be Life Fellows of APOA – Please contact Ted Mah for assistance if necessary on 0409088208

