

The Society for Medical &
Biological Engineering S.A.
Incorporated



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NEWSLETTER

March 2002

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*Australian Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering
International Federation for Medical and Biological
Engineering*

Visit to Royal Flying Doctor Service Aviation Operations

James Schofield Drive
Adelaide Airport

Date: 19 March 2002
Time: 5-30pm for refreshments
6-00pm Presentation
Venue: RFDS Aviation Operations
James Schofield Drive
Adelaide Airport

The Royal Flying Doctor Service provides a critical and long running medical service to a large part of Australia. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to get a first hand look at the aviation operations section of the RFDS. **Peter Tippett, Aviation Section Manager** and **Greg McHugh, Nurse Manager**, will give us an overview of the operations, discuss the electromedical equipment used, discuss implications of using equipment in aircraft and give us a tour of the facilities and hopefully of one of the aircraft.

Don't miss what should be a very interesting and informative evening.

Report on meeting with Bruce Morrison

We were fortunate to secure an evening of Bruce Morrison's time whilst he was here in Adelaide on other business. He shared with us his insight into the setting up of Biomedical programmes in our Southern Pacific neighbours. He is involved in two main projects, one being in Papua-New Guinea and the other in a range of islands including Somoa, Tonga and Fiji. They are funded by way of Australian aid and, to their credit, aim at providing training and establishing workshops and infrastructure that will remain self sufficient once the actual project is over. The training content has been specifically developed and is pitched at a couple of technical levels along with a program also aimed at equipment nurses to bring them up to speed on the range of technologies.

Bruce had some varied and interesting slides that he shared with us bringing home graphically the very different and trying conditions under which the people providing these services are working. The overriding message however was that the work is extremely rewarding and that one gets a substantial feeling of satisfaction in knowing that health outcomes are being improved amongst our developing neighbours.

There was also some discussion at the meeting on the topic of standard BME equipment management systems. This is quite topical at the moment as the State Government is driving a project that aims at collecting a range of strategic information relating to a wide range of assets within health.

Buildings and services is somewhat of a focus due to the high capital values involved, however BME and medical technology is also being included in the discussions. At this point Chris Jeffs and Peter Senn are representing the interests of the BME community, and with the discussions still being at an early stage, the desired objectives have not yet clearly emerged. Bruce was able to share his experiences in this regard with the NSW Health Dept having gone down this track over the last few years. They seemingly reached an outcome with BME involvement but a number of issues arose at the time of Bruce's health service volunteering to be a pilot site for implementation. There were a number of critical functions that the software could not perform and the vendors remained unable to remedy this. His take home message on this was to be intimately involved in all aspects otherwise we may have a system forced upon us. I also sensed the need to maintain open communications and broad involvement amongst the stakeholders to ensure a good outcome.

Adrian Richards

Social Day

We are planning a change from our annual winery visit this year. At this stage we are looking at a picnic day at Belair National Park on Sunday 7 April 2002. We hope to pick a spot with tennis court, oval and BBQ facilities close by. Mark this date in your diary, more information will be provided when available.

Conferences

EPSM 2002 10th - 14th November 2002 ,Rotorua, New Zealand <http://www.epsm2002.com/>

World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering, 24th - 29th August 2003, Sydney. <http://www.wc2003.org/>

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