

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



PO Box 19, Woodville, SA 5011  
<http://www.smbe.asn.au>  
ABN 78 256 253 854

# NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2004

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### Affiliations

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

## 2004 Annual General Meeting

The 2004 Annual General meeting was held on 10 August and was attended by some 40 members. The Presidents report for 2003/2004 is included below. Some of the key points from the AGM are:

1. Election of office bearers for 2004/2006. Anne-Louise Smith and Robin Woolford were elected unopposed to positions of President and Secretary respectively. Four nominations were received for the three councillor positions and Rhys Winn, Darren Kohlhausen and Daniel Fletcher were elected.
2. The proposed changes to the constitution were discussed. The changes were not accepted due to concern that the changes could result in a quorum never being achieved for a council meeting. This will be considered at the next council meeting and will be represented to members for consideration.
3. Darren Kohlhausen presented the 2004 Drager/SMBE Award to Rhys Winn.
4. The subscription fees were increased to \$35 for full members and \$15 for student members.

The formal meeting was followed by an excellent presentation by Mark Denton, ETSA Utilities, on wind energy and the building of the Starfish Hill Wind Farm near Cape Jervis. More information can be found at <http://www.starfishhill.com.au/>

### Retiring councillor, Kevin O'Brien.

Kevin O'Brien decided not to restand for a position on the council. Kevin has been a familiar face in the biomedical industry in South Australia for many years being involved in several companies, the most notable being Valleylab. Kevin has been a member of the SMBE for many years and has been a long serving member of the council. The council would like to thank Kevin for his many years of valuable service to the SMBE.

### 2004 Presidents Report

#### 1. Membership

Life members 4  
Free membership 1  
Full financial 65  
Student 4  
Non-financial 54 – any non-financial members, please see Greg

#### 2. Events Highlights over the last year include:

2003 Aug - World Congress in Sydney  
Sept -Debriefing night with experiences from WC2003  
Oct - Post-grad student papers night  
Dec - Christmas dinner for 75 people  
2004 Feb - Biomedical Experiences in PNG & Cambodia by Noel Kitto and David Hobbs  
March - Marion Megaplex Projection Room & Museum Tour

May - Rehabilitation Engineering (now Novitatech) at Regency Park CCA

June - Entech Electronic Manufacturing site visit

### 3. Meetings coming up include:

Next week: Aug 2004 - Clinical Simulation Unit, Flinders School of Medicine

Next month: Sept 2004 - The Sense of Smell and Artificial Nose Technology by Mr Richard Gawal

### 4. Australian SMBE Web site

This been up since March – with links to WA and NSW only.

This page was proposed to fill the current gap of a professional national presence for biomedical engineering and to provide a focal point for the state SMBE groups in the future. The dancing skeletons are still there but are hidden somewhere in outback South Australia.

Go have a look if you haven't seen it yet at [www.smbe.asn.au](http://www.smbe.asn.au)

You will find the current technical program, upcoming conference details, all the past newsletters and articles, committee members (past and present), sponsors and Hot Topics. Please advise me, or send an email to the link provided on the page, if there are any improvements suggestions or other feedback.

### 5. Awards

Information about the awards – photos and articles can be found on the SMBE SA web site Award pages:

[http://www.smbe.asn.au/SMBE\\_SA/SA\\_Awards/SMBE\\_Awards.htm](http://www.smbe.asn.au/SMBE_SA/SA_Awards/SMBE_Awards.htm)

In November 2003, the SMBE participated in the Biomedical Engineering Outstanding Honours Project Award. The award is based on practicality of the design, project development and outcomes and explanation of work at the exposition day. The award is in the form of a \$200 cash prize, a certificate and 12 months free membership to the SMBE (SA). The award is judged on Expo Day at Flinders University by three members of the Council. It was awarded to Chantelle Saegenschnitter and Tania Walker for their project: an Orthopaedic Surgical Simulator.

The Drager/SMBE award was presented to Rhys Winn. "Rhys has just taken off in his career (~18 months) in BME and this conference would provide an opportunity for networking and professional development. Rhys is a hard worker and is keen to learn and improve his knowledge in biomedical engineering and is worthy of this award." Rhys is here tonight so I would like to ask him to come and receive his award. The award enabled Rhys to attend the SMBE (NSW) Country Technicians

Conference in Bateman's Bay earlier this year. He wrote a report for the newsletter about his experiences – this report can be accessed from the SMBE SA Award web pages.

### 6. WC2003 –World Congress, Sydney 2003

This proved to be very successful especially for us. Our investment of \$2000 seed money returned a profit of \$1,145.06 representing our portion of net conference profit. (\$39,484.84).

### 7. EPSM 2005

Incorporating ABEC – New name for the biomedical side: Australian Biomedical Engineering Conference. We are hoping to promote this conference specifically to the biomedical community (and sponsors) with a range of workshops & forums rather than just the traditional presentation. Theme – Ageing - People, Practice and Technology is the frontrunner for the biomedical side at the moment. This would include:

- a. Aging technology & hospitals – risk management of assets
- b. Aging technicians – continuing professional development & accreditation issues
- c. Aging population – what can biomedical technology offer in the way of home monitoring
- d. Aging with disabilities – specific problems develop due to prosthesis used

### 8. Auditing

The committee investigated the fee of \$700/year on auditing and found we are not required by law to be audited, or by our constitution or bylaws. The committee decided that 2 committee members would check the books each year. We also decided that once per Treasurer, we would get the books officially audited.

### 9. Public Liability Insurance

With the money we saved on auditing we were able to immediately spend it on Public Liability insurance. All the venues we checked out for our AGM required us to have \$10million public liability cover. We arranged for 1 year cover of committee meetings, Technical meetings (not at Bagot St – those are already covered by Engineers Australia), BBQ, Xmas dinner and AGM.

### 10. Thanks

I would like to thank all the councilors for their efforts throughout the year, our sponsors over the last year, especially Helicon Technologies and Drager. Particular thanks to Kevin O'Brien after many years of participation on the SMBE council. For the AGM tonight, thanks to Olivia for organising it.

# Drager/SMBE(SA) Biomedical Engineering Encouragement Award

Nominations are being sought for this very worthwhile award for 2005. Nomination forms are available from Secretary and nominations close on **a date to be advised.**

## PHILOSOPHY

This annual award is to be made as a means of acknowledging and encouraging excellence amongst Biomedical Engineering practitioners.

## PROCESS

The recipient shall be selected by the council of the SMBE (SA) and a representative of Drager Australia from amongst candidates who shall:

*Be nominated by a peer who deems them worthy of such recognition*

## THE AWARD

The award shall comprise a funded visit to the annual SMBE (NSW) Technicians seminar.

## CONDITIONS

Open to all BME practitioners, from within SA and the NT, be they SMBE members or not. The recipient must be in a position to attend the seminar, in either their own or employer's time. The award may be forfeited if this requirement cannot be fulfilled. The nomination by a peer must give a clear indication or evidence of the nominee's abilities, skills, motivation or commitment that, in their mind, sets them apart and makes them deserving of particular recognition.

Individuals holding position on the council of the SMBE (SA) at the time of judging are ineligible for consideration.

All entrants are eligible for minor awards of complementary SMBE (SA) membership for a one year period.

The SMBE (SA) council reserves the right to not make the award.

### **Nominations should be forwarded to:**

Robin Woolford, Secretary SMBE  
C/- Biomedical Engineering  
Flinders Medical Centre, Bedford Park 5042  
FAX (08) 8204 5840

Please contact Secretary for nomination form.

**E. & O.E.**

### **Advertising rates**

Full page ....	\$100.00	½ page ... ..	\$50.00
¼ page ....	\$25.00	Business card	.\$25.00

Some pictures from the AGM 2004.



Anne-Louise Smith, Darren Kohlhagen and Rhys Winn after Rhys was presented with Drager Award



Rhys giving his acceptance speech



Mark Denton, ETSA Utilities talking about the Starfish Hill wind farm.

