



# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH) INC.

## The INSIDE STORY

### FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

A warm and hearty welcome back to everyone, for the start of another challenging and productive year. It gives me great pleasure in introducing our 'New Look' Newsletter - "The Inside Story". Hopefully, the editors will be able to get the inside run on some of the topical and pressing OSH issues before it hits the general press !! Considering that it is now March, the 97/98 AGM held at South of Perth Yacht Club (SPYC) in November last year will only be a distant memory. However, it was an all time record in attendance of members (150) and the magnificent and tranquil ambience of the moon rising over the Swan with Perth City as the back drop, provided us with the ideal environment for Networking and catching up before the Christmas break.

As Chairperson for the AGM, I was remiss in not taking the opportunity to formally thank our outgoing President - Sandy Carvalho for all of her hard work during the year. For the members who don't know, Sandy was the driving force behind the committee, and all functions and events that occurred. Without Sandy's drive, tolerance, motivational prowess and perseverance, 1997 would have been a lack lustre year. On behalf of the Committee and all members, I belatedly take this opportunity to officially thank

### This Could be Your Advertising Space.

**You could be advertising your Company, your Products and Services direct to a niche' market. How do you do it?... well, just ring Alison Martins on 9371 0733 and for the meagre cost of \$300 your message could be reaching over 400 safety, health and allied industry professionals.**

Sandy for her past efforts and hope that she continues to be an active participant in the future direction of the Society.

**1998** looks like it is going to be a very **exciting year** for the OH Society. Plans are already on the board for the development of a Strategic Business Plan with forecasting for the next 5 years (due to be conducted in late March). We have co-opted two of our members Mr Phil Jamieson (Aust. Defence Industries) & Ms Adriane Jones (CIHS), as value added bonuses to the 'Brain Pool' for this planning session. Should anyone else wish to contribute to this planning session, please contact me direct.

### TELEPATHING No.

For those of you who don't know what I am talking about, the OH Society has a dedicated telephone number that will always remain the same, no matter who is on the committee. Our Contact No. is

**0500 88 4404.**

***This number is linked to the Society's fax/phone/answering machine which is monitored.***

Some members have reported difficulties in accessing this TelePathing number. Telstra Telepathing has advised that difficulties will be experienced by persons trying to phone the Society from a PABX/Commander system that has not been programmed to register 0500 numbers, or members using Optus Digital phones for local calls. Until Telstra's "Interconnect" System is fully installed, these problems will continue. Telstra advises that if the PABX/Commander system is maintained by Telstra then they will re-program your system free of charge, otherwise ask your maintenance provider to do this job at the next service. Analogue and Vodaphone systems **are interconnected**. For any further information, please call Telstra on Freecall 1800 630 565.

Otherwise, you can **leave a message** on our **Answering Machine** or send us a **FAX** on **(08) 9371 0733**



## INTRODUCING THE 1998 COMMITTEE

### The Executive

**President Ali Martins**

OH&S Pty Ltd

☎ (08) 9371 0711 (m) 041 9990 601

**Vice President Peter Rohan**

WorkSafe WA

☎ (08) 9327 8892 (m) 041 8944 632

**Secretary Zoe Hewitt-Dutton**

Boral Australia

☎ (08) 9333 3544

**Treasurer Kate Forster**

WorkCover WA

☎ (08) 9324 6632

### Non-Executive Position

**Membership Officer Nicole Wood**

OH&S Pty Ltd

☎ (08) 9371 0733 / 0500 88 4404

### Committee Members

Sandy Carvalho

Dr KC Wan

Kerry Butler

Louise Beckwith

Nicole McLeod

### Co-opted Members

Adrianna Jones

Phil Jamieson



## SafetyLine INSTITUTE

WorkSafe WA will be launching on the Internet their new Initiative called the SafetyLine Institute. This web site will offer over 50 lectures on a wide variety of OSH related topics and test your comprehension of this information interactively. Web surfers can enrol in the Institute and broaden their OSH knowledge base. Certificates of achievement are generated. Chris White (WorkSafe WA) reports that the lectures vary in complexity but will suit a wide variety of users. If all goes to plan, the SafetyLine Institute should be officially launched in May, 1998.

## ERGOTAPE

## PROMOTION

The Ergotape was promoted at the 1997 AGM and is a indispensable ergonomic aid. This device has a two metre tape, with correct ergonomic heights for seats, desks, keyboards and screens labelled on it. There is also a spirit level to establish angles of surfaces and a mirror to orient computer screens and identify sources of reflection. There are over fifty, separate ergonomic measurements and checks on this tool and it comes with a detailed, illustrated user guide.

These tapes normally retail for \$48 and are available from the OH Society at the budget low price of \$30 + \$3 postage.



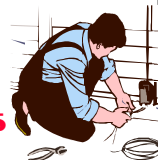
## WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR CONSTITUTION ?

Well, we didn't get it past the Ministry of Fair Trading, but we are happy to report that our VP has it well in hand & complying with all their requirements. It will be re-submitted this week with the expectation that all will be received, approved and accepted.

## GUIDANCE NOTE

### Reg. 3.60 - RCD's

The very contentious and controversial Regulation 3.60 of the WA OSH Regulations 1996 (Protection against earth leakage current), has spurred WorkSafe WA to produce a guidance note that practically explains the intent and application of this regulation. Our insider at WorkSafe reports that this publication will be released in the next two weeks, (so hopefully by the end of March).



## GETTING INFORMATION OUT of WorkCover !!!



Several members have reported increased difficulty in obtaining information with relation to the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 1981, interpretation of the Act, being able to discuss contentious issues with a WorkCover Representative who has relevant background knowledge or be able to receive guidance on specific rehabilitation issues. It was speculated that the closure of the Rehabilitation Unit and the Noise Induced Hearing Loss Branch, with deployment of experienced officers to other parts of the organisation has left a hole in the department which the "Info-Line" cannot cater for. Other issues raised is lack of coverage of the few remaining experienced information providers. If any other members have had similar experiences or believe that these statements are a bit hard, please phone or fax the Society on (08) 93710733. If a significant number of members concur that service provision by this department is a problem, then a formal letter of complaint will be sent from the Occupational Health Society to Harry Neesham - Executive Director WorkCover WA.

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## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome to following new members to the Society:

### CORPORATE

3M Australia  
City of Melville  
Indoor Air Quality  
Castleford (WA) Pty Ltd  
Flexliner Australia Pty Ltd



### INDIVIDUAL

Robert Brown, Adrian Carmady, John Danily, Peter Dronk, David Eames, Jamie Gard, Margaret Howrie, Ann-Louise Hughes, Ian Levy, David McCoy, Dr Rachman Mitchell, Wayne Murray, Jeffrey Ricketts, Stewart Rizkallah, Trevor Roffman, Silvia Rossi, Kate Salomons, Anna Sloane, Jane Taylor, Fred Van Andel.

## MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

For the members who did not attend the AGM, please be advised that membership fees have increased. These are:-

Student	\$20.00
Standard	\$30.00
Corporate	\$60.00



For New members joining the Society as of the 1st of Jan. '98 and existing members who have not renewed their membership (yet), these fees will apply. For all financial members, this fee structure will not apply to you until the 1st of July, 1998.

## 10 YEAR CELEBRATIONS FOR THE PRIME HEALTH GROUP

The Occupational Health Society congratulates Gary and all his staff at Prime Health for achieving 10 years of excellent service to industry.

## COMING EVENTS

### "Meeting Your Way to Success"

(please refer to flyer for more details).



The Occupational Health Society of WA, proudly presents their first professional development seminar for the year. This seminar provides essential instruction and information on how to effectively get your message across in presentations and how to maximise the effectiveness of meetings.

Considering that this is our 'bread and butter' when marketing OSH, this seminar is a **must** for all professionals in safety and health.

### "Collaborative Group Forum on Alcohol and Other Drugs"

This forum has been organised by the Safety Institute of Australia (WA). Collaborative group forum methodology is a process where overt interaction can take place, complex issues can be openly discussed whilst maintaining freedom of speech for all participants. Guided by a trained moderator, these workshops can address the need for change in an organisation or simply review current operational practices.

This seminar, presented by Roy Fitzgerald, Zebra Business Development, will provide valuable information on the interactive and participative methods currently being used with great success in workplaces throughout WA, particularly on the issue of alcohol and other drugs.

Venue: Bryant Room, WACA Ground.

Time: 5.30pm- 7pm

Date: 19th March, 1998

Cost: \$25 Members,  
\$30 Non Members

Contact: SIA on fax 9354 2626

### "FutureSafe 1998"

A reminder for those interested in attending FutureSafe 1998, that it is being held this year on the 15-17th June, at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre at Darling Harbour in Sydney.



### "Injury Management Week - Vision 2000"

Coordinated by WorkCover WA will be held from the 11-15th May, 1998 and is a week of seminars, panel discussions and information activities aimed at improving injury management in the workers' compensation and rehabilitation system. Topics will address practical workplace issues, vocational and workplace assessment, early intervention and an overview of current research trends.

Calender of Events can be obtained by contacting Linda McCardle on (08) 9388 5574, after the 16th March, 1998.

### "One Handed in the Kitchen"

This workshop is run by the Independent Living Centre and will demonstrate equipment for people who have the use of only one hand or have a weak grip in one hand. One handed in the kitchen will provide some handy hints when managing kitchen tasks, equipment will be demonstrated by their Occupational Therapist in addition to a microwave demonstration and a light luncheon.

Venue: 19 Haldane Street, Mount Claremont

Time: 9am - 12.30pm

Date: Monday 23rd March, 1998

Cost: \$15

Contact: Veronica Noughton on 9382 2011.



## Drinksafe Promotion

Involve your workplace in the 1988 "Respect Yourself" Campaign! The WA Health Department will launch the new phase of this campaign on the 4th March, focusing on binge drinking amongst young adults. All worksites are encouraged to participate.

In 1992, the estimated net production losses in Australian workplaces were \$1.4 billion, whilst alcohol related absenteeism in 1994 was estimated to cost \$500 billion! Thus, the benefits of participation in this program within your workplace can include, reduced absenteeism, reduced costs, improved work performance, increased employee education and improved morale.

Campaign resources and assistance are available from Health Promotion Services on 9222 2045 or 9222 2095.

## Draft National Standard

The Draft National Standard and Code of Practice on the Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods, will soon be released by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) for public comment.

## Draft Guidelines for Managing Safety & Health in the Labour Hire Industry

WorkSafe WA will soon be releasing a draft document to offer guidance to the Labour Hire Industry. This guideline clearly gives definition to Section 19(4) of the OS&H Act 1994. It provides direction for employers of 'Hired Labour' and defines their responsibilities. This guideline has

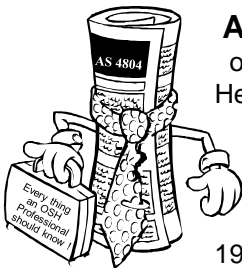
## Draft Guidelines cont....

serious implications for agencies who directly hire labour and subcontract them out to 3rd party employers. Clarification of the working relationship is provided as well as all the steps employers must take to ensure the health and safety of their contract employees'.

Written agreements, other documents that must be established and the homework that must be done prior to hiring of the employee, is illustrated. Other topics include, reduction of risk, selecting the right person for the job, provision of information, instruction and training, monitoring contract employee safety and health, administration, and workers' compensation and rehabilitation

The guidelines follow the labour hire process from the hiring of a contract employee through to their finishing with a host employer. The draft of the Labour Hire Guidelines will be released for comment in the near future. Who will release it remains a contentious issue ie. WorkSafe WA or the Commission!

## AS/NZS 4804:1997



A new standard on Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems was released in December, 1997. It outlines how to develop and implement effective OH&S management systems. It also gives guidance on how to improve current systems and can be useful as an auditing tool.

Copies of AS/NZS 4804:1997 are available for purchase from Standards Australia offices in all capital cities.

## Manual Handling COP

The National Code is about to undergo its automatic 10 year review & there is a chance it may be thrown out! The reasoning behind this is that manual handling injuries have increased whilst other injuries have decreased. However, this may just be the case of 'lies, damn lies and statistics. Stay tuned for more updates.

## Code of Practice on HIV, Hepatitis B and C

WorkSafe WA released in November 1997 their Code of Practice on "Management of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C at Workplaces. The COP outlines general principles for managing OSH, discusses HIV, AIDS and the Hepatitis diseases, overviews risk management of these diseases in the workplace and offers practical means of reducing the risk. This publication is available on the internet and can be accessed from the home page of safety & health laws and COP of the WorkSafe WA SafetyLine homepage or directly at: [http://sage.wt.com.au/SafetyLine/codes/aids/hiv\\_ind.htm](http://sage.wt.com.au/SafetyLine/codes/aids/hiv_ind.htm)



## Seating in Mining Vehicles

Barbara McPhee, a prominent ergonomist in NSW has been undertaking some extremely complex computerised measuring of whole body vibration in seating in mining vehicles. The complex research involves specifically designed recording equipment, mathematical formulas and principles of physics. Her findings promise to be enlightening regarding work duration per shift for heavy vehicle operators.



# THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH) INC.



**Proudly PRESENTS**

**A 3M SPONSORED EVENT ....**



## “Meeting Your Way to Success”

Polish up your *style* and maximise the *effectiveness* of **presentations and meetings** to achieve your Safety and Health goals.

This Occupational Health Society Seminar will value add to your **armoury** of presentation skills and expose you to **Best Practice Techniques** when conducting meetings.

Wouldn't you like to know how to :-

- ✓ end the time and productivity drain of inefficient meetings?
- ✓ make sure that when meetings are held, things will actually get decided, accomplished, or solved?
- ✓ decide when to hold a meeting and why?
- ✓ how to get the right people to attend?
- ✓ get a better understanding of the meeting process?
- ✓ market your subject matter effectively?
- ✓ conduct stimulating, inspiring, productive meetings using today's latest techniques in multimedia presentations and high impact visuals?

Then join us and our Guest Speakers Ms Janet Woolard (past president Australian Nurses Federation) and Mr Leo Harwood (3M Office & Visual Systems Manager), for an invigorating and creative late afternoon seminar at the

**Royal Perth Yacht Club, Australia Il Drive, Crawley,**

**on Monday the 30th of March, 1998, at 3 - 6pm. Registration 2.30 pm.**

**You are welcome to join our guest speakers & the committee for a post seminar soiree.**

**RSVP By Wednesday the 25th of March 1998**

**Cost \$20.00 Members \$30.00 Non-Members**

**Mark Cheques payable to the Occupational Health Society (WA)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_ Member Yes/No

**Please Charge my Card**

☐

Mastercard

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Visa

☐

Bankcard

**Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

FULL NAME ON CREDIT CARD

EXPIRY DATE ON CARD

SIGNATURE ON CARD

FULL 16 DIGIT ACCOUNT NUMBER WRITTEN ON CREDIT CARD

**Are you or any of your associates currently an un-financial member? Please use this form or get someone else to re-join. We have 107 non-financial members and we want to reduce this number to "0". We need your help to keep the coffers full so that we can keep the Post Seminar/Function Soiree's happening in style !**

## 1997/98 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Renewal Was Due on the 1st July 1997 - valid for the period 01/07/97 - 30/06/98

Members Name : .....

Please tick appropriate boxes:

- ☐ Standard Member  
☐ Corporate Member  
☐ Student Member (Full Time, Unwaged)

Amount Due

\$ 30

\$ 60

\$ 20

TOTAL REMITTANCE

If You Have Any Queries Please Direct Them To Nicole Wood (Membership Officer)  
 On 0500 88 4404 (phone) or by facsimile on (08) 9371 0733

PLEASE RETAIN THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS. A RECEIPT WILL NOT BE ISSUED UNLESS REQUESTED.

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SOCIETY (W.A. BRANCH) INC.**

## 1997/98 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Renewal Was Due on the 1st July, 1997 - valid till June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1998

NAME: .....

ADDRESS (if changed): .....

Other Details changed .....

MEMBERSHIP FEE Corporate \$60 ☐ Standard \$30 ☐ Student \$20 ☐

PAYMENT DETAILS Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Money Order ☐ Credit Card ☐

Please Charge my Card ☐ ☐ ☐ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mastercard Visa Bankcard

FULL NAME ON CREDIT CARD

EXPIRY DATE ON CARD

SIGNATURE ON CARD

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

FULL 16 DIGIT ACCOUNT NUMBER WRITTEN ON CREDIT CARD

PLEASE DETACH AT PERFORATION AND SEND WITH PAYMENT TO:  
 The Occupational Health Society (WA) Inc., P.O. Box 639 West Perth, WA 6872.