

# placebo.

newsletter of the national australian pharmacy students' association

volume 14 issue 3

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## President's Report

### From the desk of the President

Welcome to another dose of Placebo! I'm pleased to report that NAPSA has not slowed down since NAPSA Congress and we have a number of new initiatives coming through the pipeline for all NAPSA members to take part in.

NAPSA recently exhibited at The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) Conference on the Gold Coast. The executive and Committee Chairs of NAPSA took advantage of this great opportunity to meet and greet the leaders of the pharmacy profession. We also launched our new NAPSA Associate Membership, with a number of pharmacists taking up the offer on the spot.

The NAPSA Young Pharmacist Networking Evening on Friday the 3rd April was a great success. Young pharmacists, students, mentors and preceptors joined the 'young at heart' pharmacists for drinks at the East Bar in Broadbeach. Thank you to The Pharmacy Guild of Australia for supporting this great event.

I was also given the opportunity to co-MC the conference by the Guild's National President, Kos Sclavos. This was a great honour and I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in APP 2009. My co-MC was Anthony Tassone, a young pharmacist from Melbourne. APP is held each year on the Gold Coast and is the premier pharmacy event in Australia. Next year's APP will be held between the 11th and the 14th March 2010.

Pharmspace is coming! The team at Raven's Recruitment has been hard at work ensuring that Pharmspace's first year is a fantastic success. If you're a final year pharmacy student and are starting to think about your internship next year, then this is the site for you. If you haven't already registered, go to [www.pharmspace.com.au](http://www.pharmspace.com.au) and register your details. Pharmspace will be going live in July, so go check it out!



NAPSA will be exhibiting at the Pharmacy Expo between 12th and 14th June in Sydney for the first time this year. The Pharmacy Expo is a joint event run by The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA). Feel free to visit us at the Expo! For more information about the Expo, go to [www.pharmacyexpo.com.au](http://www.pharmacyexpo.com.au).

The Blackmore's Advanced Complementary Medicines Course has been piloted and has proved a great success. As such, it is now ready to be rolled out nationally. A number of NAPSA Branches have already booked in for their courses. This course has been written specifically for NAPSA and designed for final year pharmacy students. It builds on the previous Blackmores Complementary Medicines Course and covers a number of topics commonly seen in community pharmacy every day, including cardiovascular health, mental health and preconception care. To find out about when this course is being run at your Branch, ask your Branch President!

Why not take a well-deserved break from studying? How about a healthy dose of Placebo to allow all that chemistry, therapeutics and pharmacology sink in...Enjoy!

*Lisa Goldsmith*  
NAPSA President

Winter  
2009

## Editors note

Welcome to the Winter Placebo which contains information on many of the exciting happenings regarding NAPSA and branches around the country. Keep reading for a wrap up of Charity Cup, and updates from many talented past and present students. Again, NAPSA are always looking for new content and ideas for the e-newsletters and Placebo. Any submissions can be made to the editor [s.sinclair@napsa.org.au](mailto:s.sinclair@napsa.org.au)

*Sarah Sinclair*  
NAPSA Publications Chair 2008/2009

placebo.

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Placebo is the quarterly newsletter of the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA).

Opinions expressed in Placebo do not necessarily reflect those of NAPSA, its Committees and Office Bearers, its members nor the Editor.

Please direct advertising and all other enquiries to the editor at [placebo@napsa.org.au](mailto:placebo@napsa.org.au)

## Mary Poon: where is she now?



When I look back, I am still amazed at what an incredible five years I had as a pharmacy student. Not only because of what I had learnt in order to be a professional pharmacist, but what VPSA,

NAPSA and IPSF have taught me in terms of human behaviour, diplomacy, hard work, global pharmacy, the building of life-long friendships, and the spirit of pharmacy – both intra- and extra- professionally.

My first taste of student representation was with VPSA, where I was Treasurer 2004-05 and President 2005-06. I was on the NAPSA

national council during my presidency and was on the Treasurer and Accommodation and Registration Coordinator for the NAPSA Congress 2007 in Melbourne. My first experience of IPSF was at the 4th IPSF Asia Pacific Pharmaceutical Symposium 2005 (APPS) in Japan. I was then elected as the Secretary of the IPSF Asia Pacific Regional Office for 2006-07. At my first IPSF world congress in Cairns 2006, I was inspired to get involved on the international level of pharmacy representation. The next year, I was elected as Secretary-General for 2007-09.

The position of IPSF Secretary-General and as an Executive member has been a unique opportunity to work and understand the complexities of an international organisation as it requires an extensive knowledge of the Federation in all aspects, both internally

and with external relations. It is an amazing position to be in, if you would like to work with a dedicated exec team from all over the world, for the improvement of pharmacy around the world.

Though I am now registered as a pharmacist, and my term as IPSF Secretary General is coming to an end, I know that the memories and stories from VPSA, NAPSA and IPSF are one of the first bricks and mortar in the building blocks of my career. I know that I will miss these times but they will surely remain with me for the rest of my life and the next step will be looking forward to the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)!

*Mary Poon*  
Secretary General 2007-09  
International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation  
[www.ipsf.org](http://www.ipsf.org)

## PSA and NAPSA strengthen relationship

The President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), Warwick Plunkett and I took the opportunity to meet at APP in April to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between our two organisations. Although NAPSA and the PSA have long worked closely together to great effect, this MoU further strengthens our partnership.

The MoU outlines the PSA assisting NAPSA with a number of activities including registering NAPSA Congress delegates online and also selling textbooks online through

the PSA Bookstore. NAPSA will in turn assist the PSA to reach Australian pharmacy students and promote student membership of the PSA. NAPSA is also assisting the PSA to organise a NAPSA event at the Pharmacy Australia Congress (PAC) in Sydney this year.

I am very enthusiastic that NAPSA members will benefit from the relationship that the PSA has with NAPSA and look forward to working with the PSA to deliver these member benefits in the near future.

*Lisa Goldsmith*  
NAPSA National President



# IPSF exchange



Ever wondered what pharmacy is like overseas? After completing a month placement working in a Singapore hospital I can tell you that an IPSF student exchange is an exciting opportunity not to be missed! I was quite unsure of what to expect of pharmacy abroad, but excited beyond belief. Less than 24 hours after my final exam in June 08, I packed my bags and boarded a plane to Singapore. I worked at KKH, the major Women's and Children's with my new housemate/companion Cynthia, who was also on exchange from the Netherlands.

Observing pharmacy practice and the constraints placed on it by differing cultural influences was a rewarding way to spend the otherwise chilly Victorian winter, not mention the great fun I had exploring a foreign country. A greater emphasis was placed on the value of what we would term 'complementary medicines' and the cultural identity of the individual; for example halal meals were prepared with respect to cultural guidelines and provided separately and pharmacists who spoke Mandarin (and some dialects), Tamil, Malay or English were readily available. After leaving Singapore I had a greater awareness of our Australian culture, broadened my understanding of health in diverse cultural contexts, gained international friends whom I will never forget, found a greater appreciation for chopsticks and explored an amazing country in the best possible way. I do not regret a second of my exchange, except that I was not there longer and encourage everyone who is even curious about student exchange to take the plunge.

*Maddi Crow*  
BAPS Representative.

## A new role for pharmacy Students: NRHSN

The NRHSN is the National Rural Health Students' Network, and represents students all over Australia who are studying a health related degree. Universities all across Australia have a rural health club, which is designed to promote interest, enthusiasm and support for rural based careers. The NRHSN has a very diverse member base, because it represents all health related courses (Dentistry, Medicine, Occupational Therapy etc etc.), and so, promotes the multi-disciplinary approach to healthcare in the bush.

I was fortunate enough to be elected into this organisation a few short weeks ago, as the new 'Pharmacy Liaison Officer' of the 'NRHSN Allied Health Portfolio'. This role means I will be liaising with NAPSA and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia with regards to rural opportunities and pharmacy student representation. In addition, the NRHSN also funds this officer to attend the NAPSA AGM and NURHC, and possibly NAPSA Congress.

NAPSA, and pharmacy students in general, are very fortunate to hold their very own liaison officer role, as many other allied health courses are not given their own specific liaising position.

I do look forward to filling this role, and encourage any interested students to contact me via email at [elisetaylor@live.com.au](mailto:elisetaylor@live.com.au), if you would like to be involved yourself!

*Elise Taylor*  
NRHSN Pharmacy Liaison Officer (NAPSA and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia)



NAPSA Rural and Indigenous Health Chair (2008/2009)

## The 2008 NAPSA National Council

### President

Lisa Goldsmith  
Griffith University

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University of Queensland

### Secretary

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University of South Australia

### Treasurer

Guy Horne  
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Genevieve Lu  
University of Queensland

### Pharmacy Awareness Chair

Amy Minett  
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### Industrial Affairs Chair

Andrew Hawthorne  
La Trobe University

### IPSF Chair

Ashleigh Coome  
Queensland University of Technology

### Rural and Indigenous Chair

Elise Taylor  
Charles Sturt University

## Principal supporter of NAPSA



The  
PHARMACY  
GUILD of  
AUSTRALIA

## “Charity Cupping” it for the first time in ‘09!

All through April, all around Australia, pharmacy students have been going crazy... fundraising-crazy in the name of The Fred Hollows Foundation's Indigenous Programs in the inaugural 2009 NAPSAs Charity Cup!

As part of Charity Cup, NAPSAs Branches held creative events in April to raise funds and awareness for The Fred Hollows Foundation, who work with local Indigenous organisations and communities to improve overall health and wellbeing for Indigenous people living in some of Australia's most remote locations. The NAPSAs Charity Cup Award will recognise the efforts of the NAPSAs branch that raises the most money. The NAPSAs Charity Innovation Award will be presented to the branch displaying the most originality, enthusiasm and passion whilst fundraising.

In its first year, huge congratulations must go out to our fantastic Branches for squeezing more events into their already busy calendars and participating in Charity Cup – helping disadvantaged Australians whilst having some fun is always worth while!

The Charity Cup spirit started in the west, with WAPSA taking fundraising flight pirate-style! With all proceeds from WAPSA's annual End-Of-Term function at Sundowners donated, as well as profits from a pirate-themed “Aye Ball”, an intense Fremantle Dockers and Western Force raffle and pirate barbeque around Curtin Uni, WAPSA are in hot contention for the Charity Cup trophy! Up in the NT, TEPSA are doing their bit, with a barbeque and bowls afternoon organised to encourage their Darwinian members to support Indigenous health!

Up in Queensland's north, our JCUPSA kids put the R back into Radtastic with their Trivia Night Spectacular, on the final day of Charity Cup and April. Trivia must be more concentrated than water in Brisbane's dams, with the keen QUTSPA team holding their first ever Trivia Night at the QUT Guild Bar, and donating all proceeds to The Fred Hollows Foundation! Down on the Gold Coast, the GUAPSies came alive with the glory of the Charity Cup firmly in their eyes. A jellybean counting competition was just the beginning, before the GUAPS Amazing Car Race took all on possibly the most competitive scavenger hunt NAPSAs has even seen!

The Charity Cup enthusiasm did not fade into NSW, with SUPA showing us that the best way to fundraise is through a



hungry pharmacy student's stomach, with a memorable cake stall and barbeque, accompanied by a guessing competition and raffle! Down in Wagga with less than 9 April days to fundraise due to mid-session break, our Pharmers' kids did Charity Cup proud through their efforts with Final Fling barbeque, Glucojel guessing competition, Magic Squares and raffle...almost \$600 in less than 24 hours!

With some classic Bendigo intensity, BAPS have been Charity Cupping it up with a Trivia Night and barbeque on the LaTrobe campus under the guidance of their extra eager new committee. In Melbourne, VPSA have clearly cemented themselves as the coolest/most envied NAPSAs branch, holding an awesome acoustic/live music night to raise money for Indigenous health as well as a fundraising barbeque at Monash...under the guidance of Simon Furletti, I expected nothing less!

Rounding up the nation's activities in Adelaide, SAPSA were eye-blazingly creative in their fundraising, holding a Passion PopEYE Cruise and an “Eyes” Ice Skating night, as well as getting pharmacists on board to support the cause through collecting donations at a PSA Documentary screening night.



Total funds raised by NAPSAs in the 2009 Charity Cup will be announced at the NAPSAs AGM Dinner on July 11th, with a big cheque being presented to The Fred Hollows Foundation. As for the winning and most innovative branch awards...come along to Gold Coast Congress 2010 to see the trophies presented at the Gala Ball!

On behalf of NAPSAs and The Fred Hollows Foundation, thank you for your support of the inaugural NAPSAs Charity Cup! Hope you had a ball!

*Amy Minett*  
Pharmacy Awareness Chair  
(Charity Cup's Mother Duck)  
asminett@gmail.com

# PSOTY NAPSA Delegate

Pharmacy Student of the Year... Wow, you are probably thinking this sounds like a massive challenge and way too hard to achieve while studying, working and enjoying your final year of University.

There are a few myths to be dispelled about the PSOTY Competition, and hopefully a few of you will be inspired! Some old rumours about the competition that probably have been suggested to you include:

- Any PSOTY candidate must be some kind of genius.  
FALSE! In fact, some of the brainiest students in world would not stand a chance in this competition. The best candidates for PSOTY are students who can actually talk to people.
- A PSOTY candidate would need the equivalent of half their lifetime in pharmacy experience to win.  
FALSE! Many candidates may not

have the most up-to-date knowledge, or understanding, however they can problem solve and design solutions for patients.

- PSOTY is the be-all end-all of competitions for final year students.  
FALSE! For every 5 students that are brave enough to try out, there are another 50 which are probably better prepared and more capable. Therefore, it is only fair to say that the winner of PSOTY each year is not going to be the 'best student in Australia', but they are one of the only students with enough guts to put themselves out there!

So, if becoming a PSOTY candidate is not such a big deal, like everyone thinks it is, then why would you bother trying out?

The Pharmacy Student of the Year Competition is about show-casing the massive advances in the education of



pharmacy students in recent years, to the point where we put many of our more experienced bosses and supervisors to shame. It is about developing new skills, or improving the ones you already have. This type of learning, where an individual can assess weaknesses in a skill and therefore make an improvement, is a sign of a true specialist. In our case, we are the specialists of medicine provision and counseling.

*Elise Taylor*  
NAPSA PSOTY wildcard winner

## PSA Alphapharm Pharmacy Student of the Year



### Are you the next PSA Alphapharm Pharmacy Student of the Year?

The PSA Alphapharm Pharmacy Student of the Year award recognises outstanding pharmacy students by showcasing their counselling skills to the pharmacy profession. If you are an Australian pharmacy student expecting to graduate in 2009 you are eligible to enter the competition.

The PSA Alphapharm Pharmacy Student of the Year award provides you with the opportunity to implement your counselling skills using real life pharmacy scenarios. Competing against your peers, you will be able to demonstrate your pharmacy knowledge and gain invaluable practical

experience that you can refer to when you commence your pharmacy career. At the final judging, held at PAC, you will assess patients' health care needs before a panel and audience.

Alphapharm, as the exclusive sponsor of the PSA Pharmacy Student of the Year, provides over \$20,000 in Alphapharm Travel Prizes for NAPSA, State, Territory and National Finalists. If you're selected as the 2009 PSA Alphapharm Pharmacy Student of the Year you'll receive the Alphapharm National Travel Prize of an expenses paid trip to the International Pharmacy Student Federation (IPSF) Congress in Ljubljana, Slovenia in August 2010.

All State and Territory Finalists will compete in the National Counselling Event held at PAC in Sydney, 15-18 October 2009.

The National Winner will be announced at the PAC 2009 Gala Dinner, receiving the Alphapharm National Travel Prize for pharmacy-specific education.

### Alphapharm Travel Prizes

Alphapharm is the exclusive sponsor of the prestigious PSA Alphapharm Pharmacy Student of the Year award. This valuable support from one of Australia's leading pharmaceutical companies, allows PSA to provide Pharmacy Student of the Year Finalists with travel accommodation and registration to PAC 15-18 October 2009.



## Chair reports

### Education



My name is Genevieve Lu from University of Queensland and I am currently the NAPSA Education Committee Chair. Several universities have successfully carried out the educational courses with Blackmores Complementary Medicines, Smith and Nephew and Stitches First aid courses in recent months and I look forward to booking in more courses for you all very soon.

Last year, Blackmores Complementary Medicines introduced a brand-new and exciting advanced course to all the NAPSA branches. QPSA and GUAPS have successfully held this course and I am very pleased to report that the course was well received and the students enjoyed the content. It is great news that QPSA will again undertake this course later in the year and I would like to encourage other universities to undertake this Complementary Medicines Course in 2009.

Since I have taken over the role of Education Officer, several universities have booked in Stitches First Aid courses. CasPA will be having the Stitches First Aid course in May. GUAPS and SUPA are also booked. I hope the students will enjoy the course and I am looking forward to their feedback.

If anyone would like to contribute any suggestions on any new educational courses or any requests for NAPSA educational events, please email me at [lu\\_genevieve777@hotmail.com](mailto:lu_genevieve777@hotmail.com).

*Genevieve Lu*  
NAPSA Education Chair

### Industrial Affairs



The Australian Fair Pay Commission recently released its outline Pharmacy Industry Award 2010, with a mixed response from the Pharmacy Guild and APESMA. The Guild have written to the Commission, and claim that the 'penalty rates and restrictive terms and conditions', will see employee pharmacists face job losses. APESMA, however, have supported the penalty rates, and believe that they are reasonable.

The hourly rates for students and interns included in the Award are as follows:

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Pharmacy student 1st year: | \$14.47 |
| Pharmacy student 2nd year: | \$15.00 |
| Pharmacy student 3rd year: | \$15.79 |
| Pharmacy student 4th year: | \$16.32 |
| Intern (first 6 months):   | \$16.78 |
| Intern (second 6 months):  | \$17.50 |

Whilst these may seem reasonable considering it is a wage earned whilst completing a degree, after registering it is a different story. The wages for pharmacists have a minimal increase on those above, with an employee pharmacist set to have an hourly rate of \$20.87, an experienced pharmacist \$22.92, a pharmacist-in-charge \$23.47 and a manager \$26.24. These rates may seem quite appealing to an undergraduate student, however when the high esteem and standard of our profession is taken into account, the hourly remuneration rate is well below par. Penalty rates to a certain extent alleviate this, however they are only applicable to pharmacists working in an extended-hours pharmacy where there is opportunity to take advantage.

The position of the Guild is perfectly reasonable: they represent the interests of the

employer and as such must try to keep costs to a minimum. Wages are one of these costs and are a massive expense. And in today's economic climate this has become even more relevant. The public however are always going to need medicines, and in the average pharmacy where 70-80% of the income is through medications and the PBS the main income stream will take minimal damage.

For pharmacy to be all it can be, and pharmacists to take a more proactive role in the provision of services and healthcare, pharmacist remuneration must accurately reflect the skills of the average community pharmacist.

*Andrew Hawthorne*  
Industrial Affairs Committee Chair

### Publications



Things have been busy for the publications committee this semester. The NAPSA website will be up and running by our AGM in July, and the Publications Committee and NAPSA are very grateful for the support of the PSA in this huge endeavour. This new website will make information much more so that you can maximise what you can get out of your membership. The new website will contain information on the courses run by NAPSA, information on all of the Committees and most importantly, information as to how you can become involved in NAPSA, be it Congress, a Branch Liaison Representative or a member of National Council. Also be sure to check out the website for information on Congress 2010 on the Gold Coast and the most up-to-date NAPSA news. [www.napsa.org.au](http://www.napsa.org.au)

*Sarah Sinclair*  
Publications Committee Chair

## IPSF



It is my great pleasure to present my first IPSF report as the newly instated IPSF committee chair. As such, it is time for everyone to get excited for IPSF 55th World Congress in Bali 3rd-13th August, 2009! This is the opportunity for pharmacy students to gather, learn, network and socialise with likeminded students from all over the globe. Think of it as NAPSA on overdrive!

The World Congress is the jewel in the IPSF crown. Not only does it play host the General Assembly but also has an educational theme of "The Role of a Pharmacist in Primary Healthcare". Social events are not lacking here either – How does this take your fancy: Welcome Party, Tropical Party, Pub Crawl, Traditional Night, Bali Adventure, White Party, International Night, DF Auction and a Gala Dinner. A post congress tour is also available.

Registrations are open now and close on 15th July 2009. Be warned though the longer you leave it, the most expensive it's going to be. Prior to 31st May is €450 while after that date until close of registration is €550.

Registration is via the web at [www.ipsf2009.org](http://www.ipsf2009.org). **Before you register please contact me** so I can provide you with a confirmation letter that you can attach to your registration form. This is important and your application won't be processed without it!

If you would like anymore information, please see the IPSF World Congress Website: [www.ipsf2009.org](http://www.ipsf2009.org) or alternatively contact me at [ashleigh\\_coome@hotmail.com](mailto:ashleigh_coome@hotmail.com).

*Ashleigh Coome*  
IPSF Chair

## Pharmacy Awareness



The star achievement of the Pharmacy Awareness Committee of the 2008/09 term was in the initiation of the **NAPSA Charity Cup** as an annual campaign for NAPSA Branches to raise funds and awareness for an elected national charity in the month of April. Charity Cup was an absolutely massive success! We had 11 fantastic branches stretching across all corners of Australia participating throughout April to fundraise for the Fred Hollows Foundation's Indigenous Programs.

**Pharmacy Week** was held from 18th-24th May, with many students supporting the future of pharmacy profession by creating public awareness of the knowledge, support, services and fundamental care pharmacists provide everyday around Australia. Branches were proactive in talking to members of the public and educating them on the health importance of pharmacy services – doing Pharmacy and NAPSA very proud.

NAPSA extends a massive thank you to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, and Gold Cross for their continued support, as well as NPS, Webstercare, Diabetes Australia, and National Asthma Council of Australia for the provision of healthcare materials for each Branch's Pharmacy Week stalls. Thank you also to all local pharmacists who volunteered their valuable time to participate. Keep your eyes peeled for the next Placebo, where you can see what your branch got up to!

From the Pharmacy Awareness Committee, thank YOU for your participation in our campaigns. We're all about YOU and YOUR future in pharmacy. So please consider getting

involved with NAPSA and our campaigns in the future if you were "unable" to participate in 2009...you'll get more out of the experience than you can ever imagine.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank all my branch contacts, the lovely ladies at the PSA, Guild and The Fred Hollows Foundation, CSU staff, NAPSA kids, friends and family for their support of me over the crazy/hectic/stressful/amazing 12 months I've spent as Pharmacy Awareness Chair

*Amy Minett*  
Pharmacy Awareness Chair  
[asminett@gmail.com](mailto:asminett@gmail.com)

## Rural and Indigenous Health



The NRHSN is the National Rural Health Students' Network, and represents students all over Australia who are studying a health related degree. The NRHSN has a very diverse member base, because it

represents all health related courses and so, promotes the multi-disciplinary approach to healthcare in rural areas.

I was fortunate enough to be elected into this organisation a few short weeks ago, as the new 'Pharmacy Liaison Officer' of the 'NRHSN Allied Health Portfolio'. This role means I will be liaising with NAPSA and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia with regards to rural opportunities and pharmacy student representation.

*Elise Taylor*

*NRHSN Pharmacy Liaison Officer (NAPSA and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia)*

*NAPSA Rural and Indigenous Health Chair (2008/2009)*

## JCUPSA in the spotlight

We are charming. We are intelligent. We are enthusiastic. We are RAD! We are the James Cook University Pharmacy Students' Association...But you may call us JCUPSA! JCUPSA was founded in 2000 to coincide with the inception of the Bachelor of Pharmacy program at James Cook University. While our existence may still be in single digit years, don't be fooled! What JCUPSA may lack in history is more than made up for in pure unadulterated amazingness. So far JCUPSA has fostered numerous Pharmacy Student of the Year finalists, an Australian Pharmacy Student of the year winner and to top it all off, a NAPSA president....you know, just for good measure.

I'm sure that while reading this you are recalling many a good time you have willingly shared with a JCUPSA-ite... I bet you still recall this time with a smile, maybe even a smirk or a blush. Hopefully a lot of you have come across the JCUPSA clan at the wonderful NAPSA Congresses, where we never fail to have an enthusiastic contingent. Notice, I said "enthusiastic" not large. That is because JCUPSA is one of the more "Medium sized" associations floating around. At this present moment in time we have approximately 85% membership of all currently enrolled pharmacy students. This fun fact leaves JCUPSA with approximately 250 members.

As you may be able to imagine 250+ ROWDY pharmacy students never fail to make any event, be it social, educational or miscellaneous, a ROARING success! Over the past few years JCUPSA has developed a tried and true formula to squeeze the



most potential out of each year. This tried and true formula allows members to grasp the best educational opportunities on offer from JCUPSA and NAPSA as well as further themselves professionally, and to also sneak in a couple of our somewhat infamous social events. Some would go as far as to call them NOTORIOUS...

"Pharmer's on the Grass" has turned into a biannual tradition for JCUPSAites, held at the start of every semester JCUPSA's signature event draws quite the crowd, usually pulling in over 200 pharmacy students and friends for a night of splendid live music, sizzling snags, drinks so cheap it should be illegal, and of course outstanding company. Yes, I realise that I may be slightly biased, but this event really is RADSICK and truly embodies and showcases JCUPSA's community centred values and enthusiastic nature. If you ever happen to be in the vicinity of Townsville when this event is a happening thing, JCUPSA welcomes you with open arms... because that's how we roll!

While JCUPSA may seem to be the most social bunch of socialites you may ever meet, we also take professional development extremely seriously. Thus every year we roll out the best educational courses NAPSA has to offer, Blackmores, First Aid and Wound care; JCUPSA does them all. We also go to great lengths to ensure that our members have access to the cheapest textbooks this side of Taiwan, with JCUPSA providing 11

pharmacy specific texts at OUTLANDISHLY cheap rates.

The highlight of the JCUPSA year however is not our RADTASTIC "Pharmer's", or even our ENTHRALLING education courses. Our gala ball is without a doubt the biggest event on the ENTIRE faculty calendar. Extravagance, decadence and glamour all have a place at the annual JCUPSA ball, each year seeing record numbers of students turn out in old school glamour for a night of drinking, dancing and all round merriness! All of these wonderful events however could not be possible without the continuing support of an exceptionally wonderful Pharmacy department and head of school. JCUPSA has possibly the most enthusiastic and supportive teaching staff backing them 100% of the way, so this is a shout out to the wonderfulness that helps make JCUPSA possible.

It is also imperative that I mention the marvellous committees that JCUPSA has been fortunate enough to have. While we are a smallish contingent JCUPSA does fun better than any other organisation I've come across. So thank you to committees past, present and future, for your dedication and hard work. Finally a shout out to all of you NAPSA-arians reading this, I know that by now you are all secretly wishing you were from JCUPSA... Don't worry, it's completely understandable! This is JCUPSA, over and OUT!

*Emma Wilson*  
Outgoing JCUPSA President



# Nick Logan Pharmacist Advice

*Laura Wilson and Claire O'Reilly*

As pharmacy students (and future owners, managers and employees of pharmacies) you will be aware of the challenges and opportunities facing community pharmacy owners and the industry in general. Successive Community Pharmacy Agreements with the Commonwealth Government and the ever-present threat of supermarkets are prompting a change in professional practice, requiring a shift towards pharmacies providing health care solutions for all Australians. The pharmacy of the year awards are an initiative of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, in partnership with Johnson and Johnson, designed to recognise excellence and innovation in the delivery of these health care solutions in community pharmacies.

At Nick Logan Pharmacist Advice we were thrilled to be recently rewarded with the 2009 Pharmacy of the Year award in both the small pharmacy category and as the overall winners. We believe that our pharmacy can be a good example that a strategic health focus, including the provision of professional pharmacy services, can be a viable and successful small business model for community pharmacies.

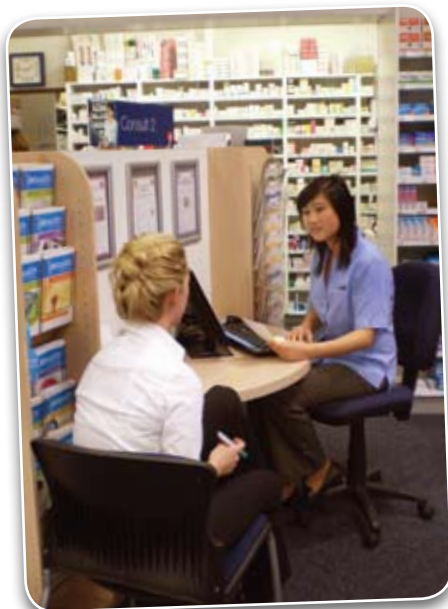
One of the most important factors for our success, and indeed the success of any pharmacy, is the ability to respond strategically to changes that happen around the pharmacy. In our case, these changes include the implications of Community Pharmacy Agreements and the actions of local competitors. Nick chose

a strategic health focus to (1) differentiate the pharmacy from price-focused competitors, (2) maximise support from the Government and to (3) have a professionally rewarding small business.

Our key differentiating feature is that we operate as a Pharmacist Advice whose model includes 'forward pharmacy'. Forward pharmacy involves counselling patients and dispensing medication in the front of shop at counselling tables as opposed to having the pharmacist hidden in the dispensary clerking. This ensures that the pharmacist is always accessible to the customer and that they have the opportunity to use their extensive knowledge. We have found that this close interaction between pharmacists and customers results in more complete health solutions for the customers and therefore increased sales for the pharmacy. Practicing forward pharmacy has also attracted a stream of gifted students and graduate pharmacists interested in improving their professionalism. In the past we have had one Graduate Pharmacist of the Year and three Young Australian Pharmacists of the Year.

Part of our health-focused strategy is also to embrace new professional services, such as Home Medicines Review, Dose Administration Aids, Patient Medication Profiling and disease state management services, as they become available and strive to maximize their efficiency and viability. Services such as these are important to us because of space constraints.

"We are very honoured to have been selected amongst such outstanding finalists. All the pharmacies seemed to have harnessed their team's enthusiasm to never just be average. Both my past and present staff have taken ownership of this award and are celebrating accordingly. It is a testament to their determination for over a decade to provide efficient and professional pharmacy at a retail level." Nick Logan, on winning Pharmacy of the Year 2009.



*Laura Wilson has worked as a pharmacy assistant in this pharmacy for five years and assists Nick in business management. Laura has completed a business degree at the University of Technology and two years ago completed Certificate II in Community Pharmacy from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Currently Laura is also working on a research project funded by the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement entitled "Building Organisational Flexibility to Promote the Implementation of Primary Care Services in Community Pharmacy" at the University of Sydney. Laura is an affiliate member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.*

*Claire O'Reilly is a pharmacist at Nick Logan Pharmacist Advice. Claire is also currently undertaking a PhD to research improving mental health services provided through community pharmacy and is a National board member of PSA and Vice President of the PSA NSW branch committee. Claire was previously PSA NSW Graduate of the Year 2004 and PSA Young Pharmacist of the Year 2006.*

## Branch updates



### BAPS

After settling in to another exciting semester of Uni in Bendigo, our first event for the semester was a new one for BAPS, Barefoot Lawn Bowls! The night was a success with many crackerjack performances and some very impressive white outfits all whilst enjoying beer at genuine 1972 prices! Our first pub-crawl was held in conjunction with the rural health club and the night was themed "party like a rock star", and party like rock stars we did. The event was timed perfectly as it was the day after our AGM so the incoming committee could celebrate and the outgoing committee could finally let their hair down. Needless to say we terrorised the establishments of Bendigo and many a reputation was forged and some destroyed. We now look forward to participation in the NAPSA Charity Cup and pharmacy week which will include the much anticipated cocktail party. On behalf of the new committee we would like to thank Andrew and his committee for leaving BAPS in such a strong position, making the future for BAPS a very bright one.

**Brennan Fitzpatrick**  
BAPS President

### VPSA

To the reader of this article, If you are reading this, I am dead. No wait, scratch that, I will no longer be president! Yes that's right, the reign of terror that was known as "The VPSA Dark Age: Simon's Presidency" is now over and a brand spanking new VPSA committee is now in place. After a smashing O-Week with massive amounts of memberships sold and a good deal of fun had by all, things down at Monash Uni settled down and we all had to get back to the books. While everyone else was scurrying around in their libraries and what not VPSA has been super busy setting up some sweet events for the NAPSA charity cup in April, including an Acoustic Music night to be held at Pugg Mahones!! Not only that, the VPSA AGM was also held in early April with the brand new president settling in for the awesome job of wrangling the crazy kids from VCP and showing them the best time possible. Best of luck President



Obama Brigid and your new committee, the job only gets better from here! Peace out pharma-buddies.

**Simon Furletti**



### TAPS

Summer is over now which means its cold in Tassie. We have had a great kick off to first semester 2009. At our first event, the refresher BBQ, we served up hundreds of "traditional Aussie" BBQ'd dim sims to our unsuspecting members. Not sure how they enjoyed the dimmie-in-bread-with-tomato-sauce experience but they trusted us enough to give it a try. It was great afternoon of relaxing and catching up with everyone in the once-a-year sun.

Our next huge event was the first year welcome party, which was a first for TAPS. It was a great night...but with a theme "Goon n Coon" (or Wine and Cheese Tasting Night for the more sophisticated), and games like Goon a Fortune, Goon Twister and Pin the Sunnysvale box on Sam, how could it not be a huge success!! I'd like to welcome our first years and

look forward to more events with them through the year.

Another new event for TAPS this year was our Halfway Dinner for all our very special third years. It was a great chance to celebrate with everyone and catch-up away from uni. Our cocktail night is coming up soon as well as our charity cup launch which we are really excited about. We're hoping the rest of the year follows as well as the first two months and that everyone has been having as much fun as we have!

**Leah Hodgkinson**  
TAPS President



## GUAPS

I am proud to announce that the 2009 GUAPS committee has been elected at our AGM sponsored by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, and are off to a great start to the year already.

However, perhaps I should start with the final tasks of the 2008 GUAPS committee... The giant task of ordering textbooks and placement shirts for all pharmacy students at Griffith was started in October last year, with all textbooks placed in this first order arriving on time and given out in week one of the semester.

Next was the first years orientation day, followed by some ten pin bowling, which was organised by the School of Pharmacy and facilitated by members of the GUAPS committee. It was a great opportunity to meet the new students and introduce them to GUAPS from the start. We have found that many were very keen to become involved at AGM and are participating in events, which is a giant leap forward for GUAPS. And we can't forget the Welcome Back Party held at Jupiters Casino where many GUAPSies came along to socialise and try their luck on the tables.

Now back to the 2009 GUAPS committee... GUAPS has already held its annual Barefoot

Bowls, which saw GUAPSies from all year levels test out their lawn bowling skills – some great, others not so great. However, it was an awesome night and was finished off with some after drinks at the local Tavern of course. With Charity Cup upon us, and many annual events organised already, I believe 2009 is going to be a great year for GUAPS!

*Carolyn Quirk*  
GUAPS President



## New drug brief

Gold Cross Products and Services have been providing up to date, peer reviewed information about new drugs coming to the Australian market for a number of years. Gold Cross and NAPSA are pleased to now be able to offer the *New Drug Brief* to NAPSA members at a discounted rate. The *New Drug Brief* will be emailed to you and will cover all questions you may have about a new drug. If you would like to know more about a yearly subscription to the *New Drug Brief*, please see your Branch President. To find out more about Gold Cross Products and Services, head to [www.goldx.com.au](http://www.goldx.com.au)



## Free student membership

The Australian College of Pharmacy Practice and Management (ACPPM) is offering free student membership to final year NAPSA members and interns who were NAPSA members before graduating. Membership will last until the end of your intern year and will entitle you to all benefits members receive, including member prices on conferences and books.

For more information about the ACPPM, please visit [www.acppm.edu.au](http://www.acppm.edu.au) and if you are interested in taking up this fantastic offer, please email the NAPSA president at [l.goldsmith@napsa.org.au](mailto:l.goldsmith@napsa.org.au)

## QUTSPA

QUT pharmacy has been going through a busy time the last few weeks. Students have been inundated with mid-semester exams, as is usual for this time of year. Despite this the dedicated team at QUTSPA has managed to keep itself busy organising various upcoming events.

A select group of elite students and even one staff member have begun QUTSPA's campaign for its first ever social indoor netball title. This exclusive group of athletes can be seen on a Wednesday night decked out in uniform, soon to be augmented with bright pink netball bibs, battling it out with other teams from around Brisbane. Despite an early injury (not netball career threatening) the team plans to step up the pressure in the upcoming weeks.

The first QUTSPA event after the well deserved mid-semester break will be a trivia night, designed to raise funds for Charity Cup. In the past, this has been well attended with a very healthy competitive rivalry between staff teams and students.

Finally the QUTSPA annual general meeting is to be held shortly. We are looking forward to welcoming some new committee members to the group and also returning some QUTSPA veterans to office to continue their excellent work.

**Andrew Heathcock**  
QUTSPA Vice-president



## SAPSA

SAPSA has been busy in April embracing the inaugural Charity Cup by organising a series of innovative events whilst encouraging more first year student involvement. In conjunction with an end of Term One Party we held a champagne Pop-Eye cruise on the River Torrens with all proceeds going towards Charity Cup. SAPSA is liaising with the PSA SA Branch with students attending the PSAs monthly educational lectures. Also, the upcoming Community Pharmacy Forum in Adelaide has seen a collaborative planning committee combining SAPSA, Guild and PSA Representatives in order to make the Forum more applicable, accessible and affordable for students.

SAPSA held a 'Drug Traffickers' pub crawl in March, which was themed as a

traffic light party. Furthermore, our social secretaries are busy planning SAPSA's Gala Ball in September. Even throughout the term holidays the events don't stop! We are holding more events for Charity Cup and designing rugby jumpers for our members. We are also planning Pharmacy Awareness Week and eagerly anticipate our annual Quiz Night in May when SAPSA's PSOTY competition will take place.

**Anna Cooter**  
SAPSA President.



## QPSA

Since O-week the QPSA festivities have been minimal. Our fourth year students have been away on their QUM placements and the rest of us have been left to create mischief on our own.

At the end of 2nd week we gathered to welcome everyone back! The night was themed 'If I wasn't a pharmacist' and we had everything from bogans, to footy players to Captain Jack Sparrow. A fun and exciting night was had by all, including a large number of our first year students and our new international students.

At the end of week 4 our 3rd year students got their style on and gathered for a classy dinner celebrating the half-way mark in our degree. Between stone-grill meals, chocolate mud cake and tiramisu there was voting and awards for cutest couple,

best looking @ 8am, 'most likely to deal crack on the side when registered' and many more.

Looking forward to the remainder of the semester we will be hosting education events on harm minimisation, Raven recruitment's new Pharmspace initiative and the Guilds new compliance program. Then in week 11 our current committee will say goodbye and the new people - whoever they may be - will lead us forward.

**Centaine Francis**  
QPSA President



## CasPa

The last quarter of CasPa has seen the preparations underway for the annual Pharmacy Ball, to be held on May 1st.

It is going to be a huge gathering of past and present students along with all the preceptors, lecturers and members from organisations that have helped us out in the past year. Headed by Vicky Jalilian our social chair, it will be the event that every member of CasPa will remember for years to come.

Our 2nd year members have had a large insight into the world of hospital pharmacy with their 3 week placements having just taken place. From opinions that have been gathered among the 2nd years, it is mixed, however most have said it is well worth the experience. The 2nd years are now embarking on the last hurdle in this degree, the final exams before they're finished!

Our 1st years this semester have been let loose into community pharmacy. They have also just completed a placement, however it was 1 week compared with 3 and it was their first compared with the 2nd year's last placements. Many have sought placements around Canberra and our region but some have ventured into quite unknown territory.

As the ball approaches it also signals the beginning of the end for the current chairs in CasPa. The AGM and elections for the next chairs are being held at the end of April so by the next Placebo, hopefully CasPa has the new executive to introduce.

*Alex Lui*  
President, CasPa



## WAPSA

A new year, a new committee, a new head of school and a fresh set of first years... enthusiasm has been running high and we've been a busy lot over here in the West! We began the year with our AGM, which saw many new fresh faces on the committee, ready to make the most of the year with educational and social events alike. The highly anticipated O-Show welcomed back the students scout hall style with the combination of deadly punch, boat races, catchy tunes and an impromptu tug-o-war competition, and this is just the beginning of many social events coming up this year.

April saw WAPSA devote all the spare time we could towards NAPSA's Charity Cup with many BBQs, raffles and the Pirate Themed 'Aye Eye Ball' to conclude the month. Big thanks for all the donations and kudos for everyone that's helped out!

The year ahead is jam packed with more events that you could poke a stick at, with the aim of making the most of every second of non-study time in the year, such as; Quiz nights, Pub Crawls, Cocktail Parties, End of Semester Parties, Staff vs. Students soccer and volleyball matches, Sundowners, the Gala Ball and many more! But believe it or not, it's not just about the drinking and partying here at WAPSA, we'll be providing important education sessions to all year groups as well as holding our highly popular Pharmacy Forum where the students can meet the industry and discover what options are out there for graduates.

A BIG welcome to all the new WAPSA members this year from both Curtin and Murdoch, I'm looking forward to an amazing year of fun and frivolity!

*Dan Bowtell*  
WAPSA President

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## OPSA

On the 7th of April we held our annual general meeting, with success a new committee was elected and an improved constitution was passed. We bid adieu to our dedicated and hardworking outgoing committee and welcomed a handful of terrified and clueless new ones. 2009 will definitely be a blast!

Our social calendar has been buzzing with fun times! OPSA had four students attend the Pharmacy commencement dinner hosted by Pharmers' in Wagga Wagga! We also had two members attend NAPSA congress in Perth, our largest contingent to

date! On a more serious note Charles Sturt University- Orange, graduated our first group of fourth years on March 27th.

In the coming weeks we will hold our first committee meeting where we will discuss educational and social events, but even more importantly our plans to get affiliated with NAPSA at the National AGM.


*Linh Nghiem, OPSA President*

## TEPSA


The first term for TEPSA 2008 has ended and the new committee has been appointed. 2008 had been a wonderful adventure for TEPSA and we hope to make this year bigger and better! We've commenced New Year with a Welcome Back BBQ / Sign up day and manage to recruit 60 members already (and the numbers are growing!) Our social calendar kicked off with a Black & White themed Pub crawl and it was great to see everyone really getting into the spirit of things. There was an array of wonderful costumes with mimes, panda bears and tennis players stealing the show. There was also the interfaculty cricket match. It was a smashing success and a favourite among our members. Shortly we'll be bowling our way through the NAPSA Charity Cup Lawn Bowls Competition. Teams will be competing head to head to earn the bragging rights they deserve. We still have our TEPSA Trivia night to stimulate the minds and the Pharmacy Week Campaign to promote this wonderful profession. There's plenty there to keep us on our toes this semester. Finally, I also just wanted to thank everyone who assisted TEPSA through their first year as a NAPSA branch. Cheers!

*Donna Grossule  
TEPSA President*







Griffith University Association of Pharmacy Students presents:








# NAPSA CONGRESS GOLD COAST 2010

The GUAPS crew at Griffith University are proudly hosting the 2010 NAPSA Congress on the Gold Coast! Whether you have never been to a Congress before, or are regulars on the Congress scene, the Gold Coast is the way to start off 2010!

NAPSA Congress is a fantastic opportunity to spend a week with fellow Pharmacy students from universities all around Australia. The week's activities are aimed to educate, and of course entertain; ensuring that your week on the Gold Coast will be the experience of a lifetime! Not only does the week include education sessions, but a free day at Dreamworld / Whitewater World, a Pharamlympics themed branch night, cocktail party, and of course the spectacular Gala Ball complete with dolphin show at Seaworld... how could you possibly resist?

## CU@GC10

Email [napsacongress2010@gmail.com](mailto:napsacongress2010@gmail.com)  
for more information

## PHARMERS' WAGGA WAGGA

Watch out world...Pharmers' are off to a sensational start to 2009! After the formality of our Commencement Dinner, our annual pub crawl on the first Friday back of Term 2 was a raging success with everyone dressing up as their "favourite famous face", rocking Wagga's finest pubs and having a blast. Classic games such as Vengabus (the ultimate year vs. year boat race) and peg games entailed a night filled with endless enjoyment by all!

Thanks to all our Charity Cup volunteers who helped raise money for Fred Hollows in April! Our jellybean competition, barbeque at Final Fling and extraordinary raffle encouraged all CSU students to participate and support such a fantastic cause! Pharmers' got fully behind Pharmacy Awareness Week, with our dedicated students and local pharmacists setting up a shopping centre stall and promoting pharmacy to the Wagga community with commitment and enthusiasm!



Our awesome Pharmacy Ball Extravaganza will be kicking off on 15th August, with dancing, food, drinks and glamour... Look forward to seeing you all for a life-changing evening. So get involved, get keen and go Pharmers' crazy!

*Laura Grasso*  
Pharmers' President

## SUPA

During O-week SUPA signed up over 100 new and unsuspecting members. Most recently, our pub crawl themed 'Kings and Queens' through the infamous Kings Cross was awesome, starting off with a royally huge bar tab and followed by greatly appreciated and enthusiastically devoured drink specials at every pub.

Just when you all thought SUPA students didn't have a sporty bone in their little drug filled bodies, we made it to the semi finals for rugby in Sydney University's interfaculty sport. In early April our 'Classy Careers Night', was filled with cocktail food and champagne and nearly 200 members attending. Raven's Recruitment came to share about Pharmospace with the super eager SUPA kids. Guest hospital, industry, community and research pharmacists also joined the throng to help decide our future plans and options.

SUPA held a massively successful charity cup campaign. With a charity BBQ, cake stall, raffled ball tickets and glucojel guessing competitions what could go wrong?!

Also in the pipeline, SUPA will be hosting a "Bling Bling" Cruise on Sydney Harbour, and a Trivia Night where SUPA hopes the Pharmacy kids will be able to hold onto the trophy this year.

*Emma van den Bos*  
President SUPA



# pharmacy expo 2009



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Some of the highlights for 2009 include;

- Epilepsy – on your mind" – Associate Professor Armin Mohamed (USyd, RPA)
- Lessons from Riverina Heart Failure Study" – Professor Lexin Wang (CSU)
- Complementary medicines and the brain" – Professor Con Stough (Swinburne University)
- Gastrointestinal complaints in the pharmacy" – Ben Basger (USyd)
- Climate Change – you and the environment" – Dr Michael Tse

Registrations for Pharmacy Expo are now open. With 20 CPD points on offer it's sure to be another record-breaking year so register now. For more detailed information on the education program, to read about our Green Initiatives and to register online, simply visit [www.pharmacyexpo.com.au](http://www.pharmacyexpo.com.au)



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[events@nsw.guild.org.au](mailto:events@nsw.guild.org.au)



Pharmaceutical  
Society of Australia

Julianne Alexander - 02 9431 1100  
[juliannealexander@psansw.org.au](mailto:juliannealexander@psansw.org.au)