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NEWS, VIEWS AND INFORMATION
FOR ADVANCED PAEDIATRIC LIFE
SUPPORT MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2013

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GOING
MOBILE?
APLS APP, P3

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NEWS PIRATES OF THE CANBERRA-IAN



A cabin boy suffering from acute scurvy was successfully treated at APLS Canberra, Sep 19 – International Talk Like A Pirate Day.

Keeping up a proud tradition begun by much-missed APLS director Toni Medcalf, faculty members donned cutlasses, eye patches and investigated a range of piratical illnesses during lectures, much to the delight of unsuspecting candidates.

Director Ross Lamplugh was travelling to the venue by bus in full regalia when the driver called him over.

“He asked me, ‘What grades did the pirate get at school?’. Dunno, said I.”

The inevitable response?

“High C’s!”

APLS Canberra in 2014 will take place between Sep 17-19.

NEWS #scrapthecap

Campaigners from over 90 peak professional bodies – including APLS – celebrated the scrapping of a proposed \$2000 cap on self-education expenses in early November.

The proposed tax on professional development expenses was reversed following strong opposition from many medical and professional member organisations. APLS proudly supported the campaign as a Scrap the Cap Alliance member.

COMMENT PRESIDENT'S REPORT

STUART LEWENA, PRESIDENT

From the feedback received, it is clear that PAC 2013 was a resounding success. Our conference is highly valued both within the APLS instructor base and the broader paediatric acute care community. It also serves a vital role for the organisation with regard to strategic planning and development of our course. It is a great opportunity to gather together a large group of motivated and engaged instructors and to hear a range of views and debate issues surrounding APLS.

This year, a number of topics were discussed which will guide APLS over the coming months. Not surprisingly, our move towards an e-learning component dominated much of the discussion. There are however numerous other ongoing issues that cannot be neglected while we focus our attention on VLE.

There is much interest in an instructors and directors forum within the website to promote the posting and discussion of topics throughout the year. We will be asking the Instructor Development Committee to determine how best to develop such a resource. If you have a particular interest or expertise in online forums, please contact the office to participate in this process.

The commitment to rural courses remains an ongoing issue. Strategies to maintain their viability include the need for a local champion to drive interest within their region and to collaborate with other rural centres to create a critical mass. APLS is happy to assist in establishing cooperative arrangements between different rural centres to create reliable access to relevant courses for both rural candidates and instructors.

Enhanced fidelity within scenario teaching is universally supported. Whilst our course does not support high fidelity simulation teaching, there are feasible steps we can take to improve fidelity whilst not increasing complexity. Improved systems for displaying and manipulating patient monitoring exist and will be incorporated in 2014. If you would like to assist the Course Development Committee in this project then please contact the office.

Finally, our move towards VLE generated a lot of discussion, interest and apprehension! This is a major change and I think all of us share a degree of anxiety regarding the impact it will have on the course. Details of the VLE plan will be included in the first newsletter for 2014. The following bullet items provide a summary of the key issues discussed:

- Development of an interactive VLE content is well underway with an anticipated launch in mid 2014
- Pre course knowledge assessment and testing can be incorporated within the VLE with the potential to enhance our mentoring
- Some time will be saved within the current 3 day course. Face to face time will be reduced, however it will continue to run over 3 days
- In utilising this saved time, enhancing current teaching will be the priority rather than the temptation to introduce new content. More on this in the New Year.

On behalf of the APLS Board, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

NEWS APP TO THE FUTURE



NEWS DISASTER RELIEF

Annette Holian, Benjamin De Souza and Robert Cardwell are among the APLS instructors providing vital support in the Philippines following the Typhoon Haiyan disaster.

Co-ordinated by the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre, Australian Medical Assistance Teams (AusMAT) have set up a 60 bed field hospital in Tacloban, one of the worst hit areas of the country.

Teams are working in 14 day rotations, with over 1,700 patients treated in the first fortnight.

Visit www.nationaltraumacentre.nt.gov.au or @NatTraumaCentr on Twitter for updates on the relief effort.

NEWS FREE MANUALS

Can you help us find a home for out of date APLS manuals?

We have many copies of the temporary 5th edition – a hybrid of the UK and Australian 5th editions published 2012 – available for free for international projects.

Though no longer used on APLS courses, these manuals are ideal for courses in developing countries, and would cost \$89.95 each.

Manuals are available for free to APLS members if you can cover freight costs and propose a suitable project.

Email info@apls.org.au or call us on (03) 8672 2800 for more information.

NEWS XMAS BREAK

APLS head office will be closed between 20 Dec 2013 and 13 Jan 2014.

APLS algorithms are available at the swipe of a finger in our new app.

Available for download in the App Store for iPhone and Google Play for Android, the app has over 1,000 downloads within a week of launching.

You can browse future course dates, learn more about APLS and quickly access essential management flowcharts found in the APLS manual

– one of the most popular resources on the APLS website.

And best of all? It's free.

Scan the QR code below or search for APLS in your app store of choice.

LINKS
APLS for iPhone
APLS for Android



UPDATES BOARD MEMBER CHANGES

APLS would like to welcome Ross Lamplugh to our Board of Directors following October's Annual General Meeting in Noosa.

Ross, an APLS director and anaesthetist at Ochre Health in Tasmania joins Stuart Lewena (chair), Dianne Crellin,

Malcolm Higgins and Ian McCall on the APLS Board of Directors.

Michelle Williams has stepped down from the board, and APLS would like to thank Michelle for all her hard work and dedication through two years of service.

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NEWS PAC 2013 ON DEMAND

Sessions from the Paediatric Acute Care Conference will be available via your computer, tablet or phone from February 2014.

For those who missed out on the conference, you can catch up with high quality videos of every PAC 2013 session. Keep an eye on apls.org.au for details.

Our Noosa conference in October saw outstanding presentations, fun social events and blazing sunshine – tropical storm clouds clearing just in time for the opening poolside BBQ.

Thanks to all delegates, speakers and organisers who made PAC 2013 such a memorable event, and watch this space for announcements on PAC 2014.



UPDATES INSTRUCTOR MANUALS

All instructors should now have a copy of the Australia/New Zealand 5th edition APLS manual.

During 2013, office staff emailed every instructor six weeks before teaching with an e-book edition license, or mailed out hard copies to those who prefer.

A new format is also available for the e-book which reflows to fit screens and works well on smartphones and tablets.

This format is distributed by a specialist e-book retailer, www.bookshout.com, which should solve the many download problems reported throughout the year.

Some e-book emails may have been missed or ended up in junk inboxes.

Others haven't accessed their e-books and are using the temporary 5th edition hard copy instead.

As all candidates and course materials use the ANZ edition, it's important that everyone is on the same page.

To check if you're up to date:

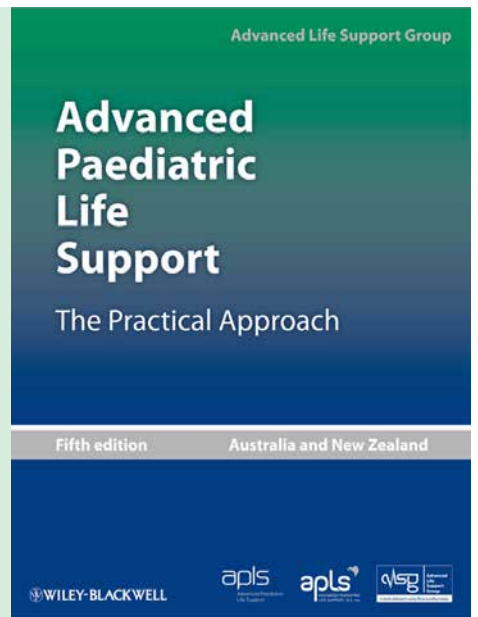
Hard copy manuals will say 'Fifth Edition Australia & New Zealand' in a grey box on the cover (right), and the APLS Australia logo is at the bottom of every page.

All e-books are the current edition.

APLS has purchased a license for each instructor, so whether you prefer e-book or hard copy, make sure you're on the current edition and if not, we will send you the version you prefer.

Unwanted e-books can be returned and swapped for hard copies, or vice versa.

So if you still need an ANZ edition manual, let us know via info@apls.org.au



LINKS
5th Edition FAQs
Request a manual

APLS COURSES DATES ANNOUNCED

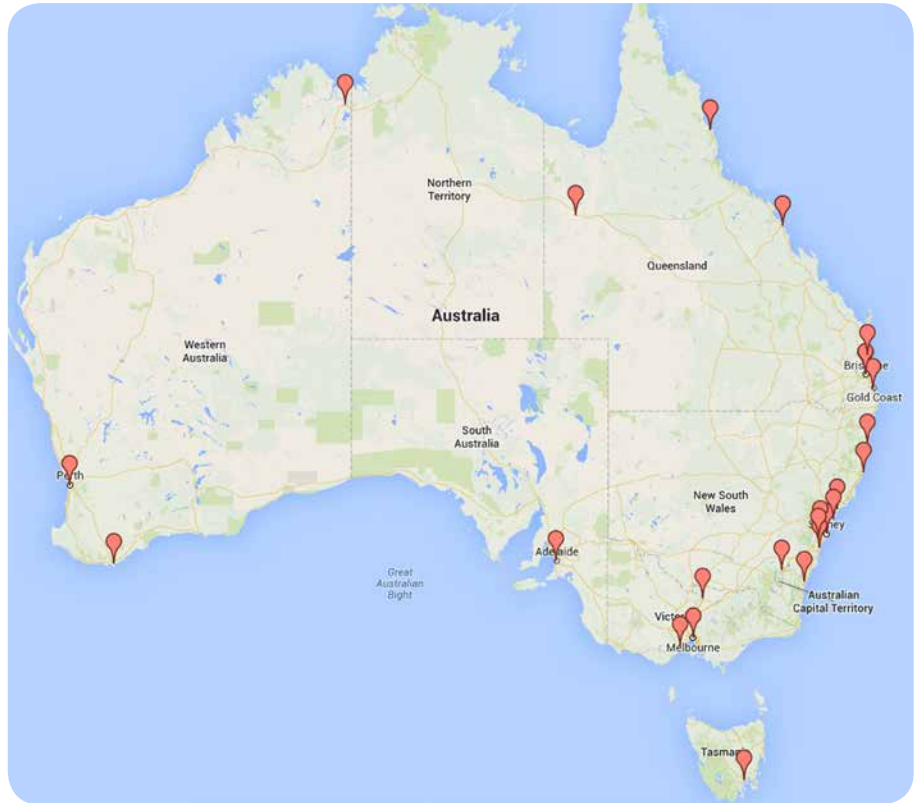
FROM CAIRNS TO CAMPBELLTOWN: 61 COURSES AND 27 LOCATIONS FOR 2014.

2014

61 APLS courses
 27% rural / regional
 18 New South Wales
 15 Victoria
 13 Queensland
 15 SA / WA / ACT / NT / TAS

2013

1297 APLS candidates
 1216 doctors
 81 nurse/paramedics
 504 instructors
 33,589 unique visitors
 to apls.org.au



Almost 1,500 doctors, nurses and paramedics will train in APLS next year with 61 courses confirmed across Australia.

The range of course venues continues to expand. More than a quarter of APLS courses will take place in rural/regional locations in 2014, and promoting these courses remains an important focus.

Interest in the APLS course remains very strong, with APLS certification now mandatory in many paediatric departments and over 33,000 individual visitors to apls.org.au in 2013.

In 2013, over 500 of our 700-strong instructor base taught on courses, and this dedication to volunteer time to APLS remains the lifeblood of the company.

Many instructors have already chosen their courses for next year, and faculty

allocations are currently being finalised. We aim for 12 instructors on each course but a bit of room for manoeuvre is beneficial, as we can then carry last-minute cancellations without sending out instructor SOS emails.

Exotic courses like Cairns, Mackay, Kununurra and the Sunshine Coast are usually oversubscribed, and like always, local instructors will take priority – as will the '1 home, 1 away' rule.

So when choosing courses please consider adding a few mundane cities into the mix – not that there's anything mundane about Melbourne in August!

Check your 'My Courses & Bookings' page on our website for confirmed courses, and please contact us with any issues or suggestions.

LINKS
Choose your courses

COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU...

- MELBOURNE, VIC (14)
- SYDNEY, NSW (10)
- BRISBANE, QLD (8)
- PERTH, WA (6)
- ADELAIDE, SA (4)
- ALBANY, WA
- BATEMAN'S BAY, NSW
- BLACKTOWN, NSW
- CAIRNS, QLD
- CAMPBELLTOWN, QLD
- CANBERRA, ACT
- COFFS HARBOUR, NSW
- GEELONG, VIC
- GOSFORD, NSW
- HOBART, TAS
- KUNUNURRA, WA
- MACKAY, QLD
- MT ISA, QLD
- NEWCASTLE, NSW
- PORT MACQUARIE, NSW
- ROBINA, QLD
- SHEPPARTON, VIC
- SUNSHINE COAST, QLD
- WOLLONGONG, NSW

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FEATURES BUBBLES & FOAM

HOW FOUR APLS GRADUATES ARE BRINGING FOAM – FREE OPEN ACCESS MEDICAL EDUCATION – TO PAEDIATRICS. BY BEN LAWTON

Having seen the value added by websites such as lifeinthefastlane.com to emergency medicine education, four trainees (and APLS graduates) saw the potential for a platform to freely share high quality educational resources in paediatrics – and dontforgetthebubbles.com was born.

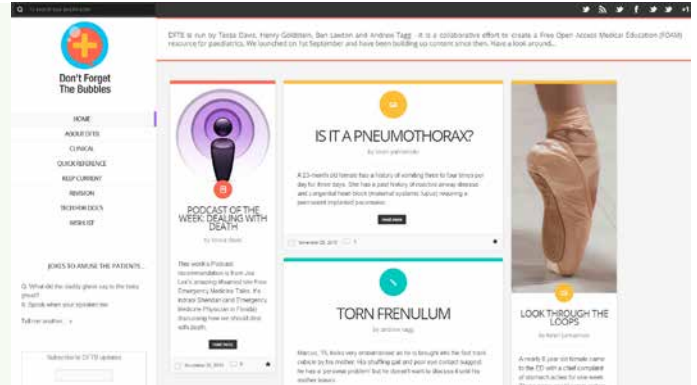
Launched in September 2013, the site already boasts an international panel of authors including some widely recognised leaders in paediatric education. The rapidly expanding range of posts are written around clear learning points. While all posts published on dontforgetthebubbles.com have been either written or reviewed by an appropriately qualified consultant, the interactive nature of the blog provides an ideal venue for discussion of best practice and the dissemination of expert opinion.

The nature of many acute services means that resources are created and presentations written for audiences that reflect only a proportion of those they are intended for. Those who are working nights, on leave or actively involved in covering the service often miss out on great educational events.

Free Open Access Medical Education – FOAM – can give those individuals a second chance to benefit from those resources. The resources themselves also gain a new lease of life: liberating them from a corner of a hard drive to the minds of trainees and practitioners around the world.

dontforgetthebubbles.com offers a platform to share educational material – whether that be expertise that has been developed over years and condensed into a blog post or a carefully researched presentation of interest to people both within and outside the author's institution. It is accessible anywhere and any time so anyone can brush up on the management of microscopic haematuria over breakfast or join a discussion on the place of nebulisers in the ED management of asthma from a coffee queue.

The site is a non-profit making entity and exists solely to promote the free and open sharing of expertise and discussion of



best practice in paediatrics. The editors would like to invite everyone to browse the posts and contribute to the discussions.

The readers of this APLS newsletter represent the pinnacle of expertise available in acute paediatrics in the southern hemisphere and we would especially like to hear from any reader of this newsletter who is keen to share their insight with colleagues and trainees from around the world.

A good blog post can be a carefully researched review of a subject but can equally be based on the opinion of an experienced practitioner. Do you have a particular familiarity with a subject that you could share with others keen to learn? Do you have a passion for a particular approach to a clinical problem that you would like to encourage others to use? Or do you see a mistake being made frequently by people who are referring to you? These could all make the foundations of a really useful post.

Other resources useful to the practitioner seeing paediatric patients regularly appear on the web and, to make these more accessible, dontforgetthebubbles.com has a live feed from the #FOAMPed hashtag, which is used to share free open access educational resources in paediatrics. Tweets from major paediatric meetings are also collated under #DFTBconf allowing those unable to attend in person to follow what those present consider to be the key learning or discussion points identified.

Please have a look at dontforgetthebubbles.com, tell your trainees what you like about it, tell the editors how they can make it even better and if you would like to contribute Tessa, Henry, Andy or Ben would love to hear from you.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Got a story you'd like to share with the APLS community?

From clinical updates to international experiences, we'd love your contributions. Let us know at feedback@apls.org.au





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web www.apls.org.au

COMMENT FROM THE CEO PHILLIP DAVIES, APLS CEO

Communication and the ability to access ideas from our membership base are vital ingredients to the success of APLS.

As APLS volunteers and instructors are so critical to the success of the company, all those volunteers feel a sense of ownership of the organisation and want their views heard.

In our case, being an NFP with a large membership base, there are a lot of our stakeholders who have got some very good ideas, ideas that need to be heard.

Both the APLS management and our board recognise that they need to discuss issues widely with all our stakeholders to ensure that our members continue to remain enthused and keep on working for APLS.

In 2012 and 2013 we have been receptive to your views, particularly on the use of digital technology to enhance our service and course delivery. We understand that technology facilitates, accelerates and enriches outcomes but most importantly, it allows us to have a closer relationship with our members.

Over the past two years, APLS has sought a closer technological interface with its stakeholders. This has been achieved by the rollout of our new website, which makes booking on courses, teaching on courses, and accessing member-related information easier. Our e-book version of the 5th edition manual is a direct consequence of members clamouring to have the course manual in both hard-copy and soft-copy form.

We have recently launched an APLS app, which is a further example of an innovative application seeking to bring APLS and its stakeholders closer together and to communicate with

our membership base better and to disseminate information to our membership in a variety of ways.

After consulting with the key stakeholders, the leaders of APLS are committed to a major technological and didactic innovation to our courses in the form of a VLE program.

VLE will be an integral part of our courses from 1 July 2014. By listening to our members and taking a strategic view, the implementation of the VLE program will continue to make our existing products, services and processes the best and unique in the sector.

However, on your advice, we are not stopping there with each of these components of our digital strategy. As with most effective digital strategies, we have concepts of test-and-learn and incremental improvements embedded in each aspect of this strategy.

For example, for the VLE component, there is an initial rollout plan that starts with the minimum viable product and improves over the base model during the life of the product. These improvements and developments will be based on learnings and insights from field testing the technology.

We are listening to our membership base, and by doing so, have moved significantly on our digital technology footprint and will continue to improve its coverage and access.

Merry Christmas and thank you to all our members!

I look forward to you continuing to raise ideas for improving the APLS experience in 2014.

MEET THE STAFF

Meet the faces at APLS HQ.



Hannah Owen

APLS Administrator

As the resident Kiwi in the APLS offices, originally from Auckland, New Zealand who has recently arrived in Melbourne - Hannah is the APLS Course Administrator, the main point of contact for all candidates, faculty, venues, hotels and restaurants for each and every APLS course. Looking after everything from pre-course paperwork to filling people's tummies with "brain-food" each day and ensuring

all instructors have flights booked and a roof over their head for their stay! Hannah then looks after the post course record reconciliation following a course and arranging any re-sits that need to be organised. Hannah will be spending her time away from the office over Christmas exploring the Victoria region, kicking back at the beach and enjoying her first Australian summer! (P.s - Go the All Blacks!)