

Medicus October

There goes 2008, here comes 2009!

I was too busy to go to the Royal Show this year and arguably a touch too old. Either way I missed out on seeing 'that' look on the faces of the people who wait to board the rollercoaster immediately after you have come to an abrupt halt. As the MSAND 2008 committee carriage comes to a stop I was glad to see that there were plenty of punters lining up to board for another year of MSAND fun. Much like the people at the show, the incoming committee could see the smiles and ruffled hair of the outgoing committee – with great expectations for the ride ahead.

2008 saw the School of Medicine at Notre Dame operating at full capacity for the first time. This meant that just as the school had adjusted to accommodate for 'complete' numbers - so did MSAND have to grow. The Association now reflects the commitment of its members with a framework that allows ongoing development and learning to best assist those who study the ancient art of Medicine at Notre Dame Fremantle. In 2008, MSAND has more members than ever before; representation on every faculty and external committee pertaining to pre-clinical and clinical training, higher levels of sponsorship than ever before, more events – both social and educational – with record setting attendance. MSAND has also refined and consolidated existing portfolios within the committee; Best exemplified by the level of involvement with the Australia Medical Students Association (AMSA) – and with great plans for development in MSAND's social justice pursuits.

The professionalism and efficiency with which the 2008 committee members conducted the affairs of MSAND was only outshone by the friendliness and warmth with which the spirit of our many meetings were imbued. It has been a pleasure to be counted as their colleague – and my heartfelt thanks go to each of them.

MSAND has also notably stepped up interaction with the AMA(WA); a continuing relationship of mutual respect - with great advantages for Notre Dame students as future medical practitioners.

I have cherished the honour and privilege of serving as MSAND President for 2008. I have met some amazing people and witnessed so many inspiring events. I have also experienced a massive learning curve with regards to medico-politics; and the sometimes frustrating way in which matters of health economics and ultimately patient care/outcomes are decided by recalcitrant bureaucrats. Thank God for MSAND and the AMA.

As the dizziness of the rollercoaster wears off, I stumble off to sideshow-exam-alley (where the games are no-doubt rigged to be too hard) and then a two month dose of fairy floss (summer).WooHoo.

Kia Alizadeh

MSAND President