



AUSTRALIAN RESUSCITATION COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN:

Assoc. Professor I G Jacobs BAppSc, DipEd, PhD, RN, FRCNA, FACAP

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:

Dr P Morley MB BS, FRACP, FANZCA, FJFICM

SPONSORED BY

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Australian and New Zealand College
of Anaesthetists

32ND ANNUAL REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report for 2007 – 2008. The past 12 months has again seen the continuing development and updating of resuscitation guidelines for Australia, a fundamental role of the ARC. Our guideline process is underpinned by a strong evidenced based approach where the latest resuscitation science is critically evaluated on an ongoing basis and guidelines issued in response to the evidence of community need. Often the findings in recently published studies bring the promise in improving outcomes. It is therefore completely understandable that some may wish to change immediately with the strong belief of doing good. This was well highlighted during the year in regards to compression only CPR. The ARC reviewed the evidence and concluded that the evidence was insufficient to warrant a change at this stage but will certainly be reviewing new data as it becomes available. Furthermore, in making changes to guidelines the ARC needs to also consider the flow on effects surrounding implementation and training. It is some what a paradox that there is often a strong call to make changes based on little or weak evidence (eg compression only CPR) however slow uptake of interventions with strong evidence (eg therapeutic hypothermia).

For more on how the ARC develops guidelines - Section One of the ARC Guideline manual provides such information.

The council is incredibly fortunate to have substantial expertise amongst its members which facilitates the evaluation of the many, often complex, scientific issues associated with developing these guidelines. As such, I would like to record my sincere appreciation, and those of the council, to all those ARC members who have given freely of their time and expertise in developing ARC guidelines. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of the various committee convenors: BLS – Jennifer Dennett and Natalie Ashcroft; ALS – Peter Morley and Tony Walker; Paediatric – Jim Tibballs; Neonatal – Colin Morley.

The ARC continues to have strong involvement within the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR). Over the past year and continuing until 2010, ILCOR will be undertaking a further extensive evidence based review of the resuscitation science. This science review process is invaluable to resuscitation councils worldwide in formulating guidelines. The ARC will continue to provide information on this review process (including how to make comment on the evidence based worksheets) via its website.

The ARC and RC(UK) co-badged Advanced Life Support (ALS) Course and Immediate Life Support (ILS) course continue to gain momentum.

While first conducted in Perth courses have now been undertaken in New South Wales and Victoria, with initial courses planned for South Australia and Tasmania.

In addition to these two courses the ARC has embarked on the development of its own ALS Instructors Course. This 2 day course was devised recognising important underlying principles of adult learning and adopted a matrix approach in the curriculum design. The first pilot course was conducted in May 2008 and the feedback highly complimentary. The council will continue to refine aspects of the course with a second course being conducted in Perth during October.

During 2009 the ARC will be conducting the 7th Spark of Life conference in Hobart. This continues the process of holding these conferences every second year in different locations around Australia. International keynote speakers include Professor Laurie Morrison (Canada), Dr David Zideman (UK) and Dr Charles Deakin (UK). In recognition of the late Professor Don Harrison – former chairman of the ARC – Dr Tony Smith (NZ) will present the inaugural “Don Harrison Perpetual Lecture”.

I encourage you all to attend what promises to be an excellent meeting.

As in the past, the program for the year ahead promises to be busy as we continue to evaluate the science, develop guidelines, maintain an international profile and manage the ILS, ALS and instructors course. In undertaking these initiatives we must remain cognisant of our primary goal of promoting excellence in resuscitation within the Australian community.

It has once again been a pleasure chairing the ARC during the past 12 months – Australia's peak resuscitation organisation. As mentioned previously, much of the work is done on a voluntary basis by the members of council and to them my sincere appreciation for all your efforts. I would also like to acknowledge the incredible hard work of our Executive Officer – Carol Carey – who manages and delivers the daily ongoing business of the ARC.



**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IAN JACOBS
CHAIRMAN**

ARC COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES JULY 2008



Front Row L-R: John Hall - Australian College of Ambulance Professionals (Secretary/Treasurer), Peter Morley - Australian & New Zealand Intensive Care Society (Deputy Chairman), Carol Carey (Executive Officer), Ian Jacobs - Chairman ARC WA Branch (National Chairman), Jennifer Dennett - Australian College of Critical Care Nurses (Convenor BLS Sub-Committee), Jim Tibballs - Paediatric & Child Health Division RACP (Convenor Paediatric/Neonatal ALS Sub-Committee)

Second Row L-R: Shane Lenson - Royal College of Nursing, Australia, Tony Walker - Chairman ARC Victorian Branch, Richard Franklin - Proxy, Royal Life Saving Society Australia, Peter Mckie - Chairman ARC NSW Branch, Steve Dean - Chairman ARC Old Branch, Peter Warfe - St John Ambulance Australia

Third Row L-R: Franklin Bridgewater - Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Adrian Abel - Proxy, ARC Tasmanian Branch, Chris Hogan - Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Carol Cunningham - National Heart Foundation, Hugh Grantham - Chairman ARC SA Branch

Back Row L-R: Darren Walters - The Cardiac Society of Australia & New Zealand, James Taylor - Proxy, Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, Robert Sweatman - Australian Red Cross, Mike Parr - Australian & New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, Julie Considine - College of Emergency Nursing Australasia

Absent: Natalie Hood - Surf Life Saving Australia, David Scott - Australian Defence Force, John Pearn - Royal Life Saving Society, Malcolm Anderson - Chairman ARC Tasmanian Branch, Michael Anderson - Australian & New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, Jeff Wassertheil - Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
Australian College of Ambulance Professionals
Australian College of Critical Care Nurses Ltd
Australian Defence Force
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
Australian New Zealand Intensive Care Society
Australian Red Cross
Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand
College of Emergency Nursing Australasia Ltd
Council of Ambulance Professionals
National Heart Foundation of Australia
Royal Australasian College of Physicians
(Paediatric & Child Health Division)
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Royal College of Nursing, Australia
Royal Life Saving Society - Australia
St John Ambulance Australia
Surf Life Saving Australia Limited
State Branches