



IOA TODAY

BRINGING YOU OSTOMY NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



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From The Desk Of The Editor

Stuart Schaefer, Editor

This is the final issue of the IOA Today for the year. It sure has gone by fast.

As mentioned in the last issue a number of us from the IOA attended the UOAA Conference which was held in New Orleans August 5-8. You may read a report about this event from Doug Graham starting on page 5. Conference photos may be view via: http://uoa.smgmug.com/Groups/Conference-2009/9347250_rXrc4. There is also a video montage: <http://vimeo.com/6224545>. Their next conference will be held August 7-11, 2011 at the John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel in Reno, NV. If you would like to attend another one before that one, then think about attending the UOAC Conference August 19-21, 2010 in Sydney, Cape Breton. This one will be held at the Sydney Delta Hotel: http://www.ostomycanada.ca/events/biennial_conference_of_uoac. Be watching the upcoming issues of this newsletter for more information.

Also next year IOA will be holding a **World Meeting** in Bangkok, Thailand November 18-20, 2010. For more information please view the report from the IOA Vice President in this issue.

I would like to take this time on behalf of myself and Di Bracken to wish all across the world a happy and safe holiday season.

Until next year!

From the Vice-President

Dear Readers of IOA Today

As many of you will know President Harikesh is at present on leave from his role as President. Harikesh called me to say he is making a good recovery but will need a little more time before he will be able to take up his role again. The very best wishes for a speedy recovery have been conveyed to him on your behalf.

This time then it is the Vice President who is writing this message on a late spring evening in New Zealand where the weather is warming nicely and pointing the way to summer.

Much has happened in the 3 months since our last issue and I will but touch on a few of these. There will be many activities you will read about through the regional and other reports but there will be many many activities supporting ostomates throughout the world by individuals and Ostomy chapters, societies and clubs. Congratulations on the work you do for others.

Task Force on the Future of IOA.

The Task Force mentioned in the last IOA Today has been given the green light by the Executive Committee of IOA to proceed with their preliminary suggestions and develop a plan that can be submitted to the World Meeting next year. It is likely major changes in the IOA structure will be recommended

World Meeting Bangkok Thailand 18-20 November 2010

We have set the venue and the dates for the world meeting. The venue is the "First Hotel" Bangkok. I travelled to Bangkok in late July and viewed venues and on return the IOA Executive committee made this decision on the recommendation of the convening committee in late August. Further information will be available later in the year but the cost of registration and room rates will be very reasonable. Registration will be pm on the 17th and will be followed by 3 days of meeting 18-20th November.



World Ostomy Day 3rd October

I believe from reports Peter McQueen coordinated a very successful day. This day is a highlight once every 3 years and I heard of much effort to promote World Ostomy day across the globe. It is only through such events that we can inform the public about Ostomy and from the reports I have this happened. I am sure there will be an in depth report about this also. This time there was a new innovation and instead of an email tree we had a dedicated site that individual countries could post messages and inform others of their efforts. All member countries could view this site.

IOA's China Project

This project has been made possible by application by IOA to Coloplast's Access to Healthcare fund. (AtH) On 27th of September Dr Harikesh Buch met with the surgeons, who will assist with this project, in Guangzhou at the Zhongshan tumour Hospital. Opportunities were given to all present to introduce themselves and discuss the project. The cities represented and where the projects will take place were:

Beijing - Prof Gu Jin
 Guangdong – Prof Wen de sen
 Jiangsu – Prof Zhu ji rong
 Shanghai – Prof Yu de hong
 Zhejiang – Prof Li de chuan

It is hoped to form Stoma Clubs in each of these cities over the next 9 months. WCET is a partner in this project and a Coloplast Representative is coordinating it.

Brasil's 25 years.

We have been informed of ABRASO'S anniversary celebrations next year and we congratulate and wish them well. Great achievements in the access to appliances and care of ostomates in Brasil have been achieved by as the result of many years of hard work.

South Pacific Ostomy Association Executive Meeting

From 9-12 September I attended the meeting of the executive and delegates from Australia and New Zealand at the Australian (ACSA) annual Conference in Canberra. This was a successful meeting and we were well hosted by ACSA and renewed and made new acquaintances.

My best wishes to all our readers wherever you are. As this is the last issue of "IOA Today" before the New Year I hope 2010 brings a brighter future for all you."

Barry Maughan
 IOA Vice President

ALADO REGION

Tereasa Antequera, President

CELEBRATION OF THE "WORLD'S OSTOMATE DAY"

reported by Mercedes Nieto, President AADO

In the frame of the beautiful city of Mar del Plata, AADO and its branches, celebrated its day, once more. With a splendid sunny day, everyone of us who attended the meeting proposed ourselves that Friday October 2nd would not be "just another day". There was a tangible happiness in the atmosphere, which arose soon after the meeting began, at 9.30 am.

The project was aimed to carry out workshops that would trigger the debate about issues regarding ostomies and ostomates. Social and labor inclusion, sexuality, patient's adaptation, and family, among others, arose as highly important topics. Among the people who attended the meeting were representatives and associates of the Villa María (Córdoba), Mendoza, Lincoln, Jujuy, Misiones and Santa Fe branches and, needless to say, AADO Buenos Aires' in its entirety.

We were honored by the presence of sales consultants of Coloplast, Hollister and Convatec, who were always there for assistance and in order to answer any question. At 6.30 pm the activities closed. A fellowship Dinner was offered at the traditional Club Deportivo Quilmes de Mar del Plata. The phrase which was coined between all the assistants for this year 2009 was: *"LET'S BUILD A NEW IDENTITY FOR THE OSTOMATE"*

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON OSTOMIES
 AND WOUNDS THEORETICAL-PRACTICAL COURSES
 FOR PHYSICIANS AND NURSES
 CÓRDOBA ARGENTINA**

The First International Workshop on Ostomy and Wounds of the LIONS STOMA CARE Project took place during September 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 2009, with the participation of F.A.O.D.R.A., the Ostomy Associations Federation of the Argentine Republic with Modena (Wiligelmo) Lions Club, the National University at Córdoba, the Clinic National Hospital, the School Hospital of the National University at Córdoba, and Alta Córdoba Lions Club

The Medical Sciences Faculty Dean was present and he gave a speech at this event attended by Nurses from Hospitals and Clinics of Córdoba, Santa Fe, Rosario, Santiago del Estero, Villa del Rosario and Santa Cruz, Bolivia, from the Nursery School of the nacional University at Córdoba and the Catholic University at Córdoba, as well as from National Associations, and by ABO and ALADO president.



Practical activities and lectures professionals invited from Italy and local during one week, following the LIONS FOR STOMA – CARE, reaching a high educational standard and an active and interesting participation on behalf of the attendees.



The TRAINING, RESEARCH AND TREATMENT TO THE OSTOMIZED PATIENT CENTER, which is already working since 2008, was inaugurated officially at the Clinics National Hospital.

Also, the ETNEP / REP School for Expert and ET training was introduced which will start to work officially just after completion of the requirements of WCET and signature of the corresponding agreements next year.

TRAINING IS GIVING US A FULL LIFE
Francisco Miguez , Pres. F.A.O.D.R.A.

Dear Friends:

We received a letter from the Vice-President of Brasil, José Alencar Gomes da Silva, advising us that he was sending a notification to the Minister of Health, José Gomes Temporão, which he enclosed, concerning the following subjects:


- Signature of the National Policy to Care for Ostomates,
- Recognition of Declaration of Ostomates Rights
- He also added a P.S. informing the Minister of Health that he was one of the ostomates.

As of this date, while I am in Brasilia, both subjects will be signed by the Minister of Health by means of an official ceremony to be held in the Federal Senate here in Brasilia on November 17 at two o'clock (considering the November 16 is Ostomates National Day,).

We are overcome with joy to have finally achieved both our aims and wish to extend and share our good news with all ostomates.

Abraços,

Candida



**Gaúcha de Estomizados/FEGEST,
 Reported by Izaac Fernandes**

The Ostomy Federation of Rio Grande do Sul (FEGEST) celebrated the World Ostomy Day on 3 October 2009 with these activities:

- Announcement of the prizewinners of the Art Contest for Ostomates - EstomArteiros
 (a plasma TV for each category: Plastic Arts, Craftwork and Literature);
- distribution of flyers about the organization;
- a special lunch for ostomates and their families;
- preparation for the 9th Ostomy Meeting of Rio Grande do Sul (November/2010).

Fiesta del Dia del Ostomizado, Paraguay

Reported by Karina Acosta

I am a volunteer and I am working very closely with Mrs Silvia Aguilar . We celebrated World Ostomy Day on the terrace of the Hospital of Clinicas. We begin with the Holy Mass followed by fair of foods and an artistic festival . Also today we withdraw the donation from the Customs and we took it to the house of Mrs. Silvia Aguilar. Tomorrow we will conduct an inventory and will classify the products.



celebration of the WOD in Montesilvano instead of me or not. I really believe it is vital to divide travelling between the members of the Coordination Committee in our region. But FAIS is FAIS – and they replied, yes, we want Ria to come – and you as well!

So both of us accepted FAIS friendly invitation and flew to Rome where we were met by a representative from one of the major companies of ostomy equipment who drove us safe and sound from west to east in Italy. Montesilvano is a small holiday city by the Adriatic coast. The beginning of October is somewhat late in the year to do any major swimming – and to be honest, the time did not allow any water sports.

ASIAN REGION - AOA

Michiaki Takaishi, President

World Ostomy Day Celebrated in Shanghai



October 3 this year was the Sixth World Ostomy Day. Shanghai Changhai Hospital and Shanghai Cancer Club jointly held activities in celebration of the Day. There were about 200 participants, of whom over 100 were ostomates.

At the activities, professor Yu Dehong, “Father of Ostomy Therapy”, introduced the history of “ World Ostomy Day” and Director Fu Chuangang gave a lecture on “Prevention and Treatment of Colorectal Cancer”. ET therapists Xu Honglian and Qiu Qun made specific and useful instructions in ostomy therapy. Two ostomates at the activities gave an account of their experiences in rehabilitation. The two both had rectal cancer surgery 21 and 15 years ago, respectively. From the initial autistic state, through the common efforts by themselves, their families and the society, gradually they succeeded and walked out of the ostomy pessimistic shadow. After using the method of stoma irrigation, they fully recovered and lived like everybody else. Their vivid experiences moved and benefited the participants, greatly increasing the confidence of the ostomates in their rehabilitation.

On the Day, there were arrangements for ostomates to exchange their experiences, consultation in professional knowledge of stoma, and visits to the Shanghai Ostomy Association.

ET Therapist Xu Honglian
Changhai Hospital, Shanghai

EUROPEAN REGION

Arne Holt, President

Hungary and Italy

Hungary and Italy are two of the countries that I as president of the European Ostomy Association have visited since the latest edition of IOA today. As a matter of fact I asked our treasurer Ria Smeijers whether she could go to Italy to FAIS

They really know how to celebrate WOD, Fernando Vitale and his women and men! Some 800 persons were gathered as both FAIS and AIOSS (the organization for ostomy nurses in Italy) celebrated together. There were lot of speeches and greetings – also from a minister – and me of course who were so lucky to address that great audience. At the gala dinner Saturday night we really enjoyed Italian cooking – and believe it or not, I won one of three great framed paintings at the lottery. All the income from the lottery was given to the March earthquake victims in a nearby village! The picture was not very handy to bring on a plane, so I gave it to our excellent driver who would have it placed on the wall of a coming ostomy center in Rome!

As all the CC was gathered in Montesilvano we had a short meeting Sunday before going home. We planned a meeting for all EOA associations in Frankfurt in April were the main issue will be the future of IOA/EOA. More info and invitation will be provided in February. The treasurer revealed that the economy had improved very well the last year – mainly due to low costs. As a result of that my proposed budget for 2010 contains one travel per CC member - and also appointed persons to the CC – to one EOA association. All together that will be six travels (or seven – if the webmaster also would like to visit an association). I have earlier said that the CC must receive an invitation (being paid for at least partly) to be able to go somewhere. Now we hopefully can give that issue some rest!

In September I attended the East-West Colorectal days in Hungary. These days are really a meeting where top surgeons from USA and Hungary meet to exchange experience. Also some ostomates were invited – and I was honoured to address the audience telling them about IOA and EOA and the way we work. I met a lot of interesting people and had interesting talks with various persons. One surgeon came to me one day and told me that he had studied one year in Bergen, Norway. He spoke good Norwegian and told some other people that the people in Norway are seldom ill. They live a healthy life eating a lot of fish and doing a lot of exercise. You may know me so well that I did a great follow-up telling about the mountains and the fjords, the polar bears and

midnight sun. Now I am just waiting for a lot of phone calls and E-mails from people wanting to visit Norway next summer!

Also Guiseppe de Salvo from the CC and Vladimir Kleinwächter (appointed) have done some travels since the last time. Guiseppe visited also Hungary in the middle of October where he gave a speech at a congress for disabled people, and Vladimir visited the Polish WOD arrangement.

For the time being Guiseppe has got a reliable contact in Greece, and hopefully he will be able to go there in order to start an organization for ostomates. Also ECET wants to have an organization up and go there, so we both hope to have a joint operation in some time. Member of the CC, Maydad Gissin from Israel, works with Turkey where there is a small organization outside EOA. We intend to send Maydad to Turkey as soon as he believes is worth while going there.

Dear readers of IOA today, this is some of what has happened in EOA the last few months. I wish you all the very best and I remind you about the world meeting in Bangkok in November 2010 where the future of IOA/EOA will be decided. Read my postings on www.ostomyeurope.org in some months where I will keep you up to date on the EOA CC's points of view for this future.



Ria Smeijers from EOA and vice president Roberto Aloesio from FAIS



EOA president Arne Holte and Imre Samoyvar from ILCO Hungary

Arne Holte, president EOA

Have a great day

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN OSTOMY ASSOCIATION (NCACOA)

Doug Graham, President



This will be our last report of this year. Now is the time to mark your calendars for 2010. Some very important dates to mark are 18 to 21 of November. Those are the days of the International Ostomy Association's (IOA) World Congress that will take place in Bangkok, Thailand. The meetings, motions, discussions and final votes will have a major affect on the future of IOA and our Regions. For some, the question of "What's in it for me?" may be of importance but the question of, "Why was the IOA established?" should take precedence and be what many of us reflect on. I believe that in the months leading up to our meetings in Bangkok there will be a lot of information sent out and some may be confusing or ambiguous. My best advice is to reflect back to the question, "Why was the IOA established?" and let the answer to that question guide you.

We, in NCACOA, will have a major responsibility at the World Congress. I have written several time that the membership in our Region is five (5) Full Members of a potential thirty-two, so when we contemplate the recommendations that are before us we must remember that they will affect the twenty-seven countries in our Region that are not members.

UOAA Conference

I did attend the United Ostomy Association of America's (UOAA) Conference in New Orleans this summer and was surprised that the countries of the Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago although not members of our Region are members of the UOAA. Perhaps the recommendations of the future will bring new light to our Region. Our Executive Council of NCACOA, Past-President Linda Aukett, Vice-President George Salamy and Executive Council Member, Jorge Vargas Morales met at the conference and discussed our activities and future plans.

With IOA Past-President Di Bracken I co-presented a session on the future of IOA and our Region. In my part of the presentation I presented proposals for some changes. One was for development of our Region that would require funds and those necessary funds should come from the redistribution of our IOA wealth. To be clear 60% of our dues go to IOA and 40% to our Region. This should be reconsidered as the Region is where the work is done and where the funds would do the most good. I will reiterate, we have much to consider in the next year. I will be extremely saddened if as I disappear under the waves of change I shout, "But the redistribution of the wealth to develop our Region was a good idea".

Conclusion

Special thanks to the leaders in our Region that continue to invest their time and skills to help Ostomates and people with related surgeries to reach a good standard of

life. Also, a special thanks to Friends of Ostomates Worldwide Canada (FOW-Canada) and Friends of Ostomates Worldwide USA (FOW-USA) for the shipment of surplus Ostomy supplies they have sent to countries in our Region.

Countries Reports from Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the USA.

Canada, United Ostomy Association of Canada

President: Les Kehoe

This year began with Mike Woolridge as the President of UOAC. He held the Strategic Planning and the Executive meetings in March, 2009. He wanted to jump start our plans for the year by concentrating on a few issues and not trying to undertake too many project at one time. It was decided that priority one, was the Future Directions Committee work of planning a strategy for UOAC to have in place in the years beginning in 2009, (that a conference was not being held for our member chapters". Our Past president, Doug Graham developed criteria for 2009. A few meeting were held by the Executive and the plan was changed on more than one occasion. Les Kehoe agreed to stand for President when Mike Woolridge resigned his position in June 2009. The final result of this Future Directions Committee agreed to was to have UOAC's Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors Meeting and an Awards Banquet for 2009 held in Ottawa. The event was coordinated by Doug Graham and his wife Astrid and members of our Ottawa Chapter contributed to this contributing to this successful event.

At the Board of Directors meeting in August three new Directors were elected, Judy Steeves from Fredericton, New Brunswick; Ruth Kenney from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and Ann Ivoll from Hamilton, Ontario. One Director was re-elected, Delilah Guy from Gander, Newfoundland. Judy Steeves agreed to serve UOAC in the capacity of Vice President. Judy has served UOAC in the capacity of District Services for many years. We are pleased to have her on our team.

October 3, 2009 was selected by IOA to be the day that we celebrated World Ostomy Day. Many Canadian Chapters did participate and will be submitting the events of the day. I am please and proud of their achievement in promoting the theme for this year of "Reaching Out".

The fall Board of Directors Meeting was held in Halifax this year. A decision was made to concentrate on three issues over the next year. They have been prioritized in this order.

1. Future Directions will concentrate on an amended manual for UOAC to follow in the year 2011. (The next year when no conference is held).

2. Fundraising will continue to be assessed in order to identify our needs and how to proceed with any future ventures.

3. Communications will develop and implement a new strategy for how we communicate with our member chapters and each other.

The Board of Directors will meet again in March of next year in order to ensure we are on track with the above projects.

Mexico, The Asociacion De Ostomizados De Colima **President: Ofelia Delgado Puente, Jorge Vargas Morales**

Our Association continues to attract members, raise awareness and support Ostomates from Colima state and also the nearby states as Jalisco and Michoacan. Román Gonzalvo, a psychologist, is giving his valuable support to the Ostomates of our association. He together with psychology students from the University of Colima has formed a group with the ostomates. The students are: Bety (she assists people of 18-40 years old); Priscila (people of 41-60 years old); Alejandra (people of 61-and so on) and Gustavo (assists couples of ostomates). They are doing a great job helping our association.



The General Hospital of Mexico (Mexico City) invited us to attend the XXV Anniversary of the Ostomates group belonging to the hospital. They will have ceremony on October 29. Our Association will receive an award in recognitions of the work and achievements in our area.

We held two days, October 3 and 4, 2009 of celebration for World Ostomy Day. There were many Ostomates, friends, speeches, educational sessions, banquets and parades. We will send our report with many pictures to IOA, WOD Coordinator, Peter McQueen soon.



As the Executive Council Member of NCACOA I made visits to; Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua in the Central America Area. Contacts have been done to establish groups or ostomates associations formally. In Guatemala, I contacted Enterostomal Therapist Dora Caceres; in Tegucigalpa (Honduras), I contacted Jorge Gómez; in El Salvador, I contacted José Luis López and in Nicaragua I contacted Dr. Pedro Pablo Iglesias Valderrama. We hope the persons named above can create Ostomy groups and/or associations in their countries. The aim of the visit to Central America Countries was to show the ISCAP Programme. I hope to do similar visits in March to Belize, Jamaica and Haiti if my God helps me. Another of our goals will be to re-create the dissolved associations in the Republica Dominicana and Costa Rica.

Puerto Rico, Asociacion De Ostomizados De Puerto Rico

by: Martha Vélez de Nieves



On Saturday, June 13 we had a joint venture activity with the CDC at the University. The program started at 8:30 until 3:00 pm. It was free of

charge and we had about 200 participants. We had different presentations and discussed the barriers that patients have to cope with. At the end the participants were very happy and requested more activities of this type so people can learn more before and after their diagnosis.

The official celebration of World Ostomy Day (WOD) on October 3, 2009 was at the Lions Club of Bayamon. A representative of the Department of Health presented the official Proclamation of WOD.



We had an educational program. The Suppliers set-up displays with their new products. At the end of the day we had a music band and food. We gave the WOD official pin to all attendees and a trophy was given to all participants from the Mayor of the City of Fajardo. Other trophies were also given in different categories.

A media tour was organized to create awareness of WOD. We participated in TV and Radio Programs, and had articles published in the local newspapers.

The WOD Flyer was placed in hospitals, doctor's offices, and at the American Cancer Association office to announce the celebration of WOD.



The closing activity was the Mustang Power Tour 2009, Sunday, October 4, 2009. A Mustang rally from Parque Escorial Shopping Center in the city of Carolina drove all the way down to "Parque Pasivo Las Croabas" in the city of Fajardo about 28 miles away from the Metropolitan area. All cars had a flyer announcing World Ostomy Day and we had the opportunity to create awareness to people who don't even know what an ostomy surgery is. We gave them information about our association and how we can help people with an ostomy surgery.

We had a great exposure on all the activities of WOD and the most important is that we created awareness and reached out to people from different walks of life.

United States of America, United Ostomy Associations of America

President Ken Aukett

UOAA'S 2ND National Conference ... 5-8 August 2009, New Orleans, Louisiana

When we started planning UOAA's 2nd National Conference two years ago we selected "Let the Good Times Roll" as the conference theme ... and let me tell you, for the **655+** attendees it was indeed ***Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez!*** The weather cooperated, the Sheraton Hotel facilities were great and the spirit of the attendees resembled that of a family reunion.

The proceedings were enhanced by our key corporate sponsors: Coloplast (1st Timers Reception), ConvaTec (Gala Social Evening), Edgepark (appearance of CoCo, the Colossal Colon), Hollister (A Sweet Taste of New Orleans) and Nu-Hope (Fun-Run).

Key events included a sold out Exhibition Hall and premiers of two UOAA-produced DVDs, a public relations feature "***Living with an Ostomy***" and a "***Visitor Training***" DVD, plus a showing of the new Public TV/Cable UOAA documentary tape. Everyone enjoyed the fashion show, race car driver Tim Mitchell's Opening Night Ceremonies presentation, beauty pageant contestant Abby Ryan's Luncheon motivational story of her engagements with Crohn's Disease, and, Canadian Rob Hill's "***6 up and one to go***" story of his mountain climbs with only Mt. Everest left in his "***No Guts, Know Glory***" quest to climb the highest mountain on each of the earth's continents.

"UOAA, Reno and You"

Monday, August 8 through Thursday August 11, 2011 is the dates for UOAA's next national gathering at the Nugget Hotel in exciting Reno, Nevada. The room rate will be **\$ 79.00 + tax**. Start thinking now about joining us for this stellar event.

New tool for UOAA's Affiliated Support Group Leaders

A new discussion forum within the UOAA website's discussion board designed especially for leaders of our affiliated support groups has been opened. This will enable group leaders to talk about issues that pertain to managing their group ... such as ideas for programs, how to find new leaders, working with their medical community, or tips for increasing attendance at group meetings. It also affords an opportunity to get some feedback about why things don't seem to be going so well, or just simply to express their frustrations. The forum is limited to responses by only support group leaders.

UOAA Patient Resource Magazines

Using the best information published in UOAA's quarterly journal, ***The Phoenix***, UOAA has published 4 Patient Resource magazines ... one with solely colostomy information, one with urostomy information, one with ileostomy information and one for patients with continent diversions. These magazines are for new Ostomy

patients. Free copies are given to all UOAA affiliated support groups for use in their visiting program, and to all ET and stoma nurses that request them.

UOAA Member Advocate

UOAA has entered into an agreement with the Advocacy for Patients with Chronic Illness, Inc. organization for the provision of legal counsel to members of UOAA's Affiliated Support Groups who are experiencing discrimination issues because of their Ostomy, be it in the form of social discrimination, or discrimination in the workplace. This service is provided free to any inquiring UOAA ASG member.

Bathroom Access Laws

UOAA is urging its patient support groups to have their members take action to endorse either the passage of legislation or to initiate legislation to allow people with IBD or an Ostomy to have unrestricted access to toilets in commercial stores doing business with the public, across the country.

SOUTH PACIFIC REGION - SPOA

Peter McQueen President

World Ostomy Day was celebrated in various forms throughout the region including local seminars, information booths, production of WOD2009 stamps, local media involvement to mention a few. It is important to be involved in Ostomy awareness activities to reach out and inform others of the needs and aspirations as Ostomates.

On the 11th September 2009 the 3rd regional meeting of SPOA held outside an IOA meeting was held in Canberra, Australia's capital city. As part of the annual meeting of ACSA. Delegates from New Zealand and Australia attended as well as interested observers. Many topics of interest were discussed, the meeting concluded with both countries determined to work the issues out and to continue helping our fellow Ostomates wherever they may be.

In an effort assist those in our region Australia and New Zealand are continuing to supply appliances to Indonesia, The Philippines' Tonga and Fiji and recently supplies were forwarded to Nepal, the supply of appliances to other countries is also under consideration. The considerable transport and postage costs of appliances overseas has been met by the Australia Fund, alleviating the financial burden that may inhibit appliances getting to where they are most needed.

We in the south Pacific are enjoying spring and the optimism it brings. We hope our fellow Ostomates in the northern hemisphere are enjoying autumn and hope the winter is not too cold for you...



World Ostomy Day 2009 has finally come and gone and I am pleased to say has left a lasting impression in various parts of the world. The preparation and planning some organizations went to ensured magnificent outcomes. I will not go into detail what events took place around the world they are for all to see on the WOD2009 website But I cannot help but comment on what a resounding success the Italian Association (FAIS) had. The FAIS in conjunction with the AISS (ET Nurses Association of Italy) produced a program that attracted almost 1000 attendees; full details are available on the website above.

While World Ostomy Day is a day we can all focus on every three years to bring our needs and aspirations to the wider community. The issue of "Ostomy Awareness" is too important to only concentrate on once every three years. Associations everywhere should be involved in their local communities educating community groups and demystifying the subject of Stoma Surgery and as a result of that surgery Ostomates themselves. The themes of the past two World Ostomy Days "**Reaching Out**" and "**Living Life to the Full**" should be the way we as Ostomates should be the way we live our lives, "living life to the full" making the most of our second chances and "reaching out" being involved and helping to not only inform our local communities into the needs and aspirations of Ostomates but also to improve the lives of those less fortunate.

The next step is to prepare your National Associations entry in the Coloplast Merit Award, entries close for this competition on the 31st January 2010. Coloplast have once again been very generous in sponsoring this competition with US\$2500 first prize for each region and US\$1000 for second. Details are available from your WOD Coordinators or contact me through the contact page of IOA Today

Once again congratulations to all who participated in celebrating WOD2009, and continued success for 2010 and beyond

Peter McQueen, WOD2009 Coordinator

