

September 2021

“Ngumbi Jodi” (Hello in Dharawal Language) NSW/ACT branch members

Firstly I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we work and the traditional custodians of Dharawal lands on which I work and pay respects to elders past, present and future.

Although it has been some weeks since I was elected as your NSW/ACT Regional Chair representative and we have gone through a roller coaster of restrictions and lockdowns. Now seems like a good time to introduce myself and put a face to the name (hence the picture).



Many of you may know me but for those who don't, my name is Blake Handley and I work at The Wollongong Hospital as the Respiratory Scientist in Charge. I've been at Wollongong Hospital for a little over a year now after paying my dues for over 6 years at Royal North Shore Hospital under the guidance of Robin Schoeffel and Prof Greg King. Alongside working full time I am also in the final throws of completing my Masters of Philosophy in Medicine via Research looking at Ventilation Heterogeneity using multiple breath nitrogen washout. In my personal time I am a father of 3 kids (2 girls and a boy) and enjoy road cycling on the weekends.

Since June there has been challenges and restrictions which the latest Delta strain has thrown as up in both the work place and also our personal lives. I hope many of you are managing to stay safe and healthy in these difficult times. Hopefully by now many processes and policies have been put into place to help protect yourselves whilst you continue your essential work. If any laboratory or workers needs any further assistance please feel free to either contact the TSANZ/ANZSRS committees or myself to help facilitate providing information that you may need.

The **TSANZSRS 2022** is to be held in Adelaide, South Australia this year 31st March to 4th April and at this stage will be Face to Face, which is a nice move away from Virtual setting. Submission of abstracts closing date is **22 October 2021** which is approach fast. So be sure to organise your abstracts early.

As Christmas is fast approaching, work behind the scenes is occurring to put in place a tentative Face-to-face Christmas meeting/party. This meeting will be dependent on the easing of restrictions once 70% vaccination rates have been reach, so fingers crossed. This event will most likely be capped at a certain number of guests and such a “first in, best dressed” code will be implemented so keep your eyes open for the email which will be sent out in the coming weeks.

On a final note, if anyone has a questions, concerns or feedback please feel free to contact myself or anyone from the ANZSRS committee by email or phone (details below). I look forward to working with you all over the next couple of years by providing some new ideas as I grow and improve as your regional chair representative.

Kind regards,

Blake Handley



NSW/ACT Regional Representative

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