

April 2009

## OHS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE 2009 AUSA CONFERENCE

University of Sydney  
7th–10th July

### **The 2009 AUSA OHS Conference will be held at the University of Sydney 7 – 9 July 2009.**

The conference is a *must attend* event for AUSA members and your best opportunity for networking and benchmarking with other OHS professionals in the Australasian tertiary education and research network.

This year's conference will feature keynote addresses on a range of topical subjects in addition to member presentations promoting best practices. There will also be an optional professional development workshop on *Marketing OHS* to be held on the Tuesday afternoon preceding the conference.

### **Registration for the 2009 AUSA OHS Conference is now open.**

Early bird registration rates will be available until **Friday 8 May 2009**. The registration fee remains the same as for the previous conference to give members the best possible chance of attending in these difficult financial times. Your Association is striving to provide an affordable, accessible and stimulating professional development opportunity.

The draft conference program and registration details are available from the [AUSA website](#).

### **AUSA PPI Benchmarking Survey 2008**

Thirty three (33) Australian Universities, 7 New Zealand Universities and 1 Commonwealth agency participated in the 2008 AUSA positive performance indicator benchmarking survey.

Like the previous surveys in 2004 and 2006 this was a self assessment based on AS/NZS 4801:2001. The question set (5 sections, 35 questions) remained the same as that used in 2006 to allow a direct and meaningful comparison between the 2008 and 2006 results. Participating agencies were provided with the 2008 average scores from their State or Country and from the overall survey to compare with their own returns.



Mike Gavin will present the overall results and findings from the 2008 benchmarking survey at the 2009 AUSA OHS Conference in Sydney. The results will also be shown from the best practice survey conducted in July 2008 (based on the seven lowest scored questions from the 2006 survey). Mike will showcase how Edith Cowan University has used these surveys to develop and implement strategies to improve their OHS system and processes, which has helped them to progressively increase their scores and ranking with each survey.

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## AUSA State Chapters

Many of our state and territory based AUSA members meet regularly to address issues in common. Quarterly meetings are a great way to collaborate and maintain professional working relationships.

The following tips are to help our Chapters to be viable and productive:

- Plan the meetings well in advance
- Rotate the meeting venue for convenience of those attending
- Include site visits to unique facilities
- Invite guest speakers on topics of interest
- Conduct workshops that result in tangible outcomes and involve Safety Officers or Health and Safety representatives.
- Establish links with like organisations.

It is recommended that each AUSA Chapter elect a Chair whose role will be to coordinate the Chapter meetings and activities and interface with the AUSA Executive i.e. receiving minutes from the AUSA Executive meetings and providing updates from the State Chapters in return. This model will be discussed further at the AUSA General Meeting on Friday 10 July at the University of Sydney.

## Hosting the AUSA Website



Campbell Lee from the University of Technology Sydney has served the Association well in developing and hosting a professional website. Sadly, Campbell will not continue as our Communications Officer beyond the July Conference, so we are seeking a willing volunteer with the technical know-how within AUSA to host our website and list server.

**Please contact Campbell or Jon D'Astoli if you can assist us or have related enquiries.**  
Thank you.

## New Members

AUSA welcomes the following new members in 2009:

- ✦ Monash University: *Margaret Rendell*
- ✦ University of Melbourne:
  - *Zsigmond Balatinacz,*
  - *Susan Butler,*
  - *Walter Carmignani (Trinity College) and*
  - *David Keizer*
- ✦ Queensland University of Technology: *Mayuri Gosalia*
- ✦ University of Queensland: *David Lester*
- ✦ University of South Australia:
  - *Jenny Hardy and Robyn Sferco*
- ✦ University of Wollongong:
  - *Joanne George*

**We look forward to meeting you at the AUSA conference in Sydney.**



## AUSA Website

Visit the AUSA website for all your Association information:

<http://www.ehs.uts.edu.au/AUSA/>