



THREDBO 2018

44th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF NEUROMUSCULAR SCIENCE INC

From its inception, S.O.N.S. has encouraged medical professionals from a wide spectrum of specialities and general practice, to gather for professional education and enrichment in a relaxed atmosphere in the snow.

Since its foundation in 1974, the main event is the annual conference held each August at the Thredbo conference centre. It is a unique opportunity for doctors and allied health from different backgrounds but with common interests to learn and develop their skills and knowledge.

Of course, it is also a rare opportunity to network with other doctors across professional and geographic boundaries to foster new professional and interpersonal relationships in a convivial environment. The conference has attracted a wide variety of highly experienced speakers of surgical, medical, dental and related fields.

**August
6th - 10th 2018**

Townsend Room

**Thredbo Alpine
Conference Centre**

Thredbo Village NSW



2018 Committee

EXECUTIVE	
Chairman: Dr Allan Forrest	awf@bigpond.com
Vice Chairman: Dr Leslie White	leslie.white@health.nsw.gov.au
MEMBERS	
Dr Cameron Altmann	drcameronaltmann@bigpond.com
Dr John Barker-Whittle	johnbw@internode.on.net
Dr Christine Barrows	dougbarrow@optusnet.com.au
Dr James Deeves	jimdeves@primusonline.com.au

Annual Message from the Chairman.

I wish to thank many SONS members who have continued to support me this year. I was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer just before the end of 2017 and underwent Radical Robotic Surgery 3 days before Christmas. For that reason I could not attend Niseko/Kiroro 2018 so I will include the following report from Niseko Co-convenor and SONS committee member Dr Cameron Altman, who grandly stepped up in my stead to run those conferences, with Kym James. I am very grateful, thanks Cameron and Kym. Cameron's report is available on the website.

I am back working almost full time again. The SONS Committee including several ex officio members met to discuss many aspects of the Society in May this year. This followed a very successful meeting in May 2017 at North Shore Private Hospital.

The main item of discussion was the future of Thredbo as a viable meeting for SONS and the time and place for its AGM. People are very reluctant to end this meeting. Probably because of its long history and SONS deep relationship with Thredbo.

..... BUT ... it is going to have to be more strongly supported to viably continue.

Committee members were close to closing down Thredbo from next year but the meeting received a lifeline from Christine Barrow who has agreed to organise the programme for next year. I will be taking a break from Thredbo.

As you can see from Cameron Altmann's report the Niseko meeting continues to thrive... with the add on Kiroro conference being enjoyed by most members who attended. It will be held again in January 2019 and Marjolein and I hope to see you all there. It's a lot of fun, and the scientific programme has always proven to be excellent.

I will ask committee members as well as general SONS membership about possible alternatives to Thredbo, such as a weekend scientific meeting in Australia to be held in the 2nd half of the year so the AGM can be legitimately held within 3 months of the end of the financial year. If the Thredbo meeting receives a sudden boost in interest (and doesn't lose money) then I presume it will continue.

The May 2018 Committee meeting minutes make for interesting reading and I commend them to all SONS members.

Kind regards

Allan Forrest

SONS Chairman 2018

Monday - August 6th
SONS
Annual General Meeting

Chairman – Dr Allan Forrest

Welcome

3.30pm - Registration & Networking Drinks

Annual General Meeting

5.00pm - 6.00pm - Chairman - Dr Allan Forrest

Lucky door prize

Ice Breaker Cocktail Party

(Townsend Room)

From 6.00pm.....

Tuesday - August 7th
4.00pm – 6.00pm

3.30pm – Networking Drinks

4.00pm – 4.40pm	Emeritus Professor Les White AM <i>Quality Health Care Delivered to Australian Children</i>
4.40pm – 5.20pm	Emeritus Professor Bill Gibson AM <i>Vertigo: New tests and common causes</i>
5.20pm – 6.00pm	Mrs Anne Kermode RGN <i>What non-medical people are taught about first aid</i> Lucky door prize
	6pm “ice breaker” Cocktails

Wednesday - August 8th

4.00pm – 6.00pm

3.30pm – Networking Drinks

4.00pm – 4.40pm Dr Bruce Fasher

A day in Paediatric ED

4.40pm – 5.20pm Dr Christine Barrow

Chappaquiddick-The Personality behind the Politics

5.20pm – 6.00pm Dr Jim Deves

- *Managing Anticoagulant Therapy Perioperatively....*
- *List Reduction Surgery as a Retirement Option*

Lucky Door prize

7pm - Cascades Restaurant

Thursday - August 9th

4.00pm – 6.00pm

3.30pm – Networking Drinks

4.00pm – 4.40pm Dr Allan Forrest

Endoscopic Ear Surgery

4.40pm – 5.20pm Emeritus Professor Bill Gibson AM

Tinnitus“...oh I can't get you out of my head”

5.20pm – 6.00pm Dr David Bollinger

Difficult Airway Management - Crikey is CICO

Lucky door prize

Friday - August 10th
4.00pm - 6.00pm

No activities

Lucky door prize

Social Programme

Monday 6th August

6.00pm Ice Breaker following the AGM in the Townsend Room

Wednesday 8th August

7.00pm Dinner in the Cascades Restaurant.

Ski Race

Due to insufficient numbers, there will not be a ski race held this year.

ABSTRACTS



Professor Emeritus Les White AM

Bio

- Professor Les White AM DSc
- MBBS FRACP MHA AFACHSM
- Les White was appointed as the inaugural NSW Chief Paediatrician in September 2010. He was Executive Director of Sydney Children's Hospital from 1995 to 2010, following a clinical and academic career, with emphasis on childhood cancer. Other positions have included President of Children's Hospitals Australasia (1999-2004) and the John Beveridge Professor of Paediatrics (2005-2010). He has over 120 publications and many more abstracts, awards, grants and invited presentations in his CV. He serves on 10 not-for-profit boards relating to children's health or medical research. He was awarded a Doctorate of Science for research contributions related to childhood cancer and holds a Master of Health Administration. In 2007 he received an Order of Australia award for service to medicine, medical administration and the community in the field of paediatrics

Quality of Healthcare Delivered to Australian Children

- **Question:** Is health care for children in Australia consistent with quality standards? The quality of routine care for children is rarely assessed, and then usually in single settings or for single clinical conditions.
- **Design, Setting, and Participants:** For 17 common conditions, 479 quality indicators were identified, with the number varying by condition, ranging from 9 for eczema to 54 for head injury. Four hundred medical records were targeted for sampling for each of 15 conditions while 267 records were targeted for anxiety and 133 for depression. Care was evaluated for 6689 children 15 years of age and younger who had 15 240 visits to emergency departments, for inpatient admissions, or to pediatricians and general practitioners in selected urban and rural locations in 3 Australian states. These visits generated 160 202 quality indicator assessments.
- **Findings:** Comparison of clinical records against quality indicators for 17 important child health conditions, such as asthma and type 1 diabetes, estimated that overall adherence was 59.8%, with substantial variation across conditions.

ABSTRACTS



Emeritus Professor Bill Gibson AM

Bio

MB BS (London) MD London, FRACS, FRCS

William (Bill) Gibson is one of identical twins born in June 1944 when his father was on the beach head in Normandy. He studied medicine at The Middlesex Hospital and qualified in 1967. He held various appointments in teaching hospitals in London before becoming a consultant surgeon at The National Hospitals for Nervous Disease and The Royal National Throat Nose and Ear Hospital. In 1983, he immigrated to Australia with his family to become the inaugural professor of otolaryngology (ENT) at the University of Sydney. His major interest is otology. He has written a book, 20 chapters of books and 227 scientific articles. He is on the editorial board of 6 international journals.

He is the founder and director of The Sydney Cochlear Implant Centres (SCIC) no part of the Royal Institute for the Deaf and Blind. He has retired from The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and has become an emeritus professor at the University of Sydney where he is undertaking research into Meniere's disease and cochlear implants and still sees some patients privately.

In his spare time he has the company of 5 grandsons and one spoilt granddaughter. He enjoys fishing, ski-ing and eating hot Indian curries.

Vertigo: New Tests and Common Causes

There are newer tests for vestibular dysfunction although the caloric test is still useful. The vestibular myogenic evoked potentials (VEMP) and the Head impulse thrust (vHIT) will be described. Three common conditions will be mentioned: benign paroxysmal positional vertigo, Meniere's disease and vestibular migraine.

Meniere's disease causes attacks of vertigo lasting more than 10 minutes which tend to occur in clusters. There is tinnitus, a feeling of aural fullness and a hearing loss. The caloric test is often affected while there is still a normal vHIT. Newer treatments involve intratympanic injections of dexamethasone or gentamicin.

Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo usually is due to otolith debris trapped in the posterior semicircular canal and is cleared by the Epley manoeuvre. The lateral semicircular canal is less often involved (9%) and causes horizontal nystagmus lasting more than a minute. It is treated by a BBQ roll technique. The Omniax machine can treat recalcitrant cases.

Vestibular migraine causes prolonged attacks of vertigo lasting several hours without associated hearing loss. Often there is a past history or strong family history of Migraine. A positive response to pizotifen maleate (Sandomigran®) 0.5 mg at bedtime confirms the diagnosis.

ABSTRACTS



Mrs Anne Kermode RGN

Bio

Sr Anne Kermode RGN, Cardio-Thoracic Cert, Dip. of Teaching (Nursing), Cert. 1V In Training And Assessment, Advanced First Aid, Member of the College of Nursing.

“What non-medical people are taught about First Aid”

The Guidelines from the Australian Resuscitation Council (ANZCOR) on Managing an Emergency, CPR and Anaphylaxis.

There will be an opportunity to practice CPR on a adult and child.....mannequin. NOT EACH OTHER! (Unless needed)

Lets hope it may never be needed in real life or during the conference. However, would you be ready to start CPR?

ABSTRACTS



Dr Bruce Fasher

Bio

Bruce Fasher MB BS 1972, DCH (Lond) 1974, DRCOG (Lond) 1975, FRACP 1980, FRCP (Lond) 1986.

Junior house positions in Royal Brisbane Hospital, Royal Darwin Hospital, East Africa, UK Poole District Hospital and Hillingdon Hospital, & RAHC Sydney.

8 years private practice as Consultant Paediatrician in Nambour on Sunshine Coast QLD.

Paediatric Emergency Physician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children Sydney trading as the Children's Hospital at Westmead To current.

Various committees including SONS for many years. Examiner AMC; Councillor RACP 1986 – 2001,

A day in Paediatric ED

We will discuss mainly some of the " money for jam" easy presentations which seem to cause a lot of time which could be better spent elsewhere...

ABSTRACTS



Dr Christine Barrow

Bio

Christine retired in December 2016 from her role as Head of the Psychological Services Team at Brisbane Waters Private Hospital, Woy Woy (NSW Central Coast). Christine completed her undergraduate and master's degree at UNSW many moons ago. Her days are now busier than ever with a number of community based volunteer projects and assisting her husband with chronic disease and aged care assessments. Christine lives at Avoca Beach with her GP husband Doug and ageing Staffordshire bull terrier. Together with Doug, we are enjoying life as empty nesters, skiing, boating, travelling and working our way through the seemingly endless bucket list!

Chappaquiddick: The Personality behind the Politics

A single vehicle car accident occurred, Friday the 18th July, 1969 on Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts. The vehicle was driven by Senator Ted Kennedy whose negligence, the court later found, resulted in the death of his passenger Mary Jo Kopechne aged 28 years. The incident has been examined extensively from a political, historical and social perspective. More recently, the incident has been released as a 2018 American drama film. The 'Kennedy Curse' has been touted by the family as being partially responsible. What is this Kennedy curse? Could it be no more than the histrionics and chaos created in a family unit with a personality-disordered leader, and the genetic and environmental transfer of that disorder to future generations? The director acknowledges that the 2018 film portrayal is not completely accurate, although much of the detail was sourced from the court transcript. The film does though provide an excellent illustrative analysis of narcissist personality disorder from childhood development through to adult self-destruction. Through the use of John Curran's film this presentation will explore the personality disorder in action that is raised to believe they are special, for whom the rules of life and state do not apply, for whom it is always everyone else's fault, who believe they can change the world as no other and who will fool many into providing the ongoing idealisation, praise and validation they need for daily survival.

ABSTRACTS



Dr Jim Deves

Bio

MBBS Sydney 1971

Junior RMO Wagga Base 1971

Senior RMO Canberra 1972

Surgical Registrar Canberra 1973, Townsville 1974, Radcliffe Infirmary Oxford 1975.

FRACS Edinburgh (General Surgery) 1976

Travel Europe and Asia 1976

ENT Registrar Concord 1977, Royal Alexandra Childrens' 1978, St Vincent's 1979 -80

FRACS (ENT) 1980

ENT private practice and VMO Gosford 1981 - 2013

ENT Locum VMO Gosford and various hospitals 2013 - present

Married, 4 children, 3 granddaughters

RAAF Reserve 1978 - 2011

***Managing Anticoagulant Therapy
Perioperatively....***

Reduction Surgery as a "Retirement" Option

ABSTRACTS



Dr Allan Forrest

Bio

MB BS FRACS

Dr Forrest has a general ENT Practise in Sydney and Tamworth NSW. His interests are in ear, nose, throat surgery and voice problems. Dr Forrest is a member of the Australasian Society of Otolaryngology head and Neck Surgery; The Australian Rhinological Society and the Australian Society of Laryngology

Endoscopy Ear Surgery

EES is a new frontier in ear surgery. Allan will present the concept as well as advantages and pitfalls in doing surgery in the ear via an endoscope rather than the traditional microscope approach. A video of Endoscopic Tympanoplasty (Courtesy of Prof Nirmal Patel RNSH) will be discussed.

ABSTRACTS



Dr David Bollinger

Bio

Dr Bollinger is a “sad old” anaesthetist in private practise in Sydney whose area of practise is Cardiac, ENT, Orthopaedics, and Urology.

Difficult Airway Management

Crikey its CICO

Airway management has become increasingly sophisticated, and less traumatic since the development of the Magil tube in 1919.

However, airway difficulties and occasional disasters are still part of modern anaesthetic practice.

Using the case of Elaine Bromiley as an example, the unexpected approach to CICO (Can't Intubate Can't oxygenate) will be discussed.

Causes of airway difficulties will be discussed, and a few novel ways of management will be examined.

Unlike the CPR talk last year, this will be a casual presentation, with no quiz or questions to the audience.

There however will be an opportunity to use a video laryngoscope for some 'hands on' experience.

Thredbo Delegates List*

NAME		ACCOMODATION	PHONE NUMBER
JAMES	Kym	Thredbo Alpine Hotel	0432797366
FORREST	Allan	Dumison Ski Club	0412168660
SUE	Adrian	Thredbo Apartments	0422880343
WHITE	Les	Crackenback Lodge	0411414209
ACTON	Sue	Thredbo Alpine	0422281054
FULTON	Andrew	Munjarra	0411157496
KERMODE	Brenton	Dulmison Ski Club	0427572878
GIBSON	Bill	Boali Lodge	0413171571
LYON	Tim	Thredbo Alpine Hotel	0413700671
PADGET	Caroline	Not provided	0402061512
DEVES	Jim	Bergutte	0418437638
BOLLINGER	David	Silver Brumby	0146048928
SCULLIN	Julian	Berghutte	0417422671
BARKER-WHITTLE	John	Squatters Run	0414974621
SHATWELL	James	Lantern Thredbo	0467582141
BARROW	Christine	Thredbo Alpine Hotel	0416120648
BARROW	Doug	Thredbo Alpine Hotel	0407810570
STEWARD	Kylie	Thredbo Alpine Hotel	0404448245
LEWIS	David	Snowgoose	0413055516
FASHER	Bruce	Crackenback Lodge	0418272976
GLOVER	Rebecca	Thredbo Alpine Hotel	0408464220
DAMASCO	Monique	Thredbo Apartments	0410004689
LIAW	Yong	Not provided	0265831388
JONES	Alister	Thredbo Alpine Hotel	0407732360



**MINUTES OF THE FOURTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of THE SOCIETY OF NEUROMUSCULAR SCIENCES INC
THE THREDBO ALPINE HOTEL CONFERENCE CENTRE AUGUST 6th 2017**

The Chairman, Dr Allan Forrest, opened the meeting at 5.22pm and welcomed the Delegates to the Conference.

Attendees:

Dr Allan Forest, Dr James Deves, Dr John Barker-Whittle, Dr Tatiana Lowe, Dr Ross Emerson, Dr Peter McLaren, Dr Sean Williams, Prof Bill Gibson, Dr Nicholas Brett, Dr John-Paul Cotter, Dr Shane Preston, Dr Geanina Markey, Dr Stephen Markey, Prof Leslie White, Dr Radim Vana, Dr Christine Barrow, Dr Doug Barrow, Dr David Bollinger, Dr Kirsten Seipolt, Dr Anna Fulton, Dr Louis Cheung, Dr Bradley Fawkes, Dr Suzanne Hodgkinson, Alexandra Hall, Dr Bruce Hall, Dr David Lewis, Dr David Jones, Kym James

Apologies:

Dr Adrian van der Rijt, Dr Sandra Johnson, Dr Bruce Fasher, Dr Cameron Altmann

Minutes of the previous meeting

Dr Allan Forrest advised that the minutes had been distributed for reading and moved that they be accepted.

Business arising from previous meeting

Nil

Moved: Allan Forrest

Accepted: Stephen Markey

Seconded: Leslie White



Chairman's Report

Dr Allan Forrest advised of the success of Niseko, including pure science presentations. The Kiroro 3 day meeting, although small was well attended. Dr Cameron Altmann advised that special access was given to delegates to a special area on the mountain. He encouraged delegates to attend Kiroro in 2018. He advised that following membership consultation, the next Niskeo Conference will be held during the school holidays in the second week of January 9-13 and Kiroro following on for 3 days. Thredbo would continue to be the second week in Thredbo. He advised that a profit \$48,000 was made. He talked those who attended the Committee in May. During that meeting it was decided that we would look a giving back to the membership with drinks following each session as well as covering the dinner on Wednesday night. Allan also noted that from next year that anyone who attends both Conferences will be entitled to a free two day lift pass when in Thredbo. Allan also asked if any was interested in SONS donating to a charity, to put it to the committee. Allan thanked Kym James for her help throughout the year as well as Dale from Deep Powder Tours for his help with Niseko and Kiroro.



Financial Report

Membership as at June 30th 2017

Financial Members: 108 (2016: 85)

New Members: 35 (2016: 37)

Un-Financial: 110 (2016: 188)

Formally Resigned: 2 (2016: 3)

Kym James advised that since July 1st 2016 there has been a healthy increase in Income due in part to an increase in registrations fees and removal of free membership fees to new Conference delegates. There are no plans to increase them again in the near future. Changes to bookkeeping methods last year also saw crossovers of earning between conferences. This has been corrected. Increased costs have been associated with the webpage (including Stripe merchant fees) insurance cover and Secretarial costs. 2017/18 will see an increase in bookkeeping costs, due to move from MYOB to Xero which works better with the SONS website payment system.

The operating profit for 2016-2017 period is \$43,599.00

As at June 30 2017 total assets were \$ 225,392

Account balance details as at June 30 2017

NAB Cheque \$90,859.09

NAB Holding Account \$11,574.92

NAB Term Deposit \$ 105,455.34

Total Interest earned \$ 2,567

Note: Our Term deposit matures on September 23rd 2017 and will be reviewed.

Kym also advised that if the Association reaches a turnover of \$150,000 we would need to register for GST.

Prepared by Kym James

Secretary/Treasurer for the Society of Neuromuscular Sciences Incorporated

August 7th 2017

Kym asked that the Report be accepted.

Moved: Kym James

Accepted: Christine Barrow

Seconded by Stephen Markey



Business arising from the Treasurers Report.

Allan Forrest mentioned that we should look further into the Term Deposit.

Bruce Hall requested reconfirmation on Subscription renewal date. Kym confirmed June 30.

Les White commented that reductions could be considered. General discussion but no motion put forward.

Suzanne Hall commented that the numbers look to have increased and she felt that we may have to register

Andrew Fulton questioned if the invoice would include GST. Kym said she would speak to the Accountant.

Bruce Hall queried GST and International Conventions. Kym said she would research this.

Bruce Hall felt that numbers had increased and now it appears to be self-sustaining.

General discussion about how the meeting had improved compared to a few years ago.

Allan Forrest thanked Kym for her work on the Society finances.



General Business

Membership Fees

Allan advised not changes.

James Deves commented on people who were late for their subscriptions and when they should then have to re-join rather than renew. General discussion.

People have allowed their membership to lapse they would have to re-join if their membership has gone past 6 months.

Moved: James Deves

Accepted: Allan Forrest

Seconded: Suzanne Hall.

Banking.

Allan Forrest asked that Kym James arrange for a NAB debit card linked to the Cheque Account, so that Xero payment can come directly from the SONS account and not her personal card.

Moved: Allan Forrest

Accepted: Christine Barrow

Seconded: Stephen Markey



Future planning

John Barker-Whittle suggested a visiting speaker as it has in the past, increased attendance

Bradley Fawkes- mentioned looking a currency exchanges to pay a head. Kym advised that the Society would need to buy large amounts and regularly, more than we need.

Taitana Lowe commented that many hospitals now won't sign off on attendance requests unless there is 6 hours of sessions per day. Allan felt this could not be achieved by SONS. General discussion. No Motion put to meeting.



Election of Office bearers

Allan Forrest advised that all Committee positions were vacated.

Kym James noted that when the Notice of the AGM was sent out, a nomination form was sent out. Allan Forrest called for Nominations from the floor. Following no Nominations from the floor, the following Nominations that were received prior to the meeting were accepted by unanimous vote:

Allan Forrest (Chairman)

Les White

John Barker-Whittle

James Deves

Cameron Altman (in Absentia)

Christine Barrow

Kym James (Secretary)

Public Officer

Kym James

Kym James asked that these nominations for the committee be accepted and that the Committee will decided the Office bearers in due course.

Moved: Allan Forrest

Accepted: John-Paul Cotter

Seconded: Stephen Markey

Next AGM to be held Monday 6th 2018 at the SONS Conference in Thredbo Village, Thredbo NSW

Meeting adjourned 6.00pm



The Society of Neuromuscular Sciences Ltd
Extraordinary Committee Meeting

- Meeting Date: Saturday 26th May 2018

Venue: North Shore Private Hospital (Board Room) Westbourne Street, ST LEONARDS NSW 2065

Time: 12.30 pm

Attendees: Allan Forrest, Les White, Marcus Tjong, Jim Deves, David Bollinger, Bradley Fawkes. Christine Barrow, Les Schrieber, Cameron Altmann (Skype), Martin Sher (Skype), Kym James (Secretary)

Apologies: Brenton Kermode, John Barker-Whittle, Anthony Kwa

Committee Meeting

Allan Forrest thanked the attendees for coming and apologised for not attending Niskeo 2018 but advised will be at Thredbo in August and Niskeo next year.

Allan Forrest asked that the Minutes of the August AGM be accepted

Moved: Les White
Bollinger

Seconded: David

Motion carried

Allan Forrest asked that the 2017 May meeting Minutes be accepted

Moved: Cameron Altmann

Seconded: Martin Sher

Business arising from Minute

Allan Forrest advised that Thredbo lift tickets uptake was currently 5-6 and suggested they purchase their own tickets and 2 days be refunded by Kym James. Allan Forrest asked Kym James to advise the qualifying registrants to submit their lift ticket receipt to SONS for a refund of 2 days' worth. The refund should be determined from the ticket receipt, not the current day rate. That is the fairest way as everybody buys different value lift tickets and number of days skiing.

Allan Forrest asked about the position of the Term Deposit. Kym James advised that the term deposit was renewed for 2 years. Bradley Fawkes commented that he had asked SONS to look into buying Yen in the past. Kym James advised she had looked into this and as a NFP there were a lot of issues. Allan Forrest to look into possibility of opening an account in Japan and will seek advice.

Allan Forrest asked for opinions about the future of Thredbo.

Numbers around 25, Many people were in their own lodges and he felt the conference and hotel had been unwelcoming in the past. He advised that he will be at the next Conference but would like a break from Thredbo next year. He suggests a subcommittee to run the SONS Thredbo meeting.

Les White: advises that as a long time attendee of Thredbo and understands and accepts that it is winding down. Les White asked if the AGM was a problem.

Kym James: advised that it was not possible to hold the AGM in Niseko as it did not fall within the first 3 months of the end of our financial year. She suggested that it could be held, provided that there is a quorum, at North Shore Private Hospital using electronic means for interstate members. This is exactly the same way as the current committee meeting was being held.

Allan Forrest: stated he was happy to organise it with it being in August or September, but if the August Thredbo meeting was to continue then the AGM should be held at that meeting.

Marcus Tjong: felt we still needed two events and one at least in Australia and felt that Thredbo should continue at least until there was an alternative like a single day for a social or scientific meeting in Australia.

Les Schrieber: felt it didn't make sense to have the Thredbo meeting for the sake of having the AGM and not viable in the long term but having a meeting of sorts does make sense, and there is time to look at options and organise it by asking members if they want a one or two day meeting, social or scientific with main issue being about whether Thredbo should continue beyond 2019, with Niseko continuing.

Kym James: usually at this time of the year there are about 10 registrations for Thredbo, but for this coming Thredbo Conference there are currently 16 thus the numbers look promising.

Martin Sher: there should be two independent groups to organise the conferences. The 2 subsidised day tickets could continue as an incentive to those who attend both Niseko and Thredbo, but nothing else.

Bradley Fawkes: if no one takes on the organising then Thredbo should probably not continue.

David Bollinger: felt SONS should not fund a money losing meeting.

Kym James advised that Thredbo not a money making event, more historical.

Martin Sher: Niseko should not be funding Thredbo large amounts.

Bradley Fawkes: if no one takes on the organising then Thredbo should probably not continue.

David Bollinger: felt SONS should not fund a money losing meeting.

Kym James advised that Thredbo not a money making event, more historical.

Martin Sher: Niseko should not be funding Thredbo large amounts.

David Bollinger: Thredbo this year should go ahead but looked at for the future.

Les Schrieber: Members need to know that there are issues.

Allan Forrest: SONS need to send out an email advising that at the upcoming Thredbo AGM that a proposal be put forward that Thredbo ceases.

(Allan Forrest and Les White advised that they would not run it next year).

Christine Barrow: offered for the next three years to head a subcommittee.

Marcus Tjong: commented on an apparent influx into Thredbo. it could be showing a 'change of guard" and perhaps advertise.

Les White: done before but the main source has been word of mouth.

Marcus Tjong: suggested something be sent to Hospital associations,

Christine Barrow: suggested targeting specifically GP's as it's easier than those in the hospital system. Primary Healthcare Network would be a good target as they send out regular emails.

Allan Forrest: will speak to WDMA.

Les White: although it had been done before, there no harm in doing again as it may help Thredbo continue.

Christine Barrow: will speak to others who may be able to assist in organising Thredbo.

Financial Report

Presented by Kym James

Everyday cheque account \$87,479.42

Holding Account \$11625.36

Term Deposit \$106527.86

Net position \$205,662.64

Events:

Thredbo 2017	+\$919.75
Niskeo 2018	+\$37,689
Kiroro 2018	+\$2,477

Kym James advised YTD, expenses were similar to last year but income was down as Niseko registrations were significantly down on last year. This doesn't explain \$18387 difference which should be reflected in the cheque account and suggestion of an Audit.

Allan Forrest offered the services of his brother and sister-in-law who are familiar with Xero.

Les White motioned to obtain and circulate a Statement financial record to see where the expenses and revenue are coming from.

Moved: Les White
Christine Barrow

Seconded

Motion carried

Allan Forrest stated that his brother and sister-in-law were very experienced in Xero and speak and read Japanese with extensive knowledge. Bradley Fawkes warned that an independent Auditors should be used not someone close to Committee members. Allan agrees wholeheartedly but will still ask advice about setting up an account in Japan.

Les White suggested using their knowledge to set up accounts in Japan. Martin Sher suggested Allan Forrest to ask his brother to recommend someone. Allan Forrest felt that we should still have an answer to Statement balances. Martin Sher agrees that we should get advice. Kym James stated that she is not proficient with Xero, particularly Xero Reporting and is still on a learning curve and would be more comfortable having an Audit.

Kym James advised that we have an accountant that SONS has been using for many years. The Report goes into our Programme for the AGM in Thredbo.

Les White suggested that his motion is followed and if there were problems with the Report then have an Audit.

Martin Sher also suggested that we have an Audit following that report. Separate to the usual accounting service.

No formal motion for Audit.

This means that a motion for an audit should follow presentation and review of the current Financial Statements at the AGM in Thredbo this coming August. Allan Forrest will attend to that motion.

Niseko/Kiroro

Cameron Altmann reported that attendance at the sessions was good at Niseko and could be due to the 50% attendance requirement. The new hands-free microphone for 2019 should clear up problems experienced last January. The Mountain gate dinner was generally good with the food better than expected with a good setting and hopes to do something similar next year. Happy to be involved with Kiroro again as its relaxed and everyone attends the sessions. Some presentations were worthy of a prize like in Niseko.

Allan Forrest suggested a \$200 prize for Kiroro as is done in Thredbo.

Kym James said that there have been problems with planning the next Kiroro between DPT and Hotel management which are now sorted. It is hoped now that Kiroro will grow with the opening of new ski areas, a new gate and the building of a lift from the hotel to the Ski Centre eliminating the need for the Shuttle. The growth looks promising.

Cameron Altmann said Rusutsu had done something similar but Kiroro still has the best snow and hope it continues, dependant of the number of delegates and speakers.

Allan Forrest said that it had been agreed that a limit be set if there were not enough registrants then Kiroro would not go ahead.

Kym James advised that if that happens that we would be liable to some of the non-refundable rooms. Amounting to about \$6-7,000. This was felt to be too great a penalty for SONS to bear so Kiroro would go ahead no matter how many registrants.

Marcus Tjong felt Kiroro was fantastic and hopes it continues into the future.

Allan Forrest asked if everyone was still comfortable with Niseko finishing on the Saturday and Kiroro commencing the next day. Marcus Tjong thought it was good. Cameron Altmann stated that people needed to know that Kiroro is going ahead in case people were undecided. Les Schrieber was disappointed with Kiroro and would not go again preferring stay in Niseko. Marcus Tjong asked that we should have more social drinks giving something back to members each session, as we are making a good profit at Niseko. Allan Forrest said the drinks would only be available on the last session. Marcus Tjong then suggested reducing the registrations as the profits are good each year. Les Schrieber suggested perhaps a donations to a charitable organising. Marcus Tjong felt we should be giving back to the members by providing more to the members at the Conference. Allan Forrest suggested it be brought up at the AGM. Bradley Fawkes suggested more for the speakers but Allan Forrest advised that the rebate for speakers has been increased for the past couple of years.

Motion for additional prize at Kiroro

Allan Forrest moved that there be a \$200 prize for the best presentation at Kiroro. This will be over and above the \$250 rebate to be given to all presenters. The rebate applies once so if a presenter gives a talk at Niseko and Kiroro they will receive one rebate, not two.

Seconded by Cameron Altmann.

Website

Cameron Altmann advised that there were not enough photos on the website. Kym James said she would see if we had a limit on the number of photos permitted. Cameron Altmann stated that the website is a great improvement on the past and relatively user friendly and hoped Google searches give us good results. Kym James advised that changes were going on in the background mostly in February.

Allan Forrest asked if everyone was happy with the current clothing and everyone responded positively with Allan Forrest asking if it should be continued in a lighter colour for next year. Christine Barrow suggested light blue and navy logo. Kym James said she would follow that up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1.50pm.

Another similar committee meeting will be held next year at a similar time to be announced.

Meeting Closed 1.50pm



The Society of Neuromuscular Sciences Ltd

Contact Details

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FUTURE CONFERENCE DATES

2019	Niseko/Kiroro JAPAN	January 8-13 th / 14-16 th
2019	Thredbo AGM	August 5 th -8 th