

Acting for **all** members



Bronwyn Hilder
ASMIRT President

Welcome to the July issue of *Spectrum*, your member magazine.

The Society represents members from the full range of medical radiation disciplines, in public and private practice, from diverse communities and locations across Australia. Our members are diagnostic radiographers, radiation therapists, academics, sonographers, mammographers, mammographic technologists and nuclear medicine practitioners. Some of our disciplines are registered – and some are

not – and we actively engage in lobbying for registration for our sonographer, mammographer and mammographic technologist members. Representing such a diverse membership is no easy task, so it is for that reason your Board of Directors comes from a representative cross-section of disciplines, states and urban, regional and rural locations.

While we strive for diversity on the Board, we work even harder to ensure it is enshrined in our expert member representative groups. I have been really pleased with the response to the call for members to join our Reference Groups, with expressions of interest from across the country and across the full range of disciplines. I am excited that the building blocks for our new advisory structure are coming together so well. Understanding that change can sometimes be difficult, we appreciate members bearing with us as we work to put the Society in a position of member-led strength to face our future challenges.

In this issue of *Spectrum* we provide a special focus on rural and Indigenous health. Our feature profile is on Uncle Nurdon Serico, a proud Gubbi Gubbi Elder, ASMIRT Pioneer Radiographer and Australia Day Award recipient. Now aged in his 80s and retired from practising radiography, Nurdon continues to give back to his community by working with young Aboriginal people.

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We look at BreastScreen Queensland's mobile unit, 'Lilly 'Pilly', which travels vast distances to provide essential mammogram services to women living in rural and remote areas of Queensland. And in *Spectrum* Q&A, we talk to recently-retired Steve Adams about his long and varied career working in rural New South Wales.

We also hear from Leonie McIntosh, a Wiradjuri woman, on the Indigenous patient experience of undergoing radiation therapy for a brain tumour, and how her papier-mâché therapy masks provided a unique and beautiful way to help raise money for brain cancer research.

One of our student recipients of a Rural Clinical Placement Scholarship, Maisie Deveny, shares her “incredibly beneficial” placement experience at Alice Springs Hospital. Maisie is just one of five ASMIRT scholarship/grant recipients to feature in this issue of *Spectrum*. Each relates how the experience not only enhanced their professional knowledge and experience, but also their outlook on life and community.

If you have a passion to be involved in our rural and remote health community, ASMIRT's 2019 Rural Clinical Placement Scheme Scholarships close 30 August and we urge suitable members to apply. Our International Travel Scholarships close 29 September (there are four available), and our Research Scholarship Grants (of up to \$10,000) close 29 September. For full details on how to apply, visit www.asmirt.org/awards-and-scholarships