

PedorthicNEWS

FOOT CARE THROUGH PROPER FOOTWEAR

Andries van Tonder Recognition

No one can predict how much is involved in establishing an incorporated professional registration body such as the APRB.

On 19 March 2018, the Australian Registration Board (APRB) was incorporated with NSW Fair Trading. Its task was to administer the certification and registration of Pedorthists in Australia.

PAA members elected the inaugural APRB board members, and Andries van Tonder became the first Administrator. Andries served as Administrator across the APRB's 6-month initial set-up, during the incorporation process, and throughout the creation of the Board's administrative framework.

Andries' leadership and personal contribution were enormous in the first 18 months of the APRB. This involved setting up databases, accounting structures and software, phone and email communication, a new website...

[Continued on page 5](#)



President Update

Late last year we outlined two areas crucial for the future of Pedorthics in Australia; ordinary membership with AHPA and full membership with NASRHP. In February our AHPA membership application was accepted and CPedCMs are now officially allied health professionals. Another milestone in the history of PAA.

Currently we are working on a campaign to protect our bachelor program that is under threat of closure, the NASRHP membership application will commence after the campaign.

Following the presentation of Susan Nancarrow at last year's conference, PAA appointed AHP Workforce for an in-depth analysis of the pedorthic workforce and demand of pedorthic services. Thanks to all for participating in the workforce survey in April to kick-off this project. The collected data will be part of a report generated by AHP Workforce to support the position of pedorthics in allied health and Australia in general.

For supporting this project or future advocacy you can make a one-off donation (via the PAA website) or your company can become a sustaining member, all details are on the PAA website.

As always keep safe and stay healthy.

Katrin Wegener
PAA President

Certified Pedorthist Custom Makers recognised as Allied Health Professionals

A milestone in the recognition of Pedorthics in Australia has been reached with the Pedorthic Association of Australia (PAA) fulfilling all criteria and being accepted as an Ordinary Member of Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA). This approval grants Certified Pedorthist Custom Makers the status of Allied Health Professionals.

The PAA is dedicated to raising the profile of pedorthics and committed to strengthening the voice of allied health in Australia. Upgrading to ordinary membership of AHPA cements the place of pedorthics within allied health and

provides a broader platform from which to connect with community, industry, and the health, aged care, disability and education sectors, and advocate for our members, patients, practitioners and colleagues.

Achieving ordinary membership of AHPA is part of a comprehensive strategy developed by the PAA to advance pedorthics nationwide to ensure the Australian public has greater access to the much needed skills and services offered by pedorthic practitioners.

IVO 2012 Anniversary - A Review by Karl Schott

I like to draw your attention to the 10 year anniversary of the IVO 2012. It was held from 29 March to 31 March in 2012. It was a great milestone for me personally to have contributed to the event. Without the amazing support in particular from Casper Ozinga and the PAA board at the time, this would have never happened. In hindsight, it was one of our highlights as PAA and a personal professional highlight for me.

It helped to kick along the progression of the pedorthic profession in Australia. We had a number of Australian participants from various organisations and professions attending the event that would never attend a national conference. We had some watching from the distance to see if we can pull it off. The successful outcome proved that PAA is an organisation that can do and will do. The IVO 2012 showed that we had international support from our peers across many countries. It was a show of strength for a small group like ours. It was an inspiration for the years that followed. Over the last 10 years the PAA leadership team maintained the direction of progress for



Pedorthics and every year that followed PAA went from strength to strength.

I am very confident in the future of Pedorthics in Australia with such a great leadership team. I am very confident that we will continue to provide improved services to all those with foot health problems into the future. The focus was and is to strive towards better outcomes for those that use our service. The benefit of the users of our services is always the key focus of all we do. Without their support we have no business and no profession.

by Karl-Heinz Schott

Membership and Certification

It's almost that time of year again and PAA memberships are due to renew on 30 June. Following the successful motion at our Annual General Meeting last October, all pedorthic certification will now be managed by PAA.

Certified Members:

If you are a certified member, you will have received two email notices from PAA at the start of April and May outlining your requirements to complete and submit your mandatory declarations, work and CPD logs to our APRB Committee prior to the submission deadline of 30 June. Please ensure you submit the required documents and that your payment is processed by the due date to ensure you maintain your certification. Failure to do so will result in penalties.

Other Members:

The renewal process for our non-certified, special interest, student, and retired members remains unchanged.

Membership Payment:

If you have automated payments activated on your PAA online member account, your payment method will be charged at the time of renewal, otherwise you will receive an email order to pay for your membership renewal.

BMS Insurance:

This year, our partners at BMS will be taking over the sale and renewal of your insurance policies to streamline the process for all parties. If you currently hold a BMS policy through PAA, you will receive your new policy and premium information from BMS in late May.

Please reach out to the PAA Executive if you have any questions or issues regarding your membership, certification, or insurance related matters. We look forward to another successful year for our members and pedorthics across Australia.

2022 in Sydney Pedorthic Conference - Pedorthics Reunited

With the start of 2022 still dominated by domestic border closures in Western Australia, and no clear indication of when restrictions would be lifted, the Board decided to postpone the Perth conference to 2023.

The PAA will instead host a face-to-face conference on the east coast this year to make access for the majority of the membership easier.

The 2022 PAA conference will take place in Sydney on **Friday, 7 October** at the Mercure Sydney, with the conference dinner in the evening.

The AGM and a welcome reception will precede the conference on **Thursday, 6 October**, to allow plenty of opportunities to reunite after having not seen each other in person for close to 3 years.

The conference website is now live. Submit your abstract to be part of the program or sponsor the event. We hope to see you all in October.

PAA CONFERENCE

PEDORTHIC CONFERENCE 2022

Pedorthics Reunited

7 October 2022

Mercure Sydney
820 George St. Sydney

conference.pedorthics.org.au

The banner features a blue and green gradient background. On the left, there is a white icon of a foot in a shoe. Below the main text, there are several white line-art icons: a person walking, a person sitting in a wheelchair, a person using a cane, a dog, a person using a walker, and a city skyline.

PAA Government Subcommittee Report

This year the Government subcommittee already has several projects to get working on. I'd like to thank those members who have once again agreed to contribute to the profession's growth by giving their time, experience and counsel on these important issues.

The aim of this subcommittee is to review any government policy changes or updates which may impact pedorthists and or our practices. In the past, Government bodies have contacted the Association seeking input on various policies, which pertain to our profession. With our newly acquired status as Allied Health Practitioners, we expect to be increasingly involved in developing policy and policy changes.

Below is a list of projects we plan to address this year:

1. Therapeutic Goods Administration

While there are no imminent deadlines as far as the changes to the registration of our medical devices we manufacture and supply, the TGA continues to make subtle changes to policy associated with this. Should any updates from TGA occur or where TGA request feedback the committee shall consider these issues and take action.

2. Unique Device Identification

The TGA are further exploring the need for Unique Device

Identification numbers/tags for all medical devices. At this stage the TGA have only held online seminars introducing the concept with no further action for us at this stage. The subcommittee will keep you abreast of any updates in this area.

3. Regulation of Aged Care, Disability Support and Veterans Care Sector

In the recent consultation paper, the Government invited those with vested interest to feedback on their opinions on the above topic. In summary, the paper had very little to interest Pedorthics as such... however, what is of interest is their goals to increase co-operation and information sharing. This has positive outcomes such as improving standards of care. We will continue to monitor whether this leads to any further changes related to Pedorthics.

4. NDIS

As you are aware, changes in the Quoting for AT have been implemented. This was summarised in last month's newswire. A new [Pricing Arrangements and Pricing Limits](#) document, published with effect March the 1st, provides 112 pages of interesting reading. There appears to be little in it for Pedorthists although we shall be studying line item numbers, which specifically references allied health professionals

Government Subcommittee projects in 2022

- Therapeutic Goods Administration
- Unique Device Identification
- Regulation of Aged Care, Disability Support and Veterans Care Sector
- NDIS
- Allied Health Professionals Association and MyHealth Record
- Assistive Technology for All

(that's us now) and a price limit on service provision and report writing. This line item also specifies pricing for those in regional, remote and very remote areas. There does not appear to be any specific pricing reference to AT. The committee will have a closer look at this paper and discuss how our members may utilise these guidelines to their advantage.

5. Allied Health Professionals Association and MyHealth Record

We have recently been invited to complete a survey of allied health practitioners input to My Health Record. This was to ensure their processes would be inclusive for any Allied Health Practitioner to include critical information for a client's MyHealth Record. While MyHealth Record is up and running, it is yet to be determined whether pedorthists will have any role in

contributing and what form this may take. It has only been because of the recent recognition that we now pop up on these government bodies' radar.

6. Assistive Technology for All

The Assistive Technology for All (ATFA) campaign is an initiative of Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria. The PAA has joined this alliance along with many other peak allied health bodies. Their work is "coordinated by a national alliance of peak bodies and consumer advocates spanning the health, ageing and disability sectors. We have joined forces to advocate for a single assistive technology program to meet the needs of people with disability who are excluded from the NDIS". We will again keep members informed of any outcomes from this campaign.

Should any members be approached by any of these or other bodies, the subcommittee would greatly appreciate your feedback.

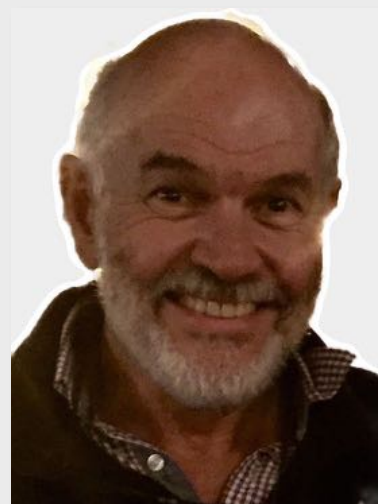
by Adam Jorgensen
Chair of the Government subcommittee

Continued from page 1

... with a professional public register for Pedorthists in Australia, stationary, tax support, government policy adherence. Creating new documentation and having it ready for the first registration year went seamless due to Andries' efficiency, and his impact made it possible.

Andries led the Board as Administrator for more than three years. He performed some of his best work when chairing meetings and allowing board members to be heard, understood, and respected. Andries' eminent communication and facilitation skills meant that meetings were an expert balancing act between listening, expressing thoughts, ideas and opinions, discussion, and pressing members for a decision without extended round-and-round conversations. He has continued to contribute to the APRB and ease the transition for Caretaker Administrators and other board members.

Andries retired from the Administrator role at the last Annual General Meeting. He also recently retired from the pedorthic profession.



The words written here are only a small way to recognise Andries' important contribution to the Pedorthic profession. He took on a difficult position at a challenging time, and the expectations from the profession were high. But the Andries van Tonder-led team, including Stewart Levy, Glen Willey, Stephen Black and Karl Schott, did everything that was asked to achieve a fully professional certification and registration body.

Congratulations are in order to Andries and recognition for his period of service to the profession. Well done and thank you.

by Ernest Tye
Administrator, APRB subcommittee

PAA Sustaining Members



P 08 9248 6533
E info@gadeanfootwear.com.au
W www.gadeanfootwear.com.au



FEET IN FOCUS
PEDORTHIC SERVICES

P 02 8964 1874
E info@feetinfocus.com.au
W www.feetinfocus.com.au



The Drew Shoe Corporation is now selling directly to Australia!

Established in 1875 Drew problem solves, specializing in extra-depth comfort/orthopaedic footwear with every style/color offered in extended sizes and multiple widths. We are now accepting new account applications with many benefits including:

- No minimum purchase requirements
- Fortnightly shipments from our USA warehouse
- Value propositions for you and your customer/patient
- Low "all-inclusive" delivery rates that bring the shoes right to your door with nothing more to pay
- Ability to return shoes to a local Australian depository within 45 days of purchase date
- Access to our B2B internet dealer portal to view real time inventory and place orders 24/7

We strive to maintain a fully in-stock program throughout the year.



For additional details and to receive your one-page application, please contact Eric Desmonts at edesmonts@drewshoe.com

Drew Shoe Corp - www.drewshoe.com - +1-740-653-4271 - customerservice@drewshoe.com

My first year as a graduate pedorthist

This is a short summary of my journey as a new graduate pedorthist and my experience so far. I hope this gives better insight to the current students and future students who may be interested in what pedorthics as a career can offer.

Prior to beginning my pedorthic degree at Southern Cross University, I have been working as a registered podiatrist since 2014. I enjoyed the aspect of interacting with patients and helping them to resolve foot problems. However, I knew that there was a lot more that I can learn to improve myself as a clinician. Pedorthics for me just made perfect sense as it meant I can further my existing knowledge of feet but with the addition of footwear and orthoses.

Since graduating from Bachelor of Podiatry, from January 2021, I started my new career as a pedorthist at Footpower in Dee Why. Luckily for me I completed one of my clinical placements at Footpower as a student, so I was already familiar with the environment.

To get started with pedorthics at Footpower, I was almost exclusively doing shoe modifications as a way to familiarise myself with the machinery and tools. I was doing all modifications, including build-ups, buttresses and rocker soles in all different shapes and sizes. The main difference this time from being a student was that they had to be of commercial quality and standard. In addition, I needed to learn how to correctly and effectively handle all the machinery, tools and most importantly maintaining a safe working environment.

Months of repetition is what brought a lot more confidence and improvement. What used to take me a whole day to finish two shoe modifications now takes just few hours. Slowly but surely, I could see my productivity improving and the work I was producing improved in function and appearance.

Eventually I worked my way up to make custom footwear. Having only limited experience as a student, I was introduced to so many different

aspects that I was not familiar with. I learnt about all the different materials and how and when each are used. I

improved my skills in approaching each patient as a unique individual and learnt to prescribe different modalities based on the findings and the person with a holistic approach.

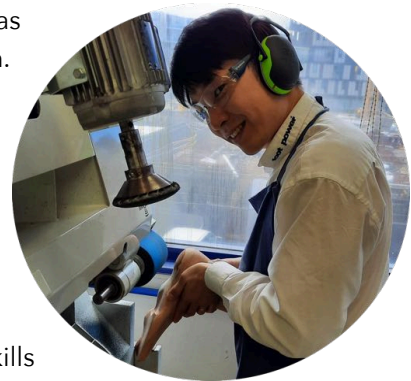
What I quickly realised was that because I developed a good foundation with using grinders and shaping things, the whole process of shoe manufacturing became a lot easier.

This year I will be spending more time in the consulting rooms seeing patients. While working in the lab requires you to follow prescribed instructions, being the consulting pedorthist requires you to make the final decision- whether it be the design, measurement and treatment plan. This will certainly comprise a new set of learning and challenges.

There is no doubt that pedorthics is very challenging and requires a lot of patience and hard work. But once you can overcome that hurdle, it will become a lot more enjoyable and rewarding. I know that I still have so much more learning to do, but that is what keeps me motivated in this job. I am pleased to say that I am very happy with the choice I made to become a pedorthist.

I want to thank the team at Footpower who have all been very supportive and patient with my new journey as a pedorthist. With the support from the team, I have been able to make steady progress and advance myself as a pedorthist. I am really looking forward to the future and happy to be part of this great profession.

by Paul Shim



PAA contact details

PO Box 349
Dee Why NSW 2099

Phone 1300 734 644
Email info@pedorthics.org.au

www.pedorthics.org.au

Board of Directors

President: Katrin Wegener

Executive Officer:
Anja Suckert

Vice President:
Khajag Moskofian

Secretary: Sharon Callaghan

Treasurer: Adam Smith

Board members:

Adam Jorgensen
Howard Smith
Andrew Strobel
Wahid Hesemann
Francisco Barrientos

What is the PAA ?

The Pedorthic Association of Australia recognises the need for representing professional practitioners of pedorthics. These people provide services and products to patients who have mobility difficulties due to the medical problems with their lower limb.

Formed over 45 years ago the association has grown so that it now regularly communicates with the key representatives from government and medical health funds. Through its programs, the PAA encourages its members to improve their qualifications and recognition. Programs include CPed, Quality Assurance and Competency Standards.

The names and organisations of the people that earn the Certified Pedorthist and Registration are published on the APRB website. The medical profession is encouraged to recommend CPeds to their patients for the provision of expert advice and products. The other sections of the certification system recognise the specialised Retail and Footwear Modification components of our profession.

The PAA is also guiding the Quality Management of organisations that are represented by its members. The Generic Quality System has been specifically designed for implementation in a Pedorthic Practice. It recognises the special relationship between the provider and the patient and assures the provision of expert advice and quality product by the organisation.

The PAA is for members who want recognition of their competency to provide a comprehensive service in the Pedorthic industry and work in organisations that offer quality advice or products as their key objective. The association advocates for members and who want to support industry development through contact with people and organisations that have the greatest impact on the industry and their business.

Subscribe today, at our website, to keep informed of industry activities.



Official Newsletter of
Pedorthic Association Australia

Member of

