

# PedorthicNEWS

FOOT CARE THROUGH PROPER FOOTWEAR

## Robert Tye Award

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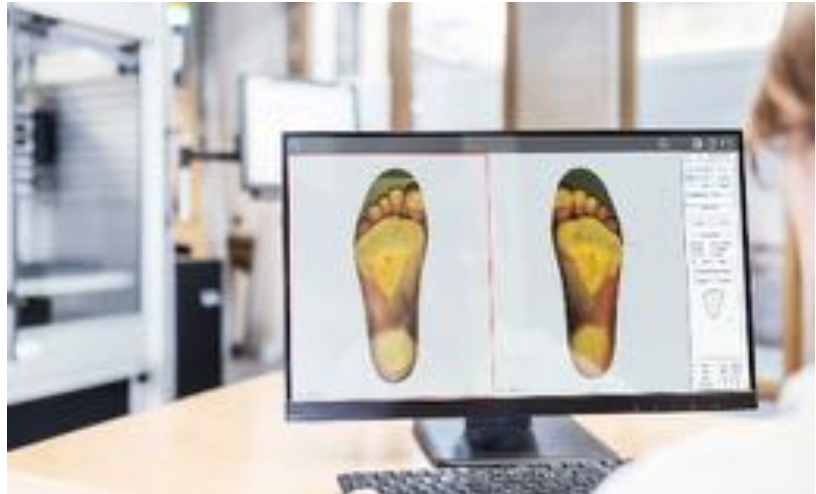
Karl-Heinz Schott has been awarded the prestigious Robert Tye Award.

The award recognises a long and committed career dedicated to developing and promoting the pedorthic profession in Australia and worldwide. Ernest Tye received the inaugural award in 2016, making this only the second time in PAA history that the award has been bestowed.

Casper Ozinga, PAA's previous general manager, presented Karl with the award during the 2022 PAA conference dinner. Casper's laudation addressed the history of the PAA, detailed a comprehensive list of accomplishments for the pedorthic profession under Karl's leadership, and acknowledged Karl's ongoing advocacy.

Karl has promoted the skills of pedorthists at many health professional conferences and to health, medical and educational experts throughout the years. Through his efforts, PAA obtained IVO membership and international recognition.

[Continued on page 6](#)



## President Update

Reuniting after three years, we recently concluded another successful conference. Much has happened in three years, and it was wonderful to catch up in person with members of our pedorthic community to connect, reflect, and share experiences.

Who would have thought that we could welcome not only Bronwyn Morris-Donovan, AHPA CEO, but also Anne-marie Boxall, Chief Allied Health Officer, at our conference? Their presence, expertise and support for pedorthics were inspiring. Among many interesting elements, a common theme for presenters was data collection and how it can be used as evidence of the effectiveness and importance of pedorthics and to future-proof the profession.

A conference dinner highlight was the presentation of the second Robert Tye Award to Karl-Heinz Schott by our former General Manager Casper Ozinga.

Directly after the conference I had the privilege to accompany an Australian delegation to the IVO Congress 2022 in Cologne. The trip also included a visit to Muenster where we visited a successful pedorthic clinic and toured a technology company offering last design software and 3D-printing.

You can read more about the conference and IVO Congress in this newsletter.

Katrin Wegener, PAA President

## Pedorthic Conference 2022 - Pedorthics Reunited

Face-to-face for the first time in three years the 2022 Pedorthics Reunited Conference, was held in Sydney on 7 October at the Mercure Hotel.



PAA President Katrin Wegener enthusiastically welcomed all attendees in her opening speech before introducing Leon Smolski from Leffler, the PAA Silver sponsor for the 2022 Pedorthic Conference. Leon announced a recently signed distribution agreement with Landis International Footwear Machinery and extended an invitation for all to attend the 90th anniversary celebrations at Leffler's in Melbourne.

The conference commenced with PAA Board member Adam Jorgensen, who presented a case study on "Stabilising the Diabetic Charcot Arthropathy", highlighting the difficulty in keeping Diabetic Charcot patients ulcer free in the long term.

The second speaker, Anna Roeser, a final year Pedorthics student at Southern Cross University, presented a case of Congenital Pes Equinovarus.

This challenging case displayed Anna's comprehensive understanding of the patient's requirements and demonstrated achievement of an excellent outcome for the patient.

Dr Moira Scerrie and Dr Ashad Kabir talked about "Digital Transformation of the Customised Medical Grade Footwear Industry" and their research, sharing insights into technology readiness, technology adaptation and post-adoption of new technologies.

The morning tea break allowed delegates to view the footwear, materials and machinery on display at the Trade Exhibition and catch up with other PAA members and conference attendees.

The first exhibitor to present their company was Jeff McCreanor of Mason Grogan Medical. A long-time sponsor of the Pedorthic Association of Australia, Jeff promoted a wide range of materials used in the pedorthic industry, including top cover materials, EVA and technology for the quick production of custom foot orthotics.

Bronze sponsor Gadean Footwear was next. Howard Smith presented a wide range of footwear, including boots and shoes in various of styles and colours, plus other pedorthic services.

After the morning break, attendees got a sneak peek into

two soon-to-be-marketed innovations from EYM (Ease your Motion). The DT-ROM and DT Scanner offer uninterrupted digital workflow in clinical assessment and digital design for person-centric medical devices. EYM co-founders Sayed Ahmed and Craig Laird are Pedorthists and PAA members.

PAA was thrilled to have Chief Allied Health Officer Dr Anne-marie Boxall; Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) CEO Bronwyn Morris-Donovan; and HealthWork International CEO Susan Nancarrow presenting "Pedorthics in Allied Health" themed sessions.



It was a privilege to have Dr Anne-marie Boxall speak at our conference. She provided insight into some of the allied health-related policy work she is involved in and addressing issues facing pedorthics and other small yet critical allied health workforces.

In 2022, PAA upgraded to Ordinary Membership with AHPA, recognising Certified Pedorthist Custom Makers as allied health professionals.

Bronwyn Morris-Donovan gave an industry perspective of allied health and how PAA fits into the overall picture, followed by what the sector needs to progress the positioning and funding allocated to allied health.

PAA commissioned Allied Health Workforce (HealthWork International) to conduct an in-depth pedorthic workforce analysis to map the supply and demand of pedorthic services across Australia. Dr Susan Nancarrow presented details of the project and pedorthic workforce survey results to session attendees.

A lively panel discussion followed the session block.

The lunchtime session at the trade exhibition kicked off with Cathy Harding promoting the Xelero footwear range.

Eric Desmonts came all the way from the USA to exhibit and present the extensive range of Drew Shoes at the PAA Conference. Drew Shoes now offers pedorthists the option to purchase directly from them.

Leon Smolski and Tommy from Leffler showcased a range of materials and highlighted some of the Landis machinery range, which was on display.

Advanced Pressure Mapping, Bronze sponsor at this year's conference, gave the final exhibitor presentation. David Sutton demonstrated the Mobile Mat pressure measurement platform, an attractive, lightweight, and durable mat for many different settings, including on the field, in the office, or in the lab.

The conference continued in the afternoon with the highly-respected researcher, academic and podiatrist, Professor Hylton Menz. He provided a narrative synthesis of the research literature pertaining to footwear comfort, including definitions, measurement scales, design features, and physiological and psychological features.

The next speaker Dr Joel Lasschuit, discussed the development of the Australian Diabetes Foot Registry. Dr Lasschuit described the first batch of national HRFS (High Risk Foot Service) data and explained how access to local and comparative national data can lead to quality improvements and better monitoring.

Well known to the PAA community, Associate Professor Fred Holtkamp from the Netherlands presented the

work of the Fontys University project team on the development and design of a tactile digital measurement system for the orthopaedic sector - SmartScan.

The final speaker for the day, Dr Brian Martin, provided an insight into surgical reconstruction for Charcot Arthropathy, outlining causes, factors that guide treatment and prognosis, and the ideal structure of a classification system.

Following a jam-packed day of informative presentations and high-profile speakers, conference attendants looked forward to the Symposium Dinner at the iconic Queen Victoria Building. The Tea Room provided the perfect ambience for socialising and a sophisticated yet relaxed atmosphere to round out a terrific conference.

Thank you to all speakers, sponsors and exhibitors for a successful and engaging conference. Congratulations to the organisers for the fantastic line-up of speakers and seamlessly flowing event.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Perth next year.

## 2022 PAA Conference Sponsors - THANK YOU

Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



## PAA Annual General Meeting 2022

The Pedorthic Association of Australia held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 6 October with 32 members in attendance. The meeting notification, agenda and Annual Report were sent out well in advance, allowing PAA members to familiarise themselves with all details.

PAA President Katrin Wegener, opened the AGM by acknowledging the donation of the Bruce Hodge Gavel from the family of the late Bruce Hodge. No questions or issues arose from previous AGM Minutes or the Annual Report. Before moving on to the election of the new PAA Board of Directors, Executive Officer Anja Suckert and Vice President Khajag Moskofian presented the progress made in raising the profile of pedorthics and achievements attained in 2021/22. The goals and objectives for the current financial year were outlined and attention was drawn to the challenges facing PAA as a small workforce. Members were urged to step up and increase their involvement in supporting the PAA Board and the profession to ensure a sustainable future.

PAA Secretary Sharon Callaghan, PAA Treasurer Adam Smith and Board member Francisco Barrientos did not stand for re-election, Vice President Khajag Moskofian stood for re-election and was re-appointed. Sharon Crowther,

Angus Brewin and David Sutton were nominated and elected as new board directors.

### PAA Board of Directors 2022-2023

**President** Katrin Wegener

**Vice President** Khajag Moskofian

**Secretary** Angus Brewin

**Treasurer** Howard Smith

### Directors

Sharon Crowther

Adam Jorgensen

Andrew Strobel

Wahid Hesemann

David Sutton

AGM attendees voted in favour of amendments to the Constitution, removing sustaining members and non-active certified members from the membership categories.

The APRB Chair Clare Nelson took the stage next to inform members about the work the subcommittee had done and the changes to the CPD logs. Case presentations have been removed from the log requirements, log categories have been refined and language improved. All changes have been accepted together with the proposed 10-hour cap for each category in alignment with other allied health professions.

The final point on the AGM agenda was the nomination or re-nomination of participants for the Government Relations, Education and Conference 2023 sub-committees.

Thank you to all who attended the AGM. We appreciate the support of our members and look forward to a successful and future-oriented year.

### PAA Subcommittee Members 2022-2023

#### APRB

Clare Nelson (Chair)

Ernest Tye

Glen Willey

Alex Barwick

Stephen Black

#### Government Relations

Adam Jorgensen (Chair)

Khajag Moskofian

Karl-Heinz Schott

David Sutton

Howard Smith

David Sutton

#### Education

Adam Smith

Clare Nelson

Karl-Heinz Schott

Sayed Ahmed

Craig Laird

#### Conference 2023

Howard Smith

Kris Nasteovski

Tracey Meakins

Khajag Moskofian

David Sutton

## Innovative technology presented at PAA Conference

EYM (Ease Your Motion) showcased its innovations at the Pedorthic Association of Australia (PAA) conference in Sydney in October 2022. EYM was born in NSW, Australia, to serve the global community, and offer uninterrupted digital workflow through a comprehensive solution for patient assessment, clinical and biomechanical data acquisition (human body parts 3D scanning) designing and manufacturing of assistive and medical devices, record-keeping, secure remote data sharing and overall patient management for all allied health professionals.

Co-founded by two Australian Pedorthists, Craig Laird and Sayed Ahmed, who are hands-on clinicians. They understand the pain points their fellow clinicians face in day-to-day practice for not having uninterrupted digital workflow and subsequent frustration.

The Sydney-based digital health tech start-up has prepared to



launch its first two products globally in the first quarter of 2023, DT Scanner and DT Rom. They have also been working on other innovative and game-changing health technology.

From the beginning, EYM has focused on academic research collaboration. andIt has engaged Charles Sturt University (CSU) and University of Technology Sydney (UTS) in Australia for their innovation projects. The research project leads, Dr Ashad Kabir from CSU and Dr Moira Scerri from UTS, recently co-presented at the PAA conference. They provided insights into EYM's current

innovations and future research projects on technology readiness for 3D scanning, 3D printing and digitising custom-made pedorthic footwear. There is a schedule (December 2022 to February 2023) to conduct a practitioner survey on this topic to be led by UTS, and pedorthists are requested to participate in the survey and focused group study.

To keep updated on the news and development of EYM technologies, please visit: [www.easeyourmotion.com](http://www.easeyourmotion.com) and [www.dtscanner.com](http://www.dtscanner.com)

## PAA Sustaining Partners 2022/23



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Continued from page 1

Karl was also responsible for bringing the 2012 international IVO Congress to Sydney. This event elevated the pedorthic profession in Australia to a new level.

Karl's foresight led to the development of an education and certification system that increased the standards of pedorthists in Australia. He trained countless colleagues as PAA's training officer, supporting them in enhancing their pedorthic abilities to further their careers. Karl's advocacy resulted in the Bachelor of Pedorthics being established in 2013 as the Southern Hemisphere's first bachelor's degree in this field. The tertiary program paved the way for the official recognition of pedorthists as allied health professionals.



Casper Ozinga, Karl-Heinz Schott, Katrin Wegener, Anja Suckert and Khajag Moskofian

The PAA is eternally grateful to Karl for his devotion to the advancement of the pedorthic profession, and we heartily congratulate him on his achievements and for receiving this award.

## New PAA Member & Sustaining Partner Badges

After the amalgamation of the PAA and the APRB, changes to membership categories meant that new member badges were needed. New designs for each member category have been created and are now available for use. The "current member" logo is no longer valid, and we ask that members remove it from their email signatures, stationery, and other promotional materials.

The new badge has already been included in your certificate email, which can be accessed by clicking on the link provided in that email.



## APRB Update

Thanks to all members of the APRB Committee who have worked attentively and with commitment over the last year. Thanks also to the PAA Board Members who have also worked with the APRB Committee. The APRB Committee continues to review policy and practice, managing the certification and registration / re-registrations processes of members. This work is done at arm's length from the PAA Board.

Decisions made by the APRB Committee / PAA Board may not be agreed to by an individual member. This said my counsel would be to all - participate, have your say, listen, work with and make a difference at your personal / professional practice level and to the Allied Health professional body as a whole.

Members of the APRB Committee individually and together have the issue of standards front and centre with its work. The priority for improving standards is behind what we have done and continue to do - namely:

- Review of the CPD log form - the form is different for the year end June 30 2023
- Review of the processes to receive applications for a member to present to a panel for certification
- Review of the relationship between the APRB Committee and the PAA Board

Over the course of the year's work - at one level culminating with some members presenting to panel at the time of our annual conference - the ongoing agenda for the APRB Committee is set:

- the relationship of the APRB Committee to the PAA Board
- the review of policy, procedures, documents pertaining to the work of the APRB Committee
- consideration of issues which arise when following what is set, when in fact as a profession we are faced with such change - be it:
  - training opportunities at the university or other PAA programs;
  - the capacity to support current and new entrants to the profession given more retirements, more demand for quality pedorthic services in the community
  - demand on individual businesses for "best practice" from a management, administrative, technology, and pedorthic view and how all this impacts on individual people

In closing we always need look at can do, and always remember to celebrate the achievements.

by Clare Nelson  
Chair, APRB Committee

## Letter from Margaret Hodge

I genuinely appreciated the card the Association sent me following the conference. Its very personal touch was wonderful. The immediacy of the card and the personal note on the envelope has been very much appreciated. For a national body to care so personally shows that the heart that Bruce always sought to be an integral part of the work of pedorthists is alive and well. I have added it to the memorabilia I have on my sideboard .

Once again. Thank you for the generosity of spirit encapsulated in this card.

Yours very truly  
Margaret

## Message from Olav Toornend IVO President

After three years of waiting the OST Messe in Cologne opened their doors on October 14th.

We all had high expectations, but I could never have imagined the amount of people who visited the fair and lectures. I can say this year's OST Messe was probably the best fair ever. Not only on the amount of visitors but also the level and amount of lectures and the size of the trade show.

I'm looking back with pride and looking forward for the next event in October 2023.

I would like to thank Maurer Verlag, their team and ZVOS for organising this event.

## Trip to IVO Kongress Köln Germany and Industry Visit in Münster

It was an absolute honour to attend the recent IVO Conference (Kongress - German) recently in Köln, Germany. As a new Pedorthist, this was the perfect time for me to see the breadth of the profession internationally and expose myself to latest concepts, suppliers, and technology. The conference was over two days in the city of Cologne (Köln), in Germany.



Like many conferences, there were lectures and workshops running concurrently to a large trade hall. In the lectures, there were case study presentations on the management of Tibialis Posterior Dysfunction from our own Markus Kerkering, and industry leading speakers such as Sicco Bus.

It was also a great privilege to witness Karl-Heinz Schott receiving the IVO Award / Siegfried-Stinus-Medal 2022 at a special presentation at the conference. We are incredibly lucky to have such an industry recognised leader of the profession amongst our small cohort of pedorthists in Australia.

A big focus of the industry hall was the incorporation of CAD and 3D printing in the design and manufacture of footwear and orthotics. In terms of orthotics, the advent of flexible variable density orthoses was front and centre. This was the first time I had seen 3D printed devices that were soft and flexible, with the advantage of being able to control the hardness of the device in particular zones according to the patient's needs and the pedorthist's prescription. 3D printing has the environmental advantage of significant waste reduction when compared to milling or even vacuum forming. However, the devices are much more difficult to modify once made. The advent of this technology may have significant implications in Pedorthics with pressure relieving insoles.



However, as Sicco Bus pointed out, the current research body has been performed on the traditional method and such technology is yet to be thoroughly examined in the literature. Regardless of this fact, industry appears to have made their mind up that 3D printing

for orthoses is the way forward, and don't be surprised to see podiatrists in Australia jump in early.



In terms of footwear manufacturing, 3D printing is becoming a real option for design and testing of custom lasts. One potential advantage of this, is the ability to print a trial shoe or "foil" so the CAD can be tested before printing. This could potentially eliminate a lot of time and waste of materials, allowing the Pedorthist to get the last design correct before printing, milling, or sending to a central fabrication facility for whole or partial shoe production.

We had a great dinner with our Canadian counterparts on the last night, where it was fascinating to learn about the different delivery of footwear and orthotics when compared to Australia. In Canada, orthotics are much more commonly issued by Pedorthists and Pedorthists are more likely to modify shoes than to make them.

The two days of the conference went by in an instant and I came away learning much about the industry and about 20kg of product manuals. You have got to have hard copies!

In Münster, we visited Möller - Orthopädie-Schuh-Technik, a large Pedorthic clinic. It was interesting to witness the difference between the Australian and European model.



The clinic was set up well with several consulting rooms, each of which had ergonomically friendly platforms for easy pedographs and scanning. The patient would walk up a few steps and sit in a regular chair as opposed to an electronic one. There was also high-tech gait analysis for sporting optimisation that you may expect in a sports medicine or podiatry clinic.



The manufacturing facility was directly upstairs and with a huge footprint, with several young apprentices operating vacupress' and grinders, being guided by more experienced technicians and Meisters. Also in Münster, we were able to visit a 3D printing and CAD company GO-TEC. This company was providing the technology for the aforementioned 3D printed orthotics and lasts, and it felt like we were witnessing the forefront of the technology available to our profession.

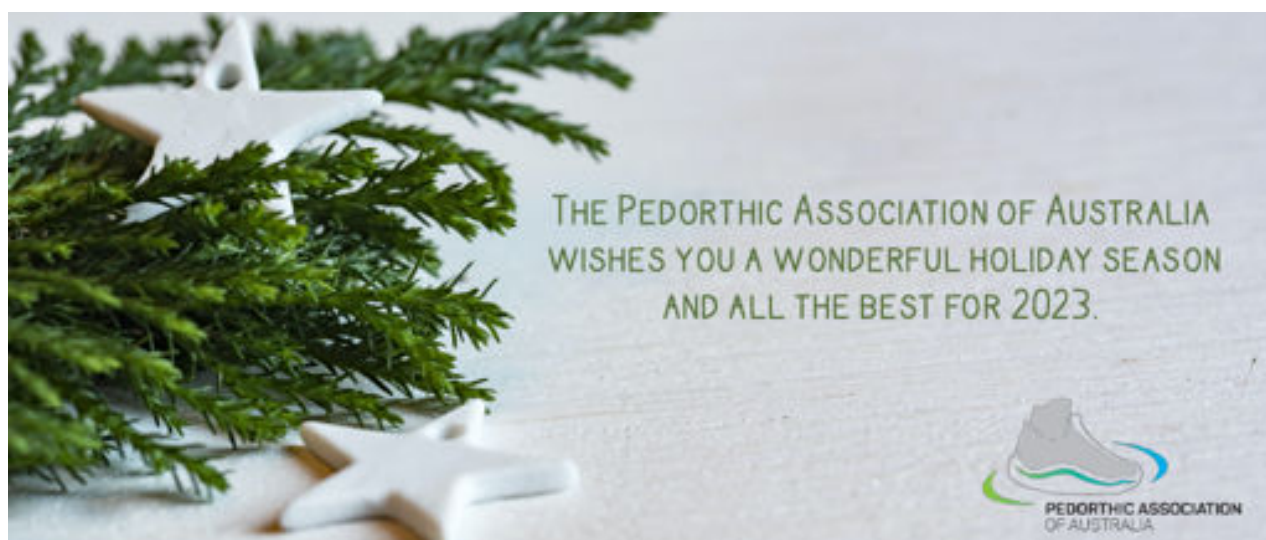
We also had time to explore the city of Münster, which has 90 churches within the city limits and is infamous for the Anabaptist uprising. A cycling friendly city, the train stations are flooded with parked bicycles, there is estimated to be more than 500,000 bikes in

the city, which translates to two bikes for every citizen. We visited a museum in the city, which displayed some traditional shoe and clog making, as well as some old machinery. A reminder of how old our profession is.



The conference is usually run every two years. However, this year's conference was one year delayed due to the Coronavirus restrictions of last year, meaning the conference will be run again in 2023. I would highly recommend it to any pedorthist looking to refresh their knowledge and skills, you won't regret it.

Angus Brewin



## IVO Award for Karl-Heinz Schott

The IVO Award with the Siegfried Stinus Medal was presented for the first time on 14 October in Cologne. Karl-Heinz Schott from Australia received the inaugural award in honour of his commitment to the international development of the profession.

The prize, donated by Siegfried Stinus (Honorary President of the IVO and IVO President from 1981 to 1987) and endowed with 3000 euros, is intended to be awarded every three years on the occasion of the IVO Congress to people who, through their work and/or their personality, have significantly promoted the exchange in orthopaedic shoe technology across national borders. In the opinion of the five-member, international jury, the first prize winner fulfilled several criteria for this prize.

More than 30 years ago, Karl-Heinz Schott went to Japan and then to Australia, where he successfully built up his own company with six employees today. His success is closely linked to the development of orthopaedic shoe technology in Australia, to which Schott was highly committed. Schott joined the already existing professional association and was its president from 1997 to 2007. It was possible to create structures and quality standards that signalled to doctors, health insurance companies and government agencies that a professional association takes care of patients in a qualified manner.

Today there is the Pedorthic Association of Australia, which this year was officially accepted into the circle of Allied Health professions – i.e., the non-medical health professions. Since 2013, there has been a study program for pedorthics at the Southern Cross, which played an essential role in the recognition of the profession in Australia. Karl-Heinz Schott not only teaches the students in the craft areas but also helps to develop the curriculum. An important milestone for the international and national recognition of the profession in Australia was the organisation of the IVO Congress 2012 in Sydney, which Schott tirelessly promoted all over the world.



Sabine Stinus-Sandhacker, daughter of Siegfried Stinus, presented Karl-Heinz with the IVO Award.

From 2012 to 2015, Schott held the office of IVO President and established the connection to the World Health Organization during this time. In addition, he spent four years in Vietnam as a lecturer and examiner on a training project that trained young people from Southeast Asia to treat patients with aids. He also co-authored the Australian Guidelines for the Treatment of Diabetic Foot. Schott's importance to many young craftsmen from Europe should not be forgotten. About 25 of them have gained professional experience abroad in recent decades.

"Every entrepreneur must make sure that his business is successful", said Wolfgang Best in the laudatory speech he presented for the ill Dr Hartmut Stinus. But every craft also needs people who are committed to their profession beyond their work. Karl-Heinz Schott has outstandingly done this in his professional life and thus significantly promoted and shaped the development and international cooperation of the orthopaedic shoemaking trade.

*This article is based on a German article published in the recent Orthopädie Schuhtechnik magazine.*

## Pedorthic Case Study - Life-changing Footwear

Joan (name has been altered) is a 62-year-old lady, who suffered a traumatic stroke as an 18-month-old baby. This severely affects her abilities on her right side, on both lower and upper limb function, and it changed her and her family's life forever.

She presents with abnormal structural dimensions, and mobility and stability are impaired. Her right foot has no active ROM and limited passive ROM. The Pedographs indicate plantar pressures proximal and distal to the fifth metatarsal and she suffers pain.

Her neuromuscular impairment is described as severe, affecting the right side. She cannot maintain contracture with resistance in the hip and knee joints resulting in lateral instability of the gait through midstance. There is no active range throughout the ankle but there is a small amount of passive range. Enough to be able to walk at home, barefoot or in soft slippers - maybe for 2-3 minutes.

With her condition, she is dependent on aids for walking to achieve goals like staying independent, maintaining her mobility, and choosing to do activities that she likes without having to hold back, due to her mobility.

Footwear is a major component of Joan's walking aids, being required nearly all of her life. Pedorthists have made custom-made pedorthic footwear for years, helping keep her feet in good order and continuing to be mobile and safe. As an adult, Joan has been wearing orthopaedic

custom-made footwear, in-shoe orthoses, and a Below Knee Calliper, sometimes described as a B-K Iron.

She is eager to maintain her independence through her mobility and footwear plays a big part in this. The appliances provide her with ground-force support and enable her to walk. The functional impairment is stabilised, and the provided footwear fits her foot shape deformity perfectly.

In her most recent pair, the Pedorthist was able to dispense, a high-sided brace on the lateral side coupled with a lateral shift in the centre of force alignment via the brace, which was all that was needed as a means to provide the lateral stability in midstance.

The weight of the device dropped significantly and Slow-Mo videos in the sagittal and frontal views demonstrated clearly that the gait was corrected and supported.



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### Board of Directors

President: Katrin Wegener

Vice President:  
Khajag Moskofian

Secretary: Angus Brewin

Treasurer: Howard Smith

#### Board members:

Adam Jorgensen  
Sharon Crowther  
Andrew Strobel  
Wahid Hesemann  
David Sutton

#### Executive Officer:

Anja Suckert

## 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.



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