

# Kenneth James McPherson Foundation Newsletter

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## Patron's Major Research Grant — \$15,000



Inaugural Patron's Major Research Grant winner, Lachlan Parker (centre) with, from left Commissioner of the Queensland Ambulance Service Jim Higgins, MajGen John Pearn Patron, Fiona McKersie, Director General of the Department of Emergency Services and The Honorable Pat Purcell, Minister for Emergency Services.

The move toward more significant and sustained research endeavours, made possible with the very generous support of our donors, enabled us to offer a major research grant of \$15,000 for the first time in 2006. Over the coming years it is planned that through the Patron's Research Grant, together with the Research and Development Award, the contributions of practising paramedics to research will be firmly established.

Announcing the Award, Patron Major General John Pearn explained that to be considered for the Major Research grant, a proposal needed to demonstrate immediate tangible benefits to the Queensland Ambulance Service. Hence the grant encourages innovative research relevant to the breadth of ambulance work: clinical practice, education and training, operational systems.

Lachlan Parker's winning proposal: *A descriptive Analysis of Flight Intensive Care Paramedic Operations in Brisbane over a six month period*, is expected to establish meaningful analytical tools for understanding more clearly the challenges both clinically and operationally for intensive care paramedics working in this arena and lead to advance in pre-hospital care relevant particularly to flight-evacuated patients. This project will be carried out under the supervision of the Australian Centre for Prehospital Research.

## Award Recipients 2006



### **\$1,000** **QAS Outstanding Student Paramedic Graduate of the Year Award** **Sponsored by LHMU**

This is awarded to Brad Hardy, the student who demonstrated exceptional personal and professional leadership qualities.



### **\$1,000** **QAS Personal Development Award**

This year's award is granted to Rohan Foote to fulfil his professional aspiration to improve the already high standard of prehospital aeromedical care in Queensland by attending the 2006 International Society of Aeromedical Services and Flight Nurses Australia Conference.



### **\$3,000** **QAS Research and Development Award** **Sponsored by SDSI**

This year's award is granted to Christine McIlroy and her team to investigate issues facing women in the QAS who work in operational rural and remote settings.





Since the inception of the Foundation in excess of **\$46,950** has been granted to outstanding Queensland paramedics to further both professional development and educational opportunities. These grants embody the mission of the Kenneth James McPherson Foundation to support prehospital care research and education and reflect the Foundation's commitment to ensuring better outcomes for patients.

This result has only been possible because of the generosity and commitment of our donors and the ongoing support of our sponsors.

In our Newsletter, **Foundation Friends**, which will be produced twice each year, we will highlight activities, plans and results of the Foundation's work. Please give us your feedback: what do you want to know about the Foundation? What sort of information is of interest to you, our supporters?

2006 marked an important transitional year for us. The solid base of the Foundation has been carefully established through the first 8 years of work and 2006 saw us taking on some exciting new challenges in the launch of the Patron's Major Research Grant and the Patron's Day (see stories on pages 1 and 3).



**The First graduates of the Intensive Care Paramedic Program in 1996** were: Malcolm Babb, Jim Bartlett, Finn Barz, Peter Batt, Dianne Cross, Tim Eva, Brett Ferguson, Christian Francois, Grant Gamble, Richard Goldner, Anthony Goss, Wayne Harris, Ron Henderson ASM, Tony Hucker ASM, Tony Kirkham, Gavin Leader ASM, Peter LeLivre, Nick Lentakis, Angus McDonnell BM, John Murray ASM, Leon Oliveri, Anthony Parsonage, Gavin Rablin, Peter Sculley-Dean, Paul Shaw, Anthony Smith, Nigel Wuth.

## Who Was

### Kenneth James McPherson?

In many ways Jim McPherson, as he was known to his mates, was just like so many of his colleagues. Tragically his life was cut short when Jim was killed in an aerial ambulance crash along with the pilot, the patient and a nurse at Bundaberg on 21st June 1987.

Already despite his having served as a paramedic for a relatively short time, Jim had impressed his colleagues and his managers by his compassion and respect for his patients, his encouragement to his colleagues to build and continually strengthen their clinical skills, and his willingness to always 'go the extra' mile to ensure the best possible service to his community.

To carry on his legacy, to finish his incomplete work, Jim's family decided to establish a Foundation to ensure his vision and commitment would not be lost. So today John and Jean McPherson, Jim's parents, generously give their time to the Foundation to ensure that opportunities for research and education in prehospital care, opportunities that ensure a continual growth and enrichment of clinical care and patient service, are provided to Queensland

November 2006 was the tenth anniversary of the graduation from the first Intensive Care Paramedic program conducted in Queensland. A large number of the complement of this original group are still with the QAS and were able to attend this evening to celebrate with their fellow classmates. The Gala Dinner was an opportunity to pay tribute to the very important contribution made to patient care by our team of intensive care paramedics across the state.

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## Patron's Day

### Spotlight on Patient Care



Dr Lisa-Ann Gershwin presenting QAS Museum with a box jellyfish specimen

The inaugural Kenneth James McPherson Patron's Day Symposium established this event firmly in the QAS calendar. In his opening remarks Patron, Major General John Pearn spoke about his will to contribute to the creation of a muscular memorial through the Foundation.

With standing room only in the Department of Emergency Services auditorium for many of the sessions, attendees heard about new research taking place in Queensland that will certainly have an impact on patient outcomes in future years. In this respect the presentations on advances in treatment of paediatric burns and on marine envenomation were very enlightening. The presentation on drowning highlighted life-saving changes in the legislative framework and community awareness that have reduced the number of drownings

while 'electricity for starters' underlined the vital role public access defibrillators can play in ensuring enhanced patient outcomes in cases of cardiac arrest.

The scheduling of the symposium to coincide with one of the regular Queensland Ambulance Service Area Directors' Forums ensured a broad participation by QAS Managers responsible for clinical skills and information across the state. Feedback received from attendees was extremely encouraging and already ideas and energies are being channeled into planning an exciting and stimulating Symposium for 2007.

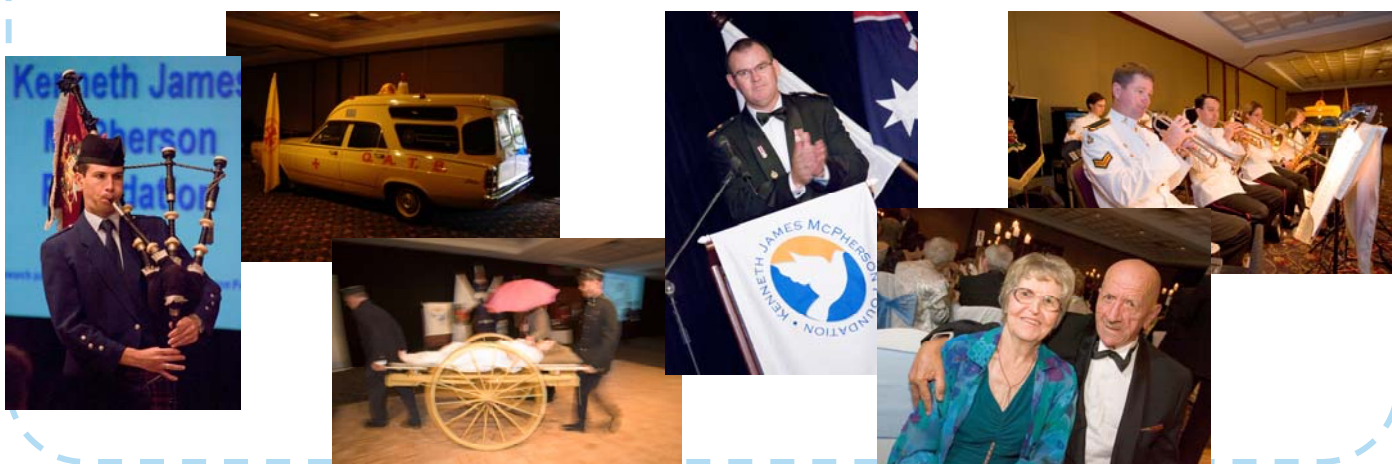


## GALA BALL...a sparkling event

Great company, interesting speakers, wonderful music and fabulous food: the essential ingredients for a sparkling night out. All this and more was enjoyed by those who attended the Patron's Gala Ball at the Royal on the Park on October 11<sup>th</sup> 2006.

Master of Ceremonies, Kevin Ryan talked through an historical pageant highlighting progress in ambulance services over the more than 100 years since the inception of ambulance services in Queensland. The enactment by volunteers and current day paramedics of scenes from the turn of the last century and into the new millennium demonstrated that always patient care was at the centre of technical advances and new clinical procedures.

Likewise the 10 year anniversary of the Queensland Intensive Care Paramedic Program reminds us that some of the most significant advances have been made in more recent times. The contribution of these paramedics and their advanced clinical skills was acknowledged with much appreciation by all at the dinner.





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