

Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM) Winter Symposium

Dates: 2 – 4 July 2008

Venue: Newcastle City Hall

City: Newcastle, NSW

Delegates: 252



Will Organise was appointed to this conference in April 2007, and had a 4 week period to create a logo, preliminary flyer and sponsorship document to take to the 2007 Winter Symposium to start the promotion for 2008 in Newcastle. All of this was achieved.

Another promotion was done in November of the same year, with an updated flyer, and a great deal of contact with potential sponsors. The website, and regular broadcast mails were used to also contact members.

A record of number of 162 delegates was achieved in 2007 at the Winter Symposium, and we were quietly hopeful that we would achieve 180 in Newcastle. With 5 weeks to go, numbers surpassed our expectations, and some changes had to be made in room allocations to accommodate the high numbers in the plenary room.

The conference resulted in record attendance, record levels of sponsorship being raised, and an overall wonderful conference.

Some of the highlights included:

- **Pre Conference Workshops**
Held at the local hospitals, Will Organise co-ordinated the transport to and catering for each of the events. These workshops were in great demand and sold out very quickly
- **Live spider and snake milking demonstration**
The last conference session saw the reptile park arrive with snakes and spiders in their special heated cages. After a short talk about the different species, the audience was treated to a live demonstration of milking the snakes and spiders. Blood was drawn from one of the convenors, and the venom added, to show the immediate effects of a snake bite to your circulatory system.
- **Handsets**
Portable handsets were used at one of the sessions



to quiz the audience, and provide immediate feedback and answers. A prize was awarded to the participant with the most correct answers at the end of the session.

- **Conference Dinner**

The conference dinner was held on the stage at Civic Theatre, located next door to the conference venue. Delegates enjoyed pre dinner drinks in the ornate foyers, before making their way through the stalls, up to the stage, where the tables were set with a stunning sunset backdrop. As the night progressed, the backdrop slowly changed to twilight, and the evening concluded with delegates dancing the night away with a live band.

Some feedback:

- Excellent organisation
- I thoroughly enjoyed this conference
- Epic Conference