

Thank You

Melanie Oakley

Editor-in-Chief

THIS editorial finds me in a slightly different position from previous editorials. At the conference this year I became Chair of BARNA, which means that the editorial will double as the chairs letter for this issue. I am hopeful not to continue as Editor of the Journal, but must continue until there is a willing volunteer to take my place.

I am going to devote this editorial, in true Oscar fashion to thanking some people. The first and most important thanks are to Pat Smedley, the previous Chair of BARNA who has worked devotedly for BARNA for the past three years. Pat has been involved in BARNA for approximately 12 years, and in that time has taken many of the committee positions. There is no one who knows BARNA so well and who has worked so hard to bring BARNA to the position it is in today. One of Pat's great strengths is that she is very good at 'networking'. She is a very social person and will talk to anyone, and as a result of this has made many contacts over the years, which has been of enormous benefit to BARNA. Pat is going to take a back seat for a while and give priority to the interests she has outside of BARNA, and I, as I am sure you do, wish her success in all her endeavours in the future.

My next thanks go to the BARNA Committee who has worked so hard this year to achieve a wonderful conference. Particular thanks go to Manda and Marku who put on a fantastic study day prior to the conference, an experience they plan to repeat next year. Also Jo Bratchell who did a superb job with the companies for the conference, where we surpassed the number of stands we had last year. For the conference itself speakers would not have turned up on time and in the right place without the organisation of Natalie Quine and her excellent organisational skills. Something as big as a conference cannot be put together by just one person, it is a team effort and everyone has worked so hard and on a voluntary basis, please remember we all have 'day jobs'!

So what of the future of BARNA? Pat is a hard act to follow, but I will continue with all the projects that Pat has involved BARNA in and hope to add a few new ones into the mix. We are always on the lookout for people to help us with conference and regional study days, so why not email me if you are interested, this is your organisation – why not be a part of it?