



***Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
Townsville, Australia***

***Kristin Ferguson***

PSANZ is Australia's premier perinatal (obstetric and neonatal) conference, bringing together doctors, nurses, allied health and scientists from around Australia and indeed the world. This year it was held in Townsville from the 20-25th of May and celebrated the society's 20<sup>th</sup> year. Although they promised us they have 300 days of sunshine each year, the conference just happened to fall on the few that were overcast!

I started the conference by attending the pre-conference Perinatal Palliative Care Symposium: Critical Ethical Issues, where I heard from clinicians, parents, consumer advocates, bioethicists and linguistics. A broad range of topics was covered beginning with cross-cultural communication at the end-of-life, ethics of withholding treatment, decision-making for neonates and finally a 'hypothetical'.

The conference was officially opened on Sunday night with everyone decked out in cringe-worthy, bright blue, 'Goin' Troppo' Hawaiian shirts and a special performance by the talented Christine Anu. This was followed by an opportunity to network and catch up with colleagues met at previous conferences.

I was fortunate enough to spend Monday exploring Magnetic Island, which was stunning, even if the sun didn't join us. Being the animal lover I am, we went searching for koalas in the wild, feed rock wallabies and visited the injured turtles at the Turtle Hospital. All before heading back to the mainland for yet another networking dinner.

PSANZ afforded me the opportunity to become up to date with the latest in neonatal medicine and research, with both presentation based and hands-on sessions. Topics ranged from resuscitation, respiratory support, individual organ systems, maternal care to ethics. It was an honour to meet and hear from the world-renown neonatologist and bioethicist, Annie Janvier, whose work on Best Interests in Neonatal care is well worth a read.

A key highlight was the opportunity to share my enthusiasm for paediatrics with other students and clinicians. I was also lucky enough to have my abstract, "*Interventions to improve rates of successful extubation: A systematic review of the evidence*" selected for a platform presentation, which was well received by my peers.

I encourage anyone with even the slightest interest in research to get involved with a local research group. For those with an interest in paediatrics, I cannot recommend PSANZ highly enough as an accessible conference for medical students.

