

# TISSUE PAPER

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## President's Report - Jerres Alcober

Welcome to a new edition of the 'Tissue Paper', the HGQ's official newsletter. The first half of the year gave members an opportunity to visit the inner sanctum of Envoi Pathology and take in educational presentations on Gastrointestinal & Hepatic disorders. It also saw the return of a "crowd favourite", the HGQ Trivia Night. This popular event was again held at the Normanby Hotel which played host to almost 100 lively guests. With more numbers than in 2017, the HGQ Trivia Night is set to become bigger & better in years to come.

The second half of the year will provide members with 2 more scientific meetings with the next one being the joint AIMS/HGQ meeting on Thursday 23rd August at The Pineapple Hotel. On top of this, the committee have been busy organising a hands-on Special Stains & IHC Workshop focusing on the Gastrointestinal Tract. This will be held at QUT Gardens Point on Saturday 8th September. The workshop has gained a lot of interest so spots will fill up fast. For more information on the upcoming events mentioned, please take advantage of free membership at [www.hgq.org.au](http://www.hgq.org.au). Until the next edition, take care, stay safe and enjoy!! Happy reading ;)



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Secretary	Amanda Marsden (PAH)	Scientific Meetings	Brett Harrison (Trade)
Treasurer	Mark Bromley (SNP)		Lloyd Blundell (Trade)
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	Greg Bowlay (Mater)	Social Media	Jerres Alcober
Social Events	Kellie Vukovic (SNP)	Website	Mark Bromley

**We are always looking for contributions of scientific articles and news, or if you have improvements and techniques that make a difference in your lab! Submissions can be sent to [newsletter@hgq.org.au](mailto:newsletter@hgq.org.au) in PDF format.**



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# 2018 HGQ Trivia Night

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the second annual HGQ Trivia night was held at the Normanby Hotel. This year proved a huge success with 96 participants including Pathologists, Registrars and lab staff representing SNP, QML, The Prince Charles, The PA, GCUH, The Royal Brisbane, Aquesta, The Mater and our Trade reps. A great night was had by all with an entertaining host who tried very hard with his medical knowledge, good food and many prizes won including the famous HGQ Trophy.

With two full rounds of questions, a bonus histology based round plus bonus rounds to win lollies, competition was fierce. Questions ranged from the year the first Spice Girls song was released, to how many episodes of The Rug Rats were produced, to knowing 10 animated dogs from TV shows. A highlight was the Histology round where the host first thanked our awesome sponsors struggling to pronounce their names and then worked through the medical terms of each question sounding out each word on google. The final scores came down to the wire with a tie breaker question to determine 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

## Final Results

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sullivan Nicolaides/Mater
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Brisbane
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dave's Army
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prince Charles
- 5<sup>th</sup> Registrars plus John and Lisa
- 6<sup>th</sup> Sullivan Nicolaides (Steve)
- 7<sup>th</sup> QUT (mmmm Xylene/Zylene)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Gold Coast (Quick and the Dead)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Aquesta
- 10<sup>th</sup> Trade Reps (Dirty Tradies)

We would like to say a big thank you to our generous sponsors because without their support a night like this couldn't happen - Leica, Agilent, Hurst Scientific, Instrumec, ThermoFisher, Olympus, Roche and Trajan!

• Kellie Vukovic



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# The Sixth International Workshop in Diagnostic Immunohistochemistry



Over a few days from the 27th-29th on the beautiful Tweed coast, at Coolangatta the Australasian Immunohistochemistry Society held the International Workshop in Diagnostic Immunohistochemistry. A beautiful setting by the ocean at the Twin Towns resort proved the perfect backdrop to gain insights into new developments and techniques in the world of IHC.

A strong contingent of inquisitive minds both local and international attended over the course of the three days of the event. With many of the guest speakers for the program coming far and wide to share their respective and vast knowledge in the fields of clinical, diagnostic and research based Immunohistochemistry.

Day one started with great gusto and after registration and a warm introduction we were thrust into the first of many presentations with John Garratt of the Canadian Immunohistochemistry Quality Control or (CIQC), who came all the way from Canada to share his many stories and experience. Friday also saw presentations from RCPAQAP's Julia Pagliuso and Zenobia Haffajee giving us an update on new information and discussing the implementation of PDL1 procedures and ALK results over the past two years. To top of a busy first day we were presented with more information about Quality assurance management with regards to IHC by Christopher Andry and taken on a journey to Norway with presenter Emile Janssen discussing digital pathology, an area where there has been much growth in the recent past here in Australia. Rounding out the day was NATA's Gillian Treloar giving more information about medical laboratory accreditation requirements.

Friday night was the cocktail gathering, a place to let the hair down at the end of the day and catch up socially whilst enjoying a few drinks. I'm sure it can be said that everyone enjoyed

the atmosphere and drinks. A big thank-you goes out to the event planners and sponsors Metagene for that one.

Saturday saw a return to the river room and a gloomy start outside didn't deter anyone from learning inside. With some great talks from the likes of Nathan Acott from Path West discussing standardization and optimization of antibodies in GI cancer diagnosis, we also heard about the role of P16 IHC in the diagnosis and treatment of HPV head and neck tumors. Throughout the day there was much more information about the optimization of antibodies with regards to breast, lung cancers. Niall Swan of St Vincent's University Hospital in Dublin took us through the role of IHC in endocrine tumour diagnosis in great detail. We also gained valuable insight into the Newfoundland scandal then to now and its effects on QA with regards to breast biomarker testing. A very interesting and sobering account of why checks and balances are important within Laboratory culture.

Late in the afternoon and into the night our next social event, the conference gala dinner was held which is always a crowd favourite was enjoyed by many well into the night.

Sunday brought the last day of presentations and there was no letting up with some interesting new information about specimen quality and pre-analytic variables from Christopher Andry of Boston University Medical Centre, cost effective antibody panels in IHC from Allen Gown all the way from Seattle, USA and last but not least some great information on the headaches heartbreaks and heroics of IHC from David Gan, Pathology Queensland, Princess Alexandra Hospital.

All up it can safely be said that those who attended definitely left with a brain-full of new information and perspective as well as an arm full of rubber ducks and many new ideas for their respective labs.

• Lachlan Campbell

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# 2018 Combined Scientific Meeting AIMS & HGQ



- Venue:** The Pineapple Hotel, 706 Main Street  
Kangaroo Point
- Theme:** Renal Pathology
- Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018
- Time:** 6-9pm
- Seats available:** 60 (30 AIMS/30 HGQ)
- Registration:** Free - AIMS & HGQ Members  
\$20.00 - Non-members (pay on arrival)

**6-6:30pm AIMS AGM (AIMS members only)**

**6:45-8:00pm Presentation Session**

Presentation 1: 6:45-7:05pm (Mater Pathology)

Presentation 2: 7:10-7:30pm (AIMS)

Presentation 3: 7:35-7:55pm (AIMS)

**Visit [www.HGQ.org.au](http://www.HGQ.org.au) to book your place now!**



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# 2018 Special Stains & IHC Workshop



**Theme: Gastrointestinal Tract**



**Saturday 8 September 8am-8pm**



**QUT Gardens Point, 2 George Street, Brisbane QLD**

Visit  
[www.hgq.org.au](http://www.hgq.org.au)  
for more  
information!

## **Registration:**

- **\$125 Early Bird Registration**  
Opens Monday 23 July - Closes Friday 10 August 2018
- **\$150 Standard Registration**  
Opens Saturday 11 August - Closes Friday 24 August 2018

**Join us after the workshop for drinks & canapés  
at Ship Inn, Southbank starting at 5pm**



# SPECIAL STAINS AND IHC WORKSHOP 2018

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Social Event Extra Person(s) (please indicate quantity)		@\$30.00pp		@\$30.00pp
<b>Total</b>	\$		\$	

<b>Specific Diet Requirements</b>	

### **Program Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**8:00 - 9:00** Registration

**9:00 - 9:50** First Session

**9:50 - 10:20** Morning Tea Break

**10:20 - 11:00** Second Session

**11:00 - 12:00** Lunch Break

**12:00 - 14:00** Workshop - Session 1 - IHC & Special Stains

**14:00 - 14:30** Afternoon Tea Break

**14:30 - 16:30** Workshop - Session 2 - IHC & Special Stains

**17:00 - 20:00** Closing Function - Ship Inn, Southbank

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# HGQ Scientific Meeting: Envoi Pathology

The first scientific meeting of 2018 was held at the specialist pathology laboratory Envoi, located in Kelvin Grove. The event was filled to capacity for the entertaining and informative presentations. The first talk was by Dr Greg Miller, a pathologist from Envoi, titled "Is It A DILI?" (drug induced liver injury), something that was quite pertinent to several members of the audience. Dr Miller explained that DILI is a diagnosis of exclusion and can mimic almost any other form of liver disease, so a thorough

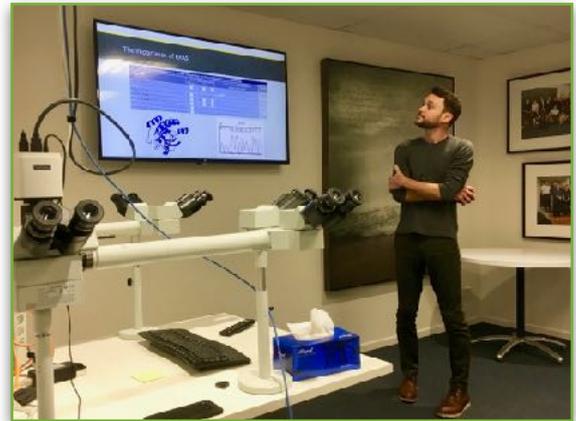


clinical history is important to ensure accurate diagnosis.

The clinical outcomes were covered - the good news is that most cases will resolve without permanent injury if the causative agent is identified quickly, the bad news is that in rare cases injury will be permanent and serious. For those who missed out, Dr Miller recommends the website "LiverTox" (supported by NIH) for comprehensive information on only DILI and its database of drugs.

Next up was Joel Dwine, Envoi's scientific sacrifice, with "The Importance of KRAS". This is a gene that acts as an on-off switch, with mutations disrupting negative signalling, resulting in uncontrolled cellular proliferation. The presence (or absence) of a KRAS gene mutation will determine which therapeutic approach is taken. KRAS is just one of the many

molecular tests that Histology departments are now doing the prep work for, as medicine is increasingly moving towards more targeted,



individualised and expensive therapies.

Following the talks, the crowd was nourished by a selection of Zambrero deliciousness, before disrupting the workers on a lab tour. It's quite impressive to see a laboratory that doubles as an art gallery.

Many thanks to the sponsor, Hurst Scientific, and our fabulous hosts, Envoi, for such an enjoyable evening.

• **Melissa Hillas**



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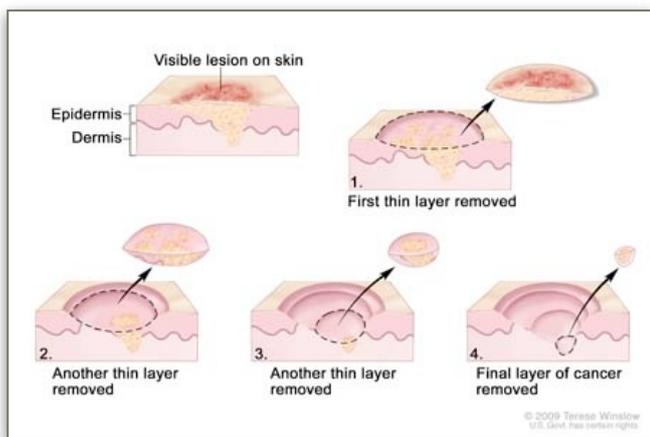
# Mohs Scientist & Technician Special Interest Group Meeting

The inaugural Mohs Scientist and Technician Special Interest group meeting was held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May in conjunction with the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific meeting of the Australasian College of Dermatologists.

The meeting was held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre from 10am until 4:30pm.

The day started with a welcome and introduction by Chris Arnold the Executive Director of the Skin and Cancer Foundation Inc.

The first speaker was Dr Amit Verma who is undertaking a Mohs Fellowship at Oxford Dermatology in Perth who gave a talk about “Measuring quality in Mohs Laboratories.”



A precise frozen section is critical to Mohs surgery and as such a Mohs laboratory that regularly evaluates for quality is central to this process. When a slide is cut by the Mohs laboratory and the entire epidermal edge is not able to be clearly seen, a deeper level is requested. The Mohs laboratory staff cut

deeper into the block to get a full face, but they run the risk of finding a ‘false positive’ where tumour is seen at the base of the specimen.

Oxford Dermatology has assembled data evaluating the number of levels required as a percentage of the slides cut over a 12-month period. These were then further evaluated to investigate potential reasons for any increased number of levels required. The quality of the

***“A precise frozen section is critical to Mohs surgery and as such a Mohs laboratory that regularly evaluates for quality is central to this process.”***

slides were evaluated and the time taken to process the fresh tissue through to stained slides.

They found they had a low recut level and that some the deeper levels were “just in case” reflex levels rather than needed levels. They found that the average turnaround time for stage 1 was 30 minutes and this reduced each stage (as there are less pieces taken) as expected. There was no relationship found between the age of the patient and the number of levels, but they did find that some anatomical sites had higher levels or recuts than others. The most difficult anatomical sites where the eyebrow, ear and neck.

Discussion of the importance of Mohs Scientists/technicians to Mohs surgeries and the

insufficient numbers of qualified staff in this booming procedure and the absence of communication between scientists/technicians across sites.

It was then suggested that the formation of a Mohs Scientist and Technician Special Interest Group would be advantageous. It would complement the ACD Mohs Surgeons SIG and aid coordination and communications between



Scientists and Technicians around Australia and New Zealand. It would provide avenues for the sharing of ideas and expertise on topics such as equipment, techniques etc.

Membership would be open to all practicing and trainee Mohs Scientists and Technicians across Australia and New Zealand. A committee will soon be set up to make this a reality.

A discussion ensued about developing a Mohs Technical certificate program encompassing an academic online unit, coupled with a practicum component to make Mohs a recognized accredited skill.

A group discussion about Mohs Surgery from the patient perspective and whether there were methods that could be put in place to make the process easier for the patient.

Lunch was then held in the Trade Hall along with the Dermatologists and Dermatologist Nurses.

After lunch Dr Edward Upjohn talked about Mohs Surgery from the surgeon perspective and some the problems that can be encountered with specimens and processing and the surgeon's ability to read the slide and diagnose the case.

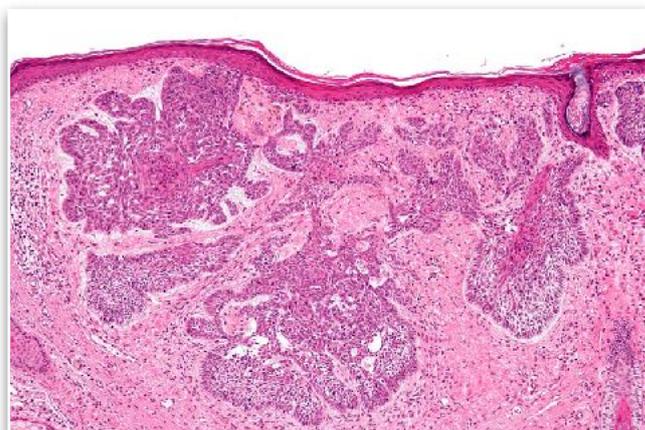
Sonya Odhavji then talked about her procedure for Mohs and shared her expertise in Mohs. She then showed the results and the benefits of using Immunohistochemistry staining of MelanA for Mohs Lentigo Maligna/Melanoma patients.

Julia Pagliuso for RCPA QAP then talked about the recent introduction of the Mohs Diagnostic Module for Mohs Surgeons and the Frozen Section Technical module. She showed some slides and attendees were asked to grade the sections and were then told what the assessors had marked them. Turns out Mohs people are hard markers!

Finally, Dr Joe McDermott give a presentation on the Public Mohs Service in New Zealand. Currently there is only Public Mohs site in New Zealand. He showed pictures of how they organise and label the chucks to prevent chucks being swapped.

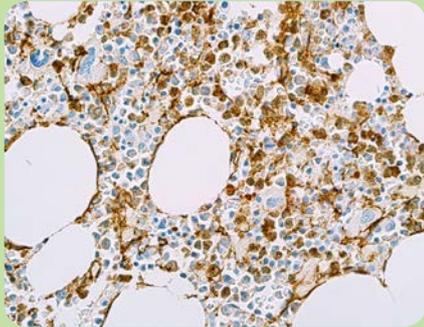
It was a great day and really interesting to meet other Mohs people from around Australia and New Zealand.

• Emma Hughes

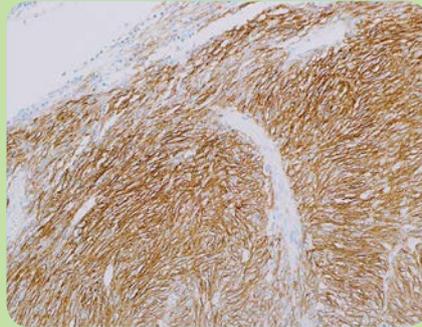


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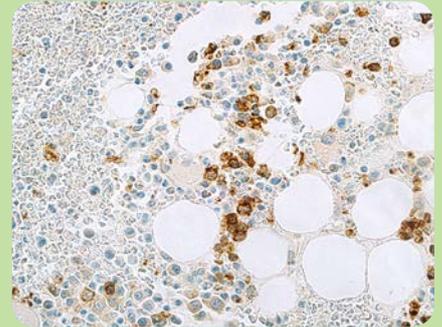
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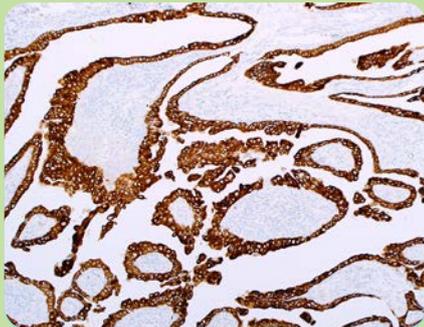
CD13 (EP117)



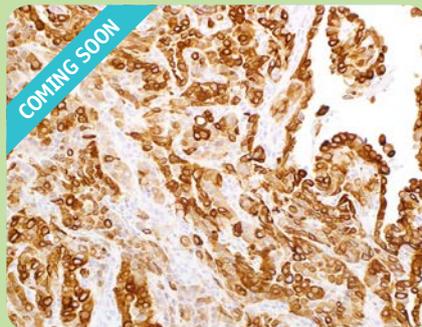
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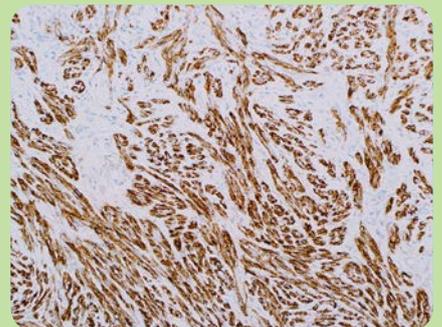
CD71 (EP232)



Cytokeratin 19 (EP72)



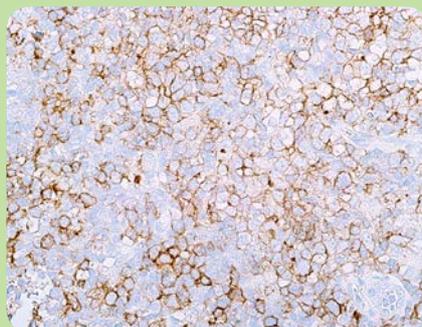
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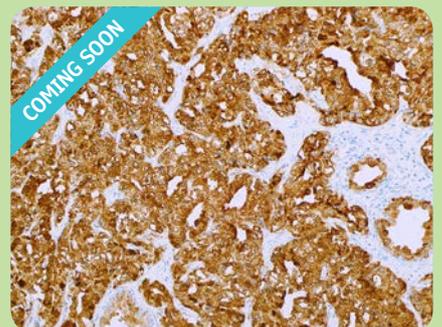
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**Mahli Roberts**  
**Bowen Hills Histology**  
**Laboratory Technician**

**1. What was your first part-time job?**

I worked at Red Rooster.

**2. How long have you worked in histology?**

9 years in September.

**3. When people ask, "So, what do you do?" How do you explain Histology?**

I say "we study tissue, so anything cut off or out of the body we sample and prepare the slides for doctors to look at under the microscope".

**4. What is a skill you're good at that not many people know about?**

I can wiggle my ears!

**5. What do you like doing in your free time?**

I'm a powerlifter so i spend a lot of time at the gym or walking my 3 dogs!

**6. What food best describes your personality?**

Chocolate!!

**7. If you decided to change your career, what would you do?**

Paramedic or something to do with animals.

**8. If you won the lottery, what would you do?**

Renovate my house and go on lots of holidays.

**9. What is your dream holiday destination and why?**

Amazon, just because it would be amazing!

**10. If you could choose one superpower, what would it be and why?**

Teleport, I feel like it would be super useful





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**Dannielle Small  
Mater Pathology  
Laboratory Assistant**

**1. How long have you worked in Histology and what do you most enjoy about it?**

I've worked in Histology for around 2 years. All those surgical specimens are interesting, although it might be causing me a little bit of hypochondria.

**2. What other jobs have you had?**

I've worked for Child Safety doing data entry/extraction. I've also worked at the RSL helping members apply for pensions. The worst job I've ever had was a 'glassie', I only did it for 3 weeks - I had a glass thrown at my head!

**3. If you could change your career, what would you do?**

I could see myself as an FBI agent.

**4. What do you like doing in your free time?**

I'm enjoying watching The Walking Dead. I am also listening to the podcast My Favourite Murder. (I'm sensing a theme - ed)

**5. What's your favourite food?**

Cake, of any kind; oooh and trifle too! I definitely have a sweet tooth.

**6. What three events/people/experiences have made the biggest impact on you?**

Nothing truly significant. Family and friends will always be an influence, but on a subtle level. I'm lucky to be just cruising through life. I have just become a home owner, so the next big step is getting a puppy. That's going to make an impact!

**7. If you could choose one superpower, what would it be and why?**

Telekinesis. Just imagine the possibilities.

**8. What don't people know about you?**

Nothing, I'm an open book. I'm terrible at keeping secrets, even my own.





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# What's new with the HGQ?

## Upcoming Events

### August 2018

- **Scientific Meeting - Joint AIMS/HGQ**
  - The Pineapple Hotel
  - THU 23 AUG

### September 2018

- **Workshop - Special Stains & IHC**
  - Theme - Gastrointestinal Tract
  - QUT Gardens Point
  - SAT 8 SEP
- Other - Conference - Joint AACB/AIMS
  - ICC Sydney, Sydney, NSW
  - 3-5 SEP
- Other - Conference - NSH
  - Saint Louis, Missouri, USA
  - 21-26 SEP

### October 2018

- **Newsletter - Tissue Paper**
- **Scientific Meeting & AGM**
  - Venue - TBA
  - THU 25 OCT
- Other - Conference - HSNWSW
  - Rooty Hill, NSW
  - 5-7 OCT

### May 2019

- **National Histology Conference**
  - Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, SA
  - 24-26 MAY 2019

