SUMMER SCHOOL 27

AUSTRALIAN WOUND & SKIN ALLIANCE

12-13 February 2027, Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre

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AWSA

PROGRAM

Thursday 11 February 2027		
1200	Exhibitors bump in	
1400 – 1700	**REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITION OPENS**	
1830 – 1930	**AWSA WELCOME RECEPTION**	**Delama A Exhibition Hall**

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Friday 12 February 2027	
0730	***Registration and exhibition open***
0830 - 0900	Session 1 – **WELCOME** **Welcome and overview** **Acknowledgement of Country** **Dr Nikki Frescos**, President AWSA **Session speakers providing a world view of international wound organisations/ alliances:** **Dot Weir,** *Co-Chair Symposium of Advanced Wound Care (SAWC) USA and Secretary International Wound Infection Institute* **Dr Windy Cole,** *Board-certified podiatric physician preservation and advanced wound management, Adjunct Professor and Director of Wound Care Research at Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine, Chief Research Officer for Capsicure Clinical Research Organization* **Prof Keryln Carville,** *FWA Professor of Primary Health Care and Community Nursing at Silver Chain Group and Curtin University, WA*
0900 - 1100	Session 2 - **COMPLEX WOUNDS, MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND THE IMPACT ON HEALING** Join experienced clinicians for a focused exploration of complex wounds—why they become difficult to heal, how medical, surgical and psychological factors shape outcomes, and how to recognise atypical presentations. Through expert insights, a consumer's lived experience and panel discussion, you will strengthen your assessment, challenge outdated assumptions and leave with practical strategies for managing fungating, malignant, draining, dehisced and other atypical wounds. **Session speakers:** **Karly Norman,** *Occupational Therapist, Wound Management Client QLD* **Dot Weir,** *Co-Chair Symposium of Advanced Wound Care (SAWC) USA and Secretary International Wound Infection Institute* **Wendy White,** *Wound Consultant, Director of Wendywhite Woundcare NSW*
1100 - 1130	**MORNING TEA & EXHIBITION** — **Delama A Exhibition Hall**

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1130 - 1300	Session 3 - **ADVANCED & EMERGING WOUND ASSESSMENT, DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPIES** Advances in wound care technology are accelerating at a pace that is reshaping clinical practice, offering unprecedented opportunities to enhance healing outcomes while challenging clinicians to discern true value from innovation driven noise. This session will explore how new tools, from AI enabled diagnostics to point of care devices and digital intelligence at the bedside, can be meaningfully integrated into real world workflows. We will examine what remains essential in foundational clinical assessment, where AI and device-based technologies genuinely add value, and how clinicians can appraise emerging products using real world evidence rather than marketing claims. The program will spotlight therapeutic innovations, and new approaches to wound assessment, diabetes foot disease and the evolving role of digital and point of care technologies in modern wound management. This forward-looking session will explore the rapidly expanding landscape of advanced and emerging wound care providing clinicians with confidence and clarity to navigate these developments. **Session speakers:** **Dr Windy Cole,** *Board-certified podiatric physician preservation and advanced wound management, Adjunct Professor and Director of Wound Care Research at Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine, Chief Research Officer for Capsicure Clinical Research Organization* **Dot Weir,** *Co-Chair Symposium of Advanced Wound Care (SAWC) USA and Secretary International Wound Infection Institute* **Prof Keryln Carville,** *FWA Professor of Primary Health Care and Community Nursing at Silver Chain Group and Curtin University, WA* **Dr Geoff Sussman OAM,** *Associate Professor Wound Care, Monash University Vic, AWSA Board* **Terry Swanson,** *Nurse Practitioner Wound management, Warrnambool Vic, AWSA Board*
1300 - 1345	**LUNCH & EXHIBITION** — **Delama A Exhibition Hall**
1345 - 1415	***Session 3 - continued***

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1415- 1545	Session 4 - **PRESSURE INJURIES: WHAT ARE WE MISSING?** This session will examine why pressure injuries persist despite established guidelines and available equipment. Beginning with a clinical case study that highlights gaps between policy and practice, expert presentations will then explore skin biomechanics, positioning and support surfaces; the relationship between patient anatomy, equipment selection, shared ownership and holistic care; pressure injury staging, differential diagnosis and translating guidelines across acute, aged and community settings; and skin failure in acute, chronic and end-of-life care, including hypoperfusion, tissue tolerance and coding. The session will also communication breakdowns during transitions of care, risk screening, early intervention, post-healing monitoring and ongoing prevention, before concluding with a multidisciplinary panel discussing the single greatest barrier to effective pressure injury prevention and care and practical ways to address it. **Session speakers:** **Prof Amit Gefen,** *Professor of Biomedical engineering, Tel Aviv* University **(Virtual)** **Kathy Puyk,** *Clinical Nurse Consultant, Alfred Health, Melbourne, Vic* **Catherine Young,** Occupational Therapist, Odyssey Consulting, Senior Clinician, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Vic **Andrea Minnis,** *Nurse Practitioner Wound management, Bendigo Vic, AWSA Board* **Prof Keryln Carville,** *FWA Professor of Primary Health Care and Community Nursing at Silver Chain Group and Curtin University, WA*
1545 - 1615	**AFTERNOON TEA & EXHIBITION** — **Delama A Exhibition Hall**
1615 - 1645	***Session 4 - continued***

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1645 - 1745	Session 5 – **INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP FORUM – COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY** Strong partnerships between clinicians and industry are essential to advancing wound care. This interactive forum brings both perspectives together to explore innovation, emerging technologies and the challenges shaping contemporary wound management. Hear from industry partners through peer-reviewed presentations, then join an open discussion exploring this year's focus on planetary health and environmental sustainability, including waste, packaging, product stewardship and responsible innovation. With patient outcomes as our shared priority, the forum provides a space for respectful, transparent and evidence-informed dialogue—sharing perspectives, challenging ideas and identifying practical opportunities for clinicians and industry to work better together. Come prepared to listen, contribute and help shape future priorities for wound care. **Session speakers:** **Judy Haviland,** *Director, Judy Haviland consulting* **Sponsor abstracts**
CLOSE OF DAY 1	
1800 – 1820	**CLASS PHOTO**

1830 – 2030	**AWSA SUNSET SOIREE** **Waterfront Pantry,** 1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong

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Saturday 13th February 2027	
0800	***Registration and Exhibition open***
0900	**DAY 2 – WELCOME**
0900 - 1100	Session 6 - **COMPLEX DERMATOLOGICAL PRESENTATIONS: RECOGNITION, INTEGRATED DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT** This session examines the recognition, investigation and management of complex dermatological presentations, with a practical focus on integrating clinical assessment, pathology, microbiology and pharmacotherapy. Participants will explore atypical disease patterns, emerging treatment options and evidence-based approaches to safe, effective care. Key considerations include red flags, evolving lesion morphology, unusual distributions, systemic associations and features that warrant further investigation, specialist referral or escalation of care. Discussion will also focus on compounded medicines and emerging topical therapies, integrated diagnostic approaches, and the clinical impact of dermatological pharmacotherapy. The session will also address the issue of self-compounding of medication for topical use and its implications. **Session speakers:** **Dr Rebecca Iseli,** *Geriatrician, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Honorary Clinical fellow University of Melbourne Vic* **Dr Geoff Sussman OAM,** *Associate Professor Wound Care. Monash University Vic, AWSA Board*
1100 - 1130	**MORNING TEA & EXHIBITION** — **Delama A Exhibition Hall**

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1130 - 1300	Session 7 - **BEYOND THE WOUND: UNDERSTANDING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF CHRONIC WOUNDS** In 2025, the AWSA Summer School explored the powerful connection between mind and body. In 2027, we will take this important conversation further by examining the often-overlooked psychological and social impact of living with a chronic wound. How do chronic wounds influence stress, anxiety, social connection and the experience of pain? How might neurodivergence or mental health challenges affect an individual's wound care journey? And why might a person living with dementia communicate pain, discomfort or distress differently? This engaging session will explore the experiences of a diverse range of individuals, including people living with neurodivergence, mental health challenges and dementia. It will also consider the significant impact that chronic wounds can have on families and carers. Moving from understanding to practical action, participants will explore effective communication strategies to support positive behaviour change and consider how trauma-informed care can be incorporated into wound management. The session will conclude with practical tips, assessment tools and referral strategies that wound practitioners can apply in everyday practice to better recognise psychosocial needs, respond with confidence and provide truly person-centred care. **Session speakers:** **Rene Brent,** *Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist and Instructor of Hypnotherapy, Orlando Florida* **Kylie Elder,** Senior Clinical Nurse advisor, Bolton Clarke, Vic **Karly Norman,** *Occupational therapist, Wound management client QLD* **Dr Rebecca Iseli,** *Geriatrician, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Honorary Clinical fellow University of Melbourne, Vic* **Dr Laura Prendergast,** *Senior Psychologist at the Northern Health Pain Service, Melbourne Vic, President Elect Australian Pain Society*
1300 - 1345	**LUNCH & EXHIBITION** — **Delama A Exhibition Hall**
1345 - 1415	***Session 7 - continued***

1415 - 1515	Session 8 - **CLINICIAN WELLBEING: RESILIENCE IN WOUND CARE** Healthcare professionals regularly care for patients experiencing pain, trauma and loss. Over time, repeated exposure to these experiences can contribute to compassion fatigue, secondary trauma and burnout, often without clinicians recognising the early warning signs. We will explore the differences between burnout and compassion fatigue, discuss how secondary trauma affects healthcare professionals, and present practical strategies for building resilience, establishing healthy professional boundaries and maintaining emotional well-being throughout a demanding clinical career. **Session speakers:** **Rene Brent:** *Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist and Instructor of Hypnotherapy, Orlando Florida* **Wendy White:** *Wound Consultant, Director of Wendywhite Woundcare NSW*
1515 - 1545	**AFTERNOON TEA & EXHIBITION** — **Delama A Exhibition Hall**
1545 - 1645	Session 9 - **SYSTEM-LEVEL ISSUES, FUNDING AND HEALTH ECONOMICS, INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION AND MODELS OF CARE** The burden of hard-to-heal wounds drives repeated GP visits, hospitalisation and avoidable suffering. Yet the biggest barrier to better outcomes is not necessarily clinical knowledge, it is outdated funding rules, fragmented pathways, and a model of care that makes multidisciplinary wound care difficult to deliver and even harder for patients to access. As new approaches like the chronic wound consumables scheme emerge, we must ask whether they genuinely reduce financial barriers, improve healing, and deliver value, or simply shift cost around the system. This session confronts the economics of wound care and challenges us to rethink who delivers care, how we fund it, and what "value" should mean for people living with chronic wounds. **Session speakers:** **Dr Windy Cole:** *Board-certified podiatric physician preservation and advanced wound management, Adjunct Professor and Director of Wound Care Research at Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine, Chief Research Officer for Capsicure Clinical Research Organization* **Andrea Minnis:** *Nurse Practitioner wound management, Bendigo Vic, AWSA Board*

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1645 - 1700	Session 10 - **AWSA: FOR THE FUTURE** **SUMMATION AND CLOSE** Announcement of Board and Faculty for 2029 Summer School AWSA Board: **Dr Nikki Frescos**, **Andrea Minnis**, **Jan Rice AM**, **Terry Swanson**, **Dr Emily Haesler**, **Dr Geoff Sussman OAM** AWSA Faculty: **Toni Howell**, **Melinda Brooks**, **Donna Nair**, **Aiwei Foster**
CLOSE OF AWSA SUMMER SCHOOL 2027	