

RCH Alumni

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www.rch.org.au/alumni



You're invited to the RCH Alumni Gala Lunch and AGM with an Alum- Oration from Prof Mike South "The Judicious Use of Silliness and Satire"

Thursday, 14th November 2024

Kew Golf Club (120 Belford Road Kew East)

Annual General Meeting at 12 noon followed by lunch at 1pm

Prof Mike South

When Mike South discovered that you could actually earn a decent living by mucking about with kids all day, he decided to become a paediatrician. Unfortunately, the rise of telehealth has put a bit of a dampener on some of the hands-on mucking about, but he still manages to have fun most days.



At Peter Phelan's invitation, Mike came to do a 1-year training stint at RCH in 1988. He forgot to book a return flight and has been stranded here ever since. While he does miss a few things about living in England (France, for instance), he has no regrets about escaping the NHS. He applied for citizenship but failed John Howard's Australian citizenship test – he had no idea if the onions or the snags should go on the barbie first, or what a "Pav" is.

In 1993, RCH was on the hunt for a new Head of General Paediatrics. The rest of the department's staff promptly took one pace back, leaving Mike as the sole volunteer. Twenty years later, he finally realised he could apply for parole on the grounds of (mostly) good behaviour. With his release granted, he's been free to indulge his interests – tinkering with computers and more mucking about with kids – and often doing both at once (bliss!)

Along the way Mike was keen to see the medical care at RCH transition from *Eminence-based medicine* to *Evidence-based medicine*. Little did he know that when he bunged a few Clinical Practice Guidelines on the website in 1996 that it would snowball into the go-to resource for hospital care of children, endorsed by most state health departments in Australia and be accessed by more than 5 million users internationally each year. Who'd a thought!

Mike finds humour everywhere in medicine- both incidental and intentional. He also knows when to use it judiciously. As he likes to say "*Laughter is the best medicine – unless the condition is diarrhoea*"

Lunch tickets \$90/head. Please register by 4th November via <https://www.trybooking.com/CUWKH>

Any queries to the Honorary Secretary, Christine Rodda - christine.rodde@unimelb.edu.au