

Dr Richard Bailey helped HALMA celebrate World Anaesthesia Day recently on October 16 with a talk titled "Ether Day". Both the day and the subject celebrate the first public demonstration of the anaesthetic capabilities of ether at the Massachusetts' General Hospital in 1846.

Richard spoke of his own experiences of providing open-ether anaesthesia as well as the history of analgesia down through the ages; the use of herbal extracts; mesmerism; nitrous oxide and ether (with their associated "frolics"); chloroform; and the introduction of ether into Australia.

The meeting was particularly honoured by the attendance of 3 members of Richard's own Graduating Class, including the former NSW Governor, Professor Dame Marie Bashir AD, CVO.

