

## Why did you choose to be a Doctor?

It was never a childhood dream, more of an acquired taste. While working as a researcher on fruit flies (yes boring) I went on a little adventure with two friends. We picked Borneo as our destination, we had haphazardly planned to wade the Kinabatangan river in a wooden canoe. The two people I was with were an intern and a plastic surgeon, we were friends from an adult gymnastics class (yes, you can laugh). While navigating this river and attempting to catch our own supper we came across a number of villages only accessible from the river. They were very welcoming and lovely people. Matt the intern, could speak Indonesian and could translate for us. As soon as the villagers learned they were docs the barrage of questions about all sorts of ailments ensued. Although the trip was non-intended as a medical one, my two friends were happy to provide advice and help where they could. I told myself "I want to be like that when I grow up", the rest is history.



this issue  
Dr Oliver Evans

## Happy to help, Wine Maker

*What has been one of the highlights of your career so far?*

So far being a doctor has provided weekly highs and lows, as an emergency registrar I cannot emphasize this enough. I have a bit of a soft spot for adolescents from tough backgrounds. I remember a case where a 14-year-old boy had come in to ED with self-inflicted cuts on his arms. I listened to his story, it was harrowing to say the least. During our chat my paternal instinct took over and luckily not being too busy that day I listened and gave what advice I thought most appropriate. A couple months down the track he represented, my stomach was churning at the prospect of more self-harm. It wasn't the case; he was there for a sprained ankle. While taking his history he started telling me how he was enjoying school, had a girlfriend and hadn't had any more thoughts of self-harm. I had probably nothing to do with this change but nonetheless it warmed my heart and left me smiling all day.

*How do you believe NSW Health can do things better for JMOs?*

I don't like to get political. I believe there is already a great change in a somewhat conservative culture in medicine. I prefer to look at the positive changes I've seen in my so far in my short career. Many advocacy groups have listened and lobbied for changes that are already tangible. Discrimination based on gender or age to enter training programs is dramatically improving, working hours are capped and paid overtime is now common place. Honestly, I believe we are privileged to be in this position and a little sacrifice is part of the gig.

*Why is being part of a Union important to you?*

I cannot stress enough how important it is. Without the help I received from ASMOF I wouldn't be writing this, not exaggerating one bit. On my first

week of intern orientation I received a call from AHPRA advising me I was required to sit English proficiency exams to continue working. Long story short, there were a few issues with the exam results. ASMOF readily stepped in and successfully advocated to have my case put before the Australian Medical Board to appeal against the decision to not allow me to practice. Needless to say it was successful!

*How would you like to see ASMOF change in the future to better cater to JMO's needs?*

I believe it is already an exceptional personalised service. A wide array of services are in place to further ones career and support junior doctors to achieve a balanced working life. I would like to see a push towards a standardization of doctors rights across all hospitals in terms of working hours, paid overtime and mitigation of bullying.

*If you weren't a Doctor, what would you be doing instead?*

"A wine maker."

*What do you do when you aren't working?*

I have a few passions to keep me busy, namely fishing, camping, taking my motorbike on adventures, aquariums, boating and enjoying good food and wine.