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Contact us
Renal Society of Australasia
PO Box 7345 Beaumaris
VIC Australia 3193
P: 1300 941 480
E: office@renalsociety.org
W: www.renalsociety.org
President’s Report

Dear Members,
Welcome to our inaugural RSA Annual Report. I hope that you enjoy reading about your association and the great achievements that have been made over the last 12 months.

This is my final President's Report as, after six years as RSA President, I am stepping down from this role and from the RSA Board following our Annual General Meeting in June.

As my term as President draws to a close, we have much to celebrate. We commenced 2015 with an ambitious work plan including governance reform as well as a new Strategic Plan, new branding and new website. I am proud to look back and see that all of this, plus much more including a very successful Annual Conference in Perth, has been achieved. Of course none of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of all our volunteers from across Australia and New Zealand – we are particularly grateful for everyone’s efforts.

I would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who makes the RSA such a great organisation – the members, local branch committees, external committee representatives, Conference Organising Committee and Scientific Committee, RSAJ Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Advisory Board, the NEN, Education Committee, Future Directions Forum, and particularly everyone who has sat on the RSA Board. I cannot speak highly enough of the quality and significance of the work that our volunteer members undertake to make the RSA what it is today.

The RSA Board has been involved in a number of significant achievements during the last six years and it has been a privilege to be involved at that level. All Board Directors have shown themselves to be professional and committed members of the RSA. They spend countless hours volunteering their time to further the vision of the RSA. The support that I have received and the camaraderie amongst each of the Board members over the years has made this a thoroughly rewarding experience.

The RSA has certainly become a valued and recognised professional body in the renal community. We are increasingly being asked for expert comment or representation from external organisations. Our strategic plan will continue to grow our standing and respect amongst our peers.

I extend my sincere thanks to all of our members for their support and trust in the Board’s vision, and I encourage each of you to invite your work colleagues to become RSA members so as to continue to grow our society. I would also like to thank the RSA office staff, in particular Elaine and Marnie, for the support that they have provided to the RSA and myself.

I am excited about what will be happening in the RSA going forward, and I am confident that the new structure, vision and leadership will have a positive impact on the Society for many years to come.

I feel honoured and proud to have been involved in our RSA and look forward to seeing many of you at events in the years to come. Thank you all for everything.

My kindest regards,

Kirsten Passaris.

RSA Board of Directors, 2015-16

Back row L-R: Karen Mills, Gillian Treloar, Peter Sinclair, Rose Mace, Fiona Donnelly
Front row L-R: Jon Hosking, Kirsten Passaris, Tiffany Whittington, Sandie Aguiar
Absent: Debbie Pugh
Executive Officer’s Report

In March 2015, the Executive Officer position moved from a voluntary to a part-time employed position. I was thrilled to take up the position, building on the significant work that had been undertaken by Tiffany Whittington as Executive Officer in a voluntary role.

The commencement of my position coincided with the development of the RSA’s 2015-18 Strategic Plan. As the EO, my role is to progress the RSA towards its strategic goals that are within the Strategic Plan. This includes working closely with the Board, committees, branches and special interest groups; enhancing member benefits – such as implementing our webinars; liaising with key stakeholders including industry, Departments of Health and other renal organisations such as Kidney Health Australia and the Australasian Kidney Trials Network; supporting the work towards our Annual Conference, and much more.

I work as part of a small team in the office of Association Professionals, where we support all aspects of the RSA, including the Annual Conference, branch events, membership enquiries and Board secretariat services. I certainly don’t work in isolation: it is a team effort.

On behalf of the office, I would like to thank the RSA Board, in particular our President, Kirsten Passaris, who has provided ongoing direction and support.

In conclusion, none of the above could have been achieved without the support and input provided by our much valued volunteers and RSA members. I look forward to working with and supporting you in 2016 and beyond.

Marnie Grace, Executive Officer

RSA Values

Following feedback from members, in 2015 the RSA adopted the following values:

- Excellence
- Collaboration
- Leadership
- Innovation
- Diversity.

These values provide us with a framework for achieving our mission to advance the care of people with kidney disease. They guide how we operate at all levels of the RSA, and are living qualities that help define our organisation.

Strategic Plan

We launched our 2015-18 Strategic Plan in June 2015. Our strategic goals are as follows:

1. Provide professional development opportunities for RSA members and other interested parties.
2. Communicate knowledge and information about chronic kidney disease and associated treatments.
3. Advocate for the interests of members, the professions and consumers.
4. Support practice development, research, quality improvement and innovation.
5. Set standards for renal professionals.
6. Govern the association.
### Renal Society of Australasia Strategic Plan 2015–18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOALS</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide professional development opportunities for RSA members and</td>
<td>• Develop Australasian program of education with consideration for the use</td>
<td>Integrated Australasian calendar of education that is accessible and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other relevant parties.</td>
<td>of innovative media</td>
<td>meets member needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Conduct conferences, seminars and workshops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Develop RSA-endorsed courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Promote and develop Special Interest Groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Assimilate NEN into RSA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicate knowledge and information about chronic kidney disease</td>
<td>• Improve communications, including website, eNewsletter, Communiqué, RSAJ</td>
<td>Integrated, branded communications throughout the RSA, aligned with strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and associated treatments.</td>
<td>, social media</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Consider Renal Nurses’ Week</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocate for interests of members, the profession and consumers.</td>
<td>• Provide representation to educational and professional bodies</td>
<td>Relevant position statements, representation and profile in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Develop position statements on relevant issues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increase profile of RSA to wider community and international bodies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Support renal-related charitable organisations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Support practice development, research, quality improvement and</td>
<td>• Sponsor individuals or groups undertaking relevant projects</td>
<td>Individuals and the profession supported by sponsorship and resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>innovation.</td>
<td>• Offer clinical resources to the profession</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set standards for renal professionals.</td>
<td>• Progress clinical practice framework development</td>
<td>Standards are in place and individuals are recognised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Consider credentialing or accreditation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Honour members through RSA awards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govern the association.</td>
<td>• Grow membership; survey membership to ascertain member needs</td>
<td>RSA is a well-governed, “must-join” association.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Develop budget and financial model; formalise risk management, develop</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and maintain key metrics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review and improve constitution, governance, unity and succession</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>planning; establish RSA committees and working groups</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Seek targeted government grants and corporate sponsorship</td>
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Future Directions Forum

The Future Directions Forum is an integral part of our new governance structure. It is not a committee as such, rather it is an advisory group made up of one member from each branch, committee and special interest group. Chaired by the Board President, Kirsten Passaris, the role of the Future Directions Forum is to provide input to the RSA Board with respect to the strategic direction and maximise outcomes of strategic initiatives, and to act as a conduit between all areas of the Society, strengthening communication and enhancing outcomes for all RSA members.

Thank you to our 2015 Future Directions Forum representatives:
Madeleine Balcombe (Vic), Lynn Brown (NEN), Leanne Evans (Tas), Debbie Fortnum (WA), Andrea Rolfe (Qld), Peter Sinclair (Education Committee), Lucy Spencer (NSW/ACT), Debbie Turner (SA/NT), Miranda Walker (NZ)

Membership

RSA membership grew 4.9% in the 12 months ending 31 March 2016. We currently have over 1500 members.
Here is a snapshot of our current membership:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of Members</th>
<th>Years worked in Nephrology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAS</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZ</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Staff Education</th>
<th>Vascular Access</th>
<th>Renal ward</th>
<th>Transplantation</th>
<th>Peritoneal Dialysis</th>
<th>CKD/Pre dialysis</th>
<th>Haemodialysis</th>
<th>Life Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>From time to time, the RSA confers life membership to people who have made an outstanding contribution to the vision and objectives of the RSA. Our current life members are: Paul Bennett, Adrian Buttimore, Sue Evans, Ted Farnsworth, Kate North, Glenn Stewart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Industry Partners and Sponsors

We welcomed Amgen and Sanofi as our Annual Partners for 2015, and would like to thank them for their significant contribution to the RSA.

Award, Scholarship and Grant recipients 2015

RSA Award
Federal – Tiffany Whittington

Tiffany has been a member of the RSA for over 15 years and has played pivotal roles including SA/NT President for four years, and co-convener of the 2011 Annual Conference. Tiffany’s outstanding and continued commitment to the RSA and significant contribution to the promotion of nephrology nursing is evident with her work as the Professional Officer / Executive Officer. Her work within the executive has paved the way for the RSA to establish itself as a stronger professional body for renal professionals.

She was responsible in developing the strong link with the Joanna Briggs Institute.

The Renal Care Node of JBI CoNNECT+ is a unique renal specific web based facility that provides online resources and tools to renal care clinicians, patients and their families to utilise evidence-based information in clinical decision making processes. These resources enhance the ability of renal care clinicians to provide consistent and appropriate care, while reducing the risk of clinical adverse events.

Opportunities to complete the clinical fellowship in the form of grants have also started with this innovative link with JBI for the past 2 years.

Tiffany continues work with the JBI as co-chair of the JBI Renal Node group.

Tiffany is a positive role model within the RSA. Tiffany is actively involved in RSA Board meetings, liaising effectively with all members of the Board and maintains positive open communication. She is the Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Board.

NSW/ACT – Elizabeth Josland
NZ – Janice Kirkpatrick
Qld – Cassandra Stone
SA/NT – Tiffany Whittington
Tas – Leanne Evans
Vic – Not awarded
WA – Debbie Fortnum

Graham Burnley Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Baxter Healthcare
Kelly Adams

NEN Scholarship
Katherine Birse

Birgit Munro Memorial Scholarship
Not awarded in 2015

Larelle Bryce Memorial Prize
Tess Clarke and Miranda Walker

International Travel Grants
Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh, Debbie Fortnum, Monica Schoch

JBI Clinical Fellowships
Aijun (Jasmine) Fang, Debbie Turner
Our Branches

Our branches continue to be the lifeblood of the RSA. Made up of local RSA members, the committees plan and deliver education and networking events, and are the local voice of the RSA.

In late 2015, we launched our Branch Handbook. This guide provides a framework for branch operations, and importantly, it also outlines the significant support now provided by the RSA office.

2015-16 saw the changeover of a number of committee members, many of whom stepped down after numerous years of hard work, and many who have now stepped up to take on a committee role. We thank and commend all of our members who have been on their local branch committee. Without you, the RSA could not deliver such high-quality, relevant member education.

Following is a list of all members who have held branch committee positions in the 2015-16 year (where there is more than one person listed in a position, there was a changeover during the year), and a list of education meetings that they held.

NSW/ACT Branch

Chair: Debbie Pugh; Kirsty Musgrave (incoming)
Secretary: Lucy Spencer
Education Officer: Sue Greaves
Committee: Jenny Lawrence, Lisa Paquin, Perambalam Pattabhiraman

Branch education meeting: It’s Never Too Late, 5 August 2015
Annual workshop: Nephrology Nursing – Fitting the Pieces Together, 6 November 2015
Platinum sponsor: Amgen
Gold sponsors: Baxter, Life Healthcare, Shire
Sponsors: Astellas Transplant, Fujifilm Sonosite, Medtronic
Branch education evening: Guardianship and Ethics, 30 March 2016

NZ Branch

Chair: Gillian Treloar; Fredric Doss (incoming)
Vice Chair: Te Atawhai Bierne
Secretary: Albert Robertson; Fakaola Otuafi (incoming)
Treasurer: Balaji Jagannathan
Education Officer: Emma Marsh

Branch conference: Facing the Future, 6-7 November 2015, Wellington NZ – Convenor Helen Hoffmann
Sponsor: SC Bio Ltd

Queensland Branch

Chair: Karen Mills
Secretary: Andrea Rolfe; Sally Turner (incoming)
Treasurer: Debra McDonald; Cassandra Stone (incoming)
Education Officer: Yvonne King
Committee: Alex Foley

Education videoconference: Tackling Diabetes on Dialysis, and a Pre/Post Trial of a Person-Centred Theory Based Intervention to Support Self-Management in CKD, 18 August 2015
Platinum sponsors: Medtronic and Covidien
Gold sponsors: Baxter, CKD.CRE, CKD Qld, Fresenius, Sanofi
Silver sponsors: Alexion, Astellas, Genzyme, Regional Health Care Group, Roche, Shire
Bronze sponsors: Amgen, Bard, Teleflex
Supporters: Australasian Kidney Trials Network, Kidney Health Australia
Education videoconference: Compassion Literacy, 16 February 2016
Education videoconference: Psychological Needs of Renal Patients, and Exploring the Views of Renal Patients and Nurses Towards the Design of a Yoga Program for Haemodialysis-related Fatigue, 17 May 2016
SA/NT Branch:
Chair: Fiona Donnelly; Debbie Turner (incoming)
Secretary: Michelle Ovenden; Linda Thorburn (incoming)
Treasurer: Bianca McCumisky; Monique Borlace (incoming)
Committee: Susan Robertson, Trin Fang, Jan Diareseco, Lynn Phillips, Jo Lindsay
Branch education day: Vasculitis, Diabetic Nephropathy and Snake Venom Study, 11 August 2015
Sponsors: Amgen, Baxter, Fresenius, Sanofi
Branch education half day: CKD Prevention including Dietetics, 7 October 2015
Sponsors: Amgen, Baxter, Fresenius, Sanofi
Branch education day: Environmental Considerations, Water Treatment and New Technology, 26 November 2015
Sponsors: Amgen, Baxter, Fresenius, Sanofi
Branch education day: Challenges of Renal Nursing, 15 March 2016
Sponsors: Amgen, Sanofi

Tasmania Branch:
Chair: Rose Mace; Carol Chadwick (incoming)
Secretary: Leanne Evans
Treasurer: Beth Cooke
Branch education meeting: Motivation, Mindset, Mentoring, Management and More, 17 October 2015
Sponsor: Amgen
Branch education day: Real Issues 14 May 2016
Sponsor: Amgen

Victoria Branch:
Chair: Sandie Aguiar; Mechelle Seneviratne (incoming)
Vice Chair: Lisa Colquhoun
Secretary: Peter Southon
Treasurer: Siew Eng Foo
Regional Representative: Madeleine Balcombe
Branch education day: 13 November 2015
Sponsors: Department of Health and Human Services Victoria, Sanofi
Branch education meeting: Renal Diet Evening, 21 April 2016
Sponsors: Department of Health and Human Services Victoria, Sanofi

WA Branch:
Chair: Jon Hosking; Debbie Fortnum (incoming)
Secretary: Nicola Rowland
Treasurer: Sandra Handy
2016 Seminar Co-Leads: Lois Johnston, Deanne Zyla
General Committee: Yan Yi
Branch education day: Anaemia, 20 November 2015
Sponsors: Amgen, Sanofi
Branch education workshop: Technical Aspects of Dialysis, 13 April 2016
Sponsors: Amgen, Sanofi
The 2015 RSA Annual Conference was held at the Crown Convention Centre, from 15-17 June 2015. With nearly 400 delegates, it was a wonderful opportunity for education, networking, and catching up with new friends and old.

Our keynote speaker was Anita Molzahn, Professor and Dean of Nursing at the University of Alberta, Canada. She inspired our delegates as she spoke about evaluating nurse-run, nephrologist monitored clinics for CKD, and shifting from numbers to stories: living and dying with kidney disease.

The networking function was an evening to be remembered. After canapés and drinks, many delegates headed for the dance floor. The photo booth was a definite hit, with delegates able to take their photos home at the end of the night.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors and exhibitors, in particular our Annual Partners, Amgen and Sanofi.

We would also like to thank our conference organisers, Arinex, and in particular Nicole Appleby, for organising our conference so professionally over the last seven years.

Special thanks to our hard-working Organising Committee and Scientific Committee:

2015 Annual Conference Organising Committee
Conference Convenor – Jon Hosking
Ann Bonner (Chair – Scientific Committee), Lynn Brown, Debbie Forthum, Lee Hayes, Anna Lee, Lois Johnston, Maxine Liles, Kirsten Passaris, Tiffany Whittington

2015 Scientific Committee
Chair: Ann Bonner
The committee membership of 13 was comprised of clinicians, educators, industry representative and academics.
**Best Abstract**

**Author:** Jac Kee Low, Allison Williams, Elizabeth Manias, Kimberley Crawford  
**Title:** The making of a stories-based DVD to support medication adherence in kidney transplantation.

**Best Paper Novice**

**Authors:** Jac Kee Low, Allison Williams, Elizabeth Manias, Kimberley Crawford  
**Title:** The making of a stories-based DVD to support medication adherence in kidney transplantation.

**Best Paper Advanced**

**Author:** Jon Hosking  
**Title:** WA is going for GOLD: developing a multiple cannulation renal nurse sensitive indicator in Western Australia.

**Best Paper Research**

**Author:** Bronwyn Hayes, Ann Bonner, Clint Douglas  
**Title:** “They are like family”: the emotional cost experienced by nurses when caring for haemodialysis patients.

**Best Poster**

**Author:** Ann Kruger, Anne Arnold  
**Title:** Carboxymaltose efficacy with the peritoneal dialysis and CKD population: one unit’s experience

**People’s Choice – Best Oral**

**Author:** Pauline Otieno  
**Title:** Challenges associated with working as an overseas qualified nurse with indigenous Australians: a personal reflection.

**People’s Choice – Best Poster**

**Author:** Kelly Adams  
**Title:** National standards in dialysis units: our experience with pressure injury prevention.
Renal Society of Australasia Journal – RSAJ

Editor-in-Chief
Paul Bennett; Melissa Chamney (incoming)

Three issues of the RSAJ were published, in addition to the Conference Abstracts supplement. We would like to thank Cambridge Media for their ongoing support in publishing the RSAJ.

We would like to thank Paul Bennett for his leadership as Editor-in-Chief for the past ten years, up until December 2015. We welcomed Melissa Chamney as our new Editor-in-Chief in January 2016.

Associate Editors:
We would like to thank our RSAJ Associate Editors and the Editorial Advisory Board:
Ann Bonner, Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh, Allison Williams

Editorial Advisory Board:
Abdelbasit Ayoub, Suzie Burford, Katrina Campbell, Sandra Campbell-Crofts, Josephine Chow, Melissa Chamney, Fredric Doss, Leanne Evans, Bronwyn Hayes, Barbara Harvie, Tim Hewitson, Cheryl Hyde, Kathy Kable, Althea Mahon, Anna Lee, Rachael Morton, Nick Polaschek, Monica Schoch, John Sedgwick, Rosie Simmonds, Peter Sinclair, Tony Skipper, Melissa Stanley, Charlotte Thomas-Hawkins, Sally Wellard, Yvonne White.

Biostatistician: Kylie Lange

RSAJ List of Articles

July 2015:
- The rise and fall of Kt/V: lessons of evidence for dialysis nursing: Bennett PN, Rosman J.
- Acute kidney injury secondary to Eastern Brown snake (Pseudonaja textilis) bite: a case study: Zornig B.
- PREPARE Study: Patient satisfaction survey with CRE provided in the low clearance clinic: Best J, & Bonner A.
- A clinical audit to compare peritonitis rates between peritoneal dialysis delivery systems: Williams L, Douglas C, Bonner A, Williams N & Ranganathan D.
- "Let's keep close": Increasing peritoneal dialysis service effectiveness through bridging the gap between patient and provider: Varitsakui R & Sindhu S.
- Nephrology Educators' Network Continuing Professional Development Series: Utilising point of care ultrasound for vascular access in haemodialysis: Schoch ML, Du Toit D, Marticorena M & Sinclair P.

November 2015:
- Is it time to stop researching nurse to patient ratios? Bennett PN, Whittington T.
- Research and patient-centred care – the SoLID trial experience; Ostapowicz T.
- Foot screening in a dialysis unit – a pilot educational project; Leo J and Nicholls K.
- Discovering tandem plasma exchange and haemodialysis: a single-centre, 18-month experience; Henson A.
- Assessing patient suitability for peritoneal dialysis; Tregaskis P, Sinclair PM, Lee A.
- Challenges in methods and availability of transport for dialysis patients; Smith S, Fortnum D, Ludlow M, Mathew T & Toy L.
- Lupus nephritis: a nursing perspective; Jose S.

March 2016:
- Editorial – Breaking News, Chamney M.
- The hidden burden of high-flow fistulae in a home haemodialysis programme: outcomes of initiating arteriovenous fistula monitoring in the home haemodialysis population; Chapman F, Nicdao MA, Kairaitis L.
- Building cultural bridges and two-way understanding: working with Australian Aboriginal people within mainstream renal services; Rix EF, Moran C, Kapeen R, Wilson S.
- Advance care planning in nephrology care; Bradshaw W, Smith K, Sinclair PM.
- Nephrology nursing publications: topics and research methods; Bennett PN.
Communique

Editor: Melissa Stanley

Communique is the official newsletter of the RSA. It is published online three times per year, and provides a forum for RSA members to publish research (particularly from new and first-time authors), announce meetings, workshops and other events, and to stay informed on all issues relevant to renal care. Each issue is presented by one or two branches, which ensures that members from each branch have the opportunity to have their work published. We would like to thank Cambridge Media for their support in publishing Communique.

JBI Expert Reference Group

Co-chairs: Tiffany Whittington, Paul Bennett/Ann Bonner
Josephine Chow, Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh, Debbie Fortnum, Jon Hosking, Anna Lee, Jane van der Jeugd, Matthew Stephenson (JBI), Rachael Walker, Allison Williams

JBI Renal Node

The JBI renal node is a partnership between RSA and the Joanna Briggs Institute, whereby the body of knowledge in evidence-based renal care is developed. Our members have free access to the resources, which are available online. We would like to thank Amgen for their significant financial contribution to the Node, which has allowed us to develop many high-quality evidence summaries.
Education Committee

2015 has been a year of transition for the RSA from an education perspective. We have made some significant changes to future-proof the work that was done by the NEN and integrate it into the RSA. The RSA Education Committee was formed to support the vision and objectives of the RSA, develop a national education strategy and annual program of events, and to coordinate the delivery of education that is relevant to member education needs using contemporary educational initiatives.

In October 2015, we launched our first webinar. Webinars are member-only online education events. Members can attend from anywhere in the world where there is internet access. To date, we have presented six webinars, and have had extremely positive feedback from members. We will present four more webinars this year, and have some highly regarded presenters lined up. The webinars will soon be available for viewing by RSA members via the ONE e-learning portal.

2016 has seen some changes that we have been working on behind the scenes for almost a year now, changes that will place our learning resources on the international stage. Our RSA online shop will be opening in the second half of 2016. This is where we will be making education resources available for purchase. RSA members will either have free access or substantially discounted access to a number of new professional development resources. Non members will also be able to purchase resources, however this will be at an increased cost.

The Journal Club is undergoing a facelift by our Journal Club editor, Lynn Brown, along with Pete Sinclair and will be launched later in 2016.

We will also be providing online access to the best presentations from branch workshops, meetings and RSA webinars. These will be in the form of MP3 files and the accompanying lecture notes/PowerPoint files. We will also begin the massive job that is the revamp of all of the e-learning programs on ONE so that they are multi-device compatible. (Yes, we listened to those of you who want to do your e-learning on iPads!)

Finally, we plan to launch our YouTube channel later this year, where RSA members will be able to access short presentations on a range of topics.

I would like to thank our Education Committee members for their ongoing commitment to ensuring that we continue to make high quality renal education available to our members.

Chair: Peter Sinclair

Members: Wendi Bradshaw, Lynn Brown, Debbie Fortnum, Joanne Kok, Perambalam Pattabhiraman, Monica Schoch.

Webinars:

- Clinical Trials: What is the Point?
- Practical Aspects in Starting and Sustaining an Intradialytic Exercise Program – sponsored by Exercise & Sports Science Australia
- Does the Early Diagnosis of CKD Really Matter?
- Green Dialysis
- Why Don’t Our Patients Listen to Us?
- Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease

We would like to thank our webinar provider, Redback, for their assistance and support.
Nephrology Educators’ Network

The Nephrology Educators’ Network (NEN) has been a special interest group of the RSA since its inception in 2007. Since then we have worked tirelessly to develop e-learning programs for the benefit of all renal staff. These programs have now been transferred to the RSA Education Committee to oversee, so that the NEN can return to its original purpose – to support renal educators in their role.

The aim of the NEN is to provide renal educators with support and an environment where they are able to share ideas, collaborate on tasks and network with each other, and avoid ‘working in silos’ or wasting time ‘reinventing the wheel’.

RSA members who become part of NEN gain access to a discussion board monitored by experts in education and simulation, which can lead to:

- Networking with peers
- Sharing of ideas
- Sharing of education resources
- Learning new ways to educate

NEN also has dedicated social media pages on Facebook and Twitter to share ideas and ask questions in an informal environment.

The NEN also runs masterclasses and symposia, which showcase world-class speakers and workshops geared specifically to educators.

If you are a renal educator, or someone who has an education component within your renal nursing or allied health role and would like to join the NEN please contact Lynn Brown.

Research Special Interest Group

Arising out of the 2015-18 Strategic Plan, the Research Special Interest Group formed in May 2016. The role of the SIG is to support the vision and objectives of the RSA, develop an Australasian research strategy, and to collaborate with research organisations to advance nursing and allied health research into kidney disease and associated treatments and interventions. We are pleased to have a representative from the Australasian Kidney Trials Network on the SIG in an advisory capacity.

Chair: Bronwyn Hayes


Other Committees

2016 Annual Conference Organising Committee

Chair: Karen Mills

Ann Bonner (Chair – Scientific Committee), Angela Henson, Andrea Rolfe, Kirsten Passaris, Peter Sinclair, Tiffany Whittington

Representatives on External Committees

We would like to thank the following RSA members who represent us on external committees:

ANZDATA: Kathy Hill
Caring for Australasians with Renal Impairment: Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh
Coalition of National Nursing and Midwifery Organisations: Beth Hore
Dialysis, Nephrology and Transplant: Allyson Manley
Home Dialysis Advisory Committee: Jo-Anne Moodie; Maria Safe
Kidney Check Australia Taskforce: Annette Bezzant