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### Contact us
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PO Box 7345 Beaumaris, VIC Australia 3193  
P: 1300 941 480 | E: office@renalsociety.org  
www.renalsociety.org
Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2016-17 RSA Annual Report. We have much to celebrate in this report.

In June 2016, I stepped into the President’s role, filling the role that Kirsten Passaris so capably held for six years. Being mid-way through our three-year Strategic Plan, much work had already been undertaken to build a stronger RSA.

As part of our governance changes that began in 2015, our Financial Year has now changed to 1 April – 31 March. This means that we have recently completed a nine-month financial year, thus this Annual Report covers the period 1 July 2016 – 31 March 2017.

During this nine-month period, we experienced unprecedented growth in our membership. Membership grew from 1,567 on 1 July 2016, to 1,827 on 31 March 2017.

One of the highlights of our year was to commence a partnership with the University of Tasmania, whereby we can offer our members HECS-free postgraduate renal nursing scholarships. Over 200 members have taken advantage of this offer, which is possible through the generosity of the University. It is wonderful to be able to offer this benefit, so that our members can advance the care of people with kidney disease.

Our other member benefits, such as Branch education events, webinars, the RSAJ and our Annual Conference continue to provide members with great value.

In closing, I would like to say that the RSA would not be what it is today without the tireless contribution of an army of volunteers. Throughout this Annual Report, you will read about the contributions of many of our volunteers, who together contribute thousands of hours of work.

Fiona Donnelly, RSA President

Executive Officer’s Report

As the Executive Officer (EO), my role is to work with the Board to progress the RSA towards achieving its strategic goals. 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.

2016-17 has been a time of strengthening and embedding the significant work undertaken in 2015-16. Enhancing the value of RSA membership is always high on our agenda. We aim to introduce one new member benefit each year, and in 2016-17 we were thrilled to introduce HECS-free postgraduate renal nursing scholarships.

Another key focus of my position in this time has been to enhance the strategic partnerships that the RSA holds with other organisations. We liaise with many organisations who share our mission to advance the care of people with kidney disease.

On behalf of the team at the RSA Office, I would like to thank the RSA Board, in particular our President, Fiona Donnelly and Vice President, Jon Hosking, who have 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.

Marnie Grace, RSA Executive Officer
RSA Board of Directors, 2016-17

President: Fiona Donnelly  
Vice President: Jon Hosking  
Kathy Hill, Karen Mills, Debbie Pugh, Peter Sinclair, Gillian Treloar, Debbie Turner, Tiffany Whittington

In June 2016, we welcomed Kathy Hill and Debbie Turner to the Board, to replace Sandie Aguiar and Rose Mace, who both completed their terms. We also farewelled Kirsten Passaris, after many years on the Board and six years as President.

RSA Mission
Advancing the care of people with kidney disease.

RSA 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 are now entering the third and final year of our three-year Strategic Plan, and are well on the way to achieving our objectives. So far, we have achieved a great deal, and the final year of our plan will focus on embedding and monitoring the initiatives that we have put in place. 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

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

The Future Directions Forum is an integral part of the RSA’s governance structure. It is an advisory group, comprising one member from each branch, committee and special interest group. Chaired by the Board President, 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 2016 Future Directions Forum representatives:
Madeleine Balcombe (Vic), Lynn Brown (NEN), Carol Chadwick (Tas), Debbie Fortnum (WA), Robyn Rogers (Qld), Peter Sinclair (Education Committee), Kirsty Musgrave (NSW/ACT), Linda Thorburn (SA/NT), Miranda Walker (NZ)

Membership

During 2016-17, membership rose to new heights. In February 2017, we welcomed our 1800th member. Membership grew 16.6% over the nine months ending 31 March 2017.
95% of our members are nurses, with a smaller yet important percentage of members from allied health disciplines and academia.

It is especially good to see membership growth in our younger age groups, as these members are our future leaders.
We are rising to the challenge of ensuring that our member benefits remain relevant to all age groups and specialties and disciplines, and plan to introduce at least one new member benefit per year.

Life Members

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. In June 2016, the RSA welcomed Ann Bonner as its newest Life Member. Ann is the Professor of Nursing at the School of Nursing at Queensland University of Technology and Visiting Fellow in the Renal Department of Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital where she established the Renal Nursing Professorial Unit. Ann has over 25 years in renal nursing with experience in clinical, teaching, supervision of doctoral candidates and research. She has a PhD into the acquisition of expertise by nephrology nurses. Ann has been a member of the RSA since 1988.

Ann is recognised nationally and internationally as an expert renal nurse with more than 70 publications both in textbook and journals; the majority being renal related. She is also an Associate Editor and Editorial Board Member for the RSAJ, inaugural and outgoing Chair of the RSA Scientific Committee. Her commitment and leadership within the Scientific Committee has led to a marked improvement in the quality of the abstracts and therefore the program at the RSA Annual Conference program. She is reviewer for several national and international journals and a regular contributor to the RSAJ.

There are few people who have provided more leadership, passion and time to the RSA and the renal community as a whole. We should be proud to have such a person to be a member of our organisation

RSA’s Life Members are:
- Paul Bennett
- Ann Bonner
- Adrian Buttimore
- Sue Evans
- Ted Farnsworth
- Kate North
- Glenn Stewart

Industry Partners and Sponsors

We would like to thank all of our industry partners and sponsors, without whom, we would not be able to deliver the high-quality education that the RSA is renowned for. They are listed throughout this report, alongside the events that they supported.
Award, Scholarship and Grant recipients 2016

RSA Award
This prestigious award recognises those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution and commitment to the RSA and renal communities at a local and/or Australasian level. Selection criteria include continuous membership of the RSA, evidence of high standards of practice and outstanding commitment to the RSA. The RSA Award recipient is chosen from individual branch and federal nominations.

The RSA Award 2016 was conferred on Jon Hosking.

Recipients of the Branch / Federal nominations were:
- NSW/ACT – Debbie Pugh
- NZ – Not awarded
- Qld – Anne Graham (posthumous)
- SA/NT – Fiona Donnelly
- Tas – Jennifer Reynolds
- Vic – Yogarani Jeyakumar
- WA – Jon Hosking
- Federal nomination – Monica Schoch

Graham Burnley Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Baxter Healthcare ANZ

The Graham Burnley Memorial Scholarship Fund, supported financially by Baxter Healthcare Pty Ltd ANZ once again in 2016, aims to foster quality care and services for individuals with kidney disease through financial support for professional activities initiated by renal health care professionals. A scholarship of $6000 is awarded to the successful applicant (shared between applicants if it is awarded to more than one).

Joint recipients: Lucy Spencer
Ginger Chu

Birgit Munro Memorial Scholarship

The Birgit Munro Memorial Scholarship was established to honour the memory of Birgit Munro, a renal nurse who died in 1992, aged 36, after a sudden illness. The Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by Birgit’s family, friends, and renal groups with which she had been associated. The fund is now administered through the Victoria Branch of the Renal Society of Australasia and by three fund trustees.

Recipient: Yogarani Jeyakumar

Larelle Bryce Memorial Prize

The Larelle Bryce Memorial Prize is presented each year to an RSA member for an outstanding article submitted to and published in Communiqué. It is awarded to a current RSA member based on their contribution being well written, offering new ideas, making a significant contribution to the field, arousing interest or stimulating debate.

The prize was established by the RSA Board in memory of Ms Larelle Bryce, our Editorial Coordinator, who died from a chronic illness in July 2008 at 44 years of age. Larelle was the RSA’s editorial coordinator for 10 years, establishing and maintaining vital relationships with publishers and utilising her editorial talents.

Recipient: Emil Tabbada, for his submission “Incorporating indigenous learning strengths in teaching self-care haemodialysis.”

International Travel Grants

Each calendar year, the RSA awards funding of up to $3,000 to three individual RSA members to support their attendance at a renal-related international conference. Applicants must demonstrate both a previous and ongoing commitment to the RSA and associated activities, outline their objectives and aims of attending the conference including relevance to current nursing practice and potential benefit to the renal community.

Recipients: Dr Bronwyn Hayes
Kay McLaughlin
Maree Ross-Smith
Our Branches

The RSA has seven Branches, who 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.

Our Branches are in:
- New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory
- New Zealand
- Queensland
- South Australia / Northern Territory
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- Western Australia

We thank and commend all of our members who have served 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 served on their Branch committee within the 2016-17 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: Kirsty Musgrave

Committee: Jenny Lawrence, Khin Myint, Lisa Paquin, Perambalam Pattabhiraman

Branch education evening: An update on the changes in the management of Hepatitis C and a presentation on the challenges of providing renal replacement therapy for the elderly, 27 July 2016.

Annual Education Day: Nephrology Education Day, 4 November 2016

Sponsors: Alexion, Amgen, Astellas Transplant, Nipro, Shire, Roche

Branch education evening: Modern practices and future directions for the renal patient / Heart failure and renal impairment, 8 February 2017

Sponsor: Sanofi

Branch education evening: Vascular Access, 19 April 2017

Sponsor: Sanofi

NZ Branch

Chair: Fredric Doss

Committee: Blair Donkin, Emma Marsh, Fakaola Otuafi, Jason Wei


Gold sponsor: Fresenius

Silver sponsors: Baxter, NZMS Medical, TekMed

Bronze sponsors: Bard, Covidien, Diaverum NZ, SC Bio

Sponsors: Aspen, Sanofi, Sonosite

Queensland Branch

Chair: Karen Mills

Committee: Veronica Oliver, Robyn Rogers, Cassandra Stone, Sally Turner

Branch Education videoconference: An exploration of health rights for indigenous patients in renal care, 16 August 2016

Annual symposium: From Outback to Reef, 12 November 2016

Sponsors: Astellas, Fresenius, Medtronic, Nipro, Alexion, Amgen, Baxter, Roche

Branch Education videoconference: Compassion Literacy, 16 February 2016

Branch Education Videoconference: Strategies to improve vascular access outcomes, 21 February 2017

Sponsor: Sanofi

Branch Education Videoconference: Getting office workers to Stand Up, Sit Less and Move More, 16 May 2017
SA/NT Branch

Chair: Linda Thorburn

Committee: Monique Borlace, Anne Britton, Dylan Carter, Jan Dairesco, Jo Lindsay, Laura Lunardi, Jane Maberley, Lynn Phillips, Susan Robertson, Debbie Turner

Branch education day: Renal Anaemia Workshop, 22 July 2016.

Sponsors: Amgen, Fresenius, Hartley Dialysis Clinic, Janssen, Sanofi

Branch education evening: Cardiovascular and vascular complications in the renal population, 3 August 2016

Sponsors: Amgen, Sanofi

Branch education evening: Transplant challenges, 10 November 2016

Sponsors: Amgen, Fresenius, Sanofi

Branch education evening: Outback to City, 23 March 2017

Sponsor: Sanofi

Tasmania Branch

Chair: Carol Chadwick

Committee: Melinda Hay

Branch education day: Dialysis Matters, 15 October 2016

Sponsors: Roche, Baxter

Branch education day: The Renal journey – what our patients may experience, 8 April 2017

Sponsors: Sanofi, Roche

Victoria Branch

Chair: Mechelle Seneviratne

Committee: Madeleine Balcombe, Jane Crossett, Siew Eng Foo, Peter Southon, Lisa Wang

Branch education day: Peritoneal Dialysis Education for nurses and carers of patients who perform PD, 20 August 2016

Sponsors: Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, Sanofi

Branch education day: Home and hospital based haemodialysis: demand versus supply, 29 October 2016

Sponsors: Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, Sanofi, Nipro, Bard

Branch education day: Transplant study day, 18 February 2017

Sponsors: Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, Sanofi, Astellas Transplant

WA Branch

Chair: Debbie Fortnum

Committee: Lois Johnston, Nicola Rowland, Michelle Waugh, John Yung, Deanne Zyla

Branch education day: Peritoneal Dialysis: Overview of the basics of peritoneal dialysis, 31 October 2016

Sponsors: Amgen, Sanofi

Annual Symposium: Cultivating New Growth and Ideas, 20 August 2016

Sponsors: Amgen, Baxter, Fresenius, Sanofi, Diaverum, Nipro, Western Biomedical
The 2016 RSA Annual Conference was a wonderful success, and the highlight of the year. Held at the Sea World Conference Centre, it attracted over 500 delegates. The Annual Conference ran from Monday 20 to Wednesday 22 June, with pre-conference masterclasses and the HOME Network Symposium held on Sunday 19 June.

The Annual Conference theme was “From evidence to excellence: New heights in renal care”. This theme was the inspiration behind the motivational keynote speakers included in the program with mountaineer Gavin Vickers opening the conference and patient and singer Janelle Colquhoun closing the conference.

Two workshops were held in conjunction with the education program. These workshops provided delegates with the opportunity to learn techniques in a small, hands on environment:
- Motivational Interviewing Workshop – two part workshop with a morning and afternoon session
- Vascular Access Workshop – two opportunities for delegates to attend this workshop

The RSA Gala Dinner was held at Movie World, and was certainly a night to remember. It commenced with drinks and canapes served at the Fountain of Fame, with guests being greeted by Austin Powers and Marilyn Monroe. Guests were welcomed to ride the Justice League ride, then were invited to take a seat for entrée and main course in the Star’s Pavilion. Following main course, Scooby and Shaggy led delegates to the Scooby Doo Castle for a dessert buffet and after party, complete with band and photobooth.

Additionally, the RSA’s Annual General Meeting, Awards Ceremony and an exhibitor breakfast were held during the Annual Conference.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors and exhibitors, without whom we would not be able to run our Annual Conference:
- Premium Partners: Fresenius Medical Care
- Partner Plus: Baxter, Sanofi
- Partners: Astellas, Fujifilm Sonosite, Nipro Australia
- Sponsors: Queensland University of Technology, Shire

We would also like to thank our conference organisers, Association Professionals, for organising such a highly successful Annual Conference.

Special thanks must go to our hard-working Organising Committee and Scientific Committee, all of whom worked tirelessly in a volunteer capacity:

**2016 Annual Conference Organising Committee**

**Conference Convenor:** Karen Mills

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

**2016 Scientific Committee**

**Chair:** Ann Bonner

The committee membership of 12 was comprised of clinicians, educators, industry representative and academics.
2016 Annual Conference Awards

Best Abstract
Author: Gillian Gorham
Title: Analysis of longitudinal clinical data to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of a CKD program.

Best Paper Novice
Authors: Hanna Miller, Vicki Smith, Rosie Simmonds
Title: Empowering the home haemodialysis patient with vascular access ultrasound.

Best Paper Advanced
Author: Julie Tondello, Greg Collette
Title: Could your fistula rupture?

Best Paper Research
Author: Ann Bonner, Katina Corones, Katrina Campbell, Bronwyn Hayes, Barbara Harvie, Jaimon Kelly, Kerri Gillespie, Kathryn Havas
Title: Opportunities for technology use for self-management in chronic kidney disease: the TELI-CKD study.

Best Poster
Author: Bingqin Ma, Tim Hewitson, Jamie Rutherford, Hasija Salihovic, Virginia Ocampo, Jenny Beavis
Title: Prospective comparison of a transparent film dressing and gauze dressing for central venous catheter exit sites in an acute haemodialysis population.

People’s Choice – Best Oral
Author: Julie Tondello, Greg Collette
Title: Could your fistula rupture?

People’s Choice – Best Poster
Author: Judy Bell, Stephanie Mengel, Samantha Woodhouse
Title: Innovative activity calendar in a satellite renal haemodialysis unit.
Three issues of the RSAJ were published, in addition to the Annual Conference Abstracts supplement. We would like to thank Cambridge Media for their ongoing support in publishing the RSAJ.

We would like to thank our RSAJ Associate Editors and the Editorial Advisory Board:

**Associate Editors:**
Dr Ann Bonner, Dr Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh

**Editorial Advisory Board:**
Dr Abdelbasit Ayoub (UAE), Dr Paul Bennett (USA), Suzie Burford (HK), Dr Katrina Campbell, Dr Josephine Chow, Fredric Doss (NZ), Leanne Evans, Barbara Harvie, Dr Bronwyn Hayes, Dr Tim Hewitson, Jon Hosking (NZ), Cheryl Hyde, Dr Julia Jones (UK), Kathy Kable, Anna Lee, Althea Mahon, Deborah Rowe, Monica Schoch, John Sedgewick (KSA), Rosie Simmonds, Peter Sinclair, Melissa Stanley, Dr Charlotte Thomas-Hawkins (USA), Yvonne White.

**Book Review Editor:** Dr Shelley Tranter

**Biostatistician:** Kylie Lange

**RSAJ List of Articles**

**Volume 12, Number 2: July 2016:**
- Nicdao MA, Kim J, Baldacchino T, Hyun, JY, Mikaeal M, Patekar A & Sud K; ‘My Home Hemo’ app – a new telehealth tool for remote monitoring of patients on haemodialysis
- Kelly J, Wilden C, Herman K, Martin G, Russell C & Brown S; Bottling knowledge and sharing it – using patient journey mapping to build evidence and improve Aboriginal renal patient care
- Tranter S, What informs decisions regarding home dialysis: a qualitative descriptive study of patients from Greek backgrounds in a hospital-based haemodialysis unit
- Stephenson MD & Sinclair PM, Haemodialysis in patients at high risk of bleeding
- Book reviews:
  - Martinez-Smith Y, Buttonhole cannulation: Current prospects and challenges, and
  - Burford SJ, Acute kidney injury – From diagnosis to care contributions to nephrology, Volume 187

**Volume 12, Number 3: November 2016:**
- Lee A, Penn K, Hand C & Dobson S; Taping of dialysis needles and securing of lines for patients on haemodialysis – a quality project
- Mafara K, Magarey J & Rasmussen P; The lived experience of haemodialysis patients who have had a new arteriovenous fistula cannulated in a satellite unit
- Chow J, Collingridge L, Equinox K, Frasca S, Simmonds R, Tomlins M & Wheeler K; Identifying factors associated with the uptake of home dialysis: observational study methodology
- Henson A & Jeffrey C; Turning a clinical question into nursing research: the benefits of a pilot study
- Book review: Care of patients with kidney disease who have other long-term conditions: A guide to clinical practice – edited by N Thomas

**Volume 13, Number 1: March 2017:**
- Tan T, Brennan F & Brown M; Impact of dialysis on symptom burden and functional state in the elderly
- Smith V & Wise K; Evaluating nurses’ action outcomes and exploring their perspectives of implementing the POS-S (Renal) assessment tool for haemodialysis patients
- Stephenson M D, Oliver V & Bradshaw W; Evidence-based strategies for improving dialysis recovery time and managing post-dialysis fatigue
- Holwell A, Sajiv C, Barzi F, Brady S & Hughes J T; Rapid progression of chronic kidney disease in five years prior to haemodialysis initiation in Central Australia
Communiqué

Editor: Melissa Stanley

Communiqué 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 and quality projects (particularly from new and first-time authors), and to stay informed on all issues relevant to renal care. Each issue is presented by one or two RSA 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 Communiqué.

JBI Expert Reference Group

Co-chairs: Tiffany Whittington, 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.

2017 Annual Conference

Organising Committee

Chair: Debbie Pugh

Ann Bonner, Lynn Brown, Fiona Donnelly, Bronwyn Hayes (Chair – Scientific Committee), Debbie Knagge, Kirsten Passaris, Perambalam Pattabhiraman

Professional Conference Organisers: Association Professionals
Education Committee

Chair: Peter Sinclair

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

2016/2017 has been a challenging period for the education team. We had lofty goals and hoped to see the RSA online shop and the relaunch of ONE in the 4th quarter of 2016. The RSA online shop will be linked to ONE and 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 RSA webinar series have been well patronised with an average attendance of 61 at each of six webinars offered. We are still working on getting the webinars hosted into ONE so that they can be viewed by a wider audience. The Journal Club has undergone a facelift by our Journal Club editor, Lynn Brown and is awaiting the relaunch. Wendi Bradshaw has assumed the mantle for NEN CPD series in the RSA Journal and you will have seen these in the last few editions of the journal. Wendi is always looking for people who would like to contribute with the CPD series. The online shop will also be providing members access to the best presentations from branch workshops, meetings and RSA webinars. These will be in the form of MP3 files and have accompanying lecture notes/PowerPoint files.

After ten years since forming the Nephrology Educators’ Network with an amazing team and then the move to the RSA to continue our work, I am stepping down to take a break. I would like to thank everyone who has worked to improve the standard of renal education in Australasia. You all know who you are, to name you individually would take a few pages! Highlights for me have been the amazing work done in simulation and mask ed, the joys of creating world first animations and those crazy early days when we all talked on the phone, emailed each other, had a great community of practice and only met in person when we held the first NEN Symposium in Sydney. Thanks to all the pharmaceutical and medical equipment companies who supported our vision, especially on the things that were high risk and not done before. I hope you were happy with what we delivered.

I will finish by saying: education resources and opportunities occur through the hard work and commitment of volunteers. If you have great ideas that would contribute to maintaining or improving the standard of the education opportunities offered by the RSA, then please consider volunteering. The RSA would love to have your input and fresh faces brings new and exciting opportunities.

As my kids say… Drop the Mic.

Pete Sinclair

Outgoing RSA External Director and RSA Education Committee Chair

Webinars

The Education Committee facilitated the presentation of the following webinars in the nine months 2016-17:

- Renal Diet: What you need to know, presented by Arian Chong, 67 attendees
- Minimising Intradialytic Hypotension: the Evidence, presented by Wendi Bradshaw, 82 attendees
- Renal Brain does exist: how cognitive impairment impacts learning in renal patients, presented by Kelly Lambert, 97 attendees
- Violence and aggression in the workplace, presented by Dr Sandra Richardson, 44 attendees
- Pregnancy and Renal Disease – Expecting the Unexpected, presented by Annette Bezzant, 46 attendees

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

The Nephrology Educators’ Network (NEN) was formed in 2007 and has been a special interest group of the RSA since 2009. Since then we have worked 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, leaving the NEN to its original purpose to support renal educators.

The aim of the NEN is to provide renal educators with an environment where they are able to share ideas, collaborate, and network with each other. By working in such a fashion, we have the opportunity to avoid ‘working in silos’ and ‘reinventing the wheel’.

RSA members who become part of NEN can access a professional discussion board shared by renal nurses and educators. This enables networking with peers, sharing of ideas, and sharing of education resources.

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

The NEN has also run masterclasses and symposia, which showcased world-class speakers and workshops geared towards educators and those interested in clinical education.

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: lynn.brown@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au, Monica Schoch: monica.schoch@deakin.edu.au or the RSA office.

Research Special Interest Group

For the RSA Research Special Interest Group, 2016-17 was a year of finding our feet. With a large and diverse group of members, it was going to take time to develop a foundation on which to grow research in the RSA. After spending time getting to know the strengths and ambitions of everyone in the RSIG, it became apparent that there were two quite distinct groups of people – those who were experienced and published researchers, and those who were just dipping their toes into the research waters and needed guidance and structure. We needed to find a way to meet the needs of both of these groups.

Although we did not achieve all of our goals this year, we are confident that we have a way forward for 2017-18. We will be focusing on developing a research strategy, and building relationships with key strategic partners to enable the RSA to support renal researchers across Australia and New Zealand.

Finally, we are excited to be launching our RSA Research Grant at the 2017 Annual Conference. Building on the success of the former Queensland Branch Research Grant, we have transitioned this grant into one that is open to all RSA members. We hope that over the years, the grant can assist some of our up and coming and seasoned researchers to advance the care of people with kidney disease.

Chair: Bronwyn Hayes

Representatives on External Committees

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

ANZDATA: Kathy Hill
ANZSN Dialysis Advisory Committee: Maria Safe, Monique Borlace
ANZSN Green Nephrology Action Team: Craig Sumpner-Johnston, Anthea White
Coalition of National Nursing and Midwifery Organisations: Lucy Spencer, Peter Sinclair

KHA-CARI (Caring for Australasians with Renal Impairment): Wendi Bradshaw, Debbie Fortnum
New Zealand Renal Advisory Board: Mark Hodge, Kay McLaughlin
Primary Care Education Advisory Committee for KHA (PEAK): Barbara Harvie
Victorian Renal Clinical Network: Lesley Ross