The Birgit Munro Memorial Scholarship Fund
Call for Applications 2015

The Victorian Branch of the Renal Society of Australasia, and the trustees of the Birgit Munro Memorial Scholarship Fund, hereby call for applications for the year 2015.

The objective of the fund is "To promote and encourage the betterment and education of nurses specialising in or employed in renal care, by offering financial support". One award will be offered each year (depending on availability of funds), for a workplace project or research project, travel grant, or for conference registration for applicants who are presenting at the conference. Applicants must be members of the RSA.

The closing date for 2015 is 15th April, 2015. The award will be announced at the RSA Annual Conference in Perth, WA, 15th – 17th June, 2015.

Future closing dates will be two calendar months prior to the RSA Annual Conference.

Guidelines and application appear below.
**Birgit Munro**

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. Birgit began her renal nursing career early in the 1980's at Prince Henry's Hospital in Melbourne, as a Peritoneal Dialysis nurse. Her skills in nursing, and her commitment to patient care, resulted in her appointment just over a year later, to the position of nurse in charge of the Peritoneal Dialysis Unit.

In 1986, Birgit was the recipient of the prestigious Hoadley Scholarship, awarded annually to a staff member of Prince Henry’s Hospital. This enabled her to travel to Europe to study new developments in peritoneal dialysis. Following the closure of Prince Henry’s, Birgit continued her renal nursing career at Monash Medical Centre.

Birgit wrote many scientific papers, and was a regular presenter at conferences, receiving awards for several of her presentations. She was elected to the Council of the International Society of Peritoneal Dialysis, as the nursing representative of all peritoneal dialysis units in the world. She was an active member of local renal nursing groups, President of the RSA (Victorian branch) in 1986, and secretary of the Victorian ANF Renal Special Interest Group from 1989 until her death. 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 Victorian Branch of the Renal Society of Australasia, by 3 fund trustees.
GUIDELINES

OBJECTIVE

To promote and encourage the betterment and education of nurses specialising in or employed in renal care, by offering financial support.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Current membership of the Renal Society of Australasia, hereafter to be referred to as RSA;
   • employed in renal nursing (or employed as a nurse in teaching, research, or study in the area of renal care)

CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria -
• relevance to the field of renal nursing
• potential benefit to RSA, renal nursing, and/or renal patients
• potential benefit to renal nursing education

PURPOSE OF GRANT

The grant (average around $500 - $1000), will be offered each year as funds become available, to one applicant for the following purposes:

1. A workplace project or research project to benefit renal patients or nurses that would not normally be funded from unit operating budget;
2. A travel grant to assist the applicant to visit another unit, or to visit a centre of excellence in renal care;
3. A grant to attend a renal conference at which the applicant is a presenter. Proof of abstract acceptance is required with application (or can be forwarded after closing date).
4. Other projects will be considered if relevance to renal nursing and/or improved patient care can be demonstrated.
5. Application must include a brief outline of expected costs.

EXCLUSIONS:

Funds will not be provided for the following:
1. Private study (undergraduate or post graduate nursing courses, text books, course fees);
2. research projects undertaken as part of hospital or university course requirements;
3. conference fees or travel expenses for applicants who are not presenters at the conference;
4. applicants who have previously been awarded funding from BMMSF will not be considered again within a five year period, and not for the same project.
APPLICATION PROCESS

• Guidelines and Application form available only by download from the RSA website (www.renalsociety.org).
• Email your completed application to Peter Southon, Secretary, RSA (Vic. Branch), prior to the closing date, which is two calendar months prior to the RSA Annual Conference. For 2015, the closing date is 15th April, 2015.
• The Secretary will forward applications to the Trustees once membership of RSA has been verified.
• Applications will be reviewed by the Trustees. The Trustees, at their discretion, may ask an RSA member with relevant expertise to assist in the selection process.
• Decisions will be made on the consensus of a majority of the Trustees.
• Award will be announced at the RSA Annual conference.
• The application process is treated confidentially, however the RSA (Vic Branch) receives copies of all correspondence between the Trustees and applicants, both successful and unsuccessful.
• The trustees are responsible for administering the Trust monies in accordance with the Deed of Trust. If no applicant satisfies the criteria for a grant, no grant will be allocated in that year. If insufficient funds are available to make an award in any year, the Trustees reserve the right to withdraw the call for application from the RSA website. Decisions of the Trustees shall be final and binding on all matters.

REPORTS

Throughout her professional life, Birgit freely shared her knowledge and expertise with colleagues, and regularly presented at renal meetings. Although there is no formal reporting requirement, award recipients are encouraged to write a report for the RSA newsletter or journal if appropriate, or to present at their local RSA meeting or workplace, so that the benefit to renal nurses can be maximized.