



MARCH 2010

Hi. Welcome to our first newsletter for 2010. We would like to welcome you all to a new year and take this opportunity to thank our outgoing committee Melissa, Beth & Tracey for all their hard work. The new committee is busy planning for the year ahead and this starts with our first planned education evening in March. We would also like to introduce ourselves:

PRESIDENT

Chris Ellis



Chris is the Renal Transplant Coordinator at The Alfred Hospital. Christine has a clinical nursing background and has more twenty years experience in renal nursing. She commenced her nurse training at The Royal Melbourne Hospital 1983 and on completion commenced her nursing in the renal unit. It is there that she developed her skills and interest in renal transplantation. Christine became an active member of the Renal Society of Australasia, and was an Executive committee member (treasurer) 1992-3, presenting two papers at RSA conferences 1992 and 2005. Since commencing her role at The Alfred in 2002, Christine has completed the International Course for Organ Donor and Transplant Coordinators in Adelaide. She has been an active member of the Transplant Nurses Association since 2002, presenting papers at the 2003 and 2004 conference. Christine is looking forward to the challenge that comes with her newly appointed role as President Vic/Tas TNA branch and encourages members to attend education evenings and to contact us with any questions or suggestions for the year ahead.

SECRETARY

Elaine Kennedy

Completed apprenticeship style nurse training in Susan Boyle country – Bangour Village, Blackburn. And no Elaine cannot sing! Began her renal career in 1988 in Edinburgh, completed a renal course in London and then headed for Melbourne. Initially worked at Prince Henry's in the City and moved to Monash in 1991. Studied her Nursing Degree at Deakin University in Geelong and followed that up with a post grad in diabetes Education. Has worked in all areas, initially Renal ICU, then haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, the renal ward and from 2000 as Transplant Co-ordinator. During this time has presented papers at various conferences and published in the Transplant Nurses Journal. Has been a member of the TNA for almost 15 years and has finally made the Executive! Is on the Excell working committee for the CCCare program. Is looking forward to this year being the biggest and best yet for the TNA Victoria/Tasmania branch.

TREASURER

Laura Gasbarre



I've been nursing at the Austin Hospital since 2006. In 2007, I completed a post graduate in Acute Surgical Nursing. I've worked in the liver transplant unit on a leave cover basis since December 2008 as well as working as a CNS on the Liver Transplant, Gastroenterology & General Surgical ward at the Austin Hospital. I've completed numerous quality improvement projects within the area of transplantation and surgical nursing including the development of an encephalopathy assessment chart which has been used within Austin Health since 2008. I've been a member of TNA since August 2008. In 2009, I attended the TNA Annual Conference in Perth where I presented a poster on Small For Size Syndrome. I look forward to the year ahead as the newly appointed Victorian & Tasmanian treasurer and hope to meet some of you at our education nights this year.

EDUCATION SESSIONS FOR 2010

Our first Education Evening kicks off on March 10th. For the first time aspects of Tissue Typing is the discussion for the night with Linda Cantwell from VTIS and Dr. Shlomo Cohney from RMH kindly giving up their time and expertise. Please give them a warm welcome.

Other Education Evenings have yet to be finalized but we are planning to hold the next session in Tasmania. This will be the first in the Apple Isle and if you can please consider traveling down there to support this inaugural event.

If you haven't as yet presented at the sessions or know of a speaker whom you would like to attend then please let us know.

Anyway welcome to 2010 and let's make it a great year. Don't forget to check out the new website at www.tna.asn.au.

EXECUTIVE CONTACT DETAILS

President – Chris Ellis
9076 2823 (office)
9076 2000 pager 5125
9076 3494 fax
c.ellis@alfred.org.au

Secretary – Elaine Kennedy
9594 3441 (office)
9594 6666 pager 429
9594 6517 fax
elaine.kennedy@southernhealth.org.au

Treasurer – Laura Gasbarre
9496 3972 (office)
9496 3487 fax
Laura.GASBARRE@austin.org.au