

## **Minutes of the upper South Island NZATS 2009 meeting.**

Held at The Board Room Cafe Christchurch on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of September

The meeting was opened by Mark Somers “upper South Island NZATS representative” at 1900.

**Thanks to Intermed and representative Maryanne Cole** for their sponsorship and support.

**Present:** Kathy Campbell, Julianne Perry, Anne Robertson, Liz Windell, Renee Ellis, Amanda Foster, Andrew Sandison, Debbie Walsh, Dave Greasley, Andy Owen, Andrew Smith, Sarah Sonal, Mike Lucas, Will Morrish, Tiana Bastiaanse, Angela Parkin, Richard Pattenden and from the NZATS team – Cathie Hepworth, Mark Somers, Sian Mitchell and Karen Bennett.

**A warm welcome** extended to the NZATS executive.

**Previous minutes** from last year were distributed around the group and were agreed to be accurate and true.

**Mark Somers** welcomes Karen Bennett to speak.

**Karen Bennett speaks as NZATS chairperson.**

- NZATS conference to be held in Rotorua this year. The issue of the cost of sending anaesthetic technicians to conference was raised and the idea of having an account set up for this was put forth.
- Next years’ NZATS conference to be held in Christchurch.
- Conference in 2011 to be held in Auckland
- All trainees who recently sat the part I exam passed, part II to be held in Palmerston North.
- Extending scope of practice was discussed, no decision made as yet, but a consultation document is in progress to get a majority direction from the Membership.
- Special topic paper now in place for the Diploma.

- Regarding ODP's working in New Zealand – if they are not two years post qualifying they are provisionally registered. Within one year of working they must sit the NZ registration exam to gain full registration.
- A memorandum has been sent to the NZ Society of Anaesthetists, there are hopes of a formal relationship as collaboration will be of benefit.
- Apologies to delays with updating the NZATS website, encountering some difficulties with this.
- Workforce projection of anaesthetic technicians being examined, this affects funding and trainee numbers.
- There are some changes in constitution. There has been poor vote taking, new constitution on the website.
- Overseas work for New Zealand technicians, attempting to open more doors for this to happen as some have been escorted out by the HPC.
- Senior policy analyst Sue Einesen is looking at anaesthetic technicians becoming a registered body.
- Workplace assessors' course will be running on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December.
- Vacancy among the Executives for a Communications Officer, Tania Kennedy at present.
- Professional Development Portfolio, the main document for professional development template is on the NZATS website.

#### **Sian Mitchell speaks as AUT Liaison Officer**

- Special topic is now in place, first year running. Any feedback would be welcome.
- Problems with copying and pasting information in worksheets for trainees, this is not acceptable.
- Good feedback received from the AMERAT course attended by trainees.
- Problems with the pharmacology section of Anaesthesia III have arisen – to be addressed.

- National assessments, time for a review of these. A talk is also to come on anaesthetic machines.
- National assessors – new vacancies. Applicants must be five years post qualifying, expectation is that they teach on at least one block course and run national assessments.
- Technology manuals to be reviewed, particularly Anaesthetic Technology II.
- Anaesthesia III, a disease processes topic to be added. Are there any interests in writing this? Please forward interest. Contact details on the NZATS website.

**Mark Somers speaks** of Communication Officer Vacancy, there will be a postal ballot selection. Introduces applicant Mike Lucas.

**Mike Lucas speaks from Christchurch hospital**

Introduces self as Team Leader at Christchurch hospital. Expresses interest in the position of communication officer and believes he would like to take on this challenge in promoting NZATS and working on the NZATS newsletter.

**Q & A session with the group answered by the NZATS executive**

It is difficult to pay the registration fee, especially as this is not always reimbursed – can anything be done about this?

A. Will ask treasurer about monthly or quarterly payments.

What happens to those anaesthetic technicians who don't register?

A. They may have difficulty demonstrating they are anaesthetic technicians which could delay work.

What is the percentage of technicians registered with NZATS?

A. Around 75%

As charge technician, what can I do to encourage anaesthetic technicians to register?

A. Hopefully they will want to be part of a professional body, there are benefits from registration and it could be seen as potential insurance.

No further business was brought forward and meeting was announced closed by Mark Somers at 2000hrs.