

Chairpersons Report 2010 Annual General Meeting NZATS

6 meetings of the NZATS Executive were held following the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

Members of the Executive also attended Regional meetings throughout New Zealand to disseminate information, meet members and to listen to concerns and issues. I have found my attendance at Regional Meetings rewarding and a pleasure to attend.

There is a large list of people and organisations I would like to thank for their time and expertise over the past year. These include elected members of the Executive and the representatives from the NZNC of ANZCA, Dr Malcolm Stuart and the NZSA, Dr Andrew Warmington.

National Assessors, examiners for the Registration Exams, markers for AUT papers, the overseas Registration Committee, Work Place Assessors, Trade support and the many anaesthetic technicians and anaesthetists involved with block courses are all thanked for their contribution to our profession.

The Financial position of NZATS has been managed successfully with income received from registration, website advertising and overseas applications for membership. Later you will hear from the Treasurer, Mike Powell, how this year NZATS has donated equipment and provided education to the people of Rarotonga. NZATS has also financially assisted staff at MidCentral Health conducting research into determining vapour washout times for anaesthetic machines. We also made a donation to the Christchurch Earthquake fund. Again the Ministry of Health has indicated NZATS will provide initial financial support for the implementation of regulation for anaesthetic technicians. This money will however be returned to NZATS once registration applications are processed.

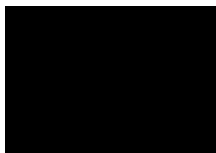
NZNO Representation

In June this year Karen Bennett and Cathie Hepworth met with representatives of the Perioperative College of the NZNO continuing the professional relationship between the two organisations.

HPCAA Regulation

Karen Bennett and I have met with the Ministry of Health representatives in May. We discussed that the Minister has acknowledged that the Director General of Health's previous recommendation that Anaesthetic Technicians be regulated under the HPCAA Act stood and discussed where anaesthetic technicians would best be placed.

The regulatory authority options within New Zealand and overseas models that would best suit the profession of anaesthetic technicians were discussed. It seems with most government procedures the wheels are turning slowly, however we will ensure members are notified when the government has made the official notification.



Extending Scope of Practice for Anaesthetic Technicians'

I sent out a consultation document earlier this year asking for comments from the membership with regards to extending the NZATS Scope of Practice. There was a very poor response to this. However the executive of NZATS has agreed to set up a working party to assess the feasibility and educational requirements for any extension to our scope encompassing accessibility to all anaesthetic technicians working in that role in NZ. The first meeting will take place tomorrow morning.

Training Hospitals

There are 24 hospitals recognised as NZATS approved training hospitals and this has not changed since 2008. 122 trainees have current registration with NZATS (only 2 more than last year at this time!).

Registration Examinations

Again there have been 2 registration examinations this year, with a pleasing pass rate. For next years' Feb/March examinations we are expecting 40 candidates and we are currently in the process of determining the venue that can accommodate this number of trainees.

Regular issues of the NZATS newsletter have been printed to provide an educational and information conduit for the membership. A sponsored competition has been included this year which has been very successful. Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter content via the PR/Communications Executive member, Brett Besley.

The NZATS website has undergone a major revamp this year. Essentially the homepage and links has been simplified for easier navigation. With the introduction of the members' only access to portions of the website some members have had difficulty in remembering their membership numbers to gain access. Removal of the members' numbers on the public access page was implemented for security reasons. If members are still facing any problems they can e-mail the webmaster via the website.

The annual Training Hospital Survey's were sent out and replies to these were excellent. Only a few issues surrounding adherence to training regulations were raised from the feedback gathered.

I wish to thank you all for attending the annual general meeting.

