Australian & New Zealand Orthopaedic Nurses Association (ANZONA)
Presidents Report November 2015 Paul McLiesh

As my two year time as ANZONA president draws to a close I would like to thank all members of the ANZONA committee for their hard work and dedication. Promoting orthopaedic nursing within our own community and out into the broader community is a job that will never be fully complete but it is one that is vital. The members of the ANZONA committee and of all the associated chapter committees have worked towards this goal and orthopaedic nursing in Australia and New Zealand is stronger as a result. This work must continue however and the support of all orthopaedic nurses is needed, this work is often completed by the same group of people in their own time so having other nurses willing and able to share the workload is sorely needed. This in turn will ensure the future of orthopaedic nursing as a speciality well into the future.

Here is a short summary of some things that ANZONA has achieved in the past two years and some things that we are still heading towards.

**Face to face meeting**
The ANZONA committee met for a planning day in August 2014. Many great outcomes were achieved and we developed a sense of shared future. Another meeting is planned for the day before the Sydney conference.

**10 year anniversary of the formation of ANZONA**
This year marks 10 years since the formation of ANZONA. A big thank you to all those visionary nurses who worked together to create ANZONA back then. There will be some information at the conference and we plan to submit an article to the journal outlining the formation of ANZONA.

**Increased number of publications in the International Journal of Orthopaedic & Trauma Nursing.**
There has been a significant increase in the publication rate submitted from Australia and New Zealand to the International Journal of Orthopaedic & Trauma Nursing. This has elevated the profile of orthopaedic nursing in this part of the world and highlights a lot of the ground breaking work being done here. Well done to all and keep it up- you all have something that is worthy of sharing.

**The Australian and New Zealand Hip Fracture Registry (ANZHFR)**
The ANZHFR is an initiative that aims to improve outcomes for patients with hip fractures through: development of national guidelines and quality standards; establishment of National Hip Fracture Registries and by sharing best practice. [http://www.anzhfr.org/](http://www.anzhfr.org/)
Anita Taylor is the ANZONA representative on this group and I thank her for her work in this important area- she has done ANZONA proud.

**Support for orthopaedic nurses from developing countries.**
ANZONA as well as local chapters have worked to support nurses from developing countries by providing access to resources and conferences. ANZONA has created and endorsed guidelines for sponsoring 3 nurses to attend each ANZONA conference. This year SAON is sponsoring 3 nurses from Myanmar to attend ANZONA 2015. Say hi to them if you are attending the conference & spend some time talking to them about the differences in orthopaedic care between our countries.

Many developing countries are only able to deliver a basic orthopaedic nursing service due to a lack of resources/developed healthcare systems. In these countries orthopaedic nurses, due to poor economic status, civil unrest, natural disasters or isolated military regimens, struggle to deliver safe
and effective care to their patients. These nurses want to deliver a high level of nursing care but need to modify their practice to allow for limited resources, lack of education of some staff, poorly developed systems and high patients numbers.

**Potential links to Orthopaedic Outreach (OO)**
There is potential to develop closer links with OO. [http://www.orthoreach.org.au/](http://www.orthoreach.org.au/)
OO organises orthopaedic staff to visit developing countries and provides training and surgical support. There is currently a focus on medical staff and surgical support but there are opportunities to develop an orthopaedic nursing arm to the organisation where ortho nurses could visit countries and assist with skills development and training. Please keep an eye out for these opportunities on the ANZONA website. Or contact Paul if you are interested. [Paul.mcliesh@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:Paul.mcliesh@adelaide.edu.au)

**Closer links with the Australian Orthopaedic Association (AOA)**
ANZONA has worked at national & local levels to develop closer links with the Australian Orthopaedic Association. [http://www.aoa.org.au/](http://www.aoa.org.au/). AOA is the association of orthopaedic medical practitioners. ANZONA had a short article published in the AOA eNewsletter and will have a stand at the national annual scientific meeting in Brisbane in October 2015. Closer links with groups such as AOA will present increased opportunities for ortho nurses to work collaboratively on high level projects related to orthopaedic nursing.

**Social media**
ANZONA has successfully developed a Facebook and Twitter presence. We have many members who are able to access up to date information about what is happening in the world of Orthopaedic Nursing. It is vital that we ensure that our members are aware of things happening and affecting orthopaedic nursing and the use of social media is one way of doing this instantly and effectively.

[@anzona1](https://twitter.com/anzona1)

**International Collaboration of Orthopaedic Nurses**
ICON continues to unite orthopaedic nurses from all parts of the world. [http://orthopaedicnursing.org/](http://orthopaedicnursing.org/)
There are ongoing projects focussed on recommending practice standards for a number of orthopaedic patient populations- in particular those sustaining fragility fractures. A number of our ANZONA committee members are closely involved in these projects- Anita Taylor and Cheryl Kimber in particular.

**ANZONA Members at International Conferences**
Many of the international orthopaedic nursing conferences (& other related orthopaedic conferences) are attended by representatives of ANZONA. This raises our profile and helps us to participate in the international dialogue surround orthopaedic care.

**Webinars**
ANZONA has hosted many online webinars in the past 2 years. There have been a wide range of topics and while numbers during the webinars are not always high there have been many views of the recordings in the following weeks/months. Keep an eye out on the ANZONA website for more details. The use of the webinars allows orthopaedic nurses from everywhere to be exposed to contemporary information regarding orthopaedic nursing practice without needing to attend face to face meetings. Thanks to Wendy for coordinating this activity.
Coalition of National Nursing Organisations (CoNNO)
CoNNO is a group that has been meeting for some time. ANZONA recently became engaged with this group and attendance at the biannual meetings has led to some very useful links with other nursing groups and has given us some good ideas to use in ANZONA. CoNNO is supported by the federal government and coordinated by the ANMF.

Letters to Orthopaedic Nurses
In 2014 each chapter attempted to distribute a letter to all nurses working in an orthopaedic area. The purpose of this was to increase the awareness of ANZONA and the local chapters and to stimulate interest in joining these groups. As an example: SA currently has our largest membership numbers due in part to this activity.

Healthcare Variation: Expert Advisory Group on Knee Pain
Lesley Thomas is representing ANZONA on this group which is coordinated by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Thank you to her for hard work on this.

Review of ANZONA Constitution
Jo Fauska has done some excellent work reviewing our constitution and ensuring that we are meeting all our requirements as an organisation. We will meet at the f2f meeting and make some suggestions for consideration of members.

ANZONA 2015
I am sure that ANZONA 2015 will be a great success. The NSW team have worked hard to ensure a successful conference. I would like to thank them all for their dedication and hard work. Keep Western Australia in mind for the 2017 conference- information will be available shortly.

Projects for the future
Orthopaedic nursing competencies
Reform of the ANZONA Constitution
Neurovascular resources
Traction resources
ANZONA Scholarship

Involvement in international and national projects is vital to ensure that orthopaedic nurses’ voices are heard. As an example, many years ago a state-wide network was set up in SA to focus on issues related to the care of orthopaedic patients. That group initially involved no nurses! It consisted of physios and medical staff. We must ensure that we are included in these processes and discussions because this is where decisions are made and we must be involved in those decisions. We have a unique and important perspective on topics impacting the delivery of orthopaedic care.

So thank you to all. Please remember- to stay strong you need to be active. Don’t sit back and think someone else will make sure it happens. That someone is you, get active, get involved, stand up and make some noise.

It has been a pleasure serving as president of ANZONA. I look forward to continuing to work closely on the committee with the next president.

Ortho Nurses Rule!

Paul