
AONA

VISION

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018



March 2018

Welcome to the March edition of The Australian
Ophthalmic Nurses Association National Newsletter

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READY FOR ACTION

AONA National Council pleased to announce completion of Professional Practice Standards

We believe this quality document represents the broad scope of practice of nurses working in ophthalmology within Australia.

We are asking for the assistance of the profession to trial the document in a workplace. Practice standards are used for many reasons, for example by:

- Nurses as the professional framework against which to measure their performance and prepare a professional development plan so that practice is maintained and enhanced;
- Education providers as the framework for course development purposes; and
- Employers for position description and performance assessment purposes, and to assist in planning professional development activities and guide local policy where appropriate.

With this in mind, we are seeking expressions of interest from organisations willing to engage in reviewing the Standard for suitability within their workplace, in particular for the purposes outlined above.

Remember, these Standards build upon the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) Practice Standards for the Registered and Enrolled Nurse, and would be used in conjunction with other Standards (such as the Australian Council of Operating Room Nurses Standards).

If you think your organisation might be suitable and willing to be our test site for the standards we would like to hear from you. To express interest in being involved or for further information please contact Amanda Wylie (AONA National Committee member) at amanda@wylies.net.au by Friday 6th April.

UVEITIS

Causes & Symptoms

There are myriad triggers for Uveitis ranging from trauma (including surgical), infections—acute and chronic, autoimmune diseases—SLE, Sarcoid, and often it is idiopathic, despite hundreds of tests a trigger is not identified.

Signs and Symptoms (SS) can be uniocular or binocular, include pain, photophobia, watery eyes, blurry vision, flare, scotoma, floaters, ciliary flush, miosis, keratic precipitates, inflammatory cells in AC &/or Vitreous, fibrin, hypopyon. The presenting symptoms vary depending on the cause and location of the inflammation.

To read article go to: www.aonavic.com.au

AONA NSW

President's Report Jenny Keller

NSW's first Eye Teleconference for 2018 about 'Eye Pain' was attended by 26 members including interstate members. We were very excited with the response. Our aim with these sessions is to discuss ophthalmic practice with colleagues and maybe learn something new to include in our daily work practice.

The committee held its planning meeting just after the teleconference and have been busy with preparations for clinical days, the annual conference and future Eye Teleconference topics.

We are currently asking for suggestions for the topic that you would most like to learn about for the May 5th Eye Teleconference. Suggestions can be sent via 'Contact Us' on our website. Ask your colleagues about the teleconference experience—it is easy to phone in and join the discussion at the end.

Membership renewal will be from 1st March and as our system is computerised please do not renew before this date as that makes extra admin work for the treasurer. When renewing (after 1st

March) using the electronic transfer system please remember to send confirmation of your bank transfer to 'Contact Us'. Credit card payments are using Paypal and the receipt from Paypal is your tax receipt for AONA membership.

The 36th annual NSW conference '*Eyes all Over*' will be held on Saturday 23rd June at the Sofitel Hotel in the city. Registration for the day will be open soon on the webpage so talk with your colleagues about joining us for this day to network, share information and ideas and hopefully walk away filled with new knowledge that can be incorporated into your practice.

At this time I would like to acknowledge all the previous committees who gave their time to produce these great education days for the AONA members. It is a collaborative effort to organise this day and I hope that maybe some of you may wish to join us on the committee to learn about how it happens and have some fresh ideas and enthusiasm for the continuation of the association.

AONAQ

President's Report Pene Gill

Welcome to 2018! It's been 30 years since our association was formed and I'm proud to say that so much has been achieved over this time. I look back to when I turned thirty—a happy time in my life, with still plenty of goals to pursue.

AONAQ continues to strive to provide quality education to our members, offer educational grants and many opportunities to network with fellow colleagues.

Recently our annual strategic meeting took place, where the committee discuss upcoming meetings and review our goals for the year. The most exciting event of 2018 is our 30th Annual AONAQ Conference. Planning is well under way and I'm sure it's going to be one to remember. Get the date in your diary—25th August 2018!

Fiona O'Sullivan from QEH is kindly hosting our first clinical meeting of the year on Saturday. Dr Yun Wong (Fellow to Professor Tim Sullivan) will speak about Steven-Johnson Syndrome. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Lastly, I had the opportunity to meet with Colette Kinsella from the Macular Disease Foundation of Australia this week. Some of you may remember participating in a survey regarding services provided to patients last year. This foundation offers patients and their families a wonderful array of services, including assistance with transport to appointments, information pamphlets, counselling and much more. All this is just a phone call away for the patient. If you believe the MDFA would be a useful resource in your workplace, don't hesitate to contact Colette via email: colette@mdfoundation.com.au

Here's to another fantastic year in Ophthalmic Nursing!

AONAVIC

President's Report Heather Machin RN MBA

At the end of last year, our Committee met to develop our strategic plan for 2018. We have subsequently implemented new initiatives to streamline member benefit and partner engagement across our region.

We will be hosting the nursing session at *RANZCO Adelaide 2018*, where we will be piloting a new approach. Firstly, our session is scheduled for Sunday 18th November (not the Saturday). On that day, we will have an 'open door policy' allowing other RANZCO delegates to attend our session – and vice versa. Our delegates will have full access to the exhibit hall on the Sunday and the opportunity to attend the RANZCO opening cocktail event the evening prior. Our delegates will also be offered a discount to attend the remaining RANZCO days. Our SA Sub-branch team are also seeking

expressions of interest regarding potential workshops for Saturday 17th—we welcome your suggestions.

We also announce our international speaker will be Dr Elethia Dean RN MBA PhD—Chicago USA, past-President of the American Society of Ophthalmic Registered Nurses with expertise in day surgery, operating theatre, infection control, accreditation and compliance. Other guest speakers will be announced on the lead-up to the event.

We remind members that renewal for the 2018/19 period commences 1st April. We also welcome new members to join from that date onwards.

AONA WA

President's Report Gina Storey

Welcome to 2018. Our first seminar 'IOL calculations: from clinic to OR & Beyond' will be held on Saturday 17th March. There will be a theory summary followed by a practical session with Auto refractors, IOL master and Lenstar.

Our new look web site continues to evolve including the planned introduction of a payment system. New Committee member Jennie O'Hare is managing these changes and it has been amazing to have her on board bringing fresh ideas. Jennie is unable to attend committee meetings but supports by contributing ideas, managing our website and sending out email campaigns.

Our 9 current committee members take on tasks required to organize seminars and raise the professional development of AONA WA members. Tasks can be as simple as writing letters or organizing catering and gifts. We meet every 4 – 6 weeks and discuss matters over Saturday breakfast in Northbridge. The editor gathers state newsletter info. 3 or 4 times a year which is compiled by one of the AONA state editors and sent to a graphic designer for production of the National newsletter. You don't have to know graphics, it is all done for you. As editor you don't even have to write the articles, you just find and collate them over a 3 month

period so it is not too difficult. Even if you cannot attend the meetings you can still assist. Distributing jobs this way means the day to day running of the association's workload is reduced and shared amongst the committee members.

A number of our longer standing committee members are stepping down. Chris Jamieson has already left and Rosemary Wade and I will be stepping down shortly. Rosemary, Chris and I have seen many changes including communications develop from 'snail mail' and notice board flyers on notice boards to the digital age and social media. Visions for further progress means current members will continue to have something to look forward too and develop.

Final word—I again encourage new people to join the Committee. Please don't be afraid to take part, it is fun and fulfilling and you will gain much more than you give. You all have something to contribute towards making an amazing AONA WA and participating in the professional development of our members. You will become more aware of work being completed by RANZCO and community associations such as the Macular Diseases Association, the Glaucoma Support Group and many more. It looks great on your resume to be involved in a professional association.

6th April

**Registration of interest cut-off
for Practice Standards trial**

Details on page 2

5th May

**National Eye Teleconference
hosted by AONA NSW**

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23rd June

**36th annual AONA NSW conference
Sofitel Hotel, Sydney**

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25th August

**30th Annual AONAQ Conference
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre**

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17th-21st November

**RANZCO Adelaide 2018
Adelaide Convention Centre**

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