

BREAKING NEWS



Newsletter of the New Zealand Orthopaedic Nurses Association (N.Z.O.N.A)

Editorial note...

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Hi everyone,
 Welcome to this issue of Breaking News.
 Hopefully the cold snaps in the weather have finished now. Snow in Auckland was certainly unusual but we can stop now.
 Centres around the country are gearing up for the Rugby World Cup, I have been in Rotorua where there is bunting out on shop fronts and our local area has as well.
 The latest *Orthopaedic Nursing* has an article on delirium in the elderly which should prove interesting reading as this has long been problem among some of our elderly patients.
 Regional study sessions continue in the northern and southern regions so please avail yourself of these. 4 hours of education time contributes to the Nursing Council requirements and certificates are issued to document attendance. Many travel vast distances to attend so if anyone wants help to set something in operation in their areas, please contact us.
 Enjoy the improved weather and daylight saving is not far away.
 If you are involved in the planning, don't forget to consider the Rugby World cup dates in September/ October and also the General Election in November.
 Take care
 Regards,

Lynley Papadopoulos

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NZONA Northern Region Report 27th August 2011.

This session was one of our most well attended with 64 participants from Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua and Greater Auckland. Nurses from private hospitals and A&M clinics as well as public hospitals attended. The day focused on the earthquake in Christchurch.

Mr Rob Orec Orthopaedic Surgeon CMDHB, was part of a team from Auckland who went to Christchurch to assist. The team was lead by Bruce Twaddle from ADHB. He discussed the type of work they undertook, the difficulties encountered, assistance that other DHB's offered and the lessons learned. Some of the difficulties included the allocation of temporary NHI numbers and trying to marry these up later, the often rushed physical examinations and histories, the difficulties in obtaining old notes and documents especially the information kept on computers as power outages affected access to these. Other DHB's offered assistance by taking patients requiring medical attention not related but affected by the quake. This included renal patients (transported out for dialysis), tumour patients requiring surgery urgently but not likely to get it in Christchurch in a timely fashion and trauma patients awaiting surgery for non earthquake related trauma (x2 pelvic injured patients). Some of the lesson learned included having a team approach rather than random assistance, being prepared for anything and having someone doing the paperwork and data collection.

Richard Twomey from Urban Search and Rescue, spoke on the role of USAR. Initially his team were in the PGC building where they rescued three people then moved to the CTV building. He spoke of the difficulties in trying to balance team safety with rescuing those trapped, a difficult balance to achieve. He also spoke of the international effort and some of the difficulties some of that presented. Some teams were not UN accredited so were not allowed into the Red Zone but were put to use in the suburbs. He also talked of the difficulties caused by people trying to get into the red zone, causing problems with security. Richard was also part of the team that went to Japan to help after the tsunami.

Neil Robins St John Ambulance Service, was part of the Auckland St John's response to Christchurch. He spent time at a school attending to injuries there. The school gyms served as shelters for people displaced by the events. Many of these had not brought medication with them so a local doctor brought along all the medication he had at his disposal and set up his own pharmacy. He also discussed the interesting situations that developed with over 900 people seeking to use the toilets in the gym. The rain had set in so people were not keen to go outside. He also found the goodness in communities. The St John's were housed out of Christchurch and the local people offered food,

sleeping bags and offers to do laundry.

Jan Armstrong, Charge Nurse Christchurch Hospital spoke of the impact on the Orthopaedic Outpatients Department. The OOPD operates 7 days/weeks. Regular clinics run until 4pm Monday to Friday then the department works with ED working with acute injuries until 11pm. The weekends are for acutes from 9am -11pm. The OOPD takes patients when the ED becomes overburdened therefore after the quake they had many of the walking wounded as injuries that did not require intensive monitoring. Many fractures were managed here with temporary splinting (casting) with the plan for fixation at a later date. Because of the nature of the situation, they had non orthopaedic patients as well.

Assistance came from all sorts of people. Many orthopaedic surgeons from the private sector came in to assist with doctors from other specialities also pitching in including a gynaecologist suturing a severe leg laceration.

The location of OOPD meant they didn't know the severity of the situation and a lack of power meant no TV either. The wards look out towards the Square and therefore had a better idea and were able to prepare for the advent of injuries. The lack of natural light in the OOPD also presented problems as the plaster room was not on the auxiliary power and at one point the generator also failed to work so even emergency power was not available for some time.

Some staff even provided accommodation for people who had no where to return to.

Overall, the day was insightful but also revealed the stamina and strength of the human spirit in times of adversity.

The proceeds from this day were given to Jan to take back to the Orthopaedic nurses in Christchurch.

Many thanks to Sue Sharpe from Casting Unit at Middlemore for arranging the day.

Upcoming Events

The ANZONA website now has a page listing upcoming conferences and meetings.

Southern regional study day
Dunedin

Northern Regional Study Day
Rotorua
November
Date to be confirmed

RCN Society of Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing
22-23rd September 2011
The Thistle Grand Hotel Bristol
www.rcn.org.uk/newsevenrs/evnr_details/ren_eventsms/ortho2011
e-mail orthopaedic@rcn.org.uk

5th ANZONA Conference
28-29 October 2011
Brisbane, Queensland
Australia
www.anzona.net
e-mail: gonsig@bigpond.com

Some useful websites:

www.orthopaedicnursing.org

www.ona.asn

www.orthonurse.org

www.nursingcenter.com

www.auscast.org