

# **NZNO College of Respiratory Nurses**

## **AGM 2021**

### **Chairperson's Report**

Let me start this report with "Well done to everyone for surviving 2020".

As we all know 2020 will be a year to remember for both good and not so good.

The beginning of 2020, the committee were working hard organising the College of Respiratory nurses Symposium in partnership with the Bronchiectasis Foundation. It was going to be held in Whangarei and we, the committee, were so looking forward to it. With the outbreak of the pandemic, the Symposium was cancelled. I wish to thank the organising committee for all their hard work and to congratulate them for the awesome Symposium planned.

During the pandemic and the lockdown, everyone on the committee, in their respective areas of work, continued to work tirelessly on the frontline. At the same time the committee members continued to uphold their respective portfolio's. Well done and thank you all for the time and effort you did in that strange and frightening time. I would also like to extend my and the committee's continued gratitude for the knowledge, resources and support given to the College by the NZNO PNA, Annie Bradley-Ingle and administrator, Diana Geerling. We would be lost without you both.

The College newsletter "Airways" usually published 3 times a year, was unable to be continued during the pandemic and lockdown but has continued in 2021. The "Airways" editor, Sue has done a magnificent job of putting the newsletter together but because of her workload during the lockdown, only 2 editions were sent out. As always, new and interesting updates in Respiratory health were included. Due to her workload, Sue will be leaving the committee this year. Thank you, Sue for all your creativity, experience and support. The committee will miss your vast knowledge. Karen, our Vicechair, has been a font of information and has been a great support throughout 2020.

Jill, working the submissions portfolio, has worked hard at putting together solid submissions to important consultation papers. Proposal to fund an additional brand of Budesonide, Proposed amendments to the specified prescription medicines for designated registered nurses to name a few. Just recently and very relevant, the College, via Jill placed a submission to the draft of the Smoke free Environments and vaping Regulated Products Act 1990, Proposals for regulations. The College is sorry to see Jill also leaving the committee this year. Over her term, she has worked hard to give feedback from the College on consultation documents applicable to New Zealand Respiratory Health. Thank you, Jill for all your hard mahi.

The College membership is slowly increasing, thanks to Moira, reminding the committee to take every opportunity to promote the College. Sadly, Moira will be leaving the committee as well this AGM. Remembering we are now able to belong to 3 Colleges or Sections. The College of Respiratory Nurses

website continues to be updated with the ever-increasing information and research relevant to Respiratory health, thanks to Vineeta. The College's finances have held well due to our very competent treasurer, Teresa. Committee secretary, Nicola has worked tirelessly keeping the College true to its annual plan. Her knowledge and long experience with committees have ensured this Committee has achieved its objectives. It is with regret and with many thanks that the Committee must say farewell to Nicola, as she is moving on.

In November 2020, the newly updated New Zealand Adult Respiratory Knowledge and Skills Framework was launched at the Asthma and Respiratory Conference in Wellington. Copies of the Framework were available and were well received. It is now available on the College of Respiratory Nurses website. The College extends many thanks to the group of very experienced Respiratory Nurses taking time out from their busy schedules to update the framework using recent and relevant information and guidelines. The new updated New Zealand Asthma Guidelines were also presented at the Asthma and Respiratory Conference. This quick reference document has made it much easier for the diagnosis and management of Asthma for both adults and children.

In early 2021, the NZ COPD guidelines were published and are guided by COPD-X Australian and New Zealand Guidelines 2020 and GOLD 2020. New Zealand has an increasing problem with rates of COPD and these guidelines have simplified the diagnosis and the management of COPD across both primary and secondary health sectors. Congratulations are extended to the team of very experienced respiratory specialists, including our committee secretary, Nicola.

The Health and Disability Systems Review is now happening. Many submissions have been made and we are all awaiting the outcome. Major changes will be happening across the health sector. Hopefully, the changes will be for the better. Hopefully, the review will ensure that respiratory disease will be highlighted as a health target alongside Cardiovascular disease and diabetes. The International Nurses day theme for 2021 is "A vision for future healthcare". It will be up to us, the nurses who will play a major and positive role in the changes as they happen.

The Committee was unable to hold their AGM at SIREF in February due to workloads. The College has now set the date for a virtual AGM for May 11<sup>th</sup> 2021. As noted before 4 of our valued committee members are leaving. Their knowledge, experience and support will be greatly missed. Thank you to you all and the committee wishes you the best of luck in your future endeavours.

As chairperson, I would like to thank my committee members for all their support and demanding workloads over 2020- 2021. It has been challenging with the end of the pandemic lockdowns and the return to workplaces and catching up with the backlog. Looking forward to welcoming new members on the committee and continuing working to work towards improved Respiratory health for New Zealand.

Marilyn Dyer

Chairperson