

Harrogate 2018: greetings from down under



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Hello all! Well here we are again in November and on the countdown to Christmas. I for one cannot believe how quickly this year has gone and how busy it has been. This will be the first time in a decade when I will not be attending the Wounds UK Annual Conference. Instead I will be travelling back from the Wounds Australia 2018 Conference. I must say, missing Harrogate is an odd feeling.

TWO KEY NHS DOCUMENTS

I hope that during the conference you will be able to discuss some of the key papers that have been published this year, including the new NHSi definitions and pressure ulcer core curricula documents. These documents will be key to many of our services, may be causing discussion, and even inspiring 'tweaking' of local documents. Being in Harrogate affords you time to explore whether you have managed to implement these documents into your practice, as well as consider if they have made a difference and how you can measure the outcomes of them. Also key to making your time in Harrogate count is to use your stay to network with others. It all matters! And of course the National Wound Care Strategy should now be up and running. How are you linking in with this group? Is your voice being heard? Again key members of this group will be in Harrogate, so go and talk to them and ensure you are able to share your experiences and thoughts for the future.

A NEW ROLE TO SUPPORT YOU

In this edition of *Wounds UK*, you will see that the debate is centered around the role of Trainee Nursing Associate (TNA): A two-year programme that will provide learners with the skills and knowledge to support Registered Nurses in all healthcare settings. The programme combines academic and

work-based learning where the learner will be based in a specific setting but will experience alternative settings throughout the two years. The TNA will be able to support the Registered Nurse in the assessment, planning and evaluation of care; however, the Registered Nurse maintains full responsibility as the primary assessor. I ask you to consider how this role can be integrated into Tissue Viability Services. Will it be beneficial? Please do consider writing to *Wounds UK* to share your experiences of this role.

MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD

This is an exciting time for Tissue Viability and as a specialist area of practice we must ensure our voices are heard. It will not be an easy time though, funding cuts are still very real and attendance at conferences and/or study days remains difficult due to funding constraints and the very real problem of protecting time away from the clinical areas. However, it is vital that your skills and knowledge are maintained and updated regularly to ensure safe and innovative practice.

SISTER SOCIETY OF THE WORLD UNION OF WOUND HEALING SOCIETIES

So as I board an airplane to the other side of the world, where it will be summer and warm — I hope you enjoy Harrogate and are able to network, learn and meet new friends and old colleagues. On a personal note, I am delighted that the Institute for Skin Integrity and Infection Prevention at the University of Huddersfield, for which I am Director, has been accepted as a sister society of the World Union of Wound Healing Societies. Through this collaboration, I hope we can collaborate on a range of projects that will enhance outcomes for patients globally.

