

NZSSA President's Message

September 2007

Dear Members,

I would like to thank all the members who participated in the recent competition to design the front cover of Supplyline. All the designs were fabulous and it was difficult to decide on a winner. Congratulations to Frank Gibson from the Sterile Supply Services Unit at Auckland Hospital who created the winning design. Frank's entry into the competition is on the front cover of this issue. Well done Frank.

Our annual conference is not too far away now and my department like many others is fund raising to ensure staff can attend. This year's conference is in Napier, and Lorraine and Jackie have been extremely busy with the organising of it. The networking opportunities at our National Conference are not to be missed. Not only networking with other sterilising personnel from around the country and overseas, but with our Medical and Surgical Company colleagues as well.

The Sterilising Technology Course has been busy with the first intake of students beginning the second module in June. The second intake of students beginning with the first module started also in June. My best wishes to all the students working through this course.

Best wishes and I hope to see many of you at the conference in Napier.

Aileen Derby
President NZSSA



NZSSA LIBRARY

BOOKS

Introduction to Sterilization and Disinfection
Joan F. Gardner
Margaret M. Peel
Churchill Livingstone 1986

VIDEOS

Sterilization, A view for insiders
Sponsored by: Jackson Allison Medical & Surgical

The Sterrad System
Johnson & Johnson Medical

Operation of the Sterrad Sterilizer
Johnson & Johnson Medical

Old Dogs & New Tricks
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

STANDARDS

AS/NZS 4187:2003 Cleaning, disinfection and sterilizing reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of associated environments in health care facilities

ISO 17665-1 Sterilization of health care products – Moist heat
Part 1 Requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices

AS/NZS ISO 11137.1.2006 Gamma Radiation: Requirements for development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices

Librarian: Alison Stewart

Contact Details:

Email: Alison.stewart@ccdhb.org.nz
Phone: 04 385 5923
Fax: 04 385 5334

Please let the Association assist with building your knowledge without expense.
Contact me for any borrowing needs or with any suggestions for expanding our library.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

By Jackie Skudder

Article / Subject	Author	Website
Preventing Patient Thermal Burns from Electrosurgical Instruments	Anne Reed	http://www.mobileinstrument.com/article_preventing.php
ACC Smart Tips <i>(How to prevent and manage any discomfort, pain or injury)</i>	Website of ACC	http://www.acc.co.nz/injury-prevention/discomfort-pain-and-injury-worktips/index.htm
Radiation in the Workplace	Website of Ministry of Health	http://www.nrl.moh.govt.nz/faq/radiationintheworkplace.asp#wifi
Top Ten Tips for Endoscope Decontamination	Website of British Gastroenterologists	Http://www.bsg.org.uk

The significance of Transducer Output in an ultrasonic bath

The ultrasonic power requirements for cleaning by cavitation may range from two Watts per litre of fluid for lightweight cleaning of glass parts, up to 20 W/l for heavy duty items such as machine parts. This is because large solid steel items can absorb up to a third of the energy generated by the transducers. Non solid items such as cloth and foam rubber absorb most of the energy impulses and are not suitable for ultrasonic cleaning.

Some suppliers cause confusion when quoting, because they either take no care to establish the make up of the items being cleaned, or they do not understand the power requirements. An experienced supplier may have quoted 2000 Watts output, while another supplier has quoted a bath of the same size which only provides 1000 watts at a correspondingly lower price. The customer, unaware of the need to have a system that suits their requirements, has accepted the lower priced unit, had an inferior job, and then come to the conclusion that ultrasonic cleaning is “*not what it is cracked up to be*”

Example; A simplistic view based on transducers having 50W output each.

For a 60 litre capacity bath with 12 transducers the output rating is 10 Watts per litre of fluid.

A lower cost bath of the same capacity but with only 10 transducers will produce 8.3 Watts per litre. A reduction in cleaning power of 20% on 12 transducers, so necessitating a longer cleaning cycle.

On the other hand a bath with 24 transducers, but working 90 litres, while having double the output is only required to cavitate one and half times the fluid. This unit therefore has a Watt per litre rating of 13 giving a 30% increase in cleaning power.

Considering that items being cleaned vary in shape, size, quantity, and degree and type of soiling it will be recognised that cleaning using ultrasonic waves is not yet a precise operation. Therefore the experience and knowledge of the supplier and/or operator are important factors in deciding on the best application for any particular job. Even then, optimum output for a new or totally different venture may still take some ‘trial and error’ evaluation by the supplier and/or operator.

Garry ☺WEN (*Ultrasonic Cleaning Advisor ~ providing SOUND CLEANING options*)

Staff Profile

Name: Clare McKissick

Position: Technician, Sterile Services Unit

Hospital: Waikato District Health Board

Work Experience: Three years as a SSU Technician, with two years as part of the Health & Safety team – an interesting if sometimes confusing and demanding role! In 2005 I sat the NZSSA Sterilising Technology Course and attended the annual conference in Dunedin. While there I also sat the Mercer Medical Top Ten Exam and won a trip to Melbourne to attend the SFRACA conference in Melbourne in 2006. The weather was lovely, plush hotel, business class flight home – and some interesting speakers of course!

Hobbies and Interests: Currently collecting ceramic jars and pots of all colours and shapes which are slowly filling up all spaces in my house. Also love old photo frames, glass vases and knick-knacks.

Currently Reading: Like my knick-knacks these are slowly covering every surface and floor space at home. Favourites are – “Sister Carrie” and “American Tragedy” by Theodore Dreiser. They make you appreciate how much easier it is to be a woman today compared to the early 1900’s.

Best Movie: Anything either funny – “Blades of Glory”, gory – “Saw” or tragic “Onegin” suits me. “The Fantasticks” is very sweet, funny and sad – recommended for all musical lovers.

Family: Mum, brother, sister and two cats.

Greatest Experience to Date: When I was 20 I travelled around Europe for three months, staying in cheap hostels and seeing the sights. Most memorable were seeing snow for the first time while in Munich (I have lots of white photos!) and viewing St. Peters in Rome – lots of gold and marble statues.

Goals: I love Christmas and have always wanted to go to New York to see it – lots of Fairy lights, snow, skating in Central Park and toy shopping!

Name: Sandra Horrack

Position: Technician

Hospital: Waikato District Health Board

Work Experience: Six years as a Technician. I sat the NZSSA Sterilising Technology Course in Christchurch in 2001 and worked in the new TSSU (I think it was completed in 2005). It was a wrench to leave Christchurch and the TSSU Team but family commitments made the move back to the Waikato necessary at that time. Working with a new group of similarly motivated people made for an enjoyable transition.

Hobbies and Interests: Creative activities including drawing and gardening

Currently Reading: I often read two or three books simultaneously. Currently I'm reading "Born to be Riled" by Jeremy Clarkson and "The Bronze Horseman" by Paullina Simons.

Best Movie: "Kenny" – it's a funny pseudo documentary about an Australian Portaloos plumber. Full of philosophies and dignity.

Family: Married to husband Kevin. He knows what really counts in a relationship. The stars in my life are our three children, Kayne, Glen, Janet and our three grandchildren Patrick, Casey and Sasha

Greatest Experience to Date: Apart from being a grandmother I was once in the same room as the late Lady Diana. Yes she did have the ability to communicate with everyone and was glamorous

Goals: Generally I manage my emotional, physical and mental goals well; however I should address my love hate relationship with my credit card. Personality wise my goal would be to become less transparent in my interactions with people. Any work goals naturally relate to studying more about the specialist service we provide. When NZSSA develop a second level of study I'll sign up, in the interim I read articles on the internet and attend in-services and ask a lot of questions. I had the opportunity to visit the Waikato Hospital Library and now I'm a member I'll have access to more information. The environment at WDHB is one of encouragement. I think this stimulates involvement and consequently the desire to learn more.

Standards Talk

The website for accessing all standards, national and international, is;
<http://www.standards.co.nz>

There are monthly updates available on this website so you can keep up to date with changes. The complete address is;
<http://www.standards.co.nz:81/news-and-seminars/standards+update/>

Well it has been a quiet 3 months on the health standards development front and there is no amendments, drafts or new policies to update you on. Remember you are able to view what is happening with standards at any time by visiting the sites above.

Undergoing review at present are the;
Health and Disabilities Services Standards – these include the:

- Core Standard (8234:2001)
- Restraint Standard (8141:2001)
- Infection Control Standard (8142:2001). This is the first review of the Infection Control Standard

The drafts were open for public comment up to 21st August. As these are guidance documents for the health care sector we will keep you informed on the progress of development.

??? Who are we ????

Here are the profiles of two staff working in Sterile Services

Kevin Francis

Technician at Wellington Hospital

I am married with one child. I enjoy Football and other sports. Best movie for me is Star Wars and my greatest experience to date is moving to New Zealand and working in sterile services.

I have worked at Wellington for 2 years and previous work experience was production line work, manufacturing, customer services and retail. I applied for sterile services to do something different and challenge myself. My goals are to see how far I can progress in sterile services

Diana

Technician at Wellington Hospital

I have worked in sterile services for 20 years. Prior to that my experiences have been in television and working for dentists as a dental assistant. I applied for this position after being in Australia for 2 years. My intention was to become an air steward and use this job as a stop gap. I stayed though because I thought it would be good to get into the hospital environment. The job is challenging with quite wide boundaries and has become more of a responsible, important job.

I come from a big family and have lots of nieces and nephews who I take an interest in as our next generation. I enjoy tramping, music, playing the violin in an orchestra and traveling. I like quite a few movies but the best one of late is Amazing Grace. My greatest experience has been traveling over the Great Lakes of Canada and being in an amateur singing & dancing group.

For the future I would like to learn more about the loan equipment and perhaps specialize in one surgical specialty of instrumentation. Personally continue to pursue my hobbies and travel.

Included in this Supplyline is form for you to give us information on yourself. Fill it in and send it to the editor so that we can find out more about the people in our industry.