

Yorke Peninsula Health Advisory News June to December 2018

The Annual General Meeting saw a changing of the guard, with long term Presiding Member Rod Thomas stepping down from the position, to hand over the reins to Dot Marschall. We have benefited from the wisdom and knowledge of Rod over many years as he has worked within the health sector of the community, and we thank him for all his past efforts, and those to come, as he remains on the Health Advisory Council. Welcome to Dot, who will bring fresh perspective, especially having worked within our local health services in past years, and from her very active involvement in the community in current times.

One of the changes which is facing our local area is the lack of coverage of doctors at various times, which creates challenges not just for the health service, but for the community. At our AGM speakers around the new systems using IT to ensure quality of care no matter where we live, certainly opened our eyes to what can be achieved. SAVES – South Australian Virtual Emergency Service – is already in use at Yorketown Hospital, with doctors on call to diagnose and treat using local medical staff via video conference. Virtual care in the community program was also showcased, where patients simply hook up to a machine in their own home, and chronic diseases can be monitored from the comfort of your own armchair. It is reassuring to know your health is being monitored daily, and should any issue arise, staff are on hand to advise. If you get the opportunity, don't miss these guest speakers who come to all our forums up and down the peninsula – they are a wealth of information.

Congratulations to Vanessa Bouilly who is now part of the Regional Board and to Roger Kirchner who was also elected. Vanessa is a Port Victoria resident, so it will be to our advantage to have local representation. We look forward to working closely with the new board in 2019 to ensure the best outcome for our local health services.

Service provision in the country is a key topic of discussion and the HAC are involved with various committees to have a voice in how this will look into the future. To be good representatives, all members of the HAC are keen to hear from members of the community from all age groups regarding your concerns and your thoughts on how best we can move forward in 2019.

From the members of the Yorke Peninsula Health Advisory Council, may you have a wonderful and safe Christmas and may 2019 be all you could hope or wish for.