

**NEW SOUTH WALES  
OPERATING THEATRE ASSOCIATION Inc.**



**53rd ANNUAL REPORT  
2009/2010**



NSW OPERATING THEATRE ASSOCIATION INC.  
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Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the New South Wales  
Operating Theatre Association Inc. to be held on  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 1500hrs

Auditorium, Newcastle Panthers  
King St Newcastle

### Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. President's Annual Report
4. Treasurer's Statement and Annual Report
5. Appointment of Auditor
6. Annual Reports from Zone Chairpersons
7. Election of Office Bearers for 2010/2011
8. Notices of Motion
9. Close of Meeting
10. Open Forum

Tracy Kerle  
Honorary Secretary  
February 2010

You are reminded that in any voting which takes place, full members only may vote.  
Associate members are not entitled to vote at meetings of the Association, although they may  
attend and contribute to discussions. Thankyou

**NOTICES OF MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT AGM OF NSW OTA Inc  
12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010**

1. Notice is hereby given to increase Membership fees, under Part Three Membership Fees, Clause 11.1 of the Constitution of the New South Wales Operating Theatre Association Inc as follows:

That the yearly fees increase from \$88 per year to \$100 per year and that the three yearly fees increase from \$250 to \$276.

**Moved**            **J Waldron**

**Seconded**       **C Simmonds**

**Rationale**

The operating costs of the NSW OTA Inc have increased over the last three years, however, there has been no increase in membership fees during that time. In addition, ACORN has informed the NSW OTA Inc that the capitation fees paid by NSW OTA Inc will incur a GST payment, as per an Australian Tax Office ruling.

**New South Wales Operating Theatre Association Inc.  
Executive Committee 2009 – 2010**

President	Kerry Rodgers	Nepean Hospital
Past President	Jane Waldron	Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital
President Elect	Allanah Hazelgrove	Calvary Mater Newcastle
Secretary	Tracy Kerle	Gosford Hospital
Treasurer	Jane Waldron	Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital
Assistant Treasurer	Cheryl Simmonds	St. George Hospital
Minute Secretary	Karen Jones	RNSH / Ryde
Zone Coordinator	Debbie Dobbs	Nepean Hospital
Education Officer	Allanah Hazelgrove	Calvary Mater Newcastle
Assistant Education Officer	Lois Hamlin	University of Technology Sydney
Editorial Liaison Officer	Lilian Blair	Gosford Hospital
Public Relations Officer	Menna Davies	Prince of Wales Hospital
Projects Officer	Jenny Cubitt	Canterbury Hospital
Conference Convenor	Vacant	
Membership Secretary	Lisa Siladyi	Westmead Childrens Hosp
Archival Officer	Mark Davies	Royal North Shore Hospital
ACORN Director	Fran O'Brien	Prince of Wales Hospital
ACORN Representative	Tracy Kerle	Gosford Hospital
Executive Committee Members	Deborah Carter Jed Duff Katie Frankiewicz Adele Garvan Eve Stones	Sydney Adventist Hospital St. Vincent's Private North Gosford Private Mona Vale Hospital Westmead Hospital

## **Mission Statement**

*“Promoting excellence in patient care by representing the professional and educational interests of NSW perioperative nurses.”*

## **Our Aims & Objectives**

1. To promote the professional and cultural aims of all perioperative nurses. To promote their interest generally and bring members into closer contact with each other for their mutual help and benefit.
2. To keep members informed of the latest trends and developments in perioperative nursing and thus maintain a high standard of efficiency.
3. To co-operate with other sections of the nursing professions in its endeavours to achieve all, or any of the above objects.
4. To assist in improving and standardising basic methods and techniques in NSW operating suites.
5. To assist all nurses in gaining experience in the operating suite.
6. To promote the education of perioperative nurses.

These aims and objects are the basis of our philosophy. We believe that the New South Wales Operating Theatre Association Inc is continually working toward achieving these objectives.

## **President's Report**

I am pleased to present a report outlining the major activities of the NSW OTA Inc during 2009.

### **Secretariat Services and Membership Database**

The first challenge that faced us was the impact on the Association of the decision by the College of Nursing (CoN) to discontinue offering secretariat services to affiliated organizations. Luckily, Michelle Berarducci was in a position to establish a home-based business and this has allowed the NSW OTA Inc to continue to work with Michelle as the provider of our secretariat services. As Michelle has a wealth of corporate knowledge regarding the work of the Association, this has meant little disruption to membership services as well as providing continuing support to the Executive committee and the Zones.

The membership database was also changed as a consequence of the move away from the CoN. John Thrift was engaged to develop a more efficient database, and we are continuing to work with John to build on the basic database platform to enable us to further streamline and enhance membership services.

### **APEC Accreditation**

In anticipation of the requirement for nurses to provide evidence of continuing education as part of the National Registration process, the decision was taken to fund training for two Executive members, via the Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA), to allow the NSW OTA Inc to become an Accredited Provider of Education Courses (not Content) (APEC). This means that the seminar days and annual conference presented by the Association are now developed in line with (rather than assessed against) the RCNA APEC criteria and continuing education points are allocated to each of these activities. As part of this annual conference there will be a presentation to the Zone Executive Committees to assist them to structure their education activities in accordance with the APEC guidelines. This will ensure that any educational content provided to members is suitable for inclusion in a professional portfolio to support registration requirements.

### **Projects**

2009 saw the commencement of two major projects, the Smoke Plume Project and the Perioperative Nursing Workforce Project. To maintain coordination and oversight of these projects the role of the project officer was developed, to ensure a single point of reference for communication and liaison for the guidance teams working on these projects. Jenny Cubitt has undertaken this role, as well as representing NSW OTA Inc on the New South Wales Surgical Services Taskforce. Thank you to the members of these teams for the additional work you have undertaken. Thanks also to Professor Mary Chiarella who is working on the PNWP, Debra Thoms Chief Nurse NSW, NaMO and to 3M for their support of this project. Comprehensive reports on the progress of these two important initiatives are included in the body of this annual report.

Tracy Kerle is our representative on a multidisciplinary working party looking at the problems surrounding loan kits and transport cases, issues that have long been a bugbear for perioperative nurses. This project had stagnated for some time, however, it is now making good progress and we hope to see some early recommendations from this group in the near future.

### **ACORN Staffing Standard 2010**

Following a review of the draft ACORN 2010 Staffing Standard, NSW OTA Inc provided ACORN with a comprehensive document and a number of recommendations regarding the management of this Standard. One of our recommendations was that a working party be established to review this standard as it has such wide reaching ramifications. I am pleased to report that as ACORN also considers that this is such a vital Standard, it will not be released with the updated ACORN 2010 Standards at the conference in May, and that an additional review of the Standard will be undertaken.

### **Progress of PD2005 571**

NSW OTA Inc is still seeking an update regarding this document. Letters have been written to the Department of Health in relation to this matter but as yet we have not received a reply.

### **Industrial and Professional Issues**

The planned implementation date for the National Registration Scheme is rapidly approaching. I hope that you have started to prepare your professional portfolios. ACORN will be distributing a USB containing a portfolio development guide to each member in the near future to assist with this process.

On the industrial front, I am sorry to report that the DOH has shown no inclination to implement the ACORN 2008 Staffing Standard as the Reasonable Workload Tool for staffing perioperative services in Public hospitals. This is a regrettable situation, given the increase in workloads, complexity and acuity of patients and rapid changes in technology we have seen in the five years since the 2002 Staffing Standard was finally endorsed as the RWT to be used in Public hospitals in 2005. Our current award expires in June this year and the NSWNA Log of Claims Committee is working hard to develop an appropriate framework for new award negotiations. This will not be an easy task and I urge you all to become involved in your local Branch activities during the coming months. A Statement, in support of the NSWNA case for increased pay rates for experienced Registered Nurses, was filed on my behalf with the Industrial Relations Commission last October, and I expect to be called to give evidence at the hearing set down to commence on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

I would like to thank the Conference Sub-Committee members for their work throughout the year, planning for this event. The group meets regularly on a Saturday each month, additional Saturdays are given over to site visits, and many hours of work are performed to bring this conference to fruition. Our aim is to provide the delegates with an education and social networking program to inform, stimulate and entertain, and I hope we have succeeded.

I must also thank all of the Executive Committee members for their support, enthusiasm and commitment to perioperative nursing. I am very proud to be working in your company.

Thank you to all of the Zone Committees, you do a wonderful job promoting perioperative nursing and supporting and encouraging your colleagues, often under difficult circumstances brought about by isolation, heavy workloads and diminishing resources. I commend you all.

Of course thanks must also go to Michelle, our wonderful Secretariat support who brings it all together for us and for you, the members.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the retiring Executive Committee members for your commitment to perioperative nursing and to thank you all for your help, support and collegiality during the past year. To the members at large, I thank you for the privilege of leading this association and representing perioperative nursing and I look forward to the challenges 2010 will present.

**Kerry Rodgers**  
**President**

### **Secretary Report.**

The last 12 months have been very busy with many activities and working parties associated with NSW OTA. I have been working with Workcover and the team to develop an Industry Standard for the safe design and handling of road cases, tubs and surgical instrument sets. This has some interesting results which you will all get to see soon.

I was also lucky to visit Lithgow and the team from all around the area at their meeting.

Thanks to all of you for your hospitality, it was a great meeting with lots of fascinating topics.

As the NSW ACORN representative I have had many wonderful opportunities over the last 12 months

I have been actively involved in reviewing the ANZCA training program for Anaesthetists, the EQUIP document and with Australian Standards working on the Waste Management project/standard. As well as this I have been involved in reviewing ACORN competencies and the ACORN conference.

This is a wonderful opportunity being able to have a say in policy and procedures etc that influence our practice.

I would again like to thank the rest of the NSW OTA executive for all their support and to all of you for your continued commitment to the OTA and Perioperative nursing.. I wish you all a great 2010 and look forward to seeing you all at the conference.

**Tracy Kerle**  
**OTA Secretary**

## **Treasurer**

One of my first tasks during my first year in the treasurers' role was to set up internet banking for the organisation. We are now able to make payments with Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT), which allows for more prompt payment to companies and members than paying by cheque.

Another activity for the treasurer is to be a member of the conference sub-committee which meets monthly to plan and organise the upcoming conference. This is challenging at times but rewarding. To help this committee move forward during the next year, I hope to establish a budget for the conference separate to the general business of the NSWOTA.

The role of treasurer would not function as well, without the support of our Secretariat Michelle Berarducci. I would like to thank Michelle and the Zone Treasurers for their hard work and commitment over the past 12 months.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference and during the year at educational seminars.

**Jane Waldron**  
**Treasurer**

## **Membership Officer**

2009 was an exciting year with the launch of 2009's membership drive "We Want You!" This was a most successful campaign as we had a wonderful number of new members. Welcome to all our new members and a huge thank you to all our current members for supporting your NSWOTA and promoting NSWOTA in your workplace.

Our new membership campaign will be launched at the 2010 conference, so please refer to our website during conference to see what your or your new member's exciting prize may be if you are drawn as our winner!

Thank you all again for your wonderful support!

**Lisa Siladyi**  
**Membership Officer**

## **Editorial Liaison Officer**

Another challenging year has passed and I have enjoyed it immensely. The networking and development of friendships with the executive and members and being up to date with issues affecting perioperative nurses makes this volunteer work most worthwhile.

My role as Editorial Liaison Officer is to communicate what is happening in our State with other professional associations and in particular with ACORN. I have been attending to these aspects on your behalf. Another part of this role is organizing the papers that have been written by members who have received grants from NSW OTA to be published in the ACORN Journal – and we have had a number of them in the last 12 months.

I also manage your NSW OTA web site for you. It is constant work keeping all the pages and information up to date, as there are so many things happening!!!. We added a “Projects” page last year, so you can keep up to date with the projects that NSW OTA are working on.

I still have some more ideas & projects to attend to on the web site and you will see these as 2010 goes by. I am very open to suggestions so if you have any please let me know!!!

I have also been involved in some other projects for the NSW OTA Executive in the past 12 months, including

- collating information and publishing the new NSW OTA Humanitarian Guidelines on the web site
- Updating all our forms with our new secretariat contact details and other information that needed updating
- Collating all responses for the 2010 ACORN Staffing Standard and preparation of the final document for presentation to ACORN
- I presented information about the WHO safety checklist presentation at the NSW OTA Instrument/Circulating Nurse seminar day

I truly enjoy the challenge that being on the Executive brings and I appreciate the privilege of being a member.

Many thanks,

**Lilian Blair**  
**Editorial Liaison Officer**

## **Public Relations Officer**

Suite Talk continues to provide an effective method of communicating with members and is now available on line. We have continued to increase the number of members receiving the newsletter electronically in keeping with the OTA's commitment to reducing the amount of paper generated, as well as postage costs.

The Rita Stahl Literary Award criteria have been finalised and we look forward to awarding it for an article published by a first time author in ACORN during 2010.

Designing and generating the Conference badge has been one of the most enjoyable aspects of the role, as well as preparing the opening and closing montages for the annual Conference.

Once again my thanks to Debbie Dobbs who has worked hard to audit and manage the OTA merchandise. She has ensured that merchandise has travelled to Zone meetings and Seminar days to be available to members.

**Menna Davies**  
**Public Relations Officer**

## **Education Officer**

What a year! The Annual Conference and the Seminar days get bigger and better each year. Each seminar day was well attended and evaluations support the continuance of these for 2010. The days are open to anyone interested in attending. Luckily for me the organisation of both the conference and the seminar days is a team effort. Thanks to everyone who has helped out during the year.

### **Annual Conference 2009 – Luna Park**

The 2009 annual conference was held at Luna Park overlooking the beautiful Sydney Harbour. It was difficult to concentrate on all that the conference offered with a three day program of fantastic presentations to choose from, 70 trade companies, the Mad Hatters Tea Party, Friday night cocktail party and the view.

The theme for the conference was Facing the Future Together. Thursday's program was focused on management and saw presentations on National Registration, the future of nurses in the operating theatre, horizontal violence, recruitment and retention of staff.

The trade exhibition was opened at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party on Thursday afternoon. Once again our partners in the trade showed their support by providing a fabulous display of the latest equipment and products available. Each year the delegates comment on how knowledgeable and helpful the trade representatives are. The delegates also vote on the best trade display this was won by Device Technologies for the third year in a row.

Friday's program focused on patient safety and hands on workshops. Synthes, Covidien and Heraeus Medical all provided hands on workshops for the delegates to gain some experience

in using the latest equipment. Presentations included knowledge of pressure ulcers, trauma, lupus, bullying and intraoperative MRI. All presentations were well received by the delegates.

The AGM was held and yes we had to make several changes to the constitution which always takes time but we made it through. The AGM also saw the end of term for our President Jane Waldron and the instating of our new President Kerry Rodgers.

Saturday's program included our first time presenters and another session on national registration and what it means to us all. Other topics included Operating Theatre Fires, recent Humanitarian efforts and the perioperative workforce project. GE Healthcare and Johnson & Johnson provided the hands on workshops. The conference concluded with Anthony Ackroyd making us laugh and we all left energised for the year ahead.

### **Anaesthetic/Recovery Seminar Day**

Our anaesthetic/recovery day was held in June at the 3M Innovation Centre. I would like to thank the staff from 3M for their ongoing support for our seminar days by supplying a venue, catering and providing lucky door prizes for the delegates. They also kindly allow us to have a small trade display. Thanks also to Device Technologies and Multigate Medical Products for attending and supporting us.

The day commenced with an interesting presentation on Jehovah Witnesses and their beliefs in regards to healthcare. Jed Duff presented the VTE prevention program, Julie Walters took us through anaesthetic emergencies and Jodie Moore shared a case study of patient awareness. We finished the day with Donation after cardiac death with a touching case presentation.

45 delegates attended the day and evaluations were all positive. We have had some good suggestions for the next seminar day and we hope to see you there.

### **Educator's Seminar Day**

The Royal Women's Hospital was the site for our educator's seminar day in August. This day is always well represented and some delegates even travelled from interstate to attend. Essentials of Care started the day with an overview of the project. Kathryn Taaffe provided guidelines and helpful hints on writing policies. Kim Bryant from the NSW NMB discussed National registration and Suellen Moore followed up with preparing staff for continuing education requirements. Sally Sutherland-Fraser showed us how to prepare assessors in the workplace.

3M, Device Technologies, Spiggle & Theis and Coop Bookshop provided our trade display.

## **Instrument/Circulating Seminar Day**

We were back at 3M Innovation Centre in November for our last seminar day of the year. The instrument and circulating day was well attended with a capacity number of delegates in attendance. Dr Lois Hamlin started the day by investigating the role of the perioperative nurse. Presentations on the use of antimicrobial impregnated incise drapes and minimally invasive hip surgery followed. Lilian Blair presented the Who Safe Surgery Checklist, which must be implemented by 2011.

Thanks again to 3M for supporting our seminar day by providing the venue and organising the catering.

## **Conference Sub Committee**

The conference subcommittee is a small group of the executive who meet each month on a Saturday to organise the annual conference. The group in 2009 included Kerry, Deborah, Debbie, Katie, Jane, Cheryl, Lois (5 months) and myself. The organisation of the conference takes over 12 months with a site tour for the forthcoming 2011 conference completed back in early February 2010. Over the last few years the group has developed into an effective committee, which has enabled the workload to be spread more evenly amongst the group.

## **Conference 2010**

By the time you read this you will be attending the 2010 Annual Conference in my home town of Newcastle. The conference is focusing on patient safety with two internationally known speakers presenting papers on the WHO Safe Surgery Checklist. Many abstracts were also submitted and we are pleased to put together such a great program for you. Areas covered will include research, anaesthetics, clinical endoscopy and laparoscopic surgery.

Don't panic, we did not forget about the social events which support the conference. Thursday night will see the traditional Opening of the Trade Exhibition with a cocktail party. Friday night will be something special with the Masquerade Ball being held in the spectacular Concert Hall at Newcastle City Hall. The closing presentation will be a surprise and one that is well worth the wait. Enjoy your conference and I hope to see you in 2011.

## **Conference 2011**

The 2011 Annual Conference will be held in the Grand Pavillion at Rosehill Racecourse in Sydney from the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March. The venue has been purpose built for conferences and functions and will provide the perfect arena for our conference. Keep an eye on the website for updates.

## **Seminar Dates 2010.**

Anaesthetic/Recovery Seminar Day 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010  
3M Innovation Centre  
Pymble

Educator's Seminar Day 20<sup>th</sup> August 2010  
Royal Women's  
Randwick

Instrument / Circulating Seminar Day 6<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
3M Innovation Centre  
Pymble

The website is updated regularly with registration and programs for each of the seminar days.

The NSW OTA Inc is able to provide seminar days and the annual conference due to the ongoing support of the trade and of you the delegates. Thank you all for participating throughout the year.

**Allanah Hazelgrove**  
**Education Officer**  
**Chair Conference Sub Committee**

### **ACORN Report**

It has been a productive 12 months for the ACORN Board, and Tracy and I have been honoured to represent NSW at the national level. The ACORN Executive Officer, Robyn Lawson, has been revising the Articles of Association along with the ACORN solicitor, Vahid Humphrey. Once the Articles have been revised, review of the Administration Manual can take place, thereby ensuring that the Company is adhering to current requirements.

The ACORN National Membership Services was established in July 2009, with Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory taking up this service. This is a "fee for service" whereby ACORN invoices and collects membership fees from these local associations. A review of this service has been completed by the Executive Officer.

The 2010 Standards are almost complete and these will be available at the ACORN Conference. The Standards will be available on DVD, online or hard copy. The Competencies will also be incorporated.

A DVD on Scrubbing, Gowning and Gloving will also be released at the ACORN Conference. This DVD is a revised version of the video that ACORN produced a few years ago. Shortly a USB Port will be sent to all ACORN Members. On this USB will be the Perioperative Nurses Portfolio which will be essential for all Nurses to maintain for their National Registration.

ACORN continues to work closely with other Professional organisations such as RACS and ANZCA, particularly in regards to Safe Site Surgery Checklist. This Checklist was launched in August 2009, by the Federal Health Minister, Ms Nicola Roxon and is to be implemented in all Healthcare facilities by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

Preparations are continuing for the upcoming ACORN Conference “Westward Bound: Building a Strong Future”, to be held in Perth on 19<sup>th</sup>-22 May 2010. There has been much interest both locally and internationally. The Conference has been very well supported by our Medical Industry Partners. The Program is quite varied and there is something there for everyone! We look forward to seeing you there in Perth.

This will be my final Report for the OTA as the NSW ACORN Director. It has been a great honour to represent NSW. Tracy Kerle will take over as the NSW Director in November 2010. Our new ACORN Representative is yet to be determined. If any members wish to discuss any issues with either Tracy or I, please feel free to contact us at any time.

**Frances O’Brien – Honorary ACORN Secretary and NSW ACORN Director**  
**Tracy Kerle – NSW ACORN Representative**

### **Project Officer**

It was recognised there was a need for someone to coordinate the projects that NSW OTA wished to take on, so this role was created. It has been an exciting year as the projects have progressed. My role has been to assist the team leaders with the project and ensure they continue to move forward. Each of the team leaders have supplied their report which are included below. I have also included a brief summary of the Surgical Services Taskforce as I am a member of that Committee.

The Surgical Services Taskforce (SST) was established in 2004 by NSW Health and meets on a monthly basis. Patrick Cregan continues to be the chair for the committee and Phyllis Davis and myself represent perioperative nurses. The Predictable Surgery program continues to be a major project. Maintenance of the gains to date has required continuous scrutiny as some Areas Health Services experience budgetary constraints and look to session closures to reduce expenditure but this then means the waiting list times for all categories of patients is affected. Also a principle project was the delivery of better managed emergency surgery. An Emergency Surgery Working Party was established and they developed the Emergency Surgery Guidelines. These were released in June 2009 and currently a road-show approach is being used to assist with education and implementation. Improving operating room efficiency is a goal for the coming year.

**Jenny Cubitt**  
**Project Officer**

## **Surgical Plume Project Working Party Report**

The Surgical Plume Project Working Party membership: Jenny Cubitt (Project Officer), Menna Davies and Eve Stones as Project Leaders, with Deborah Burrows and Janette Mustchin as members. A number of other OTA members and interstate colleagues expressed interest in being kept informed of progress of the Working Party, with some sharing information with the Working Party.

The Surgical Plume project developed from discussion at 2008 Scrub/Scout Seminar Day about the dangers and general ignorance/apathy amongst nursing and medical staff and the lack of use of surgical plume equipment in many hospitals. A survey was conducted at the 2009 OTA Conference to gather information from members about their knowledge of surgical plume, adverse effects experienced from exposure to plume and extent of use of smoke evacuator equipment. The results were collated and published in Suite Talk.

The main aims of the Working Party are to:

- raise awareness among nursing, medical and allied staff about the dangers of surgical plume
- mandate the usage of surgical plume evacuation equipment within NSW & ACT operating theatres

The Working Party has met regularly and the following progress has been made:

- articles, research and other resources related to surgical plume reviewed and comprehensive reference list compiled
- NSW Nurses Association passed a motion at their annual conference agreeing to support OTA in examining the effects of surgical plume on perioperative nurses. Meeting with Association's OH&S Officer is being arranged in the coming weeks to discuss our project further
- Other state/territory perioperative organisations contacted seeking information about managing surgical plume and requesting any resources they may have – several have willingly cooperated and promised further assistance as required
- NSW Health, Workcover, College of Surgeons, Commonwealth Department Health & Aging to be contacted raising their awareness of the known dangers of surgical plume and lack of protection for surgical teams. Very positive meeting with Workcover occurred in January, with further meetings planned prior to Conference

- Surgical companies who manufacture surgical plume equipment contacted to invite their involvement and to share any literature. Several companies have willingly cooperated
- American perioperative nurses, Penny Smalley and Kay Ball have published extensively on surgical plume and have agreed to assist the Working Party. The Working Party met with Penny Smalley in February during her visit to Sydney – we are grateful for her continued support

This is a long term project and we have made steady progress over the past year. We encourage members interested in assisting the Working Party to contact the OTA.

**Menna Davies, Eve Stones, Jenny Cubitt.**

## **Perioperative Nursing Workforce Program report**

### **Background**

In raising their concerns with staffing shortages and increasing demand in early 2009, and in light of the (then) recently released NSW Health ‘*Patient safety and clinical quality program report, 2004 -2005*’, which highlighted the number of sentinel events that occur in the perioperative environment, perioperative nurses across NSW indicated their willingness to review their practices, and to make changes where possible, in order to make better use of available resources to optimise surgical patient care. In response to these concerns, the NSW OTA executive committee (hereafter called the OTA) initiated the *Perioperative Nursing Workforce Program (PNWP)*, which aims to achieve two outcomes:

- A) Make better use of human resources**, to improve the way care is provided and thus improve patient outcomes;
- B) Empower perioperative nurses** so they are capable of independently improving their working environment.

Subsequently, under the auspices of the Nursing and Midwifery Office (NaMO), NSW Health, 18 teams of perioperative nurses from public hospitals across NSW were successful in gaining a place in the year-long program. That is, each Area Health Service (AHS) has 2 teams participating in PNWP, and each team is comprised of one senior and one less experienced perioperative nurse.

### **Progress**

Under the leadership of Professor Mary Chiarella<sup>1</sup> and a guidance team composed of 6 OTA members<sup>2</sup>, the program commenced with a full day workshop held at the 3M innovations centre in Pymble, Sydney, in November 2009. During this workshop PNWP participants were introduced to several approaches and techniques that would enable them to review their nursing practises and identify which work and which do not, with a view to changing practice and /or the organisation of care.

Following the workshop, the teams returned to their workplaces and commenced activities aimed at generating interest, enthusiasm and gaining ‘buy-in’ from their colleagues in the multidisciplinary perioperative team. By the end of the year, all teams had identified (at least,

provisionally) those aspects of their unit's work practices that they wished to improve/modify and/or change; they had gained the support of other colleagues and set up meetings; and they had identified possible ways and means by which their practice changes might be made. A sample of several proposed 'projects'/changes follow:

-One team, in response to their chronic shortage of suitably experienced staff to undertake on call duties for complex surgery (such as neurosurgery, cardiothoracic surgery) have created a skills and knowledge enhancement program for inexperienced perioperative nurses.

-Another team is collecting data and initiating roster changes, in order to improve staffing in the postanesthesia recovery unit (PARU) as well as to better utilise the current resources in this area.

- A third team is looking at ways to reduce (or eliminate) the number of late starts (and subsequent over-runs) of their elective lists.

There are other, equally worthy 'projects'/changes being explored and the PNWP teams have (or are) gathering data via audits and so forth, to both quantify and verify the changes they seek to make, in readiness to develop and implement planned changes to practice.

The PNWP teams are supported and assisted (via email and phone) by guidance team members, each of whom has specific oversight of and responsibility for 3 teams, with Professor Mary Chiarella providing overall leadership. To further support participants' efforts, a website has been established where they can access program documents and presentations from the workshop(s), and post questions and otherwise keep in communication

PNWP participants will attend a 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> March; at this time the work completed to date, along with their proposed changes, will be reviewed, and ways to implement their planned changes explored. Two further workshops are planned for May and September, where progress towards change will be presented by each team, and ways to evaluate their efforts and demonstrate specific outcomes will be determined. The OTA will continue to provide updates on the *Perioperative Nursing Workforce Program* via 'Suite Talk' and the journal, and in due course, a formal report will be drafted, as well as papers for more widespread dissemination.

In conclusion, the OTA believe the *Perioperative Nursing Workforce Program* represents a significant professional activity with real potential to improve surgical patient outcomes; it is also highly beneficial to perioperative nurses and perioperative nursing practice in NSW. The NSW OTA Executive committee are very grateful to Adjunct Professor Deb Thoms, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, NaMO, NSW Health for her support of and enthusiasm for this initiative; they acknowledge it could not have come about without her commitment. Additionally, the OTA thank and applaud 3M for their generous support and ongoing commitment to perioperative nursing education in this state. Finally, and by no means least, the OTA are highly appreciative of the expertise, guidance, support and leadership afforded them by Professor Mary Chiarella.

### **Dr Lois Hamlin**

1. Professor of Nursing, Sydney Nursing School, University of Sydney and member, Nurse and Midwives Board, Australia.

2.NSW OTA Guidance Team Members: Jenny Cubitt, Jed Duff, Dr Lois Hamlin (team leader), Karen Jones, Kerry Rodgers and Jane Waldron.

## **Zone Coordinator**

It has been another busy year. Not only with all the education, but following a 2 month holiday overseas, Frank and I were married in October.

The Zone committee members have a challenging task of promoting and encouraging their fellow perioperative nurses to attend the various educational sessions and conferences throughout the year.

The logistics for almost every facet of organizing a session is not easy. Consider the distance that has to be travelled, finding speakers who are willing to travel, the limited number of resources (Reps & Company's) to assist, the limited number of members to call upon. As I continue in the role of Zone coordinator I appreciate the vastness of the area that each Zone has to cover and the effort required in attending a session. For those of us in Sydney, 30 minutes or less (for a few maybe an hour) is considered enough but for our colleagues in the Zones it is not unusual to have to allow a minimum of 1-2hours sometimes 3-4 hrs traveling time each way.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my partner Frank Higgins. Wherever I need to go, whatever it takes to help me make something happen for the Zones he is there supporting me 100%.

In 2009, there were approximately 15 meetings held across 6 Zones – with a diverse and varied range of topics.

The Sydney executive endeavour to attend as many of the sessions as possible which is done on their days off. I wish to thank all the executive members who attended sessions when I couldn't.

An in depth report from each Zone will be found further in your book - following are a few highlights

### **Zone 1**

Chairperson Lynne Hoey, Secretary Yvonne Van Netten, Treasurer Marilyn Randall and the subcommittee had another busy and successful year of education days and meetings.

### **Zone 2**

Held their PED/AGM on Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup>. Yes Halloween.... Of course we had to make the most of it. We decorated the area where the education was being held and had appropriate Halloween food and drinks! At the AGM the new executive were appointed, they are Chairperson Libby McKenna from Bathurst Base, Secretary Pnina Smith from Bathurst Base and Melissa McLean from St Vincent's Private Bathurst. We welcome you all and we say a big thank you to Kylie Peers and Janeen Coles.

### **Zone 3**

Held their PED/AGM in 17<sup>th</sup> October. The executive positions were declared vacant and the following members were successful, Chairperson Tanya Knee from Tamworth Base, Secretary Sharon Nash from Moree and Treasurer Carol Pearson from Tamworth Base. Welcome back Tanya and Sharon and welcome Carol for the first time. Thank you to David Smith who stepped down as Chairperson.

#### **Zone 4**

Unfortunately at the time of this report there continues to be no one recruited to the executive positions. However I am quietly excited to be in discussion with Jodie Newton from Albury Base. Jodie is keen to see Zone 4 (the Riverina/Murray area) re energized, reinvigorated and reinstated. Keep your eyes posted in Suite Talk and/or on the web for upcoming education dates.

#### **Zone 5**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October was the PED/AGM. Due to health issues MaryAnn Wilson had to step down as Chairperson. MaryAnn has had a long association with NSW OTA and Zone executive. She has worked tirelessly encouraging members to be proactive, network and develop professionally. Thank you and good luck MaryAnne. The new Executive for the north coast are: Chairperson is Jenn Purcell from Coffs Harbour, Secretary is Leanne Seiffert from Lismore Base and Janette Mustchin from The Tweed. Congratulations on your appointments.

#### **Zone 6**

At their PED/AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> September the Executive voted in are Chairperson Tammy Burns, Secretary Lynne Noakes and Treasurer is Carla Sangco. All three work at Figtree Private so it is good to have representation from the private sector.

Thank you to Fiona Roberts for your assistance as Treasurer.

#### **Zone 7**

The Executive for ACT are Chairperson Angela Coleman, Secretary Suellen Saals, Treasurer Jenny Wetselaar all from The Canberra. They have been busy, having organised 4 very full and interesting education days, with their AGM held in August.

On behalf of all the perioperative nurses I would like to thank the Zone executives & their members for their continued commitment, dedication and energy in organizing the ongoing networking and educational sessions.

The 2010 zone educational calendar is taking shape and will continue to be updated and published in the Suite Talk newsletter and on the website. So when seeing these dates published, consider taking a trip to someone else's area and enjoy another Zone's hospitality, networking and education opportunity.

This year at the conference we will continue with the **Zone annual meeting** having its own session. At the time of my report the session is programmed to be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 1100 This year we are including an APEC workshop. Just check your programme on the day.

**This meeting is open to ALL the zone members.** Come along and share some camaraderie and networking. I hope to see you all there.

**Debbie Dobbs-Higgins**  
**Zone Coordinator**

## **Zone One: Central Coast Hunter Region**

Another year has passed which has been quite a busy one for Zone 1. Since last years report, Amanda Gore and Olivia (her daughter) have gone to Saudi Arabia for approximately 12 months. We hope that they enjoy their new environment, find it a rewarding adventure and most importantly stay safe. We welcomed some fresh faces onto our committee, unfortunately after a several months, Margaret Nowak tendered her resignation from the committee due to work load and we regretfully accepted. We wish Margaret well and would welcome her on board again if her situation should change.

The Zone 1 Conference held in July, was another great success with our keynote speaker Mary Chiarella discussing medico legal issues in Perioperative Nursing along with speakers presenting on Malignant Hyperthermia, current issues in anaesthetics and recovery room nursing and for the last part of the day, a lively panel discussion with a guided scenario on problems faced on a daily basis by perioperative nurses (such as consent, retained items and dealing with difficult personnel) was extremely well received.

The Hunter area has had new theatres approved at four private hospitals. Newcastle Private has received approval to develop another two theatres. Lingard Private Hospital is into their second year of having another one but this year sees the remainder of the hospital being revamped. Hunter Valley Private will open their purpose built endo suite by the end of the year, which is the first of its kind in the Hunter Area and we wish Margaret Waters and her team all the best for that venture. I will certainly look forward to visiting the unit when completed, as Margaret has already kindly offered to host one of our General Meetings. Maitland Private Hospital hosted our September general meeting and showed us the new theatre they have added on and discussed how they went about their daily operating whilst work was being carried out. This is not an easy task and we commend Leanne Beavis and her team on a job well done.

Our Christmas meeting was held at Brown Sugar on the beautiful shores of Lake Macquarie. Yvonne Van Netten gave us a snapshot of theatres in the Netherlands with some great photos not only of theatres but also of the countryside. Our next general meeting is going to be held in the Hunter New England Skills Lab which should be very interesting.

The State conference as you know is in our city and I do hope that you not only enjoy the conference but also take a chance and enjoy some of our other amazing surrounds, such as the beaches, Port Stephens and of course the world renowned vineyards.

At this point, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the wonderful executive, who I am so very lucky to have with me. We are working extremely well together and I sincerely appreciate all their efforts.

On a final note, our committee has been working extremely hard in bringing together our conference for this year titled "Have you got your PPE (Professional Points for Everywhere). With the advent of National Registration we thought this title appropriate and I am pleased to

announce that our Keynote Speaker will be Rosemary Bryant, our Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, Emeritus Director of Nursing. This will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 and I extend an open invitation to one and all.

**Lynn Hoey**  
**Chair Zone 1 NSW Operating Theatre Association.**

## **Zone Two**

As I am sure it was the same for all areas, 2009 has been a busy year with lots of changes happening and more changes to look forward to in 2010.

Zone 2 has had a change of guard with all executive positions declared vacant at the AGM in November. Incoming President is myself, Libby McKenna (Bathurst Base), Secretary, Pnina Smith (Bathurst Base) and Melissa McLean (St Vincent's Hospital, Bathurst). The new executive team and all members, wish to thank Kylie Peers and Janeen Coles for all the work they have done for the OTA and Zone 2 over the many years they have held these positions.

We had two education days during 2009 with the first being held at Lithgow Hospital. Our topics for the day were Malignant Hyperthermia, PPH and VTE Prevention. Karen Menz from Lithgow Hospital talked on Malignant Hyperthermia which was very informative and relevant as we have several families in our area who have Malignant Hyperthermia. Our second speaker was Dr Ross Wilson from Bathurst, who talked to us about Post Partum Haemorrhage, signs, symptoms and treatment. Finally we had the Arjo Huntleigh representative talk to us about thrombosis prevention. Thank you Marilyn and team for organizing a great day. Thanks also to Tracy Kerle for covering Debbie Dobbs as our Executive representative on the day.

Our second education day/AGM was held at Bathurst Base Hospital 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage recovery area and was well attended with 25 people attending. As this meeting fell on Halloween Kylie Peers, Debbie Dobbs and myself decorated the area with Halloween decorations and the food also had a Halloween theme



Going with the "Skeleton" theme, the day focused on bone fractures and fixation devices for these. There were two orthopaedic workshops, one by Paul Findlay from Synthes on Hand and Foot Fracture management and the second was from Byron Schoeman from Austofix on

Treating Hip Fractures. Each session started with the theory followed by a “hands on” practical session using the bones, drills, instruments and prosthesis. We did fixation of a fractured hand (plate and screws) and a fractured Neck of femur (Pin and Plate). Lots of fun was had by all. (Not sure if I would really want any of them treating my broken foot though!!)

While perusing the trade display featuring 3M, Synthes, Austofix and Device Technology we enjoyed a very tasty lunch.



Sally Taylor and Melissa McLean were the only 2 nominees for the inaugural OTA Conference Scholarship. They both gave wonderful speeches and it was decided that they would be joint winners so we will be seeing them at Newcastle at the State conference. Congratulations to both.

Thank you to Debbie Dobbs who attended as our executive representative. It was great to see her as usual get in the spirit of the day with her Halloween decorations and goodies.

I would like to thank the members of the Zone 2 region for their ongoing participation and enthusiasm for these education days. It is encouraging to see our numbers increasing. Thanks to Medical companies that continue to support us with their time and resources and hope that will continue in the future.

**Elizabeth McKenna**  
**Chairperson Zone 2**

### **Zone Three**

Three meetings took place during 2009 in Tamworth, with many phone calls, by the committee members, to organise the AGM and professional day for Zone 3 in October. Two committee members, David Smith and Tanya Knee attended, helped and supported the annual OTA 2009 conference at Luna Park in Sydney. Tanya Knee also attended the Association for Perioperative Practice (AfPP) congress in England with some financial assistance from ACORN. To view Tanya’s report on her experience in England, see the ACORN Journal, summer 2009. Vol 22, number 4, p3134.

The professional day on the 17<sup>th</sup> October was attended by members and non members from Tamworth, Armidale, Gunnedah, and Moree. Debbie Dobbs-Higgins, once again attended, representing the OTA executive, thank you Debbie for all your support and congratulations on your marriage.

Topics included; Self Directed Learning and portfolios presented by Lilian Blair, Organ and Tissue Donation, presented by Melissa Townsend, and VTE education presented by David Mckeowen from Covidien. Workshops were also conducted by our sponsors J&J and Stryker. Thanks go to all for the support and participation. This year we also decided to treat our attendees and industry representatives to a well deserved massage which was enjoyed by all. Although only a small number attended, the day was well received.

At the Annual General Meeting topics discussed included; EEN instrument nurse course, special grade pay (not available at present), EEN PCA checks with RN (not allowed in Armidale) Zone education dates, OTA 2010 state conference to be held in Newcastle, 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March, membership, Perioperative Workforce Project, Nursing and Midwifery (improving theatre nursing roles), Surgical Plume project - any one interested in being on the working party, please contact NSW OTA, OTA NSW is now a Provider of Endorsed Courses, Suite talk, OTA website, ACORN standards and Competencies and Menna Davies/Dr L Hamlin/Sally Sutherland-Fraser's first Australian Perioperative text book – Perioperative Nursing an Introductory Text - out now (please contact Elsevier).

The OTA Committee was also elected unopposed with the following members accepting their positions, they are:

Chairperson: Tanya Knee – Clinical Nurse Educator Tamworth Hospital  
Secretary: Sharon Nash – NUM Theatres Moree  
Treasurer: Carol Pearson – RN Tamworth Hospital

Evaluation of the professional day in October indicated another successful day, contributed to by the great support of the sponsors; however, due to the small numbers attending, attendees suggested that the next professional day should fall on a weekday. Therefore the executive committee are looking into the possibility of having the next professional day on a Friday afternoon/evening, ending with an evening meal, to try to increase numbers to attend.

Zone 3 covers a large rural area and has difficulty in attracting theatre nurses to attend meetings and education days. This is due to small theatre units run by small teams. Added to this, the high cost of auditing, and the small numbers of members, the Zone struggles to keep afloat. Past executive members have done a great job in keeping the Zone going, well done to you all. The present executive team will endeavour to continue recruiting new members and supporters, and to support OTA members. Please feel free to contact the executive team if you have any ideas on how we can increase our numbers, provide interesting education sessions on a budget, or if you would like to be involved in any way. Two members of the executive team will be attending and helping at the 2010 OTA conference this year in Newcastle in March and a few members will be travelling to Perth to attend the ACORN Conference in May.

**Tanya Knee Chairperson Zone 3**

## **Zone Four**

**No Activity in Zone Four**

## **Zone Five North Coast**

**Chairperson: Jennifer Purcell**

**Secretary: Leanne Seiffert**

**Treasurer: Janette Mustchin**

The first meeting of the year was in Kempsey, Sue Gilmore NUM OT organised a great program. Big Green give us a talk on smoke evacuators and surgical plume, Sue Gilmore talked about their Day Surgery Dentals list and organising the theatre to make the experience as positive as possible for the developmentally delayed patients, especially those with severe phobias of hospital, and the use of premeds given at home by the carer. Leanne Seiffert from Lismore gave a talk on the roll out of Surginet and the LBH experience which really provoked a large question time, not leaving much time for anything much else. The day was also a farewell for Bill Parmenter as Treasurer and MaryAnne Wilson as Chairperson.

The second meeting was held on 27 June, at Casino Hospital. We had several excellent speakers and learned of advances in foot surgery and treatment of bunions, diagnosis and treatment of melanoma, difficult airway management and transfusion and haematology issues.

We were given an insight into the good things that took place in Denmark during the European Operating Room Nurses Association meeting and were given a chance to show our creative sides by participating in a canvas painting of expressions of perioperative nurses.

The third meeting of the year and the Zone 5 AGM was held in Coffs Harbour at Baringa Private Hospital on 24 October 2009. The theme of the day was "Caring for the Carers" and there were presentations from a physiotherapist – Core Strength and Back Care, a dietician – Nutrition for Shift Workers, a representative from the Alzheimers Association – Mind Your Mind, a young Mum whose world was thrown completely upside down when she was pregnant with her third child and her husband was injured in a Rugby game and became a quadriplegic – Looking After Myself Now That I Am A Carer, and a member of Carers NSW – All about Carers NSW and the Support Available. The highlight of the day for a lot of us was listening to David Butler, the NUM of the Perioperative Unit at Baringa describing the planning that went into the building of their new theatres and a tour of those theatres. Oh, that we could all work in such fantastic facilities!

The day finished with our AGM which resulted in Leanne Seiffert from Lismore Base Hospital remaining on as our Secretary, Janette Mustchin from Tweed taking on the role of Treasurer to fill Bill Parmenter's shoes, and me, Jennifer Purcell, from Coffs Harbour Health Campus stepping in as Chairperson in the wake of Mary-Anne Wilson's retirement from the position. We hope that 2010 will be as productive and informative as 2009.

**Jennifer Purcell RN. Coffs Harbour Health Campus Perioperative Unit, Chairperson, Zone 5**

## **Zone Six Illawarra, South Coast and Southern Highlands**

Well what an exciting 2<sup>nd</sup> year we had at Zone 6. After taking over the reins and soldiering on in a tough year of cancelled meetings we successfully held our 2<sup>nd</sup> professional day with great response and feedback from those who attended.

It was very exciting to see the hard work and commitment of the team's efforts prove fruitful on the day. The program for the day was short and concise with a great trade display. We were very lucky to have a wonderful suturing workshop presented by Michael Tan from Covidien. Jarrod from J&J was very enthusiastic in his support of our zone and not only put together a great trade display but also assisted with the suturing workshop.

After my nerves and apprehension of being new to the OTA role, this year I have slowly started to find my feet with the great support of my fellow colleagues who continually support and give up their time for meetings. This year we have a new member on our team, Carla Sangco who has just finished her New Graduate year with the Figtree Private Theatre crew and happily took on the role as Treasurer of Zone 6.

So here is to the year that has been and to the year ahead for Zone 6. We plan for an exciting year with many challenges. Hope to see you all at our next professional day.

**Tammy Burns**

**OTA Zone 6 Chairperson**

## **Zone Seven: Australian Capital Territory and surrounding regions including Queanbeyan, Cooma, Goulburn and Yass.**

**Chairperson: Angela Coleman**

**Secretary: Suellen Saals**

**Treasurer: Jennifer Wetselaar**

In Zone 7 we have had three marvelously attended study days with an average attendance rate of 30 people per session, which is increasing from previous years and the AGM Exchange of Ideas Day had about 50 attendees this year. We have been progressively changing our approach to the study days by looking at the whole patient journey and including allied professionals as presenters. This has been enthusiastically received and we have been seeing more members of the perioperative team other than the scrub/scout members attending these days. Lunch is also included for attendees at the Study Days and is at a local Thai Restaurant.

The Study days and the AGM Exchange of Ideas Day in Zone 7 for 2009 were as follows;

**February 2009** – Advanced Micro-Plastic Reconstructive Surgery post Breast Cancer Mastectomy and Complex Lower Extremity # Tibia, requiring Plastic Reconstructive Surgery. Presented by Dr V. Milovic and Associates. The venue was the ANU Clinical Skills Building at the Canberra Hospital and we were supported by Synthes on this day. They also offered a 'hands on' workshop in the afternoon after lunch with Synthes instruments. The meeting was well attended and we received positive feedback from all attendees of the day.

**May 2009** – Total Knee Replacement Surgery with hands on workshop with TKR Instruments was held at the ANU Clinical Skills Building at the Canberra Hospital. Presentations by Dr. Brendan Klar, Dr. Simon Robertson, Helen Boyd RN, Ms Corinne Coulter, Physiotherapist and a practical session with Stryker instrumentation. Stryker supported us on this day and their presentation and hands on workshop in the afternoon was well received. All feedback from the attendees was positive.

**August 2009** – Exchange of Ideas Day and AGM was held at the DeVine Function Centre at the Kamberra Winery. Speakers included Jon Miles from Stryker who spoke about Hazards and Protection in the OR, Chris Selkirk, Using Nursing skills in caring for Orangutans in Borneo; Helen Boyd regaled us with her experiences on the African Mercy Hospital Ship off the coast of Benin; Holly Northam spoke about Organ Donation protocol after cardiac death. There was a lively, interactive session about dealing with the erosion of supernumary time for New Graduate and other new nurses moving into the perioperative environment. This session, which was facilitated by Dr Lois Hamlin, was held at the request of Zone 7 members from both the private and public sectors. One topic arising out of the debate was a request for the OTA to develop standardised, competency assessment tools. Thank you Lois for your presentation, it was well received. We have been well supported by the surgical supply companies at the study days and we had a great turnout at the AGM Exchange of Ideas Day with displays from 8 companies including Atrium, Synthes, Stryker, Multigate, Big Green, Kimberley Clarke, Covidien and Device Technologies. They all contributed to the day and each had an interesting display. Without their continued support our study days would not be what they are.

**November 2009** – Traversing the Aorta – Vascular and Cardiac Surgery Study Day, held at the ANU Clinical Skills Building at the Canberra Hospital. Speakers included Dr Peter Subramaniam who covered Ascending Aortic Dissection, Kaye Collins, Clinical Perfusionist covered Deep Hypothermic Circulatory Arrest. Dr Stephen Bradshaw addressed both Open and Endoluminal Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm procedures. Dr Derek Potgeiter covered Advances in Cardiac & Vascular Anaesthesia. The instrumentation required for Cardiac and Vascular surgery was presented by Suellen Saals RN and Angela Goodridge RN, respectively. Brett Pilcher from Cook Medical spoke about the Endoluminal Approach for AAA repairs and supported the day. Atrium also supported the day but could not provide a speaker.

In December we had a Christmas Party for the Zone and 15 members participated. We went to a local restaurant in Woden and everyone had a great time.

A lucky door prize has been offered at each study day since May and we have offered a free membership sponsored by Zone 7 as the prize. This has been a successful way of promoting attendance at the study days. At the Exchange of Ideas Day 2 lucky door prizes were available, one was a membership to the OTA and the other was a copy of “Perioperative nursing: An Introductory Text”.

Zone 7 is financially secure and we have put excess funds into two different high interest accounts and the profits are used to subsidise the members’ conference attendance. In 2009

we saw an increase in the profile of the OTA at The Canberra Hospital and we plan to raise the profile in the other units around Canberra and the surrounding region in 2010.

I would like to thank all the members of Zone 7 for their continued support of our study days, as it is their participation that has made them all such a success. At each subsequent study day throughout the year we have been getting increased attendance. I would also like to thank the OTA Executive for their attendance and support for these days. Finally I would like to thank all of the Surgical Supply and Medical Companies and their representatives that have attended our study days and donated their resources and time to make them such a success. We look forward to your continued support.

**Report by Angela Coleman**

**Chairperson Zone 7**

### **Archival Officer**

Since the last report plenty has happened.

The display cabinet, at the college of Nursing, has been completed. This has generated a lot of positive comments and interest from people visiting the college. We have had a orthopedic focus and currently have an anesthetic focus to the display. This will change throughout the year.

The past ACORN journals have been disposed of from the storage facility. Some went to our colleges in Victoria, the rest were recycled. This has freed up a lot of space in our storage facility and we are investigating the size we currently have. Costs for storage have increased significantly.

I have scanned numerous photos of people and conferences from the OTA archives. I am still identifying the people and venues, thanks to Menna for her identifications, and hope to have them added to the digital photo frame in the display cabinet.

Lastly I would like to thank all my OTA executive colleagues for their help over the past two years. I will not be putting myself forward for nomination for this position at the general meeting. If anyone has an interest in volunteering for this role I would advise they contact the OTA executive via Michelle Berarducci at [info@nsw-ota.asn.au](mailto:info@nsw-ota.asn.au).

Many thanks and see you in Newcastle in March.

**Mark Davies**

**Archival Officer**

## Life Members

Norah Spence*	1976	Rita Stahl*	1976
Joan Englert	1978	Evelyn Cowell*	1981
Jeanie Ross-Fraser	1986	Judith Meppem	1986
Ron Clerke*	1987	Judith Cornell	1987
Mair Jones	1988	Peg Durrant*	1990
Lesley Cooke*	1990	Narelle Hines	1997
Helen Stanley	1997	Lynne Tozer	1998
Mary Sams	2000	Barbara Edwards	2001
Chrystal Bowen*	2001	Karalynne Redknap	2002
Val Corcoran	2005	Susan Golland	2005
Judy Rouse	2005	Gillian Walker	2006
Lorna Abell	2006	Pat Solomon	2006
Norah Fogarty	2007	Jennifer Pirie	2009

\* Denotes Deceased.

## Certificate of Merit/Appreciation

Jenny Short*	1984	Anna Marie Nagy	1986
Merrilyn Little	1990	Val Thomas	1991
Brigid Tracey	1991	Anne Thompson	1991
Margaret Coulson	1992	John Stuart	1992
Arnold Rupell	1992	Karen Salmon	1993
Madge Roberts	1994	Keith Collins	1996
Anne Arnold	1997	Lyn Redknap	1997
Deidre Rose	1999	Margaret Warby	1999
Gillian Walker	1999	Judith Rowse	2000
Mary Pegg	2000	Betty Beattie	2000
Lesley Pereira	2001	Anne Carney	2001
Karen Croghan	2001	Phyllis Davis	2002
Robyn 'Bobbie' East	2002	Karen Smithers	2002
Margaret Waters	2002	Ros Berryman	2003
Margaret Weissman	2003	Ruth Sayers	2003
Tony Krantzcke	2003	Mary Perry	2003
Wendy Saunders	2003	Sonia Keeling	2003
Bev Keene	2003	Robyn McEachran	2003
Belinda Chapman	2003	Val Corcoran	2003
Lilian Blair	2004	Jane Gordon	2004
Wayne Griffiths	2004	Kathryn Taaffe	2004
Helen Wright	2004	Mary-Anne Wilson	2004
Margaret (Mickey) Mantle	2005	Roleen Moloney-Vaughan	2006
Lois Hamlin	2007	Olwen Durnall	2007
Pat Arnold	2007	Pat Howarth	2007
Jannette Mustchin	2007	Jenny Pirie	2007
Toni Gwynn-Jones	2007	Lyn Barden	2008
John Kennedy	2008	Sandra Solarz	2008
Frank Higgins	2008	Sally Sutherland-Fraser	2009
Bill Parmenter	2009	Ella Meek	2009

\* Denotes Deceased.

**Financial reports – Attached as an Appendix**