

# Suite Talk

The Newsletter of the NSW Operating Theatre Association Inc.



July-August, 2011

[www.nsw-ota.asn.au](http://www.nsw-ota.asn.au)

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this edition of Suitetalk finds you all well. The executive committee have been busy organising professional days, attending zone events and investigating changes to the NSW OTA and increasing the benefits of membership. I would like to welcome two new executive members Sally Duncan and Sarah Luff. Sally has taken on the role of Minute Secretary and Sarah has become our first Assistant Zone Coordinator. It is a pleasure having both on the executive.

We are currently preparing for our next planning weekend which will be held early 2012. You may ask why we are preparing for it this early, but there is method to our madness. We have engaged a strategic planning expert for the Not for Profit sector, to assist us in this process and the most important thing we have learnt so far is that the success of the strategic plan depends on preparation and access to good information for its development. Our aim is to develop the NSW OTA into a more valuable organisation for our members and in turn increase our membership which in turn will increase the value of our organisation. The Executive have had some preliminary discussions about changing the makeup of the committee roles and we have some positive suggestions about changes that may occur. It is still in the early stages and we will keep you informed of any changes that will happen.

Brian Julien and Lilian Blair, our Information Technology team, are investigating the different types of social media that are available to us.

Discussion will commence in the next couple of months about which of these outlets the NSW OTA will use. As well as this, we are developing a totally new website and we are currently researching the endless possibilities for this to occur.

Some of the most important information we require is demographic information about our members. Jed Duff is currently putting the finishing touches on our membership survey. The executive have put together questions and completed the survey as a pilot study to check the ease of completion and amount of time it will take. It is an easy process and can be completed in less than 10 minutes. The survey will be done via *survey monkey*, an electronic online survey tool. It will also be sent out to those members without email addresses. We ask that you take the time to complete this survey as it will help us help you. There is also an added incentive of a prize for one person who completes the survey. The prize is full registration at the 2012 NSW OTA Annual Conference. We are also surveying the other major stakeholders including medical companies, the Department of Health and the College of Nursing.

The NSW OTA Perioperative Educators Network is here! Lilian Blair and Deb Cochrane have developed this email group for NSW OTA members who are involved with education in their workplace and who wish to interact with other educators in NSW/ACT. Flyers have been sent out with information on how to join. We have had a great response so far.

..2/-

We are currently setting up a B-Pay option, for membership renewals and this will be extended to conference and professional day registrations. You will start to see this appear on your renewal forms in the coming months.

I have been in touch with several departments of the NSW Department of Health. They have been approached in regards to the upcoming reviews of over 30 Policy Directives and Guidelines which directly affect the perioperative environment. The NSW OTA wishes to be involved in these reviews and will be keeping in contact with the appropriate departments. A process will be developed about these reviews so that all members will be able to have a say. Some of the timeframes for responses will be short as we are kept to strict timelines from the department. More information will be available on the website as the reviews commence.

The 2012 Annual Conference planning is going well. Do you know someone who would be a great speaker or would you like to present yourself? The call for abstracts is out now and details can be found on the website.

The final two Professional days for 2011 will be held shortly. The Educators day is on the 19<sup>th</sup> August and the Instrument/Circulating day is on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. Check out the website for all the information as well as information on professional days held by the zones across NSW/ACT.

I recently attended the Tasmanian Operating Room Nurses Biannual conference in Launceston on behalf of the NSW OTA. It was a wonderful conference even the -3 degree's when I was out walking in the morning. It certainly made me walk faster. There is more information about the conference in Suitetalk.

*"Life is full of challenge and frustration,*

*But*

*sooner or later you'll find the hairstyle you like."*

*Allanah*



### Meet the Executive:

- NSW OTA Secretariat &  
Administration Assistant  
Michelle Berarducci

*My role with the OTA is to look after the administration side of the association. I am responsible for maintaining the membership database, maintaining the accounting records, producing reports for the executive monthly meetings, assisting with the annual conference and education days.*

*I really enjoy my job and the variety of work it brings and dealing with members and working with the executive I have worked with the OTA since 2004 and I have seen a lot of developments within the association in that time.*

*I am from Ireland but immigrated to Australia in 1994. I am married and we have two boys aged 12 and aged 9. They keep us busy with their sporting and school commitments. In my "spare" time I like to go for walks, bike riding with the boys, go to the movies and catch up with friends.*

Your OTA

Your Say

We want to hear what you have to say about your NSW OTA.

This information will help us to better meet your professional needs.

Keep your eye out, you will receive your membership survey in the next month.

# Zone Co-ordinator Report

July, 2011

At the Anaesthetics Professional Education Day in May, we held a General meeting and elected some new executive members to existing and to new executive roles.

One of the new roles we have created, is the role of Assistant Zone Coordinator. I would like to welcome Sarah Luff from Prince of Wales Hospital into this role. Over the period of our terms we will be coming to meet all the members from the Zones. She will be coming with me over the next few months to some zone meetings so please make her feel as welcome as many of you have done for me.

My first road trip as Zone Coordinator for the NSW OTA occurred on Saturday 21st May, when I attended Zone 7's Professional Education Day with the topic, "Two to Consider". The day was well attended with 116 Delegates from both perioperative and midwifery disciplines. Topics covered a wide range of obstetric emergencies, the treatment they required and the time frame in which an emergency caesarean should be performed in order to have the best outcome for both mother and baby. Some of the midwives talked about how important it was for mother and baby to have time to bond through skin to skin time and how this could be achieved in the perioperative environment. A case study was given of a patient being in intensive care due to cardiac failure whilst pregnant and the decisions that had to be made to achieve the best outcome. This was given by one of the patients treating surgeons. It was interesting that even in reflection; the doctor could still not answer the ethical question; (as the patient had become so ill,) of saving the mother or the baby. Another talk was given of obstetric emergencies in the third world. This was an eye opening talk, as caesarean was not an option for any of these mothers due to the lack of training, the lack of staff and a lack of equipment. They held their general meeting at the end of the day and only had about 15-20 people attend. At this meeting Ken Kemister officially stepped down from Zone 7 executive committee. He was thanked for his involvement and hard work for the NSW OTA.

On Saturday 16 July I attended Zone 5's Professional Education Day at Grafton Base Hospital. The day was attended by about 20 Delegates. Topics covered massive blood transfusions and blood replacement products, Orthopaedic Hip fractures and hip fracture management

from two local doctors and company representatives. The anaesthetist Graeme had been up all night with a deteriorating patient and could still give a good talk which answered a lot of questions by all delegates. They held their general meeting at the end of the day where most delegates attended.

The day also included a tour of the new operating suite. There has been a lot of planning to get the new theatre which has really paid off. I think some larger hospitals would be jealous of storage spaces and the size of their CSSD!

Take Care all

Hayley McIntosh

Zone Coordinator



## Meet the Executive:- Zone Co-ordinator

*Hayley McIntosh*

*I started working as an RN in 2000 and as part of my new graduate year I spent 6 months in theatres at St Vincent's Private in Sydney. I continued with my employment in operating theatres and began a specialty rotation in Orthopaedics and Neurosurgery. In 2002 I then travelled overseas for almost 4 years and continued my nursing career in the UK.*

*Since my return to Australia I have completed a post-graduate certificate in Perioperative Nursing and a Masters in Nursing (Management). I joined the staff at the Children's Hospital at Westmead in 2009. I have found that working at the Children's Hospital at Westmead has been a very rewarding challenge and continues to be an exciting experience. During the last 12 months I have had the opportunity to relieve on a regular basis in the Perioperative Nursing Unit Managers positions whilst they are on leave and days off.*

*I have a particular interest in Orthopaedic, Neurosurgery and trauma surgery.*

*I have been a member of the NSW Operating Theatre Association and am currently the Zone Coordinator of the executive committee.*



New South Wales Operating Theatre Association Inc.

## Annual Conference

# Perioperative Nurses "OUT IN FRONT"



8-10th March 2012 - ROSEHILL RACECOURSE

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

This call for abstracts is your chance to be part of this special event.

Interesting clinical papers are wanted for our annual conference  
to be held at Rosehill Racecourse.

You must follow the specific criteria and formatting for abstracts,  
available from the NSW OTA website [www.nsw-ota.asn.au](http://www.nsw-ota.asn.au) or  
email [info@nsw-ota.asn.au](mailto:info@nsw-ota.asn.au)

## Time is running out!

Submissions of abstracts for consideration must  
be received by close of business,  
2nd September, 2011.

Guidelines for the criteria and the formatting of  
abstracts is available on the website

[www.nsw-ota.asn.au](http://www.nsw-ota.asn.au)

or you can contact Michelle, the associations'  
secretariat by

**Email:** [info@nsw-ota.asn.au](mailto:info@nsw-ota.asn.au)

**Phone:** 02 97999835

**Mail:** P.O. Box 212

Croydon NSW 2132

## Education Report

July 2011

Since the April edition of Suite talk, we have completed Anaesthetic and PARU (Recovery) Professional Days. The venue at 3M, was, as always well organised with the fabulous assistance of Juliet Spencer and her team. We would like to thank them for the use of their facility and the service they provide for our members.

This was the first time that the days were run independently, in an aim to provide a more focused day and to allow for greater numbers of attendees. Both days were fully subscribed, and unfortunately people turned away. Thank you to all the speakers, who provide us with wonderful sessions and assist us in better providing quality care for our patients. All sessions were highly rated by the attendees.

The Educators Professional day, 19/8/11, is now open for registration (details can be found on the OTA website and on page of this newsletter.) The sessions promise to be informative and inspiring. We would like to thank Menna Davies for her organisation of this day.

The Instrument Circulating Professional day is being held at Rydges Hotel, Rosehill on the 5/11/11 and seats will be available for 100 attendees. Please keep this day available and watch the website for further details. Speakers are still needed for this day.

Plans are under way for our Annual Conference to be held on 8th - 10th March, 2012. Abstracts need to be forwarded to us by the 2nd of September. We are encouraging novice presenters to submit abstracts and present them at the conference. If you are passionate about an issue in the workplace, think about presenting your ideas, and have your registration waived for that day.

Deborah Carter &  
Mary-Anne Renshaw

Education

# RESEARCH NEWS

We know that keeping abreast of the latest research can be difficult when you're a busy clinician. To help out, we have added this Research News section which highlights the latest studies pertinent to perioperative nursing.

The following systematic review was recently published in the Cochrane library which is a fantastic free evidence resource. To read the full paper and many others go to <http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>

Dumville JC, Walter CJ, Sharp CA, et al. **Dressings for the prevention of surgical site infection.** Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2011 Jul 6; 7:CD003091.

**BACKGROUND:** Surgical wounds (incisions) heal by primary intention when the wound edges are brought together and secured - often with sutures, staples, clips or glue. Wound dressings, usually applied after wound closure, provide physical support, protection from bacterial contamination and absorb exudate. Surgical site infection (SSI) is a common complication of surgical wounds that may delay healing.

**OBJECTIVES:** To evaluate the effects of wound dressings for preventing SSI in people with surgical wounds healing by primary intention.

**MAIN RESULTS:** Sixteen RCTs were included (2578 participants). All trials were at unclear or high risk of bias. Nine trials included people with wounds resulting from surgical procedures with a contamination classification of `clean`, two trials included people with wounds resulting from surgical procedures with a `clean/contaminated` contamination classification and the remaining trials evaluated people with wounds resulting from various surgical procedures with different contamination classifications. Two trials compared wound dressings with leaving wounds exposed. The remaining 14 trials compared two alternative dressing types. No evidence was identified to suggest that any dressing

significantly reduced the risk of developing an SSI compared with leaving wounds exposed or compared with alternative dressings in people who had surgical wounds healing by secondary intention.

**AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS:** At present, there is no evidence to suggest that covering surgical wounds healing by primary intention with wound dressings reduces the risk of SSI or that any particular wound dressing is more effective than others in reducing the rates of SSI, improving scarring, pain control, patient acceptability or ease of dressing removal. Most trials in this review were small and of poor quality at high or unclear risk of bias. However, based on the current evidence, we conclude that decisions on wound dressing should be based on dressing costs and the symptom management properties offered by each dressing type e.g. exudate management.

If you would like to recommend a study for publication in the next edition of suite talk then please forward the abstract or citation to:

Jed Duff,  
Clinical Research Fellow,  
St Vincent's Private Hospital  
[jduff@stvincents.com.au](mailto:jduff@stvincents.com.au)

## *Did you Know That.....*

In a 72 year lifetime, the heart beats more than 2.5 billion times.

Slow dancing for 26 minutes will burn about 420 kilojoules.

The kidney of an adult weighs around 140 grams and processes around 1600 litres of blood a day

While calcium is important to strengthen bone, 99% of the body's calcium is contained in teeth.

The average pair of feet travel about 190,000 kms in a lifetime.

A person living to 80 will have taken more than 200 million breaths.

## ***CAN YOU HELP?***

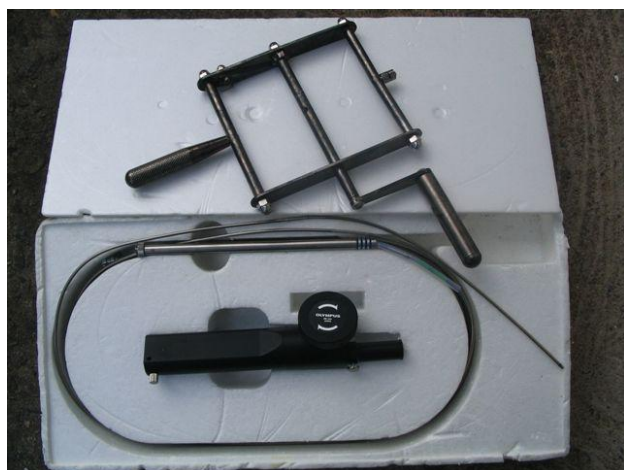
The SPASM Museum is trying to source some old glass sucker bottles to complete a display. If you have any tucked away or you know where I can source some please contact Judith Cornell on [spasm@netspace.net.au](mailto:spasm@netspace.net.au)

SPASM MUSEUM has a new website, please take the time to visit it and let us know what you think!

[www.spasmmuseum.org.au](http://www.spasmmuseum.org.au)

Visitors are always welcome at the museum and if you have spare time assistance in the identification of old instruments and equipment is always gratefully received.

Can anyone please identify the use for this Olympus brand instrument?



It is contained in this original custom built polystyrene box although it is possible that one piece is missing but as we don't know what the item is, or used for, so we cannot guess what if anything is missing.

We at SPASM are stumped.

If you have any ideas or suggestions as to its origin or use then please let us know either via the website or by email.

*The SPASM museum is located at  
Building 6,  
Gladesville Hospital  
Victoria Road, Gladesville  
NSW 2111*

*The museum is open  
February to November on the 2nd Saturday  
&  
4th Monday from 11am to 3pm Public holidays excluded) or by  
appointment.*

Perioperative Nurses Association  
Queensland Inc  
Annual Conference 2011  
"Standing on the Shoulders of Giants"  
29 September to 1 October 2011  
RACV Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast  
REGISTRATION OPEN  
NOW!!  
CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR  
PROGRAM DETAILS AND  
ACCOMMODATION  
[www.pnaqconference.net.au](http://www.pnaqconference.net.au)

## *"Standing on the Shoulders of Giants"*

*29/9/11-1/10/11*

Registrations for the PNAQ conference and accommodation can be found on the website and is now available.

*(Online registration is strongly recommended.)*

[www.pnaqconference.net.au](http://www.pnaqconference.net.au)

or

the link on the NSWOTA website

[www.nsw-ota.asn.au](http://www.nsw-ota.asn.au) .

*Link is available in the calendar of events page*

**PROFESSIONAL DAY FOR  
PERIOPERATIVE EDUCATORS**  
Friday 19th August 2011

Venue: *Lecture Theatre, Level 1,  
Royal Hospital for Women, Randwick*

0730            **Registration**

0815- 0915: **Pre Seminar Session**  
**Getting the most out of CIAP**

Jane Raymond and Fiona Pugh  
CIAP Educators

*\* Applicable to Public Hospital employees only*

0915- 0930: **Welcome**  
NSWOTA Executive

0930-1030: **Process Mapping**  
Anthony Dombkins,  
*Acting Director of Nursing and Midwifery  
Northern Sydney Local Health District*

1030-1130: **Morning Tea & Trade Display**

1130-1215: **When Staff Won't Do the Right Thing**  
Julie Horn,  
*CNE, Operating Suite,  
The Nepean Hospital*

1215-1315: **OTA General Meeting and Open Forum**  
NSWOTA Executive

1315-1400: **Lunch and Trade Display**

1400-1445: **Situational Awareness –  
What Non- Technical Skills Do Perioperative  
Nurses Need?**  
Menna Davies,  
*CNC, Operating Suite,  
Prince of Wales/Sydney Children's Hospital*

1445-1510: **Short Break**

1500-1530: **Writing for the Journal**  
Pauline Walker,  
*NUM, Cardiothoracic Operating Theatres,  
Prince of Wales Hospital*

1530 – 1600: **Update on NSW OTA Competency  
Project**  
Lillian Blair,  
*CNC, NSCCLHN*

1600-1615: **Evaluation and Close**

**Tasmanian Operating Room Nurses  
Bi-annual Conference.**

I was lucky enough to attend the TORN conference on behalf of the NSW OTA executive. The conference was held in Launceston on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July. The conference theme was *Shape your Destiny*.

On Friday I attended the ACORN Annual General Meeting which ended with some minor changes to articles of association made. Friday night was the opening of the trade display and cocktail party. The trade display had 20 booths with many travelling from Melbourne for the conference. This was followed by the dinner and trivia night. The trivia certainly provided lots of entertainment and there were even disputes over answers and calls for a recount.

The presentations were based on personnel experiences of the presenters.

Dr Michael Buist is Director of Medicine for the NWAHS plus clinical/ teaching roles, and his research into service delivery and patient safety. Michael developed a lung tumour which went undiagnosed despite many tests and then underwent routine operation for appendicitis which went horribly wrong. Both of these incidents almost killed him. He talked about how and why things go wrong and how to implement changes and processes to prevent mistakes.

Lynne Staff spoke about her research into a women's experience of a Caesarean section. The women talked about not feeling apart of the birth, they had no control over the situation and they were forgotten about particularly during unplanned caesarean sections.

Dr Marcus Skinner spoke about volunteering overseas and his time in The Royal Australian Air Force specialising in Anaesthesia. Marcus travels to Vietnam each year to undergo trauma training and next year will be taking a neurosurgical team and theatre staff to develop an exchange program.

ACORN President Vicki Warwick spoke about her training and practice as a Perioperative Nurse Surgeon's Assistant. She created a lot of discussion about the changing role of nursing and the nursing scope of practice.

The day was closed with a presentation by Sam Cawthorn, Sam was the 2009 Young Australian of Year for Tasmania. Sam survived a horrific car accident in which he lost his arm and severely damaged his leg. He has become obsessed with corporate and personal turnaround and strongly believes in the future potential of every human being. He was absolutely inspiring and everyone was moved to sing with him at the end of the day.

Thanks to James and all the TORN committee for hosting a wonderful conference and making me feel welcome.

Allanah

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday 6th August  
**Zone 1** Professional Education Day in Newcastle

Tuesday 9th August  
**Zone 6** Professional Education Evening in Wollongong

Saturday 13th August  
**Zone 7** Professional Education Day Canberra

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September  
**Zone 2** Professional Education Day Orange

Saturday 22nd October  
**Zone 6** Professional Education Day Wollongong

Saturday 29th October  
**Zone 5** Professional Education Day Lismore

Saturday 19th November  
**Zone 7** Professional Education Day Canberra

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November  
Professional Education Day  
**Instrument/Circulating Nurse Focus**  
Rydges Hotel  
Parramatta

Wednesday 8th – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2010  
NSWOTA Inc.  
**Annual Conference**  
Rosehill Racecourse.  
*Registration for the conference will open and be available soon.*



## CALVARY MATER NEWCASTLE

Registered Nurses  
Permanent Part-Time / Permanent Full-Time x 2 FTE  
Temporary Part-Time –  
Maternity Leave / Secondment x 1.4 FTE  
(Until May and October 2012)  
Operating Theatre  
CMN 11/109

The successful applicant will be responsible for the provision and documentation of safe, effective, and appropriate patient care in a patient-focused environment.

### Criteria:

#### Essential:

Registered Nurse authorised to practice by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Recent demonstrated experience in the perioperative role as instrument/circulating or recovery room nursing. Relevant post registration qualification (or equivalent expertise). Demonstrated initiative and the desire to continually improve patient care. Ability to work unsupervised. Demonstrated effective communication, interpersonal and organisational skills. Able to work proficiently in periods of high demand and activity and as a member of a multidisciplinary team. Demonstrated commitment to own personal and professional development. Commitment to the philosophy, mission and values of Little Company of Mary Health Care as it applies to the Hospital and the ability and desire to uphold these principles.

#### Desirable:

Post Basic certificate in Peri operative Nursing. Experience in use of iPM Operating Theatre module.

### Salary & Conditions:

In accordance with the Named NSW (Non-Declared) AHO Nurses Agreement, Registered Nurse, currently \$26.68 (1<sup>st</sup> Year) to \$37.47 (8<sup>th</sup> Year) per hour, depending on years of service plus applicable loading and shift penalties.

### Enquiries:

For full details and an application kit, visit Calvary Mater Newcastle's Home Page [www.calvarymater.org.au](http://www.calvarymater.org.au) (Please click on "Careers" then "Current Vacancies" for the position(s) you are interested in) OR contact **Allanah Hazelgrove**, Nurse Manager on phone (02) 49 211039.

**Closing Date: Friday 19th August 2011.**

**AN ELIGIBILITY LIST WILL BE CREATED FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS AND MAY BE USED TO FILL CASUAL, PERMANENT, TEMPORARY, FULL-TIME AND/OR PART-TIME POSITIONS. THE LIST WILL BE VALID FOR TWELVE MONTHS AND SUITABLE APPLICANTS WILL BE LISTED IN ORDER OF MERIT.**

Written applications which detail compliance with the essential and desirable requirements, including a completed Calvary Mater Newcastle Application for Employment form, quoting the relevant Position No and three (3) recent, professional referees should be forwarded to [careers@calvarymater.org.au](mailto:careers@calvarymater.org.au)

*Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders are encouraged to apply  
An Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer  
Calvary Mater Newcastle is a Smoke Free Workplace  
Criminal Record Check for successful applicants in accordance  
with Department of Health Policy*

*Provision of documented evidence of protection against specified infectious diseases required*

*Verification of Qualifications will be undertaken where appropriate*