

# Suite Talk

The Newsletter of the NSW Operating Theatre Association Inc



July/ August 2010

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

## From Kerry Rodgers, President.

We were honoured to have Penny Smalley present a Surgical Plume Seminar evening in June at the College of Nursing. We had 63 registrants and those who made the trek to Burwood on a cold, wet Tuesday evening really enjoyed Penny's presentation. Penny gave us the latest updates on the hazards of surgical plume, development of a worldwide standard and also took the opportunity to meet with the OTA working party prior to the Seminar presentation. Also present at that meeting and the Seminar, were Michelle O'Heffernan, a Policy Analyst for the NSW Department of Health and Angus MacKenzie representing Workcover. Michelle said that the DOH is aiming to have a first draft policy ready for release in the not too distant future. This is great news for NSW perioperative nurses. I must thank N. Stenning for their generous support of this Seminar evening. Thanks also to the working party members for their hard work with this project, if we achieve our goal of mandated use of surgical plume evacuation throughout NSW operating suites (and perhaps nationally) we will have made a very valuable contribution to the health and safety of perioperative nurses, and to nurses working in many other areas affected by surgical plume.

**The Anaesthetic and Recovery Professional Day** held at 3M on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July was well attended, in fact we had a sellout crowd. The presentations included a hands-on workshop dealing with the management of difficult airways and information regarding the volume replacement Voluven. Once again, many thanks to the team at 3M for their fantastic hospitality and support of perioperative nurses. It was noted in the evaluation forms that a few attendees felt that we should not be holding an OTA General Meeting as part of the Professional Day. Information regarding the general meetings is available later in this edition of Suitetalk

## **The Educator's Professional Day**

Registration is now open for Educators Professional Day which will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 at The Royal Hospital for Women

Those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the recent ACORN Conference in Perth were treated to a wonderful conference as well as some fantastic social activities, including Charlie Teo at the dinner, dancing and socialising like a rock star!! It was great fun all-round. Congratulations to Judith Berry, who delivered a moving and at the same time, entertaining Judith Cornell Oration. Congratulations also to Sally Sutherland-Fraser, who was presented with the ACORN Excellence in Perioperative Nursing Award. This is a most prestigious award and Sally was certainly a worthy recipient. Sally is a wonderful perioperative nurse who not only inspires others but shares her knowledge and skills freely and encourages her colleagues to reach higher than they think they are able to.

The preparations for the 2011 Annual conference are continuing and a call for abstracts has been released. Please consider presenting a paper or encourage your colleagues who may have something new to share, to present.

The NSWNA is pursuing a new Log of Claims as our current Award officially expired on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010. As part of that Log of Claims they are seeking to have the ACORN 2008 Staffing Standard recognised as the tool for staffing Operating Suites in the Public sector. The ACORN 2010 Standards were released in May, however, as there is much background work undertaken prior to presenting a Log of Claims this was too late for inclusion in this Log of Claims. I encourage you to attend your local Branch meetings to remain informed regarding the progress of this campaign as this will be a hard fought process and will not be an easy win by anyone's standards. The Federal election is almost upon us and I urge you to keep informed as there are many health issues to be decided, not just in the acute or public sectors but also in the aged care and disability arenas, among others, and to ensure that your vote counts on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

Regards

Kerry



## NSW OTA Inc General Meetings

The constitution of the NSW OTA Inc requires the executive to hold 3 general meetings each year to inform the members of the current business of the organisation. This information is vital for the members to be aware of as the OTA is your organization and the executive committee volunteer their time and work hard to promote perioperative nursing and the needs of perioperative nurses. It also provides the opportunity for members to engage in direct conversation with the executive committee and it is from these meetings that the executive pursues the issues and ideas of the members.

We have received some comments regarding the need for these meetings to be held at the professional days. The professional days are the ideal time for the general meetings as we have a good number of members present and the information can be spread amongst a wider group.

Following each of the general meetings we hold an open forum for the delegates to discuss topics, ask questions (not just of the OTA executive but of those present) and to network amongst other like minded people.

The general meetings and open forums will remain as a part of the professional days. If you are one of the delegates who would prefer them not to be included why not bring a topic or question to the next meeting and use the opportunity provided to gather information and gain knowledge

# Professional Day with an Anaesthetic/Recovery focus

The professional day with an anaesthetic/recovery focus was well attended on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The day was fully subscribed several weeks from the day and we had to turn away a number of potential attendees. It is important to get your registrations in early for all the professional days in case you miss out.

A big thank-you to those delegates who completed the evaluation forms. These forms are essential for the success of future days. Delegates stated that the day was informative and enjoyable. We have received many suggestions for future topics not just at the professional day but also at the upcoming conference. If you know anyone or even yourself would like to speak at this day or at the conference contact the education officer via the website.

A very special thank-you to our good friends at 3M, once again they looked after us like we were family. The staff give up their day off to support us in the further education of perioperative nurses and for this we are grateful. Thanks also to Device Technologies and Multigate for providing a trade display on the day. This is the perfect opportunity for the delegates to see and handle the equipment that is available to them.

Last but certainly not least thank-you to our speakers who have dedicated their spare time to come and present to the delegates. We are always grateful to our presenters who not only give up the time on the day but the time to prepare their presentations as well. Topics covered were Malignant Hyperthermia, Fluid Resuscitation with Voluven, Management of the Difficult Airway (hands on workshop) and Better Ventilation options for the Operating Room. All presentations were well received.

We hope to see you next year.

## Surgical Plume Seminar

Over 50 OTA delegates and invited guests attended a seminar evening on surgical plume presented by expert Penny Smalley. Penny has been advising NSW OTA with our project over the past year and we were grateful that she was able to fit us into her busy schedule. Penny's presentation provided the audience with a wealth of information about the dangers of surgical plume, the use of plume evacuation equipment, current standards and those being drafted at international level. We were fortunate to have in attendance Angus McKenzie from Workcover NSW and Michelle O'Heffernan, OH&S Project Officer, NSW Health, who announced that a draft policy mandating the use of plume evacuation equipment will begin development shortly and NSW OTA will be involved in these discussions. This is a significant step which in the near future will see the use of evacuation equipment across NSW public hospitals and reducing the occupational exposure to surgical plume.

The NSW OTA would like to acknowledge the support of N.Stenning & Co Ltd and Buffalo Filters who sponsored the evening and displayed plume evacuation products.

Penny's notes and bibliography are available from NSW OTA, those of you who would like a copy, please contact Michelle at the OTA Secretariat.



*Jenny Cubitt, Menna Davies, Kerry Rodgers, Eve Stone,  
Penny Smalley, Michelle O'Heffernan and Angus McKenzie*

## Perioperative Nursing Workforce Program (PNWP)-July

### 2010 update

#### Background

As previously reported, the *Perioperative Nursing Workforce Program* (PNWP) which commenced in November last year with 18 teams participating aims to achieve two outcomes:

**Make better use of human resources**, *to improve the way care is provided and thus improve patient outcomes;*

**Empower perioperative nurses** *so they are capable of independently improving their working environment.*

The PNWP teams are supported and assisted (via email, phone and site visits) by guidance team members<sup>1</sup>; each has specific oversight of and responsibility for 3 teams, with Professor Mary Chiarella<sup>2</sup> providing overall leadership.

#### ***Progress to date- July 2010***

PNWP participants have now attended 3 of the 4 workshop and at the 3<sup>rd</sup> one, held in May, each team presented a brief overview of their progress to date. During these presentations, all of which were of a high calibre, feedback was sought and given, and participants were able to share ideas. The teams are all at varying stages with their activities including some whose projects have needed to have change focus!

#### **Sample projects include:**

- Redesigning work/tasks to reduce turn around time between cases
- Updating preference cards to reduce the number of occasions/time nursing staff spend out of OR collecting 'missing' items.
- Introducing 'Team Talk' to improve surgical team communication practices.

The significance of using clinical audit tools to gather data to quantify the aspects of practice under scrutiny by each team was strongly emphasised and one educational topic addressed during the workshop was an introduction to the use of spreadsheets. Evaluation data from the first two workshops have been collated and analysed, the results being generally positive. Sadly, three teams have dropped out of the program so far; however, there is a firm belief that the remaining 15 will 'stay the course'.

In addition to advising their respective teams, guidance team members are currently planning an overall program evaluation strategy and preparing individual certificates of attendance for each participant, for inclusion in the latters' portfolios. The final study day is due to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> September and it is anticipated that all teams will present their projects during 2011 NSW OTA Annual Conference.

Dr Lois Hamlin, Project Team Leader

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

2. *Professor of Nursing, Sydney Nursing School, University of Sydney and member, Nurses and Midwives Board, Australia.*

# Maryanne Wilson

21.11.1957 – 05.05.2010



We were very saddened to receive the news of Maryanne's passing.

She was 52. Maryanne has been a NSW OTA member since 1978.

Maryanne, her husband Mick and their 2 daughters Carly & Erin lived in Shellharbour.

They moved to Coffs Harbour in '86, to Port Macquarie in 1990 & then to Lismore in 1994 where she was NUM of Operating Theatres till she resigned last September due to her ill health.

She has been an OTA executive of Zone 5 over the past 10 years.

She has always been a strong advocate for the NSW OTA, encouraging her colleagues to attend meetings so they would grow professionally & for them to network, to make new friends & catch up with "old" ones.

Maryanne was outgoing, happy, a leader & role model. She was a very positive person to be around, even when the going got tough & she was diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer at the beginning of 2008 & she went through the grueling surgery/chemo/radio treatment. Her spirits remained high.

Perioperative nursing has lost a champion and leader and we have lost a treasured friend and colleague.

Maryanne's legacy lives on in each of the nurses and members of staff she mentored, encouraged and supported throughout her career. Whilst we share our loss and grief we take comfort in the knowledge that Maryanne's magnificent spirit is soaring, free from the burden of illness. Our deepest condolences go to Mick, Carly and Murray, Erin and their extended families; you are in our thoughts and prayers.

I was fortunate to attend Maryanne's funeral at Ballina. There were many there and whilst one wouldn't make mention I am sharing a photo of Maryanne's coffin. It was truly beautiful. It was a bright blue and her daughter Erin used her artistic talent to design some of her mother's loves... which were music and the yellow roses.



There were a few photos of Maryanne and her family by her coffin as was the Certificate of Appreciation Award that we presented to Maryanne in 2008

Maryanne & I shared many traits – we're the same age, we're both very passionate about our profession, in particular Orthopaedics, we would share stories and have a few laughs and this was one Maryanne sent to me:

*"Life's journey, is not to arrive  
At the grave safely  
In a well preserved body,  
But rather  
To skid in sideways,  
Totally worn out,  
Shouting  
"Holy cow..... What a ride!!"*

As per the family's request a donation of \$200 was given to the Breast Cancer Foundation



**NSW OTA Inc Annual Conference  
2011 Perioperative Nurses Taking  
the Reins  
Call for Abstracts**

**We are looking for interesting clinical papers to be presented at the 2011 Annual Conference. Presenting at the conference is a great opportunity to showcase yourself, your team and your unit. You may not think that you are doing anything different to anyone else but you may be able to help one person or one team change a process which will improve patient care.**

Presenting at the conference is also an excellent way of gaining CPD hours for your nurses registration. Each speaker receives a thank-you certificate which can be used in your professional portfolio.

Suggested topics for presentations include cricoid pressure – who, what, why and how; laryngeal spasm, bronchial spasm, midwives in recovery plus many more.

The call for abstract flyer can be found on the NSW OTA Inc website which includes the format required for your abstract.

**So if you have any ideas for a presentation let us know.**

## NSW OTA Perioperative Competencies Project Group

### **NSW OTA Inc Professional Day with Educator Focus.**

The next professional day will be held at The Royal Hospital for Women, Randwick on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August. An excellent education program has been organised by Menna Davies (Thanks Menna for all your hard work). Topics include :

- Preparing Undergrads for clinical practice,
- E Learning,
- Managing Fish out of Water,
- sweet dreams – improving patient journey and
- a forum on the draft NSW OTA competencies.

The day will also include the OTA General meeting and open forum. The flyer and registration form are available on the NSW OTA website. Get in quick this day is always in hot demand.

See you there.

Allanah Hazelgrove  
NSW OTA Education

#### **NSW OTA Professional Development day**

With an Instrument & Circulating Roles Focus

**6<sup>th</sup> November, 2010**

**3M**

**Bridge Street,  
Pymble**

Dear NSW OTA member,

By the time this newsletter is published you will have received an email calling for interested NSW OTA members to participate in a project group to produce NSW OTA endorsed perioperative competency/assessment documents.

#### **The aim of the project is to**

- reduce the time consuming practice of perioperative nurses "reinventing the wheel" at local facility level by pooling our resources and expertise.
- promote consistency in practice amongst NSW perioperative nurses and encourage the tools to be used as evidence in professional portfolios.
- produce documents that are based on best practice standards, including but not restricted to, ACORN standards, NSW legislation/policy, ANZCA Standards, ANMC etc
- produce documents that embrace all the perioperative specialities ie: instrument, circulating, anaesthetic and recovery roles.
- have the documents endorsed by the NSW OTA and available for free on the NSW OTA web site.

#### **Project group:**

- Project leaders will be Lilian Blair (NSW OTA Website Officer) and Brian Julien (NSW OTA Executive Member) under the guidance of Jenny Cubitt, NSW OTA Project Officer.
- A project group is being formed from those zone and Sydney members who have expressed interest and meet the required criteria.

This is an exciting venture and we shall keep you updated on the web site as we progress.

Lilian Blair,  
NSW OTA Website Officer, on behalf of the NSW  
OTA Executive Committee.

**Zone report for Suite Talk – July 2010**  
**Debbie Dobbs-Higgins**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May Zone 7** (ACT) held their education day.

I was unable to attend their day as I travelled to Ballina to attend Maryanne Wilson's (Zone 5) funeral. Maryanne's vale will be found further in Suite Talk.

The theme was Facio Maxillary, ENT & Cochlear Surgery.

Their day was a huge success with 71 delegates which is a great effort which then required a last minute change to have a larger venue within the hospital & a bigger bus to transport the delegates to the local Thai restaurant for lunch!

There were 3 trade displays – Synthes, Johnson & Johnson & Lifehealthcare

Synthes held a workshop which was very well received.

Their next education day which is also their AGM is Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Zone 5** held their education day at The Tweed Hospital. Frank & I were fortunate to attend.

There were approximately 30 delegates and 2 companies were present and Molnlycke sponsored morning tea. The first 4 speakers, nurses from the Tweed spoke on their recent trip to Hoc Mai Vietnam (Hoc Mai means forever learning) they travelled with an anaesthetist and a surgeon. They spent a week working in a local hospital. As with many of these 3<sup>rd</sup> world areas, the stories they each had to tell certainly make you stop & reflect on how lucky we are to live and work within the facilities that we do. Dr Bourne gave a very interesting update on prostate cancer in particular, radical prostatectomy. Janette Mustchin gave an update on their perioperative nursing workforce project. Their topic is looking at no breaks, relief for the staff during the shifts of the day, too much non nursing administrative work and the increase of the after-hours + on call rate. During the general meeting, it was overwhelmingly approved that in honour of Maryanne Wilson and her commitment to the education of perioperative nurses, that the Maryanne Wilson State Conference grant be created. The grant will be full registration to the 2011 state conference at Rosehill Racecourse. A 30 word paragraph stating "What is the Benefit of the State Conference to our Profession." is to be submitted to the executive prior to the education day on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Baringa Private Hospital Coffs Harbour. After the education we all

adjourned to the local bowling club (just down the road) for lunch.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July, Zone 2** held their education day at Bathurst Base Hospital. There were approximately 30 delegates and 4 trade displays. There was a Christmas in July theme. Frank & I were able to help the executive Friday night to set up the Christmas tree as well as all the other decorations. Two Anaesthetists gave 2 sessions each. Even though Anaesthetics is not my area of expertise both had very interesting information to impart. Dr Brendan Smith spoke on the "Lost art of Anaesthesia -Locals" and "Snotty, Screamy, Stropy, Snuffly, Scratchy, Squirmy and Scary – The joys of Paediatric Anaesthesia." Part of this talk involved understanding the special needs of the Autistic child – very interesting.

Dr John Williams spoke on "Iodine Allergies demystified" and "Opium – A Gift from the Gods". Sharon Kirk from Covidien spoke on "Fire Safety in the OR".

**Calendar Dates:**

**August**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Zone 1 Newcastle

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Zone 7 Canberra

**October**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Zone 6 Wollongong

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Zone 5 Coffs Harbour

***Interstate Conferences***

Perioperative Nurses Association of  
Queensland  
October 14-16, 2010. [www.pnaq.net.au](http://www.pnaq.net.au)

South Australian Perioperative Nurses Association  
November 4-6, 2010. [www.sapna.org.au](http://www.sapna.org.au)

***International Conferences***

AfPP  
Harrogate, England. 14-16 October, 2010  
[www.afpp.org.uk](http://www.afpp.org.uk)

AORN  
Philadelphia, PA USA 19-24 March, 2011  
[www.aorn.org](http://www.aorn.org)