

# Suite Talk

The Newsletter of the NSW Operating Theatre Association Inc



FOUNDED  
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October 2010

Dear Colleagues

I would like to belatedly wish you all a Happy Perioperative Nurses' Day. I hope that you had an opportunity to pause, even for a short while, on October 12th and celebrate your achievements during the past year. We would love to receive any photos you may have of the way you chose to mark the day and we will include them in future editions of Suitetalk.

The Professional Day with an Education focus was a great success and I must thank Jenny Cubitt for Chairing the General Meeting and keeping the day ticking over in my absence, as I was away on leave at the time.

The final Professional Day for 2010 will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November at 3M and we have achieved maximum registrant numbers already. This day is focussed around the Instrument/Circulating Nurse roles but, as with all of our educational presentations, all perioperative nurses are most welcome to attend.

The Conference Sub-Committee will be releasing a preliminary program for the 2011 Annual Conference very shortly. Thank you to all who submitted abstracts for the program, they were of a very high standard and will, I'm sure make for a great conference on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of March next year at Rosehill Gardens. Early bird registration will open soon, so start planning your leave applications now. Deb Carter is working hard on the plans for next year's Dinner as she has a lot to live up to after her triumph last year.

The PNWP is drawing to a close and the participants will be presenting their projects at Annual Conference. This is a great opportunity for them to showcase the hard work they have undertaken throughout the course of the program and I look forward to seeing as many of their presentations as possible at conference. A formal evaluation of the program will be undertaken as the final stage of the program, and a report prepared for NaMO and the OTA.

The NSWNA is pushing ahead with the campaign for mandated nurse:patient ratios and appropriate skill mix to ensure safe standards of patient care. For those of us in the perioperative arena it will mean the use of the ACORN 2008 Staffing Standard as our staffing tool. Please keep yourselves informed of your local Branch activities during this important campaign.

I know that many of your units have been struggling with additional workloads during the push to reduce the number of surgical patients on the waiting list. Please try to take some time to nurture yourselves and your colleagues during these stressful times.

Kind regards  
Kerry



NSW OTA inc.  
Annual Conference

# "TAKING THE REINS"



3-5th March 2011  
ROSEHILL RACECOURSE

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**3-5<sup>th</sup> March, 2011**

**ROSEHILL  
RACECOURSE**

The conference sub committee have been labouring away during the last few weeks planning and finalising the details of 2011 conference.

Thank you to all who submitted presentation abstracts for consideration.

A preliminary program will be distributed shortly so now is the time to start making your plans to attend.

## Zone executive Report – October 2010

### August 7<sup>th</sup> Zone 1 – Newcastle

It was held at Club Macquarie at Argenton. There were approx 130 delegates attended with support from 15 trade displays.

The keynote speaker was the Federal Chief Nursing Officer Rosemary Bryant - she gave an overview on National Registration and the International Council of Nurses. We also had discussion of the regulating of AINS.

Steve Xenos RN is a Instrument/Circulating nurse and spoke on his time spent providing emergency paramedical service to the NATO forces in Kandahar Southern Afghanistan. Julie Evans CNC for trauma at the John Hunter is heavily involved with paediatrics, multi trauma and fluid resuscitation. The information that she gave regarding fluid resuscitation and what was in but is now out and why and what to do now was very informative. Donna Hopley spoke on airway management. Dr Mark Davies is an anaesthetist with a special interest in pain management and in particular regional anaesthesia and analgesia. He gave a very informative session flavoured with some really good humour. Dr Brian Draganic was another with a dry wit and humour and spoke on colo rectal disease. Jill Fairhall is the Stomal therapy Clinical Nurse Consultant for the Newcastle Private Hospital. It was good to get an update with what's in for stomal care and what's the process for the patient. Tracey Wilson RN spoke on radiation therapy. Deidre Davidson RN spoke on Renal transplantation and getting the word out. The general meeting/AGM was held. Lynn Hoey (Chairperson), Marilyn Randall (Treasurer) and Yvonne Netten (Secretary) were voted back into office. Zone 1 enlist the help of additional committee members to share the load there were 2 positions on offer and Steve Xenos and Regan Tarbent stepped up to those positions. OTA umbrellas were given as lucky door prizes and there were several raffle prizes

### August 14<sup>th</sup> Zone 7 – Canberra

Eve Stone joined me in Canberra. The day was held at the Kamberra Wine Company, there were approx 70 delegates in attendance with support from 5 trade displays. The theme for the day: At the Sharp End – Penetrating Injuries. I started the day with Menna's montage – yes incredibly I have finally embraced a bit more technology! But playing the music separately to the laptop montage is a challenge. Must learn how to add that in...

Then followed an Anaesthetist Peter Subrmaniam and a Surgeon Simon Robertson discussing "A Royal Tragedy – The Princess Diana Crash". It was a fascinating discussion giving insight and information with regard to the crash, why it was an accident waiting to happen, what was the sequence of events that followed and with hindsight and given the principles of triage and trauma management and that golden hour rule how potentially different things may have been. Then followed an interesting session from

a paramedic – initially he was going to give a similar talk on the principles of trauma management and the golden hour but he felt it had enough exposure from the previous speakers. So he spoke on his time when he worked in worn torn Africa – the split second decisions he would have to make, the difficult situations he found himself in and the dangers he faced with people with weapons. The General meeting/AGM was commenced. Suellen Saals (secretary) and Jenny Wetselaar (treasurer) were stepping down. On behalf of the NSW OTA I thanked them for their hard work and effort in supporting Angela Coleman (Chairperson) to make these 4 seminar days per year a roaring success. I presented them with a NSW OTA umbrella. The AGM was held. Nominations were called for the above positions and the successful applicants were treasurer, Jenny Patmore and Secretary, Ken Kemister, and I presented them with an NSW OTA badge and history book. We donated a couple of OTA umbrellas for lucky door prizes and speaker gifts.

### Debbie Dobbs-Higgins Zone Co-ordinator

#### Calendar Dates:

October 16 <sup>th</sup>	Zone 6	Wollongong
October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Zone 5	Coffs Harbour
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	Zone 3	Tamworth
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Zone 6	Shoalhaven (Nowra)
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Zone 2	Dubbo

Our Best Wishes go Lisa Siladyi (membership Secretary) and Karen Jones (Minutes Secretary), both of whom are now on maternity leave. Lisa and Karen are pictured below with a basket of goodies each, presented on behalf of the OTA



**\*\*Congratulations to Lisa Siladyi and her partner, Mark on the arrival of their son, Noah. \*\***

## **Perioperative Nursing Workforce Program (PNWP)**

**October 2010**

### **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- October 2010**

PNWP participants have now attended all of the PNWP project workshops (which provided them with the training and the tools to achieve workplace change). During the final workshop day held in early September, each team provided an update on their individual projects. In addition, they also had an inspirational presentation from Ms Bernie Harris, *Director, Organisational Development and Education Clinical Leadership & Clinical Practice Improvement Training*. Bernie focused on the activities needed to ensure project spread and sustainability. Participants are now in the throes of completing their projects and preparing to write a report on outcomes for their DONs. They are also finalising abstracts in preparation for presentation of their projects at next year's NSW OTA annual conference. One of the PNWP team members, Karen Hay (Nepean Hospital team) has already given a presentation about their PNWP project (on 'Team talk') at the Enrolled Nurse Professional

Association (ENPA) conference held in Cessnock last month. It attracted lots of questions, as well as interest from some attendees, who were keen to replicate the project in their own workplace!

In addition to providing ongoing support to their teams, NSW OTA guidance team members and Professor Mary Chiarella are now preparing to publish several articles about the PNWP project, in order to 'spread the word' about it. The first publication should appear in the summer edition of the ACORN journal.

Formal project evaluation activities are planned to commence before the end of the year.

### **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.

## ACORN Report (October)

With changeover over the ACORN Board taking place in November, our current Executive has been working with the new Executive to make this process as seamless as possible. The ACORN Directors are all working diligently on their final reports of their various committees.

Sales of the ACORN Standards remain strong, although we are aware that there have been a few problems with the DVD/CD versions. If this has been the case, please contact Kylee at the ACORN Headquarters. We also value any feedback that you may have.

ACORN is still confident that Standards Australia will continue to support AS 4187. At one stage Standards Australia was not going to revise this Standard (which is so necessary for our practise), but with strong lobbying and the persistence of key stakeholders, this Standard will be revised. We are currently waiting on confirmation of dates from the Chairperson.

In July, Robyn Lawson, the ACORN Executive Officer, resigned from her position, which she held since November 2008. Robyn worked tirelessly, ensuring that ACORN remained at the forefront as a Professional body. Robyn was an integral part of the ACORN Executive. We thank Robyn for her assistance and wish her well in her future endeavours. A new Executive Officer has been appointed, but at the time of this report I am unable to announce the successful candidate. Please watch the ACORN Website.

Last month I was fortunate to travel to Fiji on an Orthopaedic Outreach trip. What a truly amazing experience! This was my second trip to Labassa with Dr Andreas Loeffler. We went for 1 week and what a busy but fulfilling week it was. We hit the ground running! The first day we saw 89 patients in the Clinic and a further 13 patients on the Wards. Over the course of the week, we operated on 20 patients, with varying array of Orthopaedic problems ranging from talipes to a malunion of a tibia that had been fractured for over 25 years (old Rugby injuries!). I look forward to sharing my experiences with you all at a later date! I also presented to the Perioperative Nurses at Labassa Hospital, the fantastic Australian Perioperative textbook that Menna Davies kindly donated to the Fijian Nurses. They were so grateful to receive this textbook. It takes pride of place on the bookshelf of the Operating Suite.



*Fran with Sr Vane Matakele*

By the time Suite Talk goes to print we will have celebrated National Perioperative Nurses Day on 12<sup>th</sup> October. I am sure that many of you may be asking why this date was chosen. Well the reason was that this was the date that ACORN became a College. It is a very important date and it was thought that it would be most appropriate to celebrate the importance of our Profession on this day. I hope that you all had a wonderful day and were suitably acknowledged for your contribution to patient care.

This will be my last Report for Suite Talk and also as your ACORN Director. I will also be stepping down from the OTA Executive after more than ten years (where has the time gone!). It has been such an honour to represent the Perioperative Nurses of NSW over the years. I have met some truly amazing and dynamic Perioperative Nurses. Tracy Kerle will take over my position as your ACORN Director and also as the Honorary Secretary of ACORN. Tracy will be ably assisted by Kerry Rodgers as your ACORN Representative. I wish both girls every success and it is great to know that NSW is being so ably represented.

Good bye everyone and thank you so much for your support over the years

Take care

Fran

Frances O'Brien NSW ACORN Director and Honorary Secretary

Tracy Kerle NSW ACORN Representative

## Professional Day for Perioperative Nurse Educators.

Over 50 participants attended the Perioperative Educators' Seminar Day held at the Royal Hospital for Women in August.

Roy Brown, Senior lecturer & BN Program Coordinator, University of Wollongong began the day with a presentation on "Preparation for Practice: Managing Undergraduate Clinical Placements". Roy shared with us a research study in which he has been involved aiming at developing a standardised competency assessment tool for use with undergraduate nursing students whilst out on clinical practice. The tool is soon to be piloted and it is hoped that the perioperative environment will be involved. There is much to be learned from the development of these competency tools as the OTA embarks on developing a series of specialty competency assessments. Lilian Blair and Brian Julien provided an introduction to this project and it was great to see a number of members volunteer to participate in the working party.



Drew Burgess and Erica Stead (*pictured above with Deb Cochrane*) from the Program Development Department at The College of Nursing, gave an entertaining session providing lots of ideas on e learning sites and tips on developing electronic learning resources. With most of us using computers in our theatres, there are fantastic opportunities to use this medium to provide innovative education. One excellent site, with free download can be used to develop quizzes, crosswords and mix n match is 'Hot Potatoes': <http://hotpot.uvic.ca>

Mark Taylor, NE Hornsby Hospital, presented the report from the pilot project, conducted within a small operating theatre in Sydney, examining the patient's perioperative journey. Titled 'Sweet Dreams', the project used elements from Essentials of Care and

a practice development framework. Mark carried out observations of the perioperative journeys of a number of patients, together with patient stories to identify areas which the staff could use to confirm best practice or change practice. This pilot project has provided some important groundwork for a perioperative Essentials of Care project in the future.

Sally Sutherland-Fraser, CNC, St Vincents Hospital, concluded the day with a case study examining how to manage staff who struggle with settling in and working effectively within the perioperative environment – those 'Fish out of Water'. Sally outlined some important principles in managing staff members who are struggling ie collecting evidence, coordinating an assessment program, providing support. For the staff member in Sally's case study they made the decision to move on to another specialty, but the presentation showed how important the process needs to be to in order to provide the best outcome for all parties. It was certainly a stimulating day with the opportunities to network and share ideas. A big thank you to our colleagues from the medical industry, Big Green Surgical, and Device Technologies. Thank you also to Coop Bookshop and The College of Nursing For their support and the trade displays.

Menna Davies

