

## Vale Nola Pratt

It is with great sadness that we announce the death in January of Nola Pratt at the age of 71. Nola trained in the 60s and spent nearly 32 years working in the Operating Theatres at Nepean Hospital. During her long career she was involved in many changes within perioperative nursing and within Nepean Hospital. She was a role model and mentor to many perioperative nurses, a font of knowledge, but she could make your knees tremble if you tried to cut corners! She was a rock, solid - someone you could count on anytime, a kind friend and colleague. She was straight and honest and a staunch patient and staff advocate. Fondly known as 'Nola the Controller', she kept us all in line - Drs and nurses alike. Nola was a long standing member of the OTA attending many meetings and conferences both here and overseas. When she retired in 2002 it was a sad day for perioperative nursing and for us at Nepean - the end of an era. Unfortunately, her retirement was cut short as she battled cancer. She will be missed by her friends and colleagues at Nepean Hospital.



Debbie Dobbs and Kerry Rodgers

## VICTORIAN BUSH FIRES

I am sure we have all been shocked and saddened by the devastating bush fires which have resulted in so much loss of life, property and wild life in Victoria. The OT sent messages of support to our colleagues in Victoria through VPNG, several of whom were affected by the fires, whilst others are busy caring for the injured. The OTA has also made a donation of \$500 to the Red Cross. We are aware that a number of you have also raised money within your workplace in many creative ways congratulations for your efforts. It may have seemed a small local gesture, but it will mean a great deal to those affected by this tragic event.

## Websites worth a visit

### Australian Society of Post Anaesthesia and Anaesthesia nurses

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

### Australian Day Surgery Nurses Association

[www.adsna.info](http://www.adsna.info)

### Virtual Anaesthesia Textbook

<http://www.virtual-anaesthesia-textbook.com/index.shtml>

For a little entertainment - log onto You Tube and search for 'Anaesthetist's Hymn' - very amusing

# Suite Talk

The Newsletter of the NSW Operating Theatre Association Inc.



Dear Members,

Here we are in 2009, how time flies! The NSW OTA Executive is busy preparing for the State conference that will be held at Luna Park on the 30th April, 1st & 2nd May. I hope that many of you will be able to join us for what promises to be an action packed 3 days with very stimulating educational topics. Unfortunately, Debbie Picone, Director General, NSW Health is unable to attend as Keynote Speaker due to work commitments. However, we are fortunate that Ms Karen Crawshaw, Deputy Director-General, will join us and give an update on current issues at this present time.

On the 7th February, I met with the other State and Territory Presidents in Adelaide at the ACORN Board meeting for the one day Presidents' meeting. Topics discussed included the national database - to date three of the smaller Associations are using ACORN to process their memberships and feedback on this service will be presented at the next face to face meeting in February 2010. Consideration will be given to changing the name for this service to make it less confusing as a National Database does already exist. NSWOTA has opted not to change over to this service at this present time as we have a Secretariat that is working well and is more cost efficient than what is on offer from ACORN.

ACORN's Executive Officer, Robyn Lawson from Western Australia gave a report on work undertaken to date. One priority has been to complete work on the ACORN strategic plan. The main topic of concern addressed by the Presidents was the national workforce issue. I was able to report that members of the NSWOTA had met with the NSW Chief Nurse and a preliminary meeting with Mary Chiarella to discuss the perioperative nurses role and redesign will be taking place at the end of the month.

Some of you may remember a resolution that was put forward at a general meeting during the education day meeting in 2007, that there should be proportional representation on the ACORN Board.

I took this proposal to the Presidents' meeting last year and the response was that the Articles of Association were written in order that each State/Territory is represented equally. Members of the NSW OTA felt that this was not satisfactory and that this needed further review. I presented this topic once again at this years meeting; some smaller States/Territory felt they would be disadvantaged with this proposal and were concerned that their voice would not be heard. I did however, reiterate that members in NSW felt that they too were disadvantaged, especially when decisions conflict with State legislation eg the previous ACORN Staffing Standard, which the OTA lobbied to have the statement on the EEN scrub role included in the latest review.

The suggestion from the ACORN Board is for the membership of NSWOTA to present the model of voting and the potential costs that may be incurred. I felt this was a reasonable request and so ask those of you who have any thoughts surrounding this issue, to please put your proposals forward to the NSWOTA email address.

Some of you may already be aware that there have been Health Service consultations with the Minister for Health, John Della Bosca following the release of The Garling Report recommendations. The NSW Health website has a link to the Garling Report, <http://healthactionplan.nsw.gov.au/> which I encourage you to visit. The website provides an opportunity for you to learn more about the Garling Report and to give feedback. A response from the NSW Government to Commissioner Garling's report is expected no later than March 2009.

As this will be my last President's message for Suite Talk, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all once again for your commitment to perioperative nursing and I look forward to seeing many of you at our State conference at Luna Park.

Kind regards

*Jane*