



Issue 3 December 2009



## PRESIDENTS REPORT

**H**i all and welcome to the Last edition of Brainstem for 2009.

It has been a busy yet very productive year for the Association with many achievements, culminating in a successful

celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association at the Annual Scientific meeting in Adelaide in October.

The conference and celebrations proved to be one of our best. The delegates and guest speakers provided a fascinating cross section of papers and posters for presentation. For a full report and photos see inside.

### *New Zealand October 2010*

*We are travelling across the sea next year for our Annual Scientific Meeting. Updates on the website.....*

**PAMS:** This year has seen further streamlining of the association business in collaboration with PAMS our association management group. The executive are confident that Association activity reflects and meets all legal obligations and requirements. 2010 will see the implementation of the online member database, which will change the way we do business. Keep an eye on the website for future updates.

**AGM:** The association AGM was held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October in Adelaide at the Convention Centre. Members were asked to review a number of documents prior to the meeting, including a review of the Association Constitution and the Member Handbook, both of which were ratified at the AGM. All reports tabled can be requested from the Executive should you wish to review.

Much discussion was had around the Association "theme" and how we represent ourselves. During the Conference, a forum was facilitated to allow members the opportunity to provide feedback to 5

key strategic association questions. This has given the executive an exciting amount of information about the future strategic direction of ANNA. Stay tuned for further information, and remember, we would love to hear from you should you wish to provide feedback.

**THANKS:** 2009 saw the positions of Journal Editor and Conference Convenor vacated. The Executive team wish to thank both Jennifer Blundell and Alison Wilson for their commitment and support of the association activities over the course of their terms. Without voluntary input, the association would fail to function. Many thanks also to those who assisted the executive over the course of the year. To the State delegates and their teams, thank you for your ongoing support and efforts to keep your state branches active. For the extra assistance given at the conference, we also thank you.

To the Executive team, my personal thanks to you all for another hard but extremely satisfying year, I appreciate immensely the time you commit to the team that keeps the ball rolling. It has yet again been a pleasure working with you all.

**WELCOME:** I would like to welcome both Vicki Evans and Alanah Bailey onboard as the new Journal Editor and Conference Convenor in 2010. Vicki already has some exciting plans for the journal and Alanah is up and running with planning for NZ in 2010.

The Executive would like to wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year. We look forward to another exciting year in 2010 and look forward to seeing you in New Zealand.

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# conference

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

The 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting was in Adelaide from the 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The 100 plus delegates who came to the Adelaide Convention Centre were presented with a program that was filled with an array of interesting and thought provoking presentations across the Neuroscience spectrum. The presenters need to be congratulated on the quality of their work that has been or is being undertaken. Thank you to all presenters for your contribution to this year's program.

The conference commenced with a bang with the Executive making their entrance with an energetic dance to celebrate 35 years of ANNA! The conference saw: new initiates introduced by the Executive, including; facilitated focus groups to discuss existing and future directions for ANNA and a new evaluation system. The evaluation was interactive and flowed over the two days of the conference, including a new area of 'Question's for the Executive' that were answered over the two days of the conference. The participation of the delegates was great and has provided the Executive with valuable information to shape and drive the progression and future of ANNA.

In addition to our fellow colleagues presenting papers we were delighted to have four guest speaker presentations. Professor Alison Kitson presented on the topic of: The "Many meanings of Practice Development". Dr Matthew McDonald (Neurosurgeon) & Associate Professor Dominic Thyagarajan (Neurologist) presented on their experience with Deep Brain Stimulation. Karen Jackson presented 'From Cancer Nurse

Coordinator Neurology to Neuro Oncology Nurse Practitioner – Developing the Role!

The dinner....."Celebrating 35 years Glitz & Glamour" saw the delegates put on their best glitz & glam outfits (some with a bit of added bling!). We were entertained by a live band 'Jungle Jooce', who's flamboyant costumes and stage presence were attention-grabbing (to say the least!). An old photo booth brought in for the night was very popular and running hot! A good time seem to be had by the majority.

In all we had a very successful Program. Along with the sharing of knowledge and resources we again got to meet new and old neuroscience colleagues. 2009 brought once again great sponsorship and trade displays with a full program of innovative presentations.

## ***Congratulations***

to the following award winners:

### ***Tonnie Koenen Prize***

Kellie Burgess, Princess Margaret Hospital, WA

### ***NSA Prize:***

Tonya Heard and Jennifer Hill, Flinders Medical Centre, SA

### ***ANZAN Prize:***

David Tsui, Westmead Hospital, NSW

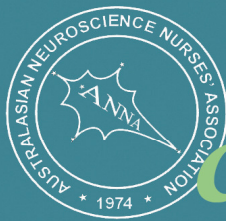
### ***Best Poster (Shared):***

Harriet Chan, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, WA  
Siroun Tontian & Catherine Hardman, Westmead Hospital, NSW

### ***First Time Presenter***

David Tsui, Westmead Hospital, NSW





# conference

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members, Executive and Dominic (from PAMS) for all of your support over the past two years as the Conference Convenor. I have had a great time, faced many new challenges, learnt many new skills (that I will take with me) and importantly made many new friends and colleagues. It has been a steep but fantastic learning experience, thank you to all of you that have assisted during the two conferences with chairing, judging, time keeping and general assistance over the conference days.

A very special thank you to the Executive and Dominic, with your support and assistance it made my time enjoyable and a very positive experience. I would like to wish Alanah all the best as the incoming Conference Convenor and that the current enthusiasm will continue for the 2010 conference in New Zealand.

Once again thank you to everyone and I look forward to seeing you in NZ in 2010!



*So long!*

*Alison Wilson*

**Outgoing Conference  
Convenor**







# PAMS report

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association



We have worked with PAMS for another year in 2009 and despite this not being without its challenges the overall outcome of this arrangement has been positive for the Association. Monthly reports demonstrate the Associations financial position at a glance and have led to much more

informed decision-making by the Executive. In October this year Tracy and I went for our annual visit to PAMS head office where we discussed the current arrangement with PAMS. This was a very insightful meeting and further negotiations are currently being held to ensure the service we all receive meets our expectations.

In 2010 we will be uploading the database onto the website where the Executive and State delegates will be given security access and allow for more closer monitoring of the membership services and reports. Another very integral step into the future!

Once again we would like to receive any feedback about PAMS via an email to president @anna.asn.au

Karen Tuqiri  
ANNA Treasurer





# noticeboard

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association



Dear colleagues

*As the outgoing journal editor I want to thank all those who submitted articles for review, and those who agreed to review material for the journal over the last few years. All of you contributed to the journal being able to continue. However as you know lately has been a hiatus in publication. For the journal to survive members need to contribute, or persuade colleagues and students to contribute. In today's evidence e-based and practice development workplace it is important that we share our work. One research study, evaluation or practice development project presented and published can lead to other work and to increased positive patient outcomes. There is so much work presented at the annual national conference and other local research or seminar days that needs to be disseminated. Through the journal this information not only reaches other members, but also reaches the wider neuroscience nursing community, nursing education and students through the databases that the journal is linked to. The other way you can ensure the viability and quality of the journal is to contact the editor through the ANNA email address and offer your name to be added to the list to act as a reviewer in your specific area of neuroscience nursing expertise.*

*I hope that the journal will grow in size and I welcome Vicki Evans, the incoming editor for the journal, as I am sure that she will bring a fresh approach to go with the new journal cover that will appear in your mail box in 2010. I wish her well and I am sure that you will also offer her your support.*

## Welcome

**Vicki Evans, Journal Editor**



*I have been in Neuroscience for the last 22 years in a variety of positions - RN, CNS, NUM and CNC in both public and private settings. Along the way I have completed tertiary studies in Management and Neuroscience. I am currently employed at Royal North Shore Hospital where I job-share the role of Neuroscience CNC.*

*I have been fortunate over the years to have combined my love of anything neuro and that of travel. As an assignment, I developed the board game - Cerebral Tap © and there began my fascination with America. I introduced Cerebral Tap© at the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) Annual Conference at the Disneyland Hotel in 1988. Little did I know at that time, that a few years later I would be living in New York City. I was there for 3 years at New York University Medical Center in Neurosurgery - a combined Neurosurgery & Neurosurgical ICU. Whilst there, I became involved in the AANN and had my first introduction to the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses (WFNN). I have held positions in AANN – Travel Grant Committee and in WFNN – Secretary (1997-2001) & Vice President (2005- present). My role in WFNN also encompasses the Scientific Chair for the Quadrennial Congress – Sydney 2001, Toronto 2009, Nagoya 2013. This role is fantastic! Some countries have more resources than others and whilst our languages may differ, the process behind neuroscience nursing does not. We face similar issues the world over.*

*I became an ANNA member in 1988 and am looking forward to re-establishing the role of the Australasian Journal of Neuroscience. The Journal is what you make of it, so I ask for your support in making it GREAT! My message to you is – get involved and you'll reap the rewards!*

Yours in Neuroscience,  
Vick





# noticeboard

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

## Welcome

*Alanah Close, Conference Convenor*



*My name is Alanah Close, you may have known me as Alanah Bailey. I have been nursing for 9 years with 7 of those years in neurosciences, a year in ICU and a year working and travelling in Scotland. I love neuroscience nursing and have a special interest in Neuro-oncology which is what a lot of my work involves. I look forward to being part of ANNA and excited about the conference in NZ next year*

## POSITIONS VACANT ANNA EXECUTIVE

*The following positions will become vacant at the next Annual General Meeting in October 10*

**PRESIDENT**

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**TREASURER**

**WEBMASTER**

**CONFERENCE CONVENOR**

*Expressions of interest are welcome for those who are interested in representing the Association and the interest of Neuroscience Nurses both at regional and international levels.*

*If you would like more information about what is required to be part of the Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association Executive Committee, please contact a member of the Executive or your branch delegate for more information or a position description.*

## WHAT'S ON....

Let everyone know about your education evenings and advertise in Brainstem!

Send information at least 2 months before the event, including event, date, venue.

If you run out of time a "**post-mortem**" report would be great too.

Send information to  
Renae Baker  
secretary@anna.asn.au

## Save this date!!

**5th-6th August 2010**

### **SMART STROKES 2010**

**6<sup>th</sup> Australasian Nursing and Allied Health Stroke Conference**

**"Smart Strokes 2010 – New Futures"**

**Crowne Plaza Terrigal, NSW, Australia**



## ANNA NSW President/ Delegate



**Hello to all and Merry Christmas!** It has been an eventful year for Neurosciences in the national and international perspective. This year saw the WFNN Conference in Toronto Canada. A large contingent of 26 Neuroscience Nurses from Australia was present to well and truly send the message that

we are pretty special "down under". Well done to all who attended, presented and represented us so well in the international arena. The Smart Strokes Conference in August again highlighted fantastic issues, research and projects that Neuroscience Nurses are leading and involved in. The Neurosurgical Nursing Professional Development Scholarship Committee also held a fantastic day of "The Future of Neurosurgery" in June with all reports bringing back fabulous feedback regarding the speakers and content of the day.

Many courses and educational initiatives have been organised and conducted by ANNA members over the year and many congratulations to all for your continued enthusiasm and passion for Neuroscience Nursing and the recognition of the need for professional development.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association was held in

Adelaide on 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009. The ANNA executive convened a fantastic conference to celebrate 35 years as an association. The conference started off with a "Bang" with music blaring, whistles blowing, a very energetic President, Tracey Desborough, Vice President Sharon Eriksson, Treasurer Karen Tuqiri, Secretary Renae Baker, Conference Convenor Alison Wilson and Journal Editor Jenny Blundell entertaining the members with dancing and celebration of this great milestone. Congratulations to the team.

All the presentations and posters were of a high calibre of which we as Neuroscience Nurses should be proud of. The patient journey is integral to what we are here for and the conference highlighted many issues and new innovations that encompassed this.

The ANNA conference for 2010 will be in New Zealand, I hope to see you there.

2010 will hopefully hold some new initiatives for ANNA NSW and with the help of members we anticipate all will benefit.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year stay safe and well.

Liz O'Brien,  
ANNA NSW President  
CNC Stroke RNSH Sydney  
Ph: (02) 9926 8735

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**Nil Reports received from states WA, SA, ACT, VIC or NZ for publishing in this edition of Brainstem**



## WFNN Congress ~ Nagoya 2013

Virginia Prendergast, WFNN President, has recently returned from Nagoya where planning is well underway for the 2013 Congress. The Japanese are excited and honoured to be hosting the WFNN.



The President of the Japanese Neuroscience Nurses Association (JANN) – Mitsue Ishiyama, is the Local Chair. The Executive will meet with Mitsue and her Committee a number of times in the lead-up and there will be many telephone, Skype and emails over the course of the next 3.5 years.

The Scientific Committee (SC) for the 2013 Congress has formed and will begin the lengthy preparations required for a meeting in a predominantly non-English speaking country. The SC consists of representatives from the USA, Canada, UK, Finland, Japan and Australia.

I encourage you all to make the trek to Nagoya – after all, it's in our "neck of the woods" – you will enjoy it!

Cheers,

*Vicki*

WFNN Vice President

Scientific Chair 2013 Congress

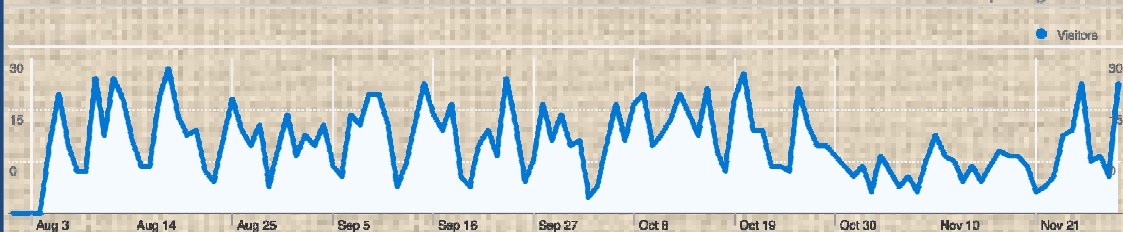


www.anna.asn.au/

### Visitors Overview

Aug 1, 2009 - Nov 30, 2009

Comparing to: Site



1,198 people visited this site

1,809 Visits

1,198 Absolute Unique Visitors

5,864 Pageviews

3.24 Average Pageviews

00:02:39 Time on Site

WEB STATISTICS





# membership

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

## New Members

Sabarisah	Hashim	Malaysia
Carrianne	Rees	NSW
Kylie	Tastula	NSW
Matthew	Richter	NSW
Mary	Maguire	NSW
Melissa	Bartley	NSW
Michelle	Marin	NSW
Kim	Foxall	NSW
Angela	Evans	NSW
Joanne	Browne	NSW
Shuvai	Ndemera	NSW
Denika	Reddy	NSW
Janet	Boserio	NSW
Toni	Wonson	NSW
Michael	Doherty	NSW/Saudi Arabia
Sakelene	Mpofu	NZ
Kim	Parker	NZ
Maria	Tan	NZ
Veelyn	Angelo	NZ
Joanne	Crystal	QLD
Weiwei	Lui	QLD
Angela	Chung	QLD
Lisa	Jonas	SA
Samantha	Hazel	SA
Andrew	Latham	TAS
Clair	Aldis	TAS
Leanne	Allen	VIC
Lynette	Wallace	VIC
Rimma	Kats	VIC
Jennifer	Gapper	VIC
Wendy	Stevenson	VIC
Kellie	Burgess	WA

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please notify ANNA promptly of change of address via the website

**OVERDUE:** as per your ANNA handbook, if renewal payments are not received within 3 months you are required to rejoin as a new member

ANNA Professional Standards are posted to all new members and additional copies are available for \$30, contact PAMS

All renewals are \$90 and new members \$100 per annum

All membership specific enquiries can now be directed to PAMS, the Professional Association Management Service

**PHONE**  
**03 9895 4461**  
**FAX**  
**03 9898 0249**



# contacts

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

ANNA Contacts		
For all enquiries in the first instance contact PAMS		
ANNA	PO Box 193 Surrey Hills Vic 3127 Phone: 03 9895 4461	<a href="mailto:anna@pams.org.au">anna@pams.org.au</a> Fax: 03 9898 0249
For specific executive enquiries please contact the relevant committee member ** <a href="mailto:annaexecutive@anna.asn.au">annaexecutive@anna.asn.au</a> is now closed... please update your records.		
President	Tracy Desborough	<a href="mailto:president@anna.asn.au">president@anna.asn.au</a>
Vice President	Sharon Eriksson	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@anna.asn.au">vicepresident@anna.asn.au</a>
Treasurer	Karen Tuqiri	<a href="mailto:treasurer@anna.asn.au">treasurer@anna.asn.au</a>
Secretary	Renae Baker	<a href="mailto:secretary@anna.asn.au">secretary@anna.asn.au</a>
Webmaster	Rochelle McKnight	<a href="mailto:webmaster@anna.asn.au">webmaster@anna.asn.au</a>
Conference Convenor	Alanah Close	<a href="mailto:conferenceconvenor@anna.asn.au">conferenceconvenor@anna.asn.au</a>
Journal Editor	Vicki Evans	<a href="mailto:editor@anna.asn.au">editor@anna.asn.au</a>

State Delegates		
QLD	Calling all Queensland members, we urgently need new state delegates to represent you, all positions are currently vacant, president, secretary and treasurer. Please contact ANNA executive	
NSW	Liz O'Brien	<a href="mailto:eobrien@nsccha.health.nsw.gov.au">eobrien@nsccha.health.nsw.gov.au</a>
ACT	Sonja Eldridge	<a href="mailto:Sonja.Eldridge@act.gov.au">Sonja.Eldridge@act.gov.au</a>
VIC	Liz Mackey	<a href="mailto:annavicbranch@gmail.com">annavicbranch@gmail.com</a>
SA	Mahlah Watchman	<a href="mailto:mwatchman@calvarysa.com.au">mwatchman@calvarysa.com.au</a>
WA	Jacqueline Knuckey	<a href="mailto:Jacqueline@neurosurgerywa.com.au">Jacqueline@neurosurgerywa.com.au</a>
NZ	Denise Le Lievre	<a href="mailto:DeniseL2@adhb.govt.nz">DeniseL2@adhb.govt.nz</a>