



Issue 1 May 2009

PRESIDENTS REPORT



Hi all and welcome to the first edition of Brainstem this year. I hope you all had an enjoyable and safe Christmas and the New Year sees you well.

Welcome to our new Executive Secretary Renae Baker: This year saw the handover of the secretarial role from Emma Everingham to Renae Baker. Thank you to Emma for your work with the association over the last two years and a very big welcome to Renae into the secretarial role. This last year has also seen some changes to the State Delegates in a number of states. Please visit the web page of the individual states to stay informed.

Conference 08: Thank you to all delegates and supporters of the 2008 Conference, successfully held in Bondi (unfortunately it was not sunny) one of our most successful conferences yet. With record sponsorship and active member delegate participation the two days saw a multitude of fabulous presentations from our dedicated neuroscience nurses and colleagues. Congratulations go out to our paper and poster prize winners for outstanding contribution to the development of Neuroscience nursing.

It was also wonderful to have many members stay on for the AGM and provide feedback pertaining to the association. Thank you to those members whose contribution the Executive value. Check out the web page and the conference report in this Brainstem for further details.

Conference 09: Join us in beautiful Adelaide this October 21st – 23rd. This year marks the

35th Anniversary of the association and we will be celebrating in style, “Glitz and Glamour”. Help us mark this momentous year and prepare for some fun filled celebrations. Prepare your leave, your presentations and book your flights, your ongoing support is vital to the success of our conference so please keep an eye on the website for further information.

Karen Tuqiri and I took a day and flew to Melbourne to visit with PAM’s, our association management team Dominic and Richard. It was a very fruitful day that allowed us to discuss in depth and be walked through the process of the management of the association and to present feedback from the members to the association. Please see my report for further details.

WFNN: Best of luck to all ANNA members attending the WFNN congress in Toronto in May. I look forward to hearing about your experiences and call for any ANNA member attending the Congress to consider submitting a report for the next Brainstem to share with your colleagues.

The year ahead remains busy for the executive, please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to get involved or would like to provide us feedback.

Cheers
Tracy

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conference

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

The 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting was in Sydney from the 21st – 24th October. The 100 delegates who came to the Swiss Grand Bondi were presented with a program that was packed 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.

In addition to our fellow colleagues presenting papers we were delighted to have two guest speaking presentations. Our first guest speaker was Dr Con Yiannikas a Consultant Neurologist at Concord Hospital who presented the "Application of Evoked Potentials in Clinical Neurology" a very interesting presentation highlighting what happens in the Neurology Department and that there are varying forms of investigations to form a clinical diagnosis other than radiological investigations. Our second guest speaker was Dr Gordon Dandie a Neurosurgeon from Westmead Private Hospital in Sydney. Dr Dandie gave a very interesting and moving presentation on the Advances in the Treatment of Brain Tumours. His presentation evoked a very interesting question session at the completion of his presentation.

Now the dinner....."Bondi Rescue" we had many of the delegates take the time to dress in their best beach theme costumes and a good time was had by all who attended. We were entertained by local DJ's (2 fellow nurses who also have a passion for music) who got our neurons firing with a music trivia competition.

In all we had a very successful Program which along with the sharing of knowledge and resources we again got to meet new and old neuroscience colleagues. 2008 brought record sponsorship and trade displays with a full program of innovative presentations.

Congratulations

to the following award winners:

Tonnie Koenon (shared)

Kylie Wright Liverpool Hospital NSW and Ellie Borrell – Royal North Shore Hospital

Best Poster & NSA prizes

Kylie Wright Liverpool Hospital NSW

ANZAN Prize

Liz O'Brien- Royal North Shore Hospital NSW

First Time Presenter

Sarah Zehnder & Jacquelyn Wingrove – John Hunter Hospital NSW.

This years Conference will see us heading to Adelaide. Keep an eye out for future reports on the website for the latest on its progress.

www.anna.asn.au

This is the time to start putting together your ideas and abstract based on research that you have completed or are currently involved in, Quality activities that you have undertaken impacting on patient care or a case history of a patient that challenged you and your team.

We hope to see you in Adelaide.



Alison Wilson

Conference Convenor



conference

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association



This year we celebrate 35 years as an association, and we'll be doing it in style...

Glitz and Glamour"

The Annual Scientific Meeting & Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Neuroscience Nurses' Association
will be held in Adelaide, South Australia on October 21 - 23, 2009.

Mark your diaries now! We are CALLING FOR ABSTRACTS, join us and share your innovative neuroscience work.

Submit your abstracts ONLINE at www.anna.asn.au

More information is available on the website or email the conference convenor at
conferenceconvenor@anna.asn.au

ABSTRACTS CLOSE AUGUST 14th, 2009.

Looking forward to seeing you in Adelaide!

ANNA Executive



PAMS report

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

As part of the review of the Service Level Agreement with PAM's our association management group, Karen Tuqiri (our Treasurer) and I took a day trip down to Melbourne to meet with Dominic and Richard the PAM's ANNA Association Manager and Director.

It was a very eventful day that commenced with me being drug searched at the airport, travelling by every possible form of transport and both Karen and I spending the weekend in our respective beds sick with the flu afterwards. Despite our challenges it was a very prosperous day and was fantastic to meet with Dominic and Richard face to face to see how PAM's runs on a day to day basis and for us to take the opportunity to provide feedback about our first year working with PAM's.

Richard and Dominic commenced the meeting by providing an overview of the services they had undertaken for the Association, a practical example of how we can utilise our database and how we can improve communication with the members. They also provided feedback to us about what it was that they had been providing that was not in the initial service agreement, this generated discussion about the real costs of running the association and how we can professionalise the Association transactions and business.

We then took the opportunity to provide the feedback received from the members as well as our own feedback from an executive point of view as to how the partnership has been progressing and the potential available to further develop the Association.

Overall, the affiliation with PAM's has been very positive. We now have access to a reliable database with a system for tracking more efficiently membership movement, access to monthly financial reports that allow tracking of and following trends in financial status of the Association, professional reports and reporting

mechanisms through to members, a vehicle for increased communication opportunities for members, and process administration support that allows the Executive team to focus on addressing the core business of the Association, Neuroscience nursing. There continues to be further opportunities to develop and expand this partnership to streamline the business of the Association and ensure the Association continues to provide a professional service.

Tracy Desborough
ANNA President





noticeboard

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association



ANNA Secretary

Hi my name is Renae Baker and I have just recently become part of the Australasian Neuroscience Nursing Association as the executive Secretary. I am currently working at Wyong Hospital – Medical 3 which is a diverse ward consisting mainly of Stroke, Palliative, Respiratory and General Medical patients. As an avid neuroscience nurse I intend to do my best to further promote ANNA and be an active part of the ANNA Executive. I look forward to meeting you at this year's conference to be held in Adelaide.

Cheers Renae

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Calling for expressions of interest to join the journal team. The Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association is seeking expressions of interest from ANNA members who wish to join the editorial advisory board or become a peer reviewer for the *Australasian Journal of Neuroscience*. Associate editors would provide assistance and advice to the editor and peer reviewers advice to the editor/s and authors on manuscripts submitted for publication.

A position description is available for these positions. Contact ANNA Executive for further information.

Journal editor

The Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association is seeking expressions of interest from ANNA members who wish to take on the role of Editor of the *Australasian Journal of Neuroscience* from October **2009**. The editor co-ordinates the publication of the Journal through liaison with the Editorial Advisory Board, peer reviewers, ANNA Executive and authors.

A position description including selection criteria is available.

Authors - ON THE HUNT!

The *Australasian Journal of Neuroscience* is in search of authors interested in submitting manuscripts for publication.

New and experienced authors are welcome and

support is available for new authors.

Persons who presented at the 2008 ANNA Conference are invited to submit their presentations for review for publication.

The journal is looking for manuscripts in the following areas:

- Literature reviews of subjects related to neuroscience nursing
- Case studies of neuroscience patients, children or adults
- Research reports
- Ethical issues in neuroscience nursing
- Outcome studies
- Quality management
- Systematic reviews of nursing interventions
- Nursing management of neuroscience patients in outpatient clinics (diagnostic or treatment focussed)
- Peri-operative care of the neurosurgical patient
- Emergency management of the neuroscience patient
- Care of persons with chronic neurological problems
- Patient/family education related to neuroscience nursing
- Developing roles in nursing care of neuroscience patients
- New therapies





noticeboard

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

POSITIONS VACANT ANNA EXECUTIVE

The following positions will become vacant at the next Annual General Meeting in October 09

PRESIDENT **VICE PRESIDENT**
TREASURER **JOURNAL EDITOR**
WEBMASTER

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.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Expression of interest are wanted for those who would like to be a part of the committee responsible for reviewing the Professional Standards of Neuroscience Nursing.

Please contact Liz O'Brien (committee supervisor) at :

eobrien@nscchah.health.nsw.gov.au

or

ANNA Executive at anna@pams.org.au for further information

SAVE THE DATE... 6-7 August 2009

SMART STROKES 2009

5th Australasian Nursing and Allied Health
Stroke Conference

TRANSITIONS.. Home/Hyper-

Acute/Acute/Rehab

Star City Casino Sydney

Celebrate

AUSTRALASIAN NEUROSCIENCE NURSES DAY

On 4 May, 1974, Tonnie Koenen organised the first meeting of Australasian neuroscience nurses in Canberra, during the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia's annual meeting. About 30 nurses from the ACT, NSW, TAS, VIC and WA met to formally establish the Australasian Neurosurgical Nurses' Association.

Since that time, Neuroscience nurses have continued to promote collaboration with other nurses and other health professionals in a committed effort to the professional development and education of nurses within the specialty of neuroscience. We celebrate this and the beginning of our Association on our Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Day, every 4th of May

Be in the running to win \$100.00 for your ward by entering into the ANND competition. The winner will be announced at the annual scientific conference in Adelaide later this year.

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



noticeboard

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

Neuroscience Nurses at the Forefront of Patient Safety

As neuroscience nurses we are at the forefront of detecting changes in the neurological status of our patients and responding to prevent and/or rescue them from harm. We often foresee a patients' neurological deterioration before their Glasgow coma score changes. Our ability to skilfully observe patients has long prompted my interest in the role that neuroscience nurses play in keeping patients safe.

I was drawn to neuroscience nursing because of the unique needs of neuroscience patients and the complex nature of their deficits. My neuroscience nursing experience spans a diverse range of health care settings both in Australia and overseas. After completing post graduate studies in neurosciences and education I worked in a variety of roles including clinical nurse specialist, clinical nurse educator and nursing case manager. While serving in these roles I developed a keen interest in patient safety and quality.

In recent years, root cause analysis has been used in many hospitals to try and uncover 'what went wrong' when an adverse event occurs. This has resulted in many improvements aimed at preventing the recurrence of similar events in the future. However, it occurred to me that little attention has been given to 'safety successes' in health care and how most of the time we get it 'right'. While there is no question that mistakes are made and many patients have been harmed, it is also true that in most cases patients move safely through acute care settings without complication or difficulty. A key reason for this lies in the ability of nurses to foresee and detect the presence of 'gaps' or discontinuities in patient care and then take action to 'get things back on track' and prevent harmful consequences to patients. While nurses are widely recognised as being 'inseparably linked to patient safety', how they respond to gaps and ensure the 'safe passage' of patients through an acute hospitalisation has not been comprehensively investigated in Australia. In the interests of learning more about the role that nurses play in achieving 'safety success' in health care, I commenced a PhD research program in the

School of Nursing at Deakin University, Melbourne. My research aims to address this issue by capturing the stories and experiences of Registered Nurses from a variety of clinical settings. Nurses working in the Emergency Department, Critical Care Unit, Operating Room and Neurology, Neurosurgery and Orthopaedics wards are eligible to participate in my study. If you are interested in patient safety and would like to tell me about your experiences, you are most welcome to contact me directly on:

Mobile: 0450781606 or amj@deakin.edu.au.

Angela Jones, PhD Student

School of Nursing, Deakin University





membership

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

Alanah	Bailey	NSW	Prince of Wales
Vilma	Delgado	NSW	Westmead Hospital
Linda	Gesell	NSW	John Hunter Hospital
Michelle	Giles	NSW	Royal North Shore Hospital
Amanda	Goode	NSW	RNSH
John	Graeme	NSW	Novartis
Rick	Islaub	NSW	Allergan
Jane	Kabanoff	NSW	Royal North Shore Hospital
Charmain	Lambros	NSW	Medtonic
Diane	Lear	NSW	Westmead Hospital
Kendra	Magyar	NSW	Prince of Wales Hospital
Chris	Melotti	NSW	Biogen Idec
Melissa	Passer	NSW	Royal North Shore Hospital
Narelle	Phillips	NSW	ARV
Helen	Ratliffe	NSW	Verathon Medical
Rowan	Sherratt	NSW	Depuy
Heather	Thom	NSW	Royal North Shore Hospital
Susan	Williams	NSW	Royal North Shore Hospital Sydney
Abigail	Ryburn	NZ	Auckland District Health Board
Karen	Taylor	NZ	Waikato Hospital
Denise	Bartlett	QLD	St Andrews War Memorial Hospital
Jeanette	James	QLD	St Andrews War Memorial Hospital
Fiona	Lange	QLD	Princess Alexandra Hospital
Rachael	Martin	QLD	The Townsville Hospital
Carley	Mills	QLD	Princess Alexandra Hospital
Christopher	Norton	QLD	Gold Coast Health Service District
Jennifer	Ali	SA	Flinders Medical Centre
Tonya	Heard	SA	Flinders Medical Centre
Timothy	Hoyle	SA	Flinders Medical Centre
Jane	Potts	SA	Flinders Medical Centre
Ken	Wilhems	SA	Royal Adelaide Hospital
Katherine	Bowman	TAS	Royal Hobart Hospital
Nicola	Faircloth	TAS	Royal Hobart Hospital
Martin	Nettle	TAS	Royal Hobart Hospital
Jasmine	Waterworth	TAS	Royal Hobart Hospital
Gerard	Anninga	VIC	Monash Medical Centre Clayton
Hany	Barsoum	VIC	Orphan Australia
Carolyn	Brown	VIC	Monash Medical Centre Clayton
Nicole	Fatchen	VIC	Epworth Hospital
Felicity	Leavold	VIC	Peninsula Health
Jessica	MacFarlane	VIC	Monash Medical Centre Clayton
Kelie	McIntosh	VIC	Monash Medical Centre
Caroyln	Smith	VIC	Global Scientific
Nigel	Wapling	VIC	Alfred Hospital
Lyall	Furphy	WA	Sir Charles Gardener Hospital
Veronica	Mumira	WA	St Charles Gardener Hospital
Jacqueline	O'Brien	WA	Neurological Surgery - Subiaco
Lisa	Scully	WA	St John of God Healthcare
Mary	Williams		Sanofi-aventis

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



WFNN

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

Greetings to friends - old and new, near and far, as you can see, we are right on track to have one of the BEST WFNN Congress meetings to date.

There are nurses from over 20 countries that will be presenting podium or poster sessions! A new record for WFNN.

You will see the Congress listed at www.wfnn2009congress.ca

Travel Grants are also available, please go to: www.wfnn.nu and click on the Grants page.

We hope to see many of you in Toronto. Please contact us if we can be of any assistance.

See you in Toronto!

Virginia Prendergast

WFNN President

Vicki Evans

Vice President



state news

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

WA Report

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Centre for Nursing Education

Are offering Postgraduate Neuroscience Nursing courses through distance education with flexible options and support. Courses offered:

- Graduate Certificate in Neuroscience Nursing
- Certificate in Multiple Sclerosis Nursing
- Post Registration Certificate in Neuroscience for Enrolled Nurses

All courses commence in February and July annually Applications for enrolment are accepted throughout the year.

Enquiries and Applications

Harriet Chan

Staff Development Educator

Centre for Nursing Education

Tel: 61-8-9 346 4170

Email: scgh.cne@health.wa.gov.au



Feature Keynote presentation by:

DR. ROBERTA BONDAR

Neuroscientist, Physician, Astronaut, Pioneer

Click here to

REGISTER NOW



for more information go to www.wfnn2009congress.ca

Or

Visit the ANNA website www.anna.asn.au

SA Report

State branch meeting dates for 2009 are:

- 25th May
- 24th August
- 23rd November

Meetings will be held at 7pm at the Broadway Hotel, Glenelg.

For further information please contact your SA Branch President on

mwatchman@calvarysa.com.au



contacts

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

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	eobrien@nsccahs.health.nsw.gov.au
ACT	Sonja Eldridge	Sonja.Eldridge@act.gov.au
VIC	Liz Mackey	annavicbranch@gmail.com
SA	Mahlah Watchman	mwatchman@calvarysa.com.au
WA	Harriet Chan	Harriet.Chan@health.wa.gov.au
NZ	Denise Le Lievre	denisell@adhb.govt.nz

ANNA Contacts

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

ATTENTION

Calling for submissions to AJON and the Brainstem Newsletter

Contact ANNA Executive for further information