



# Brainstem

## Presidents Report

Welcome to the New Year and another busy year for ANNA. I trust all had a safe and happy New Year and are ready as members of the association to contribute to the new year to come.

The executive have worked very hard in the past 12 months culminating in our first stand alone conference in Oct 2007. This conference was a milestone for the association with record number sponsorship/ corporate support, fantastic delegate numbers and an overall informative and full program that was well evaluated by delegates in attendance. Thank you to all who supported the conference and helped keep things running to the standard to which we have come to expect.

A special thank you to Cheryl, our outgoing conference convener for her hard work and dedication over the past three years, and a welcome to Alison Wilson, voted in at AGM to take over the role of convening the association conferences. Read on for a full report about the 2007 conference and see how 2008 is coming together. Start planning your abstracts now, 2008 is exceeding all expectations, with again record corporate sponsorship generated to date.

Major executive strategies for 2007 included a review of the financial business of the association. A number of key findings indicated that an overhaul of the association processes in reference to financial management was warranted. As such as a result of the financial overview provided at the AGM the association membership voted in support of the utilisation of PAMS to manage the association finances for a trial period of 1 year. PAMS specializes in management of association financial dealings and will not only streamline fiscal transactions, offer some key benefits to members, it will ensure that the association meets legislative requirements whilst remaining transparent in our dealings.

The review of financial standing of the association also indicated that to ensure the long term sustainability of the association that an increase in membership fees was indicated. As such, it was put to the members and a slight increase was passed, this has been the first increase in membership in some years and will be effective immediately.

There were also a number of prize winners at the Conference. Congratulations to all paper/ poster prize winners and to the winning Journal Logo designers. Watch this space for the changes and concepts to be further developed throughout the year. Members also voted on the acquisition of and presentation at this years AGM of some new association logo's.

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Have you seen the new website!!!! For those yet to log on, do so and have a look at the changing face of the association. Don't forget to write to the executive if you have any comments or suggestions. Details of the Barbara Lester Scholarship, closing soon, can be found, as well as all the latest updated information about your new state teams.

2008 is to be another busy year with revision of the strategic plan, identification of key strategic development activities and ongoing evaluations of implemented strategies to ensure the development of and sustainability of the association.

In closing, it is with sadness to report the recent passing of founding and life member, Marita Pidgen whose contribution and commitment to not only the association but to neuroscience nursing will be remembered. Our condolences to family, friends and colleagues.

Regards  
Tracy Desborough



# C o n f e r e n c e C o r n e r

## **Conference Report 2007**

The 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting was in Melbourne from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October. The **100 delegates** who came to the Novotel on Collins in Melbourne 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 years program.

In addition to our fellow colleagues presenting papers we were delighted to have **two guest speaking presentations**. Firstly (and at very short notice after the original guest speaker cancelled) Physiotherapists Christine Blackburn and Cate Clancy educated and entertained us during their presentation on the benefits of therapy, particularly botox for the treatment of severe spasticity. Christine deserves a special mention as she had only flown in from the States that morning! Our second Guest Speaker, Associate Professor Peter Mitchell who's presentation on Interventional Neuro-radiological procedures left even those with some knowledge of this specialty with a better understanding. We were also fortunate to have Davina Knight attend, **a registered nurse and patient**, who's neurosurgical events were detailed in a thought provoking case study presentation, by Emma Everingham.

Now to the dinner... It appears that most that came to the **'Horses, Hats and Humour' music trivia dinner** had a great time. During the dinner we were entertained by A.C.E Training and 'ourselves', with several memorable moments still fresh in my mind (and I am sure others minds as well)!

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. This year for the first time we had **record trade sponsorship and enough abstracts submitted to fill our full program**.

Congratulations to the following **award winners**:

Marilia Pereira, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital NSW – Tonnie Koenen Prize

Melissa Bartley, Sharen Rogers & Sharon Woodland, Westmead NSW – NSA Prize

Victor McConvey, Parkinson's Victoria – ANZAN Prize

Angela Lownie and Elizabeth McClusker, Westmead NSW – Best Poster Prize

Erin Bensley & Michelle Seaton, Christchurch Public Hospital NZ – 1st Time Presenter Prize

**Also announced:**

Highly Commended case presentation by Emma Everingham, Westmead Private Hospital  
Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Day award – Wyong Hospital Stroke Unit

This year we say goodbye to our Friendly Conference Convenor for the past 3 years, Cheryl Trudinger. Thankyou to Cheryl for her commitment and enthusiasm for making the conferences the success they currently are. We now welcome Alison Wilson as the incoming Conference Convenor and look forward to working with her to ensure the high standard of conferences continues.

**This years Conference will see us heading to Sydney.** Keep an eye out for future reports from Alison and on the website for the latest on its progress. We hope to see you in Sydney.

Sharon Eriksson

Vice President

# C o n f e r e n c e C o r n e r

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Hi ANNA members,

My Name is Alison Wilson; I work at Concord Hospital in NSW as the Stroke Case Manager.

At the conference held in Melbourne I was nominated and successfully voted at the AGM as your Conference Convenor.

I look forward to working with ANNA members to put on a conference that covers all aspects of Neuroscience Nursing.

The conference will be held in Sydney in 2008, for which we are currently busy looking at venues. As soon as the venue is set, we will let the members know so you can put the date in your diary!

If you have any questions about the conference please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Your Conference Convenor*

**Alison Wilson**

[conferenceconvenor@anna.asn.au](mailto:conferenceconvenor@anna.asn.au)



**Dear Members**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support over my term as conference convenor. To those that have been involved in the last 3 conferences either voluntarily or co horsed, thank you, each conference has been unique. We have seen the delegate numbers and sponsor \$\$\$ increase which is fantastic and gives us the boost to keep on going. We need to see member input keep on increasing.

I have really enjoyed my time in the position as Friendly Conference Convenor with all the challenges that have been put to me. I am able to say that I am proud of the work that I have been able to achieve over the last 3 years with assistance of the executive.

I wish Alison all the best as she begins her term.

So to all those that have assisted me in putting together each conference thank you for the help and support.

All the best

Cheryl Trudinger



**A special thanks to our conference sponsors for 2007:**

**GOLD: Medtronic Australasia**

**SILVER: Codman (J&J)**

**BRONZE: Global Scientific**

**BRONZE: Pfizer Australia**

# memberships news

Conference time is always a big recruitment time for ANNA so please review the list below!  
It is always encouraging to see so many new memberships in the mail 😊

On behalf of ANNA, the executive would like to welcome the following new members:

Branch	First Name	Last Name	Organization Name
ACT	Matthew	Daniel	The Canberra Hospital
ACT	Michelle	Mortlock	The Canberra Hospital
ACT	Ellen	Scanes	The Canberra Hospital
NSW	Peter	Said	Bayer Australia, Bayer Schering Pharmaceuticals
NSW	Donna	McHugh	Central Coast Area Health
NSW	Lauren	Pettifer	Concord Repat General Hospital
NSW	Robyn	Anderson	Dalcross Private Hospital
NSW	Rhonda	O'Neil	Gosford Hospital medical ward 5
NSW	Sarah	Treloar	Hornsby Hospital ICU
NSW	Lin	Perry	John Hunter Hospital/Newcastle Uni
NSW	Annmaree	Baines	North Shore Private Hospital
NSW	Kylie	Remington	not listed
NSW	Tracey	Thornley	Notre Dame University
NSW	Letitia	Allan	Royal North Shore Hospital
NSW	Aneeta	Devi Lal	Royal North Shore Hospital
NSW	Patti	Crummack	Royal North Shore Hospital
NSW	Kristy	Hepburn	Royal North Shore Hospital
NSW	Reannan	Byrne	Royal prince Alfred Hospital
NSW	Noreen	Cronin	Royal Rehab Centre Sydney
NSW	Matthew	Richter	RPA
NSW	Katherine	Espino	RPA Camperdown
NSW	Annmaree	O'Connell	RPAH Neurosciences Ambulatory Unit
NSW	Barbara	Marino	St Vincents Private Hospital
NSW	Mark	Longworth	Stroke Services NSW
NSW	Robyn	Lea	Sydney Childrens Hospital
NSW	Jenna	McGeever	Sydney Childrens Hospital
NSW	Regina	Costello	Sydney Childrens Hospital, Randwick
NSW	Beverlyn	Brabel	The Canberra Hospital
NSW	Barbara	Hughes	Westmead Childrens Hospital
NSW	Karen	Kullas	Westmead Hospital
NSW	Samantha	Kent	Westmead Private Hospital
NSW	Tara	Crump	Wyong

# memberships news

And the list of members who have joined **since July 2007** goes on....

NZ	Kristina	Cassels-Brown	Auckland City Hospital, ward81
NZ	Blair	Donkin	Christchurch Hospital
NZ	Alaina	Campbell	Waikato District Health
NZ	Michele	Richardson	Waikato District Health
NZ	Kathi	Evans	Wellington Hospital
NZ-Nth	Anthony	Howes	
Nz-Nth	Nazila	Samadi	Auckland City Hospital
NZ-Nth	Mary	Sharp	Auckland City Hospital
NZ-Nth	Michelle	Seaton	Canterbury DHB
NZ-Nth	Erin	Bensley	CDHB
NZ-Nth	Carolyn	Preston	Dunedin Hospital
QLD	Nykki	Rasmussen	Mater Private Hospital
QLD	Candice	Barter	MPH
QLD	Prue	Cervetto	Princess Alexandra Hospital
QLD	Jediah	Erbacher	Princess Alexandra Hospital
QLD	Meaghan	Osborne	Princess Alexandra Hospital
QLD	Samantha	Page	Princess Alexandra Hospital
QLD	Michelle	O'Hagan	Royal Brisbane & Womens Hospital
QLD	Samantha	Clarke	Royal Brisbane & Womens Hospital
QLD	Sarah Jayne	Roberts	Wesley Hospital Brisbane
SA	Barry	Watt	not listed
TAS	Hayley	Howard	Calvery Healthcare, Tasmania
VIC	Bronwyn	Coulter	Box Hill Hospital
VIC	Maree	Thomas	Jessie McPherson Hospital
VIC	Ailane	Koh	Monash Medical Centre
VIC	Amanda	Bilbrough-Tokai	Peninsula Health
VIC	Maureen	Walsh	The Alfred
WA	Beverly	Fyfe	
WA	Russell	Cockburn	Mount Private Hospital
WA	Sandra	Denison	Royal Perth Hospital
WA NSW	Ann Jane	Williams	Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital

## Maintaining your membership

- 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
- From 2008 all renewals now \$90 and new members \$100 per annum.





The World Federation of  
WFNN Neuroscience Nurses

## 2008 Update:

- Request from ANNA members for 10th Anniversary Congress of WFNN **May 23-28, 2009** Toronto, Canada, - pictures needed (photos from educational sessions, past conferences, brochures etc) for a global display of association members – typically Australasian please. Send to Vicki Evans [vevans@nsccaahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vevans@nsccaahs.health.nsw.gov.au) by June 2008
- **WFNN Board of Directors** meeting at the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses Conference Nashville, Tennessee, USA - **March 28-31, 2008.** (*NOT the EANN in Iceland as printed in posted Brainstem, apologies for error*)
- **New website:** [www.wfnn.nu](http://www.wfnn.nu)
- **WFNN Travel Grant, see website**
- **New discussion board** available on website

Remember all ANNA members are WFNN members too!

WFNN badges are available through ANNA executive for \$5 each.

# noticeboard

Stop Press!

Stop Press!

## Membership processing delays expected:

Due to the transfer of membership management to the Professional Association Management Service (PAMS), processing of all new memberships and renewals will be delayed. Please be patient while we move through this exciting transition phase.

## Journal:

Don't forget to submit your presentations from the conference/ASM for publication.

## ANNA Professional Standards:

These are posted to all new members and additional copies are available for \$30

## Brainstem now on website:

All Brainstem issues will now be available from the website, copies will no longer be posted to each member.

## Neuro nursing conferences

◆ **Smart Strokes, 4th Australasian Nursing & Allied Health Stroke Conference**  
13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at Star City, Sydney  
[smartstrokes@conferenceaction.com.au](mailto:smartstrokes@conferenceaction.com.au)



## Education evenings:

Let everyone know about your education sessions and advertise in your Brainstem! Send information at least 2 months before the event, including event, date, venue. A post event report would be great too.

Send information to Emma Everingham  
Email: [annaexecutive@anna.asn.au](mailto:annaexecutive@anna.asn.au)

# State news

## NSW



### "5<sup>th</sup> Annual Neuroscience Symposium"

by Royal North Shore Hospital, St.Leonards, Sydney

LOCATION: North Sydney Harbourview Hotel, 17 Blue Street, North Sydney

DATE: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008, 8.30am-16.15pm

COST: \$80 early bird, paid by 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008  
\$95 after 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008 (Incl GST)

CONTACT: Nicki Pereira 9926 8074 or switch 9926 7111 page 41237  
[Npereira@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Npereira@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au)

WEBSITE: see [www.anna.asn.au](http://www.anna.asn.au) for advanced notice flyer

# State news

## VIC

### Thank you!

In June this year we bid our previous Victorian state delegate, secretary and treasurer good-bye, with many thanks to Suzy Goodman, Lyn Wallace, and Chris Holland for their great work in promoting neuroscience nursing in Victoria.

### Hello from our new committee..

We look forward to getting to know you, and welcome any suggestions feedback.

- Liz Mackey – State Delegate – Neuroscience Clinical Nurse Educator at Box Hill Hospital [Elizabeth.Mackey@easternhealth.org.au](mailto:Elizabeth.Mackey@easternhealth.org.au) or [bestofshiraz@hotmail.org](mailto:bestofshiraz@hotmail.org)
- Kellie McIntosh – Secretary – Nurse Unit Manager – Neuroscience Ward, Monash Medical Centre [Kellie.McIntosh@southernhealth.org.au](mailto:Kellie.McIntosh@southernhealth.org.au)
- Pip Balfour – Treasurer – ANUM - Neuroscience Ward, Monash Medical Centre [pjb09@hotmail.com](mailto:pjb09@hotmail.com)

### What's been happening in Victoria?

#### August 2008 meeting at Monash Medical Centre Clayton...

Two presentations were given courtesy of the Southern Health Speech Therapy Department. Susan Ruddock (Acting Department Manager) presented the process and challenges of getting a project up and running in order to create a "Trache Team" at Southern Health. This continues to be an ongoing process but hopefully in the New Year will come to fruition. Airlie Dempster (Grade 2 Speech Therapist, Neurosciences) presented Dysphagia Screening as a concept not only for Stroke/Neuroscience patients but for all inpatients at Southern Health. While Neurosciences at Southern Health has been using this tool for approx 4 years now the tool, education and learning package needed to be revised and revamped. Airlie discussed how we have evolved our tool and our aim to roll out this skill as a credential to all nursing staff at Southern Health.

I know that Clayton seems so far away but it really isn't and we would love to have the opportunity to see a few more new (or old) faces present at our next meeting.

Cheers – Liz, Kellie and Pip

#### February 2008 education event: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 6.30pm-9.30pm

"The Exciting Future Of Stroke Nursing" at Box Hill Hospital

Noel Ramsay Lecture Theatre

**WEBSITE:** see [www.anna.asn.au](http://www.anna.asn.au) for registration form

## ACT

State branch meeting dates for 2008 are:

**February 26**

**April 29**

**July 29 - AGM**

**Sept 30**

**November 25**

The meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month at 1730 in the 9B tutorial room at TCH.

Sonja Eldridge [Sonja.Eldridge@act.gov.au](mailto:Sonja.Eldridge@act.gov.au)



# State news

## NSW

South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service

**Connecting with Neuroscience 2008**

All medical, nursing and allied health professionals are invited to attend.

Presentations include advances in brain surgery, brain injury rehabilitation, spinal surgery, RCT reviews and more (program to follow).

LOCATION: Auditorium, St. George Hospital, Education and Research Centre

DATE: 18th April 2008

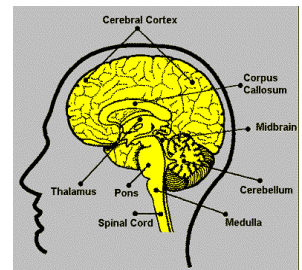
COST: Morning tea and lunch provided

\$44 (including GST) SESIAHS employees,

\$55 (including GST) all other staff.

RSVP: For registration or more information contact Roslyn Millar

9113 1111 page 324 or email [roslyn.millar@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:roslyn.millar@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au)



## SA

**ANNA Education Event:**

**“The Current state of Imaging in Neurology”**

by Dr Sandy Patel, consultant neuroradiologist

LOCATION: Radiology seminar room, Ground floor,  
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital

DATE: 20th March 2008 at 5pm.

COST: Free for ANNA members, \$2 for non members.

Light refreshments provided.

RSVP: by 14th March to

Mahlah Watchman [mwatchman@calvarysa.com.au](mailto:mwatchman@calvarysa.com.au)

Sharon Horn [Sharon.horn@nwahs.sa.gov.au](mailto:Sharon.horn@nwahs.sa.gov.au)



# ANNA loses life member: Marita Pigden

Vale : Marita Pigden

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing in January 2008 of Marita Pigden, a founding member of ANNA and life member of our association.

Marita Pigden arrived in Victoria from Tasmania in the 1970's, having completed post-graduate Neuroscience nursing studies in UK. and was subsequently appointed to the role of Charge Nurse of the Neurosurgical Unit at the Royal Childrens Hospital in Melbourne,

Along with Tonnie Koenen, Marita recognized the need to form a network of Neurosurgical (Neuroscience) Nurses to share their ideas and knowledge. She became a member of the WFNN in 1973 and had a key role in the formation of the Australasian Neurosurgical Nurses Association in 1974.

The initial half day study days and the formal links with the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia resulted from the vision and hard work of both Tonnie and Marita. Marita held both State & Federal executive positions including Federal President from 1985-87. Marita retained an active involvement in ANNA until the early 1990's, taking care of the ANNA Archives.

Marita moved to the Austin Hospital in 1980 as the Nurse Unit Manager and was integral in establishing the first Victorian Neuroscience Nursing course at the Austin Hospital, which was the only professional neuroscience nursing qualification in Victoria for many years and was responsible for the training and development of many of the senior Neuroscience Nurses in Victoria and beyond!. The course remains, having become affiliated with LaTrobe University and continuing to successfully provide a high quality of Neuroscience Nursing Education to this day.

Marita moved from the Austin Hospital into Neurological Rehabilitation at the Ivanhoe Manor Rehabilitation Centre where she remained until her retirement in 2005. Following retirement, she moved home to her extended family in Tasmania, when sadly many of us lost touch with her.

Marita was an inspiration to many Neuroscience nurses in Victoria. From a personal perspective, I worked with Marita for over 10 years and shared her great passion for, and appreciation of, the contribution neuroscience nurses made to the care of our patients.

Marita made a significant contribution to the development of the professionalism we value so highly today.

Marita will be sadly missed and fondly remembered.

Lyn Wallace.



# State contacts

## South Australia

Calling all interested members,  
new branch developing  
Contact: Mahlah Watchman  
[mwatchman@calvarysa.com.au](mailto:mwatchman@calvarysa.com.au)

## WA Branch (no report received)

Contact: Beverly Fyfe  
[gouldfyfe@bigpond.com](mailto:gouldfyfe@bigpond.com)

## QLD Branch (no report received)

Calling all interested members to  
become a state delegate.  
Go on you can do it! Give me a call.  
Contact: Amanda Ormerod  
[amanda\\_ormerod@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:amanda_ormerod@health.qld.gov.au)

## New Zealand (no report received)

Contact: Denise Le Lievre  
Auckland [DeniseL2@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:DeniseL2@adhb.govt.nz)

## NSW Branch

•Contact: Liz O'Brien

Ph: 02) 9926 8735  
[eobrien@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:eobrien@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au)

## ACT Branch (see report/dates)

Contact: Sonja Eldridge

[Sonja.Eldridge@act.gov.au](mailto:Sonja.Eldridge@act.gov.au)

## Victorian Branch (see report)

State Delegate –Liz Mackey

[Elizabeth.Mackey@easternhealth.org.au](mailto:Elizabeth.Mackey@easternhealth.org.au)



State news published includes what we receive.  
Brainstem editors: Emma, Sharon and Karen

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australasian **neuroscience**  
**nurses** association

**36<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference**  
**&**

**Annual General Meeting**

22nd – 24th October 2008

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RESORT & SPA • BONDI BEACH SYDNEY

