



Hemisphere News

Volume 25

December 2010

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CONTACTS

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ANNA NSW President's Report December

Hi to everyone from the NSW ANNA branch.

It is with great excitement that I inform you that ANNA NSW has a new President/ Delegate and Treasurer!!!!

Jeanne Barr has been nominated as the NSW President/Delegate and her nomination has been accepted by the current executive. Jeanne, whom many of you will know, is the Neurosciences CNC at Royal North Shore Hospital. Jeanne has an extensive career in Neuro Nursing and is passionate about many aspects of neurosciences. I welcome Jeanne to NSW ANNA executive and know that with Jeanne's fresh view the NSW branch will be re-invigorated.

Caleb Ferguson has been nominated as the Treasurer for ANNA NSW and his application has been accepted by the current executive. Caleb is an associate lecturer with the University of Technology, Sydney and has experience in Neuro Nursing at Concord Hospital, Royal Prince Alfred and Prince of Wales. I welcome Caleb to the NSW ANNA executive.

I would like to thank Anne Macleod outgoing Treasurer for all her work with the finances of ANNA. She has met many challenges with accounts management, providing information for audit to PAMs for ANNA federal and assisting me with the many challenges as NSW ANNA President. I thank her for her professionalism and friendship but above all her continued passion for Neuro.

We will be handing over to the new executive in January so the next edition of Hemisphere News will contain contact info and introductions from the new executive.

Brianna Beattie will remain on, at this stage, as secretary. I would like to thank Brianna for her assistance in minutes, agendas, membership lists and also for maintaining her love of Neuro.

Shae Miller is remaining as Hemisphere News editor. Shae has done a wonderful job in putting out a regular edition of the newsletter keeping everyone up to date with what is happening in the Neuro world. Shae has also managed to keep me on track with reports for Hemisphere News as I often need a bit of a re-

minder to “just do it”. Thanks to Shae for also maintaining her love of Neuro.

As usual we have the John Sheard Travel Award; applications will be considered for travel, registration and/or accommodation expenses associated with attending a professional development activity such as an educational/professional conference, forum, workshop, meeting or short course (excluding formal/higher education course fees); where the content is relevant to neuroscience nursing. The closing date is the 31st August. Please encourage yourselves and/or your friends to apply. There are two \$500 awards or 1x \$1000 award available.

I would like to thank all the members of ANNA NSW for their hard work and loyalty to Neuroscience Nursing. It is a field that brings with it a lot of hard work, sadness and joy for our staff

and patients. There are exciting opportunities for all of us to take hold of and inspire others to achieve. It is through ANNA that we can share this and I have been privileged to have been able to take this journey with you all. My family also deserves a big thank-you as they have had to live with me during this busy time filled with ANNA, completion of my Masters and work.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Liz O'Brien, (outgoing) ANNA NSW President

The Australasian Journal of Neuroscience needs YOU!



It's good for the profession, it's good for you!

The AJoN will be published twice during 2010 – May & October.

**Deadline for submission of articles: 1 March for publication in May &
1 August for publication in October.**

Help is available to assist you if needed.

Manuscripts are to be in MS Word format (with Title Page, Abstract, Key Words, Body, In-Text Referencing, Illustration referencing).

More information available on the ANNA website www.anna.asn.au

**Email to the Editor - Vicki Evans –
editor@anna.asn.au**

See you in PRINT!

ANNA Conference reports

The following are four reports from recipients of a scholarships- RNSH's Neuroscience Nurses Network -N3 and John Sheard Travel Award .They give 4 different views of what an opportunity to attend a conference can offer. Editor

Report from the Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association Scientific Meeting

The Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association's Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Auckland, New Zealand from 20-22 October, 2010. The meeting was attended by approximately 100 nurses from New Zealand and Australia. New South Wales had a high attendance with nurses from Royal North Shore Hospital, Central Coast, Westmead, Nepean, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Prince of Wales, St George Hospital and Liverpool Hospital. Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service was also well represented on the podium with three presenters from Royal North Shore Hospital. We also saw Tracy Desborough step down as President after dedicating four years to the position.

There were several benefits for me personally in attending the conference. I presented a paper "A Case Study of a Young Person with Meningoencephalitis". I gained a greater understanding of the results of parasitic infections in the central nervous system when preparing for the presentation. Additionally I was able to review the current literature on coma stimulation programs for those who are minimally responsive after brain injury. I have also presented this case study to staff locally. Other presenters from Royal North Shore Hospital were Susan Williams: "From Expert to Novice", a paper describing her transition from being an expert in stroke nursing to a novice as a Parkinson's nurse coordinator; and Ellie Borrell: "Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease – Where are we now? Presentation, Diagnosis and Treatment". This was an excellent review of this disease that has no cure leaving us with questions about where nurses can make a difference to these patients and their families. Lastly, Vicki Evans presented on "Native Neurotoxins" sharing her wide knowledge of some of the native Australian species that can damage the central nervous system. There were many networking opportunities at the conference and this always has lasting benefits. Most importantly I was able to meet with the other CNCs from the major teaching hospitals in Sydney and discuss some of the issues they are facing.

I was fortunate to be supported to attend the conference by the Neuroscience Nurses Network scholarship as well as the ANNA NSW John Sheard Award.

Jeanne Barr

CNC Neuroscience

Royal North Shore Hospital



ANNA Conference Report for the N3 Network

The Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association's 38th Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Auckland, New Zealand October 20-22, 2010. Originally scheduled to be held in Christchurch, the venue was changed at the last minute due to the earthquakes that devastated Christchurch in early September. This showed the adaptability and leadership qualities of the Association as well as that of the host cities, including Rydges Auckland in accommodating the conference very well.

This year's conference saw the change of leadership with all of the Executive Committee standing down after having completed 2 successful terms. The new leadership comes with Sharryn Byers (President), Katrina Mastello (Vice President), Kylie Wright (Secretary), Angela Evans (Treasurer), and myself as Journal Editor.

The conference began with a great Maori Ceremonial Welcome, which included the Haka. There were 4 talks from Royal North Shore Hospital, which was commendable. Ellie Borrell gave an insightful talk on CJD. Jeanne Barr's talk on human angiostrongyliasis, scheduled before lunch, caused the Rydges catering staff to wonder why the 2 bowls of lettuce were not touched! She spoke about a case in Sydney where a young male had ingested a slug as a dare and there began a chain of events leading to meningioencephalitic eosinophilia. Sue Williams presented on her role from 'expert to novice' as a Parkinson's Disease Nurse.

Kylie Wright was well received at the conference as she was made a Life Member of ANNA for her contributions over the years. She continues with her commitment to ANNA in her new role as National Secretary. She also gave two presentations, one of which received an award – "A Stitch in Time!" Nurses suturing post neurosurgical drain removal'. This was an enlightening talk and one in which many other hospitals could benefit from in future undertakings. External ventricular, subdural and lumbar drains at times require the site to be sutured after drain removal to prevent CSF leaks. Historically this has been the domain of the medical staff. This innovative project at Liverpool Hospital described the delay in drain removal, and site suturing citing the impact as patient discomfort, loss of independence and increased risk of complications associated with prolonged immobilisation due to mandatory bedrest until drain removal. This project (117 patients cited) enabled nurses to gain accreditation in suturing drain sites after neurosurgical drain removal. The removal time has been a 2hr benchmark, with 0% infection rates thus far.

The 'regular' photo booth was there at the Conference Dinner - it was well utilised!

I would like to thank the N3 Committee for the scholarship funding that assisted in my travelling to New Zealand, where I also presented on the topic of 'Native Neurotoxins'. In my capacity of *AJoN* Editor and Vice President of WFNN, I was asked to judge the papers for awards as well.

Thank you for this opportunity. I encourage others to make it a priority to attend these conferences.

Vicki Evans

CNC Neuroscience , Royal North Shore Hospital

Conference Report-ANNA conference in Auckland New Zealand.

I was one of three nurses from RNS to receive a scholarship to attend the ANNA conference in Auckland New Zealand. I must admit I was little disappointed when an earthquake prevented me from at last seeing something of the South Island of New Zealand! But the organisers of the conference did a brilliant job of hastily relocating the conference to Auckland.

One of the reasons I went to New Zealand was to act as the NSW delegate as Liz O'Brien the President was unable to attend. This experience gave me insight into "the behind the scenes" work done by the Executive and in particular the work done to ensure the conference runs smoothly.

On the first day we were treated with an entertaining display of local Maori culture and in true New Zealand tradition, greeted with a rousing rendition of the Haka.

With the theme of "Actioning your potential" the speakers all provided the audience with many and varied ways that Neuroscience Nurses in Australia and New Zealand have been innovative and taking the lead.

The range of topics covered many of the subspecialties of Neurology and Neurosurgery and included both adult and paediatric settings. Some speakers spoke about topics that were not usually associated with neuroscience but highlighted this point of view. I enjoyed all of the speakers and it was great to hear such a diverse range of topics but some the highlights for me were:

- The presentations given by my four colleagues from RNSH. They spoke about human angiostrongyliasis(Jeanne Barr), CJD (Ellie Borrell), The journey from 'expert to novice' when changing roles (Sue Williams, and Neurotoxins (Vicki Evans). They demonstrated breadth of the knowledge and experience of the neuroscience nurses at RNSH.
- A project being undertaken by Kati Knuuffila in Auckland to reduce the incidence in "Shaken Baby Syndrome- it brought home the neuroscience sequelae of this condition and how nurses can lead the way in prevention.
- A paper presented by Linda Jayne Nichols from Hobart who spoke about some of the moral and ethical dilemmas that Neuroscience clinicians face in trauma management. I'm sure many in the room related to these experiences.
- Kylie Wright's paper about suturing after EVD removal which demonstrated that nurses could take the lead in improving patient care and patient outcomes. Well done Kylie and the nurses at Liverpool.
- A project undertaken by Michele Richardson and Cheryl Blackburn From Waikato who identified a gap in the assessment of their patients and set about producing a assessment document to address it.

No report could be complete without mentioning the social events which were great as usual. I was glad I could finally attend the welcoming drinks and was glad to see so many familiar faces. The dinner was beautiful and the band had the room jumping by the end of the night with many familiar tunes. And one can not forget the photo booth!

Finally, as this conference ended, we farewelled the outgoing executive and welcomed a new team. I'm looking forward to the next conference in WA.

Shae Miller CNE Neurology RNSH

ANNA Conference report

I attended the 38th Annual Scientific Meeting held in Auckland in October. At the last minute the conference was relocated from Christchurch due to earthquakes. I have worked in Neurology for 15 years however this was my first ANNA conference. It was great to meet up with so many nurses passionate about the same things as me. I had not seen some of these people since Uni. It is amazing how small, yet diverse, the world of neuroscience nursing is.

I was particularly inspired by the presentations given by the smaller hospitals or services. A new neurosurgical ward in Waikato Hospital NZ identified gaps in their nursing documentation of observations post spinal surgery. They explained the process they went through to develop their own Spinal Surgery Observation Chart. The neuroscience ward at Prince of Wales outlined the collection of smaller practice improvement projects they undertook as part of the Essentials of Care cycle. We heard how Royal Hobart Hospital changed nursing and

medical practice to improve care of patients needing cervical spine clearance.

All of these situations showed me how important it is to look at your practice, identify areas for improvement, and then embark on a process of change to improve the situation. None of these were particularly earth shaking changes but they had significant impacts on care in their local environments. It has inspired me to solve the problems we experience around the charting of continuous infusions of apomorphine. Like these other hospitals it is not going to impact the greater world of neuroscience practice but it will make the tasks of charting and reading the apomorphine order easier for those involved and ultimately impact on patient care for us here at Royal North Shore.

Sue Williams
Parkinsons Clinical Support Nurse
Royal North Shore hospital



WFNN visitor Nobuko Okubo

I am **Nobuko Okubo**, Associate Professor of St. Luke's College of Nursing. My specialty is neuroscience nursing and I have been heavily

involved in neuroscience nursing research in Japan. In future, our college is going to commence a postgraduate advanced neuroscience nursing course. I am currently observing and studying activities and roles of advanced neuroscience nurses across California (USA), NSW (Australia), Oxford, and Salford (UK) and finally Phoenix (USA) spending 2 months at each location.

Vicki Evans, Neuroscience CNC of Royal North Shore Hospital coordinated my visit and I spent time in Sydney and the Central Coast between April and May, 2010. I had a wonderful time in NSW and was able to gain some valuable insight.

There were many levels of neuroscience advanced nurses such as CNS, CNC and NP in NSW. Each of the advanced neuroscience nurses displayed a strong sense of responsibility. They interacted well as part of the multidisciplinary team and communication between disciplines was both competent and confident. They had autonomous positions as part of the multidisciplinary team.

On my return to Japan in November, I will develop an advanced neuroscience nursing course based on what I have observed in my travels, including NSW. I have made many new friends and look forward to having an opportunity to work collaboratively with them on future research projects.

I would like to thank Virginia Prendergast (President of WFNN) and Vicki Evans (Vice President) from Royal North Shore for facilitating the visit.

Neuro Oncology Seminar

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Registration Form

THIS IS AN OFFICIAL TAX INVOICE

Westmead Medical Research Foundation ABN: 89 050 329 925

This form and a receipt of payment will be posted to you for your records

Closing Date: Friday, March 18, 2011 (for catering purposes)

Name: -----

Position: -----

Hospital: -----

Department: -----

Postal Address: -----

Post Code: -----

Contact Phone: -----

Fax/Email: -----



Payment Details: (Please tick box)

Cheque Bankcard Visa Mastercard Money Order

Cardholder Name: ----- Expiry Date: -----

Signature: -----

Cost: \$66 (includes morning tea & Lunch)

Cheques/Money orders Payable to:

The Westmead Medical Research
Foundation

Forward to: Katherine Schaffarczyk
c/o- Ward D5c, Westmead
Hospital, PO Box 533
Wentworthville, NSW 2145

Phone: 9845 5555, page 09134 OR 9845 7590
Fax 9633 3198 (secure office)

Timetable for Neuro – Oncology Seminar Thursday 31 March, 2011

Lecture Theatre 3, Education Block, Level 2, Westmead Hospital

Time	Session	Speaker
0730-0800	<i>Registration</i>	
0800-0845	Tumour Anatomy & Physiology Tumour recurrence	Dr Gordon Dandie Consultant Neurosurgeon and Spinal Surgeon, Westmead Hospital
0845-0930	Tumour classification and grading (diagnosis)	Dr Winny Varikatt Neuropathologist, Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, Westmead Hospital
0930-1000	<i>Morning tea</i>	
1000-1100	Surgical management Medications	<i>To be advised</i>
1100-1145	Radiation Oncology management	Dr Najmun Nahar, Radiation Oncologist, Westmead Hospital
1145-1230	Oncology management	Dr Mark Wong, Staff Specialist, Medical Oncology, Westmead Hospital
1230-1315	<i>Lunch</i>	
1315-1400	Palliative Care management	Dr Philip Lee, Staff Specialist, Palliative Care, Westmead Hospital
1400-1430	Seizure management	Melissa Bartley, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Epilepsy Unit, Westmead Hospital
1430-1500	Patient/carer perspective	<i>To be advised</i>
1500-1545	Brain tumour research – present and future	Associate Professor Brian K. Owler Consultant Neurosurgeon, The Westmead Hos-
1545	<i>Lucky door prizes</i>	
1600	<i>Close</i>	

Program subject to change without notice

SAVE THE DATE!



WFNN Congress ~ Nagoya, Japan. September 13 - 17, 2013.

The Japanese Association of Neuroscience Nurses is excited and honoured to be hosting the next WFNN Congress.

The Scientific Committee (SC) for the 2013 Congress has begun the lengthy preparations required for a meeting in a predominantly non-English speaking country. The language of the Congress is English. The SC consists of representatives from Canada, UK, Finland, Japan, USA 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 the experience!

Cheers,

Vicki

WFNN Vice President
Scientific Chair 2013 Congress

