



Perioperative Nurses Association of Queensland Inc

ADVANCING PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

President's Report

In my first report to you all, I feel I must once again congratulate our 2015 Conference Committee for producing such a wonderful event – *Changing Tides: Together Towards Tomorrow* in April. But it was not only our committee that made our conference so great; it was also each & every one of the participating delegates & presenters that celebrate our wonderful profession that is perioperative nursing. One of these presenters was our very own ACORN President Dr Jed Duff, who gave us & our state conference a great shout-out in the winter edition of our ACORN journal. Although I am still experiencing a 'post conference glow' it is with sadness that I reflect along with all other Queenslanders, on the Ravenshoe tragedy that has now taken two lives & have left many more patients still struggling with their injuries in Intensive Care, the RBWH Burns Unit & surgical wards across our state.

As the Nurse Unit Manager of the operating rooms at RBWH, I have witnessed first hand, how perioperative nurses respond with compassion & resilience to such severe events. We recognise these two attributes as some of the many that are vital for us as perioperative nurses to harness & develop. I was fortunate to sit in on a presentation on resilience at the recent Tasmanian Operating Rooms Nurses study day in Hobart whilst attending the ACORN AGM in June. We understand the importance of improving & maintaining our resilience by valuing self-care. As perioperative nurses, how often do we check in & ask ourselves; how am I doing with my own self-care? I recently read an article on how successful people make the most of their weekends. This article spoke to me about self-care. Of course it explored time management & setting/achieving goals, but the overarching message for me was the commitment to invest in oneself. As health care professionals, we are

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cognisant regarding the importance of rest, relaxation & selecting the balance we choose for our non-work time as being essential to our physical, mental & spiritual health. Although as perioperative nurses, we quite often find ourselves working weekends (& night duty!), we can still apply the 'self-care' strategies found in this article to our days off. You can find this article at: <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/how-successful-people-make-the-most-of-their-weekends-152237741.html>

I was pleased to see the ACORN Strategic Plan in Wendy Rowland's (our new ACORN Executive Officer) report in the winter ACORN journal. I was privileged to be involved in the development of our strategic plan in February of this year & proud that our number one priority is to "invest in the development of people, organisational structures & resources." This means many fantastic opportunities for our PNAQ members, one of which being automatic access to reduced conference rates. Our 2016 ACORN Conference, 25-28 May in Hobart *A Devil of a Time*, will undoubtedly be a special event. Further information can be found at: <http://www.acorn.org.au/events/2016-acorn-conference/>.

President's Report Cont

Attached is information regarding the Judith Cornell Oration. If you know of a perioperative nurse who has made an outstanding contribution to perioperative nursing in Australia, I encourage you to nominate them for this prestigious award, the recipient of which will deliver their oration at our 2016 ACORN Conference. Another exciting opportunity is a [special 20% discount for ACORN members](#) wishing to attend the [7th Annual Operating Theatre Management Conference](#) taking place on 4th – 5th August at the Pullman Melbourne Albert Park. The list of opportunities offered to PNAQ members is substantial, but I would like to finish off by bringing your attention to the scholarship opportunities offered by ACORN to study post-graduate nursing courses in anaesthetics & recovery at the University of Tasmania. Further information can be found at: <http://www.utas.edu.au/health/study/acorn-scholarships>

Our PNAQ AGM & study day will be held on October 10th at the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital Education Centre. An outgoing position to be voted on at this meeting is that of Secretary. I would like to thank Michelle Reardon for her fantastic work in her role as PNAQ Secretary over the last 18 months. Michelle is taking on more active involvement within ACORN & on behalf of the PNAQ Management Committee we wish her well in these endeavours. At our recent state conference, we advertised expressions of interest on a range of working parties. I am pleased to report there was very generous uptake, demonstrating a genuine interest in our Association from our members. These working parties include our Constitution working party, Education working party & Marketing & Communication. We will be sending e-blasts to allow for those who were unable to attend our conference a chance to nominate for these committees & will be contacting all those who expressed interest in the near future. I encourage you all to consider what you could contribute to our Association & hope we gain member participation from across our great state. Our Education Chair has become vacant & I would like to thank Shirley Lockie for her contributions to this position. As per our current constitution we are unable to fill this vacancy until our AGM in October. I would ask that any of you with a passion for perioperative education, consider this important role on our committee. Finally, our Conference Convenor will now become a paid position,

the role description for this position will be available on our website soon. Attached in the link to our Resource Manual depicting these roles http://www.pnaq.net.au/files/9713/6669/0364/PNAQ_RESOURCE_MANUAL_Version_5_January_2011_FINAL.pdf. Please contact me if you would like to discuss these further.

Thank-you all for dedication & commitment to perioperative nursing, the patients we care for & also for your interest & support of PNAQ. I hope you all stay warm over the winter months & don't succumb to the dreaded flu!

Emma Babao

PNAQ President

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2015 PNAQ Biennial Conference



Delegates' Reports

Julianne Eather, PNAQ and conference Treasurer, summarises this year's PNAQ Conference held at the Novotel Twin Waters on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. PNAQ grant recipients Simone Ohlin and Louise MacInnes provide their experiences of the conference. These commentaries provide an excellent overview of a very educational, professional, engaging and enjoyable conference. Enjoy the read!

The PNAQ Changing Tides Together towards Tomorrow conference showcased a lot of passionate perioperative nurses. The two day event covered a wide variety of speakers both national and international. The conference theme was Hawaiian. Above are some of the speakers enjoying the moment.

Thirty six trade displays gave endless information about the goods and services they provide. The room buzzed with colourful displays and informal in-services.

Mr Patrick Voight from Deloitte Consulting spoke on The Global Healthcare Transformation: Why the operating theatre is under the microscope, and Deep Vein Thrombosis & Pulmonary Emboli encouraging each of us to assess our own DVT risks.

Mr David Stewart an Assistant Director, from the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office of Queensland spoke

on Optimising Nursing and the Future State of Nursing in Queensland. He spoke of the cost of health care expenditure, health care reform for enhanced patient experience, the cost and challenges of reform to optimise the nursing workforce.

Ms Jane Butler spoke of the changes in sterilising theatre equipment since 1969, with gowns and gloves set up on a trolley, using chital forceps. Now the tide has changed and she discussed the AS/NZS 4187:2014 reprocessing standards.

Ms Phyllis Davis spoke of Human Factors in Healthcare and leadership-Preparing the next generation, using her many years of experience to enhance her stories.

Many topics throughout the perioperative experience were covered, even operating in an Ebola environment. The Acorn standards panel held open forum discussion, led by Dr Jed Duff, Dr Paula Foran, Mr Pete Smith, Dr Sonya Osborne.

The keynote closing presentation was from a team comprising: Dr Jason Brown, Ms Emma Mitchell, and Mr Matt Golinski based on the personal experience of working with victims of burns.

2015 PNAQ Biennial State Conference



The PNAQ conference committee with Matt Golinski, keynote speaker.

If you have never been to a state conference, you have missed out....BIG time. Not only do you get those elusive CPD points but you miss the excitement, learning and atmosphere of a conference. This PNAQ conference, I believe, was one of the more inspirational. I felt very proud of our conference committee and all those who put in such an effort. Four streams of learning, multiple sessions, surrounded by lush greenery and thought provoking speakers. My friend and I arrived full of anticipation for the days ahead.

Seeing the conference through the eyes of a conference virgin (my friend had never attended a conference before) was especially rewarding. We meet Emma Babao, the incoming president within the first minutes of arrival, luckily for us she stopped to take our picture. We checked into our room then went off to explore the surrounds.

The next morning was an early start for the conference and what a start with Patrick Voight who gave us insight into the United States medical system. We were given an update by the president of ACORN Dr Jed Duff who explained the results of the member survey that was done earlier in the year, followed by an inspiring session by Kathy Flanigan the outgoing president of PNAQ. We were in a world of like-minded people with a passion for perioperative nursing, learning and, let's not forget, fun! I was greatly amused with the conference app, and accumulating points. I had the younger members of the conference in a flurry for app point's right up to the end.

No conference would be fulfilling without the social

interaction. The first night was a meet and greet. This was a wonderful evening and we both really enjoyed meeting new people and being reunited with current and old friends. It was a great segment of the conference, the noise and atmosphere from the Friday night luau must have kept other guests up. All pictures were, of course, uploaded to the app for everyone to see what they were missing.

The final day of the conference went in the blink of an eye, with the trade exhibition being one of the highlights. I am glad we have our trade partners to make sure we are up to date in the latest technologies. Credit goes to Veronica Casey and her timely reminder about leadership in nursing with final motivation from Matt Golinski and the burns team from the Royal Brisbane Hospital. I would like to share Matt's piece of advice when it comes to ordering wine at a restaurant but unfortunately what happens at conference must stay at conference! That's a small peek at the PNAQ Changing Tides conference where we all learnt and moved together towards tomorrow.



Simone Ohlin

2015 PNAQ Biennial Conference

Firstly, I would like to thank the PNAQ committee for awarding me a grant in order to attend this year's conference on the Sunshine Coast. I have attended previous PNAQ conferences and found them to be hugely valuable as both a means to remain updated in current trends in perioperative nursing, and as a means to foster new relationships with my fellow perioperative colleagues.

I arrived at the beautiful Novotel Twin Waters resort at lunchtime on the Thursday and spent a beautiful sunny Queensland afternoon exploring the facilities. Such a great spot for a conference weekend, and in true Queensland fashion we had glorious weather. Later in the evening the "Trade Winds" meet and Greet social function and trade display gave a perfect opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new friends, and grab a sneak preview of the trade displays, whilst enjoying a relaxing glass of wine and canapés.

Friday morning commenced early with a welcome to the 270 plus delegates from Ruth Melville the President Elect for the International Federation of Perioperative Nurses, an inspiring nurse with many years of PNAQ, and ACORN experience. A great beginning to what was to be a jam-packed weekend, full of fascinating topics. The conference itself consisted of a plenary session and concurrent sessions on topics relating to Management, Anaesthetics/PACU, Intraoperative, and Advanced Practice/Education. Whilst I attended many sessions during the course of the weekend, I will mention those that really impacted my learning. But first... I must make mention of the fabulous conference App. It was a highlight of the conference, and I am sure I was not alone in



developing a slightly unhealthy addiction to taking photos, and making comments during the conference. Well done PNAQ, I loved it!



Friday morning's keynote address was from Mr Patrick Voight, an incredibly engaging international speaker from the USA. An experienced RN, his current role is as a consultant in the USA providing advice and solutions to facilities regarding performance improvements, cost reduction, and quality in healthcare. His talk was an eye opener to say the least as he discussed costs of healthcare, comparing the USA and Australia with other developed countries. He discussed health inequalities, and opportunities for open discussion about how best to provide ongoing cost-effective and high quality healthcare. It certainly gave me food for thought.

A particularly interesting topic for me was Dr Brigid Gillespie's talk on the WHO surgical checklist. As most perioperative nurses will know, it is often a challenge to execute an effective team 'Time Out'. Dr Gillespie discussed the challenges to correct use, and also the benefits, concluding that ongoing education in relation to the nuances of each individual setting are important in achieving the best outcome when utilizing the form.



Day one concluded with the conference dinner "Sunset Hawaiian Buffet".

What a fantastic night. So many people went to town with their Hawaiian themed dress. A beautiful outdoor beach setting, delicious seafood, free flowing drinks, a hula-hoop competition, and much more fun was had. The addition of a photo booth made for some hilarious moments.

2015 PNAQ Biennial State Conference

A spirited discussion on day two of the conference, that created some further discussion on the conference App, was the panel discussion in the main Wandiny room regarding the ACORN Standards Updates. Delegates were invited to pose questions relating to individual standards. A favorite of mine was the old chestnut of "Should we wear our own hats in theatre?" The question of infection control, and laundering the hats correctly was discussed. The consensus was that we shouldn't. I wasn't sure that I was ready to part with my pretty colourful hats just yet, but it was certainly an interesting discussion.

Catherine Steel's talk about high reliability organisations and the integration of evidence-based practice, resulting in resilience to error was another interesting session. Catherine discussed the process of root cause analysis in the examination of such errors, and the use of ongoing staff assessment/practice audits in order to ensure consistently high levels of practice. Having worked with Catherine at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and been subjected to these practice audits, I can testify that it did indeed ensure my practice was correct and up to date.

The closing keynote address was from Celebrity Chef Matt Golinski, who most will remember from his terrible burns following a fire at his home and the tragic loss of his beautiful family. A man who is so inspiring in his ability to endure the pain and heartbreak of the situation, and come out the other side helping so many others in his charity work. This session was followed by two presentations from staff at The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital who looked after Matt during his hospital stay. Clinical Nurse Emma Mitchell, and Dr Jason Brown, who shared with the delegates both the early emergency treatment of burns patients and the ongoing care required in ensuring optimal outcome. Dr Brown discussed the significant advances in burn care over the past decades, such as skin cultivation, scar mitigation and laser treatment. As someone who has never worked in a burns unit, I found the topic fascinating.

Obviously there were many more sessions over the weekend, too many for me to share in this short piece. Overall it was a fabulous weekend and I gained many insights into the future of perioperative nursing and aspects of my own practice that I can improve upon. The resort was great; the conference food delicious and plentiful; and I made a good number of new friends over the weekend. I wish to congratulate the PNAQ conference committee on their hard work in executing what was a very successful conference.

Louise MacInnes



Congratulations

2015 Award Winners

The 2015 Awards were presented at the Friday night Sunset Buffet Hawaiian Dinner.

Excellence Winner:

Janet Perry-Watson (Nambour General Hospital)

Excellence Commendation:

Anne Maree Allanson (Redcliffe Hospital)

Team Winner:

RBWH Level 4 OR Nurses

Team Commendation:

Redcliffe Operating Room Theatre Team

Novice Winner:

Verity Adams (RBWH)

Novice Commendation:

Nicholas Fracchia (RBWH)

2015 PNAQ Raffle Winners

1st Prize Raffle winner:

Kate Gibney (Mater Private, Brisbane)

Airfare (return to Hobart) & 5 Nights Accommodation for Two PLUS Full Delegate Registration to the ACORN 2016 Conference for One (**Value: \$3500**)

2nd Prize Raffle winner:

Anne Maree Allanson (Redcliffe Hospital)

Full Delegate Registration to the ACORN 2016 Conference for One (**Value: \$850**)

3rd Prize Raffle winner:

Sharyn McConnell-Wood (Gympie Private Hospital)

Bound Hard Copy or Electronic Copy of the ACORN Standards (**Value: \$300**)

2015 Conference Competition Winners

Best Booth:

Paul Hartmann Pty Ltd

Free Trade Registration to the 2017 PNAQ State Conference in Townsville (**Value: \$2000**)

Trade Hall Lotto Winner:

Serena Cole (Nambour General Hospital)

Free Delegate Registration to the 2017 PNAQ State Conference in Townsville (**Value: \$300**)

Best Poster:

Steve Eden (PACU RBWH) - Forced Air

People's Choice Poster:

Steve Eden (PACU RBWH) - Forced Air

People's Choice Presentation:

Sonya Osborne - ACORN Standards Case Exemplar

App Leaderboard Winner Day 1:

Verity Adams (RBWH)

App Leaderboard Winner Overall:

Alec Brinton (RBWH)

The Judith Cornell Oration

History

The Judith Cornell Oration is a biennial event initiated by ACORN in 2002. It is intended to serve as an occasion of celebration for the achievements of Australian perioperative nurses and to allow future visions to be shared. Orators are distinguished perioperative nurses who, throughout their careers, have made a significant contribution to advancing perioperative nursing in Australia.

Judith Cornell AM (1940 - 2014), after whom this award is named, is one such a nurse. Judith was one of two NSW Operating Theatre Association (OTA) representatives to attend the inaugural planning meeting held in Melbourne in 1975 that led to the 1977 Australasian Conference of Operating Room Nurses being held in Canberra. Judith chaired this conference, at which it was decided to form the Australian Confederation of Operating Room Nurses, ACORN. The inaugural meeting of ACORN was held the following year, with each of the six Australian states, as member bodies of this national body, sending two representatives. Judith was the first chair of ACORN and served on council for many years. The purpose of the national body was to look into all aspects of nursing practice in the operating room and to that end ACORN produced its first Standards, Guidelines and Policy Statements in 1980.



Following her retirement from perioperative nursing in 1986, to take on other challenges, Judith was made a life member of the NSW OTA. ACORN salutes the achievements of Judith Cornell, AM and the outstanding contribution she made to perioperative nursing in Australia.

Previous Orators

2002 Judith Cornell (NSW)

2004 Narelle Hines (NSW)

2006 Bernadette Brennan (Vic)

2008 Lois Hamlin (NSW)

2010 Judith Berry (SA)

2012 Menna Davies (NSW)

2014 Patricia Nicholson (Vic)

Nominations

Nominations come to the Board who form the selection panel and the decision is by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the President will cast the deciding vote.

Note: If nominations are received for the Chairman or a member of the Board on the selection panel, the Board member must: either decline the nomination or withdraw from the selection panel.

Selection Procedure

- Duplicates of the nomination forms together with the selection criteria will be forwarded electronically or by express post to the selection panel prior to November in the year prior to the national conference.
- Selection shall be completed by the November Board meeting.

Judith Cornell Oration Continued

Selection Procedure Continued

- Scoring procedure shall be used if more than one valid nomination is received. If the minimum score is not attained, it may be decided that no award will be offered.
- Nominations to remain confidential and unsuccessful candidates' papers to be destroyed.
- Unsuccessful nominations may be resubmitted in following years with a new submission form.
- Recipients of the award are not eligible for nomination in subsequent years.

The Successful Nominee will:

- Be contacted personally by the President and by letter to formalize the invitation to give the Judith Cornell Oration.
- Be advised of details relating to the timing of the oration, accommodation and airfares provided.

Should the situation arise whereby:

- The selected orator declines, the nominee receiving the second number of votes will be invited; or
- No nominations are received from Local Associations, a short list will be prepared by the Executive committee and then considered by the Board.

Note: The JCO shall be entitled to complimentary registration and two night's complimentary accommodation at the national conference.

More Information:

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The office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday