

Perioperative Nurses Association of Queensland Inc

ADVANCING PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

NSW OTA Conference Report

.....by Vicki Livett

On April 30 to May 2 this year I had the opportunity to attend the NSW OTA Conference as the PNAQ representative. The conference was held at Luna Park, Sydney- 'Under the Big Top' and its theme was "Facing the Future Together".

The content of the conference was exceptional and I found myself doing some very brisk walking to make sure I didn't miss anything I wanted to hear. The OTA executive had done an exceptional job, without a designated conference convenor, and had worked tirelessly to put the conference together.

I will try, in this report, to capture some of the key themes and messages that I took away from the conference. If anyone would like to know more I'm happy to share.

Chloe Owens and Leah Humphreys demonstrated the confidence of polished presenters when they shared their experiences as new graduate RN's in the perioperative environment. They gave us a gentle reminder of some of the things we can easily forget as experienced perioperative nurses when supporting new graduates in the workplace. They were confident that they had received the support they had needed and encouraged managers to continue taking new graduate nurses into the perioperative environment. Their enthusiasm and passion for their beginning careers was inspiring.

The themes of support and education in the perioperative environment were echoed in a number of presentations, such as 'Recruitment and Retention of Perioperative Staff at the Canberra Hospital' by Deborah

Moore and 'Area CNC: The rural perspective helping staff face the future together' by Deborah Burrows. Both presentations highlighted the necessity of an environment rich in learning, well supported by educators and teams of staff. Deborah Burrows faces an enormous challenge as the area CNC for a very large rural area and spoke of the challenges of reaching so many small hospitals and providing the support and education required.

National Registration is a hot topic that was well covered in this conference. Rhonda Branz spoke on this topic from both a managers perspective and as a registered nurse. The how national registration will happen and requirements to prove competence is the work still a work in progress. Rhonda detailed the increase in accountability for competence and provision of proof that is likely to be required of all nurses when renewing their annual registration. Anne Maree Allanson and I are hoping to include an update on this in our PNAQ state conference program as Queensland will be rolling out national registration in 2010.

Dr Lois Hamlin, Kerry Rodgers, Sally Sutherland-Fraser and Menna Davies gave the audience food for thought in the panel discussion 'Is there a future for the Registered Nurse in the Operating Room?' Each speaker presented a different perspective, generating a lively discussion about the roles in the operating room, who is competent to do them, what's happening overseas and here in Australia. This is always a contentious issues and there was some debate. At the end of the day,

the issue still hinged on how we ensure that someone is competent to perform the roles in the perioperative environment.

Safety was a big part of the focus of the presentations I attended on days two and three, including a presentation from a self confessed fire bug- Dr Murray Stokes, who has taken to doing some very unsafe looking experiments to highlight the dangers and potential of fires in the Operating Room. I have heard a number of presentations on this topic before but every time I see more examples of the simple errors that can result in such a catastrophe, I am reminded of how easily it can happen. I also go back to my workplace with renewed 'vision' for potential hazards. This time was no different and Dr Stokes had 'experimented' with a large number of flammable solutions and gases we all have in our operating rooms. The most disturbing were the fires where flames were not visible, yet burning fiercely. Other safety topics included Unresolved Safety Issues with Monopolar Electrosurgery and Laparoscopy in 2009, Handling of Intraoperative Medication and Looking Forward to a Safer Future including the WHO Safety Checklist recommendations.

Some of the humanitarian presentations included 'Helping Pacific Nations to Face their Future', 'Aussi Bangla Smile' and 'Development in a Crisis Situation in Kandahar Afghanistan'. Every nurse involved in these presentations demonstrated the same passion and commitment to their cause that I see in so many nurses who I know that do

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2009 PNAQ Awards nominations now open

Awards Categories

PERIOPERATIVE TEAM-WORK

EXCELLENCE IN PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

'NOVICE' AWARD

For details and to submit your nomination visit our website at www.pnaq.net.au

Nominations for 2009 will close 5pm August 28, 2009.

NSW OTA Conference Report Cont.

.....by Vicki Livett

volunteer work. However, when Pattie Harrod who spent a number of months in Kandahar showed her pictures of the hospital she had worked at in Afghanistan and their accommodation, followed quickly by the slides of where bombs had hit metres away from where they were staying, there was stunned silence in the room. She told of the struggles of these people to try and live normal lives when all around them everything is being destroyed and shared some very graphic photos of the physical injuries being sustained by civilians as well as military. It was a remarkable tale and I heard the nurses sitting beside me comment 'that really puts it all into perspective doesn't it!'

There were also a number of key plenary speakers including the NSW Health Chief Nurse and the General Secretary of the NSW Nurses Association who highlighted for me the parallels between NSW and QLD in terms of changes, achievements and progressing the future of health in these two states. Reports delving into clinical incidents and how they occurred are contributing to significant practice changes and reviews of the way nurses work in NSW, as they are here in Queensland.

The AGM saw a number of people volunteer for new positions on the NSW OTA executive, which was great, and also incorporated their awards ceremony. The social functions, including the Mad Hatters Tea Party, were great fun and I met a whole lot of new people who I encouraged to come to our conference in October!

The most beneficial part of attending this conference was the swag of conference ideas I've come home with. I hope these ideas will help Anne Maree and I to plan a great PNAQ State Conference. Thank you to PNAQ for supporting me to attend as their representative.

Vicki Livett

Jenny's Letter

.....by PNAQ President

The PNAQ committee is on track to deliver the ambitious agenda set in January 2009. Our recent May strategic meeting was an opportunity to refine our agenda further. Next month our Green Initiative will be introduced with newsletters becoming available electronically. Please provide us with any feedback once this starts to roll out and your patience will be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Anne Maree Allanson, State Branch, as the existing PNAQ member winner of the 2009 new membership draw and to Dianna Atfield from Capricornia Branch as the new member winner. We are all indebted to the person who either asked us to join PNAQ and those who were involved when we went to our first meeting, workshop or conference. I recall my very first conference, workshop and meeting as I joined a group of nurses looking to ensure practices reflected current national and international trends.

Conference Updates:

The **Northern Branch Conference – Positive Outcomes from Accidents: Lessons Learnt in the Operating Theatre** – is on 17 and 18 July, 2009 at Jupiter's Casino in Townsville. Please contact Melanie Barton on 07 4727 4543 for further details.

State Conference is from Thursday 8 October to Saturday 10 October 2009. The

theme is **CSI: Clinical Scene Investigation** and it will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane. Further information is available either through our website www.pnaq.net.au or from Taylored Images, electronically on 2009pnaq@tayloredimages.com.au or telephone 07 33662205.

One of the great things about these conferences is the other nurses you meet and the shared values we hold. Sometimes though, we all have issues with our work. For instance, a nurse recently came to me to resign. Not to move onto another role, but because she had unresolved conflict between her extensive knowledge and practice and what she saw being practiced. Many of the issues could not be resolved, as they centred on the layout and design of the operating room and we discussed how the physical context determines the practice model.

Each time you hear someone say "That's the way we do it here", it is usually because the work is defined by the location of pillars, power points, medical gas and suction outlets, windows or doors, and the needs of particular surgeons and anaesthetists.

I recall visiting a hospital and being overwhelmed by the amount of equipment present for the cases, so much so that work was hindered. It transpired that this was because the staff were often new to the OR and

that the Surgeon had requested everything be placed in the room for immediate accessibility. Interestingly, the Surgeon no longer visited the facility and had not done so for several years.

Staff continued to do what they had always done and the set up rituals had become standard practice. At the end of the day we discussed the necessity of each piece of equipment - after spending time cleaning it all. We were able to arrange for removal and disposal of several large items and drew up a new plan to improve egress and minimise cleaning without compromise to patients. This was included in the setup book so that any nurse new to the area was able to follow the revised plan. The experienced RNs continued to refine and rearrange items until a new way of working emerged.

We need the bright eyes of new staff to open us up to new possibilities and ways of working. For me, colleagues in PNAQ have always provided this level of thoughtful observation. They remain at the level of professional awareness and inquiry. They attend education sessions to learn any snip-it and share their knowledge with others.

By the way, the nurse who wanted to resign revised her plan, resolved her conflicted feelings and is currently providing support for practice review. She is a PNAQ member and knows it is a great time to be a Perioperative Nurse.

BRANCH COMMITTEES' PLEASE NOTE;
Your 2009 Branch Presidents' Reports are due to be submitted by 15 September via email at pnaq@pnaq.net.au for inclusion in the 2009 PNAQ Inc Annual Report

2009 State Conference Update

Date:

Thursday 8 — Saturday 10 October

Venue:

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre



Clinical Scene Investigation

Information regarding awards and general conference information is now up on the web site

Visit www.pnaq.net.au

Visit now and keep visiting for the latest details!!!

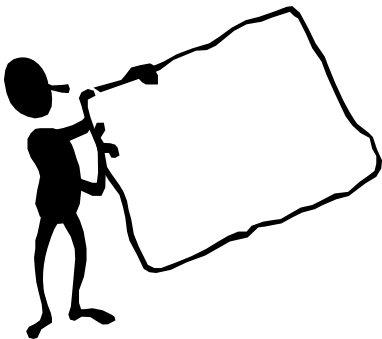
Facts....

Abstracts now closed, Conference Program being finalised - to be released in coming weeks.

2009 PNAQ Award Nominations are now open, visit our website at www.pnaq.net.au

Horatio & Gil

(Vicki & Anne Maree)



PNAQ Poster Competition

Highlight your
'CSI- Clinical Scene Investigation'
in a poster.

Create a poster summarising the key
concepts to be displayed for judging
at the PNAQ State Conference
October 8-10, 2009.

Poster Size: A0 or A1

To be judged by
Conference Delegates.

Start creating your poster, there's a
great prize to be won.

Enquiries to Horatio or Gil



PNAQ Photo Competition

Create a photo or photos themed 'CSI- Clinical Scene Investigation'

Let your imagination run wild!

Photo/s to be displayed for judging at the PNAQ State Conference
October 8-10, 2009.

To be judged by Conference Delegates
on the following criteria;

Aesthetics/ appearance of photo
Creativity of photo

Statement of photographer

Appropriate to the theme

Minimum size 10 x 8 (25cm x 20cm)

Get snapping, there's a great prize to be won.

Enquiries to Horatio or Gil

NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH**ACCESSING THE NEWSLETTER ONLINE**

From July 2009 PNAQ Inc. is going “green” and will no longer be posting the newsletter to members.

The newsletter will be available for viewing via the PNAQ website www.pnaq.net.au and will be restricted to financial members via a username and password login.

Members will be informed via email when the latest Newsletter is available for viewing.

First time users will need to initially request access by completing the online request form found on the Newsletter Page of the website.

Once this form is submitted access will be granted and the user will be informed via email.

These login details are also required to view the branch meeting minutes.

NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH**ACCESSING THE NEWSLETTER ONLINE****2008 - 2009 Management & Committee Support Roles****President:**

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