



# Perioperative Nurses Association of Queensland Inc

ADVANCING PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

[www.pnaq.net.au](http://www.pnaq.net.au)

## PNAQ State Conference Update

.....by Jenny Ashton for Horatio & Gil (who are on the case)

Come and help detect the clues at the PNAQ Annual Conference CSI: Clinical Scene Investigation on October 8, 9 and 10, 2009 at the Brisbane Convention Centre, Southbank. Register through the conference organiser at [www.taylorimages.com.au](http://www.taylorimages.com.au)

We commence on Thursday, October 8, with our two forums: Nurse Leaders and Nurse Educators. You do not have to be a manager or an educator to attend either of these forums. Any nurse or individual who wishes to register is welcome.

On Friday and Saturday there is an extensive education program and we

are especially looking forward to hearing from our numerous speakers, some of whom are international presenters and world leaders in Perioperative Nursing.

There is still time to enter photographs and posters which are always popular with delegates.

The social program is also a vital component of the conference and it is always great to frock up for the Saturday night Awards Dinner appropriately themed – Villains, Vixens and Valour. We would love to see you in costume. Don't worry though if you run out of time and have to come just as

you are.

The PNAQ Awards will be announced for Novice, Team and Excellence in Perioperative Nursing. Have you nominated someone? These awards are open to all; the winners are selected by a panel of judges which includes a clinician, an academic and a trade representative. The winners will be announced on the Saturday night at the Awards Dinner.

We hope you can join us in this celebration of Perioperative Nursing.

Your Chief Investigators' Horatio (Vicki) and Gil (Anne Maree).

## !!!Conference Program Updates !!!

- **Thursday 1200-1230 - Deputy Premier & Minister for Health- Hon. Paul Lucas will be speaking, followed by a light lunch, workshops commencing at 1300**
- **Opening Speaker (Friday) - Cheryl Burns (Nursing Director - Education), Clinical Education & Training Queensland, Presenting 'Future of Nursing in Queensland'**
- **Closing speaker (Saturday)– William McInnes (bring your autograph book)**

**Dynamic Guest speakers for the Nurse Leaders workshops  
(terrific opportunity to gain skills for leaders and emerging leaders)**

**Workshop vacancies (be quick to avoid disappointment)**

**Remember - Strategic Branch Meeting Thursday morning**



**It is not too late to  
be there**

**Only 4 more  
sleeps!**



Contact Vicki Livett (Horatio) or Anne Maree Allanson (Gil) for further details.

## CSI: Clinical Scene Investigation Dinner Friday and Saturday nights

### Friday Welcome Dinner

### **Whodunnit?**

Informal seated meal

With

*Interactive participation*

(Which team will be the real sleuths?)

**CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS**

### Saturday Awards Dinner

### **'Victims, Villains & Valour'**

*Which one are YOU?*

Announcement of the annual

**PNAQ Award winners**

Dance & dance.....till you drop

Yummy meal and drinks

## PNAQ

### Poster Competition

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

Create a poster summarising the key concepts

**Posters to be displayed for judging at the**

**PNAQ State Conference, October 8-10, 2009.**

To enter — bring your poster with you to the conference

Poster Size: A0 or A1

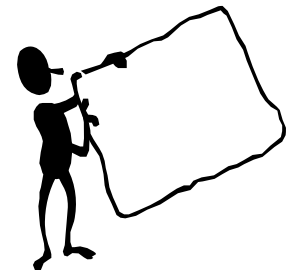
To be judged by Conference Delegates.

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

Enquiries to

Horatio or Gil

(c/- pnaq@pnaq.net.au)



## 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 enter - bring your photo with you to the conference

**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 (pnaq@pnaq.net.au)

# Operation Open Heart Fiji '09

.....by Tracey Guest

Earlier this year I was awarded a PNAQ scholarship that funded me to participate in a medical mission to Fiji. This project was co-ordinated through Sydney Adventist Hospital Healthcare Outreach Team. The team who went consisted of about fifty different specialist nurses (theatre, intensive care and wards), doctors, a physiotherapist, a pathologist, an educator, perfusionists and drivers (golfers) from across Australia. Some of the team came for one week, others for two weeks depending upon their availability. The equipment was flown in. This included our resources such as sutures, instruments, disposable drapes and intensive care equipment. Overall several tonnes of equipment was transported to us. Some of the equipment was delayed which meant surgery was also delayed by a day. This day was used as a team building

placed. We had two operating theatres running alongside of each other which was a first for the Fijian trip. This resulted in more surgeries being performed. More staff actually came on this trip to facilitate this. Since the trip Melanie Windus, who co-ordinated the trip has reported back to us that all patients are doing well.

The local people and nursing staff cannot believe that patients receive the same care and surgery in Fiji as in Australia. Many of us spent time educating the locals in relation to open heart surgery and cardiac bypass. One of the local girls, Kina, had the opportunity to be the main instrument nurse alongside one of the Australian nurses. This was an excellent experience for her and a great result for our team.

On the last day Kina had news that she had received a scholarship to come to Australia and work at the RPA in Sydney.

I had the opportunity in the first part of the week to be able to scrub for two adult cases in which mitral valve were replaced and Atrial Septal Defect was closed. I then proceeded to be a part of the team for children's cardiac cases and later adult cases again.

One of the children's cases was initially diagnosed as Atrial Septal Defect (a hole in the heart) but it turned out to be scitmar syndrome. In this syndrome one of the pulmonary veins does not drain into the left atrium but just above the inferior vena cava so then it has to be channelled to go into the left atrium. This child would have struggled without this corrective surgery. This condition is extremely rare. The diagnostics tools used are basic compared to Australia. We live in a fortunate country and have excellent



*Tracey is pictured in the middle in red with bula scrubs made by one of the local ladies, she is surrounded by several local Fijians who she met on her trip.*

medical diagnostic tools and treatment readily available.

On the team we were fortunate to have an instrument technician and she worked alongside the local people to ensure our instruments were turned around promptly allowing us to continue with the operating list. There were times throughout the two weeks that also I assisted in cleaning, drying and packing of instruments.

Personally the overall experience extended me clinically through problem solving, utilising basic resources and being part of the strong team spirit which allows the local people to have operations they could not have otherwise.

Another part to the experience was the overwhelming generosity that all of us (nurses) received from the Australian doctors' and the local Fijian people. Having now been on my first trip overseas, I can see how addictive these can become and have been approached for another trip later in the year and also for Fiji next year.

Thank you, PNAQ once again for your support in this opportunity.

**Tracey Guest, RN** – Operating theatres, The Mater Children's Hospital.

**My husband's version of my trip**

- Worked hard
- Partied harder
- Missed my family

**Had a great time, never to forget!**



**Local Fijian Nurses**

day at a local resort. Many of the team members were regulars on the annual Fijian trip. Others, including myself were new team members and we enjoyed this day as an opportunity to get acquainted with the rest of the team.

During the two weeks (16-31<sup>st</sup> May, 2009) in Suva at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital there were forty-seven surgical cases performed. This comprised of adult and paediatric cardiac procedures which included thirty-two heart valves being re-

# Profile of a Perioperative Nurse

.....Amanda Lostroth

**Career So Far:** I graduated from nursing a little over four years ago after which I was lucky enough to gain a position on the graduate nurse program at the Toowoomba Health Service District. During the course I undertook three rotations starting in the Operating Theatre Suite. After my operating theatre experience I knew that was the area of nursing that I wished to return to as a post-graduate nurse!

**What I love about the Job:** I have worked in many specialty areas but mostly I enjoy orthopaedic surgery and the challenges that this offers me! My favourite procedures to scrub for are total knee replacements, femoral nails and anterior cruciate ligament reconstructions.

I enjoy working as part of a team and creating a friendly and welcoming environment for my colleagues, patients and their families! I love learning new things, discovering new skills and being allowed to use the really fun tools that we have is great!

I think I enjoy orthopaedic procedures the most because I love the instrumentation & anatomy and no matter how many times I see a joint replaced I still think it's amazing that you can give someone a new knee or hip and give them back better mobility and a better quality of life!

**Perioperative Nursing in three words:** Challenge, Team, Fun

**Three famous people I'd invite to dinner:** Coco Chanel, Winston Churchill & Jason Statham.... So many more but if I'm only allowed 3!!!

**Dream Car:** Bugatti Veyron – the sexy silver one with a cream leather interior.

The role of the Registered Nurse in the Operating Theatres is a vibrant and exciting career choice in which I relish the joy of going to work every day!!

## 2008 - 2009 Management & Committee Support Roles

**President:**

Jenny Ashton (W) 07 3636 1486

**Past President / Country Liaison & ACORN Director:**

Ailsa Gillett (M) 0412 518 783

**Secretary:**

Michelle Loth (W) 07 3139 4898

**Treasurer:**

Joy Jensen (W) 07 3883 7836

**ACORN Representative:**

Ruth Melville (W) 07 5470 6775  
(M) 0404 026 395

**Conference Convenor(s):**

Vicki Livett (W) 07 3163 6176  
(M) 0434 569 066

Anne Maree Allanson

(W) 07 3883 7836

**Newsletter Editor:**

Linda Spitzer (W) 07 3232 6521

**Education Chair:**

Edwina Conroy

**Research Chair:**

Sonya Osborne (W) 07 3138 3785

**Web Page Co-ordinator:**

Kim Carr (H) 07 5493 2660  
(M) 0414 830 823

Email for all:

[pnaq@pnaq.net.au](mailto:pnaq@pnaq.net.au)

**Address all correspondence to:**

The Honorary Secretary PNAQ  
GPO Box 2518, BRISBANE QLD 4001

### PNAQ Education Forum & General Meeting

## All Things Laparoscopic

When: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009  
0830am to 1230pm

Where: Conference Room 2, CYMS Management Unit  
Community Services Building, Mater Health Services  
Annerley Rd, South Brisbane

\$0 members and \$10 non-members

Contact: To place a booking Email: [pnaq@pnaq.net.au](mailto:pnaq@pnaq.net.au)  
Morning tea and light lunch provided

\*\*\*General Meeting Agenda items to Jennifer Ashton at  
[pnaq@pnaq.net.au](mailto:pnaq@pnaq.net.au)  
by 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009 please\*\*\*

## October 2009

PNAQ STATE CONFERENCE UPDATE	1
PNAQ STATE CONFERENCE UPDATE	2
OPERATION OPEN HEART FIJI 2009	3
PERIOPERATIVE NURSE PROFILE— AMANDA LOSTROTH	4
STATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONTACTS	4
ALL THINGS LAPAROSCOPIC— EDUCATION FORUM	4