

Gala dinner honours great Australian

More than 400 people enjoyed an evening of entertainment, fine food and wine at a gala dinner to honour Australian World War II heroine Vivian Bullwinkel and to raise funds for the **Vivian Bullwinkel Memorial Fund**.

The memorial fund supports the work being undertaken by the Vivian Bullwinkel Chair in Palliative Care Nursing, which was established in 2003 by the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the Peninsula campus to lead research, teaching and support in the field of palliative care.

Vivian Bullwinkel survived three years of captivity under the Japanese Imperial Forces during World War II. Following the war she continued to dedicate her life to the comfort of the sick and dying through her profession of nursing.

The current Chair in Nursing, Palliative Care is held by Professor Margaret O'Connor who has made an impressive 20 year contribution to the field to date and leads an accomplished team of researchers.

The work conducted by Professor O'Connor and her team in Vivian's honour focuses on the needs of the dying and exploring ways their lives can be made more comfortable, with Professor O'Connor leading a range of research initiatives aimed at enhancing the provision of palliative care services both nationally and internationally

The Vivian Bullwinkel Memorial Fund Gala Dinner at the Melbourne Museum was a great success. Generously promoting the memory of Vivian Bullwinkel and supporting the fund through participation on the night were the Governor of Victoria, Professor David De Kretser AO, former Chief of Defence, General Peter Cosgrove AC MC, Lt Georgina Whelan, RAN, Commander Medical Unit, Banda Aceh, Tsunami Relief Effort, Vivian Bullwinkel's nephew Mr John Bullwinkel and Ms Ita Buttrose AM who was MC for the evening.



Former Chief of Defence, General Peter Cosgrove AC MC, Professor O'Connor, Governor of Victoria Professor David De Kretser AO, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences' Deputy Dean, Professor Leon Piterman, Ms Ita Buttrose AM and Vivian's nephew Mr John Bullwinkel at the gala event.

From the Head of School

Despite the hectic pace of 2006 we are all looking forward to next year, with the introduction of two new awards at our Peninsula campus. The double degree in Nursing and Emergency Health (Paramedic) course poises to attract a large number of potential students and the new degree in Nursing/Psychological Studies will provide an opportunity for graduates to expand their career options in either mental health, psychiatric nursing or clinical psychology. This latter award has been supported with the allocation of additional load by the Commonwealth Government, as part of its initiative to increase the mental health workforce.

The recent reconfiguration of our postgraduate awards has allowed the School to allocate some CSP places to courses that have previously only been available on a full fee paying basis. This will relieve the financial pressure on a number of students, who have been

finding it difficult to afford postgraduate study.

Researchers within the School have been fortunate to attract a number of grants associated with the DHS 'Prepare Nurses for the Future' program. Congratulations to all those involved with these projects which range from Improving Undergraduate Education to Exploring Alternative Mechanisms for Entry to Practice. We hope at least some of these projects will be concluded by early 2007.

At our Gippsland campus, planning is underway for the introduction of Graduate Entry Medicine (the MBBS) course in 2008. This will help build the number of health profession disciplines on the campus and create a range of opportunities for interdisciplinary education and for closer collaboration between staff in the School and their colleagues in medicine.

Tony Barnett
Head of School

Appointment of director to new board supporting nurses' health



The Nurses Board of Victoria together with the Australian Nursing Federation (Victoria) has supported the creation of a new program, the Victorian Nurses Health Program

(VNHP). The VNHP is a fully independent legal entity with a five member Board of Directors. Debra Griffiths from the School of Nursing and Midwifery has been appointed as a director to the new board. The VNHP has been established to ensure that a full

time professional service is available to address the needs of registered and student nurses suffering with alcohol and substance abuse health issues. It is the first program of its kind in Australia and was opened by the Hon. Ms Bronwyn Pike, Minister for Health, earlier this year.

Research data indicates that the prevalence of alcohol and other drug related problems among nurses is about the same as that of the general community; however nurses do have some particular challenges.

They have ready access to drugs and the pharmacological knowledge to go with this. They are unaccustomed to and uncomfortable in the role of patient. The community is very sensitive towards health problems among nurses and there is often reluctance by nurses to admit substance abuse problems. This can result in late presentation, or no presentation, for treatment. This can impact on the nurse's well being and career, as the Nurses Board of Victoria are statutorily bound to deal with the health of nurses when it interferes or may interfere with their clinical practice.

The VNHP emphasizes the importance of early presentation and is equipped to offer

independent management plans and coordinate treatment.

Nurses can enter the program as self-referrals or assisted referrals, whereby nurses come voluntarily but on the advice or encouragement of a professional colleague, manager, family member or friend. The service is available Monday to Friday and is located at 27 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy.

Debra Griffiths

RN (Div 1, Midwife), BA, LLB, LLM, Barrister and Solicitor

Debra worked as a nurse and midwife for more than a decade in Australia and England before commencing studies in arts and law. She is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University where she teaches health law issues. She is particularly interested in legal education of health professionals and the incorporation of legal principles into daily clinical practice. She is currently completing her PhD which examines the practice of nurses and medical practitioners and their role in patient refusal of treatment decisions. She is the co-author of the text *Essentials of Law for Health Professionals*, published by Elsevier.

Children's book on grief

In edition 8 of the newsletter we reported on publication of the book 'Let the children be our teachers: a guide for those supporting grieving children'. This book was written with Linda Espie, Grief Counsellor, translated into Japanese by Kaori Shimoinaba, lecturer at the School and illustrated by Japanese children.

Kaori recently received an award from the National Association for Loss & Grief, for her work. These awards are given annually during Grief Awareness Week with the purpose of promoting, recognising and rewarding excellence in the provision of loss and grief support and awareness raising. Congratulations Kaori.

Graduation in Petaling Jaya for Malaysian students



On the 6 September, 63 Bachelor of Nursing (Post Registration) and 12 Masters of Nursing students graduated at the graduation ceremony held at Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel. The event was attended by the Head of School, Associate Professor Tony Barnett (pictured with some of the students after receiving their awards), Chair of International Matters, Ms Jeni Grubb and Ms Pathma Namasivayam from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Monash University.

New associate professor for Gippsland campus

Dr Ysanne Chapman has been at Monash University since 2004 and was recently appointed Associate Professor of Nursing at Gippsland Campus, School of Nursing and Midwifery. She originally trained as a nurse in London, England and moved to Australia in 1970. She has worked as a clinician in operating theatre, coronary care, accident and emergency, general surgery, medical wards and community health. She began her academic career as a clinical educator and moved into the tertiary system in 1989. Ysanne has worked as an academic at the University of New England, Armidale NSW, the University of Tasmania – Hobart, Adelaide University and Flinders University of South Australia. She has held several management positions; Head of School, Head of Department and course coordination positions. Before joining Monash University she was Head of the Department of Nursing, College of Nursing and Allied Medical Science in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Ysanne completed her PhD in 1999 and her thesis examined the experience of sadness in community health nurses who deliver palliative care. Ysanne's new position

will enable her to become more involved in academic staff development as well as pursuing her current and develop new research interests. She has a special attraction to writing for publication and will continue her mentorship with other academics in the school in assisting them to publish in prestige refereed journals. Ysanne currently supervises eight PhD students, one masters' student and is course coordinator of the Bachelor of Nursing with Honours program.



Palliative Care Nurses Australia Inaugural Conference

250 nurses from across Australia and New Zealand attended the inaugural conference of Palliative Care Nurses Australia on the 8 and 9 September. The conference was held at the recently renovated Hotel Y in Melbourne and was managed by staff from the School of Nursing and Midwifery's palliative care research team on behalf of Palliative Care Nurses Australia.

The theme was 'Strength in Working Together' and sessions focused on clinical practice, innovation, collaborative approaches and policy/service delivery issues. Keynote speakers included invited speaker Professor Jane Seymour, Head, Sue Ryder Care Centre for Palliative and End of Life Studies, University of



Professor Margaret O'Connor, Interim Chair Palliative Care Nurses Australia and Professor Jane Seymour, Head, Sue Ryder Care Centre for Palliative and End of Life Studies, University of Nottingham, UK.

Nottingham, UK, Ms Rita Evans Director, Palliative Care Section, Department of Health and Ageing and Professor David Currow, Flinders University.

The Inaugural Annual General Meeting and election of Committee Members for Palliative Care Nurses Australia (PCNA) was included as part of the conference proceedings. Professor Margaret O'Connor, Vivian Bullwinkel Chair in Nursing Palliative Care has acted as the interim chairperson of Palliative Care Nurses Australia over the past 12 months, but has recently taken over as President of Palliative Care Australia, so did not seek election on to the new Committee. Dr Judi Greaves, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Peninsula campus was elected to the new Committee. PCNA was launched 12 months ago, to provide a forum for palliative care nurses from across Australia. Already the organisation has 270 members from throughout Australia.

The new committee looks forward to further developing the organisation over the next 12 months and has planned a face-to-face meeting in Adelaide during November. The next Palliative Care Nurses Australia Conference will be held in Adelaide in 2008. Planning has commenced with conference themes and keynote speakers being decided over the next couple of months.

For further information about Palliative Care Nurses Australia and membership details visit www.pallcare.org.au, email pcna@pallcare.org.au or contact Judi Greaves judi.greaves@med.monash.edu.au.

Winner of the Vivian Bullwinkel Keynote Address

Ms Joan Yalden was the inaugural winner of the Vivian Bullwinkel Keynote Address at the recent Palliative Care Nurses Australia Conference held at the Hotel Y, Melbourne, 8-9 September.

The Conference Scientific Committee selected Ms Yalden's abstract from all submitted abstracts. Ms Yalden gave an insightful presentation about engaging residents in Aged Care Facilities in the implementation of a palliative approach. She is currently completing her PhD within the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

The Vivian Bullwinkel Keynote Address will be a highlight of future PCNA Conferences with the next being held in 2008 in Adelaide.

Bachelor of Midwifery Student Receives National Award

Final year student Karen Wesley was recently recognised for her academic and clinical achievements at the Australian Nursing Awards. Karen was one of three students to receive a sanofi-aventis Student Achievement Award for her outstanding academic and practical results over the three years of her degree. The citation for Karen's award noted excellence in all aspects of the course.

Karen was nominated for the award by the School of Nursing and Midwifery. The selection committee recognised her as a future leader in the midwifery profession; She was flown to Brisbane to receive the award, which also included \$500 cash.



Kaye McCauley, winner – The National QUM Awards 2006

The National Quality Use of Medicines Awards were presented at the National Medicines Symposium dinner at Parliament House, Canberra on 8 June. Kaye McCauley from the School of Nursing and Midwifery was highly commended in the Student Category. Kay is a lecturer in midwifery and mental health nursing and is also currently a research fellow at the Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre (APRC). Kay's PhD research on best practice in the management of women with psychosis in pregnancy, has involved the establishment of the National Register of Antipsychotic Medication in Pregnancy (N-RAMP), under the supervision of Professor Jayashri Kulkarni, Director of APRC.

These biennial awards are for the contribution of health professionals, the community, students, consumers, pharmaceutical companies, government, the health industry and the media to achieve better use in medicines. There are a variety of categories however the Student QUM award is a new category in 2006.

The National QUM Awards are an initiative of the National Prescribing Service Ltd (NPS) and the Pharmaceutical Health and Rational Use of Medicines (PHARM) Committee.

The National Register of Antipsychotic Medication in Pregnancy (NRAMP)

Very little is known about the safety of antipsychotic medications taken during pregnancy. Sometimes women are still taking their medication before they are aware that they are pregnant. The National Register of Antipsychotic Medication in Pregnancy (NRAMP) is collecting important information from women who have taken antipsychotic medication and then become pregnant, so health professionals can be better informed about how to care for their patients and their patients' new babies.

Women who are pregnant or have a baby up to one year of age, have a history of schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders can participate.

Interviews will be conducted periodically throughout the pregnancy and the baby's first year.

The information collected includes details about the mother's health history, medications she has taken, obstetric history, delivery details and information about the baby's health and developmental progress.

To find out more please contact Professor Jayashri Kulkarni or Kay McCauley from The Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre on (03) 9276-6564

Announcing the new president of the Australian College of Midwives (VIC)



Meredith McIntyre (former deputy head of school)

Alumni meet in Kuala Lumpur

Around 50 guests and alumnus attended a function at the Palace of Golden Horses, Mines, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 7 September.

Invited guests included Ms Puan Dayang Annie Abang Narudin (President of the Malaysian Nurses Association), Mr Murthy (Malaysian Nurses Association), Ms Ivy Khoo (retired DON of Lam Wah Ee Hospital), Catherine Pero (Head, School of Nursing, Normah Medical Specialist Centre), Emmalice Jaboh (Normah Medical Specialist Centre), Ms Rajiah Rahim (Head, Hospital University Kebangsaan Malaysia), and Ms Che'an Ahmad (Principal, College of Nursing, University Malaya Medical Centre).

Associate Professor Tony Barnett gave a welcome address and the Masters of Ceremony for the occasion were Ms Letchmi Devi and Ms Tracy Kok.

Puan Dayang Annie Abang Narudin presented a keynote address entitled 'Safe staffing, save life'.

There were also research presentations from four recent Masters of Nursing graduates.

- Ms Surindar Kaur – 'Effect of structured pre-op teaching on mobility for women who have undergone elective caesarean section';
- Ms Tang Li Yoon – 'Fluid compliance amongst haemodialysis patients at the University Malaya Medical Center (UMMC)';
- Ms Rasnah Abdul Rahman – 'Satisfaction with early postpartum care among postpartum women at University of Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC)';
- Puziah Md Zain – 'The impact of education on the accuracy of triage assessment skill among the nurses and medical assistants in the Emergency Department'. After the September functions, Jeni and Pathma conducted tutorial activities in Kuching, Kuala Lumpur and Penang.



Ms Jeni Grubb and Bachelor of Nursing (Post Registration) students at Monash University Malaysia.

Are you a graduate of the Bachelor of Nursing (Post Registration) Degree from Monash University?

Do you live in East Malaysia?

If so, you are invited to participate in a study being conducted by Melanie Birks, PhD student in the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

The aim of this study is to explore how the experience of undertaking a post-registration degree in nursing has impacted on the personal and professional development of registered nurses in Malaysian Borneo. It is intended that the findings of this research will inform nursing education, capacity building and workforce planning in Malaysia, and will aid in course and curriculum development for those delivering educational programs to nurses in this region.

All students who have completed the course and who live in East Malaysia are eligible to participate in this research. If you would like to participate in this study or would like more information about the project please contact Melanie directly at melanie.birks@med.monash.edu.au

Congratulations to Dr Susan Lee



Susan Lee recently graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy from Edith Cowan University in Western Australia. Her studies were partly supported by the National Research Council of Australia.

Susan is a senior lecturer at the School of Nursing and Midwifery on the Peninsula campus of Monash University, where she manages the postgraduate studies program and works with Professor Margaret O'Connor on the palliative care research team.

Susan's research investigated the issues experienced by palliative care patients or clients in their involvement with decision-making. She conducted interviews with patients, family members and health professionals and observed health decision processes in palliative care settings in Melbourne, Perth and Japan.

The study found that palliative care clients, towards the end of their lives, are faced with many different decisions. However rather

than having a particular process for decision-making, palliative care clients approached each decision differently.

Most participants preferred to collaborate in decision-making, however the nature and level of clients' participation was dependant upon the approach of health professionals. In particular perceptions of the professionals being 'nice' and inviting clients to engage in making decisions created positive experiences of working together. Although this might seem reasonable, it created the risk that patients might hand control of decision making entirely to the health professional.

Susan hopes to do further research investigating the education of health professionals in the area of the relationships they develop with patients and in the area of communication, with a view to developing improved decision-making strategies for use when engaging with patients and their families.

Susan has recently returned from Canada where she presented her research to the International Cancer Care Nurses Conference and the International Congress on Care of the Terminally Ill.

Improving mobile-wireless device adoption by nurses in a hospital ward setting

A collaborative team of researchers are currently investigating the uptake and usage of mobile-wireless equipment such as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) and how the limitations of this equipment might be overcome and made more useful by nurses in a hospital ward setting.

Technology is an integral part of modern Australian hospital ward settings and nurses are an integral part of the delivery of patient care. Nurses are interested in using the technology because they can gain immediate access to pharmacology information, pathology results and other decision support tools. Even the ability to scan patient barcodes can help nurses retrieve patient information more quickly. Such access can lead to better patient outcomes.

The preliminary research has provided insights into mobile implementation difficulties of the new devices encountered

by nurses in this setting. The team includes Dr Liza Heslop and Mr Stephen Weeding from the School of Nursing and Midwifery and Dr Linda Dawson and Associate Professor Julie Fisher from Faculty of Information Technology. Dr Heslop is the Chief Investigator and can be contacted on liza.heslop@med.monash.edu.au



Simplified pathology interface for laptops and PDAs

Mildura students at the Alfred Hospital



The Mildura students are Rheannon Carson, Lynna Sheahan and Elise Kinnerley.

A group of second year students from the Mildura campus enjoyed their clinical placements at the Alfred during June. They were invited by Gippsland campus staff, who identified that placement at a large metropolitan hospital might be a wonderful experience for students whose only previous experience was in rural hospitals.

Excellence in disability support awards – 2006



Student Award Recipients: Annette Bourke and Meagan Jones

Each year at Monash University Gippsland campus, the Excellence in Disability Support Awards are presented.

Students with a long-term medical condition or disability often excel at university but are hindered by their condition in attaining scholarships. In recognising this, such students can apply for one of two awards. This year the recipients were both Nursing students; Annette Bourke (Academic Excellence), Meagan Jones (Encouragement) and Congratulations Annette and Meagan.

Culture • Critique • Creativity

7th International Practice Development Conference

Portraits, Panoramas and Palettes

Call for Abstracts

31 October, 1 and 2 November 2007

Langham Hotel, Southgate, Melbourne, Australia

This is the 7th International Practice Development Conference and is organised by Monash University, School of Nursing and Midwifery and the International Practice Development Collaborative.

Faculty re-structure impacts on nursing

The Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences has initiated an administrative re-structure at Gippsland and Peninsula campuses which affects nursing.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery will continue as an academic school, linking the two campuses with a School Head (Associate Professor Tony Barnett) and Deputy Head of School (Associate Professor Glenice Ives) and with maintenance of cross school academic committees. However, the administration is now restructured along campus lines with Tony as the Administrative Head at Gippsland and Glenice as the Administrative Head at Peninsula campus. This will facilitate greater engagement for nursing with other health disciplines at each campus.

A number of exciting new initiatives have been taken by the university to strengthen the core activities of research and teaching at both campuses. At Gippsland, these changes have included the creation of a new medical school. At Peninsula, the introduction of a number of new health professional courses (health sciences,

emergency health – paramedic, physiotherapy and occupational therapy) and the creation of a Health and Wellness Precinct characterise the new direction of that campus. The expansion of faculty activities at both campuses creates opportunities for nursing and midwifery in teaching, research and areas of management. More information about how this is progressing will be included in the next edition.

Postcard from Katherine N.T.

Hi to all at Monash, Andrea and I are having a great time in the "Territory". We are on community nursing placement with Sunrise Health at the Mataranka and Jilkminggan Health Clinics about 440 kms south from Darwin. We are loving it up here and developing skills appropriate to remote area nursing. We have helped deal with the whole gammut of nursing care for the local communities with great emphasis on indigenous health needs. From health assessment to buffalo inflicted wounds, immunisations, taking bloods, eyes and ear infections, amongst many chronic conditions and minor problems. The team here at Mataranka have been great to us and we have thoroughly enjoyed our time here, we return south shortly, but hope to return soon. We have endeavoured to experience the local community and have attended the historical museum, the hot springs, the local pub, the Barra Bash and other attractions.

Cheers Rhonda and Andrea.



Rhonda Gaze and Andrea Taggart, third year Gippsland students, on community placement. Rhonda is pictured with some of the team.

News and Views

Contributions to the newsletter are very welcome from past and present students, staff and colleagues. We would love to receive photos, conference snapshots, and information on career moves for our alumni, research progress, awards, innovations and travel. Just contact us with your idea, anytime and we will do the rest!

Contact Virginia Plummer on 03 9904 4064 or virginia.plummer@med.monash.edu.au

Contributions

Tony Barnett
Glenice Ives
Meredith Milligan
Meredith McIntyre
Ysanne Chapman
Susan Lee
Kay McCauley

Pathmavathy Namasivayam
Debra Griffiths
Judy Embleton
Julie Baxter
Jeni Grubb
Margaret O'Connor
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