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The Vivian Bullwinkel Chair in Palliative Care Nursing
The Office of University Development
PO Box 65
Monash University
VIC 3800
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Gifts to Monash University are tax deductible within Australia

THE VIVIAN BULLWINKEL APPEAL

During the first quarter of 2002, generous donations arrived from Victorian branches of the RSL in response to an appeal under the auspices of RSL State President, Bruce Ruxton AM,OBE. Wholehearted thanks are extended to everyone who has contributed. Your donations are graciously received as they move us towards our 2002 target of \$250,000.



In February, John Bullwinkel, nephew of the late Vivian Bullwinkel and member of the Faculty Foundation, visited the Peninsula Hospice Services Palliative Care Unit, the Royal District Nursing Services and the School of Nursing. During the course of a busy day, John had meetings with the Dean of Medicine, Professor Nick Saunders and Faculty Foundation members and later in the day with Bev. Armstrong, CEO Peninsula Hospice Services, Sue Turale, General Manager of RDNS, Helen Macpherson Smith Institute of Community Health and members of the School of Nursing involved in the Appeal.

Over an enjoyable lunch, John inspired us with stories about Vivian that left us with a privileged insight into the humanitarian values that helped shape Vivian's life. We came to know Vivian not only as a distinguished nurse, but as a person who had a genuine interest in people from all walks of life.

John Bullwinkel will be providing ongoing direction and support to the Appeal.

We are grateful for the generous support received to date and encourage our alumni and friends to donate using the tear-off slip in this newsletter.

Joan Yalden
Vivian Bullwinkel Appeal Coordinator.

ALUMNI, WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

We would like to dedicate some space in future editions of Nursing News to profile our expanding Alumni. So, if you have news you would like to share with us, please send us a short note or story and if possible, a photograph of yourself.

As we move into the new century, many of our graduates of Nursing are becoming established in their busy careers and practice specialties. Nursing may also have taken you to every corner of the globe, and not always just for the adventure! So, where are you now? We would love to hear from you.

Send your information to:

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Contributions

Felicity Astin, Jeni Grubb, Robyn Kirby,
Jenny Oates, Jenny Newton,
Kaori Shimoinaba, Joan Yalden

FOCUS ON PH.D STUDENT

at the Centre for Health Services Operations Management

The Centre for Health Services Operations Management is a joint initiative of Monash University's Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and Faculty of Information Technology.

The Centre's research and training activities are directed towards day-to-day hospital management and decision support and facilities exist at the Centre for graduate research work leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

Current PhD student Stephen Weeding who holds a Monash Department Scholarship is currently investigating the effects of primary health care on patient loads in local hospital accident and emergency departments.

"The project will examine primary health care infrastructure provision in two regions in Victoria and one region in NSW" says Stephen.

"It will attempt to discover the effect of various primary health care factors on patient loads of local hospitals, especially the emergency departments. The hypothesis is that differential funding of, or emphasis on, primary health care can influence the workloads at hospitals. For example, a higher level of nursing home care could decrease the number of home residents who present at the emergency department. The relevance of this work can be seen in the recent Victorian experience—despite an overall increase in funding in 2000, the frequency of 'ambulance bypass' increased, as did the length of waiting lists for elective surgery—this experience runs counter to intuitive, a priori expectations. The Victorian government is interested in discovering the factors, which have led to this situation, as it would like to take corrective action. Primary health care may contribute to this, as has been postulated in the past, but the factors behind this influence are as yet unknown.

The work will attempt to discover and identify such factors.

Stephen holds a Graduate Diploma of Network Computing, Graduate Diploma of Management and Bachelor of Engineering and is teaching the subject Nursing Informatics at Peninsula Campus.



Mr Stephen Weeding

RESEARCH

Dysphagia

SHARING IDEAS ON DYSPHAGIA SCREENING WITH VISITORS FROM LONDON

A team of nurses and allied health professionals from The Acute Brain Injury Unit, Queens Square, London, visited Frankston Hospital in February this year to learn more about the development and implementation of the dysphagia screening tool developed on Ward 3North by nursing staff, speech pathology and Monash University, School of Nursing. The dysphagia screening tool is supported by an education program for nurses, a care plan and bed-side instructions. This work is the outcome of a nursing and allied health action research study on Ward 3North, that aimed to improve the quality of care for patients with swallowing difficulties following stroke.

The London team were visiting at the Academic Centre, Peninsula Health to study the Monash Clinical Support Systems Project and as part of their program, requested a half-day workshop with the study team from Ward 3North. The dysphagia screening tool will enable nurses to perform swallowing assessments on patients in the absence of a speech pathologist.



Team from the Acute Brain Injury Unit, London and the Dysphagia Study Team. From Left: Speech Pathologists: Monique Stojkowski, Justine Slattery, Nurse Unit Manager 3North, Helen Lack, Monash School of Nursing: Joan Yalden.

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For further information on Nursing News Issue 3 email: joan.yalden@nursing.monash.edu.au

NURSING NEWS

MAY 2002 ISSUE 3

School of Nursing

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

MONASH
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FROM THE HEAD of SCHOOL

The last six months has seen considerable activity around the School and in partnership with other universities, health services and professional groups. We were delighted to welcome Ms Adrienne White who has taken a joint position with the School and Cabrini Hospital in Practice Development for Midwifery Services. This position builds on the work of Dr Jenny Newton and her team over the past two years in developing a focus on practice development, as a way of 'moving forward' to achieve our goals of patient-centred care, through challenging and supporting each other in our work and valuing research and education in that process. The international links that the School has with the Royal College of Nursing (London) and the University of Ulster are providing an excellent mechanism to auspice practice development and finally bridge the theory-practice gap that has bedevilled nursing, since its transfer of education to the tertiary sector. We will keep you informed of our developments and opportunities for our alumni to contribute and participate.

Congratulations go to the first group of students who have graduated in Papua New Guinea. Their graduation was a result of some very important work being undertaken to provide opportunities for advancement of the nursing profession in our neighbouring counties. Jeni Grubb, the project leader, observed that "these nurses are an inspiration for all of us ... and there graduation was a special event in the lives of many of us".

The School continues to graduate outstanding nurses in our academic programs. Our 'Good Universities' rating and the demand for our graduates remain excellent. What is more impressive is the leadership we see our alumni provide to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities. An alumnus, Ms Fran Chambers demonstrates this leadership quality in our graduates. She has built on her distinguished career in management of ambulatory care to pioneer hospital in the home services for Melbourne and regional health services in the past decade. Congratulations Fran.

In our last Nursing News we introduced the launch of an appeal for the Vivian Bullwinkel Chair in palliative care nursing. We are still seeking your support for this appeal. Research, such as palliative care research, reflects our commitment to advancement of humanitarian nursing values and our purpose, by answering clinical questions that enables us to provide quality care. Whether we are investigating the special needs in palliative care or finding ways to meet the needs of under-served populations we need to commit to developing our discipline base. The generation of nursing knowledge and its translation into effective health care is core to the mission of the School of Nursing.

Acting Head
Jenny Oates

Papua WORLDWIDE

At a glittering ceremony in Port Moresby in April attended by friends, family, employers, health care professionals and officials, 32 new graduates of the Bachelor of Nursing received their testamurs from the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Gippsland campus, Professor Brian Mackenzie.

The program was funded by AusAID and operated and managed by Monash University and World Wide Projects. This unique high profile course targeted 40 nurse educators and clinical supervisors from eight provincial Schools of Nursing in Papua New Guinea from both government and church run agencies. Many of the graduates are senior nurses with a national profile but have been previously unable to access bachelor level education. In a country in which few women hold tertiary qualifications, it is especially pleasing that 26 of the graduates are women.

The Bachelor program is linked with the government's policy of upgrading pre-registration nurse education to Diploma level and to improve rural health service delivery. According to the Course Coordinator, Jeni Grubb, the program has successfully trialed the model of off-campus, distributed learning in Papua New Guinea. Much of the success of the program has been attributed to the level of academic and personal support provided through a close partnership between academics from the Monash School, local facilitators and the in-country Academic and Welfare Coordinator, Ms Bejone Dotaona.

Guinea

.../continued overleaf



32 Nurses from Papua New Guinea Graduate